



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

Ramona Henson

Soaring Thru Texas



“Honor, Courage, Commitment For Our Veterans”

I hope you were able to attend our abbreviated VFW State Convention. Hats off to Donna and her team for the extra effort it took to have our convention happen after our Crowne Plaza and Doubletree hotels were commandeered for Corona Virus patients. You had an outstanding year and I will do my best to fill those shoes. Welcome to the 2020-2021 VFW Auxiliary year!

Thank you to the members of the Department of Texas for electing me to lead this great organization for the ensuing year. I am looking forward to my District visits and getting to know all of you. Our Statewide Training is scheduled for July 17-18; we hope to see you there.

Our challenge is to increase our rapidly declining membership; Texas is still low in male membership. Be sure to look at the Membership Wheel and get everyone signed up and online with MALTA. Carry membership applications (VFW and Auxiliary) with you at all times. Once you get a new member to join, make them feel appreciated by involving them in the Post/Auxiliary functions. Always keep in mind, that our number one goal is to care for our Veterans and their families.

I chose **Honor, Courage, Commitment for Our Veterans**, as my theme because I am the daughter of a Marine and the wife of a Navy veteran and nothing is more important to me than caring for our Veterans. So, we will be **Honoring Our Mission to Serve Veterans** as we begin this VFW year.

I encourage you to read the *Our Two Cents* newsletter each month. The program Team Chairmen have worked extremely hard to bring these programs to you and they will be using it to remind you of deadlines, projects, etc. Even with the constant change we can make this a year to remember the journey IS the reward.

“Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans”

AUXILIARY COMMUNITY SERVICE

Susie Carter – Chair

Auxiliary Community Outreach is volunteer work performed by one member, a group of members or our Auxiliary for the benefit of our community or its institutions.

Auxiliary Community Outreach can:

- Be performed by people of any age, skill set or ability level.
- Benefit any group of people such as children, senior citizens and those with disabilities.
- Benefit animals, the environment and public spaces.
- Be done in communities of all types and sizes (rural, suburban and urban, small and large).

Benefits received from volunteering for Auxiliary Community Outreach:

- Helping others
- Learning new skills
- Career advancement
- Increased confidence
- Meeting new people
- Fighting stress and depression]
- Developing a strong sense of purpose
- Personal growth
-

Start planning your gig event (Open House or Family Freedom Festival) now and make it the biggest and best Texas has ever seen.

Don't forget it is important that at the beginning of our program year we make a motion on our floor that "When member(s) volunteers their time for a civic program, school program, youth, program, etc. they are representing the VFW Auxiliary and that the member(s) report their hours served to the Auxiliary Community Outreach Program."

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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”

LEGISLATIVE

Tammie Mosby – Chair

WOW! What an exciting year this is going to be for legislation. We are all seeing times never before seen our country. It is more important now than ever that we “Get Out the Vote.”

Legislation is literally changing by the minute as we charter these uncertain times. It is most important that we take care of our veterans. Be sure that everyone in your auxiliary is familiar with the priority goals. Each District President will be given this information. District Presidents, it is up to you to be sure each of your auxiliaries have, and understand, this information.

Please 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.

Just imagine if every auxiliary member helped one person to register to vote, how much louder our voices would be to elect people into government that could pass legislation favoring our veterans. 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.

NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

Nelda Hackett - Chair

The Department of Texas VFW Auxiliary continues to offer a Nursing Scholarship. Many of our veterans need the skilled and talented services of compassionate nurses. To fulfill this need, there must be nurses available. We continue to need nurses with a Bachelor of Science or a master's degree. Nurses work extremely hard and, at times, have exceedingly long hours; it is an honorable profession and one to be proud of.

The VFW Auxiliary is again offering a great scholarship program. Remember, the main requirement to this scholarship: the student must be entering the senior year of their program. The District Presidents will contact all the Nursing colleges and Universities in Texas. You will also need to advertise in your local newspapers, and on social media. It is very important that you promote the Nursing Scholarship Program and remember to report everything you do. If you are aware of any nursing students, (possibly in your own family), that are in their Jr.

