

SUNSHINE

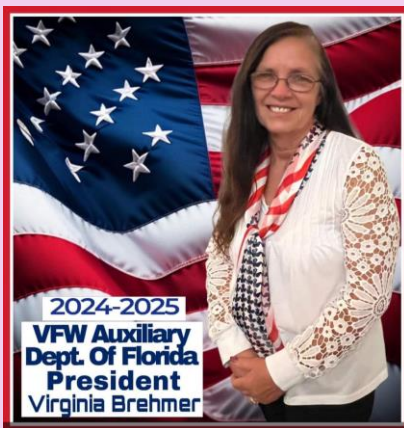
E-NEWS LETTER



October 2024 - ISSUE NO 5

From Team Florida

FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Disaster Relief and Helena Help Information

As we all know several of our Districts have been hit from this storm. I have received some information that can help those in need.

Any Post or members that are affected by Helena, World Central Kitchen now has disaster relief feeding locations in Florida for hurricane victims and Volunteers. They will be serving food in these areas all day every day until the areas are safe and food stable. We will do our best to keep you all updated when new kitchens are added.

Remember that every little bit helps. I have been told that they can also help Veterans in these areas with other needs or point them in the right direction for further assistance.

They are trying to have reps from agencies stationed at these feeding locations. These stations become a major hub for information.

Also, if any of your members are cut off on Barrier Islands, World Central Kitchen is delivering meals by helicopter to those areas until they're able to mobilize on the ground. This is helpful information for those also who are on the Florida Georgia Border. Some will be able to get help from GA faster or easier. I am in direct contact with a radio Station working with a Volunteer at WCK on the ground in the Cedar Key area. WCK is a World Central Kitchen Chef Jose Andreas' disaster/wartime relief organization.

They've become as important as the Red Cross in times of strife. <https://wck.org/> Again, as new and updated information comes in we will do our best to get it to you quickly.

Here is a completed list of all currently open and operating food locations in Florida; **Next Page**



Western Days



FALL CONFERENCE

Florida Hotel & Conference Center
1500 Sand Lake Road, Orlando, Florida 32809
October 25 - 26, 2024
Phone: 407-859-1500
Room Rate: \$121 .00 plus tax
(Mention Veterans of Foreign Wars Fall Meeting)
Complimentary Self-Parking
CUT OFF DATE - Monday, September 23rd @ 5 p.m.

RED SHIRT FRIDAY
October 25, 2024

1:00 PM District Presidents Meeting (Closed Meeting) (Legends-1st Floor)
2:00 PM Department Chairmen's Meeting (Closed Meeting) (Legends-1st Floor)
3:00 PM - Council of Administration Meeting (Legends-1st Floor)



WESTERN (HATS, BOOTS ETC)
Saturday October 26, 2024
8 a.m. Turn the Fountain Pink

8:30 AM Fall Conference Chairmen's Presentations (Legends-1st Floor)
POW/MIA - Black & White

2:45 PM POW/MIA Program with VFW Department of Florida (Legends-1st Floor)



SPECIAL NOTICE: ALL TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE
Please check website often for updated information



#ChefsForFlorida Free Meals

Free meals are available for anyone in need, weather permitting.

M&M Minimart Fort White
2995 Wilson Springs Rd.
Fort White, FL 32038
Starting at 11AM

Hitchcock's Market
205 2nd Ave. SE
Jasper, FL 32052
Starting at 11AM

North Florida Medical
710 W. Main St.
Mayo, FL 32086
Starting at 12PM

Clearwater Bridge Parking Lot
315 Court St.
Clearwater, FL 33758
Starting at 11:30AM

Daystar Life Center
8751 W Gulf to Lake Hwy.
Crystal River, FL 34429
Starting at 12:30PM

Homosassa Civic Club
5530 S Mason Creek Rd.
Homosassa, FL 34448
Starting at 11:30PM

Dowling Park Church of God
23500 NW County Rd. 250
Live Oak, FL 32060
Starting at 12:30PM

