



The Texas V.F.W. Auxiliary
Our Two Cents
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Editor – Kathy Marrelli
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COMMENTS

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

DONNA JAMES

Congratulations to Texas VFW Auxiliary for a Wonderful year!

All Auxiliaries promoted Americanism in their communities. 8000 POW/MIA flags and 66,000 American flags were handed out. POW/MIA programs were presented at 174 Posts. All Auxiliaries conducted patriotic programs in their communities and schools.

Auxiliaries participated in 312 Buddy Poppy drives with Posts and 50 Buddy Poppy drives with just Auxiliary. Auxiliaries donated \$17,262.20 to National Home for Children Texas House, \$5,263.83 to Health and Happiness. \$13,175 to Where Most Funds Needed for National Home, other donations \$7,667.11 (bricks, Christmas fund, nursery, and kitchen)

Auxiliaries had 338 hospital volunteers and worked a total 20,792 hours. \$123,377 was spent on hospital projects. 98 Auxiliaries promoted Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness.

109 Auxiliaries have a Facebook with or without Post. 74 Auxiliaries have a monthly or quarterly newsletter or bulletin. 75 Auxiliaries have a website with or without a Post.

994 Auxiliary members signed up for VFW Action Corps Weekly. Auxiliaries worked hard to personally contact legislators on veterans' issues, 731 personal contacts, 3055 emails, 60 social media, 462 letters / postcards, and 753 telephone calls.

Texas has 195 members fulfilling the role of mentor. 50 Auxiliaries implemented Mentoring for Leadership Program.

847 Auxiliary members were involved in the Patriot Pen Essay Contest with 3498.37 hours volunteered. 888 Auxiliary members were involved in the Voice of Democracy contest with 3949.62 hours volunteered. 152 Auxiliaries publicized contest through newspapers, flyers, radio, and Facebook.

168 Auxiliaries participated in homeless Veterans events. 168 Auxiliaries provided direct aid to Veterans, active duty service members and their families. \$419,828.79 monetary value of donations and goods and service provided. \$194,452.21 monetary donations provided. Auxiliaries help over 7500 Veterans and Military personnel assisted.

Auxiliaries worked with 223 youth groups with 375 youth involved. 17 Auxiliaries participated in Illustrating America.

Thank you to all the Department Chairwomen who devoted a year to promoting their programs. Everyone did an excellent job.

Thank you to all the members for working your programs. We are a strong state who takes care of our Veterans, active duty, youth and hospitals.

Thank you to the office staff and line officers for your support during the year. The virus never stopped us from succeeding in our goals.

Thank you to the Past Department Presidents for your support and guidance. We, as a team make Texas proud and strong. We will always be here for our Veterans and active duty. They are the reason we are part of this wonderful organization.

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

Sandra Onstwedder

*National Senior-Vice President
2019-2020*

Sandra Onstwedder of White Cloud, Mich., was elected National Senior-Vice President of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States Auxiliary at its 106th National Convention in Orlando, Florida on July 24, 2019.



She is now in the final of five offices leading to the National Presidency, which she is expected to hold in 2020-2021.

A Life Member of Renner-Lobker Auxiliary 3306, she joined on the eligibility of her brother, who served in the U.S. Navy from 1963-1967.

She has served the organization in several capacities including Auxiliary and District President, and as Department (state) President she earned Outstanding President of the Year for her membership group. On the National level she has served as Director for the Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen and Americanism/Patriotic Instructor programs and Big Ten Chairman for the Veterans & Family Support and Community Service programs.

She is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and the Military Order of the Cooties. In her spare time she enjoys exploring the great outdoors.

Sandra and husband Charles' family includes five children, 16 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.



**VFW Auxiliary Department of Texas
2019-2020 Convention**

Sheraton Austin Georgetown Hotel & Conference Center

Tentative Schedule

Friday, June 19, 2020

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Council Meeting

Saturday, June 20, 2020

7:30 a.m.

