



The Texas V.F.W. Auxiliary

Our Two Cents

Published Monthly by the VFW Auxiliary

Editor – Kathy Marrelli

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COMMENTS

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

DONNA JAMES

The time is going by fast. I have been very busy.

District 15 President Annie Nickerson had a great meeting. She is very organized. Auxiliaries are working the programs taking care of our Veterans. We visited the Rathgeber Hospitality House. A beautiful home to stay in while a relative is in the hospital. They are so friendly. I received my first prayer rock.

Next to Southern Conference in Baton Rouge where everyone had a wonderful time. I had great visits with Southern Conference Department Presidents.

On to District 4 President Brenda Whited meeting, we visited Michael DeBakey Hospital with our Volunteers, Glenda Hunt and Janet Hammill. We got a delicious home cooked meal, meatloaf, green beans, roasted potatoes, and homemade cakes. Great hospitality! I even got to spend time with Richard and Andrea King. Thank you for the birthday cake and birthday wishes.

I finally got to go home to District 16. We visited the VA Clinic in Richmond. They are taking good care of our Veterans and their spouses. We had a great meeting with District 16 President Reba Carlson. Rosenberg VFW and Auxiliary took great

care of me with the Mayor taking us to dinner in his limo.

Finally on to District 28 President Shary Tutt, visiting with the members and having dinner. We visited VFW Post 8787. The meeting was attended by many. They are very active in working programs. The food was excellent. I probably gained ten pounds, homemade Mexican food.

Texas is doing good in membership but we still have Auxiliaries that have not completed any programs. All memberships need to be paid by December 31. After December 31, your membership is lapsed and you lose your years of service. You can pay late but after June 30, you have to resubmit an application.

There are obligations that must be paid by every Auxiliary. If you are one of the Auxiliaries, please get busy! Time is moving on and Mid-Winter Conference will be here soon.

Chairwoman Brenda Foltz has nice gifts for the Auxiliaries that achieve 100% in membership to the President and Treasurer or Membership Chairman. I have also made gifts for membership also.

We have to keep the Auxiliary strong for our Veterans. We will have a taco bar for the membership banquet which will be casual. We will relax and enjoy your accomplishments.

**Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year!**

Always remember our Veterans during the holidays especially because so many are alone

Official Visit Schedule

District 3 – December 8

District 24 – December 14

OUTSTANDING CHAPLAIN AWARD

Jeanenne Lumpkin

Our District and Auxiliary Chaplains are vital to the State of Texas. They give so much of their time and love to our veterans and our Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers.

After receiving several requests, Madam President, Donna, has implemented the Outstanding Chaplain Award for this year. I am honored to have been asked to chair this Program. At Department Convention awards for "Outstanding District Chaplain" and "Outstanding Auxiliary Chaplain" will be presented.

These awards will be based on what you as a Chaplain have done for this year. Please send me a mid-year report by December 20, 2019 and an end-of-year report by April 20, 2020.

You do not have to send this report to your District President. You can send me a monthly report if you desire, but it is not required. Thank you for all you do!

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

"Hope all have a wonderful and blessed Christmas and a Happy New Year"



CHIEF OF STAFF
Betty Royston

Tis the season to be thankful for all we have in our Life. Our families, our friends and our VFW Comrades who served our Country in order for us to be eligible to belong to the greatest Veteran's Organization in the world.

My message to you as District Presidents and Deputy Chief of Staffs this month is to encourage each of you to continue your inspections.

CONGRATULATIONS to those who have completed your inspections and have found your weak areas, now you must help those that are not reporting programs to the District and Department Chairman. Contact them to see if they need help filling out their reports, then send a Mentor to assist them. We are here to support one another. I have heard over and over we don't mind working the programs, but we hate reporting. Do you realize that those reports of projects completed, monies spent, miles traveled, hours doing preparation, number of members working, is the one thing that **KEEPS OUR VFW AND VFW AUXILIARY TAX EXEMPT?** The IRS sets these rules and we must comply with them or lose our EXEMPT Status.

