



The Texas V.F.W. Auxiliary
Our Two Cents
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Editor – Kathy Marrelli
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Volume 32 Issue 6

December, 2021



**“Tipping Our
Hats To Vets”**



**Department President
Karen Kaylor**



**“Soaring Above
& Beyond”**

I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving. I know you included Veterans at your functions. Now remember your auxiliary sisters and brothers who may be alone for the first time. They are our family and Covid 19 is still affecting our lives.

Christmas and the holidays are coming, please invite and include them! It can be lonely when you have no family to spend time together. Invite single active military duty to spend time with your family. You will be so blessed!

Southern Conference was held in Hilton Head SC. What a great time and experience. Texas was well represented. Thank you so much all who supported and attended as we had great participation!

Thank you to both District 10 and 24 for wonderful hospitality. It was my first visit to both and I had an excellent time. Each District is so different and have their own special qualities. It was a joy to meet with you as it is good to renew old friendships and make new ones. I was impressed.

It is Mid-Year Report time! Be sure and get them into your District President who then sends to the

Department Chairman no later than 20 December meet your deadlines please!

Mid-Winter will be here soon and we will have Past National Department President Sissy Borel along with our own National Area H Rep. Donna James in attendance. Be sure and attend and visit with them! Come to Corpus Christi January 19-23. Our chairmen have been working along with their program coordinator to see you have refresher training to get you excited about the rest of the year, so we keep on working hard for our Veterans!

Thank you all who sent get well cards to my husband due to his hip surgery. He appreciated all of them and you made his day!

The Department of Texas appreciates all the work that you do! We are **“Soaring Above & Beyond”!**

Keep up the good work! Thank you, each Auxiliary Sister and Brother of Team, **“We Tip Our Hats To Vets!”**

I wish you a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! Have wonderful Holiday Season!

MEMBERSHIP

Mona Benotti - Chairman

The holidays are almost here and may those be wonderful for you and yours. **“We Tip Our Hats To Vets”** continues as we met our 1st quarter Retention Goal and are working now on the goal to retain more members from last year, either in their status as annual members or by converting to life memberships. This is vital as we strive to grow our local, Department and National memberships.

We have met our Gain Goals for the first three quarters with new and rejoined members. So, we are keeping the members that we have and adding new ones! That’s success.

The big push as we enter December is to get our auxiliaries to 100% of their prior year’s membership by 12/15/2021.

That will earn a seat for the Auxiliary President and Membership Chair at our Mid-Winter Membership Celebration.

Districts must meet 95% of their prior year membership by 12/15/2021 for their President and Membership Chair to also earn those seats at the Mid-Winter Membership Celebration. Invitations will be sent for this big event.

Whether you are working with continuing members or new ones, here are some tips to keep members informed and, hopefully, involved:

- Make sure all members have a copy of the Podium Book and a member pin
- Be sure your members know how to contact your President and Treasurer, at a minimum, with either a phone number or email address
- Have membership materials with you at all times to share
- Stress the importance of what we do for our veterans

Share your great ideas with others in your District and throughout the Department of Texas. **“Soaring Above & Beyond”** retaining, gaining and sharing with fellow members is what we do. It takes us all.

Thank you for all you do. Contact me at mlbenotti@sbcglobal.net or 817.805.3729.



SCHOLARSHIP

Annie Nickerson – Chairman

What an exciting time of year! Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen are put to bed. The holidays are upon us and we are doing things for our Veterans.

Our next bridge to cross is Continuing Education Scholarship and those applications are due to National by February 15th. Please discuss this in your meetings and explain how beneficial this could be.

Even though Student Patriotic Art is due by March 31st, continue to make those student contacts now. Patriotic Art is sponsored solely by the VFW Auxiliary, so please endorse it as often as possible. Consider fund raisers to promote the program or contributing to our National President’s Special Project.

