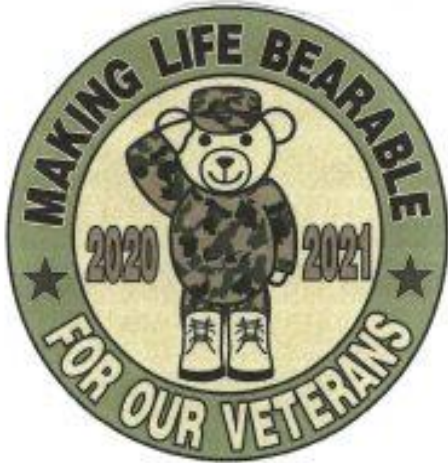


VFW AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS

“AUXILIARY
BEARING”



"Making Life Bearable for Our Veterans"

NOVEMBER EDITION

NEWSLETTER #3



PRESIDENT LINDA'S NOTES

Hello dear Members,

I cannot believe so much has happened since my installation on June 13th. Even

in these unprecedented times we are all continuing to work diligently to support our very important programs. Who would have believed we be meeting our goals through this horrible pandemic with all the restrictions we have to endure, but we are!

I want to thank all of you for your kind words of encouragement and get well wishes since my accident on June 21st. without them I would not have made it this far. So, THANK YOU all from the bottom of my heart.

As we are about to enter the season of holiday celebrating, please continue to work our programs, support our Veterans and their families, your communities and each other. Thank you for your assistance our statewide Food Drive, Scholarship programs and remembering our veterans in their facilities, hospitals and nursing homes. Your acknowledgement means everything to them.

I Love You All, keep up the great work. Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and have an incredibly Happy, Prosperous New Year.

STAY SAFE STAY HEALTHY

STAY KIND



CHIEF OF STAFF/EXTENSION- DIANA RUDEEN

Happy Fall Brothers and Sisters. I hope all of you are in good health and spirits as we continue to endure this pandemic. The Extension Program can aid us with the means to make sure all of our members are healthy, safe and sound at any time. A healthy Auxiliary makes for healthy and happy members that are willing to go over and beyond to serve our Veterans, their families, and communities. If you need resources MALTA has so many of them free of charge to aid you in keeping our Auxiliaries healthy and in good working order. There are also Certificates of Appreciation you can give out to say Thank-You for a job well done. Thank-you goes a long way; we can never say it enough. We also need to invite all members to be a part of our projects and committees. Everyone has talents and can add input to what we are working on. The day we turn away a member is the day they may walk out to never return. I found this poem and I believe it is fitting to share with all our members in this bulletin. Please listen to the words and take heed to the meaning of what this member endured.

THE MEMBER THAT NEVER CAME BACK

“Anonymous

Recruiting new members is important; however, retaining our current members and making them feel a part of our

“Great Organization” is just as important as the following poem states so well:

It amuses me, now, to think that your organization spends so much time looking for new members, when I was there all the time. Do you remember me?

I'm the person who came to every meeting, but nobody paid any attention to me. I tried several times to be friendly, but everyone seemed to have their own friends to talk to and to sit with. I sat down among some unfamiliar faces several times, but they didn't pay much attention to me. I hoped that someone would ask me to join one of the committees, or to somehow participate and contribute.

But no one did.

Finally, because of an illness, I missed a meeting. The next month no one asked me where I had been. I guess it didn't matter very much whether I was there or not. On the next meeting date, I decided to stay home and watch a good television program. When I attended the next meeting, no one asked me where I was the month before.

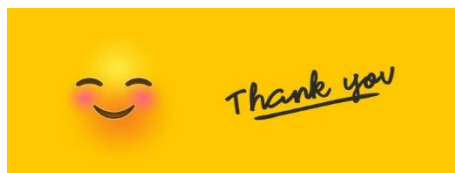
You might say that I'm a good person, a good family member, that I hold a responsible job and love my community and my Country.

You know who else I am?

I'M THE MEMBER WHO NEVER CAME BACK!

