



The Texas V.F.W. Auxiliary
Our Two Cents
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**Department
President**

Ramona Henson

Soaring Thru Texas



It's September already! The year has started with all of us hitting the ground running. Even though we had to cancel our Statewide Training Seminar, we are still working on getting some training to you. Please remember that your Program Teams, Chairmen and line officers are here for you if you have questions.

August was a busy month. I started my District visits with my home District on August 1. We had a remarkably successful Council of Administration meeting via Zoom on August 15th and on August 22, I visited District 5. Thank you all for your kind hospitality.

September is also a busy month for us. We will be visiting several Districts. Do not forget that Patriot Day is also September 11th. Hold a recognition ceremony to honor those who have given their lives in service to our Country.

Show our communities that we have **Honor, Courage, Commitment** for our Veterans by **Honoring our Mission to Serve Veterans**. September 18th is POW/MIA Day. Plan something

with your Post for a POW/MIA Recognition Day program. Do not forget to report both Patriot Day and POW/MIA Day to our Americanism Program Chairman.

Auxiliary Presidents, please be aware that you cannot change anything unless it is brought on the Auxiliary floor and voted on. The members have full control of the Auxiliary by exercising their right to vote. The Treasurer handles the money and carries out the wishes of the voting members of the Auxiliary.

**“Honor, Courage, Commitment
For Our Veterans”**

**“Honoring Our Mission To
Serve Veterans”**

SCHOLARSHIP
Norita Jackson-Chairman

We have always been able to say that there was no need to reinvent the wheel when approaching our program; however, we find ourselves in unprecedented times and faced with unique challenges and opportunities (depending on how you choose to look at it). We can now be as creative as we can be to get the word out to the student and teacher population regarding our premier scholarships. Now is the time to put on your creative thinking caps using social media, the newspaper, radio spots and posting fliers and pamphlets.

If you have been tasked with the necessity of sending a young one to attain higher education, you are familiar with, or have had a glimpse at the astronomical cost of attending. You have an awareness of the necessity and blessing that a scholarship can provide. The VFW and Auxiliary offer and participate in scholarship contests that help further the education of our nation's youth, our members and their immediate family members.

PROMOTE AND ADVOCATE

Traditionally, we make sure to get the information about the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essay contests into the schools at the onset of school in August, so that the teacher can incorporate the writings and recordings into the curriculum. We will have to watch the movement of the school districts in our areas and reach out to the contacts established. As a reminder this year's **Patriot's Pen theme is : "What is Patriotism to me?"** for students in grades 6-8 and must be at the local VFW Post/Auxiliary no later than **November 1, 2020**. You can find applications at:

<https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Community/Youth-and-Education/Voice-of-Democracy-Entry-Form-fillable.pdf?v=1&d=20200428T134713Z&la=en>

Additionally, the **Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contests theme is: "Is This the Country The Founders Envisioned?"** for students in grades 9-12, including home-schooled students, students in private and charter schools. The deadline for entry at the VFW Post/Auxiliary is November 1, 2020. You can find the student brochure with all rules and requirements listed at: <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>

I have listed a few more links to websites that should aid you as you navigate your program. Please see: https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/MY_VFW/Training-and-Support/Community-Service/Voice-of-Democracy-Patriots-Pen-Chairmans-Manual.pdf?la=en&v=1&d=20181204T181655Z
<https://vfw.org/uploads/Documents/Promoting->

[Youth-programs2.pdf](#) print off and has a place for the chairman's contact information.

In closing, please be mindful of the **Statewide Project "Young American Creative Patriotic Art Escrow Fund"** of not only promoting the scholarship programs for exponential growth, but also raising funds to increase the scholarship award amounts. We have to adapt, adjust, improvise and overcome obstacles. With **HONOR, COURAGE AND COMMITMENT FOR OUR VETERANS** we can be about the business of "Honoring Our Mission to Serve Veterans".

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LEGISLATIVE
Tammie Mosby – Chairman

Hello Sisters and Brothers. I am so excited. I have received reports almost every day.

