

SUNSHINE

E-NEWS LETTER



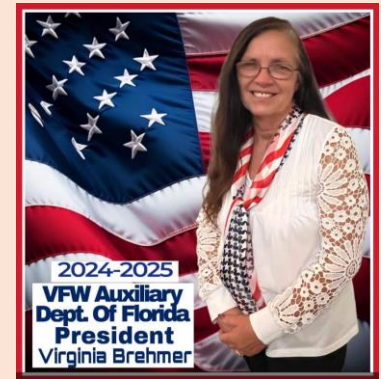
November 2024 - ISSUE NO 6

From Team Florida

FROM THE DESK OF THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

Hello members,
Well here we are at another Holiday season. I hope that this month's message finds everyone beginning to recover from these two storms. Please as members of the Auxiliary to the VFW remember that there are a number of Florida Members out there that still need our support. This is the perfect time of year to go above and beyond to reach out and see where you can help. Also please let your members in need know that there is no need for pictures if they are asking the Auxiliary for assistance. However if they feel better sending them they may. As a reminder, it is also the time of year that you need to be sure that **ALL** your Officer's dues are paid, as they will end up being removed as of December 31st. And if they or any other members whose dues are not paid, and they were affected by Helene or Milton, it would be a good time to discuss paying the Per-diem for them. What a great way to support your Officers and members and a great holiday jester. Speaking of. Membership, we Are a bit behind, and it is going to be rough for some of you who have been hit so hard by these storms. With entire towns and communities totally destroyed, it is a long road to membership goals, and I am very proud of the ones you have reached so far. Get those renewal notices out there and take the time to contact members to see if they need help. I also want to thank you for your work on our programs. Please keep the reports coming. We love to read them! You are all great and valuable members, and without you we could not do what we do in supporting our Veterans and their families. Thank you!

I would like to leave you with this:
"Act as though what you do makes a difference, It does" - Josiah Soto.
And I love this quote about life I found
"Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving" - Albert Einstein



So, keep moving all you Volunteers. We remain United as Team Florida, Making us Florida Strong. We are "**1 Family, 1 Voice, 1 Team.**"
Thanks,
Virginia "Ginger " Brehmer
VFWA Department of Florida President.

VFW MID-WINTER CONFERENCE



JANUARY 24th - 26th 2025
WEST GATE LAKES RESORT
9500 TURKEY LAKE ROAD, ORLANDO, FL

For reservations call 877-502-7058

You must tell Reservations state Group Code 67-886

Studio Rate: \$108.00 plus tax, 2 Bedroom Suite Rate: \$174 plus tax

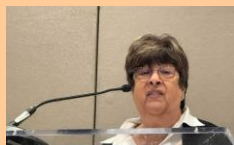
Check-in: 4:00 p.m. Check-out: 10:00 a.m.

Deadline: By 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 02, 2025

Parking is Complimentary to all guests.

Department is not responsible if you wait too long to make your reservations.

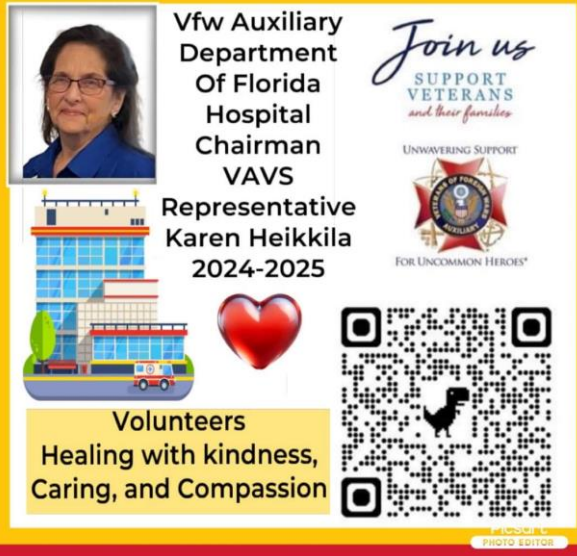
Fall Conference



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

Monthly Program Focus:

Hospital Program



Vfw Auxiliary
Department
Of Florida
Hospital
Chairman
VAVS
Representative
Karen Heikkila
2024-2025

Join us
SUPPORT
VETERANS
and their families
UNWAVERING SUPPORT
FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

Volunteers
Healing with kindness,
Caring, and Compassion

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT RECOGNITION

How the VFW Auxiliary members participate:

1. Make items such as lap blankets, hats, cards, snacks, etc.
2. Participate in events and projects at VA facilities voted on by your Auxiliary.
3. Fundraise for the Department Hospital fund.
4. Promote projects and volunteer opportunities to your Auxiliary and Community.
5. Present Hospital Volunteer recognition certificates.
6. Report individual volunteer's hours on the Department of Florida website.
7. Volunteer hours earned can be reported to your Auxiliary and the V.A.