I want to thank all the Auxiliaries that have sent in reports. Please continue to do so and let's make our Department of Illinois VFW Auxiliary **100% Reported and Participated by December 31, 2021**. I am here to help you in any way; I am only a phone call or email away. I want to wish all of you a Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year.

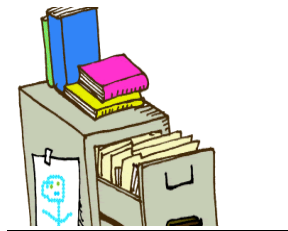
SECRETARY – PATTI McLEOD



For all the cards, well wishes and prayers. They help to brighten my days.

Patti

TREASURER – LINDA LORENZ

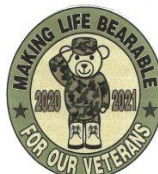


Friendly Reminders:

- ✓ All checks sent to me for membership and donations, should be made payable to the **“Dept. of IL VFW Auxiliary”**. Please do not make them out to me.
- ✓ For new memberships, your Auxiliary should deposit the member's check and send an Auxiliary check. The Department is not able to debit your Auxiliary's Checking account, so a check is required.
- ✓ A new annual member is \$11 (\$6 for the Department and \$5 for National)

- ✓ Life membership fees are shown on the application
- ✓ Remember to include a list or earmark your check so I know how to apply your money.
- ✓ Please review Section 101 – Eligibility in the Bylaws.
- ✓ There is a complete list of eligible campaign medals or ribbons shown
- ✓ Please make sure the information is clearly on the application
- ✓ A good conduct medal does not qualify for membership.
- ✓ Serving overseas will not automatically qualify for membership without a qualified campaign medal or ribbon
- ✓ Please review the Donations list published monthly for any errors.
- ✓ Donations to the National Home Health and Happiness should be sent to the VFW Auxiliary, 406 West 34th Street, 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111 or paid on MALTA
- ✓ Donations to National Veterans Service (NVS) or National Military Services (NMS) are to be sent directly to the VFW, 406 West 34th Street, Suite 216, Kansas City, MO 64111

PRESIDENTS PINS – CAROL SHUTTS



"Making Life Bearable for Our Veterans"

This has been a roller coaster year and continues to be one. In two months our year will be half over. We realize with all that has been going on with quarantines, limited people at meetings it's difficult to reach out to people, you just have to take that extra step and do it.

I still have pins to be distributed, so please if you need any let me know. My phone number is 217-370-9111. If your Auxiliary still doesn't have any let your District President know. This pin means a lot to President Linda, let's do this, I know you can. Remember these pins are for "Wheels for Veteran's" a project near and dear to President Linda.

Thank you to the Districts and Auxiliaries who have gotten more to sell, it is greatly appreciated.

Make your checks out to "Dept. of Illinois Auxiliary" and earmark it President's Pins with your District and/or Auxiliary number and mail it to Carol Shutts-7822 Warrior Hill Road, Virginia, IL 62691.

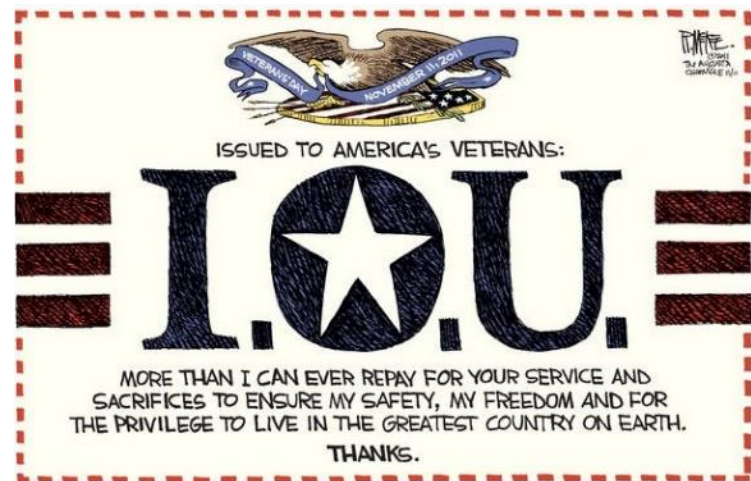
Have a Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas! Stay safe and healthy.

VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT – JANET KAYS



November is a very important month on the VFW Auxiliary calendar. November 11th is the day our nation takes time to honor all military veterans who have served in the United States Armed Forces. Veterans Day coincides with other holidays including Armistice Day

and Remembrance Day which are celebrated in other countries that mark the anniversary of the end of WWI. On the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918, the major hostilities of The Great War were finally ended. Veterans Day is a day that every Auxiliary should plan to pay respects to the veterans and military of their communities. Whatever you do to honor your veterans, whether it's help with a Veterans Day service, a free drive by to go meal, or a tribute in the local newspaper; **make a difference** for a veteran.



November also marks **National Family Caregivers Month**. There are more

than 65 million caregivers across America and as much as 90% of this care is provided by family members. Even though you may not be able to have an in person visit to support someone who is providing care for a veteran, you can take time to send a card or make a phone call. That could **make the difference** in that person having a not so great day or a pretty good day.

If you haven't reported in VFS yet or you are looking for more ways to serve our

veterans and military, here are some additional suggestions.

Adopt-A-Unit VFW Auxiliaries, VFW Posts, and a collaboration with both are eligible to adopt-a-unit. You can find a military unit by **1.** Contacting your local National Guard, Reserve, and Active Duty units **2.** Access the “Find a Unit Flyer” at www.vfw.org/troopssupport/ or **3.** Speak with other VFW Posts and Veterans Service Organizations who may know about units in the area. The next step is to submit an Adopt-Unit application to the MAP office. This form is also located on the aforementioned website.

National President’s Special Project: Stars, Stripes, and Support: Donate by mail to this project which helps the nearly 15% of military and veteran families who are struggling to feed their families. This donation should be written to VFW Foundation and earmarked Unmet Needs-Hunger. The address to send a check to is:

VFW National Headquarters
Attn: VFW Foundation
406 W 3rd St, 9th Fl
Kansas City MO 64111

Any Auxiliary that donates \$25 or more by April 30, 2021 will receive a National citation.

Contribute to Making Life Bearable for Our Veterans through **Veterans Services Food Drive** sponsored by the Department of Illinois VFW and its Auxiliary.

Create a First Aid Kit (**Swap**) for \$5.00

Kits should include: adhesive bandages, triple antibiotic cream, pain relief tablets, antacids, and throat lozenges. Put all

items in a small reusable (waterproof) container with a Veterans Crisis Line Info card. (If you want, you could also add items like a pair of socks, soap or hand sanitizer, nutrition bars, etc.). Distribute the kits by delivering directly to needy veterans or give to your local police department to hand out to the homeless. (This idea was submitted to the National Ambassador by VFW Auxiliary 9488 of Charlotte, NC.)

Continue to promote and support our **Suicide Awareness Campaign** for veterans. Wear the teardrop pin and know the five warning signs which could signal a potential problem.

If your Auxiliary hasn’t made a donation to the **National Veterans Services (NVS)** or the **Veterans and Military Support Program (VMS)**, please do so now to get credit on the x sheet before December 31st.

Any projects that you have completed, should be reported promptly. Remember, every member’s work in the program areas can be reported. Although it is important for your Auxiliary to work at joint projects, individual member’s work should also be reported. And continue to report what you are doing throughout the year.

Thank you for all the work that you do for our organization, and have a Happy Thanksgiving.

AUXILIARY COMMUNITY OUTREACH – SAMANTHA SCHMIDGALL



We will have to “think outside the box” during these times of Covid restrictions. Let’s not use it as an excuse because if we put our heads together and use

the creative talents in our auxiliaries we can come up with a plan.

There are numerous benefits to participating in a Community Outreach project:

- Gives you a way to help others
- Helps improve your community
- Can be a way to meet new friends
- Often results in personal growth

Community Outreach is exactly what it sounds like: services that benefit your community. It is a broad term because it can take a lot of different forms since there is so much one can do to help in your community.

Where do we start? Here are ideas for projects, whether you are volunteering, teaching, collecting or something else.