National President Hamil’s Special Project this year, “Fund the Future,” is to increase the Continuing Education Scholarship from \$1,000 to \$2,500 and to increase the number of Patriotic Art Scholarships from twelve to twenty at the National Level.

Mid-Year Reports are due to your District President by December 10th and I need at least one regular report from each Auxiliary by December 10th as well.

I look forward to hearing from you and I am only a phone call away. Happy Holidays!

“We Tip Our Hats To Vets”

“Soaring Above & Beyond”



OUTSTANDING AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

Tanya Jackson - Chairman

Happy Holidays!!! I hope that your season is off to a great start. As I am also in the holiday spirit, I want to make sure that you are all aware of what is expected from you this month.

In order to be eligible for this award there are steps that must be taken. You all have the point form in your program books. There is also a Statewide Project that needs to be done to be considered for this. There needs to be a report with pictures turned in to me in December. This is on top of the Mid-Year Report that is given to your District President by December 10th. He or she will send those with their reports to the respective State Chairmen.

Your Statewide Project is done in two parts. **1st part is due in December that tells what you as the President accomplished between July and December; 2nd part is due April which covers January to March, again what you as the President have accomplished.**

Mail to: Tanya Jackson - 795 Sharon Blvd - Dora, AL 35062. The mailman is aware of mail in December and again in April.

Presidents – I know that we are not in this for the awards but for our VETERANS. If you do it--report it.

Please remember that I need to know what **YOU** do, not what your auxiliary does. This award is about **YOU** – The reports need to be what you have done. If you send

me reports about the auxiliary, then they will not be considered for this award.

Thank you for all that you are doing for our VETERANS. We have a most important job - to take care of all veterans and their families. The state of Texas is: **"SOARING ABOVE & BEYOND"** as **"WE TIP OUR HATS TO VETS"**!



HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS

Bernie Adams

Well, I am going to shake things up a bit this year. Let us see which Historian notices. We are going to have a **Test Your Knowledge** game that we will finish at Mid-Winter Conference. All Historians who show up will get a chance to finish the game and win a prize. In order to be entered in the game, the 1st thing I need is a hard copy picture of your Post President. Bring it to Mid-Winter with your names on the back and the District and Post numbers. You will find the rest out once you are there at Corpus Christi. Have Fun!!!

Please still send me your photos, news articles and reports so I can compile them into a book for President Karen's keepsake of memories.

While **"We Tip Our Hats To Vets"** National wants us to focus on **"Soaring Above & Beyond"** by each Auxiliary having their own Facebook page and here is how you do it.

- Visit the VFW Auxiliary website Resources page. Scroll down to Historian & Media Relations.
- Click on How to Set Up Your Auxiliary Facebook Page to locate detailed instructions.
- Follow the step-by-step process and helpful tips to create your Facebook page.

There is a form in MALTA, under Program & Publicity Resources, called -- **Historian/Media Relations Award for Auxiliaries No 1** that is due to me by March 31, 2022.



WAYS & MEANS

Tracie Frink/Glenda Ramirez

Auxiliaries are reminded to bring their gift valued at \$20.00 to Mid-Winter for the Quarter Auction that will be held on Friday night.

Any questions please text me at 214-460-7610.

LEGISLATIVE

Norita Jackson - Chairman

As we are at the mid-year mark, let's do a recap of the topics we have discussed or brushed up on in the VFW's Priority Goals. ****1. We discussed the **Budget** as to never reduce a veteran's benefits to pay for another, to always make sure that the programs are fully funded for veteran's service members and their families.

****2. The next article was on the topic of **Health Care** and the goal of improving programs and services for women and minority veterans, continuing research and expansion. ****3. Next, we explored the goal of **Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs**, the topic which states that its objective was to advocate to Congress and the VA so they would properly implement the modernized appeals process to assure that veterans and their survivors have timely access to earned benefits.

****4. Last month's focus was on the issue of **Education, Employment, and Transition Assistance**. At the forefront of this topic is the matter of improving wraparound services for veterans and providing affordable housing to avoid homelessness. To ensure veterans have success after leaving military service.

