



The Navigator November 1, 2024

From the desk of Department President Cindy:

Hello!!

My, how time flies! So much has changed in the short time in this fiscal year. Nine auxiliaries have closed, however, on the bright side, four are in the works. For the most part, the reason for the closing is not being able to get members to hold offices. That is so sad, and I know I heard it firsthand. "Been there, did my time." But is that the mentality a member needs? I understand that some of you have been President or any other office for years and need a small break, but that break shouldn't last forever. We are probably all in agreement that when one person is in the same office for years and years they get stationary and just go through the motions. New ideas are not formed or acted upon. We need to revitalize the officers, maybe you step down from Secretary to Chaplain or even Guard. So many auxiliaries are struggling to get officers or even have enough members in attendance to hold a quorum. Maybe the solution to getting a bigger attendance at a meeting is as simple as changing the date and time. Use social media or other platforms to reach out to all members to attend a "special" meeting, which could be a holiday-related meeting at this time of year. Consider having a potluck meeting in November or December and or/ bringing items for charity.

(Remember hearing about Operation Bottom Up and the Backpacks for Homeless special projects)

Unfortunately, another reason is personality conflicts, whether between the Post members or between auxiliary members. Remember the Auxiliary is a GUEST of the VFW Post and should act as such. I have had a few instances regarding the inability to get along and my conclusion is as follows: The Auxiliary wants to HELP and DO and in doing so they may overstep their role in relation to the Post. The Post may feel like they are being overrun with the auxiliary. Our National leaders this year encourage working together. To work together, communication is key! If the officers from both sides are not talking to each other that is when “things go downhill fast.” I am not speaking of “permission” for an activity, etc, but this is what we are planning, and are open to suggestions kind of talk or asking the Post exactly what specific things they would like the auxiliary to do. Another strong suggestion, you don’t have to like or be best friends with everyone, but respect the person, the office, and the organization and get along while performing VFW Auxiliary functions.

You may not know this! When you sign up a new member or transferring one from annual to life, know this: In the calendar year this is happening in, whatever age they are on December 31st of that calendar year is the age you use in determining the amount due. For example, Merry Member will be 46 years old on December 7, 2025. Merry is an annual member and wants to convert to life, but thought she had to wait until after her birthday to do so to get the cheaper rate. NO! Merry is eligible to convert to life from January 1, 2025 till December 31, 2025. Whatever age you are on December 31st of that year is the age-related amount of dues owed.

Is your Auxiliary on track to achieve the Circle of Excellence? It can be viewed by all members logged onto the new website, pull it up and see where your Auxiliary is at

currently. Membership, which is the biggest point amount, is added as it is achieved. I

would be so proud to have every auxiliary in the Circle of Excellence!

I want to say thank you for everything you do as a member of the Auxiliary. I appreciate your hard work in doing what we do for our Veterans and their families.

It is hard to say this in early fall, but by the time you are reading this, it's the

HOLIDAYS! I want to wish everyone a thankful Thanksgiving and a blessed Christmas

season. May you find comfort and peace. Enjoy the time with family and friends.

With Love,

Cindy

Humongous THANK YOU to everyone who either attended or sent a gift to the Down State Luncheon. Seriously, you made it a day to remember! The weather was great, the lunch was delicious, and the decorations made the hall look amazing. It was awesome to see so many of you, especially those that drove for hours. I appreciate all the gifts. The District Presidents gave me a stunning compass bracelet and the love gifts from the Auxiliaries were delivered via "air" with bills attached to a helium balloon. Special thanks to my Auxiliary members who not only made and served the food, but also voted to donate it with the proceeds going to my special project, This Able Veteran. We topped it off with a little bit of training on reporting and navigating the new website.



Treasurer's Ramblings

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

It is the Auxiliary's responsibility to make sure that the application is completed in full.

The most common errors that I see are the following:

- o Recruiter's name and/or Recruiter Membership IDs are missing
- o Date of Birth Missing
- o For Post-Affiliated Veterans, the VFW Membership ID is required
- o For Non-Affiliated Veterans, the campaign ribbons and/.or medals must be on the application. You only need to put the qualifying medals on the application.

