

Presidents Message
Gloria Lisicki
January 2026

The Holiday Season is over it was wonderful I hope it was for you. I visited the hospitals Christmas parties that I could. If you have not visited any of the hospitals, please try and visit as they are so happy when we visit.

It has been 6 months since I became President, it has been very enlightening, I have learned so much, that I didn't know. I have completed all but 1 inspection. I would like to thank all the Districts and orphan Auxiliaries for their hospitality and friendship, I will never forget what you have done for me and our Veterans.

Our membership is doing fantastic we are at 93.8% we only need 550 members for 100%. Thank you but I know we will get the 100% because that is what New Jersey does.

Don't forget Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen luncheon in Toms River
Order your tickets.

Please remember our National President Lois Callahan will be visiting us on May 6-10, 2026 put it on your Calander. More information will follow when the date gets closer.

“From Sea to Shining Sea, Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free”

“Forever Serving, Veterans”

AMERICANISM

2025-2026

Sandy Reed
732-343-1133
Vfwauxiliary7508@gmail.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL!

As we begin a new year, January offers the perfect moment to reaffirm one of our most cherished responsibilities as Auxiliary members: promoting Americanism in our homes, our schools, and our communities. Americanism is more than patriotism—it is the daily practice of honoring our nation's ideals, respecting our flag, and teaching future generations the meaning of freedom.

This month, let's encourage our members and community partners to start the year with intentional acts of Americanism, including:

- Displaying the U.S. Flag properly at home or at your Post
- Sharing the meaning of the Pledge of Allegiance with youth groups or classrooms
- Recognizing local heroes—veterans, first responders, educators, and volunteers
- Supporting veterans and military families through acts of kindness and outreach

January Highlights & Opportunities

- Martin Luther King Jr. Day – January 19, 2026

Honor Dr. King's legacy by participating in a Day of Service. Encourage members to volunteer in ways that uplift the community and reflect the American values of equality, unity, and compassion.

- Patriotic Education

Share resources on flag etiquette, the history of our national symbols, and the importance of civic responsibility. Consider hosting a brief Americanism moment at your January meeting.

- Youth Engagement

Invite students to participate in flag-raising ceremonies, patriotic art projects, or discussions about what America means to them. Small activities can spark lifelong respect for our nation.

Call to Action

As we step into 2026, let's lead by example. Every flag we raise, every veteran we thank, every child we teach strengthens the fabric of our nation. Americanism is not a once-a-year program—it is a daily commitment to honor the freedoms our veterans fought to protect.

****Take pictures, update your checklist and send them to me!**

Forever Serving Veterans

Auxiliary Outreach

I hope everyone logged their holiday volunteer hours for Auxiliary Outreach. Please use the attached sheet to help you keep track. We are halfway through our program year. Year end reports are due by April 1st. I have attached that, as well. Please remember that when volunteering for another organization, you must be identifiable as a VFWA member. You can wear a hat, pin, or t-shirt to let people know that our NJ VFWA is a shining example of what it means to serve its community and honor the sacrifices that our family members made during their military service. Listed below are some opportunities I've found on social media. If you or your Auxiliary works with a particular group, please let me know so that I can feature them in a future promotion. Finally, if you post pictures, please use the hashtags **#auxiliaryoutreach** and **#NJVFWA**

1. Reading Partners -
 - Volunteer opportunities to foster reading in youth in Newark, NJ and on-line.
 - readingpartners.org
2. Embracing Hospice Care NJ
 - Looking for companions, pet therapy, musicians, singers, Reiki providers, hair dressers, housekeeping helpers, and individuals to help with patients' correspondances
 - Service territories include the following NJ counties: Somerset, Union (limited services available), Monmouth , Ocean, Middlesex, and Mercer
 - Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/EmbracingHospiceCare/>
 - (732) 974-2545
3. Friends of Northern Ocean County Animal Facility
 - In need of dog walkers for shelter
 - Jackson, NJ
 - (732) 657-8086 <https://oceancountyhealth.gov/services/animal-shelters-adoptions-and-pets/>
4. Club DREAMS
 - Offering free extracurricular, therapeutic, academic, and social activities to those with Down Syndrome
 - Ewing, NJ
 - (609) 883-0321 dsacnj.org
5. Project Homeless Connect
 - One day event to combat homelessness sponsored by Bergen County Executive Jim Tedesco
 - Event takes place in Hackensack, NJ on January 28, 2026 from 9:30 am - 2 pm
 - To register for a volunteer shift or for more donation information, please visit: <https://bergencountynjgov.org/phc/>

Need help or ideas for Auxiliary outreach? Call me and we'll brainstorm together.