District Presidents please contact those Auxiliaries who are not reporting and get them on board rowing toward the District and Department Chairman. Remember **"WE ARE A VOICE FOR OUR VETERANS, NOT AN ECHO"**. Smooth Sailing over calm waters will make our Department President Donna and National President Peggy yelling "ALOHA".

USE YOUR FIX IT BUTTON, COURTESY OF GWEN RANKIN. CONGRATULATIONS extended to the new Auxiliaries being formed at this time. We have 5 waiting on their forms from National. We have several that are in trouble but Madam President is sending out her Line Officers to help those that need help. **"SERVING OUR VETERANS WITH ALOHA"** as we SWAP IDEAS with other Auxiliaries that benefit our homeless veterans and shut ins. Take refreshments to your local Law Enforcement and Fire Departments for those who will be working during the holidays and cannot be with their families. Last, but definitely not least, check on your Seasoned Members to see if they need assistance during the holidays.

May each of you have a BLESSED AND A
PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS



AMERICANISM/PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR
Barbara Koehn

Everyone can agree that this is the busiest time of year not only with family gatherings, parties, school functions, and so many more community events. The hustle and bustle of the holiday season is upon us but we can never forget our veterans and their families who gave us so much more than we can possibly give back. It is our duty and responsibility as the VFW Auxiliary to support, encourage, love, care, and serve them with "Aloha" with open arms and kind hearts.

Hopefully, everyone attended at least one community, Post and Auxiliary, and school programs on Veterans Day to salute and honor our veterans for their sacrifice they have valiantly fought for our freedoms and liberties. Americanism and patriotism were shown by towns holding Veterans parades, decorating a float, and having their town square adorn in red, white, and blue. Hope you all did your part!

As we enter the Christmas holidays, please be grateful and thankful for all the blessings bestowed upon us and living in the greatest nation on earth. We thank our God and our Veterans for this.

In December, "Wreaths Across America" will receive local, state and national attention with ceremonies and laying of the wreaths. This is a 501-(C)(3) organization whose mission is to REMEMBER our fallen U.S. Veterans, HONOR those who serve, and TEACH your children the value of freedom. A veteran's wreath is a symbol of honor, respect and victory. So what is a veterans' wreath? Each wreath is made up of 10 Balsam Bouquets representing 10 special qualities that our Veterans embody. They are as follows:

- *Their **BELIEF** in a greater good
- *Their **LOVE** for each other
- *Their **STRENGTH**, work ethic and character
- *Their **HONESTY** and their integrity
- *Their **HUMILITY**, selflessness and modesty
- *Their **AMBITIONS** and aspirations
- *Their **OPTIMISM** for America
- *Their **CONCERN** for the future
- *Their **PRIDE** in their duties
- *Their **HOPES AND DREAMS** that didn't always come true, but left them with no regrets

The evergreens of the wreaths stand for longevity and endurance. The red bows stand for a great sacrifice. The forest scent stands for purity and simplicity. The circular shape stands for eternity. Please attend a "Wreath Across America" ceremony closest to you and bring your loved ones, youth, and Post and Auxiliary members. You can purchase the wreaths for graves of Veterans or personal use. You will be blessed you did.

Remember, Sisters and Brothers of the VFW Auxiliary, "We are a **VOICE For Our Veterans Not An ECHO**" and **"Serve Our Veterans With ALOHA"**. Have a blessed Christmas holiday and hug the ones you love.



OUTSTANDING DISTRICT PRESIDENT

Kathy Marrelli - Chairman

Merry Christmas to all. What a lovely time of year to reflect on the blessings in our lives.

The year is half way over, a lot of hard work has been done, but not reported to me. As of this issue, 8 District Presidents have sent no reports; 7 District Presidents have submitted 2 or less reports each; 1 District President sent in a report at the start of the year and said that there would be no reporting from her and I have received nothing since then. All the requirements for this program have been met by 10 District Presidents.

District Presidents that have not reported monthly as per the requirements in the program, will not be considered for this award. The program clearly states that all requirements must be met to be considered. Any District President submitting multiple monthly reports to me at one time, will be marked off as one time reporting, but not considered for the award.

Mid-Year reports are due December 10th. Please be careful of how you fill out the report, do not leave any thing blank and answers on this report will be verified through Department.