I missed not getting to see everyone at statewide training. It is one of my most favorite times of the year. But just because we cannot be together in person, we can still email, call or even face time.

I want to remind everybody to be sure each auxiliary member is receiving the Action Corps Weekly e-newsletter. You can sign up online to receive this resource at www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-effort. You can also go to the resource page in MALTA under Legislative to find more tools and resources.

I will be sending helpful emails out periodically through the month. If I hear of something that might be utilized for your auxiliary, I will pass it along. Please be sure you read your program books and follow the guidelines set out for our National and State priority goals. This is one of the ways we, as auxiliary members, have **Honor, Courage, Commitment For Our Veterans** and are **Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans**.

I am here to help you in any way I can. If you succeed, I succeed. You can email me at tjpurplerose@yahoo.com or by cell phone at 936-414-5293.

CHAPLAIN RECOGNITION PROGRAM
Susie Carter

Your prayers, visits, cards and everything else you do for us is so appreciated during this time of total pandemic. We have lost so many of our Brothers, Sisters and Comrades this last two months and their families need all

our support and prayers. Remember no matter how futile things seem, with faith there is nothing that is impossible. Chaplains do not forget to send me your reports of random acts of kindness reports/scrapbooks. Final deadline is April 20, 2021.

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REPORT! REPORT! REPORT! REPORT! REPORT!  
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“Honor, Courage, Commitment For Our Veterans”

“Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans”

**AMERICANISM/PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR
Irma Solis - Chairman**

The Americanism Program and the Patriotic Program go hand in hand . When we practice one we are practicing the other. Americanism as defined by the dictionary, “is an attachment of allegiance to the traditions, interest, or ideals of the United States”. Americanism, as I believe is pride and devotion. With that being said, let us focus on providing education to the community on the American Flag.

Americanism and showing patriotic spirit is showing respect to and caring properly for the U.S. Flag. When we see the flag flying high above on the pole, our hearts skip a beat as we remember the brave men and women who went to war to make sure all of us can continue to enjoy such moments. If you go by a business or a house and you see a flag flying, stop and thank them for doing so. Present them with a Patriotic Certificate.

If you see that the flag is worn (faded) or torn, offer to replace it. If funds do not allow you to do this, ask them to give you the flag so you can retire it properly. Also invite them to this ceremony. Ask them to bring their children. A retiring ceremony not just honors our flag but is a beautiful form of showing respect for our country.

Another project that can be done is to place a receptacle to collect flags that should no longer be displayed. This can be done at the Post or other high traffic area. Of course, ask permission first. When we do projects like this, we are taking advantage of the opportunity to educate others about our nation’s prominent symbol. We are also sharing with the community the great work that this organization does to promote Americanism and Patriotism.

Americanism is very dear to my heart. I know I am not alone in this because I have started to receive many reports. Remember, only when we report do we show

others the awesome job that our auxiliary is doing. As members, we have the knowledge and expertise to educate our community. I look forward to getting more and more reports as the year goes forward.

**Honor, Courage, Commitment For Our Veterans
Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans**

**MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP
Denise DuBois – Team Leader**

Hello, Sisters and Brothers. We are going full speed ahead in spite of the COVID 19 restrictions that have been placed on us this year. Visits and phone calls have begun reaching out to the auxiliaries and the districts to see how the Mentoring and Leadership Team can be of assistance to you.

Last month, the mentoring forms were sent to your district president and if you are requesting a mentor or would like to be a mentor, please forward those forms to me ASAP. It is important to make our current and new members alike feel welcomed. Everyone likes to feel appreciated. Give that pat on the back. Say thank you!

Your Mentoring and Leadership Team wants to hear from you!

Please remember this:

“Show respect even to people who don’t deserve it; not as a reflection of their character but as a reflection of yours.”

