



***COMMENTS***

***DEPARTMENT  
PRESIDENT***

***DONNA JAMES***

I hope everyone enjoyed the holidays and received many blessings. I have been very busy traveling around Texas. First visit District 16, my home District. It was great to be home. They always take good care of me. We had a good meeting and they are staying busy. I also attended Community Thanksgiving Dinner in Dickinson and helped serve the community.

On to District 28, District 10, District 19, District 3, and District 24, great meetings and everyone is working their programs. Thank you for all the hospitality. We spent a day at the Richmond VA Clinic with District 16. The Clinic is really busy. We spent another day in Dallas at the VA Hospital with my sweet friend, PDP Pat Murphree, Crystal Slown, and Jerry Greene. Pat Murphree is so loved by so many and dedicated to helping Veterans. District 10 took me to the VA Hospital in El Paso with lots of gifts we were able to pass out to Veterans. They are so appreciative. We spent another day at VA Clinic in Victoria. We will be adding a VAVS volunteer in the near future. Thank you to Merlene Peters, Carol Brietzke, Sally Ramirez, Marvin Brietzke, and Joaquin Ramirez for always helping me in my visits. All of you are a blessing to me.

Mid-Winter will be here before we realize. I hope to see everyone in attendance. The President's luncheon will be chicken fried steak, green beans, mashed potatoes and gravy, good country food. Make sure and get your reservations. The new podium books are available.

We delivered several plastic blankets to Denise DuBois from District 3. We delivered caps to Ramona Henson to hand out at the VA Clinic in Beaumont from

District 28. The Chairwomen helping each other with their programs. Texas is shining!

We are getting new members weekly. The Membership Banquet will be a lot of fun. I hope to see everyone there.

Mark your calendars for April 24 and 25 for Our Homecoming in Bay City. Commander Keith King and I will be celebrating together.

Keep up the good work. Our Veterans need us and we will always be there for them. Focus on helping Veterans, our mission. Remember what we were taught as children: If you don't have something good to say about someone then don't say anything.

**Department President's Scheduled Visits**

**District 21 - January 12, 2020**

**District 14 - January 18, 2020**

**Mid-Winter Roundup**

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**Peggy Haake**

**National  
Representative**

**Mid-Winter  
Roundup**

Peggy Haake of Kahului, Hawaii, was elected National 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.

Peggy is a Life Member of Wilbert Wah Hu Tom Auxiliary 3850, which she joined on the eligibility of her husband, Richard, who served in the U.S. Army in Vietnam from 1970-1971. Since joining, she has served

## **National Rep Continued.....**

the organization in many capacities, including Auxiliary and Department (state) President, National Council Member and Western Conference Chairman for the Youth Activities program. She is a Life Member of VFW National Home, Camp Trotter in Michigan, the DAV Auxiliary and the VFW Veteran's Village in Florida.

Peggy retired after 34 years with the Bank of Hawaii. In her spare time, she enjoys bowling, golfing, softball, gardening and volunteer work, as well as spending time with her dog, Brie.

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## **AMERICANISM/PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR**

**Barbara Koehn – Chairman**

Happy New Years to all my Brothers and Sisters of the VFW Auxiliary. I extend my deepest appreciation for all your devoted commitment and dedication you all have shown to our veterans in the past six months. However the year is not done. It is time to round up our resources and push forward. This is the time to re-engage with our new members to teach the Auxiliary traditions and educate them about Americanism and Patriotism on which our country stands on. It also will serve as a reminder for all the older members as well. Continue to educate our youth how to respect the flag, celebrate patriotic holidays with them and the traditions of the American way. Promote our efforts and increase participation within our community and civic organizations that foster the development of democracy, values and beliefs in what America stands for. Most importantly, stand up and fight for what is right. Our veterans sacrifice their lives for us and we need to be their VOICE not just an ECHO. Welcome them with ALOHA with outreached arms and warm hearts. We live in the greatest nation in the world, let's show how proud we are!

The Americanism Statewide Project for Texas is to visit two classrooms, one of which must include a veteran who will speak and present an Americanism topic to the youth. Topics can include flag etiquette, information on patriotic holidays, the veteran's service experience etc.

National Americanism Award #1 for Auxiliaries is for the most outstanding video promoting patriotism with community involvement. Here are the requirements. Videos cannot be longer than one and a half minutes, must include Auxiliary name, number, city and state, must use the VFW Auxiliary emblem with tagline, must include a link to website and/or Facebook for viewers to learn more and must include members who are not members of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary.

