



The Texas V.F.W. Auxiliary

### Our Two Cents

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Editor – Kathy Marrelli

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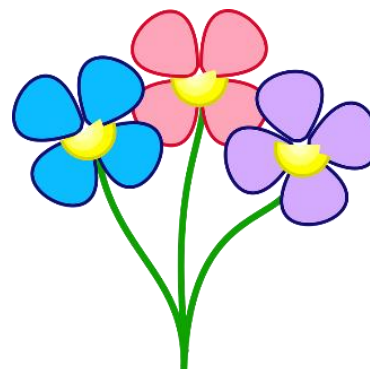
April, 2020



### *COMMENTS*

### *DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT*

*DONNA JAMES*



Texas is having a Great Year

We visited District 5 and had a wonderful time. They are so friendly and caring. They are busy working all programs helping our Veterans and Youth. Thank you to District President Merlene Peters for taking care of my husband and me.

Next on to Hawaii, we had a wonderful time. It was on my bucket list and now it is done.

We attended the National Council Meeting. Texas was acknowledged many times during programs. The Luau was so exciting. Great dancers! We had several Auxiliary members from Texas attending.

Then on to Washington D.C. It is a very busy place. Thank you to Beth and Dan for taking care of me.

We visited so many places, but my favorite was the Changing of the Guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. It is amazing. I also watched two groups of children lay wreaths during the ceremony.

I attended the VOD awards and presented Jessica with Commander King. Texas, Jessica Schlaudt, won 10th Place and awarded \$3000.00. She was so nervous but did an excellent job. We attended the Legislative meeting and heard

the National Commander-in-Chief Doc Schmitz's speech. He was very outspoken in what is needed to help Our Veterans with their benefits.

We are still instituting Auxiliaries. Killeen will be our next new Auxiliary. Port Lavaca is adding an Auxiliary by combining with Palacios.

If you have not paid for all your programs please do so.

Many Auxiliaries have not paid their Cancer, this money is used for the Cancer grants for our members. If we do not keep this paid, our cancer grants will go away. With so many members with cancer, this is so important.

I hope to see everyone at the Homecoming. Commander King and I have a lot of fun activities planned. **No meetings for Auxiliary**, just fun.

Keep up the Great Work!

### **Scheduled Events**

April 4	District 8	Abilene
April 18	District 13	Kerrville
April 23 -	April 25	Homecoming - Bay City
May 2	District 6	Rockport

## **BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME**

**Kathy Marrelli – Chairman**

### **Buddy Poppy**

Since 1922, the Buddy<sup>®</sup> Poppy has been an integral part of the VFW Community. As VFW's official memorial flower, the poppy represents the bloodshed by American service members.

Aside from the Cross of Malta, the Buddy<sup>®</sup> Poppy is the most visible symbol of this great organization.

There is evidence that public interest of the Buddy<sup>®</sup> Poppy is increasing around Memorial Day and Veterans Day. Let's strive to have public interest on the rise for every holiday and any activity planned. All are to be commended on the response to this program.

Continue to honor Veterans by the use of Buddy Poppies in all that is done and educate on the origin of this symbol.

### **National Home**

The VFW National Home serves as a living memorial to America's veterans by helping our struggling military and veteran's families. The National Home helps families succeed and identify what they need and want to accomplish.

Families can live in the National Home's Community for up to 4 years at which time they are provided at no cost, housing, education, daycare, basic needs, recreation and a case manager.

This community gives families hope, peace of mind, relaxation and the ability to get grounded and settled again.

There are many ways to be involved with the National Home. Visit the website and learn of the ways donations and contributions can be made. As you continue to promote the National Home, include Buddy Poppies and continue to educate on both, as they are ongoing programs that have no deadline. **“We Are A Voice For Our Veterans – Not An Echo” “Serving Veterans With Aloha”**



## **HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS**

**Bernie Adams**

Let's do not forget about my Statewide Project this year. I want you to interview the oldest veteran in your post and write a story on him/her. Find out where he/she was born, what year, middle and high school he/she attended, hometown, what conflict/year, branch of the service, Unit and Theater. I also would like a picture of when he/she was in the military and a picture now.