Immaculate Conception Church
2750 S Byron Butler Pkwy.
Perry, FL 32348
Starting at 12PM

First Baptist Church
25 Co Rd. 351
Horseshoe Beach, FL 32848
Starting at 12PM

Paradise Island
1885 Shore Dr. S
South Pasadena, FL 33707
Starting at 12:30PM

Greenville
13757 US-90
Greenville, FL 32311
Starting at 12PM

Treasure Island Park
1 Park Pl.
Treasure Island, FL 33708
Starting at 1PM

Steinhatchee Family Dollar
115 15th St. E
Steinhatchee, FL 32358
Starting at 11AM

First Baptist Church
717 2nd St.
Cedar Key, FL 32625
Starting at 12PM

Updated 9/30/24

The following is a complete list of all currently open and operating food locations In the Florida Georgia Border area;

#CHEFSFORGEORGIA

Quola Soup Kitchen
Elementary School
115 E. Florida Ave.
.Valdosta GA 31601
Starting at 11AM

Valdosta
1507 N. Ashley St.
Valdosta GA 31638
Starting at 12:30pm

Lanier County
92 S. Valdosta Rd.
Morven, GA 31638
Starting at 11:30AM

Pearson Old High School
Pearson GA
Starting at 12:30PM

Remember folks through all of this to take care of each other. Check on your neighbors' members and friends. We are all VFW and Auxiliary families. Work with your Post to help all we can. We are ONE TEAM!

Back to School

VFW Auxiliary 4781 delivered school supplies to Wyomina Elementary school in Ocala. The Auxiliary extends their gratitude to their Bingo players who donated to this cause.



VFW Auxiliary 10127 N. Ft. Myers delivered school supplies.



District 7 Auxiliary dropped off 11 book bags filled with school supplies to Lecanto Primary School.



VFW Auxiliary 3233 Back to School Drive for Wilkinson Elementary and Emma E. Booker Elementary schools



VFW Auxiliary 8189 delivered school & art supplies to Rock Crusher Elementary, Crystal River Elementary, and Homosassa Elementary schools.



VFW 4174 Auxiliary Lehigh Acres Back to School Drive. The Auxiliary collected \$5,400 in cash and school supplies. The Supplies were delivered to three Elementary schools, and a Christian Autistic school.



VFW Auxiliary 10087 donated school supplies to Forest Ave Elementary School and served some breakfast for the teachers.



Send your Pictures and Story's for the Sunshine E-Newsletter to: Roger Ingall Shanily.04@gmail.com

Monthly Program Focus:

Historian & Media Relations

Report

It shouldn't be a Secret.

Be proud and say it out loud by Reporting all the things your Auxiliary does when it comes to our Programs.

Take Photos about the event and sent to your Chairman of the Program you're reporting about.

REPORT ON DEPT WEBSITE

“Extra Extra” Read all about it!

**What is your News story?
Share your Events with your
Community, and Members.**



How is your Auxiliary telling the **Fall season story?**

Using your tools of Media?

Posting your events or Fundraisers on Facebook, Community Newspaper, Magazine and Local TV.

Flyers inviting members, and Community.

Your Auxiliary did a Trunk or Treat in the parking Lot of your VFW.

How would you Report? Under what Program?

How would you advertise it?

Under what program?

Would you ask your local Community Boy or Girl Scouts to Help?

What about your local ROTC?

How would you **Report it?**

Under which Program?

****The Historian** of your Auxiliary or member would advertise the event.**

Historian or member would take great photos with a signed permission slip from parents. Using your **Phone or **Camera**.**

Never post an unflattering photo. If you wouldn't post it of you! Then **Delete it! Take more than one photo.**

Take your time focus and shoot. If you want to improve your photography skills...GOOGLE IT!****

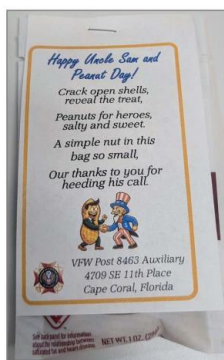
Save Pictures and flyers for your Auxiliary President's Keepsake Book, for the end of their year.