Recruit volunteers:

- CERTIFIED HOSPITAL VOLUNTEERS Auxiliary members who register with the V.A.
- OCCASIONAL VOLUNTEERS Auxiliary members not certified at the V.A.
- SPONSORED VOLUNTEERS Non-Auxiliary members over the age of 14.

Volunteer Recruitment, Recognition, and Support

New volunteers are needed more now than ever at our V.A. hospitals, Clinics, C.L.C.s, and Domiciliary. We as volunteers create a friendly, caring atmosphere no matter where we are. Here are tips for recruiting and keeping volunteers:

- Signup sheets for regular events.
- Emails and phone calls for special events.
- Be detailed about what the volunteers will be doing, with times and dates.
- Find out each person's interests and strengths.
- If someone says "no" to the first invitation, be sure to ask again!
- Public recognition of Volunteers.

MALTA has information on becoming a volunteer, recruiting, how to donate to the HOSPITAL FUND.

Dates for Hospital Program Projects for volunteers:

- ✓ Veterans Day November 11, recognize and celebrate.
- ✓ Christmas, Caroling, candy canes, and cheer
- ✓ Salute to Veteran patient week. February 10-14, 2025. Take cards, candy (sugar free), and love to a VA facility.
- ✓ Vietnam Veteran Day, most VA hospitals have a ceremony where we can volunteer by handing out water, cards, snacks.
- ✓ Memorial Day, Volunteers for the tags & flags tables, creating a garden of flags at each VA facility.

VAVS REPRESENTATIVES & DEPUTIES

Are the link between the VA and the Auxiliary.

* Sign up today and keep our Auxiliaries informed of our Veteran's needs.

*Work with the VA to organize special events for your Auxiliaries.

Chairperson:

Karen Heikkila, Hospital Chairman
hospitalauxfl@yahoo.com

Coastal Clean- up

Post 4209 in Ocala FL. Partnered up with International Coastal Clean- up, to help Clean up the trash at one of their local parks, Silver Springs, State Park. The 4 Auxiliary and 2 Post members worked to collect 3.5 Lbs of trash.



Auxiliary Outreach Program

On September 19th three members of Auxiliary 7909, District 6 (Margaret Latimer, Kathy Wright, and Kathy Danahoo) helped with food distribution at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Auxiliary 7909 Celebrates 98th Birthday

On October 14th Auxiliary 7909 in District 6 celebrated the 98th birthday of Nell Mathis, one of their members who still attends meetings. She has been a member of the Auxiliary for 54 years. She also regularly attends Wednesday night bingo, She was presented with another cake on October 16, 2024.



VFW Post 7721 Charters Cub Scout Troop

VFW Post 7721 has officially chartered Cub Scout Troop 7721; Auxiliary member Kristen Downey was instrumental in seeking out our post as the official location for their troop. Official induction was done in late September with all the paperwork making it official with national cub scout organization. Since the start of only 15 Scouts the troop has already grown to 35, donations have come to help support building this troop so they can get their official 7721 patches, but also to support the popcorn sales for fund raising.



Get to know your 24-25 Department Officers

Name: Michael Yates

Position: SR. Vice President

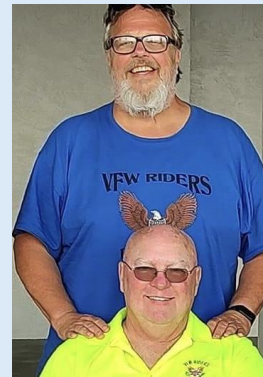
Years in the Auxiliary: 2015-Present

Home Post: Harry F. Nesbit 10087 Beverly Hills

Home District: District 7

Who did you join under:

My younger brother Leonard M. Yates Jr. He served in Vietnam, and I was sent to Germany



What Positions in the Auxiliary have you held?

I've held National Banner Bearer 2019-2020, National Color Bearer#1 2023-2034, Dept. Guard, Dept. Conductor, Dept. Chaplain, Dept. Jr. Vice, Dept. Patriotic Instructor, Southern Conference Patriotic Instructor, Auxiliary District President, Auxiliary President, Youth Activities and Veterans and Family Support Chairman

What motivates you for the VFW Auxiliary?

As a veteran to help my brothers and sister veterans and their families, being able to help and getting veterans and their families pointed in the right direction in helping to make their lives a little better by assisting them with the information they need to find those programs. Also educating our young patriots to understand and respect patriotism and what it stands for.

Do you have any hobbies?

I like to ride my motorcycle and Slingshot, play golf, enjoy music and dancing, being with friends and family.

Favorite quote or saying:

No question is a dumb question if you don't know the answer!

Any message you would like to leave for the members?

If you feel that accomplishing your tasks in the auxiliary is challenging, look at the men and women who have served or are serving, they have made sure we were safe, and now we have to make sure they are being taken care of by us and our government for a job well done by them.

Dates to Remember for 2024-2025

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|------------------------------------|------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| • 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 | February 16 – 19, 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 |

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!

HAPPY VETERANS DAY!



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