



SUNSHINE E-NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

All are invited....

What: Mid-Winter Conference

When: January 20-23

Where: Westgate Lakes Resort
10000 Turkey Lake Road
Orlando

Theme: Mardi Gras
Wear a Mardi Gras mask on Saturday
for prize for Most Creative Mask.

Tentative Schedule:

Friday January 20

8:45 Floor Practice (Floor team)
10:00 Officer's March Practice
10:30 Dept Chairmen Closed Meeting
11:15 District President Closed Meeting
1:00 Council of Administration Meeting (closed)
2:15 Council of Administration Meeting and
Opening Ceremonies

Saturday January 21

8:30 Mid-Winter Conference presentations
12:00 Lunch
1:15 Mid-Winter Conference presentations
6:00 Celebration of Freedom Achievement
Dinner (by Ticket)

It's Not Too Late....

To donate to the VFW National Home. In December the National Home put out a request for Auxiliaries to donate to the Health and Education Building's Veterans Resource Center. The

Health and Education Building is 3500 Auxiliaries donated \$3, the being renovated with focus on goal would be met. So if your the downstairs offices where the Auxiliary did not send in the \$3, Veterans Resource Center it is not too late. Remember you opened in October 2022. The can report the donation in the cost of the project is estimated Buddy Poppy/National Home to be \$10,000. If each of the program.

National President's Visit Details

National President Jane Reape will make her official visit to Florida February 4-5. Details have been finalized as follows.

Saturday: February 4

6:00 pm Aisle of Flags at Ruskin

Memorial VFW Post 6287. 5120 US Hwy 41 North, Apollo Beach. Attire for Aisle of Flags and following dinner is blue Auxiliary shirt, black slacks or trousers with black shoes or appropriate patriotic attire.
6:30 pm Dinner following Aisle of Flags. RSVP to Kelly Barr no later than January 22.

Sunday: February 5

6:00 pm Dinner at Riverview Memorial 8108, 7504 Riverview Drive in Riverview.

Dinner is limited to 50 attendees so RSVP by email to Anita Webb spunkey3@gmail.com no later than January 22. Attire is National President Shirt or appropriate casual auxiliary shirt or blouse or patriotic attire.

Meet Our Chaplain

Michael Yates



I enlisted in the US Army in September of 1970. I served in the US Army for 17 months stationed in Bamberg Germany, then I served the rest of my 3 yr. enlistment in the Ohio National Guard.

I joined the VFW Auxiliary under the eligibility of my younger brother who served in Vietnam as a helicopter door gunner 174 AHC as a Shark.

I am also a member of AMVETS.

Since I joined the Auxiliary, I have served as:

Edward Penno 4864	President	2016-2019
Edward Penno 4864	3 Year Trustee	2019-2020
Edward Penno 4864	2 Year Trustee	2020-2020
Harry Nesbitt 10087	3 Year Trustee	2022-2023
District 7	President	2018-2020
Dept of Florida	Guard	2020-2021
Dept of Florida	Conductor	2021-2022
Dept of Florida	Chaplain	2022-2023
Dept of Florida VFW	GI Joe Award	2021-2022
Southern Conference	Patriotic Instructor	2022-2023
National	Banner Bearer	2019-2020
National	Color Bearer #1	2022-2023

I have been the Youth Chairman twice under President Nancy Cone and President Linda Seiler, and Veterans and Family Support chairman under President Debbie Tilley. All three of these years the Department of Florida Auxiliary membership brought home 1st place awards. I thank these Presidents for giving me this opportunity and for the membership or the well-done job for accomplishing this

Auxiliaries in Action



Auxiliary 7721 in District 13 packed over 35 boxes for their adopted unit in Qatar. The boxes went to over 23 soldiers.



Melissa McKeon of Post 1590, Daytona Beach, hand made 90 gnomes with military attire for the residents of Emory Bennet Veteran Nursing Home. She is inspired by our Department President Cindy Estell's gnome mascot. Her hard work and dedication is how we, the Auxiliary honor our Vets.



Auxiliary 9236 in Hernando Beach, FL collected items from Thanksgiving through December 19. An auxiliary member purchased 24 backpacks. Another auxiliary member hand crocheted blankets for each veteran. We met on Dec 19 and sorted items and stuffed them full!

Each backpack contained socks, beanie hats, gloves, hand-warmers, food items, an umbrella, drink tumblers, and a blanket. It made our hearts full to give to those who served us and are now down on their luck. We hope they make good use of the gifts and are in a better situation throughout the new year.



Auxiliaries in Action

On December 17th, Auxiliary 8093 (Dist. 19) and Auxiliary 2093 (Dist. 18) participated in Wreaths Across America. The band was there from Post 2093, playing Christmas music, the honor guard was there from Post 8093, we had our local Scout Troop and JROTC of University High School, participating in the ceremony. It was a very moving ceremony and privilege to lay wreaths on our Veterans graves.



Q. Is an Auxiliary required to attend District meetings?

A. Yes, According to Article VIII, Sec. 810A - Auxiliary President last bullet:
'Assure that the President or their representative attend all properly called District

Conventions or meetings...'

Q. Are Auxiliaries and District required to have Standing Rules?

A. No, they are not required to have Standing Rules. According to Article II, Sec 211 first bullet:
"Auxiliaries, County Councils, Districts and Departments 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."

Q. Can Auxiliary President appoint a Chief of Staff?

A. No, According to Article VIII, Sec 803—Appointive Officers, first sub-bullet to first bullet.. "Department and National appointive Officers may include a Chief of Staff." Chief of Staff is not included in the list of appointed officers in first bullet.

E-mail your articles and pictures of your auxiliary activities to Jodi Nerney, Editor-in-Chief at canefan@ix.netcom.com with Newsletter as subject. If you would like to receive this newsletter directly in your inbox, send a note to vfwauxflnews@gmail.com that you would like to receive it.