Kathleen Shanahan

NJ VFWA Auxiliary Outreach 25/26

shanahank2@gmail.com 201-410-6814

Monthly Auxiliary Member Report Form

*Please submit to your Post Auxiliary Outreach Chair or President.

Name: _____

Organization(s) and date(s) volunteered:

Ex. Great Falls Military Food Pantry 7-19-25

Total # of hours: _____

Brief description of activity _____

**Auxiliary Outreach
Year End Report
Dept NJ 2025 - 26
Due: April 15, 2026**

Auxiliary Name & Number:

1. Did your Auxiliary partner with another organization during the year?

2. How many organizations did you partner with?

3. How many members participated in Auxiliary Outreach?

4. What were the total number of hours volunteered? (Add each volunteers total hrs for the year)

Department Awards:

1. Award for Auxiliary that has the most member participation.
2. Award for Auxiliary that has worked with the most organizations throughout the program year.

National Awards:

1. See attached form

BUDDY" POPPY / VFW NATIONAL HOME

January 2026



Kathleen Reichenbach
7 Ashley Road
Whiting, NJ 08759
732-740-1526
kreich325@gmail.com



January 2026

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays with family and friends.

Well, here we are a New Year!
Can you believe it!

Now is the time to start sharing ideas for Poppy Drives. Round up volunteers for canning. Check local businesses for permission to leave a can on their counter and monitor regularly. Let's plan and set goals to do better than last year. After all, shouldn't we always strive to do better. Check with your Commander and/or their Quartermaster to order extra Poppies if needed. Encourage all members to participate. We are a TEAM and when we work together, we can accomplish great things.

Pinterest is an excellent site to find new ideas for using the "Buddy" Poppy in displays or decorating. Sometimes making a nice display for a canning event can create a draw for people to come see what is going on. Catch their eye.

Have fun and let's get Shakin'!



Forever Serving Veterans.....





VFW NATIONAL HOME

3574 S Waverly Rd.

Easton Rapids, MI 48827

Donations 866-483-9642.

For Help 800-313-4200

help@vfnationalhome.org

General 800-424-8360

info@vfnationalhome.org



January 2026

Just to share a clip I found on the VFW National Home site.....

On Saturday, December 6th, the National Home celebrated its 97th Cootie Christmas—and the day was nothing short of magical. Santa and Mrs. Claus made a special appearance, bringing along a pair of cheerful elves who filled the air with Christmas carols. The festivities kicked off with a talented magician who amazed families with his tricks, while colorful face painting added an extra layer of fun for children and adults alike.



This is just one of the many things that is done on campus for our Veterans and their families.

With the new year here, there will be many more exciting things planned for our residents.

Last month I told you a little bit about the Daycare offered on campus. This month I would like to share some info on the Recreation offered on campus. Promoting fun, friendship and fitness is the goal of the Recreation Program. On campus, the Recreation Program manages the community center and gymnasium and hosts numerous activities, including open hours for indoor and outdoor recreation, arts and crafts, and weight training. Recreation also hosts a variety of off-campus activities and field trips, including trips to the local pool, bowling alley, skating rink, and adventures further out to amusement parks and camping trips. The National Home's participation in the local 4-H Program is managed by the Recreational staff. Residents ages 9-19 years old can participate by raising a rabbit or hog to show at the Eaton County Fair in July of each year. Animals are raised at the Montana Farmstead on the National Home campus. How great is this! Kudos to the Staff for a great job!!!



Year End Report
2025-2026

Kathleen Reichenbach
7 Ashley Road
Whiting, NJ 08759
732-740-1526
kreich325@gmail.com

This form is for statistical purposes only.
Auxiliary Chairman must submit this report to their Department Chairman by April 15, 2026.

