



COMMENTS
DEPARTMENT
PRESIDENT
DONNA JAMES

Texas is doing Great!

I have been very busy. I traveled to Mexia (District 29), Harlingen (District 18), Mineola (District 12) and District 17 (Tyler). I visited the VA Center of Excellence for Research on Returning War Veterans, Harlingen VA Clinic, Watkins-Logan Texas State Veterans Home, and George Bush Library.

Everyone is doing an excellent job taking care of our Veterans. They have research to help cure PTSD and other mental issues.

Excellent care for the younger veterans and the elderly Veterans. I met many Veterans, a singer, a comedian, a dancer, many very decorated Veterans and no complaints on their care.

Thank you to District Presidents Linda Trussell, Irma Solis, Renee Batson, and Paula Ison for taking the time to take care of me and my guests. The hospitality was appreciated. Everyone went over and above to make us welcome.

The Department is in great hands, following the Bylaws, working the programs, and still taking care of our Veterans.

Texas is shining!

All Audits and Bonds were on time. Now it is time to work on 990's and reporting. Membership is coming in daily, also new members. If your Auxiliary has zero continuous members, it is time to start working membership.

District Presidents did a great job on their training within their Districts.

Remember: You were elected to lead your District. The Bylaws are your rules. Always follow the Bylaws. If you have a question, call the Department, Chief of Staff or myself.

We have a new Auxiliary, Lake Whitney. Congratulations District 29!

We also have several new Auxiliaries in the works.

We have the Southern Conference in October. Everyone needs to get signed up as soon as possible. Baton Rouge will be a lot of fun.

October visits are District 15 on the 12th and Southern Conference. Southern Conference is for everyone who wants to attend, not just officers.

**Remember: We Are A Voice For Our
Veterans, Not An Echo! Serving Our Veterans
With Aloha**

Official Visit Schedule

October 12	District 15	Vernon
October 17-20	Southern Conference	Baton Rouge LA
October 26	District 4	Houston

****Change of Inspection****

March 20-21	District 30
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LEGISLATIVE
Nelda Hackett - Chairman

Fall is here, finally! I hope you all had a great summer, even though it was an extremely hot one! The last quarter of 2019 is upon us and we have a lot of Legislation that can still be done for our veterans. That being said, I am receiving many reports (but not from every District!) and I love the many I have gotten! There is just one problem; I haven't heard from all Districts and that is surprising to me! As of my writing this article, I have not received a report from Districts 2, 3, 4, 6, 9, 10, 12, 13, 18, and 30.

We should ALL be doing our Legislative Program. We must make our voices heard; otherwise, our veterans will suffer. Please, let's all work hard for the veterans; they deserve it and so much more! If you haven't signed up for VFW Action Corps newsletter, please, do it today. This newsletter informs us of what is going on with veteran's issues on Capitol Hill. Anyone can subscribe to VFW Action Corps. More information is available at www.org/VFW-in-DC/Action-Corps.

I would really appreciate getting reports from all auxiliary's in every District. That would sure make for some great competition and hard work for me, lots of fun too! Of course, I'm being a bit selfish as well; I want Texas to be #1 in Legislative, don't you?

To sign up for the VFW Action Corps Weekly: www.capwiz.com/vfw/mlm/signup.htm

For lists, concerns, and solutions, etc.: www.vfw.org/advocacy

For the "Guide to Contacting Your Legislators": www.vfwauxiliary.org

To contact your Senator or Representative: congresslookup.com

God Bless Texas and God Bless Each and Every One Of You!

"We Are A Voice For Our Veterans, Not An Echo"
"Serving Veterans With Aloha"



AMERICANISM/PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR
Barbara Koehn

One of my home-state Senator, John Thune, from South Dakota, was quoted as saying "Our flag is more than cloth and ink. It is a universally recognized symbol that stands for liberty and freedom. It is the

history of our nation, and it is marked by the blood who died defending it". These statements are so true and IT is the reason why we should respect and honor our flag and the veterans who made those sacrifices on the battlefields to protect our freedoms we now have. I hope you all celebrated and honored the patriotic holidays in September. It is so simple to hand out the American flags during parades, in our school classrooms, to our community businesses, and please don't forget the MIA/POW flags. No one should be forgotten!!!!