- **Collect Things for your Community:** if you look around your community, you’ll probably find a few places that accept donations—like food pantries, family shelters, and schools.
- **Do things for your Community:** if you look around your community, you will probably see tasks that you can do for your neighbors. Things they can no longer do for themselves such as yard work. Or maybe help out an elderly or busy neighbor.

- **Teach things to your Community:** we all have things we are good at, why not share those skills with others?
- **Fix things in your Community:** if you see a problem in your community, consider doing something about it. Sometimes the best services we can do is take care of the places we love.
- **Host things in your Community:** here is a chance to plan an event within your community and bring folks together. Ask your Auxiliary friends to help with the planning.
- **Make things for your Community:** make and send items to folks at elderly care centers, shelters or hospitals. It is always special when receiving a handmade gift.
- **Volunteer for things in your Community:** the great thing about volunteering is just about everyone can do it and you can do it just about anywhere.



“Volunteering” is a big word and may sound like a long-term commitment. Here are some easy ways to volunteer without making any long-term commitments.

- Search your house or even just your closet. Find items in good condition that you no longer want or don’t use anymore. You can donate them Goodwill, Salvation Army, or shelter.

- Pick up some non-perishables to donate to a food pantry or food drive in your area.
- Some shelters, fire departments, foster parent organizations welcome new or slightly used stuffed animals. Whether you have some Beanie Babies collecting dust or you have time to purchase something new, this is a quick way to spread a little joy.
- Pick up trash. Your local park, conservation area, beach, or hiking trail may need some beautifying.
- Offer to rake leaves, shovel the driveway, or do housework for someone in need. You may even make new friends!
- Create or join a campaign. You choose the cause and the amount of time you have available to contribute. Some ideas may be raising awareness for domestic violence.

As you can see, these are just a few ideas, there are so many more! Don't forget to get the motion to accept your volunteering from your Auxiliary and be sure to wear your Auxiliary shirt to identify yourself.

So let's think outside the box and start volunteering in our communities today!



BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME – DANIELLE KRULL



I hope everyone is remaining happy and safe, with the holiday's coming up there may be some opportunity for you to get out to a community event with your poppies and your poppy can. Our communities are starting to open more and more than they have been in the past few months, allowing us to be more present in the communities. If your community or your Auxiliary members are still not comfortable going out, **THAT IS OK!!!** We are in unprecedented times, so we then just need to be creative in making up money a different way. Is your neighborhood Trick or Treating? Make little bags with a poppy and a card with the best way to donate to your Auxiliary and pass those out to the parents bringing their trick or treaters around. Any Food Drives in your area? Work with the organizers to sit with your poppies and your donation can at the drive. Can you hold a raffle? Raffle off a desired prize where all funds go to your relief fund. Remember whatever you do in your community be safe; wear a mask, bring hand sanitizer, and just think plenty of personal space!

We were unable to have our Illinois Day this year, however, I hope you were still able to donate to our home. Illinois was able to donate unused funds in older NH accounts to come up with a donation of \$10,466.36. Thank you to all Auxiliaries and Auxiliary members who have

donated to these Department funds in the past years to make this a possibility for our National Home who needs this now more than ever!



Are you a Life Member of our VFW National Home? Congratulations!! Now, go gift someone in your Auxiliary a Life Membership or pair up with another Auxiliary Member to gift a membership. Christmas is coming, that would be a great gift for someone unable to be a member on their own finances/budget. Life Memberships help the home with funding and help gain additional monies out there for Non-Profits; also gives you the ability to vote on bylaw changes and vote for new Trustees for the National Home. Keep using AMAZON Smile, a program that donates as you shop, set the VFW National Home as your beneficiary for your purchases! This past quarter through this program the VFWNH is receiving a donation of \$874.61.

You can also find more fundraising ideas here:

<https://www.vfwnationalhome.org/ideas>

MARY SPINDLER



As Department Historian, I am amazed by the wonderful projects that are being carried out all over

Illinois. Our members have been busy sharing their stories on social media and submitting articles for publication, but please don't forget to report your work! To date, only 39 Auxiliaries have credit on the x-sheet. Please take a moment to get this done!

