



The Texas V.F.W. Auxiliary

## Our Two Cents

Published Monthly by the VFW Auxiliary

Editor – Kathy Marrelli

Located at 8503 N IH 35, Austin, TX 78753



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November, 2019



### *COMMENTS*

### *DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT*

*DONNA JAMES*

The holidays are getting closer. We need to pay membership so we do not lose any members. Every year we continue to lose members for different reasons. If we do not remain a strong organization, our Veterans will suffer. We are a Voice for them.

This year, the office staff will not be working during the holidays. They need to be with their families too. Days the office will be closed for Veteran's Day will be November 8 - 12, Thanksgiving will be November 27 - December 2, Christmas will be December 24 - 29, and New Year's will be December 31 - January 5. We have now until December 30 to get paid. Any officer not paid by December 31 will not be allowed to hold an office. So please get your membership paid.

Our Chairwomen are doing an excellent job in reporting. Texas is looking great throughout the Nation. We are staying in the top 5 in membership and programs.

I have answered many questions about the Bylaws. If there is something you do not like or want to change, write a resolution. We go by the Bylaws and they will not change until voted on at National. No officer or member writes their own rules, not National, Department, District, or Auxiliary.

Several Posts have been put on suspension. This is not an Auxiliary problem. If the Post closes then we will discuss the options to members on what to do.

We are doing excellent programs for Our Veterans. This is the reason we exist is for our Veterans. We should focus on helping our Veterans not just each other. They sacrificed so much for us, we need to make sure they are taken care of.

I have enjoyed my visits to the Districts. In District 2, we visited the Beaumont VA Clinic. They are a **Wonderful** clinic helping our Veterans. They love their volunteer, Ramona Henson. We had a great dinner with the VFW. They had a great meeting.

Next we visited District 9. We visited Amarillo VA Hospital. They had great things to say about their volunteers, Danielle Diaz-Gonzales, Paula Welling, and Cathy Clark. They are doing a great job. We also visited the Pan Handle War Monument and Museum. They are keeping the history alive.

Thank you for all the hospitality shown to me and line officers. I have learned, every District is different with different ideas, but all are helping Veterans in their own ways.

I hope everyone has a Great Thanksgiving! Relax, enjoy the family, but don't forget, some Veterans do not have families. Reach out and make this day special for them. Holidays are the hardest for Veterans, this is when suicide rates are higher. They are our family too.

**Happy Thanksgiving to all**

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

#### **Official Visit Schedule**

**District 16 – November 1 & 2**

**District 28 – November 3**

**District 10 – November 7-10**

**District 19 – November 30**

**Please stay out of Post business.**

**MEMBERSHIP**  
**Brenda Foltz - Chairman**  
**Karlene Chambers – Co-Chairman**



Remember there are 12 ways a person can join this great organization. There is a copy of it in the program book or in the national program book. Encourage your past members to rejoin, they will have to show proof of eligibility again.

I would like to apologize for not including District 28 in the last issue of Our Two Cents I truly am sorry, but it just slipped by me.

Need to remind all treasurers, please do not sit on any membership dues, if you have any get them in. Don't hold them. This issue is being written before the October deadline for 85%. With that being said, there is 1 District that is 100+ in membership. A big shout out to District 29 way to go!

These are the Auxiliaries that are at 85% as of the first week of Oct:

|                    |                                       |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Dist 1 and 7 Aux.  | 1922, 2195, 2205, 2559, 2772 and 7873 |
| Dist 2 and 3 Aux.  | 1839, 2775, 4820                      |
| Dist 3 and 1 Aux.  | 6796                                  |
| Dist 4 with 1 Aux  | 9187                                  |
| Dist 5 with 4 Aux  | 3413, 7110, 8456, 9213                |
| Dist 6 with 2 Aux  | 8967, 9170                            |
| Dist 8 with 1 Aux  | 5683                                  |
| Dist 9 with 1 Aux  | 2466                                  |
| Dist 10 with 1 Aux | 8782                                  |
| Dist 13            |                                       |
| Dist 14 with 2 Aux | 4008, 8577                            |
| Dist 15 with 3 Aux | 4747, 8558, 8878                      |
| Dist 16 with 3 Aux | 5400, 6378, 8248                      |
| Dist 17 with 4 Aux | 4006, 4709, 7104, 12024               |
| Dist 18 with 1 Aux | 9194                                  |
| Dist 19 and 4 Aux  | 2033, 6899, 8904, 9313                |
| Dist 20 and 6 Aux  | 76, 4676, 4815, 6012, 6970, 8541      |
| Dist 21 with 5 Aux | 6872, 7835, 8235, 8561, 8911          |
| Dist 25 with 1 Aux | 7208                                  |
| Dist 28 with 4 Aux | 5254, 6115, 6525, 8587                |
| Dist 29 with 2 Aux | 2148, 8564                            |

If I have left off anyone, I do apologize as the numbers will increase after Oct. 25<sup>th</sup> to be 85%.