Year this year, 2020-2021, please make a special effort to share this information with them.

The primary goal for each auxiliary is to Honor the Nurses. They appreciate any effort you make, provide a cake, cookies, hand written cards, gift cards, etc. Nurses are located at our Doctors' office, surgery centers, hospice, VA hospitals, cancer centers, emergency rooms, and more. Please don't forget about the night shift nurses! Please contact me for any questions at 830-660-9606 or neldal52@swbell.net. **Honor, Courage, Commitment For Our Veterans – Honoring Our Mission to Serve Veterans**

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Mona Benotti - Chair

It's invigorating to be chairing our Youth Activities program as we show **Honor, Courage, Commitment for Our Veterans** this year. Special thanks to President Ramona for allowing me this privilege. We have many opportunities to work with our youth in a variety of ways so let's get started.

Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue is a new program for children 6 - 16 years old. It is an individual singing contest featuring our National Anthem. Rules are simple – the child must sing the words of the anthem as they are written. However, the style of delivery is the youth's choice. Youth entries are due to you by March 31. You may host a local contest and submit your auxiliary winner to the department chairman by April 15 for statewide judging. **Patriotism Through Literacy** continues to showcase books and increase students' love of reading. This is a popular program and does not involve a contest. Costs can be kept low as the purpose is to promote and support reading. What a great way to get involved with reading circles at the local library, school or children's event. **Illustrating America** brings art competition that is judged on a patriotic theme and technique. There are three age divisions: grades 1-2 (notice K is no longer in this competition), 3-5 and 6-8. Entries to your local auxiliary are due March 31 with your winners to the department chairman by April 15.

Statewide Project: Include the American Flag is about incorporating the American flag into all youth activities in which your auxiliary hosts or participates. Think of handing out flags, reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, explaining flag etiquette.

There's more. Working with youth groups (schools, scouts, Post events, community events) is still very much part of who we are. You have ways to recognize those groups through our **Youth Groups Supporting our Veterans** citation. This is for groups – like those Scouts

who brought our veterans cookies or helped us with an event at our Post – and the auxiliary submits the information to the department youth activities chairman via a form provided by National. National then mails the youth group their citation.

Individual youth can also be recognized for their help with patriotic events like Veterans Day or doing chores for a veteran. Award forms are available from National for you to print, fill out and deliver to the individual youth. It's called the **Patriotic Youth Award**. Don't miss it.

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 will also have materials on all parts of the program and I'm available to assist you: mlbenotti@sbcglobal.net or 817.805.3729. Here's to a great year!

MEMBERSHIP

Barbara Koehn – Team Leader
Kathy Marrelli – Team Co-Leader

What is the life blood of any organization? It is the members. As members of the VFW Auxiliary, we are truly fortunate to belong to such an elite organization. Its member strength is 470,000, with 3,800 Auxiliaries and a "bushel basket of volunteers" everywhere ready to serve the Veterans, their families and offer strong support.

We as members, share a common goal:

***Invite** and encourage prospective individuals to see what the Auxiliary does and to help them be able to understand that there is something for everyone. Be knowledgeable of the programs, the organization and be able to explain the benefits of being a member.

***Include** all members (new and seasoned) all the time. Find out what and how they want to help and give them a chance to do what sparks their interests.

***Invest** in all who have joined the organization. This can be done by mentoring auxiliary members, cooperation with the VFW Post Members and encouraging members to pay dues early.

We are living in an uncertain time, where things have changed, methods have changed – but the importance is even greater now to help those that are unable to pay their dues because of financial issues or daily living struggles. Auxiliary members or an Auxiliary can "Adopt" a member and pay their dues.

Membership is the growth pattern that must be maintained – it has no deadline. Members can be signed up at any time, any place – be prepared and be ready to put the effort into the continued growth of the organization.

Please read the Membership Program, note the dates on reports and the dates for membership quotas.

