

SUNSHINE E-NEWSLETTER



August 2025 Issue NO 2

Team Florida

Building Bridges For Veterans



FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

As we begin this year, we have firmly established foundations for our initiative, “Building Bridges for Our Veterans.” Our commitment to this cause is unwavering, and we aim to create significant and lasting positive change for those who have served our nation. When you are in your community or engaging with other organizations, take the time to listen to their concerns and ideas—they may have valuable suggestions they are struggling to implement. Bring these ideas to your members for discussion. We have many talented members who may have a solution on how to implement these ideas.

As we continue in Building Bridges for our Veterans, our task will yield many rewards for both the Veterans and their families. As the years progress, we, the Auxiliary, will be able to reflect on the accomplishments that your hard work has been able to create and improve their lives and the pursuit of their well-being. Let's continue to be joyful as we work our way to creating a path in Bridging the Gap for Veterans. No matter where we are in our journey, keep going. We don't have to have it all figured out to take the next step. Progress isn't about perfection — it's about persistence. Trust that every small effort adds up, even when it feels invisible. We are capable, we are growing, and the future is brighter for our Veterans than you think. Keep your head up — our story isn't over yet, as we are Bridging the Gap for Our Veterans.

Michael Yates
Department President



VFW Veterans Village Annual Golf Tournament

Juliette Falls

6933 SW 179th Avenue Road
Dunnellon, FL 34432
352-522-0309

Price \$300.00 Per Team / \$75.00
Per Person

Meal & Awards to Follow

Saturday October 4, 2025 – 8:30 AM Start Time

VFW VETERANS VILLAGE ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT GOLF REGISTRATION FORM

Juliette Falls Golf Course
Saturday, October 4, 2025

7:15 A.M. Registration / 8:30 A.M. start time

Please Print Names

4 – Person Team - \$300.00

Player 1. _____
Player 2. _____
Player 3. _____
Player 4. _____

Single Player - \$75.00

Name: _____

Hole Sponsor - \$75.00

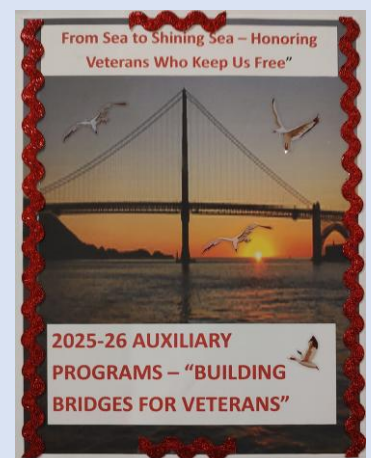
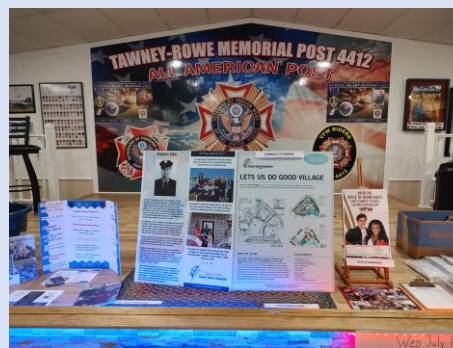
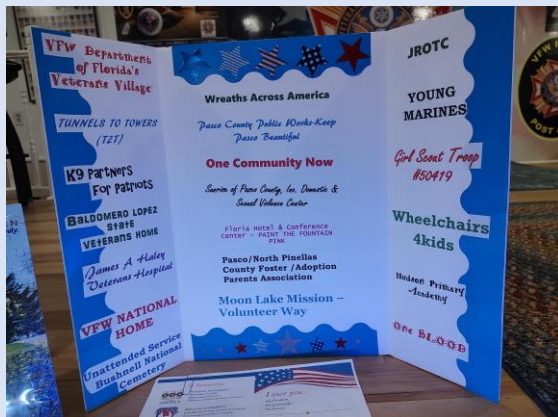
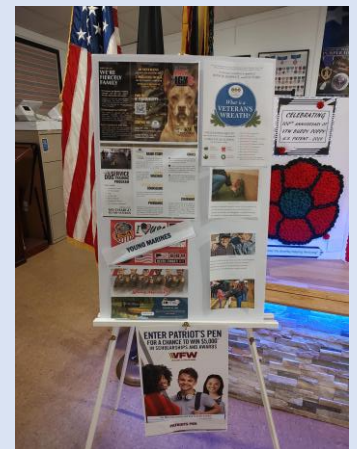
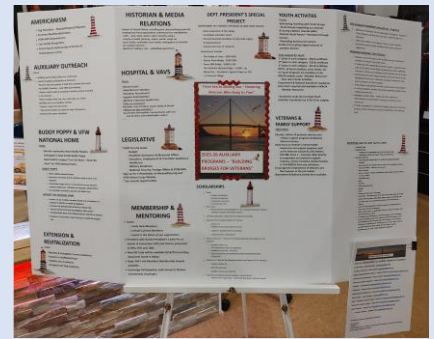
Name: _____

Check or cash must accompany registration form.