Keep it going Texas we are doing great. Round 'Em Up and Rope 'Em In.

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

**MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP**

**Natalie Copeland – Chairman**  
**Beth Creasey – Co-Chairman**

The first few days of autumn may bring cooler weather, but you should not be cooling down your progress in developing a mentorship program for your Auxiliary.

Our National Ambassador, Jane Ziebarth, blogged about the 7 Ps of mentorship: Purpose, Participation, Prepare, Pursue, Prevention, Progress, and Pride. We will focus on one of these each month, starting this month with Purpose.

We should share, including new members, our positive experiences in our organization. We should embrace each opportunity to bring awareness to the values and resources of this organization. We should create interest in serving in leadership roles, preparing the next generation to lead at every level and to enhance membership growth.

**Monthly Challenge:** Share with us how you are sharing our purpose in your Auxiliary. Please send to Natalie by 30 November.

Our Purpose is **“SERVING OUR VETERANS WITH ALOHA!”**

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



**STATE NURSING SCHOLARSHIP**

**Vivian Johnson – Chairman**

Great news continues from the Nursing Scholarship Program. Auxiliaries please continue to send in your report forms for hospital and nursing. Don't forget your donation gift of minimum \$15 to Nursing Scholarship Program. Please send check to Department Treasurer JoElla Menn and a copy to me. When honoring our nurses remember the different fields they work in. A simple thank you card is always appreciated.

Just let me know what your auxiliary is doing and please get those scholarship applications out there. "Let's be heard!"

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## **BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME**

**Belinda Torres Chairman**

Take time to review your program requirements when writing and sending in your reports, 100% reporting is the goal! Start completing mid-year reports!

**National Awards:** One Auxiliary in the nation will be selected for the Most Outstanding use of the Buddy Poppy in another Auxiliary National Program.

One Auxiliary in the nation will be selected for the Most Outstanding Promotion of the VFW National Home for Children through Education and Publicity. The forms to apply for this contest are in MALTA, click resources, and print the form under National Program Awards and Resources.

Citations to all auxiliaries that contribute \$0.25 cents per member to the Health & Happiness Fund for the National Home For Children.

Be prepared to share your program with other chairmen and work together to help meet each other's program goals. On Veterans Day and the holidays ahead there will be parades, invitations to schools, invitations to veterans hospitals and nursing homes, meetings with legislative officials, community events, and much more. Be ready with Buddy ® Poppies, the Buddy ® Poppy story, copies of "In Flanders Field" and the National Home Help Line cards. Distribute this literature at your events. Send cards to resident veterans at the National Home or donations for Christmas shopping. Set up a "Programs" workday potluck brunch at the Post to prepare materials to give out. Get creative and involve your members.

Plan a fundraiser for the VFW National Home for Children "Where Most Needed Fund". This is our statewide project. Money raised is for the National Home immediate need expenses. Mail donation to Department Treasurer earmark National Home Where Most Needed Fund.

Thank you for your generosity. Your awesome reports indicate our Texas delegation is sending their blessings to the VFW National Home for Children from the heart. Your support is greatly appreciated.

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"**



## **VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT**

**Denise DuBois – Chairman**

**Candice Baines – Co-chairman**

Fall is in the air and November is another busy month. Veterans Day is November 11<sup>th</sup> and we are certain that each of you have events planned that day. Don't forget your White Star and Silver Star families. The White Star families are those who have lost a veteran to suicide and the Silver Star families are those who have a wounded and injured veteran.

Please don't forget about helping our Veterans with Unmet Needs. This program provides grants (not loans) to active-duty service members, veterans and their families to assist them with basic life needs. The program provides financial aid of up to \$1500.00 in the form of a grant-not a loan-so no repayment is required. To further ease the burden, the creditor is paid directly.