As we delve into the unknown this Auxiliary year, “Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans” and having “Honor, Courage, Commitment For Our Veterans” will enable us to be able to continue with the strong support that is needed.



AMERICANISM Irma Solis – Chair

It is such an honor to be this year’s 2020-2021 Americanism Chairman/Patriotic Instructor for the State of Texas. I look forward to a new and exciting year. As we all know, Americanism is a theme that is with us 365 days a year. Every day brings us an opportunity to exercise and practice our Americanism in our country, in our community, in our schools, in our auxiliaries, and in any of our other organizations.

We do this by getting our children, our family, our neighbors, our friends, in other words, everyone involved. Age and distance is not an obstacle. We are in the age of technology. Let us use it to our advantage by making use of these devices. Let us keep in mind that children learn from the older family members and older members learn from the wisdom of our elders. We can reach across the room or across the miles to gain or give education that will continue to make America great.

The year has many holidays that we can observe or celebrate. When we do this, we learn, or we teach the significance of the days. Each holiday has its particular reason for having been designated. We have July 4th, Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Loyalty Day and many more. Participation is what speaks loudly of our Americanism Pride.

Through the Americanism Program, we show support for our nation’s veterans, their families, and any service member. Post and Auxiliaries have many goals in common. When we develop communication with them, there is much we can learn about what they do and why they do it. Americanism is developing an understanding and appreciation of what the veteran stands for and supporting them in their endeavor. The more our efforts are combined the better our success will be.

I look forward to this new year. I feel excited and await with anticipation all the reports that will be submitted to me, as Americanism Chairman/Patriotic Instructor. Remember, only when you report will we know all the wonderful activities you are doing. Do not do your work and keep it in your circle only. Report so that all can all root for you!

NATIONAL HOME/BUDDY POPPY Tanya Jackson – Team Leader Benda Foltz – Team Co-Leader

We are so excited to be starting a new year. This is a program that is going to be dealing mainly with your relief fund. As you are aware all monies from Buddy Poppy distribution are to be placed in your relief fund. The relief fund is what is used for helping our veterans and their families. Please remember to get with the VFW to order your buddy poppies for your Buddy Poppy drives. With the current situation making fundraising difficult you may need to come up with a creative way to hold your future drives. Buddy Poppy drives can be done at any time during the year. Get the word out in your communities to let them know where you are so that they can come and get a Buddy Poppy.

The VFW National Home is dependent on monies from the VFW and VFWAUX. At this time, they need “unrestricted funds”. These are the funds that the home uses to do what needs to be done for the entire community. For example, we send money earmarked for the Texas House, that money can only be used for the Texas House. But, if there are unrestricted funds, that can be used anywhere. According to VFW National Home this is their greatest need this year.

We have two statewide projects. For Buddy Poppy we want a doll, 9-23”, with a Buddy Poppy dress. Please be creative and use your imagination to make an amazing doll. All dolls will be donated to the VFW National Home. For VFW National Home our statewide project is – Donating monies for “UNRESTRICTED FUNDS”, that is what is most needed. If you have questions or concerns feel free to contact either myself or my Team Co-Chair, Brenda Foltz. Our information is in the program book.

CHIEF OF STAFF

Donna James

The National Organization requires only five (5) things of an Auxiliary:

1. Auxiliaries should have at least ten (10) business meetings per year. **(Sec. 210)** Five (5) members in good standing (of that Auxiliary) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. **(Sec. 212)**

2. Dues should be paid by at least ten (10) members on or before February 1 of the current year. **(Sec. 207)**

3. Quarterly Audits by Trustees must be submitted. **(Sec. 814) (4 audits)**

4. Officers elected, installed, and reported to National Headquarters no later than June 30. This generates the bond application via email. **(Sec. 804A and 806A)**

5. The offices of President and Treasurer must be bonded by August 31.

These essentials must be completed.

Auxiliaries have obligations to complete with Department. These monies support our programs. The stat sheets keep Auxiliaries updated on their progress. If you have paid and an “x” is not indicated, call Department office with check number to correct or figure out the problem. There are 191 Auxiliaries in Texas and they stay pretty busy.