Inspections should be done, audits completed, 990s submitted or in process. Be proud of the work that is being accomplished.

It is the District President's responsibility to see that the Auxiliaries are in good working order and remain in good working order for the Auxiliary year.



HOSPITAL/VAVS

Sally Ramirez – Chairman

Hello Brothers and Sisters! Hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving! How did your first Community Volunteer Recruitment Week go? Recruiting is especially important so we can get the help we need for our Veterans. With the holidays approaching everyone loves to help, so it's a great opportunity to ask for their continued help throughout the year as a Hospital Volunteer. Thank you to all that have been reporting. Mid-Winter is fast approaching and we need to make sure that we get our reports in on time. I appreciate everyone that has sent in reports. You are doing an outstanding service to the community and Veterans!!

With Christmas just around the corner please remember our Hospitalized Veterans. Take a collection of "Sweats for Vets", which can include socks, shirts, sweaters and sweat pants from your Auxiliary or even from your Community. You can also call the Volunteer office at the Hospitals & Clinics to find out what their needs are. The Hospitals and clinics rely on organizations like us to help support our Veterans. Have a Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!

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

LEGISLATIVE
Nelda Hackett - Chairman

I simply cannot believe this year is almost over...and now it's almost Christmas. As we enjoy the Blessed holiday season, please don't forget about the Veterans that have no family and no one to share the holidays with. Most all the auxiliaries in Texas have been doing a great job working the **VFW Priority Goals**. I appreciate all the hard work you are doing and will continue to do.

I am still receiving many reports, however, still not from every District. I have not heard from **29%** of the 24 Districts in the great state of Texas. Contact me if you need help, that's what I'm here for!

The Legislative Program is imperative to get the help and benefits that our veterans deserve! Please, please auxiliary members let's be **100%** in reporting! Maybe it's time to ask ourselves why we joined this great organization.

Please go to the VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters website and check out all the Legislative information available. This will assist you and your auxiliary's efforts to continue working your Legislative Program.

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

For lists, concerns, and solutions, etc.:

www.vfw.org/advocacy

For the "Guide to Contacting Your Legislators":

www.vfwauxiliary.org

To contact your Senator or Representative:
congresslookup.com

Have a very Blessed and Merry Christmas.

Be safe in your travels, especially during the busy holiday season!

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
Natalie Copeland – Chairman
Beth Creasey – Co-Chairman

Use the "8" Identifiable Ps when mentoring and when creating your Auxiliary's Mentoring Plan:

Purpose – to provide guidance and understanding
Participation – mentoring at all times, all settings
Provide – knowledge of activities and opportunities
Prepare – gather/distribute resources in a positive way
Pursue – creating positive experiences to all members
Prevention – observes and alleviates tense situations
Progress – seeing the actual results in members
Pride – celebrating knowledge of all new members

December typically brings celebrations: Christmas for troops abroad and at home, veterans in our community, youth, scholarship winners, teachers, etc. Use those celebrations to test some of the Ps of Mentoring. Provide members with the knowledge of those celebrations and opportunities. Prepare materials to distribute at these celebrations so that resources are gathered and distributed in a positive way. Pursue ways to create positive experiences to all members whether it be in the planning and coordination of the celebration or the clean up afterwards. We're sure you can find ways to use all Ps!

This month we focus on Participation. Mentoring at all times and in all settings can be challenging. We believe we can learn from the teachers we celebrate: use each and every opportunity as a teaching moment. Not only can it help the member who is frustrated or angry, but it forces the mentor to take a minute to think about the situation and form a plan of action instead of a "knee-jerk" reaction.

"Knowledge is power" and we can use that to constantly participate in mentoring at all times, in all settings.

We Participate in **"SERVING OUR VETERANS WITH ALOHA!"**

We Participate when **"WE ARE A VOICE FOR OUR VETERANS, NOT AN ECHO"**

Happy Holidays!



BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME

Belinda Torres - Chairman

Your mid-year reports are due, the time is now for 100% reporting. I know we have amazing dedicated members in our organization. Tell me your stories and let Texas "Be A Voice for our Veterans Not An Echo". Please be on time with reports to your District President so they can submit them in time to me. Thank you for all you do for the National Home for Children and the Buddy © Poppy program.