Our National Ambassador, Jason Estell, defines Americanism as loyalty, commitment, and education. These are 3 important words to remember for defining Americanism.

The VFW and its Auxiliaries highly supports the education of American's youth. The Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award is a way to identify and recognize America's best educators that will instill a sense of national pride in Americanism for our youth.

Teachers who promote civic responsibility, flag etiquette, and patriotism are prime candidates for this award. Please go out in the schools and look for these exemplary teachers from K-5, 6-8 grades, and 9-12 grades and nominate them. Nominations must be submitted to a VFW Post by October 31, 2019.

I am hoping many of our Texas Auxiliaries are working on a video promoting patriotism with community involvement with your membership. They are due to me by March 31, 2020. The winner from the State of Texas will go to national for competition. More information can be obtained by going to the website, www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources.

How exciting it would be to submit a photo collage from Texas auxiliaries participating in a Freedom Festival. Use your creative ideas that most represent and promote Americanism. There are certain requirements as to size, content, etc. Please follow these requirements closely. You can also obtain further information on www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources. This is also due to me by March 31, 2020.

Patriotic Art, Patriot's Pen, and the Voice of Democracy are excellent opportunities to get our youth involved in promoting Americanism and Patriotism. Read about these excellent programs and assist the youth in their participation.

Continue to take pride in our flag, **Serve Our Veterans With Aloha**, and be a **Voice For Our Veterans-Not An Echo!**



HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS Bernie Adams

We are now entering the busy months of the year. How can we promote our VFW? We had Patriot's Day on September 11th and POW/MIA Day that most VFW and Auxiliary have some kind of activity at their Post. Why not contact and involve the newspaper? If they are not able to attend then you take pictures and write an article for the newspaper. Most newspapers have a Community Calendar to send your monthly activities and have them put it in the newspaper. Get a good guest speaker that will attract a lot of people. Try getting the Mayor, City Councilmen, and State Representative. Put the event on your marque. Make flyers for the places around town, ie the library or office buildings.

When Department President Donna comes to visit your district, write an article along with taking a picture to submit to the newspaper. The Historian needs to compile her information to send to me for President Donna's book of her lasting memories. Please include that newspaper article. Let's see how many newspaper articles we can put in President Donna's Book. Remember **"We Are A Voice For Our Veterans, Not An Echo"** while **"Serving Our Veterans With Aloha"**



MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP Natalie Copeland – Chairman Beth Creasey – Co-Chairman

Brothers and sisters, are you engaged? No, we're not referring to the anticipation of nuptials. Are you engaged with your members? As leaders and mentors, we should strive to create positive experiences for our members. We should do all we can to gain and to give knowledge to them. We should create opportunities to serve.

We all started this journey of membership on common ground: our desire to serve veterans. Now we need to build on it. So, your challenge for October is to set goals. "A goal without a plan is just a dream." What goals have you set in your Auxiliary? Have you identified which programs/projects you will accomplish by year end? Have you set your strategy for membership? Are you working on being a healthy

auxiliary? Do you have monthly topics using Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation?

Our goals at the Department level is to receive an application from all nominees. We are working to make the Auxiliary stronger by pairing the right mentor with the right mentee.

Fun dates in October for mentors

- 1st – International Day for the Elderly
- 4th – World Smile Day
- 5th – Do Something Nice Day
- 26th – Make a Difference Day

**"WE ARE A VOICE FOR OUR VETERANS,
NOT AN ECHO"**

"SERVING OUR VETERANS WITH ALOHA!"



CHIEF OF STAFF Betty Royston

Welcome to each and every new member that has decided to belong to the greatest Veterans Organization in the world. We appreciate all you are going to add to our work on behalf of our Veterans and their families. You have been given a copy of our Bylaws and Ritual, please read it and learn what all the wonderful programs we have that you may be a part of. Whether you are a new or seasoned member there is bound to be one of our programs you would enjoy participating in. Below you will find needed information to help you as you gain more knowledge about our Organization.

