

AMERICANISM

Volume 23

October 2022

Issue 5

Champion for Veterans with Hands *that* Serve, Hearts *that* Care

Recognize an Outstanding Community Flag Display

When you notice a local Business or Community having pride in displaying our beautiful Stars and Stripes, you can present them with a certificate of appreciation from your Auxiliary. This is a great way to reinforce Patriotism in our communities.



AuxiliaryPatriotism



The attack on Pearl Harbor was a surprise military strike by the Imperial Japanese Navy Air Service upon the United States against the naval base at Pearl Harbor in Honolulu, Territory of Hawaii, just before 8:00 a.m., on Sunday, December 7, 1941. The United States was a neutral country at the time; the attack led to its formal entry into World War II the next day.

Ways to Honor are to: *Observe a moment of silence *Read a book about the events
*Educate children and grandchildren about the events of that fateful day

Auxiliary Outreach Program

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VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida

October 2022

Need an



**Here are some Organizations you can
Partner and Volunteer with for the Holiday Season!!!**



Giving
Hope
Today



- GO TO YOUR LOCAL MALL AND WRAP GIFTS
- RING A BELL AT A LOCAL STORE
- TEAM UP WITH THE AMERICAN RED CROSS TO HELP THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE IAN.

Approved by:
Department President, Cindy Estell

Jackie Bruder
Auxiliary Outreach Department Chairman
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National Home for Children & "Buddy" ® Poppy

VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida

October 2022

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National Awards for Auxiliaries

1. Most outstanding event that demonstrated how the "Buddy" ® Poppy and National Home for Children impact each other.
2. Most outstanding community education about the "Buddy" ® Poppy and National Home for Children.
3. Citation to each Auxiliary that contributes a gift of 25 cents or more per member to the Health & Happiness Fund based on the June 30, 2022, membership statistics.
 - ***How special if all Florida Auxiliaries contributed 25 cents to Health & Happiness Fund use your monies raised from buddy Poppy drives for this contribution.***

The Holidays are here and with Thanksgiving first we all have so much to be thankful for; Have a wonderful Thanksgiving.

Christmas Day countdown use Poppies:

- Has your Auxiliary thought of hosting a special Christmas Dinner for your single Veterans on a Day before Christmas?
- Giving Christmas Cards to Veterans who are in VA Hospitals, Clinics, Nursing Homes, Assisted Living or home bound, include a Poppy in your card.
- Any of your Auxiliary members have a spouse in a Nursing Home or Assisted Living, how about preparing a special gift basket filled with personal items for both.

VFW Store-Buddy Poppy & Holidays Gifts

- Poppy Scarf - \$9.95
- VFW Buddy Poppy Tumbler -\$15.95,
- Rhinestone T- Shirt \$19.95
- Tote Bag -\$13.95
- Auxiliary Volunteer Pin -\$3.25



**Purchase these to use for Raffle Items,
Christmas Gifts or for yourself !**

National Home for Children is part of answering needs from Helpline questions

Use the National Hotline phone number spotlight in posters, social media, newsletters, sharing videos at meetings.

The helpline is answered by caring professionals, M-F EST. except for holidays. Messages left after hours or on weekends are answered the next business day. **Contact at 800.424.8360** or help at **help@vfnationalhome.org**

BECOME A HOME FRONT HERO!

MEMBERS OR AUXILIARIES PLEDGE A MONTHLY CONTRIBUTION TO THE NATIONAL HOME, AS A MONTHLY DONOR STARTING AT \$10.00, YOU CAN INCREASE OR STOP ANYTIME. CONTRIBUTIONS HELP SUPPORT ESSENTIAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES NEEDED. HAVE A SPECIAL FUND RAISER JUST TO SUPPORT AND BE A SUPERHERO.

Approved by:
Department President, Cindy Estell

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In This Issue >>>

- ◆ Meet Some Special Dogs
- ◆ Making the World A Better Place
- ◆ Transforming Lives
- ◆ Visit the Campus
- ◆ Program Goal Thermometer



Department President's Special Project **PAWS FOR VETERANS**

CHAMPIONS FOR VETERANS



Meet Some Special Dogs



Part Athlete, Part Confidante, Part "Buddy Who's Always Got My Back."

