



The Texas V.F.W. Auxiliary

Our Two Cents

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Editor – Kathy Marrelli

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COMMENTS

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

DONNA JAMES

Well, the year has started strong. We had a great Statewide Training with 350 plus members attending. The comments we received from the survey were very helpful. The food and hotel conditions were the number one problem. We are checking into changing the food for next year.

We attended National Convention in Orlando, Florida. Congratulations to everyone who won awards and to Past President Eppie Lackey for being in the Circle of Excellence.

I attended District 1 training and visited Bonham VA Clinic. I had a terrific time. Thank you to District 1 President Linda Harding for a great training. Thank you to Kathy Stanley and Vikki Johnson for showing Sally Ramirez, myself, and other members around the Bonham VA Clinic. The Veterans are being well taken care of. Also, thank you to the ladies and gentlemen for touring the clinic with Sally and me. My next visits in August will be to Districts 29, 18, 12, and 17. I am looking forward to seeing everyone.

We are working on instituting five new Auxiliaries. Please contact the Bachelor Posts in your Districts about instituting Auxiliaries in their

Posts. We need to continue to grow to be a strong voice for our Veterans.

Over the years, a lot of changes have taken place. Just because something was done one way ten years ago, may not be the same today. Before you voice your opinion, read your Bylaws; things are changing yearly. We are all learning. Nobody knows it all. Help each other, not criticize. We need to continue to work to be a stronger organization.

Auxiliary Presidents cannot change anything unless it is brought on the floor and voted on. Membership has full control of the Auxiliary. Presidents do not handle anything with money. The Treasurer handles the monies with a vote from the membership unless in standing rules. Presidents co-sign checks after membership votes to pay. Presidents also do not get to vote, unless there's a tie.

National Mid-Year Conference will be in Honolulu, Hawaii this year.

Anyone interested in attending please contact Natalie in the Department Office for information. It will be a fun time.

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

Official Visit Schedule

September 7	District 2	Port Neches
September 13-14	District 30	Seven Points
September 20-21	District 9	Amarillo

CHIEF OF STAFF/EXTENSION

Betty Royston

Welcome to our third month of this year of **“BEING A VOICE FOR OUR VETERANS, NOT AN ECHO.”**

Each of you should be well into your inspections and finding the weak links as well as the strong links.

Remember our National Auxiliary has many resources and tools available on the Online Auxiliary Academy and the Program & Publicity page of the National Website: www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources.

You may use the Heathy Auxiliary Tool Kit which includes seven (7) resources to assist Auxiliaries in identifying and solving issues. Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation is also another excellent tool to educate members in the duties of Officers at all levels, how to be a good CHAIRMAN, the why it is so important to REPORT, REPORT, REPORT the many projects you work on, the hours, money spent, how many people benefited in order to retain our non-taxable organization.

We ask you to follow up on the 110 Bachelor Posts we have in Texas, continue to remind them how huge an asset an Auxiliary would be to assist in all their Americanism Programs, Youth Activities, Veterans and Family Support and REPORTING all these hours, money spent, etc.

If you have any questions on Extension feel free to contact our Department President, myself or our excellent Office Staff. We are here to help you and your District look outstanding as well as the Department of Texas VFW Auxiliary as we **“SERVE OUR VETERANS WITH ALOHA”**.

The month of September has many different Patriotic Days to honor our veterans. Be sure to participate in as many as you can and remember to **“HONOR THE DEAD, BY SERVING THE LIVING.”**



MEMBERSHIP

Brenda Foltz- Chairman

Karlene Chambers- Co-Chairman

Hope everyone enjoyed State Training. Now it is time to get into our recruiting and roping in new members. You should be getting ready to send out 2nd notices. All transmittals are due in Dept. by the 15th of the month.

I mentioned in the last Our Two Cents about the contest, so now I am going to fill you in on it. I will be giving out charms and a bracelet for every level of percentage.

Sept. 20, 2019	75%
Oct. 25, 2019	85%
Nov. 22, 2019	90%
Dec. 27, 2019	100%

I know that all the Auxiliaries in the State of Texas can do this. Let's do this for our President!

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



SCHOLARSHIPS

Lynn Cook – Chairman

Texas Auxiliary Members! With summer coming to end and fall just beginning we find ourselves getting into our VFW Auxiliary programs. For the Scholarship Program, this means all scholarship information should be into your schools, public libraries, local YMCAs, churches or anywhere else our youth might be present or 'hangout'. This also means I should have **at least** (1) one report from every Auxiliary in the state of Texas!