VFW "Buddy" Poppy

7. Did your Auxiliary hold a VFW "Buddy" Poppy drive with or without your Post? (Yes or No) _____
8. Number of VFW "Buddy" Poppies that were distributed. _____
9. Did your Auxiliary participate in the VFW "Buddy" Poppy Display Contest at Department Convention? (Yes or No) _____

VFW National Home

3. Did your Auxiliary promote the VFW National Home? (Yes or No) _____
2. Did your Auxiliary promote the VFW National Home Helpline? (Yes or No) _____
3. Did your Auxiliary purchase at least one VFW National Home Life Membership in the current Program Year? (Yes or No) _____
4. Did your Auxiliary purchase at least one VFW National Home Tribute Brick in the current program year? (Yes or No) _____

Auxiliary Name & Number _____ District _____

Chairman Name _____ Date _____

Chairman Signature _____

Phone Number _____

Chaplin's Report 2025 -2026

Carolyn Rovito
251 Church Street, Apt. 1
Lodi, New Jersey 07644
201-233-7010
Crovito.2@gmail.com

DUE APRIL 1ST, 2026

At our Department of New Jersey Convention in the end of May we will be holding our annual memorial service to honor our members we have lost over the past year. Please provide the name of your deceased members from March 31st, 2025 through March 31st, 2026 to me by April 1st, 2026, so they can be recognized in our service.

Auxiliary Name

District _____ Auxiliary Number _____

1. _____	11. _____
2. _____	12. _____
3. _____	13. _____
4. _____	14. _____
5. _____	15. _____
6. _____	16. _____
7. _____	17. _____
8. _____	18. _____
9. _____	19. _____
10. _____	20. _____

**EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION
JANUARY 2026**



HAPPY NEW YEAR ALL!!

Now that 2026 has started let's enter it with a BANG. There are many Auxiliaries in our Department that are doing great, but some I know that are in need of a little push. District Presidents please reach out to your Auxiliaries and see who needs help. I can assist you in many ways, just let me know. I haven't seen many red light or yellow light Auxiliaries but there are a few. I am very glad that I've seen mostly green light Auxiliaries.

I am glad to announce that the Department of New Jersey has three (3) new Auxiliaries in the works.

As I've gone around the Department with Madam President I've met a lot of wonderful members who are eager to help our Veterans, let's get that word out to others. Do you know of any Posts that do not have an Auxiliary to assist them, send them my way.

Until next time From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans Who Keep us Free, while Forever Serving Veterans. Happy Fishing.

RECRUIT – RECRUIT – RECRUIT – RETAIN – RETAIN – RETAIN

Extension & Revitalization Chairman/Chief of Staff

Margaret Russo

jerseymom1207@aol.com

732-887-7947

Historian/Social Media

January 2026

Mary Ryan Sandman
176 Patty Bowker Rd
Tabernacle, NJ 08088
(609) 456 – 1774
maryryan.nj11@gmail.com

As we flip our calendars, and get out those new planners, it is the perfect time to get those Communication Centers out and go over the upcoming contests and deadlines.

National Award #1

Most Outstanding Social Media Reel highlighting the VFW Auxiliary in Action

- Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions.
- **ENTRY FORM REQUIRED. AVAILABLE ON MALTA**
- Send Reel and Entry Form to Department Historian by March 31, 2026.

Department Award #1

Most Outstanding Social Media Reel highlighting the VFW Auxiliary in Action

- Submit a two-pocket folder with entry form. Reel can be e-mailed.
- Each entry submitted will receive a Citation at Department Convention.