Thank you all for supporting this program in the many ways that you do. I can honestly say that you are all out there in your communities, advocating for our veterans, through your attendance at Town Hall meetings, school board meetings and organized gatherings where you don't miss opportunities to discuss veteran issues and concerns. I have received at least one report from almost every district in the Department, however, I can detect that there are some missed activities going unreported. If you are unsure or undecided whether a particular activity qualifies as Legislative activity, please reach out to me directly, so that we can discuss it.

Please be mindful that the **Mid-Year Reports** are due to your District Presidents by **December 10, 2021** at which point she or he will forward all Auxiliary Legislative reports in their district to me at either my home address of: 2815 Williams Way Court, Dallas, Texas or email them to me at j.atiron@gmail.com on or before December 20, 2021. Thank you for all that you are doing with your Congressmen and State Legislators on behalf of our veterans. Continue to educate those in your neighborhoods, workplaces and schools of the importance of the mission. Also, please don't forget our Blue Star Families at this time of the year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

**"We Tip Our Hats To Veterans" by
"Soaring Above & Beyond"**

AUXILIARY COMMUNITY OUTREACH

Patsy Kemp – Chairman

I hope you each had a Blessed Thanksgiving. My month of November was very exciting for our family. My granddaughter, that lives in The Netherlands surprised us, at my son's house in MO. Her dad & mom were able to keep it a secret. When Don (from MO) opened the door and saw his brother and family, joy filled his heart.

Isn't that the way we all are? Surprise, love, sharing and caring always fill our hearts. Our Auxiliary Community Outreach is such a program. Why? Because we surprise other groups and organizations when we step up and assist them with projects that benefit our communities.

If you have attended a training, I have done in the past you may remember this story. Two lumber jacks were competing against each other. One young and the other much older. The young man worked without stopping but the older man kept taking breaks. The young man knew he was going to win. At the bell, each were able to see the progress the other had made. Seeing how much more wood the old man had chopped, the young man asked, how did you do that taking breaks? The old man smiled and said, "what you didn't see was I sharpened my ax each time I stopped.

Reports are due to your District President no later than December 10, 2021. PLEASE attach detailed back up of your report. **If you have already sent me copies you DO NOT have to send them again.** The reason I have to backup is because so many are claiming projects that are not Community Outreach.

Now is the time to sharpen your ax (plan of actions). Ask - what do we need to do to qualify in at least 6 good Community Outreach project? Who can I assist to honor 1st Responders? What are the requirements to enter the Community Outreach Award #1, for honoring 1st Responders?

I look forward to seeing each of you at Mid-Winter. You are wanted and without your attendance and questions how will you know what you don't know? And how will the chairman know what you need to be your best.

Merry Christmas and may we be the spreader of joy, as **We Tip Our Hats To Vets** and **Soar Above & Beyond** to achieve higher success in service to others.

Please add your email, and/or phone number to your reports. If there are questions, makes it easier getting in touch.

God Bless you all and thank you for all you do and planning to do. Patricia "Patsy" Kemp / 409 988-3269 kemppat@aol.com Below are examples from National:

Example #1.

John, an **auxiliary** member, mowed his neighbor's lawn out of the goodness of his heart.

This is not Auxiliary Community Outreach. John found out his local senior center helps mow lawns for individuals in the community. He brought that up at a meeting, the auxiliary voted to partner with the senior center. **This is Auxiliary Community Outreach.**

Example #2

Auxiliary #1234 held a breakfast and honors program at their Post Home for 1st responders.