We want to thank each of you that have donated to our program thus far. We have visited two campuses of the Fisher Houses (Houston and Ft. Hood). Thank you to all the volunteers that came to help. You were greatly appreciated.

Your reports are amazing. Lots of good work being done for our Veterans and their families in the state of Texas. We encourage you to keep up the reporting and just a reminder that your Mid-Year reports are due to us by December 10<sup>th</sup>.

We thank you once more for all you do for our Veterans and their families. Keep up the great work. We wish you all a very Happy Thanksgiving.

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**CHIEF OF STAFF**

**Betty Royston**

This is the month of Family and Thanksgiving! Let's open our hearts and homes to those who have nowhere to go for a good home cooked meal. Remember all our Veterans on November 11<sup>th</sup>, VETERANS DAY.

This month I want to share with you some ideas from our National Ambassador, Gwen Rankin. She is asking us to get on board, keep surfing for new Auxiliaries and to reap the Awards while we enjoy smooth sailing. As I am writing this article to you I have learned that we have two more new Auxiliaries forming. This will be three new ones, thus far.

Ambassador Rankin is such a joy to work with and always applauds us when we can make things happen to better our Organization and membership. **“AS WE ARE A VOICE FOR OUR VETERANS, NOT AN ECHO”**.

She has given each Department Chief of Staff a FIX IT Button to remind all of us, that is You and me, to get in touch with those Auxiliaries on Suspension and see if there is anything we can do to assist them. Let them know we care about them and we are there for them.

District Presidents and District Deputy Chiefs of Staff, do you have Auxiliaries that have not renewed their bond, or filed their 990? Contact that Auxiliary Treasurer to see if she needs assistance with those items. Continue to share your FIX IT Button within your District. Check with your Department Treasurer to see if you may have a list of the Members At Large within your District and have the Auxiliaries closest to them to make contact and let them know we care about them and would love to have them participate in all of our programs. Treat them kindly and softly as you would your own brother or sister. Let's make **TEXAS SHINE LIKE THE LONE STAR STATE IT IS !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!**

**WISHING EACH OF YOU A WONDERFUL  
THANKSGIVING  
“SERVING OUR VETERANS WITH ALOHA”**



**AMERICANISM/PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR  
Barbara Koehn**

American Patriotism is a fundamental value of the VFW Auxiliary. It is our responsibility to be proactive by practicing it throughout our lives and creating opportunities that show all Americans, young and old, to be respectful and to demonstrate positive examples of living as thankful, patriotic citizens. Auxiliaries should be visiting the school, educating flag etiquette, learning about the Constitution, flying the flag on patriotic holidays, and promoting the youth contests for Americanism and Patriotism. Be sure and bring veterans or active duty military into the classrooms to talk about their service and what it means to protect our country's freedoms.

As we approach the holiday season, many parades will be happening in our towns and communities. Hopefully, many of our Auxiliaries and Posts will be participating with numerous American flags and decorated floats. Hand out American flags to the crowd and show a patriotic spirit by playing patriotic music as you parade down the street.

Here are some flag etiquette ideas during a parade: when an American flag passes, stand up, remove your hat, place your right hand over your heart and stop any conversation you are having. It is not necessary to salute every American flag that passes, but if the American flag is carried by an honor guard or in a group with other flags, stand up, salute the veterans and pay respect to our flag. Do not salute small hand held flags carried by parade participants and attendees. Teach your children to respect our nation's flag if they are given a small flag at the parade. Never allow children to throw flags on the ground or in the street.

Veterans Day is on November 11 and this is the day we publicly commemorate the contributions of our living veterans. Originally, this day was called Armistice Day. Here are five facts concerning Veterans Day.

1. There is no apostrophe in Veterans Day. This holiday “belongs” to ALL veterans, not just one veteran or multiple veterans.
2. Veterans Day is NOT the same as Memorial Day. Memorial Day is a time to remember those who gave their lives for our country.
3. Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day commemorating the end of World War I which officially ended on June 28<sup>th</sup>. The fighting ended 7 months after that on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month.
4. On September 20, 1975, President Gerald Ford signed a bill to make November 11 the official Veterans Day again.
5. Other countries observe Veterans Day. In Canada and Australia, November 11 is their Remembrance Day, red poppy is a popular Remembrance Day symbol.