Deadline March 15, 2026

Department Award #2

Department President's Official Visit

- Did Department President Gloria Lisicki visit your Auxiliary or District Meeting? Send a report of this meeting to Department Chairman. Tell me a story of her visit to your Auxiliary or District.
- **DO NOT E-MAIL THIS REPORT**
- This contest is open to Non-District Auxiliaries and Districts.
- **DEADLINE APRIL 15, 2026**

Department Award #3

Outstanding Social Media Page

- Submit a two-pocket folder with screenshots from your Auxiliary Facebook page.
- **MAX OF 25 PAGES**
- Each Auxiliary submitted will receive a Citation at Department Convention
- **DEADLINE APRIL 15, 2026**

On our Social Media pages, you may have seen us “celebrate” Social Media “Holidays”. We do this for several reasons. The first is well its fun! Who knows maybe you might learn something, or find a new place to try. The second reason is all about the algorithm. Likes, Comments and Shares drives traffic to our page. More traffic is a good thing, who knows maybe a new potential member may find us that way.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to ask. Especially about the Contest and Awards.

I will “see” you live from the VOD Dinner!

Hospital Communications January

Barbara Wiener-Hospital Coord. barb.wiener@yahoo.com
201 6th St. N. Brigantine NJ 08203 609-464-1791

Well Hello and welcome to January!! It's the start of the New Year and new beginnings.

First let's talk about Volunteerism. "a person who does something, especially helping other people, willingly and without being forced or paid to do it." Everyone volunteers at a nursing home, assisted living facility, or a VA sponsored hospital. But do you all record your hours??? Did you know about the volunteer pins that are available? Attached you will find two sheets, one for your hours and what work you have done and the other for the pins that you could all be receiving.

We have 7 VA sponsored facilities, and for the first time in a long time every one of them had a Christmas party. They were all a huge success!! Thank you to all the Hospital Reps in getting the parties together, you all did a fabulous job!! And thank you to all who showed up to volunteer, donate and just to spend time with our Veterans. It means a lot to our Veterans to show how much we care about them.

Don't forget to hand in your monthly activities report. It should be handed in every month if you are doing any activity. Please don't wait until the last minute. It is very important to hand those in, to keep track of hours and money spent. Also, when handing in receipts they go to Paula Pinto, I do not need to see the receipts, just the reports.

NATIONAL SALUTE TO VETERAN PATIENTS

This is a key time for VA volunteering, which will take place from Sunday, February 8th to Saturday, February 14th, 2026. Centered around Valentine's Day, encouraging community involvement and visits to VA facilities to honor and support veteran patients through activities like card giving and offering volunteer services. You can participate in Valentine's card distribution, special events, recreation and provide companionship. Reach out to your local churches, boy and girl scout troops and other organizations to help you with this event.

Thank you all for your help and donations to our individual VA hospitals, again without you all we would not be able to put on the events that we do.

If anyone has any questions or concerns, please feel free to reach out.

Hospital & VAVS Activity Report

Please mail/email this report within 30 days of any activity to

Barbara Wiener 201 6th St. N. Brigantine NJ 08203 barb.wiener@yahoo.com

Auxiliary President _____ Date _____

Auxiliary Name & Number _____

Auxiliary Chairman _____ Phone Number _____

If the Event was held by a Hospital Representative and not an Auxiliary

Hospital Rep Name _____ Date _____

LIST THE NAMES OF ANY VOLUNTEERS ON THE BACK OF THE SHEET

Section 1 – Items or Money Donated to Hospital

Name of Hospital the donation was made _____

Date of Donation _____ Approx Dollar Amt. _____

Section 2 – Hospital Party, Non-sponsored Hospital parties or any other activity

Name of Hospital/Facility the Party was held _____

Type of Activity _____

NUMBER of VOLUNTEERS _____ Number of Hours _____

Number of Students _____ Number of Hours _____

Section 3 – Reporting Regularly Scheduled Volunteers

Name of Volunteer _____

Name of Hospital/Facility _____

Total Hours for this Report _____ Dates Volunteered _____

Does this Volunteer qualify for a Hospital Service Pin---Yes _____ No _____

Total Number of Projects for this Report _____

Total Number of **Members** that participated _____

Hours worked this report _____ Total Miles Traveled _____ Total dollar value _____