Write an article about this person and put it in the paper.

As Chairperson for the Historians/Media Relations, I would like to continue and finish my project for those who have not given me information on your post. I would like a *short paragraph* from those Auxiliaries on how the post received their name (if after the town or a person), the date the VFW Post was chartered and when the auxiliary was chartered, along with a picture of the VFW Post Home. If there have been changes (ie; building or new VFW) then I would like that picture to update my records. If you are a new Auxiliary I need to know how the post received their name (if after the town or a person), the date the VFW Post was chartered and when the auxiliary was chartered, along with a picture of the VFW Post Home and the VFW Auxiliary President's picture.

Let's get those reports in so that we can show National how it is done in Texas.

Madame President Donna, Thank you for allowing me to be your Historian/Media Relation Chairwoman. It was a pleasure and lots of fun this year.

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



## **MEMBERSHIP**

**Brenda Foltz - Chairman**

**Karlene Chambers – Co-Chairman**

Here it is only 3 months left in our year. We need to make that last push for membership. As of March 2, 2020. Texas is at 98.10% which means we need 440 for our goal of 100%.

We have 4 Districts at 100+% and 4 Districts that need less than 10 to reach 100%, and Auxiliaries we have 8 to 10 that are not far from 100%.

How to also start getting your year end reports. I will not accept any after the 21<sup>st</sup> of April.

Good Luck on every one's upcoming elections. Keep ROPING EM IN AND ROPING EM IN

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



## AMERICANISM/PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

**Barbara Koehn**

Our program is nearing the end of the year and sincerely hope you have enjoyed the many educational articles that have been written on Americanism and Patriotism.

Please take the time in the future to share this information with your different Auxiliary members, especially your Auxiliary program chairman. Thank you, Auxiliaries, for all your dedicated efforts, your committed time, and your enthusiasm in your service to

This month I'd like to explain some information about "Taps". The 24 notes of this melody strikes deeply in our emotions when it is played. There is not a time when a tear is not sliding down my cheek when "Taps" is played. The origin of the word "Taps" is thought to have come from the Dutch word "Tattoo -"Tap-toe".

Taps comes from three drum taps that were beat as a signal for "Extinguish Lights" when a bugle was not used. This distinctive melody is played at United States military funerals and memorials and as a lights out to soldiers at night during the American Civil War, in July 1862.

General Daniel Butterfield created "Taps" to be used as a signal to the end of the day and honoring his troops who had perished. Taps today is still sounded at military funerals, memorial services, and wreath laying ceremonies.

At some military bases, Taps is played as the last call in the evening. Taps is performed by a solo bugler without accompaniment or embellishment either with a bugle or a trumpet.

In 2012, Congress recognized "Taps" as the National Song of Remembrance". When Taps is played during military funerals, military members will render a salute from the beginning until the conclusion of the song. Civilians should place their right hand over their heart during this time. All attendees should stand at attention, if able.

It is so beautiful how Oliver Wilcox Norton explains Taps, "There is something singularly beautiful and appropriate in the music of this wonderful call."

It's strains are melancholy, yet full of rest and peace. It's echoes linger in the heart long after its tones have ceased to vibrate in the air."

Thank you, Madam President, for giving me the opportunity to be your Americanism/ Patriotic Instructor this year.

I thoroughly enjoyed the ride on this great journey serving our veterans and will always be a **Voice For Our Veterans - Not An Echo** and will **Serve Our Veterans with Aloha** with open arms and warm hearts.



## LEGISLATIVE

**Nelda Hackett - Chairman**

April - makes me think of blossoms on the trees, flowers and plants. Spring is here! Let's all remember our veterans and what we might do to help them enjoy the seasons as much as we do!

