AMERICANISM

Carmen Peterson
Americanism Chairman
2026-2027



October, 2026



Fall is here and we think about apples, pumpkins and cooler weather. Now is the time to make sure you are doing one of the many programs in Americanism. Remember to use Social Media to promote the values that our Auxiliary holds so dear.

Remember to use the recourses on MALTA and get brochures on Flag Etiquette and any other material you can find on Americanism.

Make your own brochure or poster to promote Americanism and use all resources to help you promote this.

This month's Trivia

The name of Pennsylvania is misspelled in the Constitution.

Dates to Remember

October is Breast Cancer Awareness
10/12 Columbus Day (2nd Monday)
10/13 US Navy Birthday
10/24 United Nations Day
10/26 Day of Deployed
10/27 Navy Day
10/31 Girl Scout Founder's Day

Keeps these dates in Mind, hang a monthly calendar to remind everyone about these dates and their importance.

We will be Rocking our Veterans and his family through out the year and always.

Flag Etiquette

One of the sad things is that many Americans do not know proper Flag Etiquette. As an organization based on Americanism we as an Auxiliary are obligated to teach this.

Have an Americanism Day at your post and invite students to participate and hand out Flag Etiquette books you can get from the VFW Store or make your own booklet on it or go on line and download and print this information and give it to the students.

Go to preschools and read a book about the Flag and what it means. We need to start with our younger citizens and help them understand the the value of the FLAG.

Your Patriotic Instructor

should be the one who will instruct on proper etiquette and use of the flag. He/she shall also keep you updated on dates to remember and any other Patriotic events and Americanism information, which can be found on M.A.L.T.A under resources.

AMERICANISM POP SIGNS

POP signs are like a poster that will depict what you want to tell a story about. I hope you have been working on your POP signs and remember to create a sign that depicts the VFW Auxiliary: Patriotism, Americanism and Values we hold dear. You can use any media you like such as: Excel, paint box or AI to make your sign. So get those creative juices working and create an awesome POP sign.

End of Year Reports: Remember to LOOK at your end of the year reports and decide which one you would like to do. You don't have to do all of them, but choose one or two. Those of you who will enter the contest, remember to put your projects in order and label them.







“BUDDY” POPPY PROGRAM - October

Sandy Reed
11 Darwin Road
Old Bridge, NJ 08857

Let’s See Who Knows Their “Buddy” Poppy!

You may know the “Buddy” Poppy as the little red flower we proudly distribute, but how much do you really know about its history, meaning, and connection to our veterans?

Here are a few facts to test your knowledge:

The Buddy Poppy is a symbol of remembrance — It honors the men and women who have served and sacrificed for our country.

The Buddy Poppy has a long history with the VFW — The VFW adopted the Buddy Poppy as a symbol of remembrance and a means of supporting veterans.

Buddy Poppies are assembled by veterans — Poppies are made by veterans, including veterans with disabilities, providing meaningful employment opportunities.

The Buddy Poppy is connected to World War I — The red poppy became a symbol of remembrance because of the poppies that grew in the battlefields of Europe following World War I.

The Buddy Poppy is more than a flower — Donations received during Buddy Poppy distributions help support programs benefiting veterans and their families.

The Buddy Poppy helps us educate — Every Poppy distribution gives us an opportunity to tell our communities about the sacrifices made by our veterans.

Wearing a Buddy Poppy is an act of remembrance — That small red flower allows us to publicly show our appreciation for those who served.

How many of those facts did you already know? Who knows... there might just be a Buddy Poppy quiz in the near future!

To order Poppies, https://checkout.square.site/buy/UQRPIDCPOW7SXGGFS5K5KKVM

Poppies will be sent to the post Quartermaster.



Cancer

October 2026

Alice Sandman (609) 268 – 1556

176 Patty Bowker Rd. (609) 456 – 1775

Tabernacle, NJ 08088 amsandman0204@gmail.com

October is best known as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The 17th is National Mammogram Day. Please if you have not had a mammogram this past year, schedule it now. Most Breast Cancer is curable if detected early. I have and I am sure almost all know someone who has gone through this terrible disease.

Don't forget to do your monthly self-exams and even if you even think that there is something different from last month, call or see your physician.

To all our brothers, please take note Breast Cancer is not just a women's disease. So if you notice any changes around your chest area, please see a doctor ASAP.