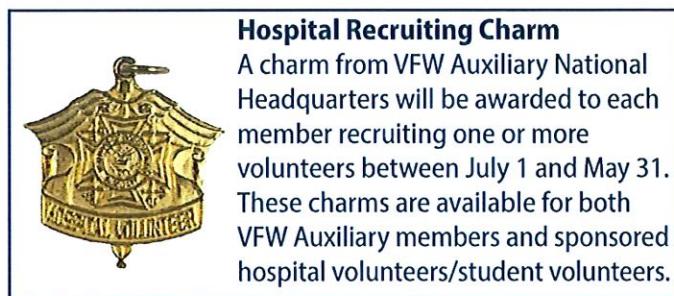
For non-sponsored hospitals, please provide proof for credit

VFW Auxiliary Hospital Volunteer Service Pins

Pins bearing the VFW Auxiliary emblem and designating the number of hours a volunteer has devoted to hospital work will be awarded to members in good standing who have volunteered a minimum of 150 hours under the VFW Auxiliary sponsorship in any hospital (VA and non-VA). ONLY the pin or bar indicating the highest number of accumulated hours, per request, will be awarded and should be worn.



Pins between 6,000 and 9,000 hours are triangular with an additional pearl for each 1,000 earned. A bar guard signifying 10,000 hours may be attached to this pin, and bar guards are available for each additional 1,000 hours.



NOTE: Please apply for pins when accumulated hours are earned by volunteer. Applications for hospital volunteer service pins are available online in MALTA Member Resources. Applications are to be prepared by the local VFW Auxiliary Hospital Chairman. All pins are available from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters at no cost to the Department, Auxiliary, member or non-member volunteer. If you have questions, please contact VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters at 816.561.8655 or info@vfauxiliary.org.

VA NEW JERSEY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM EAST ORANGE

385 Tremont Avenue

EAST ORANGE, NJ 07017

I'd like to thank the Department of New Jersey Auxiliaries for their generous donations and allowing me, Alice Kordowski and Annette Arocho-Bautista to host a Christmas Party at the hospital on 12B the PTST unit on your behalf. The party was held on Monday December 15 from 3-4:15 the menu consisted of Pizza, chicken wings with dipping sauces, beverages, cake, cupcakes, Christmas cookies, and assorted chips. Luckily dinner was late I wonder if they ate it because they really enjoyed the refreshments served. You were generous with gifts (lol) sweat pants, colorful tee shirts and thermal shirts. They seemed pleased with everything and it was a great time had by all. They played name that tune with Christmas songs. Sorry not allowed to take photos of the resident's policy restrictions. They were happy for the visit and couldn't thank us enough and our VFW AUXILIARY and send you greetings.

The next event will salute to Veterans in February I haven't figured out details or set a date yet. I will inform you with details later. Looking to do something on a different unit. If you have any questions or concerns with EO please feel free to contact me

HOPING YOU ALL HAD A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS AND CELEBRATE THE NEW
YEAR SAFELY.

Helen Faison
VAVS REP EO
973-449-4466

Alice Kordowski

New

December 3, 2013

VFW Auxiliary 2813
Anne Lorraine Brooks, Treasurer
140 Hammonton Bridge Road
Washington, NJ 07840

Dear Ms. Brooks,

On behalf of the Veterans and staff of the Department of Veterans Affairs NJ Health Care System Lyons Campus we would like to thank you for providing a holiday dinner and clothing give away.

The Veterans appreciated spending time with you and your fellow volunteers. They appreciated the delicious food as well. Your kindness to the Veterans has added quality to our Recreation Therapy program.

We appreciate your time and generosity and for making a difference in the lives of the Veterans hospitalized at this facility.

Sincerely,


Tammy Taylor, CTRS
Chair of Recreation/Creative Arts Therapy Department

**MENLO PARK VETERANS HOME
EDISON NEW JERSEY**

JANUARY 2026

Margaret Russo
15 Grant St., Sewaren, NJ 07077
732-887-7947
Jerseymom1207@aol.com

Hi Everyone & Happy New Year:

I am pleased to announce that once again this year the Veterans Angels project was a huge success. I had other organizations participate and the residents received many other items. I want to thank East Brunswick Auxiliary 133 for being there to distribute the gifts for me.

I want to personally thank everyone who came and helped with the resident's holiday party. We even had a visit from not 1 but 2 Santas, thanks Kevin & Matt. Special thanks to Dave & Dave for the great music & photos. I also want to thank everyone who contributed food to add to the menu for the residents.