The Southeastern working dogs are smart, fit, and highly trained, like elite athletes prepared for the challenge. Through state-of-the-art research, cutting-edge genetics and breeding, innovative puppy education, positive home experiences, stellar canine fitness programs, and expert training, they are creating healthier, stronger, more intelligent dogs that love people, love to learn, and live to please. Through advanced pedigrees of Labradors and Goldadors, they are changing the world, one extraordinary dog at a time.



Making the World a Better Place

Some veterans lose vision on the battlefield. Some return home from the battlefield, eyes intact, with unseen scars... nightmares and flashbacks so severe that it feels safer and more sane to just never leave the house. Southeastern Guide Dogs makes a dramatic difference.

DONATE TODAY!!



"I don't want to get 'Ruff' with you... But did you Report yet?"



Southeastern Guide Dogs transforms lives by creating and nurturing extraordinary partnerships between people and dogs. They breed, raise, and train elite guide dogs, service dogs, and skilled companion dogs and provide life-changing services at no cost to the recipients. For the past 40 years, They have successfully created thousands of guide dog and service dog teams throughout the United States and currently oversee the well-being of more than 1,200 puppies and dogs.

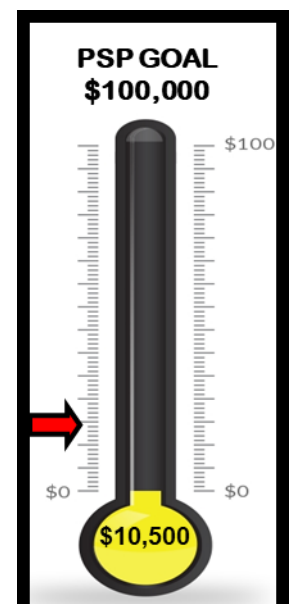


Visit the Southeastern Guide Dog Campus
4210 77th St E, Palmetto, FL 34221



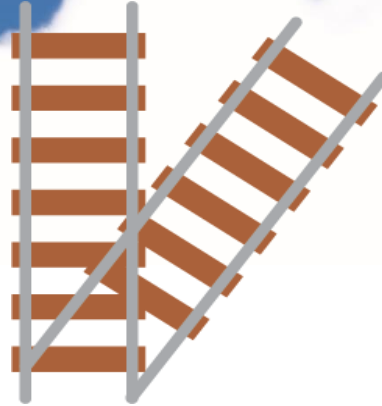
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Approved by:
Department President, Cindy Estell



EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION

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Staying on Track to a Healthy Auxiliary

Membership—Annual dues must be paid by December 31.

- Make sure your dues notices are out
- Make phone calls
- Teach members how to pay their dues on MALTA
- Give a gift of membership for the holidays
- Have a drawing for those who pay their dues.

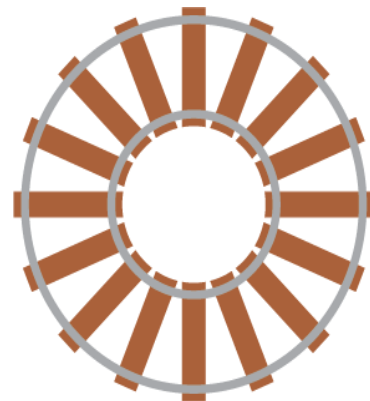
Positive Member Experience—Check on members and their wellbeing

- Offer kind words of concern
- How are they doing?
- Do they need anything?
- How can you help?
- Send holiday greeting cards
- Send thank you notes for volunteering, for participating or just for being a member; Invite members to your events or functions
- Offer them a ride.

Learning/Training Opportunities—Attend District or Department meetings to learn new things

- Share with other members of your auxiliary
- Share with other auxiliaries in your district
- Ask others to share their experiences and knowledge
- The more the members know, the more willing they will be to step up into leadership roles
- This ensures capable leaders of the future.

What track is your Auxiliary on?



HISTORIAN AND MEDIA RELATIONS

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'Hands That Serve, Hearts That Care'

Event Opportunities

- Donating school supplies to local schools.
- Halloween Party – for Auxiliary and Post members or for children in your community.
- Veterans Day remembrance ceremony.
- A Thanksgiving or Christmas Dinner at your Post.
- Singing Christmas Carols at your area VA Home or local hospital.
- Christmas cards for veterans in VA Home or nursing homes.
- Sponsor a Veterans Angel Tree for local nursing home veteran residents or VA Home.
- Sponsor a disadvantaged family with Christmas gifts and dinner.