It is not necessary to show medals such as Good Conduct, World War II Victory Medal, Sharp Shooter's Badge. Please refer to Section 101-Eligibility.

AUDITS

- o The Trustees should conduct audits. The President, Secretary and the Treasurer should attend the audit.
- o The Trustees will need the Treasurer and Secretary's Books at the audit
- o They will also need the Bills, Vouchers, Bank Statements including the cancelled check or copies of the checks (Please refer to Page 23 in the yellow pages of the Bylaws for a complete list)
- o The current audit being conducted will begin with the ending balances from the prior audit
- o A check of the receipts and expenditures is completed and recorded on the audit form. All checks written during the quarter should be included and should be listed in the Treasurer's monthly report regardless if it has cleared or not cleared the bank.

- o The ending balance on the audit should be matched with the last treasurer's report for the quarter, the Check Register and the reconciled bank statement.
- o Please avoid taking a photo and texting the audit. It is very hard to get clear copy this way. It is best to scan or fax the report.

990N

- o Your 990N, should be entered no later than November 15, 2024. The Treasurer's Resources on MALTA has training on how to set up your IRS account and complete your 990N. This is FREE through IRS.gov.
- o New this year: Send a copy of your acceptance receipt to me once you have completed it.

I wish you and your families Happy Holidays. May you make many happy memories.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Linda Lorenz

From Secretary Rhonda Borkgren:

I can't believe how fast this year has gone, already November 1st. I know I have been busy, and I am sure all of you have too. Did you get to watch the live from National the other day? It is always interesting to see what they have to say. I agree, if one person is asking the question, probably many, want the answer too. The new Bylaws books are not out in print yet, but they are on MALTA. It is the green cover book. You can go to it and look something up hit Control F. Then type in your question or what you want to find. How you put your word will depend on what you get for answers. So, you might have to try different words.

One of the things they discussed was District dues. Just because National said you can go up to an amount for District dues doesn't mean you have to raise them. The only time you can raise them is when you vote on them during your District Convention, which is usually held in April or May. Remember only delegates can vote. Section 506-A

Auxiliaries can vote to use Pay Pal, Zel, Venmo, to collect payments for fundraisers. This was approved at National Convention. It is section 813 A-7. It needs to be discussed and voted on at a meeting before you can use it.

Auxiliaries can also use mobile deposit, but they must keep the record (either the check or a photo of it for 6 years), Trustees have one of the most important jobs in the Auxiliary. They are supposed to be going through all the records and making sure all money spent have been voted on and approved. If there is a problem, the Trustees are ultimately responsible. Don't just sign your name without being sure the books are accurate.

If something happens to the treasurer, they go away for the winter, or are sick, you can have someone temporarily take their place. Appoint an acting treasurer to take their place. It needs the approval of the Department President. You will need to let us know for how long, if temporary or if it's until the next election. The Secretary will enter it into Malta. Please be sure to contact me or Cindy if this happens.

At this time only members can enter their informal join date. National is going to allow Secretaries and Treasurers to do this, but not sure when it will be started. For now members can enter the date they joined and the Secretary and Treasurer can print that list. This is so we can get that information for awarding year pins.

If you need help or have questions, we are only a phone call away. We are here to help. If you think you should have points for something in the Circle of Excellence and it isn't on there, please give me a call or send me an email and I will help you out. Linda and I try to make sure everything is accurate, but we can miss one sometimes.

I want to wish everyone a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy New Year! See you next time!

Rhonda

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

Bulletin #2
November 2024

Tammy Napier, Chairman

VFW Auxiliary – Department of Illinois
6512 E. Mount Pleasant Lane
Olney, IL 62450
(618) 204-8189
tammyvfwaux@gmail.com

CELEBRATE NATIONAL VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES MONTH



November isn't just about Veterans Day on the 11th or Thanksgiving on the 28th; it's National Veterans and Military Families Month. This month is dedicated to recognizing the sacrifices and contributions of veterans, military members, and their families to the U.S. Armed Forces. It is also the perfect time to highlight the VFW's National Veterans Service (NVS) Program.