Did your Auxiliary pay program fees for the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen, that is another report! Send this report with copies of your check please. Did you print and display posters promoting the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen or Patriotic Art contests? Yes, that is a report! What about flyers promoting the Continuing Education Scholarship? Yes again, that is also a report! Do you see a pattern forming?

We want all of the time, hard work and money that we, the Auxiliary members put into our programs to count. You all are doing a great job; I need those reports! If you have not placed your information packets yet, there is still time, but you have to hurry! October 31st will be here before you know it. Use the tools provides - brochures, applications, posters and flyers along with the rules, requirements and deadlines can all be found online at www.vfw_auxiliary.org/resources, www.texasvfw_auxiliary.org, or www.vfwstore.org. Remember our goals... we want to PROMOTE all of our scholarships to increase participation and awareness but

also do not forget to use your National and Department Program Books for guidance and useful information such as Statewide Projects (hint: Patriotic Art and Continuing Education) and more. Not only do we want to PROMOTE, we want to **‘Fund the Artist of Tomorrow’** and raise money to increase the Patriotic Art Escrow. Start planning those bake sales, garage sales, barbeque plate sales, craft sales, auctions and 50/50 raffles at open meetings. There are so many possibilities, get creative! For example, I created a bookmark designed for promoting the scholarships. I will be placing them in public and school libraries. The cost of printing was not too high but it was more than I expected so I did a little fundraising and found some sponsors to cover the printing cost. Reach out to your communities and local business owners. Most of them are always willing to support our Veterans, our causes and our youth. You just have to ask and inform!

*An exciting announcement from National in the E – newsletter: **2018 – 2019 Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest**

The top 8 winners were announced by the VFW National Auxiliary. These winners along with the first place winner of each Department may be found at www.vfwauxiliary.org. Congratulations to all the winners! We thank you for all the amazing entries!

This is one of the many wonderful results of what we do as the VFW Auxiliary. With dedication, determination and teamwork, we have helped another group of talented students reach for their dreams and continue their education through our Scholarship Program! Thank you to all the Auxiliaries who participated. It is time to do it again! We must continue teaching and guiding our youth towards excellence. They need to know that together, **“We Are A Voice For Our Veterans, Not An Echo”** and together we will continue **“Serving Our Veterans With Aloha”!**



AMERICANISM **Barbara Koehn - Chairman**

Have you ever thought as an VFW Auxiliary member how can you promote Americanism within your own Auxiliary and your local community? We all live in the greatest nation in the world, we are so blessed with freedoms that our veterans have valiantly fought for, and we are graced with the high ideas in our American way of life. Everyone should be super excited and enthused to get everyone involved in spreading Americanism throughout our country.

Here are some of the ways you can do it. Paint your town “Red, White and Blue” with metallic ribbon and place them on light posts, on fences, on bridges, and around your courthouse square. Be sure you get permission from city and county officials before you decorate your town.

Dress up in patriotic colors, especially on Patriotic Holidays. Show your patriotic pride with your “Red, White and Blue” clothing. Set up a POW/MIA table in the mall, at your Post and Auxiliary meetings and in the schools. Educate youth and adults as to what items on the table means. Ask veterans to go with you into the schools and have them talk to the youth about their experiences. This is a statewide project.

Make a video of your Auxiliary that most demonstrates and promotes patriotism with community involvement. Make a photo collage of your Auxiliary in action promoting Americanism and Patriotism. These two projects are National projects.

It is most important to educate our youth and adults to properly handle, display and respect our American flag. Please get into our schools and teach our future generations how to care for our national symbol.

Another monumental way to show Americanism is to VOTE. This is a way to let our voices be heard. Remember **“We Are A Voice For Our Veterans, Not An Echo”** and we are to **“Serve Our Veterans With Aloha”** with open arms and warm hearts.



VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT **Denise DuBois – Chairman** **Candice Baines – Co-Chairman**

WOW - We are off and running. From Statewide Training to National Convention, Department of Texas auxiliaries are going strong. Keep those reports coming!

September is Suicide Awareness Month and is observed on September 10. Information is available for veterans and their families in mental health crisis on the VFW Auxiliary rack cards. If you need rack cards or more information, please contact us.