Our Auxiliary year is almost over; however, our work will never end. Please remember to keep promoting the VFW Priority Goals and also, let me know what you did on your reports. Do you think we can get 100% reporting on Legislative? I think you all can do it! Just work the program and report EVERYTHING you do. It is a requirement to work all programs and report them as soon as you complete the project.

You all are doing a great job working the **VFW Priority Goals** and **Get Out The Vote** programs. Please keep up the good work! I appreciate everything you all are doing.

I'm sure you are all tired of hearing me say this is over and over but, please don't forget that you can go to the VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters website and check out all the Legislative information available to assist you again this year. I appreciate all your hard work! To sign up for the VFW Action Corps Weekly:

[www.capwiz.com/vfw/mlm/signup.htm](http://www.capwiz.com/vfw/mlm/signup.htm)

For lists, concerns, and solutions, etc.:

[www.vfw.org/advocacy](http://www.vfw.org/advocacy)

For the "Guide to Contacting Your Legislators":

[www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org)

To contact your Senator or Representative:  
[congresslookup.com](http://congresslookup.com)

As I have said previously, it is our responsibility to help ensure that the Congress and Senate take care of our veterans that have sacrificed so much for our freedom. God Bless Texas and God Bless Each and Every One of You.

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

## MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP

Beth Creasey – Chairman

To some, April brings to mind spring, Easter, opening buds, and showers. To others, it means your tax return is due.

The VFW Auxiliary is much like the IRS in that your year-end (annual) reports are due. The Year-End Report found in your program book states to turn in the report to your District President by **10 April 2020**. Please copy me on that report as well. Please send them to [bethvfwaux@gmail.com](mailto:bethvfwaux@gmail.com).

Our National Ambassador's recent blog has asked us to review the process and evaluate your Auxiliary's mentoring program. I am asking the same. With upcoming elections for delegates and officers as well as appointments of certain offices and chair positions, it is a perfect time to make sure your members are engaged and informed.

Mentors should be at the ready to encourage and ease angst for those members who are new or new to the position. Seasoned members should be willing to let someone new try if they are want to.

The objective is to make sure that all members are equally ready and able to serve in any capacity should they choose to do so. This will make our Auxiliaries stronger and help prevent "burnout" or complacency in offices. Train your replacements because it is better to have them and not need them than it is to need them and not have them.

As we move to close this year and begin planning for the next, remember Benjamin Franklin's words: "Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I may remember. Involve me and I learn."

We should always be **"SERVING OUR VETERANS WITH ALOHA!"** and always **"WE ARE A VOICE FOR OUR VETERANS, NOT AN ECHO"**.



## VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

Denise DuBois – Chairman

Candace Baines – Co-Chairman

Oh my goodness! What a year this has been! Each auxiliary has done a fantastic job in supporting our programs but most of all you have and continue to take care of our Veterans and their families.

Just a reminder that your end of year reports are due to your District President by April 10<sup>th</sup> and the District Presidents will forward them on to us by April 20<sup>th</sup>.

Please get those reports in. Do not stop now, keep up the great work! We are so **PROUD** of you!

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



## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Laurie Hayes Wiley

Thanks to all of Auxiliaries that have done such an outstanding job reporting all of your youth activities. Thanks to every one of you. A special shout out to all those **great report writers!**

As the **2019-2020** reporting year is coming to a close. Remember the due dates are April 10<sup>th</sup> to the District President and to the Dept. Chairman by April 20<sup>th</sup>. Our Auxiliaries have spent many hours, money and time away from their own families, to mentor our future leaders.

- Marching in or participating in a Patriotic Parade or Holiday Parade!
  - Making cards for Veterans in homes, hospitals, or active military!
  - Supporting your youth groups in your communities Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Church Groups!
  - Passing out small flags to all in attendance at Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Veterans Day celebrations!
  - Hosting a variety of parties and awarding R.A.P. cards and coins!
  - Several thousand dollars donated to the many different Youth Groups and your local Schools! **Reminder: ILLUSTRATING AMERICA K-8 Deadlines**
- Entries received by: Local Auxiliaries > District by March 31-2020 (Deadline has passed)  
Districts > Department- April 15-2020  
Department > National Headquarters - May 5-2020

After your auxiliary judges the art work and has a 1st place winner from each age group, your Auxiliary will then send on to your District Representative, District will choose their 1st place winners from each category and then send those onto me. Now if you choose to award your entries any monetary awards those will come out of your own Auxiliaries accounts.