As you prepared for the celebrations of the holidays and are thinking of assisting an organization in need, consider a gift to the National Home for Children. Continue informing members and friends about the services offered at the National Home and aim to recruit life members for the National Home for Children.

I'm looking forward to seeing you at Mid-Winter Roundup. I want to see 24 Buddy Poppy table centerpieces, one from each District for our State Buddy Poppy display contest. Drop them off at the Buddy Poppy table on Thursday 8AM - 9:30AM or Friday 12 - 2PM, judging will be Friday after 3PM.

God bless you and your family with a joyful Holiday Season.

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



PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT #1

Carol Brietzke – Chairman

Merlene Peters – Co-Chairman

The holidays are around the corner. This time of year can be especially hard for veterans who have been wounded and recovering from their injuries. Operation Comfort is a non-profit organization started by Janis Roznowski, an American Airlines flight attendant who was part of a team transporting soldiers to and from the Middle East. Janis says, "Having had the great experience of being in the presence of some of the bravest men and women I have ever met, makes me realize we can never do enough for them."

I believe our military men and women are truly our nation's National Treasure. Now that they are wounded, we must do what we can for them." We would like to share with our Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers the main objectives of Operation Comfort: * Our Wounded

Military First: Operation Comfort believes in showing our wounded men and women they are appreciated, valued and respected. Their focus is to provide a fresh, useful environment where wounded servicemen/women can communicate with family and comrades, have access to state-of-the-art computer equipment, large screen entertainment in their social rooms and comfortable furniture for these rooms and color schemes that are very relaxing therefore providing the most basic things to help lift their spirits and morale and encourage their rehabilitation.

* Their Family Second: Operation Comfort believes that assisting the families directly impacts the wounded in a positive manner, since it is not something they can provide during their rehabilitation and recovery process. Because the rehabilitation of our servicemen/women oftentimes requires family members to be close by, they make every effort to improve the family stay. By extending their efforts to Burn/Ortho Waiting rooms, Fisher Houses and the Soldier Assistance Center, they are able to help the wounded servicemen/women have a peace of mind that their family needs are also met. It is their hope the wounded will recover faster and more completely when they are not burdened with administrative or family concerns. * Their Military Comrades Third: Operation Comfort believes in strong relationships, support systems, and understands how important combat buddies are in the lives of our wounded. They recognize the need of the wounded service personnel to stay in contact with their military comrades as well as family members who are unable to travel to San Antonio. To make this possible, they make sure computers and telecom gear are provided. They want the service member to stay in touch with no cost to them. To help the veterans and families who use the services of is great organization, we are asking auxiliaries to hold a fundraiser with the proceeds benefiting Operation.



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION

PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Andrea King

Well here it is December, time to deck those halls and trim those trees. It's also Mid-Year Report time. Make sure your District President has your report by December the 10th.

You should have sent in your Health & Happiness money in October. If you did not, there is no better time than now. You should have sent your VOD/Patriot's Pen program donation of \$15.00 per program (\$30.00) in November. This month, in addition to Mid-Year Reports, we need to get that membership in by December 15, 2019. You should also send in \$2.00 per member based on your July 1st membership for the Cancer Grant, and it may be paid from your Relief Fund.

Don't forget the Texas VFW Foundation; all that money stays in Texas.

Best wishes for a specially blessed Christmas and a prosperous and safe New Year!

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



SCHOLARSHIPS
Lynn Cook – Chairman

Season's Greetings Department of Texas Auxiliary members and friends! December is here along with the "hustle and bustle" of the holidays. This means the VFW Auxiliary Mid-Year is also knocking at our doors. Judging for the Voice of Democracy and the Patriot's Pen Contests is completed for local and District VFWs and Auxiliaries. Everyone should have their winner submitted to Department by now. There are no exceptions to the December 1st deadline. I hope you all received many wonderful entries and Department will have the best of the best to judge from. Only the first place Department winner will be submitted to National. I wish each Post, Auxiliary and District the best of luck for their winner!