EXTENISON AND REVITALIZATION

October Promotions

Has anyone ask you to take a position and you have no idea what you will be doing? I know this has happened many times, and often more than once. The main goal is to maintain your Auxiliary to continue to move forward, As a new leader in your new position, lots of people just take the job and figure it out as they move on. Your starting place as new leader for your Auxiliary is checking out the tools to use in MALTA under Members Resources. You may want to check out THE BUILDING OF VFW AUXILIARY FOUNDATION. It has so much information on what to do to help you as a new leader or member. This is a great guide book .

Healthy Auxiliaries are very important. District Presidents play a key role by staying connected with the Auxiliaries in their districts and identifying those that may be struggling. To keep our Auxiliaries out of the Caution Zone, we must offer support and develop new ideas to increase membership. Each of us should also continue reaching out to Bachelor Posts about the opportunity to establish an Auxiliary, helping them understand how valuable an Auxiliary can be as a strong asset to their Post.

Revitalizing and encourage auxiliary with these words for Revitalize

R—Recharging and Auxiliaries
E---Energize by enthusiasm
V---Vitalization by giving life, strength and a new purpose
I----Ideas
T---Thrilling-get back the excitement
A---Achieve a goal
L---Improve spirits
I----Inspire-confidence ability to create
Z---Create a defense
E---Entrust -responsibly

Using these words will help members feel better and fill like they want to continue to get involved and bring back a Healthy Auxiliary.

Just a little reminder

GREEN LIGHT	HEALTHY AUXILIARY
YELLOW LIGHT	CAUTION
RED LIGHT	NEED HELP

PLEASE REACH OUT IF YOU NEED ANY KIND OF ASSISTANCE.

Cecelia Watkins
Extension & Revitalization
Chairman

SERVING AMERICA HEROES

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.

150 hours	300 hours	500 hours	1,000 hours	1,500 hours
				

2,000 hours	2,500 hours	3,000 hours	4,000 hours	5,000 hours
				

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.

6,000 hours	7,000 hours	8,000 hours	9,000 hours	10,000 hours
				



Sponsored Hospital Volunteer Pin
The sponsored hospital volunteer/ student volunteer who volunteers a minimum of 100 hours under the VFW Auxiliary sponsorship in any VA or non-VA facility is eligible to receive this pin from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters. *This award is for non-members and only one pin awarded during volunteer's lifetime.*



Hospital Recruiting Charm
A charm from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters will be awarded to each member recruiting one or more volunteers between July 1 and May 31. These charms are available for both VFW Auxiliary members and sponsored hospital volunteers/student volunteers.

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@vfwauxiliary.org.

Hospital & VAVS Monthly Activity Report

2026-2027

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_____

If yes, **Auxiliary Name and Number**_____
Membership Number of Qualifing Volunteer_____

Total Number of **Members** that participated_____

PLEASE SEND THIS REPORT IN ON A TIMELY MANNER

Hospital Communications October 2026

Barbara Wiener barb.wiener@yahoo.com

201 6th St. North Brigantine NJ 08203 609-464-1791

Fall is here and a lot of activities are planned with all the upcoming holidays throughout the state. Everyone keep in mind, we are all here for the Veterans in ALL facilities, not just the sponsored hospitals.

Let talk about volunteering…. we all do it, but are we all sending in reports to be counted??? I have individual lists for everyone who is sending me their hours. You all deserved to be recognized for the work that you put in and deserved to receive your volunteer pins. I only handed out 2 last year, let's try to up the ante and hand out 20 more!!! Attached you will find the volunteer hour for the pins.

Don't forget about Department awards!!!! Count those cards that you hand out to the Veterans, Birthday, holiday, or just because, they all count. Don't wait until the end of the year, send them to me as you hand them out, I will keep track of them for you.

And have you done an event that included your Post, that's another award.

Here is the list of the upcoming Christmas Parties

*Vet Haven South—December 3rd—5PM

*Vet Haven North—December 12th—12-3

*Vineland—December 13th—11am

*Paramus—December 19th—2-5

*Menlo—December 20th—215

Try to attend at least one or more, they are all a lot of fun!!!

Also attached is the monthly activity report, please send them in as you finish an activity at the facility. It would be greatly appreciated.

Any questions, please feel free to contact me at anytime. Side note the email in the directory is incorrect, it is

Barb.wiener@yahoo.com

Vineland Veterans Memorial Home

October Communications 2026

Can’t believe it’s October and Fall, what happened to the summer, and now all the fun festivities begin.

October 14th, Wednesday at 2pm is the Circus. I’m hoping to have a good showing, still needing volunteers for some of the games we are playing.

November 18th, Wednesday at 2pm, Turkey Bowling with some Pie. Yes, we bowl with a frozen turkey and no we do not eat after the games. But we do enjoy pie with apple cider!!

