



# SUNSHINE E-NEWS

DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

## Fall Conference

Members and officers met in October for Fall Conference. Unfortunately Department President Teresa could not be there due to the death of her mother. Senior Vice President Ginger stepped up to lead the Conference. Friday, after the Council meeting, a special membership application workshop was held. This was a training on how to properly fill out an application. Saturday morning started out with dying the hotel fountain pink for Breast Cancer Awareness month. The conference continued with presentation of programs. Michelle Zielenski, VISN Lead Women Veterans Program Manager at Miami VA gave a presentation on Department President's Special Project. She explained what the funds we raise could be used for although it will be used for whatever we specify. Fundraising for Special Project included the Pumpkin Decorating Contest and an Art Raffle with art donated by Deltona Art Club. The conference concluded with the Prisoners of War/Missing in Action Remembrance ceremony and the awards for the Buddy Poppy contest.





# ***Merry Christmas!***

**It's already November with only 40 days til Christmas.**

**Our Florida VAVS Representatives (elves) can use some extra support from all Auxiliaries before Christmas.**

**This is a chance to stand up for veterans with financial support to help purchase items for visits to Veterans.**

**Make a day filled with joy this holiday season.**

**Checks written to Department of Florida—noted for VAVS Christmas, sent to Department Treasurer Linda Burnett by December 1, 2023 will be divided amongst VAVS Representatives.**

**Thank you for making Christmas a little brighter for our Veterans!**



## **Wooden Flag Raffle**

**For Dept President's Special Project**

**\$5 each or \$10 for 3  
300 Tickets Available**

**(Tickets Available at Fall Conference and Mid-Winter Conference)**

***Drawing at June Convention***



# Mid-Winter Conference

The Mid-Winter Conference will be held January 19-21, 2024 at Westgate Lakes Resort. Call 1-877-502-7058 for reservations. Make sure to mention group code 67-885. Deadline for reservations is December 28, 2023 by 5:00 pm.

The tentative agenda is:

## Friday, January 19

8:45 am Floor Practice

10:00 am Officer's March Practice

10:15 am Department Chairman meeting (closed)

11:00 am District President's Meeting (closed)

1:00 pm Council of Administration Meeting—open to all members followed by Opening Ceremonies Mid-Winter Conference

## Saturday, January 20

8:00 am—1:00 pm Mid-Winter Conference

Lunch Break

Saturday Evening: Celebration of Achievement Banquet. Tickets will be available from Department VFW Florida Headquarters. *More information to follow.*

*All meetings are tentative and subject to change*

# Sharing Wonderful Auxiliary Projects

## Special Project

**Auxiliary 10127**, North Fort Myers FL, raised \$1157.00 for the Special Project - Women Veteran Health and Military Sexual Trauma Awareness from our Post 10127 Auxiliary. They did a 10 minute presentation to the Public and members of Auxiliary & Post bringing awareness to this project using the data and statistics provided in our monthly updates. In fact 1 guest (non-member) donated \$50 of her winnings to the Dept. Pres. Special Project. The audience was 52 strong of which 12 were Aux members.



## Auxiliary Outreach

On September 29, 2023 VFW **Auxiliary 7909** members Margaret Latimer and Kathy Wright worked at the Trinity Lutheran Church food bank in Jacksonville as a community outreach activity.

## Special Project

Our **Auxiliary Post 4407** held a dart tournament on October 14<sup>th</sup> for veteran women sexual trauma awareness. Fun was had by all whom attended including 2 young boys ages 14 and 16. We were able to raise \$220 for this event. Our auxiliary hosted a dart tournament yesterday involving people from the community and was able to raise \$220.



# Sharing Wonderful Auxiliary Projects

## Hospital—Non-Traditional Holiday

The Auxiliary celebrated “National Dog Day” by bringing in several disabled Veterans with their service dogs. They greeted our Emory Bennet Nursing Home Veterans who were bussed in to our **Post 1590** for dinner

The Veterans were excited to share information about their dogs. Once the Service Dog's vests were removed, all the visiting Veterans took turns petting them. Veterans Helping Veterans.



## Youth and Americanism

**LaBelle Post 10100** VFW held its 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Trunk or Treat on October 31<sup>st</sup> 2023 from 5 PM - 7 PM. We expected up to 1000 Trick or Treaters and we certainly served at least 900 - 1100 Trick or Treaters.

We provide those that attend a Hot Dog, Juice and a bag of chips as long as they last. This year we cooked and served 628 hot dogs (ran out), 700 juice drinks and 700 bags of chips (ran out of both).

We assembled 500 brown bags with 500 mini-American flags, 500 Metal Buddy Poppies, 500 All About the VFW Buddy Poppy pamphlets, 500 VFW pencils. The bags were handed out by our Conductor who dresses up as Abraham Lincoln & his wife who is our Treasurer

The trunk or treat consisted of 20 vehicles in a horseshoe where the children enjoyed receiving candy from each vehicle.

Included in the volunteers were the LaBelle High School Honor Guard. They are great examples of what young Americans should be.