While this is a great project and you have been asked to honor 1st responders– **It is not Auxiliary Community Outreach.** A member, Susie, belongs to another civic organization and they planned to honor their Fire Departments and could use help. Susie brought it up at her next auxiliary meeting about assisting with home-made dessert. It passed and several members made goodies and several members, in auxiliary labeled shirts, helped deliver and serve at the Fire departments. **This is Auxiliary Community Outreach.**



AMERICANISM

Janet Brown - Chairman

Happy Holidays! Whether you prefer Merry Christmas, Feliz Navidad, Happy Hanukkah or Happy Kwanzaa, enjoy your holidays. Remember that America has been and is a melting pot of many cultures and that is what makes us great. We all come together to be part of the oldest democracy in the world. While you are observing your holiday tradition, please remember that America's military has historically spent many a holiday away from home to help keep the rest of us safe. There are many things that we can do to demonstrate how much we appreciate our democracy and our military. For some examples, go to the National website and under BLOG, read the National Ambassador, Francesca Bill's, suggestions.

While you're planning any activities, don't forget Mid-Year Reports (unless you have already taken care of it by the time you read this).

Hopefully we will all remember that Christmastime is not just a red and green time but a red, white and blue time as well. This is also an excellent opportunity to combine your Americanism projects with other programs too. "Happy Christmas to all and to all a goodnight."

**"We Tip Our Hats To Vets" by
"Soaring Above & Beyond"**

VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Denise DuBois – Chairman

Here it is almost the end of 2021. Reports are coming in and I anxiously await your mid-year reports to confirm all the great work the auxiliaries are doing.

From the Roaring Twenties to the 50's Sock Hops, we are collecting hats, gloves and socks. I am so excited how you are participating in my challenge of collecting 100,000 items to keep our vets warm. Thank you!!

The auxiliaries are strong in their communities and hosting great events and always going the extra mile to take care of our veterans and their families.

Mid-Year Reports are due to your District Presidents by December 10th and to Department Chairmen by December 20th. I am certain we will achieve 100% in reporting.

It is a very busy time of the year. I want to wish each of you and your families a very Merry Christmas.

“We Tip Our Hats To Vets” - “Soaring Above & Beyond”



PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT

Beth West - Chairman

Winter is coming. Are veterans in your area ready? Colder temperatures create more issues for our heroes than just a need for coats and blankets. Colder temperatures bring higher heating bills, higher gas prices around the holidays to try and offset demand and the inclination to try to afford holiday meals, gift, travel and activities at the cost of missing a house or vehicle payment.

This is how the President's Special Project helps. It provides the financial assistance for those who are struggling with financial problems not created themselves, but by unforeseen and unexpected circumstances they are unable to handle on their own.

The Veterans' Assistance Program (VAP) focuses on making sure the most basic needs for shelter and food are met in assisting with rent/mortgage and utilities. We then assist with the next need: safety of employment and income, by assisting with vehicle and auto insurance payments. Every dollar you raise helps.

We are having a great year so far in terms of donations to this much needed program. Please make sure your Mid-Year Reports reflect all the hard work you have done. If you have sent in funds, please attach a copy of the check. If you held an event, please attach a copy of your promotion. Reports can be emailed to bethvfwaux@gmail.com and I will accept them early. ☺

Together, let's **Tip Our Hats To Veterans** by donating to the VAP so we can be **Soaring Above & Beyond** for our Texas veterans!



BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME

Shawn Terry-Chairman

Greetings to all! As everyone is getting ready for the Christmas season, let's not forget that our VFW National Home is doing the same. The National Home Community is also in need, especially this time of year. When you send money to the National Home and are reporting it, please make sure you are earmarking your checks **UNRESTRICTED FUNDS** so that they have the flexibility to use these funds as needed. Buying auxiliary members National Home Life Memberships is another great way to help. I have received many wonderful reports for the National Home. Thank you all for your hard work and efforts.

From the feedback I have received (and the great reports), the Uncle Sam Hat Statewide Project is a huge success. The creativity of many of our members has blown me away. I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing all the hats and how differently they have been decorated. Remember to bring the winning hat from your district to Mid-Winter Convention to be judged and winners announced.