This is only the second year that we were allowed to have a party and I hope it will continue.

Thank you so much for all you do for our hospitalized veterans and let's continue to support them, they really enjoy our visits/events.

Paramus Home

A very big THANK YOU to everyone that contributed, attended, and volunteered at the VFW/ VFWA Christmas Party at the Paramus Veterans Home! A great time was had by everyone. Shout-out to Santa Paul and The Pettets for bringing our senior residents some Christmas cheer. Pictures can be found on our Department facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Ah96ExN69/> 🎅



Yours in Service,
Kathleen Shanahan
NJ VFWA Paramus Hm Rep 25/26
shanahank2@gmail.com 201-410-6814

VETERANS HAVEN SOUTH
301 SPRING GARDEN RD
HAMMONTON, NJ
JANUARY 2026 COMMUNICATION

Denise Beckler
856-448-3501 / denise.beckler@aol.com

12 Wright Ave
Stratford, NJ 08084



The 2025 VFW/VFWA Veterans Haven South Christmas Party was a HUGE success thanks to all of your donations and participation!

The veterans enjoyed a very nice dinner and along with gifts from individual auxiliaries (thank you!!), the residents also received gift bags with treats from the Dept through your donations.

Every time you think your "small" donation doesn't do much, when combined with other heart felt "small" donations, we can do something BIG and the gift bags are the product of all those collective "small" donations! Each bag had snacks the residents could keep in their room (peanuts, tuna spread, peanut butter with graham crackers and saltines, granola bars, gold fish crackers, Oreos and assorted candy). A universal USB charger was also in each bag for their phones or any other device. We also had enough left over that they will be enjoying a pizza party dinner one night in January!

And a very BIG thanks those that came to celebrate with us – those Auxiliaries in attendance were: 3525, 2189, 9462, 1963, 386 and our own Department President Gloria Lisicki and her Chief Margaret Russo. It was so heartwarming to see so many members come share an evening of holiday cheer with the residents of VHS – THANK YOU!! Pics were posted on the Dept Facebook page – be sure to check them out!

"From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free"

"Forever Serving Veterans"

Vineland Veterans Memorial Home

January Communications 2026

Yup, its January, the year flew by.

First, I wanted to thank everyone that attended the State VFW/Auxiliary Christmas Party!! The snow did not deter us from having a good time, although a lot of people were not able to attend because of the weather, there will always be another party. It was still a huge success!!!!

Here's a few shout outs...

Post 3324, Bill Samposkie with his post and Auxiliary, for bringing the subs, pizza and goodies

Post 2189 Auxiliary, thank you for the Tastykake's, cup holders and homemade cookies for everyone

Posts, 6964, 2174 and 5343!!!

Also thank you for Sr. Vice Ken Hagemann for attending our event.

And last but not least, someone I can always count on to fill any costume, Kevin McElroy!!!

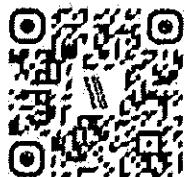
LEGISLATION
JANUARY, 2026

Oh my goodness where does the time go. It was just Thanksgiving, and now we have celebrated the Holidays, the New Year, and another year is ready and waiting to go. I hope that everyone had a great time with family and friends, and of course, our veterans..

It is the start of a New Year, but our work for our veterans is never over. The VFW is asking our veterans to submit their experiences and stories through VFW Voices of Service – Stories in Action. The stories which are submitted will be used by the VFW National Staff (only with permission) to educate congress and the public about how veterans' policies affect real people. The stories (with permission) will be used to help in congressional meetings, briefings, testimony, oversight discussions, and other official advocacy and communication efforts to help bring policy issues affecting our veterans to life.

We should also be aware of the VFW's legislative priorities. These stories will make sure that their real experiences are used where they can most effectively protect veterans' earned benefits. Attached below are Links to the form which you can use at your local and district meetings, place them at any community events or outreach events (with permission), or email them to your members. There is no deadline for the veterans to submit their stories. The veterans can also submit their stories as <https://forms.gle/3R4toepnSpDFlpvU6>.