NVS helps veterans, service members, and their families obtain the benefits they deserve at no cost. The program funds a network of VFW Service Officers who assist with navigating the VA system. These VFW-accredited officers recover over \$1 billion annually in VA benefits and help with filing claims for all veterans, whether they are VFW members or not.

Consider organizing an event with a VFW-accredited Service Officer to help local veterans and their families navigate the VA system.

DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS JOINT FUNDRAISER: BACKPACKS FOR HOMELESS VETERANS

Department VFW Commander Maurice Bridges and Department VFW Auxiliary President Cindy Watters are raising funds to provide backpacks filled with essentials for homeless veterans in Illinois. Join this effort by planning a joint fundraising activity with your Post to support our state's homeless veterans.



Remember to report all your Auxiliary's activities. Whether you are providing meals, baby essentials, or household items to a veteran, military member, or their family, or donating to hurricane relief, it all counts!

Feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns. I'm here to help!

Who are we?

We want to be a presence in our community, educate people on what the Auxiliary does, and offer help to other civic organizations.

What do we wear?

When you volunteer our time for Auxiliary Outreach, you need to wear something that identifies you as a member of the VFW Auxiliary. At a minimum, you should wear your member pin. But you can stand out more by wearing Auxiliary clothing!

First, please note that the VFW Auxiliary emblem is copyrighted and cannot be used without permission. For more information on the rules, please visit <https://vfwauxiliary.org/emblem-branding-center/>.

Shop for official VFW Auxiliary items at <https://www.vfwstore.org/>

Here are some great examples of inexpensive items to wear while volunteering in Outreach.



Auxiliary T-Shirts

Starting at \$12.95



Blue-Gray Auxiliary T-shirt

Starting at \$17.95



Royal Blue Auxiliary Apron

\$19.95



Auxiliary Name Tag, Mini

\$7.00



Auxiliary Name Tag, Clutch

Back

\$8.00



Auxiliary Name Tag, Magnetic

Back

\$8.50

I encourage ordering with others to split the shipping costs.

Don't forget to have someone take a photo or two!

This year the National contest is the best collage of Auxiliary Outreach!

- There are many YouTube videos on how to make a collage on your PC.
- The library has good books on creating a collage.
- Stop at Hobby Lobby or Michael's for supplies!
- Tap into other members' creative ideas by working on the collage together!

How to report on the state contests:

Report right after the outreach event. If you are reporting multiple dates, please provide all the dates and details so we can count how many times your Auxiliary worked as a group.

In the description, mention the member names so individual efforts can be counted for the contest, provide more details on the organization you are working with.

I look forward to seeing your reports!

Best regards,

Denita Ricci

Department of Illinois Auxiliary Outreach Chairman

denita14aux@gmail.com | 847-951-9260



AMERICANISM

Karen Hirstein, Chairman

As we all begin our preparations for celebrating the Thanksgiving Holidays, let us remember those who are unable to sit at their home table to enjoy the festivities. Honor all veterans on Veterans Day **November 11**. Those that are here and those that are not whether they be Missing in Action, Prisoner of War or Killed in Action.

When you give thanks let us all stand tall and thank those who are unable to be with their families this season, show them your **patriotism** and support.

November is also Military Family Month and Warrior Care Month, let us not forget those in need especially the veterans family and loved ones.

A saying I once read says:

**It cannot be inherited
nor can it be purchased
I have earned it with my
Blood - Sweat – and Tears
I own it forever the title
VETERAN**

Love and support to all of them – home and abroad.

**“Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home
Cheryl Miller, Program Chairman**

Happy Fall everyone! Hope you all are enjoying the change of seasons.

The holidays will be here soon and there are many ways to include the "Buddy" Poppy in your holiday events:

Attach one to a Halloween treat bag.

Hand them out at Veteran's Day celebrations.

Include them in gifts to nursing homes or hospitals.

Use them in Christmas decorations, on a tree or in a wreath.

Come up with ways to use the new metal poppy, this could be a whole new look!