We need to continue to work to add new members and Auxiliaries. We need to contact bachelor posts and request a meeting to discuss getting an Auxiliary instituted. The stronger our membership, the stronger our voice is for our Veterans.

HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS

Bernadette “Bernie” Adams

I am honored to be the Chairwoman for the 2020/2021 year. Thank you, President Ramona, for having me as your Historian/Media Relations person for another year.

I will be going back to my Special Project from two years ago. I realized I did not have the history of a lot of VFW Posts in Texas, and I would like to complete that this year. All Auxiliary Presidents have appointed someone to be their Historian/Media Relations person, so why not find out the history of your post and send it to the newspaper?

Do your who, what, where, when and how. Who started the post, What took place, Where did they find the land, When was it built and chartered and How did it get its name? Then add your Auxiliary charter date and who started that?

If the Auxiliary has already completed their history in previous years, this will not be required. I will send out a list of posts who need to complete this to the District Presidents, so they can notify you and follow up on your progress.

I am looking forward to serving as your Historian/Media Relations Chairwoman and serving with **“HONOR, COURAGE, COMMITMENT FOR OUR VETERANS”**, while **“HONORING OUR MISSION TO SERVE VETERANS”**

HOSPITAL

Pat Kessler – Team Leader

Merriam Kubena – Team Co-Leader

I would like to give a big thank you to Madam President Ramona for asking me to chair this program. It is incredibly challenging but on the other hand a rewarding program that is helping our veterans and their families. We want to get started running because that is the only way to help our Veterans.

First, we need to get our hospital pledge in, that is 50 cents per member based on July 1, 2020 membership.

Our National program is recruit, recruit, recruit. Keep actively involved those that have already volunteered and include our youth. Our veterans in our VA facilities and non-VA facilities, our hospitals and our nursing homes need to see us; some of them may have no family and we are all they have to brighten their day. Don't forget national holidays and their birthdays.

We have Suicide Awareness, that should be an everyday program. I included a tear drop pattern in District Presidents' packets. Get this out to all your Auxiliaries and spread the word. Promote Veterans Crisis Line which connects Veterans in Crisis and their families and friends 1-800-273-8255 and press 1, chat line at www.veterancrisisline.net or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Our special project this year is for each auxiliary to make a heart or slider pillow or both. The heart pillow is for heart patients such as those that have had open heart surgery or pacemakers. The slider pillow is for patients that have had abdominal surgery. Please bring them to Mid-Winter so we can take them to the VA hospitals and clinics. Make as many as you can. We need to have an overabundance of pillows for our veterans. The patterns and dimensions were in your District Presidents' packets.

Let's get the word out on helping our women veterans with their health care. You need to check out what your

region has to offer its women veterans and then get involved. Learn more at www.womenshealth.va.gov.

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

**MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP
Denise DuBois – Chair**

A new year for the Department of Texas has begun. I am certain that we will have a great year under the leadership of Dept. President Ramona Henson. It is an honor to have been chosen as the chairman for the Mentoring for Leadership Program.

I have selected a team of leaders who will assist in extending the hand of friendship to those who have been inactive or those just needing a bit of encouragement. We will build strong relationships. We will assist in communicating and motivating members to better understand the organization.

We will listen, watch, and be there for where we are called. We will encourage all members to be proud of their skills and accomplishments. We will ensure there is a positive member experience. We will offer learning opportunities and develop member confidence.

We will communicate with the Department Chief of Staff and the President when we are notified of concerns. We will discuss issues amongst the team to hear all approaches before immediate decisions can be made. **We will be a TEAM!**

If any of the auxiliaries are having concerns, please know that you can contact me at any time, the team is here to help you. My contact information is in the Program Book. Good luck in the new year!