As the pandemic continues to surge in our state, I realize that many projects which would have normally been carried out have been postponed or canceled—but most of our Auxiliaries have found alternative ways to continue serving our veterans. Some are doing virtual meetings, and others are inviting members to join by phone. Keep thinking “outside the box” as we work to serve our veterans and we will have a successful year!

Keeping our members active and involved is a high priority for any chairmanship. Continue to reach out to the members in your Auxiliary and District to remind them to take photos of their projects and share them, either on their own Facebook or Auxiliary page, as well as on the Department Facebook page. If you send photos to me, I will be happy to post them for you, but you need to let me know who is in the photo, what they were doing, when, where, and why. By sharing our good deeds, we will tell the story of Linda's year as President and provide a record of all the good work we do as the VFW Auxiliary.

I need photos for Linda's scrapbook. If she visits your District, please take



pictures and share them with me.

Otherwise, her visit to your District will be missing from the book!

Within your own

Auxiliary or District, keeping a record of events and photos and presenting them to the President at the end of the year is a wonderful gift, and will provide a memory that will be treasured for many years into the future. If you haven't started yet, it's not too late!

Remember, there is an **ENTRY FORM** for a National Citation for every Auxiliary that completes it and sends it to me.

(This form can be found under "Resources" tab on the National VFW Auxiliary website, called "Historian and Media Relations Award for Auxiliaries No. 1"). You will need to login to see it. Please fill it out and send it to me (**not directly to National**) and I will sign and submit the form--and if you can't find it, just let me know and I will send the link.

Please don't send it directly to National, or it will be returned for a lack of signature by me.

Our National Historian, Nicole Koutz, will be selecting one Auxiliary in each of the four (4) Conferences with the most outstanding Historian and Media Relations report. The winner will receive a citation and \$25. I would love to see an Auxiliary from the Department of Illinois win one of those awards. I hope to get lots of entries!

National President Sandra Onswetter's secret "traveling bear" will be arriving in Illinois at some point. She doesn't know

about it, but thought I would share that with our members, as it is such a cute idea. The "bear" sends letters and pictures to her from all the states.

HOSPITAL – LAURA KNACKSTEDT

I hope everyone is doing well and staying safe during these troubling times. I wanted to give a shout out to Diane Ahrens, Mercie and all who helped with the drive thru baby shower at Hines. There were 35 families that received items and the remaining items were taken to Lovell to help them with baby shower they had on October 17th. I am writing this before the event but I am sure I will have lots of pictures to share with everyone.

As you will see from our VAVS Reps and Deputies are still hard at work continuing to help our Veterans whatever way they can.

With the VA facilities closed to our VAVS reps and deputies, it is important to see what the needs at our facilities. Each facility usually has a wish or need list available. Check out what their needs are and see what you can do to help.

I know that it has been a difficult year, but the hospital donations are needed now more than ever. Please send whatever you can and I thank you all very much for your support of this program.

November 11th is Veterans Day and what better way to say THANK YOU to our Veterans than to send them a card or letter. Many of our Veterans have been unable to go outside the facility or have visitors. I am sure they would appreciate hearing from us. Maybe it is

even possible to have a drive by at the facility with posters thanking them for their service. Be creative, think outside the box. I know they will all appreciate anything we can do.

Our National Ambassador, Linda Roloff, asked that we post this information for our Veterans. Print out the information and put it up at your Post or hand it out at your meetings. It is important information that our Veterans might not be aware of.

72 hour notification:

Every VA hospital within each state (with a VA hospital) has a Hospital Notification Line point of contact within its Community Care division. Veterans need to be aware of the requirement to alert the VA within 72 hours of being seen at either an affiliated Urgent Care or Emergency Room in order to be eligible for Community Care coverage. Veterans who call the VA hospital front desk can request access to the 72 hour/Hospital Notification Line.