One of our big events of the year, State Christmas Party!!!

The Reindeer Jingle Ball!!

Sunday, December 13th, 11AM. Pizza, desserts, gifts and lots of fun!!!

Remember, you do not need an invitation to any event, all invited!!

Vineland is always looking for Tastykake’s, large-size candy bars, white T-shirts, and gripper socks. They have plenty of toiletries.

Any questions or concerns, feel free to reach out. Thank you. Also make note of my email, it was incorrect in the directory.

VETERANS HAVEN SOUTH
2026 – 2027
VHS Representative Denise Beckler
856-448-3501
denise.beckler@aol.com
12 Wright Ave. Stratford, NJ 08084
October 2026 Communication



Summer is over and it's time to think about all things Fall and upcoming Holiday!

The annual Veterans Haven Christmas Party, hosted by the VFW and VFW Auxiliary is set for Thursday, December 3, 2026, at 5PM. We hope you'll be able to attend!

If your auxiliary is looking for gift ideas, think dorm rooms…as this is a transitional facility, each veteran has their own room, but it's a dorm set up, so they have shared bathrooms. Items like shower flip flops, bath towels and toiletry bags are popular.

In each room, a vet has their own mini fridge, so items they can stock in it to help themselves to would be greatly appreciated (like juices or snacks).

Other items that are helpful are items such as: dryer fabric sheets, laundry bags, Double/triple A batteries for clocks and tv remotes, alarm clocks, pillows, peanut butter, crackers, tuna pouches, granola bars, etc.

And of course, their favorite items are gift cards! A Wawa gift card allows them to purchase gas or a sandwich. A Walmart card allows them to purchase personal items.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out and we look forward to having you come to share some holiday chair with our veterans!

HISTORIAN & MEDIA RELATIONS 2026 – 2027

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

October 2026 Communication

This month let's talk about the 5 W's of being a Historian, the "who, what, where, why" of recording your auxiliary's history.

When recording your auxiliary's history, while focusing on the 5 W's, you should always think, "what is the focal point of what you're recording:

The WHO

This is a "two-fer", WHO are you recording and WHO is going to view this information. When recording or posting an event or activity, think of who you're focusing on within the feature and who is your intended audience. Are they familiar with the VFW Auxiliary? It's great to write up or post an article, but if your target audience is outside of the VFW, you'll want to make sure what you're stating is understood by those reading it.

The WHAT

What is it you're doing? Be specific, but overly detailed – as always when telling a story, most of the time, less is more!

The WHERE

Be sure to mention your location, especially if you're auxiliary is holding a function or supporting an activity with another organization or at another organization's hall/post. Giving appreciation (aka a "shout out") will be welcomed by those you're working with.

The WHY

This is the most important, as we are always actively promoting veterans causes, you want the public and even your members who aren't participating to understand WHY you're doing what you are. Not only does this allow you to intrigue the public (who then may express interest in joining), your write up may entice a current inactive member to start participating when they see what you're accomplishing as an auxiliary.

Following the 5 W's will help you as a Historian and as a fellow recruiter of the Auxiliary!







Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

VFW AUXILIARY — DEPARTMENT OF NJ

Legislative Department Monthly Communication

OCTOBER 2026 EDITION | Issued: September 2026 | From: Victoria L. Hendrix, Legislative Chairperson

Outstanding October Auxiliary Members,

October is not merely the beginning of autumn — it is one of the most consequential months in our advocacy calendar, and I write to you today with both urgency and deep gratitude for your continued dedication to our veterans and their families.

The New Jersey Legislature is in active session throughout October, with **Senate voting scheduled for October 22** and **Assembly voting scheduled for October 29**. These are the moments our voices carry the greatest weight. When legislators walk onto those floors to cast their votes, I want them to know — without any doubt — that the VFW Auxiliary of New Jersey is watching, engaged, and counting on them to do right by our veterans.

At the same time, Veterans Day on November 11 is just weeks away. This is our most powerful annual reminder to the public, to the press, and to every elected official in this state: the men and women who wore this nation's uniform deserve more than parades. They deserve action. Every phone call you make, every letter you send, and every personal conversation you have with your state representative between now and Election Day echoes far beyond the moment.

I have never been more proud of the advocacy work being done across our Department. But there is more to do, and the time is now. I ask each of you to lean in this month — contact your legislators, share this communication widely, and stand united in our mission.

NJ 222nd Legislature — Active Veterans-Related Bills

The following bills are currently active in the New Jersey Legislature and directly affect the veterans community. Members are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with these measures and take action as outlined below.

