

AMERICANISM

Volume 23

June 2022

Issue 1

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



The 2021 National VFW Auxiliary Bylaw Section 820 Duties of the Patriotic Instructor states:

- They shall see that the room is in keeping with the Ritual.
- They shall instruct the members in the proper use of and salute to the Flag.
- They shall maintain a record of all patriotic days and initiate programs for their proper observance and perform such other duties as the President may require.

Dates to Remember

Veterans Day – November 11
Pearl Harbor Day – December 7
Washington’s Birthday (Presidents Day) – Third Monday in February
National Vietnam War Veterans Day – March 29
Loyalty Day – May 1
V-E Day (Victory in Europe Day) – May 8
Armed Forces Day – Third Saturday in May
Memorial Day – May 30 (Traditional); Observed Last Monday in May
Flag Day – June 14
Independence Day – July 4
Patriot Day – September 11
Constitution Day and Citizenship Day – September 17
POW/MIA Recognition Day – Third Friday in September
Gold Star Mother’s/Family’s Day – Last Sunday in September

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Auxiliary Outreach

June 2022

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Issue 1



Start the Year Off on the Right Foot

This relatively new Program has been challenging for members, but is really quite simple. It all boils down to ***volunteering!*** This first Newsletter will walk you through the do's and don'ts of this program.

What Does Qualify vs. What Does Not Qualify as Auxiliary Outreach

QUALIFIES	DOES NOT QUALIFY
Volunteering in homeless shelter kitchen serving meals, bussing tables or cleaning up.	Donating trophies to a youth sports group.
Partnering with police or fire Department on bicycle or home safety training classes.	Hosting a luncheon/dinner for local community groups or police/fire/first responders
Approval on Auxiliary floor to volunteer (pass out water, help register, etc.) a local cancer group setting up their local "walk-a-thon".	Sending an Auxiliary check to support a charity that organized a walk-a-thon or run.
Volunteering with local agencies to clean up local parks or beaches.	Collecting clothing or other items for homeless veterans at the Post Home (this is Veterans & Family Support).
Partnering with a group (boy scouts, girl scouts, etc.) to collect food donations for local food pantries.	Taking comfort items to local shelters, rehab centers, hospitals, etc.

This program is all about **volunteering and partnering**; it is **NOT** about donating money or items – you are partnering and giving of your time!

Remember that any project that can be reported under any of our other Programs is **NOT** reportable under Auxiliary Outreach!

Follow these simple steps and you will have a successful program year!!



National Home for Children & "Buddy" ® Poppy



VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida

June 2022

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National Home for Children

As we start this year 2022-2023 now is the time to plan your yearlong events and how to meet your suggested obligation as stated in our Bylaws.

- The Health & Happiness donation is based on your total membership numbers as of June 30, 2022, with a suggested amount of \$.10 per member.
- To enter the Circle of Champions your Auxiliary must donate \$.25 per member

With the Christmas holiday fast approaching this would be a wonderful gift for the Children to provide them with extra Christmas cheer.

Payments can be made in Malta or sending a check directly to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters, Att: H & H, 406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor, Kansas City, Mo. 64111

Your contribution will help these little hands by your special gift from the heart.

On your Auxiliary Bulletin board promote the VFW National Home for Children Military & Family Helpline in your Post and outside to your community. Remember to include the phone number 1.800.313.4200
website <https://vfnationalhome.org>

Remember Any Day Can Be "Buddy" ® Poppy Day!

Make sure you plan your year ahead with dates for Poppy Drives.