VFW VOICES OF SERVICE



I am also attaching a page which has been designed for easy distribution at events or meetings. Please place them where they will do the most good and help our veterans.

Yours in Service,

Lynn Ann Malone
NJ VFWA Legislation Chair 25-26
908-578-0440
Lynmal1@aol.com

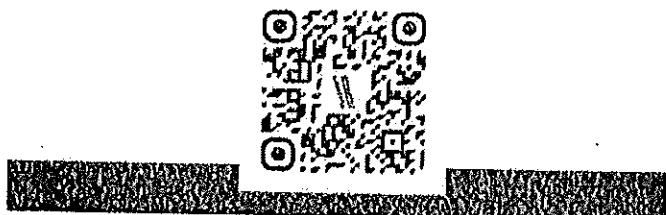
VFW Voices of Service

Stories in Action

The VFW is gathering firsthand stories from veterans and military families to help lawmakers understand the real-world effects of policy decisions.

Share Your Story. Shape the Future.

Scan the QR code to submit your story.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

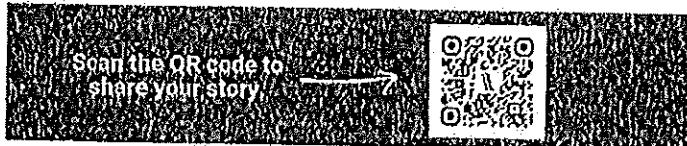
Stories may be used to support VFW advocacy efforts.

VFW Voices of Service

Stories in Action



The VFW is gathering real stories from veterans and military families. These experiences help show how decisions made in Washington affect real lives.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Share Your Story. Shape the Future.

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM 2025 – 2026

January 2026 Communication

Chairman Denise Beckler 856-448-3501 (can text) denise.beckler@aol.com
12 Wright Ave. Stratford, NJ 08084



Wow, a new year is here - hello 2026! As we wave goodbye to 2025, it's easy to also stop worrying about those members that didn't renew their membership. In fact, there's a New Year's song that ties in perfectly:

Auld Lang Syne

"Should old acquaintance be forgot and never brought to mind?"
"Should old acquaintance be forgot and old lang syne?"

Now that I have you singing that song in your head, do you know what "old lang syne" means? It's a Scottish phrase for "bid farewell", so what we're singing is, "should old acquaintance be forgot and bid farewell", we're letting go of an acquaintance, a friendship, or perhaps a fellow auxiliary member...we can't let that happen!

There's still time to bring those members back that didn't pay by December 31. Anyone whose dues weren't paid are now LAPSED members. This means, they can still pay their dues and lose none of their membership privileges, if paid before the end of the 2025/26 year. So while we often give up trying to reach out after December 31, it's really more important now, to continue reaching out to get them to come back while there's still time!

So while we write up our New Year's resolutions to stop eating chocolate or go to the gym more – also make a resolution to personally reach out to those members that have lapsed – try just one more time to let them to know they're missed AND wanted!

I wish everyone the best 2026 has to offer and I'm always here if you have any Membership questions!



"From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free"

"Forever Serving Veterans"

Scholarships

Carolyn Rovito
251 Church Street, Apt. 1
Lodi, New Jersey 07644
201-233-7010
Crovito.2@gmail.com

Happy New Year! Did you receive any entries yet for the Young American Patriotic Art and 3-Dimensional Art Contests or Continuing Education Scholarship opportunity? Get the word out if you have not. These are great opportunities for education funding and showing the great talents of our youth and membership. This month I will be attending the Department Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen awards dinner and lunch. I hope to see some of our Auxiliary Chairs and President's at these events. Have you planned your local award ceremony? I would love to know what our auxiliaries are doing to recognize those who have participated in our annual contests.

Our year end reports are due April 15th, yet I would love to see what our New Jersey Auxiliaries are doing to highlight and promote these programs. I know you are doing the work, let's highlight it. Behind your Malta Login you can find the national award being given for our scholarship program. I encourage you to consider applying for the National recognition along with our Department awards given in Wildwood.

With that said, document what your Auxiliary is utilizing to promote these programs and award the participants. National and I would love to see the great work we are doing. I had the opportunity to correspond with the National Ambassador and would love to share your work with him.

