



SUNSHINE E-NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY



2022 'BOOT' Camp

The theme for 'BOOT' Camp was Superheroes. It took on a new format this year and attendees were pleased with it.

Training workshops were held for Auxiliary Presidents, Roles and Duties of Auxiliary Officers, Trustees, Leadership, Secretaries and Treasurers.

Instead of presentations for each program, each chairman set up a table for the program fair. As the tables were set up for the entire morning, members could talk with each chairman (who was dressed as a Superhero) and gather the information they provided.

If you missed it, you missed a very informative 'Boot' Camp.





Meet Our President

Cindy joined the VFW Auxiliary under the eligibility of her husband, Wendell H. Estell, US Airforce Vietnam Veteran. Cindy is a lifetime member of Auxiliary 9272 in Seminole, Florida where she serves as a Trustee. Cindy is also a member of the Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary.

Cindy and Wendell live in Saint Petersburg, with their fur baby Duke. They have one son, Jason Estell who also lives in Saint Petersburg with his wife Jennifer. Cindy and Wendell have two granddaughters, Kayla, and Heather and two great-granddaughters, Elizabeth and Nicole.

Cindy was elected as Department of Florida Guard in June 2017 and reached her dream of being elected as Department President during the 91st Annual Department of Florida VFW Auxiliary Convention in Orlando, Florida.

Cindy is resolute and unwavering in her dedication as a member to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. Her theme "Champion for Veterans" is not just a motto.... but it is who all auxiliary members are and what they do day after day.....and will continue to do for as long as the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary exist!

Theme: "Champions for Veterans"

Motto: "Strong people stand up for themselves, but stronger people stand up for others."

Color/Flower: Yellow/Gerber Daisy

Song: "Stand By You"



Our President's Travels

President Cindy started her year by traveling to the National Convention In Kansas City, MO. Pictured with the Florida delegation and National President Jean Hamil.



She presided at the BOOT Camp training session in Orlando. She held a wonderful meeting.

Cindy continued her travels to a couple of individual Auxiliaries then made her first official visit to District 21. Pictured with District 21 President Nancy Sellers.





Paws for Veterans

Here's a SWAP....Sharing them red, add a plug. Place Wonderful Auxiliary the hydrants around town in Programs for our Pet Spas, veterinarian's Department President's office, pet stores, and the Special Project. District 22 Post home to raise extra has come up with a clever funds. This is a way of way to raise funds for Paws getting the community to for Veterans. They make help to help our veterans. these 'fire hydrants' out of Just make sure the dogs recycled containers such as don't try to use these coffee containers. Paint 'hydrants'!

It's Time.....

That time of year again when donations are due. These donations are required for Circle of Champions. All donations are based on June 30 membership. They are:

Health and Happiness

.25/member

Pay in MALTA

National Pres. Sp. Project

\$25

Pay in MALTA

Hospital Pledge

.60/member

Check to Dept Treasurer

Dept Disaster Fund

\$25

Check to Dept Treasurer

And don't forget to pay District Dues. They must be paid by September 30.



Fall Conference



Mark your calendars for Fall the Buddy Poppy Contest. Conference, October 21-23 Display must fit in one of at the Florida Hotel. Rooms the three categories:

are \$119.50 + tax per night. Cut off is September 30 at 5:00 but don't wait! They may full!

The theme for Fall Conference is Christmas in October. Each Auxiliary should work with their District to decorate a 3-4 foot Christmas tree or a 18-24 inch Christmas wreath. The trees and wreaths will be raffled with proceeds to Department President's Special Project.

Department will be holding

1. Public Promotion of the Poppy Campaign
2. Memorial or Inspirational Display.
3. Artistic or Decorative use of Poppies

Judging will be October 22 at 12 pm. Displays must be on the tables prior to be judged.

Get creative! Use your imagination. Remember that one poppy must be in original form and color with label attached.



Under Construction



Have you noticed the new webpage? In case you haven't noticed yet, the new website is: www.vfwafl.org. You can find the information as follows:

- All **program book** pages for 2022-2023 can be found under the **Programs tab**
- All **promotions** for 2022-2023 can be found under the **Programs tab**
- Resources are not available under National Website comes up

Reporting site is not live yet.

Until it comes live use the report forms under **Programs tab** for each program.

National Website is also going under a change. Have you noticed the Resources page is no longer available? National has completed phase one of their website change.

When you log on to MALTA you will see two new features. One is CANCER GRANT. This link is to see and print the form to request a cancer grant. It is not fillable as it needs original signatures of member and doctor.

The other new feature is MEMBER RESOURCES. When the page displays, the main portion displays the links to the National Program Book, links to Family Freedom Festival information and links to Building on VFW Auxiliary Foundation. On the right is the programs. When you click on the program you will see the links for program awards form and resources for the program. Hopefully this will be easier for you to find the information you are looking for. Make sure you set up your MALTA account.



"Freedom is one of the deepest and noblest aspirations of the human spirit."

—Ronald Reagan

Q. Do you have to be an officer to attend the Department meetings?

A. No, the meetings are open to all members. At the Council of Administration Meetings, only council members (Dept Officers and District President) are allowed to speak.

Q. Is MALTA only for officers?

A. No, every member should sign on to MALTA. There are many things you can do such as pay your own annual dues, convert to life member, see the officers of your auxiliary, your district and your department.

Q. Must I produce DD214 for proof of eligibility?

A. Although the DD214 is the

most common proof of eligibility as it shows dates of service and medals, other documents can be used such as separation papers, pay record, Hostile and Imminent danger pay, etc. When in doubt check with a Post officer.

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.