District 6 Member Donates Hospital Bed

During the District 6 school of instruction in Saint Augustine, a wonderful lady Liz Ingraham, announced that she had a hospital bed that she would like to donate. Marlana Shaw of VFW Auxiliary 4351 of Fernandina Beach had said that her daughter recently got full custody of her handicapped son with cerebral palsy... The transition to a different state had left her without necessary equipment. So, Liz graciously donated this bed to Marlana's grandson.



The Auxiliary of VFW 3282 in Port Orange, FL, created a meaningful tribute to Women Veterans saluting the contributions of women throughout military history, featuring images of veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, as well as more recently in Afghanistan and Iraq. This poster honors women who have served in various capacities, from the Revolutionary War to the present day. It includes portraits of notable figures such as Molly Pitcher and representatives from different branches of the military, including the Army, Navy, Marines, Coast Guard, Air Force, and more. The poster also features a 70-point timeline highlighting significant milestones and achievements of Women Veterans, complete with dates, facts, and statistics. The Auxiliary's goal with this display is to acknowledge and celebrate the vital role of women in the military, ensuring their contributions are recognized and remembered.



These are only a few of our volunteers!



Happy Uncle Sam & Peanut Day!

VFW Post 8463 Auxiliary celebrated Veterans by passing out 100 bags of peanuts on September 14th to celebrate National Peanut Day and Uncle Sam Day (Sept 13).

We talked to children and their parents about our Illustrating America Contest and offered pamphlets to share with their friends and teachers.

Buddy Poppies were available, and we shared their story.

Post members provided the logistics and helped with setup and tear down. Our wonderful bartender had BBQ meatballs available on our return and our kitchen sent empanadas to the booth for lunch!



Happy Uncle Sam and Peanut Day!



Get to know your 24-25 Department Officers

Name: Debra Gates

Position: Department Assistant Secretary

Years in the Auxiliary: 11 Years

Home Post: Auxiliary 3282 Port Orange.

Home District: 19

Who did you join under: My husband Chris Allen Gates



What Positions in the Auxiliary have you held? Auxiliary Senior Vice, Auxiliary President, District Guard, District 19 President, Department Patriotic Instructor, Americanism Chairman, Department Assistant Secretary

What motivates you for the VFW Auxiliary? Helping my fellow Veterans and making my brothers and sister smile

Do you have any hobbies? Love to ride our Harley with my husband, spending time with our awesome kids and their significant others and loving on our 4 doggies

Favorite quote or saying: IF YOU ARE NOT HAVING FUN, YOU ARE DOING IT WRONG 😊

Any message you would like to leave for the members? Please let us all stay “United for our Veterans”. If we work together, we will get much further in our quest.

Know your Department Chairmen:

- Americanism – Carol Franker Qcarol4u@gmail.com
- Auxiliary Outreach – Sandi Hendriks sandihendriks@yahoo.com
- Buddy Poppy / VFW National Home – Kelly Barr buddypoppy2425@gmail.com
- Extension Revitalization & Mentoring – Debbie McCollum Ucfnole21@yahoo.com
- Historian / Media Relations – Jeanne F. Laurine Jeannelaurine5@gmail.com
- Hospital – Karen Heikkila Hospitalauxfl@yahoo.com
- Legislative – Melissa McKeon melissamckeon6767@gmail.com
- Membership – Betty Bailey bann652@aol.com
- Scholarships – Ann Batson annbatson@att.net
- Dept. President’s Special Project – Pauline Riddle fireballs44@hotmail.com
- Veterans & Family Support – Bob Kabala rkabala@tampabay.rr.com
- Youth Program – Amy DiMauro stavamy@aol.com

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

Send your Pictures and Story’s for the Sunshine E-Newsletter to: Roger Ingall Shanily.04@gmail.com

Auxiliary 8093 and Auxiliary 4250 of District 19 visiting Freedom Ride in Orlando, President Ginger's President Special Project

Auxiliary Members from Post 8093 – DeBary and Post 4250 - New Smyrna Beach visited FREEDOM RIDE, in Orlando, our Department President Special Project. Learning how this facility helps veterans and the disabled through Equine Facilitated Learning (EFL) and Equine Facilitated Psychotherapy (EFP).