**Honor, Courage, Commitment For Our Veterans
Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans**

**CHIEF OF STAFF
Donna James**

What Your Auxiliary Needs to do to be a Healthy Auxiliary:

1. Election of Officers and Delegates and Alternates by April 30
2. Installation Report forwarded to Department and to National Headquarters by June 30
3. Bond Application submitted for offices of President and Treasurer bonded with an indemnity company authorized by National Headquarters or the Department by August 31

4. Last quarterly audit and membership status of the VFW Auxiliary given to the Post Commander: Submitted within 30 days of becoming President
5. District Dues - Based on June 30 membership of prior year by September 30

Audit Reports:

- Period 1/1 – 3/31 due by 5/31
- Period 4/1 – 6/30 due by 8/31
- Period 7/1 – 9/30 due by 11/30
- Period 10/1-12/31 due by 2/28

Project, promotion and/or donation in National Programs, your stat sheets show your obligations for the year.

Minimum of ten members paid in order to maintain charter.

Hold at least ten business meetings per year.

Keep up with membership dues, membership need to be paid by December 31 or your membership is lapsed.

Members must be paid by June 30 to remain a member.

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**AUXILIARY COMMUNITY OUTREACH
Susie Carter-Chairman**

While emphasis is placed on core programs this year, the Auxiliary is revitalizing a program formerly known as Community Service. We as Auxiliary members often serve other organizations outside the Auxiliary and that volunteer work needs to be counted. Everything that cannot be reported to one of our core programs can be reported to the Auxiliary Community Outreach Program. Just one thing REMEMBER prior to the project participation it MUST be approved by your Auxiliary floor and recorded in the minutes.

Pages 12 and 14 of the 2020-2021 National Program book “Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans” includes the following list of suggested areas that you and your Auxiliary can participate in and report to our Auxiliary Community Outreach Program.

- Kids/Education
- Hunger/Homelessness (non-Veterans)
- Career Skills
- Elderly
- Health/Research

- Nature
- Animals

Whether you spearhead a project or work jointly with one or more civic groups or clubs, it is all about service. You need to work with your local newspapers and/or other media outlets including social media to publicize the project to ensure a community turnout and in turn, introduce others to the VFW and it’s Auxiliary. So make sure you wear your Auxiliary branded attire when you participate in any project. This program allows us to not only support our community but to also recruit new members, get students involved in our scholarship contests as well as advocate for our Veterans.

REPORT! REPORT! REPORT! REPORT! REPORT!

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**NATIONAL HOME/BUDDY POPPY
Tanya Jackson – Team Leader**

Happy September!!! As we are all aware this has been a very trying year and it will continue to be. There are still programs that need to be worked even in trying times.

VFW National Home for Children is still looking for any and all donations. This year they are hurting for non-restrictive funds; these are the funds that are used to keep all areas of the community in good working order. We send checks and they are usually earmarked for the Texas House; and that is still important; but now we need to help with other areas of the home. Please remember that this community is not funded through the government and they rely on donations from the VFW and the Auxiliary. So please continue to help support our VFW National Home for Children.

Buddy Poppy – this is a flower that is known and respected. The displays that are done for the VFW Buddy Poppy Program are always amazing. Well, this year Madam President Ramona Henson has asked for a dress made from the Buddy Poppy – I talked her into dolls with dresses made from Buddy Poppies. There was a picture sent to District Presidents that should have been shared with their auxiliaries. We are looking for dolls that are 9 – 23 inches tall. Remember that these need to be judged at the meeting before Mid-Winter. The winner is then brought to Mid-Winter to be judged at State. The winner will be announced at State Convention. The dolls will then be donated to VFW National Home for Children; I believe that they will be able to use them with the children that are in residence there.

It has come to my attention that my email and the email of my co-leader was left out of the program book so I would like to put it here, so you have it. Tanya Jackson – tanyajackson@ymail.com and Brenda Foltz – txblueeyes53@yahoo.com – please send your reports to these emails or mail them. It is especially important that we get your reports so that we are aware of what you are doing to promote this program within your auxiliary. Thank you for all that you are doing to make this a highly successful year.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Mona Benotti-Chairman

Honor, Courage, Commitment for Our Veterans in this unique time means that we must find ways to work our programs so that we serve our veterans and our communities.