These videos will be judged on who we are and what we do, show what we do for our veterans and communities, does it include a testimonial, is it visually appealing, and does the video have satisfactory or better production quality. All videos are due by March 31, 2020 to the Texas Department Chairman of Americanism. Entry form can be located at [vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://vfwauxiliary.org/resources) (2019-2020 National Program Award Forms in the National Program book).

National Americanism Award #2 is for the best photo collage of a Family Freedom Festival 2019-2020 program year. Requirements include photos must be displayed on cardboard, foam core, or poster board, no smaller than 11x17 and no larger than 24x36 The display can be horizontal or vertical, must include Auxiliary, name, number, city and state, must use VFW Auxiliary emblem with tagline, and must include members of the community of a Family Freedom Festival who are not members of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary. It will be judged on whether it features multiple Auxiliary Programs, whether it shows community and Auxiliary members involved in an Auxiliary, District and Department Family Freedom Festival; is the imagery relevant, is it visually appealing, and are the photos clear not blurry. Entries are due to Department Chairman by March 31, 2020. Entry form can be found at [www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources).

Let's all try and be creative, artistic and show what we can do because we can be the best!

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

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## **LEGISLATIVE**

**Nelda Hackett – Chairman**

I hope you all had a safe and Happy New Year? As we start a brand new year let's all get ready to have an awesome 2020 with 100% reporting! Please District and Auxiliary Presidents; there are still five Districts that have not sent in even one report! I also know there are many auxiliaries in the state that have not sent me any reports! I cannot stress enough that we as Districts and Auxiliaries are required to work the Programs and report as soon as the project has been completed. Please contact me and I will help you. It's hard for me to believe so many of our members haven't done one legislative item this year in support of our veterans, or haven't reported what you did do? Please ask yourselves why you joined the VFW Auxiliary?

So many of the auxiliaries in Texas have been doing a great job working the VFW Priority Goals and Get Out The Vote projects. I appreciate all the hard work you are doing and will continue to do in 2020 so let's make a bigger difference in 2020 than we did in 2019!

I know this is redundant but, 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 this New Year. Our 2019-2020 Auxiliary year will be over before we know it and there is much that can still be accomplished. As always, 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

Let's all get out those blank reports and start filling them in with all the Legislative projects you have completed. 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"**

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## **VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT**

**Denise DuBois – Chairman**

**Candace Baines - Co-Chairman**

Can you believe it? Our year is half over. Your reports continue to show that the Department of Texas Auxiliaries are supporting our Veterans and their families by doing great work. Your projects and goals are AMAZING! Thanks for the reports and please continue to report.

Now that the holiday season is over, don't forget to reach out to our veterans that are having difficulty. Make contact with your VA clinics to find those struggling or in need. A small care package is most thoughtful and greatly appreciated.

We have been busy! Over 225 knitted hats have been distributed to veterans across the state. Thanks to all the Auxiliaries that have helped with the knitting. We had a great time in San Antonio at the three Fisher Houses. Christmas Packages were given to 150+ and meals were provided at all 3 houses. Thanks to District 20 for assisting.

We look forward to seeing each of you at Mid-Winter. We will be having a Hero's walk.

Thanks again for ALL you do to support our Veterans and their families.

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

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## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

**Lynn Cook – Chairman**

Happy New Year Texas Auxiliary members and family! I hope the New Year finds you all happy, healthy and ready to hustle your bustles! January means Mid-Winter Convention is almost upon us. At the end of this month we will all come together to share what we have accomplished from June to December and to gain information for the second half of our VFW Auxiliary programs for the year. Everyone did a great job assisting their local VFW Posts and Districts with the **Patriot's Pen Essay** and **Voice of Democracy Audio Essay** contests! I received some really great service and Mid-Year reports. **Thank you all** so much for a job well done!

Now it is time to double-down on promoting and fundraising for the Continuing Education Scholarship and the Young American Patriotic Art Contest. By February 15th, all Continuing Education entries must be submitted to National Headquarters. There will be (1) one \$1000.00 recipient from each Auxiliary Conference. Actively promoting this award is one of our scholarship goals for this year. We want to get the word out and encourage more participation! Next, March 31<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for Patriotic Art Contest entries to be submitted to the local Auxiliaries with District and Department deadlines to follow. Another scholarship goal for this year is to increase the Patriotic Art escrow with the "Fund the Artist of Tomorrow" project. Please be sure to report on how your Auxiliary is achieving these goals. There is still an ample amount of time for ALL of our Texas Auxiliaries to reach these goals! Remember, there will be awards given to Auxiliaries at the Department Convention in June! Please see your program books and be sure to utilize the link, [vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://vfwauxiliary.org/resources) for promoting materials, applications, rules/requirements, judging score sheets and updated information from National! I am always available to help and answer any questions/concerns you may have. Together, nothing is impossible. We have a great Texas Team! **"Serving Our Veterans with Aloha"**, **"We are a Voice for Our Veterans, Not an Echo"** and **Together Everyone Achieves More!** Happy New Year 2020!!