Urgent Care: Only visits to OPTUM (the VA Community Care network) affiliated Urgent Care clinics are eligible. Veteran presents identification and claims Veteran status. Veteran should retain all associated paperwork. Depending upon VA eligibility category, the Veteran can be seen up to three times per year without incurring a co-pay of \$30/visit. Not all Veterans are eligible, only those who have been seen by a VA (or Community Care appointed) primary care physician within the past 24

months. See www.va.gov/community_care for more information about Urgent Care coverage.

Emergency Room: All Veterans, regardless of VA affiliation qualify for this benefit. The Veteran presents identification and claims Veteran status at the ER. Veteran should retain all associated paperwork. Either the Veteran or an emergency point of contact for the Veteran can call in the details of the visit: Veterans full name and last four of SSN#, Date/Time arrived and released, location where seen, reason for visit, and how Veteran arrived at the ER.

See the below for additional information regarding the VA Community Care program

Community Care Contact Center

Contact Information: 1-877-881-7618

A new study finds that a much different set of emotions may have driven male and female Veterans to attempt suicide. The suicide rate among women Veterans rose 61% between 2005 and 2017, compared with 43% for men, according to the VA report. Always have the Veterans Crisis Line with you. You never know when you might need it.

800-273-8255 Opt. 1

In closing I am using the words of our National Ambassador (I hope she won't mind) that I very profound and enlightening.

If there's one thing I know: Hospital is both mission and ministry. The mission is never ending and the

ministry showers blessings on those who serve and are served. Our veteran patients will reap a harvest of love and devotion this season because we continue to cultivate and “Honor Our Mission to Serve Veterans.”

Thank you for “Making Life Bearable for our Veterans”

JEFFERSON BARRACKS - EMMA SUE WIENHOFF

Both Marion and St. Louis are starting to have volunteers return for specific jobs. Those jobs are van drivers and Red Coat volunteers.

Donations are still being accepted at the front entrance or Emergency Room entrances. Only new clothing items can be accepted due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Needed items include underwear in small, medium, large, 1-2-3 XL; personal hygiene products; refreshments and recreational supplies. Marion VA also has an online E-Donate Program for donations. These funds are used 100% for Veteran in-patient needs. A minimum of \$5.00 can be donated.

Phone Budd Program has replaced the in-home volunteer program during the pandemic at both St. Louis VA and Marion VAMC. Our home bound Veterans and their families feel isolated and a call once a week helps reduce the stress for them. If you have the time to call from home, please call VA Volunteer Service offices and offer to call our home-bound Veterans at their homes.

LEGISLATIVE – MERCIE WOOLFOLK



The General Election is over. Your voting rights and privileges have been exercised. New and returning legislators have been elected, both on Capitol Hill and Statewide.

However, your fight and advocate for issues and legislation that affect our veterans, service members and their families, are constant efforts. The VFW's legislative priorities are our key to open communication with our Congressional leaders. Your efforts combined with nearly 1.6 million VFW and Auxiliary members can influence lawmakers whose decisions affect veterans, service members and their families every day.

VFW 2020 PRIORITY GOALS #1

BUDGET: To fully fund programs for veterans, service members, and their families, Congress must:

- Reform the dysfunctional federal budget process.
- Authorize VA to receive reimbursements from TRICARE and MEDICARE.
- Properly fund the POW/MIA full accounting mission.
- Never reduce one veteran's benefits to pay for another.

VFW Action Corps Weekly (October 9, 2020)

The VFW Podcast is [Here](#) was announced. 'Our hope is that it allows for a new conversation.'

“The VFW Podcast will feature one-of-a-kind perspectives and insightful conversations concerning veteran legislation, educational and financial assistance programs, national veterans' services, and critical initiatives from our

lens,” said VFW National Commander Harold “Hal” Roesch II.

- The VFW Podcast will be available the first Wednesday of each month for the remainder of 2020.
- It can be found on all major platforms to include Apple Podcasts, Google Play, Spotify, Deezer, Stitcher, Pandora, and on the VFW website.
- Beginning in 2021, The VFW Podcast will air the first and third Wednesdays of the month.
- The slated guest list will consist of congressional leadership, Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs senior officials, VFW national leaders, and everyday veterans doing amazing work in their communities. [Listen to the podcast.](#)

State of Illinois



The Fort Sheridan Cemetery was transferred to the National Cemetery Administration. This means that burial benefits for veterans now apply for burials at Fort Sheridan. To schedule a burial, determine eligibility for burial benefits, or find out more information, visit the National Cemetery Administration.