RESOURCES: The following resources are found on the VFW Auxiliary National Website, www.vfw.org/resources:

1. The Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit:
2. VFW Auxiliary Sample Meeting Agenda
3. Auxiliary Meeting Checklist
4. Healthy Communications and Deadlines
5. R U Healthy Checklist – Auxiliary to DO's and DEADLINES

This is just an example of things needed by each of us as **"WE ARE A VOICE FOR OUR VETERANS, NOT AN ECHO"**.

We need members who are dependable and friendly; a go-getter; team player; positive attitude; able to meet deadlines; creative; knowledgeable; motivating and outgoing; enthusiastic and courteous; represent our organization in a professional manner.

1. Membership Recruitment and Retention Tools

2. Strengthening Auxiliaries – 30 ways to Recruit, Retain and Rejoin members.
3. Why having an Auxiliary Can Boost Your Post (Bachelor Post presentation)
4. Top Ten Reasons for Your Post To Have An Auxiliary

Other helpful resources include Current Podium Edition Bylaws and Ritual, available from the VFW Store, www.vfwstore.org, Robert's Rules of Order (parliamentary procedure guide), Ambassador, Conference Chairman, Department Chairman Bulletins, Auxiliary National social media: Facebook, Pinterest, Twitter, and You Tube, and VFW Auxiliary E-newsletter, sign up online.

Until next month, Thank A Veteran if you enjoy your freedom **“AS WE SERVE OUR VETERANS WITH ALOHA”**



VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Denise DuBois – Chairman

Candice Baines – Co-Chairman

Your reports are being received daily and we are enjoying hearing about what you are doing for Veterans and Family Support. **EACH OF YOU ARE AMAZING!**

The Tailgate Party at Fisher House III at DeBakey VA was great fun. We want to personally thank each of you that donated monies, gift cards, etc. or your time to come and help. A fun time was had by all as we were able to share and listen to those families that are blessed to have the Fisher House available.

Just a reminder that we must be thinking of hosting fundraisers for NVS and for VFW Veterans and Military Support Programs. Co-host these events with your Posts.

Keep those coupons being sent to Support Our Troops in Daytona Beach, Fl. You will be surprised as the dollar amount is being recorded. We have heard from the agency and they are thrilled. Keep up the good “clipping”.

Don't forget the homeless mats. Are you having fun making them? We have received two thus far and we will be picking up 40 more in the future.

Auxiliaries, no matter what your membership size is: your efforts count, but most of all they matter. We appreciate each and every one of you! Your time and efforts are being seen and heard.

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HOSPITAL/VAVS

Sally Ramirez – Chairman

Hope everyone had a wonderful and safe Labor Day. I can't hardly wait to start receiving your reports on how you promoted Suicide Prevention on the 10th of September. Thus far only a small number of reports on this promotion have come in. I am anxious to read your reports on this program. Have Veterans Crisis line cards, information sheets, and the Blue Teardrop Stickers at your events to incorporate with other programs.

Remember we have Community Volunteer Recruitment Week coming up in November. We need to recruit more volunteers to help continue our work and help our Veterans because **“WE ARE A VOICE FOR OUR VETERANS, NOT AN ECHO.”** Besides, volunteering is an excellent way to give back to our community and our veterans.

Veterans Voices Writing Project. I have been reading reports on how some of our veterans started to talk about what they have experienced in combat. It is obvious from these reports that our volunteers are getting the word out. This is a great opportunity to ask them if they can write their story, or maybe you can help write it for them.

“WE ARE A VOICE FOR OUR VETERANS, NOT AN ECHO” -- “SERVING OUR VETERANS WITH ALOHA”



MEMBERSHIP

Brenda Foltz – Chairman

Karlene Chambers – Co-Chairman

Recruit, recruit, recruit, remember there are 12 ways a family member can join this great organization.

Remember the brothers and sisters that are in need of help with their dues, you may pay it for them as long as it is put on the floor for a vote and be paid out of your relief fund. Send your dues to Dept. and please do not sit on membership.

With the holidays coming up maybe you are planning events so you can include having membership applications for potential new members.