Dates to remember:

Young American Patriotic Art and 3-Dimensional Art Contests

- All art must be submitted to the Auxiliary by March 31st, 2026

Continuing Education

- All entries must be **SUBMITTED DIRECTLY TO NATIONAL** by February 15th, 2026
 - By email to Info@vfwauxiliary.org or by mail to VFW National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street. 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111

Please report and photograph the great work our Auxiliaries do to promote and participate in these programs.

Forever serving our Veterans

Special Project

January 2026

Mary Ryan Sandman

176 Patty Bowker Rd

(609) 456 – 1774

Tabernacle, NJ 08088

maryryan.nj11@gmail.com

National Joint Special Project

Several years ago, a General Store was built on the campus of the VFW National Home. As many of you know the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan is in the middle of nowhere. This is both positive and negative. The positive – those needing treatment can focus on what they need to. The negative – the closest market is a 40-minute drive.

This year, National Commander Carol Whitmore and National President Lois Callahan have chosen for their Joint Project is to “Stock The Store”. They are looking for financial donations to purchase shelving units, refrigerators, freezers, etc. Please do not send these units to the National Home! Donations can be sent through MALTA!

Donations for National Joint Special Project

Donations for the Joint Special Project can be sent to:

Mail:

VFW National Home
3573 S. Waverly Rd., Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

Call:

(866) 483 – 9642

Online:

<https://vfwnationalhome.org/donate>

Notate “Retail Store” in the comment section

National President’s Special Project

National President Lois Callahan has chosen for her Special Project to raise funds for the Continuing Education Scholarships. Currently, there are four (4) scholarships (1 to each Conference) of \$2,500 each. Donations for this program can be made through MALTA.

Don’t forget to send in the money for your Special Project Pin money to Department Treasurer Paula Pinto.

Department President’s Special Project

As you know Department President has chosen for her Special Project Pediatric Cancer Research through The Rutgers Cancer Institute.

January is Cervical Health Awareness Month, and Blood Donor Awareness Month. Cervical Cancer Awareness Month is January 18th to 24th.

Cervical Health Awareness focuses on preventing cervical cancer through vaccinations and screenings like PAP smears and HPV vaccinations.

National Blood Donor Month encourages blood donation to those in need. Consider contacting the American Red Cross to schedule a donation or consider hosting a Blood Drive.

****ANNOUNCED AT FALL CONFERENCE****

At Fall Conference, Any Auxiliary that makes an additional donation to Department President's Special Project (Pediatric Cancer) (in addition to Department Donation List and Monies turned in from Special Project Pins) will receive a citation at Department Convention in Wildwood. The Top 3 donors will receive an award. This contest will run from July 1 to May 1. ****Additional citations will be given out in July.****



VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

January 2026

Terri Andryszczak
24 Beech Street
Kearny, NJ 07032
Phone: 732-322-9970
Email: vfwpost1302aux@gmail.com

Welcome to 2026!

This month, the topic to be discussed is Veteran and Veteran Spouse's employment assistance. Having a job and maintaining a job is not easy for many. It can be quite a bit more difficult for a service member, veteran and their families.

While on active duty, those in the military have jobs within their Military Occupational Specialty (MOS). For some, their spouses also have jobs either on base or in the nearby town(s). They are financially stable and can provide for themselves and their families. However, when the service member's time is completed and separates from the military, the life they knew has changed. They have left a structured existence and now need to adapt and find a job.

Some MOSSs can translate to the 'civilian' job market, while others do not. It is not easy to find a job that fits their skills. Often, this applies to their spouses, who have also left a stable job. So, there is not just one family member looking for a job, but possibly two (or more). Many of us can relate to the difficulties of searching for a job. It can be both overwhelming and frustrating. Also, the economy can play a role in adding more stress to an already stressful situation.

Regardless of the circumstances, members of the VFW and Auxiliary can step up and provide valuable assistance. How? By hosting a job fair with local employers. By assisting the service member/veteran and/or their spouse to improve their skills or learn new ones. By looking into the larger corporations that offer 'veteran preference' positions within their company and passing this information on to the service member or veteran. Offering any help can go a long way.