It is important to remember that the Mid-Year Reports need to be in the hands of the District Presidents by December 10th, 2021. They will, in turn, get them into my hands by December 20, 2021.

NOTICE: if you have your Uncle Sam Hat on any type of display, a board, a stand, etc., the HAT is the only part of the "display" that will be judged and not the embellishments on any other part of the display.

Please take the time to fill out a report even if you have not had the opportunity to do anything. It is my hope to be 100% in reporting for the Mid-Year Reports for this program. I want to personally thank each of you for doing what you do for our precious veterans. Merry Christmas and God Bless America! **“We Tip Our Hats To Vets” “Soaring Above & Beyond”**



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Ronnie Wiley – Chairman

Laurie Hayes Wiley – Co-Chairman

Greeting ladies and gentleman, I trust everyone had a blessed Thanksgiving and we would like to say “Merry Christmas” to all the auxiliary members across this great state of Texas.

Once again keep the reports and pictures coming, you are doing great work and I am enjoying going through them!

Let's remember to include our youth in all auxiliary programs. We as an auxiliary can make a difference in their lives. The month of December has lots of opportunities to get our youth together at the many events you may have at your post

- Remember **Illustrating America Art Contest** and **Get Excited for The Red, White and Blue** singing the National Anthem contest
- Listening, encouraging and showing you care will have a profound impact on our youth.
- Taking the time to mentor our youth today will create quality leadership skills for them to use tomorrow.
- Rewarding youth for doing the "right thing" might also encourage them to continue doing positive actions in the future.
- Continue the great work in your communities and including your youth.
- Make crafts/centerpieces/table favors to be sent to VA Hospitals and Veterans Homes.
- Organize a food drive, collect items and deliver to a food bank.
- Create survival kits filled with personal care items for the homeless population.
- Write letters/cards to deployed soldiers.

Memories from these events will impact youth and forever instill volunteerism in their lives. Let's work together for our veterans and future generations of patriotic volunteers.

"We Tip Our Hats To Vets"
"Soaring Above and Beyond"



HOSPITAL/VAVS
Karen Jeffrey - Chairman

THANK YOU for the monthly reports. Texas is doing amazing promotion of The Honors Escort Program! I have shed more than a few tears while reading your heartfelt reports and while visiting the Districts in person. Such wonderful hospitality, good memories and great friends will always be appreciated!

Mid-Year Hospital/VAVS Reports are due to your District President by December 10. I prefer receiving an emailed copy of this report for communication purposes.

A big Thank You to all of the VAVS Representatives and Deputy Representatives. Your volunteer work is making a difference! You are loved & appreciated!

If you are interested in becoming a hospital or a VAVS Volunteer, please contact me. We have a volunteer position to fit every schedule.

VAVS- please send your Monthly Audit Reports to the Department Treasurer by the 5th of every month. If you need to catch up on reporting, please do so immediately.

This gift giving season, please remember our female Veterans and what might be on their "wish list". Thank you to every District & Auxiliary who has participated in the "drive by Baby Showers" what a blessing for these new or expecting mothers. Report this under the Statewide Project 1. Women Veterans Healthcare Program. www.va.gov/womenvet

Our Veterans are anxiously awaiting the stockings full of goodies we have prepared for them, the cards we will deliver, the love and holiday cheer we hope to spread to each and every one with our acts of kindness during the season of giving.

Merry Christmas! Happy Holidays!

See Ya'll next year! Happy New Year!

God Bless our Veterans! God Bless our Troops! God Bless the USA!



MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP
Jayne McCormick – Chairman

Christmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the Lights of Love to those who need it the Most.

As we enter the season of love, sharing and giving I would like to take the time to thank each and every VFWA member. You are the reason we have a great organization and a great Department of Texas. Merry Christmas to you and yours.

The Mentoring for Leadership Program has many mentors to do what is needed:

- Senior Mentoring Advisors
- District Presidents
- District Mentors
- Auxiliary Mentors

Thank you for all you have done. You are doing an outstanding job. Have a Holly Jolly Christmas.