The September 29th deadline for being 75% in membership has now passed and we have 62 Auxiliaries

that made it and 12 Districts. They are 19 Aux. in Dist. 1, 3 Aux. in Dist. 2, 2 Aux in Dist.3, 3 Aux in Dist.4, 2 Aux. in Dist.5, 3 Aux in Dist. 6, 2 Aux in Dist. 8, 3 Aux in Dist. 9, 1 Aux in Dist. 10, 2 Aux in Dist. 12, 2 Aux in Dist. 13, 2 Aux., in Dist.14, 1 Aux in Dist.15, 3 Aux in Dist. 16, 2 Aux in Dist.17, 1 Aux in Dist.18, 4 Aux in Dist. 19, 4 Aux in Dist. 20, 4 Aux in Dist. 21, 2 Aux in Dist. 24, 1 Aux in Dist. 25, 2 Aux in Dist. 29, and 1 Aux in Dist. 30.

Let's keep it up Texas we are doing great.

Round 'em Up and Rope 'em In

**We Are A Voice For Our Veterans Not An Echo
Serving Veterans With Aloha**



**STATE NURSING SCHOLARSHIP
Vivian Johnson - Chairman**

Great news from the Nursing Scholarship Program. Several Auxiliaries have reported and great pictures sent with reports. Great job everyone. I am proud to report that I have received several applications already. I am in the process of sending applications to the Nursing Schools and Universities.

Keep up the great work and keep the reports and pictures coming in.

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**SCHOLARSHIPS
Lynn Cook – Chairman**

Hello once again Texas Auxiliary Members! With what seems like a blink of an eye, we find ourselves in October already! School, Friday night lights and our scholarships program are all very much under way. While school and the football season will continue on in the next few months, our scholarship program will be closing a chapter. The deadline for the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Essay Scholarship

Contests is October 31, 2019, for Post level entries. By this time, everyone should have a plan and be implementing it for receiving and judging all of the entries turned in to the Post and Auxiliary by the deadline date. Things to remember are: 1) Communicate with your Post partner (Youth Scholarship Chairman) 2) Set a date for judging 3) the judges 4) Properly filled and completed entry forms are a must to avoid disqualification. Including signatures where needed. 5) Score sheets for both contests can be found online at www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources (This is the same link I shared with you for posters, brochures, rules and etc.) 6) You may submit one (1) winning entry for every fifteen (15) entries received – if you receive sixteen (16) then you submit two (2) winners to District for judging.

All Deadlines are as follows:

October 31, 2019 - Entries due to Post/Auxiliary with judging before November 15, 2019

November 15, 2019 – Post level winners due to District with judging before December 15, 2019

December 1, 2019 – District winner due to Department (each District submits the first place winner only, for state judging) with judging by January 10, 2020

January 15, 2020 – Department winner to National Headquarters

Department/State winners will be honored at 2020 Mid-Winter Convention in Austin, TX, in January.

Reports!! Yes, I am reporting all of my activities to our National Ambassador, Gloria Dobbie. Reporting all of our Auxiliary activities, in any program, is very important to show our program participation and simply helps keep our non-profit status. Your hard work can and will only be counted and recognized if you report it to your Department Chairman! I am happy to say I did receive an increase of reports for August.

A final thought for October – I advise you all to start looking at the “**Scholarship Award for Auxiliaries No. 1**” entry form. It can be found at my new favorite auxiliary tool, www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources! This entry form is due to your Department Chairman, me, by March 31, 2020. There will be no exceptions to this deadline as I will also have a deadline for National. Do not worry, this will not be the last time I mention this form before March.

Thank You all for your time and the hard work it takes to reach our goals, promote our scholarship program and support our Veterans! Standing together and supporting each other,

**“We are a Voice for Our Veterans, Not an Echo”
and we are proudly “Serving Our Veterans with
Aloha”!**



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Laurie Hayes Wiley – Chairman

I am thrilled to be the chairman for this amazing program with an amazing group of VFW Auxiliaries in this Great State of Texas. Thank you...Thank you...Thank you to all for the reports I have received in July/August.

We are now in the third month of 2019-2020 year, I would like to see some reports on the following projects:

Patriotism through Literacy. Promoting and supporting reading among youth. Easy right? Think about books that may have helped shaped your knowledge base on America and its history, or research possible newer books and then think of different ways you can encourage kids to read these books.