### NATIONAL AWARDS:

Grades K-2 First place: \$100 gift card, Second place: \$50 gift card, Third place: \$25 gift card  
Grades 3-5 First place: \$100 gift card, Second place: \$50 gift card, Third place: \$25 gift card  
Grades 6-8 First place: \$100 gift card, Second place: \$50 gift card, Third place: \$25 gift card

**I truly want to give a big Thank you to Madame President Donna James for considering me to chair this program.**

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NOT AN ECHO  
SERVING OUR VETERANS WITH ALOHA**



**SCHOLARSHIPS  
Lynn Cook – Chairman**

Hello Texas Auxiliary members! It seems this program year is soon to come to an end and this will be the last “Our Two Cents” article I will be writing as your Department Scholarship Chairman. April has arrived and we have had a wonderful year full of exciting accomplishments, events, new friendships and countless volunteer projects for our Veterans and communities. Our Texas VFW Auxiliaries and members continue to do amazing things every day. Our voices are being heard through all of our hard work and dedication which we continuously demonstrate.

Thank you for the never-ending dedication, time and love given, not only to our Scholarship program but to all of our Auxiliary programs. Great job! Now, there is still work to be done.

The March 31st deadline to local Auxiliaries for the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest has passed. Now, each Auxiliary/District must judge their entries. All first-place winners should be delivered with ‘signature required’ and received by me on or before April 15, 2020. Please remember to pack the art well before shipping. Be sure the rules and requirements were followed; submit completed applications with ALL required signatures and don’t forget the student’s typed explanation of the patriotism portrayed in their artwork. Any entries received without an Auxiliary sponsor will not be judged and any entries received after April 15<sup>th</sup> will not be accepted. Every student works hard on their entry submitted to us and it is up to us, as their Auxiliary sponsor, to help avoid disqualification. Please remember to publicly announce (social media or newspaper) and celebrate your Auxiliary’s winners and all participants! Use the [www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources) link for useful tools and forms. Our first-place Department winner will be submitted to National for the opportunity to compete for National awards totaling \$31,000! All other entries may be picked up in June at

Department Convention in Austin. Each Auxiliary member retrieving art will be required to sign a ‘Release of Art’ form before leaving. Good luck to everyone!

Another deadline passed on March 31<sup>st</sup> for “Scholarship Award for Auxiliaries, No.1” entry forms to be submitted. This is an opportunity for each Auxiliary who promoted the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest to show National what we are doing to promote our Auxiliary scholarship. The Department first-place winner will be submitted for the opportunity to win a National award for “Best Promotion of...” at our National Convention in Reno, NV, in July. All other participating Auxiliaries will receive a National citation by mail. Thank you to everyone who participated. Again, I wish everyone the best of luck!

Our monthly activity reports are important and equally important are our End-of-Year reports. I emphatically urge every Auxiliary to submit these reports on time! The deadline to Dept. Chairman is April 20<sup>th</sup> and late reports cannot be accepted as I also have a deadline to Department for National. So, Auxiliary Chairman and Presidents, get those End-of-Year reports to your District Presidents on time (April 10<sup>th</sup>)! It would be amazing to be able to report 100% participation in our Scholarship program. I said it before, we are doing great things in Texas for our Veterans and communities!

Be proud of your Auxiliary’s accomplishments and share them with others by reporting. These reports are proof. “We Are A Voice For Our Veterans, Not An Echo”. Together we are a greater voice, “Serving Our Veterans With Aloha”!

Let our voices be heard! I look forward to seeing you all in June and I wish you all a very Blessed & Happy Easter.