September 11 – Patriot Day

September 20 – POW/MIA Recognition Day

September 29 – Gold Star Mothers/Families Day

Our National Ambassador, Wendy Reinhardt, encourages each of us to offer our veterans to experience solace, satisfaction, and healing through the Veterans Voice Writing Project.

TAILGATE PARTY- We will be visiting Fisher House III at Debakey in Houston on September 21st. This will be our first tailgate party and we are super excited. Thanks to the auxiliaries and districts for participating with us.

Can you believe that fall is just around the corner? Don't forget to start collecting those socks, T-shirts, sweats and "bless you" rags. We shall reach out to ALL our veterans in the state of Texas.

How is the sleeping mat challenge coming? We are anxious to see your ideas. The coupons are being clipped and just a reminder, please send them directly to:

SUPPORT OUR TROOPS

PO BOX 70

DAYTONA BEACH, FL 32115-0070

Keep up the great work and know that you can call on us at any time. We appreciate each and every one of you! Your time and efforts will be seen and heard!

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



LEGISLATIVE

Nelda Hackett - Chairman

Well here we are! I do hope each and every one of us that attended the State Training learned much about each Program presented. September is upon us and we have a lot of Legislation still to do for our veterans. We are all aware that voting, making calls, and sending emails to our elected representatives is crucial! We also all need to read and understand the VFW's 2019 Priority Goals.

The purpose of the Priority Goals is to ensure an adequate VA system will be available for the millions of current and future veterans. These goals are released every January with expected results for our veterans, active-duty military and their families. The 2019 Priority Goals are:

- Budget – Fully funded Veterans & Defense Programs
- Healthcare – High-quality health care and no cost insurance
- Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs – Timely access to earned benefits
- Education, Employment & Transition Assistance – Success after leaving military
- Military Quality of Life – Good benefits and retirement package

- National Security, Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA – Nation's citizen protection, troops support and war on Terrorism

For more information on the 2019 Priority Goals and to download and/or print the Priority Goals Brochure: <https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service>. Sign up for VFW's *Action Corps Weekly*:

The team in the VFW Washington, D.C. office provides Posts, Auxiliaries and other interested groups with an excellent resource for information regarding pending and completed legislation affecting our veterans. This information is listed each week in VFW's *Action Corps Weekly*.

Remember, the most important words are:
**VETERANS, ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY,
and THEIR FAMILIES!!**



PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

Barbara Koehn

Patriotic Instructors have the responsibility to educate Auxiliary members about Americanism, patriotism and the VFW Auxiliary traditions and rituals. They should participate in the School of Instruction at the beginning of the new year, initiation of new members and giving patriotic talks at each meeting under the Good of the Order. Teach and remind your Auxiliaries of the raps of the gavel:

-1 rap means **ATTENTION** which means hands at the side, head up, eyes looking forward

-2 raps mean to **RISE**

-3 raps mean to be **SEATED**

During prayer, **PARADE REST** means your left foot moved slightly to the side while bringing arms to small of the back. Clasp left thumb in right hand with head bowed slightly. When flags enter the room, saying the Pledge of Allegiance or singing the National Anthem, Auxiliary members should do a heart salute with right hand placed over the heart and face the flag. Members should always stand when the flags are moving. When Taps are played, always stand and salute.

When the Chaplain opens or closes the Bible, all members **MUST** cease all moving and talking.

Here are some important dates you can observe as the Patriotic Instructor:

Remember September 11th. This is known as Patriot Day also known as the National Day of Service and Remembrance in memory of those killed on September 12, 2001. Flags should be flown at half- staff all day.

September 17th commemorates the forming and signing of our Constitution on September 17, 1787.

The third Friday in September is POW/MIA Recognition Day honors commitments and sacrifices by our nation's prisoners of war and those that are missing in action. Setting a POW/MIA table at your meeting would be very appropriate.

The last Sunday of September is the Gold Star Family Day which honors mothers and families who lost a service member in the line of duty or in support of military activities. Don't forget to honor them because they made sacrifices, too.

It is so vital that we are the **"Voice For Our Veteran- Not An Echo"** and we **"Serve Our Veterans with Aloha"**. Wave your flags high with Pride and Honor!!!!!!