We all need to remember as Auxiliary members, to promote a spirit of Americanism and Patriotism ALL the time so that we can all develop a lifelong respect and love for what we hold so dear in our hearts; our country and her flag.

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Serving Veterans With Aloha**



**LEGISLATIVE  
Nelda Hackett - Chairman**

November! Family, Thanksgiving, and Christmas shopping! Oh how busy we all are! Hopefully, we will never be too busy to take care of our veterans and their families. We have a lot of Legislative that can still be

done; we can continue to promote the 2019 VFW Priority Goals. The goals are grouped under six areas of concern:

- \* Budget
- \* Health care
- \* Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs
- \* Education, Employment and Transition Assistance
- \* Military Quality of Life
- \* National Security, Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA

I am still receiving many reports, however, not from every District. I still have not heard from some Districts and that is sad. As of my writing this article, I have not received a report from Districts 2, 3, 6, 10, 12, 13, and 30.

Let's ALL do our Legislative Program. Please, let's roll up our sleeves and get to work for our veterans; I know that none of you want to let them down or you wouldn't be a member in our great organization!

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)

God Bless Texas and God Bless Each and Every One Of You!

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## **YOUTH ACTIVITIES**

**Laurie Hayes Wiley – Chairman**

I am thrilled to be the chairman for this amazing program with an amazing group of VFW Auxiliaries in this Great State of Texas. Thank you...Thank you...Thank you to all for the reports I have received.

**Patriotism through Literacy.** Promoting and supporting reading among youth. Easy right? Think about books that may have helped shaped your knowledge base on America and its history, or research possible newer books and then think of different ways you can encourage kids to read these books.

This will help youth learn about America through books, both historical fiction and creative nonfiction. Benefits: Teaches kids about various times in American history. Promotes empathy and exposes students to experiences unlike their own. Foster a love of books that

leads to a lifetime of learning. Spend time with kids in the community in new and creative ways. Help youth gain better understanding of American history through non-fiction.

How can you participate in Patriotism through Literacy? Volunteer to read historical or creative non-fiction picture books to kids at your local library. Donate historical or creative non-fiction books to local schools, shelters or libraries. Host a read-a-thon and award small prizes (stickers, pins, etc.) for number of books or hours read. Run a writer's workshop for aspiring teen and tween authors at your Post Home. Invite an author of historical or creative non-fiction to do a book talk/signing in your area.

**Illustrating America.** A patriotic art contest for elementary and middle/junior high school students. Benefits of Illustrating America: Encourages student's artistic abilities and rewarding their hard work. It's fun to see how our youth see the world through their drawing and paintings. Get kids interested, which hopefully will encourage them to enter the Young American Creative Art Contest when they get to High School.

How can we participate in Illustrating America: Host contests for students in grades K-8<sup>th</sup>. 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. Reach out to local homeschool families or organizations through print and online media. Approach your local schools with information available under "Youth Activities" at [www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources).

Scouting groups or Church groups: There are so many ways to be involved with these groups, open your Post/Auxiliary for them to hold meetings or special events. Request their help with Buddy Poppies and placing flags, which will aid them in gaining better understanding of Community Service too.

**OTHER WAYS TO PARTICPATE IN YOUTH ACTIVITIES INCLUDE:** Handing out R.A.P. coins and/or cards to kids who display Random Acts of Patriotism. Partner with other programs like Americanism or Hospital to do community

Please remember, as always, that you need to make sure to report anything that you do for youth activities, or any other program for that matter.

Please don't ever hesitate to contact me if you have questions, concerns, ideas, or all of the above. [Law4378@outlook.com](mailto:Law4378@outlook.com) or (713) 247-9591

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## 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!

Wishing everyone a Blessed Thanksgiving.

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



**SCHOLARSHIPS**  
**Lynn Cook – Chairman**

Welcome to November Department of Texas! I hope you all had a spooky Halloween! I know you have all been working hard to promote our scholarship programs. The deadline for the **Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Contests** entries was October 31, 2019. I hope you all received many great entries for both contests! Your Post judging should be held before November 15, 2019 and the winning entry/entries submitted (based on total number received) to your District by November 15, 2019. Entries submitted to your District will be judged before December 01, 2019 (**not**, and I apologize, December 10<sup>th</sup> as written in last month's OTC) with only the first place winner of each District being submitted to Department by December 01, 2019. The Department winner will be announced at the Mid-Winter banquet in January 2020.