We have two programs that are competitions in Youth Activities. Perhaps getting the word out is not as simple as it once was but we can find ways to make it work. Take for example **Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue** and **Illustrating America**. Advertising these programs may now take the form of using social media. I suggest starting with an email to your own membership explaining these contests. Encourage members to, in turn, share the information with their families, neighbors and at places they go. Don't forget to put the information on Facebook pages and websites. Flyers in grocery stores, on church bulletin boards and other places also help. Of course, send to schools and utilize the usual ways you promote programs. Just remember, we have to think outreach in many different ways.

Patriotism Through Literacy offers us a golden opportunity to put books into children's hands. Local libraries have had to cut funding for reading programs. Shelters, hospitals and other locations need help as well. We can assist by providing some much-needed books that inspire and promote patriotism. Another thought would be to ask your own members and friends to suggest children who could benefit from having books provided to them.

I am already seeing reports where you are working the **Statewide Project: Include the American Flag**. Two examples are having kids at a Buddy Poppy drive to hand-out American flags and having children lead the pledge at events that you have had.

Honoring our Mission to Serve Veterans through promoting our youth activities, with any media means available to us, is vital. We have much to do and so many great kids out there to share our history, our patriotism and our zest for all things veteran. More information on

all of this is included in the Program Book as well as online at our national website. Your district presidents also have materials on all parts of the program and I'm available to assist you: mlbenotti@sbcglobal.net or 817.805.3729.

HOSPITAL

Pat Kessler – Team Leader

Merriam Kubena- Team Co-Leader

Well here we are going into our 2nd month. Hope all is well and doing what you can for our Veterans in VA hospitals and nursing homes. I know it is difficult to get things done with the virus against us. We are the VFW AUXILIARY and we can get'er done.

I see by your reports some of you have sent your 50 cents per member in; if you haven't, please take care of it. I see there is some recruiting going on, awesome. That is exactly what our national program is and don't forget to get our youth involved.

Our special project is our heart pillow or/and slider pillow. I know you are all working on these make as many as you can. My plan is to take them to the VA hospitals as soon as we can start visiting them.

Right now, we have to educate everyone on suicide awareness more than ever before. Our Veterans in the hospital and nursing homes are alone and they are becoming depressed. Our Veterans all over are going through hard times with this COVID 19. Please, please educate and spread the website www.veteranocrisisline.net and the phone number 1-800-273-8255. Our Veterans need our help. Remember recruit, recruit, send me your reports and above all keep up the great work WE ARE THE TEXAS VFW AUXILIARY and we can do it.

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VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

Shawn Terry – Team Leader

Greetings from the Veterans & Family Support Team! Thank you, Madam Department President, Ramona, for this opportunity. It is very unfortunate that this year is starting out like the last one ended. However, we are Texans, we will persevere. I have incredible faith that the auxiliaries in the great State of Texas will continue to go above and beyond to aid veterans, active service men and women and their families. The VFWA continues to support the VFW Programs (Texas VFW Foundation,

Military Assistance Program (MAP), Adopt-A-Unit, National Veterans Services, Military and Veterans Services, Sports Clips-Help a Hero Scholarship, and Unmet Needs).

The State Project/Program, this year, is the Mobile Food Pantry. Each of us knows that we can do without many things, but we must have food and water to sustain life. Food insecurities is also a section that is included in the National Ambassador's Program as well as the National President's Special Project, "Stars, Stripes, and Support". Toys for Tots is included in this year's projects. However, this project is only half the year and will end with a Mid-Year Report.

Warming our Vets is also an integral part of this program. It is essential that we continue to care for and support our veterans. The details on these projects can be found in the Program Development Book pg. 63-66. Due to some unforeseen events, Brett Shayler, will not be able to continue his duties this year as co-teammate. He was a great help in the development of this program.

On another note, my phone number has changed since the printing of the Program Book. My new number is 817-776-1830. I hope everyone has a wonderful year!