Please remember to get your activity/service reports in for December along with your Mid-Year reports which are due to each District President by December 10th and to the Department Chairmen by December 20th. Be sure to include a detailed description of the activity with money spent and awarded and the number of essay entries received and judged along with pictures and receipts supporting your report. Many Auxiliaries are doing a great job reporting. Thank you all!

I hope the second half of our Auxiliary year will be just as exciting and productive as the first half. We will have deadlines for the Continuing Education Scholarship (02-15-20) and the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest (03-31-20). Also due on March 31st is the "Scholarship Award for Auxiliaries No. 1". This award is for the "best promotion" of the Patriotic Art Contest.

So keep our goals in mind during this busy time and continue promoting and fundraising for both of these Auxiliary scholarships. For anyone who may have missed this before, there is a wonderful article in the November edition of the VFW Auxiliary Magazine. Starting on page 16, you can read about and see the first through eighth place National Patriotic Art winners. Congratulations to them all!

I look forward to seeing everyone at Mid-Winter Convention in January. I wish you all a safe and blessed holiday season. Thank you for all you do!

~~~Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays~~~
Not everyone will be home for the Holidays...
The VFW Auxiliary Remembers and Thanks our Troops - Here and Overseas

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



PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT #2
Helen Lara – Chairman

The Holidays are fast approaching and Military Moms & Wives of Brazoria County (MMWBC) are getting ready to send out care packages to our troops during the 1st week of December so our troops can receive them before the Christmas holidays.

MMWBC Mission Statement: We are here to support the moral and spiritual health of our American Heroes in the armed forces in combat zones around the world through the letters and care packages that are hand packed with love and are shipped by caring volunteers who support all branches of service.

Many of you have donated products to include in the care packages, as well as monetary donations. I would like to personally thank the Auxiliaries for your generosity and support of The President's Special Project #2- Military Moms and Wives of Brazoria County (MMWBC).

We had a wonderful time in Angleton, TX on Sept 25th when we delivered products that you all donated for the care packages that are to be mailed in December. Mary Moreno and her team of volunteers work long and hard hours to carefully pack each box with toiletries and snacks to bring some joy to our heroes serving to protect our country.

A BIG BIG THANK YOU! from the Military Moms and Wives of Brazoria County. Madam President Donna James joined us in helping the MMWBC open boxes of product, sort, separate, and pack toiletry and snack boxes. They hope to mail 2,500 boxes by December.

However, there is a need for monetary donations to cover the mailing expense for thousands of boxes that are mailed twice a year. The next care package mailing will be in December in time to reach our Heroes by Christmas. Please can we count on your Auxiliary to donate money to help defray the postage expense? The checks should be made payable to **VFW Auxiliary Department of Texas. Earmark "President's Special Project #2"**. In return State will make to check payable to: Military Mom's & Wives of Brazoria County (MMWBC).

A Special Thank you!!  **to all Auxiliary Presidents and Members for all your help and support for the President's Special Project #2 Military Moms & Wives of Brazoria County.**

**See you all at Mid-Winter 2020.
Remember to send in your reports.**



**HISTORIAN
Bernadette "Bernie" Adams**

Merry Christmas!! I hope everyone had a nice Thanksgiving and didn't eat too much Turkey and trimmings. I want to thank everyone who has sent me updates on their VFW and Auxiliary. Please, when you send me pictures do not put them on white computer paper and then fold it up in an envelope; if you don't want to buy photo paper, put the pictures on a flash drive and I will send it back to you when I download the pictures. I try to make it presentable for Department President Donna's book, but sometimes it is just too wrinkled. You worked too hard to take the pictures, please show pride when sending your report. I would like the 4x6 glossy photo paper.

Remember, if you are a Post Historian and District Historian, I can only take one report. You will have to decide if you are submitting your report for Post or for your District. There is a form on Malta under Program &

Publicity Resources called **Historian/Media Relations Award for Auxiliaries No. 1** that is due to me by March 31, 2020. There is also a fillable certificate called Communication Award/Certificate that you could put in a nice frame to give to the local newspaper for all their support through-out the year.