While you're doing your distributions have copies of this little flyer to give to those who may question what the poppy is or where the donations go. They're available from the VFW Store in packs of one hundred. You can also get window stickers, maybe to give to your volunteers. And check out the activity booklet "All About the VFW "Buddy" Poppy for children, it's a great learning tool!

If you're working on Christmas gifts, think about purchasing a VFW National Home Life Membership for \$50, or the limited time centennial membership for \$100. How about a lasting Tribute Brick to honor your veteran. They are \$100 for a 4"x8" brick, or \$500 for an 8"x8" brick for the 2025 Centennial Garden. Don't forget to report it if your Auxiliary makes one of these purchases and let me know if you need forms, I'll be happy to forward them to you.

The holidays can bring on the blues for many people, especially our suffering veterans. Keep the Helpline info close at hand if you talk to someone who needs assistance.

Phone (800) 313-4200

Email help@vfwnationalhome.org

Visit vfwnationalhome.org/help

Promoting this helpline may save a veteran and their family in time of need, and that's what we are here for, OUR VETERANS!

EXTENSION AND REVITALIZATION

JOHN WATTERS

Extension and revitalization is a two-part program. We need to institute new auxiliaries but also assist troubled auxiliaries. We need to save what we have and grow the new into well-functioning auxiliaries. District presidents or assigned official representatives need to recognize when an auxiliary is having problems and honestly assess and report to our department president. Once a red light appears, we can put it in place corrective measures. Please remember to recognize the positive within an auxiliary and encourage membership. We have seen a lot of auxiliaries and posts not getting along well or having problems. We need to direct our auxiliary presidents to communicate better with their post. Post members may say you're doing too much and interfering with operations. Some may say the auxiliary is not doing enough. Sometimes we need to step back and decide what is a good balance. Communication here is the key. Always remember we are guests of the post and without them, we cannot exist as an auxiliary. Anytime an auxiliary feels they are being bullied by the post, let your District President know so we can assist. Our VFW leadership team is caring and well supportive of teamwork and will make every effort to assist us. We must remember we are here to support our veterans and families. The road is not always green lights, we must quickly navigate the reds and yellows as we move forward to the green light!!

**Historian
Cathy Sullivan**

Department of Illinois VFW Auxiliary

Historian/Media Relations November 2024 www.vfwauxil.org

Facebook Page: Department of Illinois VFW Auxiliary

Cathy Sullivan : sully717@hotmail.com

National Theme: From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans

Department Theme: Navigating the Future -A Compass for Leadership and Unity



Q: Are you following along with our National President Brenda Bryant as she visits members in every Department?

A: Please see the attached National Historian & Media Relations Promotion #2 for information on how to find and use the interactive map. Each stop has a short YouTube video. You don't have to be on Facebook to follow her adventures!

Q: Did you know that Ambassador Blogs are being shared behind MALTA member login instead of on the National Organization's website as of this Program Year?

A: As always, these are full of great ideas, deadline reminders, clarification and encouragement for Chairmen and members alike. Find them under Member Resources, Blogs. Fifteen blogs have already been posted for the 2024-2025 Program Year, in addition to three in each Program from last year (2023-2024). Check them out today!

Q: Have you submitted your entry form for the National Program Award for Most outstanding promotion of the VFW Auxiliary Programs to the community through social media sources?

A: Entries are due to Department Historian/Media Relations Chairman Cathy Sullivan (me) by 3/31/25. Forms can be found on our Illinois website on the Historian page and behind Malta member login under Member Resources.

www.vfwauxil.org



Historian & Media Relations Promotion #2 | October 2024 Tela Harbold

2024-2025 National Historian & Media Relations Ambassador telaharbold@gmail.com

Brenda Lost & Found

Branching Across America

The interactive map for our National President Brenda Bryant's travel is ready for viewing by everyone.

Follow Brenda as she makes her way around the United States visiting with members from every Department. The map can be found at the bottom of the landing page of the



JOIN US ABOUT US WHAT WE DO EVENTS SCHOLARSHIPS & CONTESTS MEDIA MALTA MEMBER LOGIN CONTACT US

and their families, and spreading patriotism nationwide.