**“Honor, Courage, Commitment for Our Veterans”
“Honoring Our Mission to Serve Veterans”**

**VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT
Shawn Terry – Team Leader
Brent Shayler – Team Co-Leader**

We are honored and excited to be the Veterans & Family Support Team for the Department of Texas. Thank you, Madam President, Ramona, for this opportunity. Our veterans and their families need to know that they have brothers and sisters throughout the state of Texas who continue to strive to help them. We are part of the family, and families take care of their own, now and into the future.

The Mobile Food Pantry is one of the projects for this year. The auxiliary, in working with a local/area food bank

will establish a mobile food bank at a designated location. It could be your post or another location if you do not have a post home. The goal is to establish a regularly scheduled time and place so that veterans, active service men and women and their families can go and receive food. There will be more information and a phone number to call to find a food bank in your area in the Program Book.

Madam President, Ramona, asked that Toys for Tots be included in the program this year. We were more than happy to include it. We can't forget the little ones! Get with your local or area Marine Toys for Tots and establish a drop off point for the toys that will be distributed to families in need so that their children have something to open Christmas morning. This project will only have a Mid-Year Report.

Warming our Vets is extremely important when it comes to helping our veterans, and it is still part of the program for this year. Collect clothing items, handkerchiefs (“bless you” rags”), crocheted items, and plastic sleeping mats.

Auxiliaries will continue to support the VFW Programs which include The Texas VFW Foundation, Military Assistance Program (MAP), Adopt-A-Unit, National Veterans Service, Military and Veterans Services, Sports Clips- Help a Hero Scholarship, and Unmet Needs.

Brett and I are very committed to serving our veterans with Honor, Courage, Commitment for our Veterans, and we know that all of you are, too. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if you need help or have any questions. We are looking forward to a fantastic year.

**PROGRAM COORDINATOR
Andrea King**

Welcome to another VFW Auxiliary year! If you were able to attend our State Convention last month, you will agree that under the circumstances, the abbreviated convention was outstanding! I hope you are all as excited I am to get started on the right foot. That first step should be to make plans to attend the Statewide Training Seminar in Austin July 17th & 18th. Your Department Chairmen have been working hard to bring you this Training so please plan to attend and pay close attention.

Your President, all your officers, and your committee chairs all need a copy of the Program Development Book. The more who know the expectations, the more who will work with confidence to reach our goals. Use your Program Book as a resource and ask questions of the Department Chairmen, the Line Officers, or me as you need.

Department Chairmen use your reports to keep the National Headquarters informed of what we are accomplishing in Texas. So, please make sure to report everything you do. We are all working toward the same goal, to make Texas stand out and to remind everyone that **“Honor, Courage, and Commitment for our Veterans”** is **“Honoring our Mission to Serve our Veterans.”**

CHAPLAIN RECOGNITION PROGRAM
Susie Carter - Chaplain

Each of the Auxiliaries/Districts need to thank your Chaplain at your next meeting. He/She is the one that remembers us when we are sick, keep us in their prayers every day, hold our hands in times of sorrow, has a shoulder for us to cry and much more. A simple thank you for all that you do would make their day.

Chaplains don't 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”

OUTSTANDING DISTRICT PRESIDENT
Vicky Dickerson – Chair

District Presidents, you have been elected by your peers to lead them through these trying times. They look to you to set the example and hold them to a course to continue with our long tradition of **Honoring our Mission to Serve Veterans**. Your leadership over the next several months will help our organization provide support services and simple companionship to our veterans, their families, and their caregivers.

You are elected to lead, not rule. Help and encourage your Auxiliaries to complete their programs and reporting in a timely fashion.

Answer (or return) calls and e-mails promptly. Communicate changes and events with your group via e-mail or other media.

Lead by example in how you treat your veterans and peers. Be the solution, not the problem.

I am confident you will all do an outstanding job as District President, but there will be only one award per

group. Read your program. Know the steps you need to reach outstanding District President. Lead your Auxiliaries to successful participation this year, and you will succeed as well. Report, report, report. Tell me how you worked to assist your District and your veterans.