**HOSPITAL/VAVS  
Sally Ramirez – Chairman**

Everyone did an outstanding job at covering our program goals: Suicide Prevention & Mental Health issues, Volunteer Recruitment Recognition and Support and Veterans Voices Writing Project. Thank you for all your hard work and dedication this year.

Thanks, Auxiliaries for all you did, serving and visiting with our veterans. District President’s you’ll all be great.

Thanks for working with your Auxiliaries in making sure they got their reports in on a timely manner. It was a pleasure working with each and everyone of you.

THANKS, also, for allowing me to visit your district meetings and tour the VA hospitals and clinics. I wish I could have made them all. I was planning on visiting District 30 & 20 but due to the Coronavirus, I was not able.

So, until next month please keep safe and have a wonderful Easter.

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

**“SERVING OUR VETERANS WITH ALOHA”**



## **IRMA SOLIS**

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

Endorsed by District 18 & Auxiliary 7473

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

**Texas VFW/Auxiliary  
Department Convention  
June 17<sup>th</sup> – 21<sup>st</sup>  
Austin Texas**

Available ways to make reservations:

1. Online – [www.crowneplaza.com/reservations](http://www.crowneplaza.com/reservations)
2. Contact Central Reservations at 800-227-6963
3. Contact Reservation Manager – Lupe Amador, between 7:00am – 5:00 pm - Monday – Friday at 512-371-5235 or email:

[reservations@cphaustin.com](mailto:reservations@cphaustin.com)

**Block Code VFW**

**Candidate for National Council  
Area H  
2020-2022**

**Donna James**

**“Always Serving Our Veterans”**

**20-21  
Auxiliary Year**

**If anyone is interested in one of the following:  
Department Musician, Soloist or VAVS  
Deputies -- please contact Ramona Henson as  
soon as possible.**

***Jo Ella Menn***

Candidate for Department Treasurer  
2020-21

**Endorsed by**  
Auxiliary 8621 and District 6

I am running for Department Treasurer  
2020-2021

I will serve the Department of Texas  
to the very best of my ability.  
Thank you for your support in the past and  
am looking forward to serving in the future.

**Department Chairmen with National Programs**

**Year-End Report is due to  
Department President May 1**

# 2020 Texas VFW Auxiliary Annual State Convention Schedule

## Wednesday June 17, 2020

12 Noon	4:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Registration/Credentials	Crowne Plaza
12 Noon	4:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Ways & Means	Crowne Plaza
3:00 PM	5:00 PM	President's Reception (Invitation Only)	Crowne Plaza
4:00 PM	5:30 PM	Floor Practice	To Be Announced
6:00 PM		Dinner with National Representative (Dutch Treat)	To Be Announced

## Thursday June 18, 2020

12 Noon	4:00 PM	Vendor Booths & Poppy Displays	DeWitt/Doubletree
8:00 AM	4:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Registration/Credentials	Crowne Plaza
8:00 AM	4:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Ways & Means	Crowne Plaza
8:00 AM	9:30 AM	VFW Auxiliary Council of Administration	Crowne Plaza
11:00 AM	6:00 PM	Busses to State Capitol from Both Hotels	Crowne/Doubletree
11:00 AM	12:30 PM	Past Department President Lunch	To Be Announced
1:00 PM	5:00 PM	JOINT Memorial & Opening Session	State Capitol
6:00 PM	12 PM	Combined Hospitality	Magnolia/Dovers

## Friday June 19, 2020

8:00 AM	4:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Registration/Credentials	Crowne Plaza
8:00 AM	4:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Ways & Means	Crowne Plaza
8:00 AM	12:00 Noon	VFW Auxiliary Business Meeting	Crowne Plaza
12:00 Noon	1:00 PM	LUNCH	
1:00 PM	4:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Business Meeting & Nominations Presentation of Programs & National Citations	
2:00 PM	4:00 PM	Incoming District Presidents Pick Up Packets from Registration	
5:30 PM	6:30 PM	Reception with Cash Bar	Doubletree
6:30 PM	9:00 PM	Awards Banquet	Doubletree
6:00 PM	12 PM	Combined Hospitality	Magnolia/Dovers

