



The Texas V.F.W. Auxiliary

Our Two Cents

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Department President

Ramona Henson

Soaring Thru Texas



As this year draws to a close, I want to take this opportunity to thank all the Chairmen for their hard work under the less than best of circumstances. Thanks, also, to the District Presidents and their Chiefs of Staff for your patience and hard work. I cannot leave out the Auxiliaries who are the backbone of this Department. It has been a difficult year and I have had to ask you all to go above and beyond, and you have. We have all pulled together in an effort to make Texas stand out.

The Line Officers and the Office Staff deserve everyone's thanks for always being there to keep this Department running like a well-oiled machine. I have seen and experienced your support and encouragement through your words and actions. Your caring hearts are quite obvious during a dark time. You certainly have my heart-felt thanks.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, Commander Dick Shawver and I have had to move our Homecoming to June 3rd. We hope everyone can come, same time, same place, just a different date. A good time will be had by all.

You all helped to make this a rewarding year. Your hospitality was unmatched everywhere I went.

I thoroughly enjoyed getting to meet so many of you and to see old friends again. I am so honored to have served as your Department of Texas President this year.

We have truly shown **Honor, Courage, Commitment For Our Veterans.**

I would like to wish our incoming President Karen Kaylor the very best of everything as she begins her year. Texas has your back!



**BRENDA
BRYANT**

**National
Conductress
2020-2021**



Brenda Bryant of Hawk Point, Missouri, was elected to the office of National Conductress of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States Auxiliary for the 2020-2021 Program Year.

She is now in the second of five offices leading to the National Presidency, which she is expected to hold in 2024-2025.

A Life Member of Humphrey-Schwerdt Auxiliary 2180, she has served the organization in many capacities including Auxiliary, District and Department President. On the National level she has served as National District Council Member, Big Ten Conference Chairman for the Membership and Safety Programs twice, National Appeals and Grievances Committee, Director of the Voice of Democracy Program and as National Historian.

She joined on the eligibility of her father, Herman Stuck, who served in the United States Army from 1950-1952 in Korea.

Brenda is a retired Special Education Teacher where she worked with High School Behavior Disability and Learning Disability students. Currently she helps with an antique store, serves as alderman in her community and is certified to perform weddings.

In her spare time Brenda enjoys crafting, refinishing furniture, learning about the past and interacting with veterans. She is a member of Military Order of the Cootie Auxiliary (MOCA), the Fleet Reserve, the Hawk Point Boosters Club and the Daniel Boone Area Retired Teachers Program.

Brenda and husband Wayne's family includes five adult children, twelve grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.



**PROGRAM COORDINATOR
Andrea King**

Many thanks and appreciation for all the hard work that each of you have put forth this year for Madam President.

There have been many obstacles and hurdles that members, auxiliaries, districts and chairmen have met head on and been successful in their endeavors.

Congratulations on an outstanding year and good luck at the National Convention.



**CHIEF OF STAFF
Donna James**

With time ticking away, we need to continue to work membership. Members that did not pay before December 31 are lapsed members (not in good standing). After June 30, they will no longer be members. Please do not hold memberships or death notices.

When a member joins, their membership will start after being accepted and entered into Malta.

If you hold membership and they need a cancer grant a year from that date, they will not be eligible if their membership was held.

After being told by several Auxiliaries that they were told to hold membership, by several Department officers, this is not so. Never hold membership or deaths. It only hurts the Department!

Many Auxiliaries have not paid their Ways and Means and obligations. Please get these completed. Ways and Means is the monies given to District Presidents and Line Officers to help with travels. If budget is not met, monies will have to be cut next year.

Reports should already be turned in as well as audits. If not, please get these completed now.

With all your hard work, Texas will shine at National Convention! We can do this.

Elections should be completed. Any member in good standing belonging to an Auxiliary shall be eligible to hold any office in the Auxiliary, District, Department, or National. Eligibility can be found in Sec. 801 page 61 in Bylaw Book.

**HONOR, COURAGE, COMMITMENT FOR
OUR VETERANS
HONOR OUR MISSION TO SERVE
VETERANS**



**MEMBERSHIP
Barbara Koehn**

As we head into springtime and some plants and flowers are starting to burst into blooms, so should our membership. Texas VFW Aux has had a bumpy and challenging road to travel this year with COVID, low freezing temps, broken pipes and many family and friends' deaths. These incidents have never deterred us before, nor will it deter us this year. We are Texas Strong!!!

Texas is standing 96.61% in Membership and 98.65% in Conference. We are so very close to 100% plus and I feel strongly that we can make it with the assistance of the District Presidents, Auxiliary Presidents and especially our members.

Let us all remember we are doing membership for our veterans and their families for support and assistance. Increasing our numbers of members in our Auxiliaries allows us to have more voice in veterans' matters and more of a workforce to get our programs completed. This year alone we presently have 174 new Life Members and 511 new Annuals.

One of the ways you can increase your membership is "Adopting A Member." Auxiliaries can pay memberships if one of your members has financial hardships, in the nursing homes, pay annual dues for a member with history of longevity (10/15/20 years) or give as a gift or a token of appreciation.

Let us continue to pack our parachutes so our "Spirit of Freedom" can pick up those membership applications as we "**Honor Our Mission To Serve Veterans**" by showing "**Honor, Courage and Commitment For Our Veterans.**"



**MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP
Denise DuBois – Chairman**

The Department of Texas has proven that we are strong in the belief of our organization and the membership is doing everything they can to continue the legacy of supporting one another as we serve our veterans and their families.