Hospital/VAVS
Sally Ramirez – Chairman

Hello Brothers and Sisters! I hope everyone enjoyed our Statewide Training and came back with a lot of information. Thank you to all the Auxiliaries that have sent in reports. It's so inspiring to read all the reports that are coming in and seeing what is being done to take care of our Veterans. Please continue sending in your reports at least once a month. VAVS: Send in your reports to Department Treasurer "Jo Ella Menn" and a copy to me at 125 Moss Ln. Adkins, Texas 78101 or e-mail them to ram.sally74@ gmail.com. Remember August is Hospital month so please make sure that you get our Hospital Pledges in. This will determine how soon your VAVS Representatives receive their funds to help our Veterans.

Program Goals:

1. Spotlight Suicide Prevention Awareness and Mental Health issues. Let's not forget that September 10th is "Worldwide Suicide Awareness Day".
2. Volunteers, Recruitment, Recognition & Support. The first week of the community Volunteer Recruitment

Weeks is coming soon. Show how much fun and self-rewarding it can be.

3. Veterans Voices Writing Project-subscribe for your Post, once your Veterans start reading the magazine, they may be inspired to write their story.

Thanks to all the volunteers, you have taken on a very important task and that is to make sure our Veterans are cared for. I respect every one of you for everything you do for our Veterans.

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



YOUTH ACTIVITIES
Laurie Hayes Wiley – Chairman

Our 2019-2020 year is in full swing and I would like to thank the Auxiliaries that have sent in their reports. Awesome job!

Summer is slowly coming to an end for our kiddos. Some have already started school and then others who have not yet started. Whichever the case may be, start the school year with your youth reading books.

Patriotic book would be great for **National Read a Book Day – September 6, 2019.**

I would like to remind everyone about the New Programs this year. **Patriotism through Literacy.**

Promote literacy - Volunteer to read historical or nonfictional picture books at the local library.

Donate historical fiction or nonfiction books to local schools, shelters or libraries.

Find a library at the school or in the community and have a story time set up on the weekends or evenings.

Host a read-a-thon and award small prizes (pins, stickers) for number of books or hours read.

Illustrating America:

1. You can host contests for students in grades K-2, 3-5 and 6-8.
2. There is one National winner in each grade division, with awards for first second and third place. Approach your local schools with information available under "Youth Activities" at www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources

If you need any help please do not hesitate to call or text (713) 247-9591 or email law4378@outlook.com

**"WE ARE A VOICE FOR OUR VETERANS,
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**BUDDY®POPPY/NATIONAL HOME
FOR CHILDREN
Belinda Torres Chairman**

Now is the time to take action. Refer to your National and Department program books to be 100% in program participation. All “Buddy”® Poppy and National Home promotions conducted after May 10, 2019 to the present need to be reported. The fillable report can be found on www.texasvfwauxiliary.org under programs. Once you complete the report, e-mail or mail via US Postal Service to me.

Your District meeting dates have been set. Participate in your District “Buddy”® Poppy contests based on your District Chairman’s selected theme. Use your “Buddy”® Poppy displays at your post and community events. “Buddy”® Poppy promotional supplies are available from VFW Emblem and Supply Catalog. You can purchase “Buddy”® Poppies from VFW State Headquarters in Austin. The Post can also provide Poppies for your decorative uses in assisting them. Prepare ahead to enter the “Buddy”® Poppy contest at State Convention in June 2020.

The National Home for Children depends on us for financial help. Please send in your donation of 10 cents per member or more as of June 30, 2019 membership. Pay through MALTA, “Make a Gift” tab, or mail a check to the VFW Auxiliary, 406 W 34th Street 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111, check memo; National Home, Health & Happiness.

Plan to have a National Home fundraiser for the statewide project, “Where Most Needed Fund”. The National Home serves military and veteran families in need. Be prepared with literature, the National Home stories from YouTube, and their Help Line resource (800) 313-4200 at your fundraising event.

National Home Life Member Recruiters send me an e-mail to get acquainted. You can recruit members of the VFW Auxiliary and the VFW. You can also recruit nonmembers as National Home Life Member Associates. We all have people in the community that volunteer to help us at Post events, but are not eligible to join our organization. They can become National Home for Children Life Member Associates. Let’s help the National Home with new life member sustainers.

Your Auxiliary can earn National Awards! #1. Every Auxiliary that uses the “Buddy”® Poppy in another VFW Auxiliary National Program will earn a citation. #2. Every Auxiliary that promotes the VFW National Home for Children through education and publicity will earn a citation. Auxiliaries send the report to me before March 31, 2020 on the required form found in www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources login, MALTA.