We strive to record and capture pictures of all our accomplishments because **"We Are A Voice For Our Veterans, Not An Echo"**. Historians, your President appointed you to this position because he/she loves **"Serving Our Veterans With Aloha"**.



**VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT
Denise DuBois – Chairman
Candace Baines – Co-Chairman**

Merry Christmas! Can you believe it? Mid-Winter is fast approaching. We look forward to seeing everyone and giving updates on the accomplishments thus far.

This is the month that you can brighten what may be an especially difficult time for our deployed service members and their families. Host holiday and Christmas events for the families of those deployed. Work with Family Readiness Groups. Give the gift of time. Hand out Thank You coins and don't forget the Resource Rack Cards. Collect and make food baskets and deliver to those in need.

Don't forget to visit the ones in nursing facilities and those that are homebound. You can brighten their day. We have enjoyed visiting the Fisher Houses in Houston, Ft. Hood and San Antonio. The surrounding districts were so gracious and came to help us. We thank you for your support.

Next month we will begin handing out the homeless mats. If you know an area that is in need of them, please let us know.

Mid-year reports are due to your District President by December 10th and we must receive them no later than December 20th. We thank each auxiliary for the reports. Ya'll are AWESOME.

**Merry Christmas to each of you!
"WE ARE A VOICE FOR OUR VETERANS, NOT
AN ECHO" "SERVING OUR VETERANS WITH
ALOHA"**



YOUTH ACTIVITIES
Laurie Hayes Wiley – Chairman

This holiday season, “SERVING OUR VETERANS WITH ALOHA!” Together we make such a difference in our veterans’ and their families’ lives with our youth involved.

With the Holiday season upon us, there are some great ways to get young people involved in our Youth Activities Programs.

Serving Thanksgiving dinner to veterans at a shelter, VA, or VFW post?

*Provide books and/or activities for any kids who might be present!

*Report the work under the proper program. Report the kids’ activities under Youth Activities!

Christmas caroling at the VA?

*Bring your children and grandchildren!

*Report the visit under Hospital. Report the time kids spent singing with you under Youth Activities!

Sending care packages to deployed soldiers?

*Ask local Scouts to help gather and sort items!

*Report the activity itself under Veterans & Family Support. Report the time Scouts spent on the project under Youth Activities!

Illustrating America Art:

***Contest for grades K-8.** Contests are open to students in grades K-8 with three divisions: K-2, 3-5, and 6-8 with one National winner in each division awarding first, second, and third places. Information flyers and forms are available under “Youth Activities” at www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources. Entry deadline March 31, 2020 so do not wait until the last minute. Local winners to Department Youth Activity Chairman deadline April 15, 2020.

Patriotism Through Literacy, read/donate the following books to local children’s rooms at libraries, to pre-schools, or to homeless shelters:

*The Soldiers’ Night Before Christmas by Trish Holland

*Hanukkah at Valley Forge by Stephen Krensky

*Christmas in the Trenches by John McCutcheon

*Don’t Forget, God Bless Our Troops by Jill Biden

Thank you so much for all you have done with our Youth.

Enjoy and have a blessed holiday season.

We Are A Voice For Our Veterans, Not An Echo



MEMBERSHIP
Brenda Foltz
Karlene Chambers

As we get closer to Christmas season let’s not forget our Veterans. They have families and some do not. Let’s take care of them.

Membership is doing really good. We are staying in the top 5 in the nation. I need to apologize for the numbers running late. As this is being written we have 126 auxiliaries at 85%+ in membership with 44 of those at 100%+. There are 17 Districts at 85%+ and 1 District at 100%+.

Please remember not to sit on any dues that you may have. Get them in to JoElla by the 15th of the month. If dues are not paid you may have members that will not be in good standing after Dec.31st.

Keep it up Texas we can do this.

District Presidents please don’t forget to bring your hats, bandana’s and bell to Mid-Winter.

Merry Christmas!

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

Holiday Office Hours

Dates office will be closed

Christmas – December 24 – 29

New Years – December 31 – January 5, 2020

Welcome New Auxiliaries

District 1 -Auxiliary 8273 – Frisco

District 4 – Auxiliary 10462 - Houston

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



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 – 11:30 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. _____

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



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



***MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY NEW YEAR***