Make checks payable to: VFW Veterans Village
Mail checks to: Department of Florida VFW
543 NE Sanchez Avenue, Ocala FL 34470

VFW Auxiliary 4412 Hosts a Meet & Greet for New Members

On Saturday July 12th Tawney-Rowe Memorial Post 4412 Auxiliary hosted a “Meet & Greet for new members. The new members were introduced to all of the VFW Auxiliary programs along with visual presentations. After, new members were presented with their new member packets which included all the program information, a new Podium Book, and a membership pin. Guest attending the meet & greet were Department President Mike Yates, Lisa Batchelder, Department Historian Kathy Ingall, Sunshin E Newsletter Editor Roger Ingall, District 21 President Stoney Lawrentz. Presenters were Auxiliary President Roz Hotz & Kathy Vaughan.





Michell Butler

American.patriotic.2526@gmail.com

Auxiliary 8189 Homosassa Americanism

"Patriotism is the admission that the people who share a land, a place, and a history have a special obligation to that place and each other...."

DAVID EHRENFELD

National President's Theme:

*"From Sea to shining Sea our
Veterans Keep us Free"*

Department President's

Theme: *"Building Bridges for
our Veterans"*

Program Goals

- Flag Education
- Promote Patriotism
- POW/MIA Recognition
- Star Family Recognition

Welcome Auxiliaries to 2025-2026

As we begin our new year: start your list going for Patriotic dates. Go to: Vfwauxiliary.org, log in to MALTA then go to Member Resources, under Americanism is your list.

Don't forget the lessor celebrated holidays they are just as important.

August Important Dates:

August 4th Coast Guards Birthday

August 7th Purple Heart Day

August 10th Agent Orange Awareness Day & U.S. Department of Defense Birthday

August 14th Navajo Code Talkers Day

August 16th National Airborne Day

August 29th Marine Corps Reserve Birthday

We should be thinking of what comes nextfor us school of instruction

- Does the school need new Flags, POW/MIA Flag?
- Set up with the school when to do flag education
- Supply art supplies so they can help make cards for our veterans
- Start Promoting Smart/Maher VFW Nation Citizenship
- What is happening in your community
- For the entire month it is **Antiterrorism Awareness Month**





Becky Keiffer

bkiso2012@gmail.com

Auxiliary 6287 Ruskin

Auxiliary Outreach

**National Ambassador
Sara Manke's Theme:**

"As you shine your light,
the world grows bright,
you are a beacon of
love."



**Department President
Mike Yates theme:**

"Building Bridges for our
Veterans"



AUXILIARY OUTREACH

July 2025

National Ambassador Sara Manke's theme is: **"As you shine your light, the world grows bright, you are a beacon of love."**



As the national program page states, "Volunteering is second nature for the VFW Auxiliary members. It's what we do, how we do it, where we do it, and why we do it".

We need to not only increase our "bridges" by looking at new ways to SHINE our light into the Communities, we also need to increase the NUMBER of our Members who participate. And MAKE SURE you post those videos on your website, Facebook, and other social media platforms to reach even MORE possible Community members.

Department President Mike Yates' theme is: **"Building Bridges for Our Veterans".**

Let's all be a **strong bridge** for our Veterans into the Community!

And let's make Florida a **Beacon!**

Get with your local businesses, churches, Police, Firefighters, etc. See what projects they need volunteers to help with. Have you considered participating in a walk that benefits another organization? You could be a "spotter", hand out water, check participants in, etc. And get MORE of your Members to participate !

REQUIREMENTS:

Approve the partnership at an Auxiliary meeting and record it in your minutes.

Make sure you wear something that identifies you as VFW Auxiliary. (Shirt, Hat, name tag, etc.)

REPORT THE EVENT IN MALTA!!

And AS ALWAYS: NO \$\$\$!!! YES HOURS !!!



Approved by:

Department President

Mike Yates

Becky Kieffer

Auxiliary Outreach Chair

bkiso2012@gmail.com

DEPARTMENT AWARDS:

Most outstanding Auxiliary Outreach activity and/or event that is shared on social media using **#AuxiliaryOutreach** in each membership class. Entry form is required and available on MALTA. Auxiliaries must send the required form to the Department Auxiliary Outreach Chair by March 31, 2026, for judging.

NATIONAL AWARDS:

Most outstanding Auxiliary Outreach activity and/or event that is shared on social media using **#Auxiliary Outreach**. Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that shares the most outstanding Auxiliary Outreach activity and/or event using **#AuxiliaryOutreach** during the current program year.