Our members have volunteered millions of hours, donated millions of dollars and honored hundreds of thousands of veterans. [Volunteer with us](#) and celebrate the freedoms we enjoy in America.



**Brenda Lost & Found:
Branching Across
America**

Follow our National President as she makes her way across the U.S.

The map can be viewed by clicking on the green play button. This will open the map for viewing each pin drop (places Brenda has visited).

To view the map in full screen, click the Auxiliary logo in the bottom right corner.

 **Download the new MALTA app!**

Download on the  App Store  GET IT ON Google Play

National Auxiliary website www.vfwauxiliary.org or by scanning this QR Code.

Zoom in and zoom out can be accomplished by using the + or - in the top right corner (above the map) or by scrolling with your mouse if using a PC. The map can be moved around by left clicking the mouse and dragging.

Each pin drop has a video clip that can be viewed. These also can be viewed in full screen by clicking the broken square in the bottom right corner when the video starts.

While Brenda is “Branching Across America,” each Department has the opportunity to add to “Brenda Lost & Found” by giving her a glimpse of what their state has to offer and what their Department is doing to promote the goals and Programs of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. The Department Historian & Media Relations Chairman will need to send pictures and a report of the National President’s Official Visit within two weeks of the visit to the email or physical address listed in the *National Program Book*.

REMINDER:

[Historian & Media Relations Auxiliary Award No. 1](#) is a form in MALTA under Historian Media Relations for Auxiliaries to win an award. These forms must be submitted by the Auxiliary to the Department Chairman for judging by March 31, 2025.

**Hospital Chairman
Laura Knackstedt**

Thank you to everyone that has made a report on the new website or sent in their hospital donations and hospital pledge. I am writing this prior to our Hospital Conference that will be held following the C of A in Mattoon. I hope that many of you attended and enjoyed the information we passed along to you at the conference. I will be posting wish lists from the facilities shortly. The holidays are fast approaching (wow!! Where has the year gone). This is always a difficult time of year for our Veterans. Many have no family left or their family is not in the area. Please remember to stop by, drop off some items and have a conversation with them. I know that they appreciate our visits and gifts very much.

Thank you to many of you that supported or helped with the many baby showers we have had in the past couple of months. Our Veterans that are expecting really appreciate us giving them a helping hand with items for the new arrival.

The benches that we collected bottle caps are finished and waiting for delivery to our facilities. We are working on coordinating delivery as soon as possible. If you are available to help with the deliveries, please let myself or Lori Crites know. We would like to get them delivered as soon as possible.

I love seeing all the pictures and posts of your bingo nights or visits with our Veterans. It brightens my day to see their smiling faces and to know we have them in our hearts and on our mind.

I would like to see some work being done on the honors escort program. If any of you have reached out to your local facilities to implement this program, I would like to get information to pass along to our members to help them get this program in more of our local facilities.

Keep up the good work and know that I along with our Veterans appreciate all that you do for them.

Department of Illinois Legislative Program
Lisa Rivera

Greetings and Happy Fall!

By this writing, elections are over or will be in a few days. I hope everyone exercised their right to vote! Be sure to keep the legislative contacts you made during the election campaign season near and dear. There is so much important VFW-supported legislation that is still pending. I will be researching and highlighting those in my next article so we will be ready in January to hold newly elected officials accountable to push those through.

In the meantime, you will be happy and proud to know that the VFW has answered the call for hurricane relief. As Hurricane Helene relief efforts continue in North Carolina and other impacted regions, the VFW is now taking action to provide aid to veterans, service members, and military families in Florida following Hurricane Milton. "My deepest gratitude goes out to all VFW and Auxiliary members, and our supporters for the time, supplies, financial contributions, and forward efforts in assisting those whose lives were suddenly thrust into devastation and despair in the wake of these natural disasters," said VFW National

Commander Al Lipphardt. To support the VFW Disaster Relief Fund, you may [donate online](#) or mail checks payable to the VFW and earmarked "Disaster Relief" to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation Disaster Relief, 406 W. 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111. We are our brothers (and sisters) keepers.

Thank you to all who are reporting online! The reports have been very informative and a pleasure to read! Keep up the great work!