Registration Opens

9:00 a.m.

Opening Ceremonies

Memorial Service

Program Awards

12:00 Noon

Lunch

1:00 p.m.

Nominations

Elections

Installation

Close

Safe Travels

2020 Texas VFW 100th Annual State Convention **Joint
VFW & Auxiliary Schedule**

Now being held at Sheraton Georgetown Hotel & Conference Center

Located at 1101 Woodlawn Avenue, Georgetown, Texas 78628

As a result of original Hotel locations (Double Tree & Crown Plaza) being commandeered due COVID-19 and all room reservations being cancelled and restrictions being enacted the 100th Texas VFW State Convention has been forced to move & modify our agenda and is now a

ONE day business sessions set up to allow for most to drive in and drive home in one day.

As a result we have had to cancel the golf tournament, all vendor booths, the Joint Opening, the Joint Memorial Service, the Awards Banquet and the combined Hospitality Room.

HOTEL ROOMS ARE LIMITED, FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.

List of overflow hotels attached

Online Hotel Reservation Link <https://www.marriott.com/events/start.mi?id=1589999214042&ke=GRP>

Central Reservations Phone # 800-477-3340 Mention Texas VFW State Convention

Wednesday, 17 June 2020

ALL ACTIVITIES CANCELLED FOR THIS DAY

Thursday, 18 June 2020

9:00 am - 11:00 am	Budget & Finance (Closed-invite only)
4:30 pm - 6:30 pm	2019-2020 Council of Administration Meeting (Open)

Friday, 19 June 2020

8:00 am - 2:00 pm	VFW Registration/Credentials
8:00 am - 5:00 pm	Texas VFW Store with limited items
10:00 am - 3:00 pm	VFW Business Session/Memorial/Awards/Elections/Installation/Close (Includes a grab & go lunch of sandwich, chips, cookie and drink at Noon)
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Auxiliary Council meeting

Saturday, 20 June 2020

9:00 am - 11:00 am	State Commanders Council Leadership Workshop (2020-2021 COA Only)
8:00 am - 11:00 am	Texas VFW Store with limited items
7:30 am - 12:30 pm	Auxiliary Registration/Credentials
9:00 am - Noon	Auxiliary Opening Session, Memorial & Program Awards
Noon - 1:00 pm	(Dutch treat grab & go lunch available at Noon)
1:00 PM - Close	Auxiliary Nominations, Elections, Installation and close

**We will also have N95 disposable facemasks and hand sanitizer available.
Banquet Tickets are being refunded according to method of payment.
Buddy Poppy displays are being judged virtually, check at texasvfw.org for details and instructions.**



Sheraton
AUSTIN GEORGETOWN
HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER

Overflow Hotels

The Sheraton Austin Georgetown Hotel and Conference Center boasts 222 guest rooms, including 11 suites. If your event calls for more than 222 rooms, we have several hotels in the area that can be used as overflow hotels. Below are the names of each hotel, as well as their address, phone number, and proximity to our hotel. The map on the right is a visual representation of each hotel.

For additional questions, please reach out to Marie Woodard, Group Sales & Servicing Coordinator at the Georgetown Convention & Visitors Bureau at 512-930-8132 or Marie.woodard@georgetown.org

Candlewood Suites

451 I-35
Georgetown, TX 78628
512-591-7888
Approximately 1.5 miles from the Sheraton Austin Georgetown Hotel

Holiday Inn Express

431 I-35
Georgetown, TX 78628
512-591-7890
Approximately 1.5 miles from the Sheraton Austin Georgetown Hotel

Best Western Plus

600 San Gabriel Village Blvd
Georgetown, TX 78626
512-868-8555
Approximately 2 miles from the Sheraton Austin Georgetown Hotel

Hampton Inn and Suites

160 River Oaks Cv
Georgetown, TX 78626
512-688-5300
Approximately 2 miles from the Sheraton Austin Georgetown Hotel