This will help youth learn about America through books, both historical fiction and creative nonfiction. Benefits: Teaches kids about various times in American history. Promotes empathy and exposes students to experiences unlike their own. Foster a love of books that leads to a lifetime of learning. Spend time with kids in the community in new and creative ways. Help youth gain better understanding of American history through

How can you participate in Patriotism through Literacy? Volunteer to read historical or creative non-fiction picture books to kids at your local library. Donate historical or creative non-fiction books to local schools, shelters or libraries. Host a read-a-thon and award small prizes (stickers, pins, etc.) for number of books or hours read. Run a writer's workshop for aspiring teen and tween authors at your Post Home. Invite an author of historical or creative non-fiction to do a book talk/signing in your area.

Illustrating America. A patriotic art contest for elementary and middle/junior high school students. Benefits of Illustrating America: Encourages student's artistic abilities and rewarding their hard work. It's fun to see how our youth see the world through their drawing and paintings. Get kids interested, which hopefully will encourage them to enter the Young American Creative Art Contest when they get to High School.

How we can participate in Illustrating America: Host contests for students in grades K-8th. The contest consists of three grade divisions: K-2, 3-5 and 6-8. There is one National winner in each grade division, with awards for first, second and third place in each grade division. Reach out to local homeschool families or organizations through print and online media. Approach

your local schools with information available under "Youth Activities" at www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources.

Scouting groups or Church groups: There are so many ways to be involved with these groups, open your Post/Auxiliary for them to hold meetings or special events. Request their help with Buddy Poppies and placing flags, which will aid them in gaining better understanding of Community Service too.

OTHER WAYS TO PARTICPATE IN YOUTH ACTIVITIES INCLUDE: Handing out R.A.P. coins and/or cards to kids who display Random Acts of Patriotism. Partner with other programs like Americanism or Hospital to do community Please remember, as always, that you need to make sure to report anything that you do for youth activities, or any other program for that matter. Please don't ever hesitate to contact me if you have questions, concerns, ideas, or all of the above. Law4378@outlook.com or (713) 247-9591.



SECRETARY'S NOTES

Application for Membership must have 01/2019 in the bottom right corner and can be downloaded from texasvfwauxiliary.org under membership tab. It is also fillable online if you want to make sure everyone can read it get the info required from whom you are recruiting. Fill it out and take to them for signature and money bring them to the meeting. Get rid of it for previous years including those that may be behind the canteen or where the VFW may have a copy ready to recruit.

Incomplete applications will be RETURNED and not processed until corrected. Secretaries and Treasurers VERIFY they are complete. Secretary do not read it for vote if it is not complete and ready to go which the investigators should be seeing that it is correct and they are eligible.

Here are a few things that are NOT complete on a regular basis:

1. Cannot read the name, email.
2. Recruiter is not putting their member number in so they are not getting credit for it.
3. Post affiliated needs VFW member number
4. Non affiliated MUST have campaign ribbons or medals and DATES filled in

5. Life Transfer accepting treasurer's signature/date
6. Rejected/elected date and obligated date.
7. 2 signatures by the applicant. Middle of page and bottom of page.

SEND COMPLETED APPLICATION ALONG WITH \$10.00 for annual or full life amount and it will be quickly processed! Only YOU can prevent delay in their membership clock starting!

Department Office Hours

Monday – Thursday 7:00 am – 5:00 pm
(excluding holidays/conventions/training)

Department Secretary

Monday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
Tuesday – Wednesday 7:00 am – 5:00 pm
Thursday 7:00 am – 3:00 pm

Subject to change for Auxiliary travel or other appts

Contact HQ via email or phone for questions.

Use secretary@texasvfwaux.org. Phone: 512-834-9190 extension 301

Deadlines

Voice of Democracy
October 31, 2019 - Post

Patriot's Pen Essay Scholarship
October 31, 2019 - Post



IRMA SOLIS

**Candidate for Department of Texas
VFW Auxiliary Guard
2020-2021**

Endorsed by District 18
Auxiliary 7473

Auxiliary President – 3 years
District President – 3 years
Auxiliary Secretary – 1 year
District 18 Conductress – 1 year

OFFICE MAILING ADDRESSES

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Auxiliary
Department of Texas

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"Coming together is a beginning.
Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success."

--Henry Ford