- Make sure you have enough Poppies for distribution, guideline is 200 poppies per volunteer, order today.
- Get your locations secure at least two months in advance along with your promotions to advertise.
- Volunteers for each location can cover the day or in shifts.
- Check VFW Store for Poppy special items to help pass out and promote.
- Refer to the online Buddy Poppy manual for tips, guidelines, and ideas for a successful drive, under program & Publicity Resources in MALTA
- Advertise, contact Radio Stations for interviews, send out Press Releases to your media contacts
- Use Facebook to promote, where and when for distribution and publish your photos showing your auxiliary in action.
- Refer to Bylaws to follow where your donations go under the Auxiliary Relief Fund used for Auxiliary members and veterans

Approved by:
Department President, Cindy Estell

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

June 2022

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In This Issue >>>

- ◆ Program Summary
- ◆ About Southeastern Guide Dogs
- ◆ Get Involved
- ◆ Program Awards
- ◆ Program Goal Thermometer

CHAMPION FOR VETERANS

PROGRAM SUMMARY:

- ◆ Southeastern Guide Dogs transforms lives by creating and nurturing extraordinary partnerships between veterans and dogs
- ◆ The organization breeds, raises, and trains elite guide dogs, service dogs, and skilled companion dogs
- ◆ These dogs provide life-changing services for veterans with vision loss, veterans with disabilities, and veterans with significant challenges
- ◆ The premier dogs are provided at no cost and all lifetime follow-up services are included

SOUTHEASTERN GUIDE DOGS:

- ◆ Southeastern Guide Dogs began in 1982 with a single vision: to help those who cannot see. Today, they also serve veterans with disabilities and children with significant challenges.
- ◆ Whether you've been friends with them for a very long time or are new to the Southeastern Guide Dogs family, you've got to see this video: <https://vimeo.com/319570085>
- ◆ There's no better way to understand what they do, who they serve, and why you should join them in changing the world, one dog and one life at a time.



Get Involved:

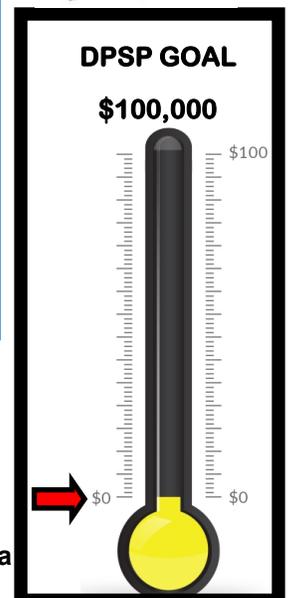
- ◆ President's: Assign a DPSP Program Chairman ASAP
- ◆ Volunteer to be Your Auxiliary/District DPSP Chairman
- ◆ Do Fund Raisers
- ◆ Volunteer
- ◆ Raise a Puppy
- ◆ Spread the Word



VFW Auxiliaries Who Raise and Donate will Receive the Following Awards:

DEPARTMENT AUXILIARY AWARDS

Paw of Courage Award Up to \$599
 Champion Award \$600-\$999
 Best in Show Award \$1000 or more



Department PSP Chairman—Bob Kabala

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Approved by: Department President, Cindy Estell

EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION

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How to begin a NEW year the right way



Standing Rules – Purpose

To establish guides for specified operations, activities, events, expenses and disbursements between Auxiliary meetings. They may state what to pay, when and to whom. See *Building on the Foundation* page 28 and Article II, Sec 211 of the National Bylaws.



- ❗ Motions to provide for specified operations, activities, events, expenses and disbursements between meetings.
- ❗ Cannot conflict with National or Department Bylaws.
- ❗ Can be amended, modified or rescinded.
- ❗ Good idea to review the standing rules annually.

Good and Bad examples of Standing Rules

NOT GOOD / WHY	GOOD
Treasurer allowed to pay obligation. (Needs to be specific to what obligations)	Treasurer allowed to pay Bond, Health & Happiness, Hospital Pledge, and Hospital Booster
Send flowers to hospitalized members (Needs to specify an amount)	Send flowers to hospitalized members not to exceed \$50
Delegates get paid to go to Department meetings, (needs more specific guidelines)	Delegates get paid \$100 to attend to Department meetings, must attend all meetings and report back to Auxiliary
President can spend \$100 each month at their discretion. (Needs to be specific for what the money is spent on)	President can spend up to \$100 each month for Auxiliary fund raising supplies and/or items to benefit the Auxiliary.