Each month a promotion is being sent out to District Presidents to send to Auxiliary Presidents. Auxiliary Presidents are to give to their mentor or designated person to read to the membership for their auxiliary. After reading

and discussing, please send the report to me in the month it was done if at all possible. This way all reporting to National Ambassador will show the current numbers.

All Auxiliary members be informed: You need to learn all you can with the resources available to you.

- Copy of National Bylaws. (Read, ask questions)
- Read all communications from Auxiliary, Department and National.
- Go to Auxiliary website and Facebook pages often. You will want to stay up-to-date at all times. www.vfwauxiliary.org. Malta Resource pages are outstanding for learning.

“We Tip Our Hats To Vets” by enhancing leadership abilities of the members who will be “Soaring Above & Beyond.”



**CHIEF OF STAFF
JUANITA WORKMAN**

“We Tip Our Hats To Veterans” by sharing and growing this Organization

Hoping your Thanksgiving Holiday went well and now in December, is where the rubber hits the road! Membership and the importance of getting members paid by the 15th of December is the top priority. I would also like to say a big Thank You to all who have worked so hard! We are celebrating at over 90% but the goal is 100% for our President and the State of TX!!

District Presidents: All auxiliary inspections should be completed by 12-31-21 and originals sent to me.

Now is also the time to make your plans to join us at Mid-Winter Conference in January 2022! How many new people will your auxiliary be bringing to get all the great training that is offered? I look forward to seeing you there!

Unhealthy Auxiliaries are not what we want to see happening but it is happening! We have several post closings and some auxiliaries being suspended due to various reasons. We are here to help with these but we do need to make sure the paperwork is sent at state and national levels. Please reach out if you are not getting that help or feel you need other help. We want to ensure our members from these closures are transferred and taken care of so they are able to continue in our mission and serve the veterans in their areas.

In your area you can check in with the Post Commanders that do not have Auxiliaries to see if they would like to start up an Auxiliary per the

Auxiliary By-laws. This doesn't happen without your help so we can continue **“Soaring Above & Beyond”**

Department of Texas has 23 Outstanding Deputy Chiefs of Staff who are working diligently within their District. Many thanks and kudos for a job well done.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

2022 Podium Books will soon be available. Can order through the VFW Store or through the Department. Cost through Department is \$7.50 each. Contact Department Office with number of books and total money to be sent. Any questions contact office.

During Mid-Winter there will be
Treasurers Training

New Treasurers attending submit any questions you may have to be addressed and answered to this email prior to Mid-Winter. bethvfwaux@gmail.com.

Returning Treasurers will be provided any updates about the Treasurers job as well as any questions to be answered.

BETH WEST

Candidate for Department of Texas
VFW Auxiliary Guard
2022-2023

Auxiliary 3413

District 5

JO ELLA MENN

Candidate for Department Treasurer
2022-2023

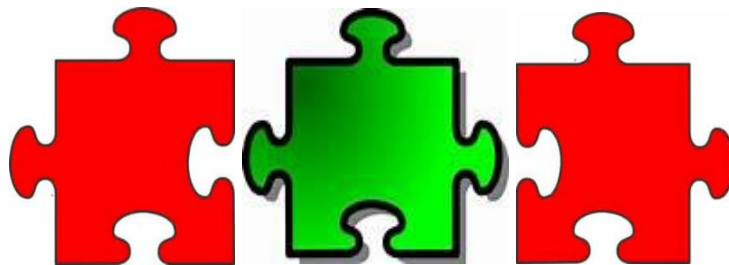
Endorsed by Auxiliary 8621/District 6

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

VFW Auxiliary
Department of Texas
PO Box 15285
Austin, Texas 78761

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**THROUGHOUT THE HOLIDAY SEASON
THE PUZZLE PIECES STILL FIT TOGETHER
FOR OUR ORGANIZATION**