Assembly Bill A5000 — Veterans Bill of Rights Act

Introduced: May 7, 2026

Sponsors: Assemblyman Brian E. Rumpf (District 9, Ocean County) and Assemblyman Gerry Scharfenberger (District 13, Monmouth County)

What It Does: This bill would require the New Jersey Commissioner of Veterans Affairs to provide every NJ veteran with both a physical and electronic copy of a formal *Veterans Bill of Rights*. The document would enumerate veterans' rights to:

- Fair and respectful treatment
- Access to benefits information
- Privacy protections
- Quality care standards
- Mental health and family support services
- Employment and housing assistance
- Accessibility accommodations
- Involvement in care decisions
- Transparency in benefits adjudication
- Consistent and timely communication from the state

⚠ STATUS: As Introduced — Needs Committee Movement. Action Required.

Member Action: Contact your Assembly representatives and urge them to move A5000 forward out of committee before the October 29 Assembly voting session.

The VFW's six National Legislative Priority Goal areas guide our federal advocacy and directly connect to what we fight for here in New Jersey. Every VFW Auxiliary member should be familiar with these priorities and be prepared to advocate for them when meeting with federal representatives.

1. Budget / Honor the Contract

Oppose any cuts to earned veteran benefits. Ensure timely VA appropriations and protect the financial commitments our nation has made to those who served.

2. Disability Assistance

Improve the VA claims process; crack down on unaccredited "Claim Sharks" who exploit vulnerable veterans; advance full implementation of the PACT Act, including research into toxic exposure injuries.

3. Education, Employment & Transition Assistance

Protect and expand the VA Home Loan program; reduce red tape on GI Bill benefits; ensure housing stability resources are accessible to transitioning service members.

4. Health Care

Achieve zero veteran suicides; advance mental health and TBI research; expand alternative therapies for PTSD; improve Vet Center staffing and outreach; strengthen programs specifically serving women veterans.

5. National Security, Foreign Affairs & POW/MIA

Fully fund the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA); ensure the personnel recovery and POW/MIA accounting mission is never sidelined or defunded.

6. Military Readiness

End the military retirement pay / VA disability compensation offset via the **Major Richard Star Act**; eliminate food insecurity among active-duty families; achieve zero tolerance for sexual assault and harassment in the military.

Key Federal Legislation to Advocate For Right Now:

- **Veterans' ACCESS Act** — Improving coordination of VA Community Care for veterans nationwide
- **Major Richard Star Act** — Ending the concurrent receipt offset for combat-retired veterans with service-connected disabilities
- **Veteran Suicide Prevention Act / Written Informed Consent Act** — Protecting veteran mental health and informed treatment choices

- **Innovative Therapies Centers of Excellence Act** — Expanding access to alternative therapies for PTSD at VA facilities.

"For Every Veteran Who Earned Our Voice"

★ For God and Country — Loyalty, Service, and Devotion to Our Veterans ★

VFW Auxiliary, Department of New Jersey | Legislative Department

October 2026 | VFW Auxiliary Legislative Chairperson: **Victoria L. Hendrix**



MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM 2026-2027

OCTOBER COMMUNICATION

Margaret Russo
732-887-7947
jerseymom1207@aol.com

15 Grant St.
Sewaren, NJ 07077

Happy Fall Everyone.

I'm happy to report that 47 Auxiliaries will be receiving the first goal (80% by 8/31) of $35.00 at the Fall Conference. I was hoping more Auxiliaries would have pushed through and reached the goal.

Achieving these goals have many benefits like more members to help you to continue helping veterans and their families and $$$ for your Auxiliary, who can't use that.

Don't be stuck on the sidelines send in that membership, because our second membership goal is fast approaching. As a reminder each Auxiliary that reaches 90% by October 31st will receive $50.00, that would be $85.00 if you get both.

Also don't forget any Auxiliary that reaches 90% by a week before the conference which is October 17th will be put into a drawing for a chance to win $50.00, there will be three drawings. Don't forget your Just One cards either.

The Department is currently at 83.86%, that's a good number but let's keep throwing those memberships in to keep the ball moving to the ultimate touchdown of 100%.

As always let's not forget that the game is always on. We are one team coming together to Ignite Our Passion of ***Serving America's Heroes***.

****DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW OUR FACEBOOK MEMBERSHIP PAGE ****

NATIONAL HOME - October

Sandy Reed
11 Darwin Road
Old Bridge, NJ 08857
San728@gmail.com

You may have heard the name, participated in a fundraiser, or donated to the National Home—but how much do you really know about this very special part of the VFW Auxiliary's mission?