Auxiliaries at all levels may establish Standing Rules to provide for specified operations, activities, events, expenses and disbursements between meetings, provided such rules do not conflict with the National or Department Bylaws.

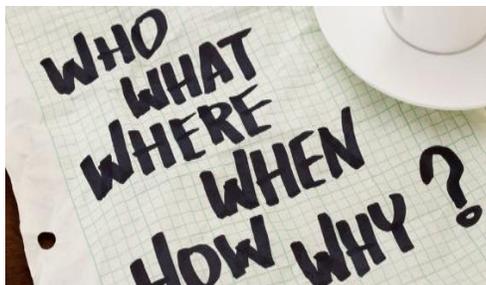
HISTORIAN & MEDIA RELATIONS PROGRAM

VFW Auxiliary

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REMEMBER THE 5 W's



**ENSURE THAT ALL INFORMATION IS CORRECT
BEFORE YOU RELEASE THE INFORMATION**



EXAMPLES OF BAD PHOTOGRAPHY



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"Volunteers don't get paid because they are worthless, but because they're priceless"

Sherry Anderson

Where to Serve?

- Local Hospitals
- Veteran's Homes
- Nursing Homes
- Domiciles both VA & Non VA Medical Facilities

Who Can Help?

- Members
- Non-Members
- Youth
- Family Members

What Can We Do?

- Recruit
- Educate
- Support
- Participate



Program Goals 2022-2023
Volunteer Recruitment, Recognition, and
Volunteer Support
Valentines for Veterans
Women Veterans Health Care



How Can we Help Hospital Veterans?

- ✓ Reach out to local VA and Non VA Facilities and see what is needed.
- ✓ Have fundraisers to purchase Flags to donate to local VA and Non VA Facilities for end of life escort.
- ✓ Set up and participate in **Honors Escort**
 - * Reach out to your local VA and Non VA facilities and let them know your Auxiliary is available to participate in an Honors Escort. An Honors Escort lets the family and other Veterans know they have not been forgotten and we honor them. We thank them for our Freedom.
- ✓ Learn about the resources and healthcare services available for **Women Veterans Health Care** at www.womenshealth.va.gov
- ✓ Create **Valentines for Veteran** but let's not forget the other holidays, e.g., Easter, Veterans Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving and Christmas Cards to Veterans in both VA and Non-VA Facilities. Let them know they are not forgotten and their service is not forgotten.



LEGISLATIVE

Hands that Serve
Hearts that Care

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ACTION CORPS WEEKLY

VFW-Action:
Talk about the
VFW's Action
Corps Weekly and
how to sign up.

- Have at least 25 members sign up for Action Corps Weekly by December 31, 2022
- Invite them to be your guests at Post and Auxiliary events.
- Ask for help using social media to contact elected leaders.
- Offer to help them with their events such as voter registration drives.



YOUNG ADULTS

- Get the youth involved by helping them understand why we need the government to pass certain bills to give Military what they need and deserve.

Examples:

- Process of a Bill
- Voters Registration and Election Process
- Have a Candidates Night and invite young adults to attend

VFW PRIORITY GOALS

Ask the VFW what
their goals and areas
of concern are:

- Healthcare
- Budget
- Military quality of life
- Education
- Ask your Veteran members what they need and goals they would like to see change/happen.