Thank you, in advance, for all the hard work that will be done this year to show our heartfelt appreciation for our VETERANS!!!

**"Honor, Courage, Commitment For Our Veterans"
"Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans"**

MEMBERSHIP

Barb Koehn – Team Leader

Most of you understand, membership is the vitality and productivity of the VFW Auxiliary. We need membership to assist, support, and promote our mission to care for our veterans and their families. Without membership, we cannot do our programs and show our support for America's veterans.

National Madam President, Sandra Onstwedder's theme this year is "Honoring our Mission to Serve Veterans". She symbolizes her theme through the use of a parachute. Her membership theme is centered around the story of "Packing a Parachute". Packing a parachute is a term used for folding a piece of fabric and stuffing it into a very small bag and there is another person whose life literally depends on the fabric unfolding properly. It requires teamwork, precision, accuracy, and most importantly, it is vital to the person who will be wearing it, the difference between life and death

The VFW Auxiliary also requires a team to "pack" members into their organization and everybody is

important on that team. Membership in our Auxiliary is also the "lifeline" of our organization for the future. Every one of our members, whether they are a President, a program chairman or a member are all part of the Membership Team.

As Brothers and Sisters of our great organization, we all need to take responsibility to help each other to "pack" our parachute with new members and annual continuous members. Our goal is 101% plus.

Our Department State President, Ramona Henson, has centered her membership program with a bald eagle named "Spirit of Freedom". Her theme is "Honor Courage, Commitment". Our eagle has a very determined look, is passionate about obtaining our goal and patriotic in conducting our program. In his beak, he is carrying the eligibility wheel reminding us who may qualify to belong to our great organization. "Spirit of Freedom" will be carrying our Texas parachute over his wing plump full of those member applications you will be sending in and off he soars to National.

Texas now stands at 80.27% at this time. COVID19 should not have much impact on our membership. Pick up your phone, call your members, use the mail service to remind our members to pay their dues or talk to new members about joining. Use social media to inform people what your Auxiliary is doing, the benefits of joining, how to join, and why to join. Of course, social distancing, wearing masks and washing of hands are ways that are always helpful.

We are so proud of you, Texas, for what you have done so far. We are by no means done. Keep working hard and we shall get to 101% plus together as a team. Please, don't hold on to applications because "Spirit of Freedom" loves to soar to new heights and travel long distances to help us meet our goal.

Take a moment to look up into the sky and perhaps, you just might see "Spirit" flapping his wing at you to say, "Thank You". Remember, we are Texas Strong in Membership. UP, UP and AWAY!!!!!!!

**Honor, Courage, Commitment, For Our Veterans
Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans**



PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT

Beth Creasey - Chair

Is it hot enough for you? Austin is having a heat wave with several consecutive days with over 100-degree temperatures.

Our veterans and their families are facing unparalleled circumstances right now. With higher temperatures come higher electric bills. COVID, as we know far too well, is making it difficult for many to go to work. The ones that are able to work from home are also having to do double duty as homeschool teachers/aides to their children and yet try to juggle their own jobs. This puts a great strain on family finances. As if the toilet paper shortage wasn't bad enough, now we have the whole family eating at home, using toilet paper, and running up the electric and internet bills. We will not even talk about school supplies.

Veterans and their families have two places to turn: Unmet Needs and the Texas VFW Foundation which is also the Department President's Special Project this year. Unmet Needs falls under Veterans and Family Support. It serves servicemen and women who have a financial hardship due to their service and/or deployment.

The Texas VFW Foundation serves all Honorably discharged Texas veterans and their immediate family members who have fallen into hardship through no fault of their own and have served at least 180 days active duty. Both are grants, which means they do not have to be repaid nor claimed on the veteran's tax returns. Both focus on basic living needs: housing costs, utilities, vehicle payments, and auto insurance.