## **MEMBERSHIP**

**Brenda Foltz - Chairman**

**Karlene Chambers – Co-Chairman**

Let's keep going Texas we are almost there in membership.

As I am writing this article, we still have 2 District at 100%+ in membership and 63 auxiliaries at 100%+, 61 auxiliaries at 90%+. December 2, 2019 is the deadline to 95% for the award for the Dept. of Texas and January 31, 2020 is the deadline for 100% deadline.

District Presidents please remember to bring your cowboy hats, bells and bandanas to Mid-Winter with you. The Districts in the 4 divisions will need to be practicing for the skit, which each division, as a group, will be doing an elevator speech as to "How to talk up becoming an auxiliary member and the benefits of being a member and what we do for our organization and the veterans. There will also be a transmittal walk, so bring those dues with you.

Invitations will be going out for the membership banquet that will be held on Friday night.

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

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## **MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP**

**Natalie Copeland – Chairman**

**Beth Creasey – Co-Chairman**

Beth and I hope that you have had a wonderful and safe holiday season and you are ready to finish the Auxiliary year sliding in to Homeplate winners.

We have the list of nominated and selected Mentors for the Dept. of Texas Mentoring for Leadership program. They are Beth Creasey, Kathy Marrelli, Renee Clark, Donna James, Carol Brietzke, Karen Kaylor, Jayne McCormick, Patsy Kemp, Laurie Wiley, and Denise DuBois. These members have been nominated by one or more auxiliary members and have accepted the position.

Now you say what are they going to do? Well that is where you as a member or an auxiliary comes in. You can reach out to one of these mentors and ask them to assist your auxiliary or you as an individual in learning what needs to go on.

We do ask that if you need them to travel to your auxiliary that you choose one that is close to you as this is not a reimbursed travel title. I know that all of them have a special part of the auxiliary that they love the most

and you will hear more about it at Mid-Winter training. Hope to see you there.

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## **CHIEF OF STAFF**

**Betty Royston**

Happy New Year to each of you hard working District Presidents and your Deputy Chiefs of Staff. Congratulations to those of you that have completed your inspections. Kudos to the Districts who have formed new auxiliaries, continue MENTORING them, as well as training them in all facets of our organizations, as "WE ARE A VOICE FOR OUR VETERANS, NOT AN ECHO." Assist them with reporting and importance of why we report all our hours, miles, money spent, number of members working. Remember to keep in touch with your SEASONED MEMBERS, checking to see if they need assistance of any kind. They need us as much as we need them to be a working part of our Auxiliary.

We want any member to feel free to contact us for clarification on any problem you may be having, but you must go through the proper channels as printed in our By-Laws. Our names, addresses, e-mail and phone numbers are in the Auxiliary Roster. Looking forward to seeing each of you at Mid-Winter in Austin, where all Program Chairmen will be giving information on their respective programs. I will be giving advice to our Presidents and Deputy Chiefs of Staff and answer as many questions as time permits.

CONTINUE TO CONTACT THE BACHELOR POST IN YOUR DISTRICT ABOUT FORMING AN AUXILIARY, explain what an asset we can be in their programs and to assist them with reporting.

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do for Veterans and their families.

**"SERVING OUR VETERANS  
WITH ALOHA"**

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## **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

**Laurie Hayes Wiley**

Wishing you a year that's promising, exciting, inspiring and full of fun. Happy New Year everyone! Bring on 2020! I hope everyone had a blessed holiday

season. I can't tell you all how thankful I am for all your reports and the Mid-Year reports.

Illustrating America is around the corner. This is a patriotic art contest for elementary and middle/junior high school students that encourages students' artistic abilities and rewards their hard work. The contest consists of three grade divisions: K-2, 3-5 and 6-8.

There is one National winner in each grade division, with awards for first, second and third place in each grade division. Coloring sheets, digital art and photography are not accepted. The student deadline is March 31, 2020.

Visit the Youth Activities section at [vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://vfwauxiliary.org/resources) for an application and more information, including eligibility requirements, contest rules, national awards and deadlines.

It's fun to see how our youth see the world through their drawings and paintings!