We have overcome obstacles this year with increased communication and asking our mentors to help. The leaders are being instructed on the resources available and have increased their training to include VFW Auxiliary 101. Thanks so much for being supportive of the training that was available all year long.

As we end this year, we need to continue with "Blending the Generation Gap". We must learn how our members think, where they come from and how that works with a nation and organization that are always evolving.

Remember what worked many years ago may not work now and vice versa.

"Blending generations starts with leadership and us as mentors" is what our National Ambassador quotes. Mentoring does not always come from one generation. We are all learners and teachers working for one common mission. We must learn from one another.

Thank you for all the new Mentors that have been identified this year. Keep up the great work and always remember to communicate, appreciate and have a healthy attitude. **HONOR, COURAGE, COMMITMENT FOR OUR VETERANS - HONORING OUR MISSION TO SERVE VETERANS**

AUXILIARY COMMUNITY SERVICE
Susie Carter – Chairman

As our year comes to an end remember that our work is never done.

We are a volunteer group of men and women who never give up. I know this year has been a hard one, but you have done a fantastic job in our communities and I am so immensely proud of you. Keep up all your good work and please report it.

Report forms can be found on the web site (texasvfwauxiliary.org). It only takes a few minutes to fill it out.



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

“Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans”

	<p>SHAWN TERRY Candidate for Department of Texas VFW Auxiliary Guard</p> <p>2021 – 2022 Life Member of VFWA 7835 Endorsed by District 21</p>
	



<p>2021 – 2022 INSTALLATION</p> <p><u>Auxiliary Uniform</u> Blue shirt, black slacks, jacket, closed toe shoes</p> <p><u>Jewelry</u> Collar pins, no dangle earrings or noisy jewelry</p>
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<p>2021-2022 VFW Auxiliary Statewide Training</p> <p>Crown Plaza – North Austin 6121 North IH35 Austin, Texas 78752 512-323-5466</p> <p>July 15, 2021 Registration opens at Noon COA Meeting – 3:00pm</p> <p>July 16 & 17, 2021 Training</p>



**Texas VFW Auxiliary
Statewide Training
2021-2022**

Date: July 15 – 17, 2021

Place: Crowne Plaza
6121 N Interstate Hwy 35
Austin, TX 78752
Phone: (512)323-5466 Room \$99.00 + Tax (Code VFW Auxiliary)

Cost: \$30.00 (includes training book and box lunch on Saturday)
Will include a half sandwich, chips & cookie – (you may purchase drinks from hotel)
Cranberry Chicken Ham & Cheese Turkey Sandwich
Select choice and indicate below

Deadline: July 1, 2021

Send Registration to: Department Treasurer
PO Box 15825
Austin, Texas 78765
Earmarked: Statewide Training

1. Name _____ Aux _____ Dist _____ Lunch Choice _____
2. Name _____ Aux _____ Dist _____ Lunch Choice _____
3. Name _____ Aux _____ Dist _____ Lunch Choice _____
4. Name _____ Aux _____ Dist _____ Lunch Choice _____
5. Name _____ Aux _____ Dist _____ Lunch Choice _____
6. Name _____ Aux _____ Dist _____ Lunch Choice _____
7. Name _____ Aux _____ Dist _____ Lunch Choice _____
8. Name _____ Aux _____ Dist _____ Lunch Choice _____
9. Name _____ Aux _____ Dist _____ Lunch Choice _____
10. Name _____ Aux _____ Dist _____ Lunch Choice _____

95th Texas VFW Auxiliary State Convention
Choctaw Conference Center ~ Durant, Oklahoma
Tentative Schedule

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

12 Noon – 4:00 p.m.	Vendor Booths & Poppy Displays	The Landing
12 Noon – 4:00 p.m.	VFW Auxiliary Registration/Credentials	The Landing
12 Noon – 4:00 p.m.	VFW Auxiliary Ways and Means	TBA
3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	President Reception (Invitation Only)	TBA
6:00 p.m.	Dinner with National Rep – PDP/Line Officers & Guests (Dutch Treat)	

Thursday, June 17, 2021

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	VFW Auxiliary Registration/Credentials	The Landing
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	VFW Auxiliary Ways and Means	TBA
9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	VFW Auxiliary Council of Administration Meeting	
10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.	Joint Memorial Service	
11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Past Department Presidents Luncheon	
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Joint Opening Session	
4:15 p.m.	Floor Practice (Location to be announced)	

Friday, June 18, 2021

8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	VFW Auxiliary Registration/Credentials	The Landing
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	VFW Auxiliary Ways & Means	
8:00 a.m. – 12:00 Noon	Auxiliary Business Meeting	
	Opening Ceremonies	
	Presentation of Programs	
12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.	Lunch	
1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	Auxiliary Business Meeting & Nominations	
5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.	Reception with Cash Bar	Theater Reception Rm
6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.	Awards Banquet	Grand Theater

Saturday, June 19, 2021

7:00 a.m. – 8:40 a.m.	VFW/Auxiliary Incoming Council Pictures	The Landing
8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	VFW Auxiliary Registration/Credentials	
8:00 a.m. – Noon	VFW Auxiliary Business Meeting and Elections	
	Memorial Service	
	Presentation of National Representative	
	Election of 2021-2022 Department Officers	
2:30 p.m.	Meeting Closed	
4:00 p.m.	Installation	
5:30 p.m.	Joint Reception	

Sunday, June 20, 2021

SAFE TRAVELS