My fellow Chair for Veterans and Family Support, Shawn Terry, and I are committed to making sure you get credit where credit is due. However, we need your help. Please be sure and clearly mark the Memo field of the check/donation you submit to the Foundation via the Department Auxiliary Treasurer as to whether the Foundation donation is for **Veterans & Family Support** or the **President's Special Project**. This will help us help you.

If you have any questions or know a veteran/family member in need, please email foundation@texasvfw.org for how to apply and/or for resources in your area.

"Honor, Courage, Commitment For Our Veterans"

"Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans"

2020-2021 DISTRICT PRESIDENTS Congratulations

District 1	Judy Rettig
District 2	Carson Anderson
District 3	Heather Joiner
District 4	Brenda Whited
District 5	Beth Creasey
District 6	Zulema Garcia
District 8	Deborah Knorring
District 9	Cathy Jones
District 10	Rosie Raulston
District 12	Rene Batson
District 13	Judy Suggs
District 14	Nancy Keck
District 15	Annie Nickerson
District 16	Reba Carlson
District 17	Rita Bailey
District 18	Irma Solis
District 19	Tammie Mosby
District 20	Carmen Gonzales
District 21	Johnny Neagle
District 24	Merriam Kubena
District 25	Chiquita Parker
District 28	Nicole Moore
District 29	Johnnie Lopez
District 30	Rey Martinez

AVAILABLE FROM DEPARTMENT OFFICE

Program Books	\$10.00 + \$3.00 Postage
Training Books	\$10.00 + \$3.00 Postage
Rosters	\$10.00 + \$3.00 Postage
Small Directories	2 for \$5.00 + \$1.00 Postage

Please send money and quantity of each book needed to Department Headquarters – **Attn: Treasurer**



THANK YOU

The dates of June 27th through July 8th, minute by minute, hour by hour, will be imbedded in my mind for years to come.

The outpouring of prayers, well-wishes, condolences, texts, phone calls, emails, cards and special visitations will remain in my heart forever.

I want to sincerely thank each and every post, auxiliary, comrade, brother and sister for your support and love during the last few months. I do not know how to ever say thank you enough. Jeff and I always committed to each other that the VFW and Auxiliary was “our” organization! And, both of us had dreams and goals to serve our organization for years to come.

I will continue to honor our commitment in every way I can.

Again, thank you to each and every one of you!

Renee Clark and Family



2019-2020 National Awards

Veterans and Family Support

Best Promotion of Program
Outstanding Performance Award
Denise Dubois

Historian

Best Promotion of President’s Visit
Bernadette Adams

Hospital

Outstanding Performance Award
Sally Ramirez

Legislative

Outstanding Performance Award
Nelda Hackett

Outstanding Mentors recognized by National

1st Place Betty Royston
2nd Place Denise DuBois
3rd Place Marilyn Adkins

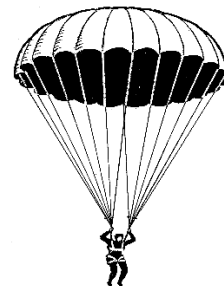
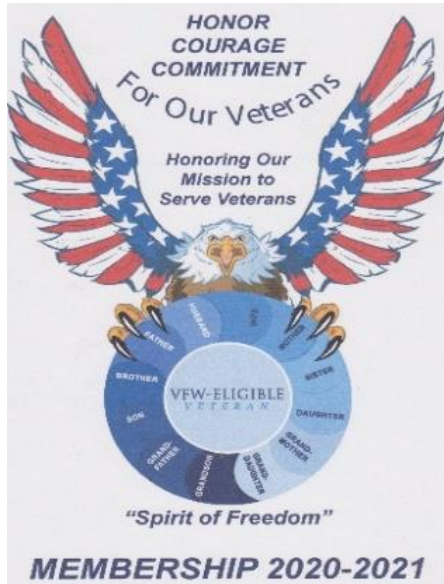
Scholarship

Best Promotion of Program
Outstanding Performance Award
Lynn Cook

Youth Activities

Outstanding Performance Award
Laurie Wiley

Donna James – VFW Post 8551 recognized for Promoting New Auxiliaries





TEAMWORK