National Home Facts

🏠 **The VFW National Home was founded in 1925** — It was created to provide a place of support for the families of veterans.

🏠 **The National Home is located in Michigan** — Its campus is in Eaton Rapids, Michigan.

🏠 **The mission has grown over the years** — While the original focus was on helping veterans' families, today's National Home supports military and veteran families facing a variety of challenges.

🏠 **Families can receive help without living on the campus** — The National Home provides assistance and resources to military and veteran families across the country.

🏠 **The National Home provides many types of support** — Services can include housing assistance, education, family support, financial guidance, and connections to community resources.

🏠 **The National Home has a Helpline** — Military and veteran families can reach out for assistance and connections to resources.

🏠 **The VFW Auxiliary has supported the National Home for generations** — Our fundraising, donations, education, and awareness efforts help carry this important mission forward.

🏠 **The National Home's history goes back more than 100 years** — Its long history reflects the VFW and Auxiliary's continuing commitment to military and veteran families.

Did you learn something new? If you knew them all, GREAT!

I wonder if these facts might come up again in the near future 😉

Scholarships
October 2026
Chairman – Diane Merfert
732-616-1813 dianemerf@aol.com



It's Gridiron Season and I have the pleasure of introducing Team VFWA – NJ



OWNER
National Pres.
Donna Mills



GENERAL MGR.
Ambassador
Kim Davis



HEAD COACH
NJ Dept Chair
Diane Merfert



QUARTERBACK
Dist./Aux Chair
This is YOU

By now we should have rolled out the RED CARPET for the first quarter, VOD and the second quarter Patriots Pen Program. Information should have been given to your schools by now. Continue to watch the deadlines. October 31, 2026.

Now let's get to work on the Half Time Show….

Continuing Education Scholarship. This is a scholarship available to our Auxiliary members, their spouses and their children. I think many overlook this scholarship, so I made it the part of our Half Time Show. Remember this is a scholarship that YOU or YOUR family could qualify for.

Use QR code for application or Log into Malta

Continuing Education Scholarship

Who is Eligible to Apply?

- Applicant must be 21 years of age or older.

- Applicant **must** be one of the following:
  - Current VFW Auxiliary Member*
  - Spouse of current VFW Auxiliary Member*
  - Son of current VFW Auxiliary Member*
  - Daughter of current VFW Auxiliary Member*

**Qualifying member must have been a member of the VFW Auxiliary for one (1) year by the application submission deadline.*

What is the Scholarship Amount?

- Four $2,250 scholarships will be awarded each year, one in each of the four VFW Auxiliary Conferences.

What are the Scholarship Submission Requirements?

Each applicant must:

- Answer all questions on the Continuing Education Scholarship application
- Write a brief essay (no more than 300 words) describing their commitment to their goals and how this scholarship will help them attain these goals.

What are the Scholarship Deadlines?

- July 1: Application process begins.
- February 15: All applications must be submitted to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.*
- May 1: Scholarship recipients are notified.

Cant wait to see how our game goes. I can almost see the goal post.

Start planning your Patriotic Art and 3 Dimentional Art programs NOW



VFW AUXILIARY

Continuing Education Scholarship

★ 2026-2027 ★

For Uncommon Heroes

Train for a career

Age 21+



Learn new skills



Four scholarships awarded each year

$2,250 each

Improve your life

Deadline: February 15



For Auxiliary members, their spouses, and their children.
Don't miss out on funding your future!
To access the Continuing Education Scholarship application, go to MALTA Member Resources – Scholarships tab.

Scan here for info:

Veterans & Family Support

Carolyn Rovito
251 Church Street, Apt 1
Lodi, NJ 07644
Crovito.2@gmail.com

"Supporting Those Who Serve — Before, During & After Deployment"

The VFW's **Adopt-a-Unit Program** connects VFW Posts and Auxiliaries with military units to build lasting, supportive relationships with service members and their families. The goal is to provide encouragement, assistance and a connection to the VFW family before, during and after deployments.

OCTOBER — MAKE THE CONNECTION!

This October, Auxiliaries are encouraged to:

- **Identify a local military unit** that your Post can adopt.
- **Build a relationship** with the unit and its Family Readiness Group.
- **Send cards, letters and care packages** to show our service members they are remembered.
- **Support military families** through practical assistance, encouragement and community connections.
- **Recognize deployments, homecomings and special occasions.**
- **Coordinate with your VFW Post** on activities and events supporting the adopted unit.
- **Report your Adopt-a-Unit activities** as part of your Veterans & Family Support program.