Welcome to Freedom Ride, established in 1998, as a non-profit 501(c)(3) volunteer-based organization built on the conviction that we are not bound by our physical limitations. Freedom Ride is dedicated to enriching the lives and experiences of children and adults with disabilities in the Central Florida area through therapeutic horseback riding and related activities. As the first Premier Accredited PATH facility in Central Florida in the heart of Orlando, Freedom Ride reaches out to individuals with disabilities and makes a dramatic impact on their lives and their families. With a team of loyal horses, PATH International Certified Instructors, Equine Specialists and trained volunteers, Freedom Ride provides therapeutic horseback riding to children and adults with disabilities ... cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, multiple sclerosis, autism, developmental delay, attention deficit disorder, deafness and many emotional and learning disabilities.



VETERANS

U.S. Veterans are offered the opportunity to interact with horses in a way that allows for increasing self-awareness, enhancing coping skills and learning more effective ways to interact and move forward within the community and with friends and loved ones.



From the Desk of the Dept Secretary:

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Members should be receiving emails and post cards from PCI, which is the company doing this project. If you do not wish to participate, simply call them or unsubscribe at the bottom of the email. This is a wonderful way to preserve our members history within the Auxiliary.

Debbie Tilley

SAVE THE DATE

Department President's Homecoming

Crowne Plaza Melbourne Oceanfront
2601 North A1A
Melbourne 32903
March 14 - 15, 2025

For dinner reservations contact
Mary Kellner
 321-914-9292 or maryk@yahoo.com
 Deadline: March 1st

To receive the discounted group rate of \$245+ for a Standard Room and \$265+ for a Balcony Room over the dates of Friday, March 14th, 2025 through Sunday, March 16th, 2025 please reference group code "VFW" when reserving by phone at 1-877-701-9252 or online at <https://www.ihg.com/crowneplaza/hotels/us/en/melbourne/mlboc/hoteldetail>.

Reservations will be accepted at the group rate until **February 9th, 2025**. After this date any unused room in the block will be released back into inventory for general sale and your guests will be quoted the prevailing rate at the time of the reservation.

Please also feel free to share your direct booking link (which will not need your group code):

[VFWA Department of Florida Homecoming Booking Link 2025](#)



On 9/11/24, the Jr R.O.T.C. joined the local fire department, the residents of Emory Bennet Veteran Nursing Home, and members of VFW Post 1590 in a patriotic ceremony hosted by the Auxiliary. All joined in a bonded spirit, remembering those lost on 9/11, while sharing our love of God and country.



Dates to Remember for 2024-2025

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|------------------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • Department Fall Conference | October 25-27, 2024 | Florida Hotel, Orlando, FL |
| • Southern Conference | November. 7-9, 2024 | Nashville |
| • Department Mid-Winter Conference | January 24 - 26, 2025 | Westgate Resorts, Orlando |
| • National Mid-Year Conference | February 1 – 6, 2025 | Hideaway at Royalton Riviera, Cancun |
| • Dept. Presidents Homecoming | March 14 – 15 2025 | Crown Plaza – Indialantic Beach |
| • National President's Visit | March 20 – 23, 2025 | |
| • Veterans Village Picnic | March 22, 2025 | |
| • Planning Meeting for Mike Yates | April 5, 2025 | |
| • Dept. Commanders Homecoming | April 12, 2025 | |
| • Department Judging | April 25 – 26, 2025 | |
| • Department Convention | June 12- 15, 2025 | Renaissance Orlando, FL |
| • National Convention | August 9-14, 2025 | Columbus, OH |