Photo Pointers

- Use *Photo Release Forms* as it is important for non-VFW member photographs and keep the forms in a file.
- Post photos of how you publicized the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen contests.
- Watch your background to ensure that it does not have something that will seem awkward in the background.
- Do not take pictures with the sun in their eyes.



Media

- Send your District and Department Historians anything involving our President since this is essential in keeping a written and/or visual record of our activities.
- Use Facebook, Videos, or a vlog.
- Keep your members in touch by utilizing Email, flyers, newsletters, and/or newspapers.
- I cannot mention too many times to remember the 5 W's: who, what, when, where, and why.



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'Valentines for Veterans'

Our National Ambassador has challenged us with using our creativity. **Valentines for Veterans** isn't just about Valentines day cards.

- Thanksgiving is coming up, is your post doing a Thanksgiving Day Dinner?
- Is your Auxiliary able to deliver a Thanksgiving dinner to a Veteran that has in home nursing care?
- Can your Auxiliary put together a Thanksgiving dinner for the Veteran and for the nurse. You could even include a home made or store bought card that is signed by the Veterans at your VFW.
- Now is the time to remember that our Veterans need not be alone. If the Veterans can still drive, send them an invitation to join everyone at the post for Thanksgiving dinner.
- When you are visiting with the Veteran, whether at your VFW post or at there home , this is a great time to give them information about the VA and your VFW post.

Try to think outside the box on ways to honor our Veterans over the holidays.

How can you be the change in a Veterans Health and Happiness?



Auxiliary Obligations

Hospital Obligations are \$.60 Per Auxiliary member as of June 30, 2022. This is a great time to go into MALTA and pay your 'Health and Happiness' and make a donation to Cancer Research.

Women's Health Care



When you see that female Veteran sitting in your VFW are you trying to engage with that Veteran asking if they know about all the benefits that the VA has to offer women Veterans?



How are you getting that information out to the female veterans?



What are you doing to get that information out to them?

I would love to hear what you have done to answer these questions?

Make Sure to REPORT!!!!

Please send me pictures and an explanation of what your Auxiliary has done: kabarr66@msn.com



Honors Escort

What an honor it is to participate in an 'Honors Escort'

This Escort shows the family how much we honor the service that the Veteran gave. It also shows the other Veterans in the nursing home or the hospital how much we appreciate the service they gave as well.

Please set up an Honors Escort and give honor to those who served.

MEMBERSHIP

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Grow Membership

Veterans Day November 11th

- Many Restaurants give our Veterans a Free meal.
- Ask the Restaurant Manager for permission to set-up a table and give out Poppies. Thank our Veterans for their service and invite them to your VFW.
- Veterans usually come with their spouse, family, and friends; this is a huge opportunity to Ask if anyone would like to Join your VFW Auxiliary.
- Be prepared with membership applications, pens, Calendar of events at your post, plus all information on membership.



Be the Champion of Veterans

Hands that Serve Hearts that Care

We Love our Volunteers



Be kind, compassionate, mentor our new members. Do you remember how it felt to be new member?

Honor your Veteran give the gift of Membership

#vfwauxflmembership

Membership

Are you using all tools that are available?

Vfwauxiliary.org - National webpage

Vfwauxfl.org - Department of Florida webpage

Learn about and share all the Benefits of membership. Cancer grants, insurance plans, travel benefits, hearing plans etc.

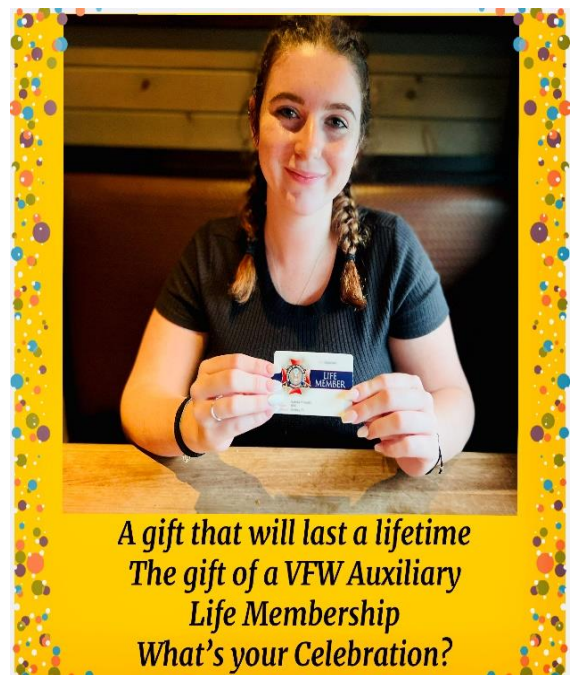
Every program is connected to Membership.