Each award has its own form to receive the citation. One \$50 award will also be given to one Auxiliary in the nation for the Most Outstanding Use of the “Buddy”® Poppy in another VFW Auxiliary program and one \$50 award to one Auxiliary in the nation for the Most Outstanding Promotion of the VFW National Home for Children through Education and Publicity. Include these promotions in your amazing fundraisers. Texas you can achieve this honor!

**“We Are A Voice for Our Veterans, Not An Echo”
“Serving Our Veterans with Aloha”**



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

Mentoring means to advise or train. A mentor is an experienced and trusted advisor. Do you CARE?

C – Catch the member when they first join.

A – Ask them to participate.

R – Remember what it felt like to be new.

E – Engage them in a program that fits them.

We are still accepting nominations for mentors for your auxiliary. Nomination forms can be found on the website under “Programs/Forms/Other Forms”. We will accept them until August 31st.

Those who have been nominated for mentorship will receive an application from us. Please complete and return these promptly.

Monthly reporting for this program is not required.

Challenge for September: Choose one member in your Auxiliary to show you CARE to your new members.

Fun dates in September for mentors:

10th – National Swap Ideas Day

12th – National Day of Encouragement

29th – VFW Day

30th – National Love People Day

If you have any questions, please contact us at:

nat_copeland@hotmail.com or bethvfwaux@gmail.com. **“WE ARE A VOICE FOR OUR VETERANS, NOT AN ECHO” - “SERVING OUR VETERANS WITH ALOHA!”**

TREASURERS

**If dues notices have not been sent out,
please do so.**

NOTES FROM SECRETARY

BYLAWS IN THE SPOTLIGHT!

Make sure that you read your Bylaws on Delegates. Delegates are required for District, State and National. We had several members attending the different levels District/State/National and they were not elected as delegates. **YES** District is required to have delegates also-- read **Sec 303** of your Bylaws.

NOTE:** Delegates hold the position for ONE YEAR in the event that something comes up for a vote later they are still delegate /alternate for the vote. If none are elected and submitted by your secretary to all three levels, your auxiliary loses input on that level. **HELP** your secretary to **HELP** You. **REMINDE THEM!** Make sure that the auxiliary knows you will or probably will attend district/state/national conventions.

OUR TWO CENTS

If you want to receive the OTC via email send an email to secretary@texasvfwaux.org requesting EMAIL. You will get it hot off the press. To receive a paper mailed copy you must subscribe: cost is \$15.00 annually and you will need to mail check to Dept with your name address city state zip requesting Our Two Cents mailing.

Small Directory

District 20 – Yolanda Chambers
160 Octovia Pl.
San Antonio, TX
210-313-2663

Program Coordinator

Andrea King
10903 Harvest Sun Dr.
Houston, TX 77055

Chairwoman of Pages

Vikki Johnson
903-271-0354

Changes

Program Book

Scholarship – Vivian Johnson
Email: cejviv@gvtc.com

State Roster

District 2 Secretary

Jeanette Clark – 3705 Martin Street – Orange, Texas
77630-2933 - Ph # 409-883-0264 – Email:
ruwacl@yahoo.com

District 30 Auxiliary 3366

President's Phone #903-257-8905

Department Office Hours

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

Department Secretary

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

Contact HQ via email or phone for questions. Use secretary@texasvfwaux.org. Phone: 512-834-9190
Marjorie – x300, Secretary – x301, Treasurer – x302

2018-2019 “Unite As One” Winners

Veterans & Family Support

Outstanding Performance – Renee Clark
Tied for 1st

Extension/Chief of Staff

Outstanding Performance – Andrea King - 3rd Place

Historian

Best Report of National Presidents Visit
Bernadette Adams – 1st place

Legislative

Outstanding Performance - Karen Jeffrey – 1st place

Americanism/Patriotic Instructor

Outstanding Performance – Susie Carter 1st Place
Best Promotion Flags Across America 1st Place

Buddy Poppy/National Home

Outstanding Performance – Janet Brown – 3rd Place

Hospital

Best Promotion Recruitment Danielle Diaz – 1st Place
Outstanding Performance – 2nd Place

Scholarship

Outstanding Performance – Annie Nickerson – 2nd Place

Youth

Best Promotion of Contest - Darlene Jurkis – 1st place

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*"If everyone is moving forward
together, then success takes
care of itself."*

– Henry Ford