In the National Scholarship Promotional email for October, National Ambassador Gloria Dobbie reminds us to 'celebrate' all of our program participants. Please be sure to include all applicants, winners, their parents, teachers, judges and anyone who helped make your scholarship program a success. Recognize them all for

supporting our Veterans and programs and 'Thank' them for being "...a **Voice for Our Veterans, not an Echo**" just as the Auxiliary is. Good Luck to everyone!

Marching forward... with the majority of the VOD and Patriot's Pen program completed for the year, we can now put more focus on the Auxiliary's **Continuing Education Scholarship** (deadline February 15, 2020) and the **Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest** (deadline March 31, 2020).

The same resources used for VOD and Patriot's Pen are available for these opportunities as well. Two of my favorites are [www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources) and [www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/](http://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/)!

Ambassador Dobbie also asks that we remember our scholarship program goals for the year. Promoting the Continuing Education Scholarship and increasing awareness of this opportunity for auxiliary members, their spouses and children over eighteen. There will be four (4) \$1000.00 awards given by National (one in each Conference). Not only do we want to promote **both** of these opportunities, but we want to increase the Patriotic Art escrow so we can increase the prize amounts awarded to the students. In order to "**Fund the Artist of Tomorrow**", we need to fundraise and obtain sponsors and donations. There is no deadline for this project and donations will be accepted throughout the year. So continue being 'that voice' and keep on promoting and having those fundraisers. Continue encouraging others to join us in "**Serving Our Veterans with Aloha**" and proving that together "**We are a Voice for Our Veterans, Not an Echo**". Then report!

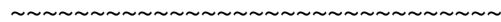
Reports are important and necessary! Remember to report your Auxiliary's activities. If you make a donation to the escrow fund through our Department Treasurer or directly to National Headquarters, please report the amount of that donation. Include information on the number of participants your Post and Auxiliary received and the dollar amounts of awards given. I encourage you all to look at the Mid-Year report form when gathering your information for reports. All District Presidents were provided some useful information in their monthly email regarding scholarship programs and the 'Scholarship Award No. 1 for Auxiliaries'. If you have questions or need help please contact one of them or me and together, we will get those reports turned in. I look forward to reading about all of the wonderful activities and events happening with your scholarship programs! We want everyone's hard work, time and dedication to be accounted for!

A final thought for November and Veterans Day... I am 'thankful' to be a part of this amazing group of people we call the "VFW Auxiliary". I am even more 'thankful' for the men and women who so bravely and

unselfishly fought or continue fighting for Our America and other countries in troubled times. From our grandparents and parents to uncles and aunts, sons and daughters, brothers and sisters to friends and neighbors for many years and generations, **they** are **my** reason and **my** motivation for doing what we do as an Auxiliary. I am 'Thankful' for them and to them all for their service and sacrifices. They are why I will continue this journey and strive to be the best 'Voice' I can be. They are why I will continue encouraging you all and others to do the same. There is truth to the saying "there is strength in numbers". Together we are making a difference! Thank you All and Happy Thanksgiving!

"No one who achieves success does so without acknowledging the help of others. The wise and confident acknowledge this help with gratitude"

Alfred North Whitehead  
Mathematician/Philosopher - 1861-1947



**Holiday Office Hours**  
**Dates office will be closed**

Veterans Day – November 8 – 12

Thanksgiving November 27 – December 2

Christmas – December 24 – 29

New Years – December 31 – January 5, 2020

Please mark calendars of these dates.

**Office Hours**

Monday – Thursday 7:00 am – 5:00 pm

Office #: 512-834-9190

Email: [secretary@texasvfwai.org](mailto:secretary@texasvfwai.org)



**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



**OFFICE MAILING**  
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Auxiliary  
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**Fax** 512-834-0747  
**Website** [texasvfwai.org](http://texasvfwai.org)

**National Headquarters**  
406 West 34<sup>th</sup> Street  
Kansas City, Mo 64111





***IT IS AMAZING WHAT YOU CAN  
ACCOMPLISH IF YOU DO NOT  
CARE WHO GETS THE CREDIT.***

*Harry S. Truman*

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*Happy  
Thanksgiving*

An illustration of a pumpkin and wheat stalks, positioned between the words "Happy" and "Thanksgiving" in the calligraphic text.