Best of luck to each and every one of you for an awesome year. And remember to serve with **Honor, Courage, Commitment For Our Veterans**.

WAYS & MEANS TEAM
Deborah Knorring & Sherry Craft

We are honored to have been appointed as Team Ways & Means for 2020-2021.

“The secret of getting ahead is getting started”, by Mark Twain. So how do we get started?

The State VFW Auxiliary's budget is funded by ways and means. Wow!!!!!! That means it takes each and every Auxiliary member to help us pull together as the great state of Texas to Get-R-Done. With the start of a new year we are implementing the VFW Auxiliary General Store. Check out the variety of awesome items that have been donated, made, and bought this year. We will be selling cold drinks and much, much more.

It is imperative that each District President encourage their auxiliaries to **sell-sell-sell!** If we fail to reach our budget goals the VFW Auxiliary of Texas will fail our Veterans. We are the lifeline for our Veterans. In order for our Officers to Travel or promote programs they need financial assistance.

It essential for our organization to be the fore front in our community, both local and statewide. Growth cannot be achieved without your support. Reach outside of your Auxiliary to the community to distribute raffle tickets, lottery calendars, and pins. This will lead to a successful year.

Always remember the obligation you took when joining this organization. We are asking you to hold to your promise made as a volunteer to promote this program.

Program Participation deadline is due by Mid-Year Convention i.e. raffle tickets, lottery calendars, pins, district baskets, grab bags and scratch-offs.

We cannot wait to see all of the new faces for the upcoming year. Come by the General Store so we can meet and greet you. Ways & Means will accept any donations to be sold.

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

OUTSTANDING AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Betty Royston – Chair

Welcome to our 20/21 year of “**Honor, Courage, Commitment, for Our Veterans.**” You, as an Auxiliary President, may make or break your Auxiliary. Read the message below and follow the hints on being Great and an OUTSTANDING AUXILIARY PRESIDENT.

BE A LEADER, NOT A BOSS

A Boss knows everything. A Leader admits mistakes.
A Boss tells people what to do. A Leader shows how to do things.
A Boss gives orders. A Leader gives advice.
A Boss demands respect. A Leader earns and deserves respect.
A Boss rules with threats, not love. A Leader shows Human Kindness.
A Boss depends on hearsay. A Leader investigates.

President Ramona and I, as your Chairman, ask each of you to be a Leader, not a Boss. Reminder to read your page in the Program Book for information on what you need to report to me monthly. No Mid-Year Report nor an End of the Year Report. **REPORT MONTHLY.**

Let us work together and make Texas have an OUTSTANDING YEAR.

Remember our National President’s theme “**Honoring Our Mission To Serve Veterans.**”

PRESIDENT’S SPECIAL PROJECT

Beth Creasey - Chair

Honor. “Honor the fallen by helping the living.” or “Texans taking care of Texans.” How many times have we seen that in a VFW Post or heard one of those phrases? VFW members remembered what it was like to be deployed and hear how the hot water heater had burst and flooded their home; how it felt to feel helpless to assist because they were not home. The Texas VFW Foundation was created by them for that very purpose: to take care of our own. It’s what we do.

Courage. It takes courage to ask for help. The Texas VFW Foundation staff know that. Therefore, each applicant, even if they do not qualify for financial assistance, is pointed in the right direction for the appropriate help. “No” just doesn’t mean “No”. It means that even if the Foundation can’t help, they’ll help the veteran find someone who can. It’s what they do. What does the Texas VFW Foundation’s help look like? Mostly, financial assistance when a veteran and/or their family

finds themselves in a financial hardship they are not able to handle on their own. There are other ways. Visit www.texasvfw.org/foundation for more information and how to apply.

Commitment. How committed is the Texas VFW Foundation? The Texas VFW Foundation has distributed over \$5,000,000 in grants to veterans. That is just for one program. Support from the VFW and its Auxiliary are why the Texas VFW Foundation did not shut down during COVID-19 but continued to operate and serve remotely during a time when other agencies were not able to assist. The Texas VFW Foundation also deployed cash assistance totaling \$100,000 during Hurricane Harvey. It’s what they do.