## Saturday June 20, 2020

8:00 AM	4:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Registration/Credentials	Crowne Plaza
8:00 AM	4:00 PM	VFW Auxiliary Ways & Means	Crowne Plaza
8:30 AM	Adjourn	VFW Auxiliary Business Meeting Continuation of Programs Historian, Presentation of Pages, Memorial Service, Presentation Of National Representative, Final Nominations & Elections of 2020-2021 Officers	Crowne Plaza
4:00 PM	5:30 PM	JOINT Installation of Officers	Doubletree
5:30 PM	6:30 PM	State Commander & President Reception	Doubletree
6:30 PM	12 PM	Combined Hospitality	Magnolia/Dovers

## Sunday June 21, 2020 – Safe Travels

# VFW & Auxiliary Homecoming Reception

April 23 to April 25, 2020

Hotels with Reserved Rooms – Book With Group: VFW  
Room Charges are per night

**Comfort Inn & Suites (55 Rooms in Block)**  
5100 7<sup>th</sup> St., Bay City  
979-245-9300  
\$70 + tax  
Hotel has been blocked for Headquarters Only

**Holiday Inn Express & Suites (30 Rooms in Block)**  
5618 7<sup>th</sup> St., Bay City  
\$109 or \$119 + tax  
979-244-3333

**Super 8 Motel (20 Rooms in Block)**  
920 Ave. F, Bay City  
\$70 + tax  
979-323-9500

**Days Inn by Wyndham (20 Rooms in Block)**  
407 7<sup>th</sup> St., Bay City  
\$50 or \$60 + tax  
979-266-0864

**Fairfield Inn & Suites (15 Rooms in Block)**  
517 7<sup>th</sup> St., Bay City  
\$85 to \$95 + tax  
979-323-9191

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**OTHER HOTELS/MOTELS - NO  
RESERVATIONS – 1<sup>st</sup> COME 1<sup>ST</sup> SERVED**

**Hampton Inn & Suites**  
4617 7<sup>th</sup> St., Bay City  
979-245-7100

**Regency Inn & Suites**  
3712 7<sup>th</sup> St., Bay City  
979-245-5115

**Studio 6**  
5511 7<sup>th</sup> St., Bay City  
979-244-2400

**Best Western Bay City Inn & Suites**  
501 7<sup>th</sup> St., Bay City  
979-557-0678

**Candlewood Suites**  
5800 7<sup>th</sup> St., Bay City  
979-245-7500

**Scottish Inn & Suites**  
5525 7<sup>th</sup> St., Bay City  
979-557-0690

**LaQuinta Inn & Suites**  
5300 7<sup>th</sup> St., Bay City  
979-323-9095

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**BAY CITY & VICINITY RV PARKS  
NO RESERVATIONS AT THESE PARKS**

**60 North RV Park \* (Closest to VFW 2438)**  
501 Ave. F, Bay City  
979-245-6605

**Bay City Holiday RV Park**  
1803 Horn Rd., Bay City  
979-245-1803

**Bert's RV Park**  
Bay City  
979-245-2840

**Nile Valley RV Park**  
Bay City  
979-318-9717

**\*Contact has been made with this RV Park and they will not know if they have space available before November 2019.**

**Numerous other RV Parks in vicinity of Bay City. Look up RV Parks in Bay City, Texas on internet.**





*I CAN TEACH YOU EVERYTHING THAT I KNOW*

*I WILL STILL KNOW IT.*

*I CAN SHARE EVERYTHING WITH YOU*

*I WILL STILL HAVE IT.*

*I WILL LOSE NOTHING IN THE PROCESS, BUT*

*SURELY GAIN SOMETHING BECAUSE*

*WE HAVE INTERACTED TOGETHER AND*

*WORKED AS A TEAM.*