Champion For Veterans

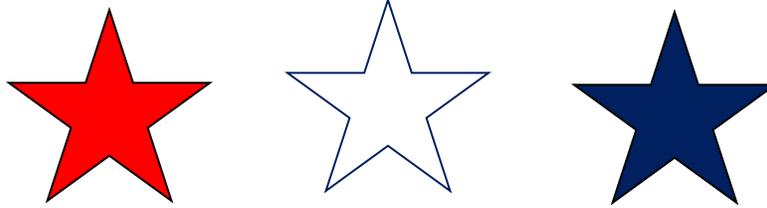
Membership

VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida

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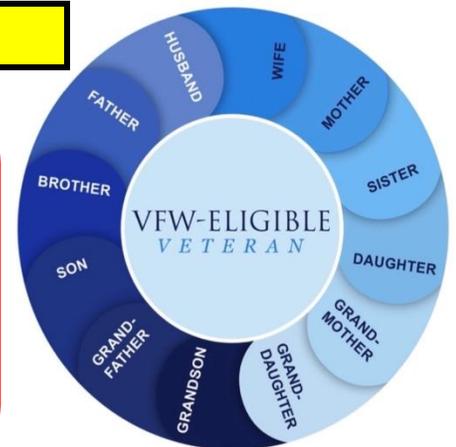
Champion of Veterans

2022-2023 Retain our members

Let look at why members don't renew or attend meetings in our Auxiliaries.

- Do they feel welcomed?
- Do we talk to all members?
- Are we mentoring them?
- Are we inviting them to get involved?
- Are we more comfortable in a clique?
- Did we remember to invite them back?

STOP AND THINK



How to increase our membership

- **Asking**
- **Inviting**
- **Know our wheel of eligibility.**
- **Membership drive at events throughout your community.**
- **Using social media in our community.**
- **Facebook, newspapers, magazines, flyers.**
- **Create membership videos and Blogs.**
- **Always carry an application in your car.**
- **Speak at a rotary club or community organizations.**
- **Let everyone know the benefits of being a member.**

Enroll new members

- **Let start with our families.**
- **Our children, Grandchildren 16 or older, Neighborhood young people.**
- **Ask Veteran members if their spouse or children are members?**
- **It's a great gift to purchase someone an annual or lifetime membership for a family member.**
- **New residents in your community could be eligible to join your Auxiliary.**
- **Your Church members.**
- **At your local VA.**
- **Be creative, think outside the box.**

Information on Membership:

Department of Florida: www.vfwflauxiliary.com

National: www.vfwauxiliary.org

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Mentoring for Leadership

VFW Auxiliary Department of Florida

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Wanted-This year we will be seeking to find Mentees within our organization and develop their skills at all levels. Do you want to learn more about our organization? Please plan on attending Boot Camp August 5-6 2022 for a Special Mentoring program full of info & ideas!

Program Goals:

- Make Sure All Members Experience Are Positive
- Create Learning and Training Opportunities for all Levels
- Develop and Enrich Members for Future Leadership Roles

This year all Auxiliaries should hold a training event to help mentors find their perspective Mentees. This will help our members grow in areas of their interest. Finding the new mentees will help them learn and plug their skills in the best programs of our organization. It will help all of us find our *Hot Buttons!*

There will be a special award in each of the 4 membership classes for a unique activity or training in the Auxiliary to show members how to find and train mentees.

Best Buddies

• • •

New this Year!!

Does your Auxiliary have a Best Buddy? You're probably asking what I'm talking about, or has she gone crazy! This year each Auxiliary, and District should have a Best Buddy. What's a Best Buddy you ask?....a Best Buddy is someone that loves to meet new people and make friends. This person should regularly attend meetings and not hold an office that has specific seating (such as Chaplain). They can also be your Mentor.

The Best Buddy main role is to greet and sit with all new members when they attend your meetings. They should show them the podium book and let them follow along with the book. The Buddies should help the new members with the raps of the gavel, and generally what is going on in the meeting. Please attend the Boot Camp in August for plenty of details!

Stay tuned for Molly the Mentor Super-Star!!