WORK TOGETHER — POST & AUXILIARY

Adopt-a-Unit is a team effort. Auxiliaries should work closely with their VFW Post when selecting and supporting a military unit. VFW National provides Adopt-a-Unit resources, including an application, reporting information and guidance for finding a unit.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

Our service members and their families can face unique challenges during military service and deployment. A simple phone call, card, care package, family activity or community connection can remind them that **their VFW family stands beside them.**

This October, let's turn support into action!

GET STARTED

1. Talk with your VFW Post.
2. Identify a military unit.
3. Complete the VFW Adopt-a-Unit process.
4. Plan meaningful activities throughout the year.
5. Document and report your support.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES
October 2026

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

Let's Play Some Sports!!

Now that school is back in season, all types of sports are being played by every age group. Some are sanctioned by the schools and others by various sporting organizations. No matter who is sponsoring the sport, there are many opportunities to see our youth in action. It is also a good time for your Auxiliary to support them.

How can the Auxiliary support them? Well, let me tell you how!

1. Sponsor a team. Many non-school teams will allow your Auxiliary/Post name to be on the shirt.

2. Host their End of Season Awards Night at your Auxiliary/Post.

3. Have the teams to hold their meetings at the Auxiliary/Post.

4. Provide snacks and water/Gatorade for a game. Maybe rotate which team/sport is the week's recipient and which one will receive next week.

5. Fund equipment purchases. Some parents cannot afford gear like bats, balls, protective padding, etc.

6. Cover the costs of field upkeep.

7. Be the biggest and loudest group of cheerleaders and fans of our youth!!

UNWAVERING SUPPORT
FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY

Directory Updates

Past Department President- Mary Bailey

Corrected Address:

259 Vanneman Blvd

Paulsboro, NJ 08066

Maple Shade- 2445

President- Charles Mars

100 Spruce Avenue

Maple Shade, NJ 08052

(609) 980-6190

Gimbel-Lehy-Quick- 2226

Secretary- Patrcia Drescher

4 Jessica Pl

Monmouth Beach, NJ 07750

(732) 915-7877

Important Announcement

Fall Conference

October 24th, 2026

The Fall Conference will be on October 24th, 2026, at VFW Post 6590, 22 Cookstown-Wrightstown Road Cookstown, NJ 08511. The Council of Administration will start at 10 am. Lunch will be served after the meeting. The price of lunch is $12. Lunch is a baked potato and salad bar.

Make checks out to VFW Auxiliary 6590 and mail to Marie Cozine 5 Kennedy Drive Cookstown, NJ 08511.

Deadline to order lunch is Oct 17th. Fall Conference will follow with our Department President Camilla Albano and her Officers and Chairmen will kickoff the National Programs for the 2022-2027 year (between 1:00 and 1:30PM).

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary
District No. 11
Department of New Jersey

September 1, 2026

Greetings from District 11,

You are cordially invited to attend our annual District 11 Official Visit lunch and meeting on Sunday, November 15, 2026, at the Cookstown Post #6590, located at 22 Wrightstown Cookstown Rd., Cookstown, NJ 08511.

Lunch will be start at Noon, with the meeting beginning afterwards, approx. 1:30PM. This luncheon is to welcome our State President Camilla Albano as part of her Official Visit with our district.

The cost of the luncheon is $12.00 per person, and reservations need to be made by Sunday, November 8, 2026. Enclosed is a reservation form – please send it plus payment (checks made out to VFWA District 11) to 12 Wright Ave. Stratford, NJ 08084. Tickets will not be mailed to you; you'll be checked in at the door.

District President Marie Cozine looks forward to having a great turnout to welcome Department President Albano to our District.

Please call with any questions.

Loyally,

Denise Beckler, PDP 2024-25
District 11 Official Visit Chairman & Treasurer
856-448-3501 (can text)
denise.beckler@aol.com



DISTRICT 11
OFFICIAL VISIT OF THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT
LUNCHEON RESERVATION FORM
Sunday, November 15, 2026, at Cookstown VFW Post #6590 12:00PM

CHECKS SHOULD BE MADE OUT TO: AUXILIARY DISTRICT 11

Enclosed is a check in the amount of

$_____ to reserve lunch for _____ members @ $12.00 each.