Be safe in all you do and enjoy the Fall season!

VFW Auxiliary Involvement in

Elections and Political Activities

VFW Auxiliary members are encouraged to get involved in Congressional and FOR UNCOMMON HEROES• Presidential elections, hold voter registration drives, town hall meetings and other events featuring candidates for public office. We view it as a positive and it shows veterans and those who support veterans issues to be a strong group of voters that most candidates want on their side. As we approach the Congressional and Presidential campaign season, here are a few items to keep mind as you get involved and attend and/or host candidate functions and town hall meetings:

DO's

Do attend candidate town hall Meetings and other events and ask candidates where they stand on veterans issues.

Do set up voter registration drives/Get Out the Vote Campaigns on the local level. Do provide carpool service on Election Day to help the elderly and disabled get to the voting booth.

Do support and work for your favorite candidates as a voting constituent.

Do wear clothing/pins with the VFW Auxiliary emblem at public events such as town halls, rallies, forums and/or debates.

DON'Ts

- Don't endorse candidates on behalf of the VFW Auxiliary National Organization, Department, District or Auxiliary.
- Don't wear your VFW Auxiliary cap when actively campaigning for a candidate, such as soliciting donations or knocking on doors asking people to pledge their vote for a candidate.

It does not matter which candidate(s) you support as long as they know you are a VFW Auxiliary member and concerned about veterans, our military personnel and their families. The key is to stay informed on the issues and use your influence to urge new candidates and those up for reelection to support the VFW, VFW Auxiliary and veterans' issues. VFW Auxiliary members can make a difference in any election by getting involved in the political process.

- Access the brochure "[Veterans Vote: A How to Guide to Gettin Involved in the Election Process.](#)"
- Stay informed by reviewing the [VFW's Legislative Priority Goals.](#)
- If you have questions, please contact the VFW at vfwacfvfw.org.

MEMBERSHIP

KATHRYN ROWOLD, CHAIRMAN
MARY LEE, CO-CHAIRMAN



It's that time of the year when leaves and temperatures fall BUT one thing we cannot let fall is membership! Our first National Goal is November 30th to reach 95%! As a department, as of October 14, we need to collect 933 dues to reach 95%! We need to go big this month by collecting dues from our unpaid members. Now is the time to make those personal contacts by phone or in person. Remind them why they joined, the benefits of being a member, including cancer grants, and how important our mission is to Veterans. Members can pay dues on MALTA or send a check to the Auxiliary Treasurer.

As a reminder, December 31st is the last day you can pay dues and stay in good standing. Good standing means you can apply for a cancer grant, attend meetings, and be an officer. After that day, you are no longer an active member. Our year runs July 1st to June 30 and that is how our dues year

runs. Members are given time to get their dues paid before they are no longer considered a member and need to show eligibility again.

With the holidays approaching, money will be tight. December meetings have a chance of being cancelled due to weather issues so do not rely on your December meeting to collect or pay dues. Try to get all dues paid in November, not only to reach our goals but to avoid any issues that might come up in December.

And talking about the holidays—let's talk about recruiting during the holidays.

- School or city craft fairs are the perfect place to set up a table to give out information.

- Check your VFW membership list with eligible members that are not already members.

Challenge your VFW members to bring in new members. Maybe offer a gift card as a prize to the VFW member who brings in the most eligible family members.

- Does your town host a holiday lights or holiday event. Pair up with your town to get your contact information out there.

- Offer a Christmas or holiday "special" that if you join during December, your Auxiliary dues are on the Auxiliary for the first year!

- And of course—YOU can give the gift of membership to those who qualify so that they can give back to their families who have given us so much!

Mary Lee and I wish you all Happy Holidays and we look forward to helping your Auxiliary to not only maintain but also add new members in the holidays!



SCHOLARSHIPS

Laurie Sparwasser:

VOD and Patriot's Pen

The Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essays should be in your possession and judging must be in process or completed. These need to be sent to your District VFW Chairman for judging by November 15th . The Patriot's Pen essay is a Youth Activities program for the VFW, so there may be 2 different VFW District Chairmen in your District. Please make sure the correct Chairman gets your winners. If you need a copy of the scoring sheets for these essays, please contact your District Auxiliary Chairman. I gave them copies of everything needed for judging. Try to have an award program for your winners. Include your judges, teachers and Post and Auxiliary members. Show the students how important it was for your Post to get their participation in these contests.