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PROGRAM GOALS



- * More Student Participation
- * Increase Community Awareness

- * Recipient Recognition
- * Grow the Fund



FALL SCHOLARSHIPS

Patriot's Pen (Grades 6-8)

- Essay

Voice of Democracy (Grades 9-12)

- Essay and oral presentation
- ENTRIES TO YOUR POST BY 10/31/2022!

WINTER SCHOLARSHIP



Continuing Education

- Open to all Aux members (*for at least one year*)
- Open to spouse, and children age 18 or older
- ENTRIES TO NATIONAL BY 2/15/23



SPRING SCHOLARSHIPS

Young American Patriotic Art Contest

and NEW THIS YEAR

Young American 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

- Specific Guidelines as to design and medium
- ENTRIES DUE TO YOUR POST BY 3/31/2023!

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

Veterans & Family Support

"Champion for Veterans"

"Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care"

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VFW Veterans & Military Support Programs

- **Unmet Needs** – Helping military families with unexpected financial difficulties because of deployment or other military related activity or injury.
vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants
- **VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship"** provides service members and veterans with scholarships of up to \$5,000 to complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student load debt.
vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support
- **The Military Assistance Program (MAP Grants)** help to provide financial assistance to VFW Post & Auxiliaries to sponsor troop send-offs, homecomings, and get togethers. Post & Auxiliaries participating in Adopt-A-Unit and Family Readiness Groups can also receive assistance.
vfw.org/community/troop-support/mapgrantapplication
- **The Veterans Village in Ft. McCoy** Provides a true home-like atmosphere to veterans and their spouses. The Village needs our support to continue to provide a place for our veterans and their spouses in retirement.
vfwvillage.org

VFW National Veterans Service (NVS)

What you need to know:

- The NVS consists of a nationwide network of VFW Accredited Service Officers who are experts in dealing with the VA.
- They help veterans, service members and their families obtain the benefits they deserve. Benefits include: disability compensation (pension & death benefits), medical rehabilitation, educational, employment and training programs.
- There is no cost for this to the veteran, also the veteran does not have to be a member of the VFW.

Ways you can help:

- Keep handy the name & phone number of your District or Post Service Officer.
- Get a veteran or family member in touch with the service officer.
- For more information on ways to help visit vfw.org/ways-to-help
- Donations can be sent to:
National Veterans Service
VFW National Headquarters
Attention: NVS
406 W 34th Street 11th Floor
Kansas City, Mo 64111



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YOUTH ACTIVITIES

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JUNE 2022

NEW YEAR, NEW PROJECT!

GRAVE BEAUTIFICATION

HONOR OUR VETERANS

CLEAN AND DECORATE HEADSTONES

AND GRAVES

ORGANIZE AN EVENT WITH:

- FAITH-BASED YOUTH GROUPS
- SCOUTS
- JROTC
- YOUTH SPORT TEAMS
- HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

PROGRAM GOALS

- ✓ CREATING, SPONSORING AND WORKING WITH YOUTH GROUPS
- ✓ YOUTH GROUPS SUPPORTING OUR VETERANS CITATIONS
- ✓ PATRIOTIC YOUTH AWARD
- ✓ GET EXCITED FOR THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE
- ✓ PATRIOTISM THROUGH LITERACY
- ✓ ILLUSTRATING AMERICA



HONORING OUR VETERANS

CLEAN AND DECORATE GRAVES:

- ARMED FORCES DAY
- MEMORIAL DAY
- PATRIOTS DAY
- POW/MIA DAY
- VETERANS DAY

EVERY DAY IS A "VETERANS DAY!"

BE SURE AND CHECK WITH THE CEMETERY FOR:

- PERMISSION
- BEAUTIFICATION
- STONE CLEANING
- FLAG PLACEMENT

BY YOUTH, FOR YOUTH

Kids Helping Kids

- Identify Needs in Communities
- Develop Leadership skills

LET'S ALL BE A "CHAMPION FOR VETERANS" AND CREATE A FUN FILLED YEAR WITH OUR YOUTH!

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