What can you do? Your challenge is to continue to make a difference in a veteran’s life. Help stave eviction, help stave disconnection, help prevent repossession, help prevent cancellation, and most importantly, help the veteran heal by making sure he/she can continue to provide a home for his/her family. No veteran’s physical or mental wounds will heal if they feel they have let their family down by not being able to pay for housing.

Make a difference by fundraising for Madam President’s Special Project. Make sure to earmark the donation with the Veterans’ Assistance Program (VAP) or “Where Most Needed” when you send to the Department Treasurer. Your dollars add up to make a huge impact on a veteran’s family. Send in pictures and writeups on your fundraising so that we can brag on how hard you work. If you have any questions, please contact me.

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

SCHOLARSHIPS

Norita Jackson – Chair

Greetings Department of Texas Auxiliary Officers, Scholarship Chairmen and Members, warm wishes as we commence on a new program year. I stand confident that we will remain focused on the goals and objectives ahead all the while exemplifying Madam Department President’s watchword of “Honor, Courage, Commitment for our Veterans.” All of the scholarships seek to highlight the youths’ talent, intellect, creativity, diversity, and ingenuity that recognize the VFW as the premier organization for promoting patriotism and investing in our future generations.

We always want to be about the business of *promoting* all of the scholarships by getting the literature and available information into the schools, churches, restaurants, coffee houses, grocery stores and your community youth groups.

While we are challenged by the closures and limited in person contact, we can really be creative in using social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram), posters, fliers websites and print media (your local newspaper, church bulletins and dailies) and word of mouth advertising (just to name a few). These opportunities are so valuable to the youth in our communities in giving that extra leg-up in financing their academic success.

All of the information you need for the Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy, Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest, and Continuing Education Scholarship can be accessed in the Department of Texas Auxiliary Program Book 2020-2021. All program deadlines, applications, rules, requirements, and awards, as well as promotional materials may be found at www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources.

In order to keep track of all of your hard work and efforts, please remember to *report* all of your activities and events so that your auxiliary is credited for your endeavors. Your ideas and activities are valuable to share with others for their program's success.

I am honored to have been given this opportunity to work alongside each of you and your auxiliaries to "**Honor Our Mission To Serve Veterans.**"

**OFFICE MAILING
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Department of Texas**

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Austin, Tx 78753

Telephone: 512-834-9190

Fax: 512-834-0747

Website: texasvfwaux.org

Department Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 7:00 am – 5:00 pm

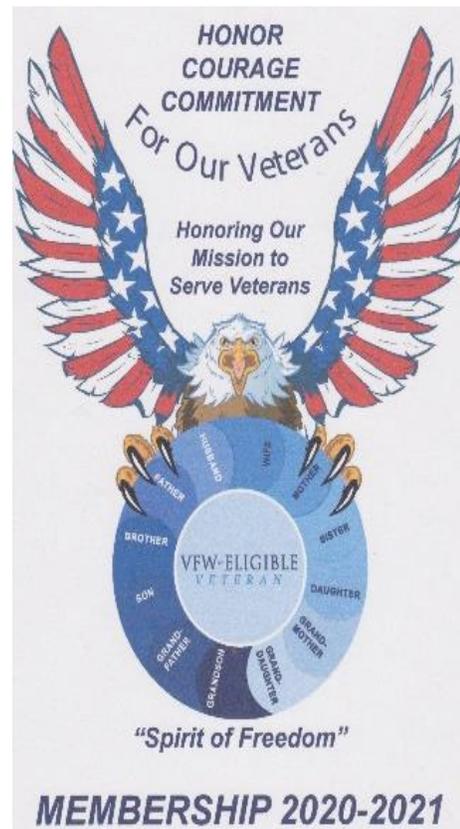
Department Secretary

Monday - Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

Subject to change for Auxiliary
travel/appointments

Contact HQ via email or phone for any
questions.

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





TEAMWORK