### **PROGRAM GOALS**

- \*Creating/Sponsoring / Working with Youth Groups
- \*Youth Supporting Our Veterans National Citations
- \*Patriotic Youth Award
- \*Random Acts of Patriotism (R.A.P.)
- \*Patriotism through Literacy
- \*Illustrating America

### **AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES**

1. Most Outstanding Promotion of Patriotism through Literacy.

- Citation to every Auxiliary that participates in/promotes Patriotism through Literacy. Entry form (required) available at [www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources). Auxiliaries are to send entry form to their Department Chairman by March 31, 2020. Department Chairmen are to send entry form to National Headquarters by April 30, 2020. Citations will be mailed directly to Auxiliaries.

- Citation and \$50 to one Auxiliary in the nation for the most outstanding participation/promotion of Patriotism through Literacy.

Hope to see you all at Mid-Winter

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### **Welcome New Auxiliaries**

District 1 -Auxiliary 8273 – Frisco

### **Mid-Winter Round-Up**

**Crowne Plaza  
6121 N IH 35  
Austin, TX**

**Phone: 512-323-5466  
reservations@cphaustin.com  
Dates: Jan 22-Jan 26, 2020**

**Rooms: \$105.00 Per Night + Taxes**

**CODE: VMW**

### **2020 Bylaws Books have come in.**

Cost is \$7.50 each and will be available for pick up at Mid winter. You can preorder by sending a check with how many you need to Department earmark it BYLAWS BOOKS. You can come by headquarters Mon-Thurs to pay and pick up. We will not ship them as it will be too expensive.

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### **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



## **2019-20 MID-WINTER CONVENTION** **TENTATIVE AGENDA**

### **Wednesday – January 22, 2020**

TBD Arrival of National President - Peggy Haake  
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM Registration  
VFW Auxiliary Ways and Means  
6:00 PM Dinner with National President Open to all VFW and Auxiliary “WEAR NATIONAL PRESIDENT SHIRT OR HAWAIIAN.” (***DUTCH TREAT Crowne Grill***)

### **Thursday – January 23, 2020**

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM Registration and Booths  
9:30 AM – 11:00 AM Council of Administration Meeting – Representative Debbie Daniels National Council Member (***Dept President Shirt -- Gray if you have it***)  
11:00 AM – 1:00 PM Lunch  
1:00 PM – 4:30 PM OPENING Dept President and Training begins Program Coordinator Andrea King

### **Friday – January 24, 2020**

8:00 AM – 4:00 PM Registration and Booths  
8:00 AM – 8:45 AM Joint Memorial Service **DOUBLETREE HOTEL** – ***Uniform With Jacket***  
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM Joint Opening Session **DOUBLETREE HOTEL** – ***Uniform***  
12:00 PM – 1:00 PM Presidents Luncheon (**CROWNE PLAZA**) ***Purchased Tickets Required Casual attire***  
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM Presentation of Past Dept Presidents  
Presentation of District Presidents  
Programs: Program Coordinator Andrea King  
6:00 PM – 8:00 PM Round Up Membership Dinner – INVITATION ONLY casual

### **Saturday – January 25, 2020**

8:00 AM – 10:00 PM Registration and Booths  
8:00 AM – 8:30 AM POW/MIA Ceremony  
9:00 AM – 1130 AM Completion of Programs  
11:30 AM – 1:00 PM Lunch  
1:00 PM – 3:00 PM Completion of programs/raffles  
3:00 PM – 4:00 PM Remarks National President  
5:30 PM – 6:00 PM VOD/PP Reception (**DOUBLETREE HOTEL**) ***Cash Bar***  
6:00 PM – Close Voice of Democracy Banquet (**DOUBLETREE HOTEL**) ***Purchased Tickets Required***

***SUNDAY – January 26, 2020 - Safe travel back home.***



**President Chuck Wagon Round up Luncheon  
Mid-Winter  
January 24, 2020**

Send Reservation to: VFW AUXILIARY  
Department of Texas  
PO Box 15285  
Austin, TX 78761

**Deadline: January 10, 2020**

**Meal will be: Chicken Fried Steak with Country Gravy, Green Beans, Scalloped Potatoes  
and your choice of Pecan Pie or Chocolate Cake  
There is an Option for VEGGIE PLATE please make note.**

IF YOU HAVE QUESTION PLEASE CALL DEPARTMENT AT 512-834-9190

**ENCLOSE CHECK FOR \$ 30.00 PER LUNCHEON TICKET**

PLEASE MAKE CHECK TO: VFW AUXILIARY, DEPT OF TEXAS -- EARMARKED  
LUNCHEON

Number of Chicken Plates \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Veggie Plates \_\_\_\_\_

Names: 1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. \_\_\_\_\_

4. \_\_\_\_\_

5. \_\_\_\_\_

6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_

8. \_\_\_\_\_

9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_



“Unity is strength...  
when there is teamwork and collaboration,  
wonderful things can be achieved.”

-Mattie J.T. Stepanek