Department Officers 2025 – 2026

President

Michael Yates
1620 W. Evergreen Drive
Citrus Springs, FL 34434
(330) 233-2133
Brusdtwice1@gmail.com

Senior Vice President

Kathy Wright
5867 111th Street
Jacksonville, FL 32244
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Kathy_wright@bellsouth.net

Junior Vice President

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Bashibee4@yahoo.com

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rkabala@tampabay.rr.com

Chief of Staff

Leona McDermott
4444 Royal Fern Way
Palm Beach Gardens, FL
33410
(561) 386-6108
leemvfw@comcast.net

Know your Department Chairmen:

- **Americanism – Michelle Butler** American.patriotic.2526@gmail.com
- **Auxiliary Outreach – Becky Kieffer** bkiso2012@gmail.com
- **Buddy Poppy / VFW National Home – Jennifer Holland** Jenniferlholland72@comcast.net
- **Extension Revitalization & Mentoring – Sherri Golder** sherrigolder@gmail.com
- **Historian / Media Relations – Kathy Ingall** shanily.05@gmail.com
- **Hospital – Viki Stripling** vikiplottsdistrict11@yahoo.com
- **Legislative – Pamela Monroe** Anamcarax2@icloud.com
- **Membership & Mentoring – Holly Evans** hadams1221@hotmail.com
- **Scholarships – Carrie Messer** messerca@gmail.com
- **Dept. President’s Special Project – Kelly Barr** Flpresproject2526@gmail.com
- **Veterans & Family Support – Ryan Harris** ryan.harris.cisa@gmail.com
- **Youth Program – Kristy Possert** goldenanchorteam@gmail.com
- **Program Advisor** Debbie Tilley dktilley@comcast.net

Keep up to date with the monthly promotions from your chairmen!

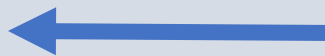
Dates to Remember for 2025 – 2026

| | | |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • School of Instruction | Florida Hotel, Orlando FL | July 31 – August 3, 2025 |
| • National Convention | Columbus, Ohio | August 9 –14, 2025 |
| • Department Fall Conference | Florida Hotel, Orlando FL | October 16 – 19, 2025 |
| • Southern Conference | Montgomery, Texas | November 6 – 9, 2025 |
| • National Mid-Year Conference | Cruise – Key West & Bahamas | February 9 – 13, 2026 |
| • Department Mid-Winter Conference | Florida Hotel, Orlando FL | February 12 – 15, 2026 |
| • C.A.F.E National Legislative Conference | Washington D.C. | February 28, 2026 March 2-4, 2026 |
| • Dept Commander & Auxiliary Presidents Homecoming | Florida Hotel, Orlando FL | March 14, 2026 |
| • National Sr. Vice Conference | TBD | March 19-22, 2026 |
| • National Presidents Visit (Fri – Mon) | Various | March 20-23, 2026 |
| • Veterans Village Picnic | Fort McCoy, Florida | March 21, 2026 |
| • Planning Meeting for Kathy Wright (May change) | | April 4, 2026 |
| • Department Judging | | April 29-30, 2026 |
| • National Jr. Vice Conference | TBD | May 14-18, 2026 |
| • Department Convention | Renaissance Orlando, FL | June 11-14, 2026 |
| • National Convention | Reno, Nevada | July 24-30, 2026 |

Sunshine E. Newsletter Story Submittal



Scan the Blue QR
Code to submit
stories & photos of
your Auxiliary



E F N A V F D V S W D Q L M J
O J G S X C E T D V D W I S Q
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Veterans
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School of Instruction



Friday - Sunday August 1 -3, 2025

Florida Hotel & Conference Center

1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, Florida 32809

Phone: 800-588-4656

Room Rate: \$125 .00 plus tax (Mention VFW School of Instruction)

Complimentary Self-Parking

Deadline for Reservations - July 11, 2025

Friday August 1, 2025 - Red Shirt Friday

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM - District President's Meeting (Closed Meeting)

11:30 AM - 12:30 PM - Dept. Chairmens Meeting (Closed Meeting)

2:00 PM – Council Meeting

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM Treasurers/Trustee Workshop

5 - 7 p.m. Program Fair

Saturday August 2, 2025 - Mike's Shirt

9:00 AM – Secretary Workshop

10:00 AM- President's Leadership Workshop

11:00 AM Program Advisor - Debbie Tilley

Lunch

1:00 PM - Lynn Rolf National Program Director

2:00 PM Question and Answer session (Websites)

3:00 PM - Roger Ingall -Sunshine Newsletter

3:30 PM - Announcements - Debbie Tilley

3:35 P.M. Closing remarks - Dept President Michael Yates

Time TBD Dinner for ALL District Presidents

Important: Workshops are open to ALL interested members

SPECIAL NOTICE: ALL TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE



Please check website often for updated information