Continuing Education Scholarship

Please get copies of this application to your members as soon as possible if you have not done so yet. This is limited to only auxiliary members (who have been a member for at least one year), spouses, sons or daughters. The applicant must be at least 21 years old. There is an essay required with this application and it is due to National by February 15, 2025. Please DO NOT send these to me. If any applications are received by you, please forward to:

Administrator of Programs
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
406 W. 34th St., 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111

If you need any of the forms for this scholarship, they are available on vfwauxil.org website under Scholarships.

Please remember National has an escrow fund for Continuing Education that you can donate to, so the amount of the award can continue to increase. It is now \$1,250 for one winner from each of the 4 conferences. Donations are to be sent directly to National Auxiliary in Kansas City and earmarked for Continuing Education. Donations can also be done in Malta.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

Please remember students can enter the 2-D and 3-D contest. Every Auxiliary can send me a 2-D and 3-D winner. I need to build an extra room to hold all of them. Please see the applications for all details for each type of art. These applications need to be at the high schools as soon as possible so students can start thinking about what they want to do and start working on their entry. Copies of the applications are on the vfwauxil.org website along with a press release and judging sheet. I also gave this information to your District Auxiliary Chairman. If you need a copy, please ask them. National is accepting donations for the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Escrow Fund and the 3-D Patriotic Art. This helps increase the awards for winners at the National level. Please send donations to National Auxiliary in Kansas City or they can be made in MALTA

YOUTH ACTIVITIES Barb Sweger

Phone: (815) 481-8288

Email: deptilyouth@yahoo.com

Sponsoring and Working with a Youth Group is what I want to focus on this time.

Does your Auxiliary support a youth group? If the answer is yes, you are already on your way to promoting this part of the program! Please send me all of the pics that you take with your groups! Getting photos of all the smiling faces is a great perk to this position!

If your Auxiliary does not support a group but does work with a youth group, you are also on your way to promoting this program! Share your photos! Let me know if you have hosted any event with them or for them!

If your Auxiliary has not had a chance to sponsor or support a youth group, see what is available in your community. There are several options available: The Scouts, Church Youth Groups, Boys & Girls Club, and local school groups. Some communities have a JROTC – Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps. If your community has a JROTC, check out how you can help them as

these recruits might eventually become a member of the military as well as a member your Post/Auxiliary. It is easy to google – I googled Youth Groups near LaSalle, IL (where I am from) and about 6 different groups popped up – 4-H LaSalle County, IL Valley YMCA, Hope House and a few others. Just put out feelers to see what's in your neck of the woods!

On another level, some high schools have students that are looking for volunteer credits for graduation, this is another group that would benefit from our support. My local high school just started a new group called Interact. This is part of our local Rotary Club and this club helps connect students with leaders in your community so that they can take action to make a difference, discover new cultures and promote international understanding as well as lead them on to become future leaders in their school and communities as well as have fun while making new friends.in Malta.



The Department of Illinois
Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary



P R E S E N T T H E

2024-2025 DEPARTMENT JOINT PROJECT



BACKPACKS *for* **HOMELESS VETERANS**



TWO WAYS TO PARTICIPATE

**ALL VFW Posts and Auxiliaries are encouraged to participate
in one of the following ways:**

CREATE A BACKPACK

*Some Suggested items:
Backpack, Personal care items,
Underwear, Socks, T-shirts,
Non-perishable food (w/ pull-tab lids)*

**FULL BACKPACKS WILL BE
COLLECTED AT THE FEBRUARY
COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION
MEETING IN SPRINGFIELD**

MAKE A DONATION

**Earmark donations:
"Backpacks for the Homeless"**

**AUXILIARY MEMBERS send to:
Department Treasurer
Linda Lorenz**

**VFW MEMBERS pay online at:
vfwil.org or send check to
Department Headquarters**