NAME & TITLE: _____

AUX or DIST #: _____

*****DEADLINE FOR LUNCH RESERVATIONS IS SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2026*****

Please send check and completed reservation form to:

Denise Beckler
12 Wright Ave.
Stratford, NJ 08084

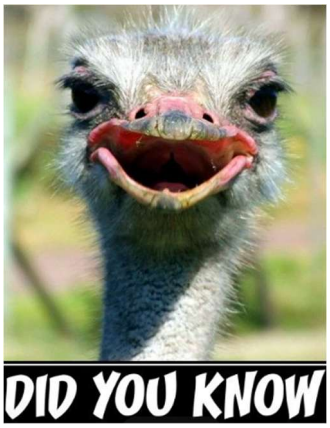
Please call/text 856-448-3501 or email denise.beckler@aol.com with any questions.
Tickets will not be mailed – check in at the luncheon.

If you'd like an email confirmation of your reservation & payment, please list address below:

_____

PROGRAM COORDINATOR 2026-2027

DENISE BECKLER 856-448-3501 denise.beckler@aol.com



There are National Awards Auxiliaries can win?? Below are the snapshots from the 2026-27 Program Book, showing what awards auxiliary members can win!

At National Convention, your auxiliary name gets a shout out and everyone from New Jersey cheers – we also try to take a snapshot of your name on the big screen and text it to you. It's not much…just bragging rights, letting National know JERSEY IS IN THE HOUSE AND ROCKING OUR PROGRAMS!

I KNOW most of you are doing all these things – get a shout out for it!! (Call with questions)

AMERICANISM PROGRAM AWARDS

Awards for Auxiliaries:

1. Citation and $25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that creates the most unique POP sign and/or meme showcasing the VFW Auxiliary.

Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the VFW Auxiliary Department Americanism Chairman by March 31, 2027 for judging.

The VFW Auxiliary Department Americanism Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the VFW Auxiliary National Americanism Ambassador by April 30, 2027 for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to winning VFW Auxiliaries from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

"BUDDY"® POPPY PROGRAM AWARDS

Awards for Auxiliaries:

1. Citation and $25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most outstanding activity and/or event to educate their community about the VFW "Buddy"® Poppy.

Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the VFW Auxiliary Department "Buddy"® Poppy Chairman by March 31, 2027 for judging.

The VFW Auxiliary Department "Buddy"® Poppy Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the VFW Auxiliary National "Buddy"® Poppy Ambassador by April 30, 2027 for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION AWARDS

Awards for Members:

1. Citation to one member in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the best assistance to the Chief of Staff in establishing a new VFW Auxiliary with the approval of the VFW Auxiliary Department President.

Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

The VFW Auxiliary Department Chief of Staff must sign and send a copy of the completed Department nomination form to the VFW Auxiliary National Chief of Staff by April 30, 2027 for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to winning VFW Auxiliary members from National Headquarters after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

Awards for District Presidents:

1. Citation and $25 to one VFW Auxiliary District President or Official Representative in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the best assistance to the VFW Auxiliary Department Chief of Staff with a struggling VFW Auxiliary by mentoring and maintaining a close relationship until the VFW Auxiliary becomes healthy, with the approval of the VFW Auxiliary Department President. Use of MALTA Healthy Auxiliary tools and mentor training is required.

Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

The VFW Auxiliary Department Chief of Staff must sign and send a copy of the completed Department nomination form to the VFW Auxiliary National Chief of Staff by April 30, 2027 for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to winners from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary Department account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention for disbursement to the winning VFW Auxiliary District President or official representative.

HISTORIAN & MEDIA RELATIONS PROGRAM AWARDS

Awards for Auxiliaries:

1. Citation and $25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that creates the most unique digital record of their VFW Auxiliary history since being established and publishes it to a digital platform for future members of their VFW Auxiliary.

Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the VFW Auxiliary Department Historian & Media Relations Chairman by March 31, 2027 for judging.

The VFW Auxiliary Department Historian & Media Relations Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the VFW Auxiliary National Historian & Media Relations Ambassador by April 30, 2027 for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to winning VFW Auxiliaries from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

HOSPITAL PROGRAM AWARDS

Awards for Members:

1. Citation to one VFW Auxiliary member in each of the 10 Program Divisions who recruits the most Hospital (VA and non-VA facilities) volunteers from July 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027. Required entry form is available on MALTA Member Resources. Citations to be mailed directly to winners from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

2. "Hospital Volunteer Recruiter of the Year" plaque awarded to one VFW Auxiliary member in the nation who recruits the most Hospital (VA and non-VA facilities) volunteers from July 1, 2026, to March 31, 2027. Required entry form is available on MALTA Member Resources. Plaque may be mailed directly to winner from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

3. Citation to the "Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year" in each of the 10 Program Divisions. Required entry form is available on MALTA Member Resources. Citations to be mailed directly to winners from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

Awards for Auxiliaries:

1. Citation and $25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most creative/unique activity and/or event to interact with and provide happiness to veterans in hospitals (VA and non-VA facilities).

Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the VFW Auxiliary Department Hospital Chairman by April 15, 2027 for judging.

The VFW Auxiliary Department Hospital Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the VFW Auxiliary National Hospital Ambassador by April 30, 2027 for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM AWARDS

Awards for Auxiliaries:

1. Citation and $25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions with the largest increase in new VFW Action Corps Weekly sign-ups from the community and new VFW Auxiliary members.

Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the Department Legislative Chairman by March 31, 2027 for judging.

The Department Legislative Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National Legislative Ambassador by April 30, 2027 for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM AWARDS

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES, DEPARTMENTS AND CONFERENCES WILL BE BASED ON THE PAID TOTAL LISTED ON THE CMR-PAID, CANCELED & DECEASED REPORT IN MALTA.

Awards for Members:

1. **5 Member Recruiter Pin**. Each VFW and VFW Auxiliary member who recruits five (5) new and/or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary will receive a 5 Member Recruiter Pin. **5 Member Recruiter Pin** will be mailed directly to the recruiter from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters approximately every 2 months after the goal is met.

2. **5 Member Recruiter Drawing**. Each VFW and VFW Auxiliary member who recruits five (5) new and/or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary will be entered into the **5 Member Recruiter Drawing** to receive a $100 Visa Gift Card.

3. **National Membership Achievement Recruiter Award**. Each VFW and VFW Auxiliary member who recruits twenty (20) new and/or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary will receive a **National Membership Achievement Recruiter Award**. VFW Auxiliary Treasurers on all levels are not eligible for this award.

4. **National Membership Achievement Recruiter Drawing**. Each VFW and VFW Auxiliary member who recruits twenty (20) new and/or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary will be entered in the National Membership Achievement Recruiter Drawing to receive a $400 Visa Gift Card. VFW Auxiliary Treasurers on all levels are not eligible for this award.

New and/or rejoined members must be recruited to the VFW Auxiliary from July 1, 2026, through May 31, 2027. The Department Treasurer must enter membership in MALTA with credit given to the recruiter by June 10, 2027.

VFW recruiters must complete the VFW Members Only recruiter form and submit it to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters by June 10, 2027.

Membership Award winners **No. 2, No. 3 and No. 4** will be announced and the awards will be presented at the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention. If the award winner is not in attendance, the award will be mailed directly to winner from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

Awards for Auxiliaries:

1. $50 to each Auxiliary that reaches 100% Plus in Membership by June 30, 2027*.

Money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

SCHOLARSHIPS PROGRAM AWARDS

Awards for Auxiliaries:

1. Citation and $25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding "Red Carpet" event/celebration honoring VFW and VFW Auxiliary Scholarship participants.

Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the Department Scholarships Chairman by March 31, 2027 for judging.

The Department Scholarships Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National Scholarships Ambassador by April 30, 2027 for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM AWARDS

Awards for Auxiliaries:

1. Citation and $25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most outstanding promotion of VFW resources for veterans, service members and their families.

Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the VFW Auxiliary Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman by March 31, 2027 for judging.

The VFW Auxiliary Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the VFW Auxiliary National Veterans & Family Support Ambassador by April 30, 2027, for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to winning VFW Auxiliaries from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

2. Citation and $25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most outstanding activity and/or event promoting resources, including those for PTS, and assistance for veterans and their families (resource fairs, mental health clinics, etc.)

   Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the VFW Auxiliary Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman by March 31, 2027 for judging.

The VFW Auxiliary Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the VFW Auxiliary National Veterans & Family Support Ambassador by April 30, 2027 for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to winning VFW Auxiliaries from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

VFW NATIONAL HOME PROGRAM AWARDS

Awards for Auxiliaries:

1. Citation and $25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most creative activity and/or event that demonstrates what and where the VFW National Home is and who is eligible for the services provided by the VFW National Home.

Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the VFW Auxiliary Department VFW National Home Chairman by March 31, 2027 for judging.

The VFW Auxiliary Department VFW National Home Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the VFW Auxiliary National VFW National Home Ambassador by April 30, 2027 for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROGRAM AWARDS

Awards for Auxiliaries:

1. Citation and $25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most creative and/or unique VFW Auxiliary Lending Library.

Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the VFW Auxiliary Department Youth Activities Chairman by March 31, 2027 for judging.

The VFW Auxiliary Department Youth Activities Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the VFW Auxiliary National Youth Activities Ambassador by April 30, 2027 for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.