RETENTION

Defined: As an organization ability to prevent membership turnover, or the number of members who don't return or renew their membership.

Are your auxiliary members treating every member with respect, kindness, involving all members? Why is your Auxiliary losing members?

"RETENTION" is as important as recruiting new member.



A gift that will last a lifetime
The gift of a VFW Auxiliary
Life Membership
What's your Celebration?

Information on Membership

State of Florida: vfwauxfl.org

National: vfwauxiliary.org

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SCHOLARSHIPS

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Why are scholarships are important?

They Promote Patriotism:

- Students think about Veterans, the American Flag, history, their country
- They turn those thoughts into ideas
- They create written word and artwork reflecting those ideas

They Help Students Further Their Educations:

- Students can list the scholarships on their college applications
- Students may choose military service as a result of learning more about it
- Winners earn monetary awards to use to help fund college
- The Continuing Education Scholarship could be just the boost an adult student needs to go to school or back to school!

They Help Students Reach Their Full Potential:

- Whether the applicant wins or not, they are a winner for trying
- Success breeds success and will encourage more effort
- It takes confidence to present your work, your ideas, your thoughts to be judged by others. Confidence is a career builder!

Encourage, Include, and Celebrate the result!

"Strong people stand up for themselves, but stronger people stand up for others"

Veterans & Family Support

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November is National Family Caregivers Month

Big News: PCAFC Expansion Coming!

The VA is set to begin Phase 2 Expansion of the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC) on October 1, 2022. This phase will open PCAFC to Veterans who served after May 7, 1975 and before September 11, 2001, making Veterans of all eras eligible to apply to PCAFC.

For more information go to: www.caregiver.va.gov



VA Caregiver Support Line
1-855-260-3274 (toll-free)
Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-10 p.m. ET
Saturday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. ET

Veterans Day November 11th

A simple way to Honor our Veterans:

- Bring it up at your next meeting to partner with local schools & youth groups and have them make up Veterans Day cards for Veterans in the VA hospital near you and in local nursing homes as well.
- Supply them with card stock paper, crayons, and colored pencils to make the cards.
- Set a deadline for them to have the cards completed.
- Deliver the cards to the Veterans and record the smiles and sometimes tears with lots of photos.
- Report your project.



Uniting to Combat Hunger (UTCH)

With the holidays quickly approaching food insecurity is on the rise.

How to help:

- Bring it up at your next meeting to hold a fund raiser.

Donations can be made to:

vfw.org/UTCHDonate

- Hold a non-perishable food drive and donate to local food banks.
- Get local youth groups involved in the drive!



Don't Forget to Report your Event!

REPORT!

Youth Activities

Champion for Veterans
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ALL HANDS NEEDED TO WORK OUR “GRAVE BEAUTIFICATION” PROJECT!

- Take before and after pictures of the grave
- Keep a log of graves beautified
- Record name of veterans and cemetery
- Decorate the graves with flags
- Follow the guidelines of the cemetery
- Remember to put all this required information in your reporting
- Awards for most outstanding grave beautification project by an auxiliary with youth

It's Fall in Florida, bringing cooler weather, Auxiliaries partner with our youth for grave beautification!

Send me reports and pictures of your projects.

Veterans Day is November 11th

Patriotism through Literacy

Get your Auxiliary involved; here are a few suggestions:

- Donate historical books to local schools, shelters, group youth homes, local libraries
- Volunteer to read to kids at local libraries & schools

BY YOUTH, FOR YOUTH

Thanksgiving is the perfect time to give: Make and send cards and letters to our Veterans

- Collect food donations and distribute to military families in need
- Assist youth to promote holiday gift collection drive. Collect toys, clothes, gift cards

Approved by:
Department President, Cindy Estell

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