Located in Elwood, IL, Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery (ALNC) serves over 412,000 Veterans in the Chicago area. The VA National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is concerned about a potential new bridge project that is being considered on Walter Strawn Drive crossing over State Highway IL-53 in support of a new trucking depot project “Compass Business Park” in the vicinity of both ALNC and the Village of Elwood.

Since opening in 1999, ALNC has buried over 58,000 Veterans and family members, and expects to continue to provide this proud service for over the next 100 years. As a customer service organization with a focus on the customer experience, we strive to ensure our Veterans and their families are treated with dignity, honor, and respect. The Congressional and Local Representatives to contact regarding this matter, please visit the link below.

https://www.villageofelwood.com/DocumentCenter/View/1731/NCA-Letter-to-Elwood-8_27_2020_Redacted

Reporting

I want to hear from ALL of you about how you are involved in the Legislative Program.



- Voting is a reportable activity.
- Answering the research question is a reportable activity.
- Discussing the Legislative program in your meetings is a reportable activity.
- Attending Legislative training sessions.
- Reporting the activities as shown on the Monthly Legislative form will get the Department 100% by December 31st.

Thank you for all you do for our Veterans and your celebration of Veterans’ Day.

MEMBERSHIP – TERRY ADAMS and JOHN WATTERS



“Be proactive” means to think and act ahead of anticipated events. Does your Auxiliary have a membership plan, have you asked for one new member to join?

Let us take a minute and go back to the plan:

- 1.) Have you contacted all Annual members for their dues?
- 2.) Have your Treasurer look up former members on MALTA and have someone contact them.
- 3.) Assign a mentor to a new member.
- 4.) Make sure all Auxiliary members carry a blank application with them.
- 5.) Ask your VFW if you can write a letter to their members asking them if they have any family members eligible to join the Auxiliary, Include the following,
 - A. Letter asking them to join
 - B. Eligibility Wheel (Know who is eligible)

Members must be citizens of the United States or a United States National, and at least 16 years old.

Those eligible are:

- *Husband/Wife
- *Widower/Widow
- *Father/Mother
- *Grandfather/Grandmother
- *Sons/Daughters
- *Grandsons/Granddaughters

*Brothers/Sisters

Of persons who were or are eligible for membership in the VFW. Those eligible for membership have received a campaign medal for overseas service; have served 30 consecutive or 60 nonconsecutive days in Korea; or have received hostile fire or imminent danger pay.

Please see website for more information.

Proof of service is required for eligibility and must be obtained by the applicant. Information on a veteran’s service record can be obtained by contacting: National Archives and Records Administration phone # 1-866-272-6272.

If you have a membership question or need more information, please contact us at info@vfwauxiliary.org

C. Application

D. Contact information

Include Current Members

Let’s find a way to keep all our members interested in the VFW Auxiliary. The best way is to include them in your activities.

1. Get new members involved
2. Offer to pick up members for meetings or events
3. Put a member in charge of contacting a member who hasn’t been to a meeting recently
4. Send out emails asking for assistance at an event or as a reminder for a meeting (make the meetings fun)
5. Plan events to include children

Thank you for all you are doing to invite, include and invest in our VFW Auxiliary

May the Holidays bring you happiness and healthy New Year!!

MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP – **MICHAEL MARUSZAK**

MENTORING



I want to start out with a few questions about Mentoring. E-mail me your answers, I would love to hear them.

How comfortable are you Mentoring someone you do not know?

What do you think the best quality of Mentor should be?

Do you think you qualify to be a Mentor, why?

You had to think for a moment a on these questions. But once you read them, you re-read them and thought wow that is a lot to comprehend. A Mentors responsibility is to be able to explain our Auxiliary in simple easy to understand statements. Sometimes it is difficult to speak in easy to understand word and statements. You must break it down to the simplest terms that are easy to remember. When you provide the correct information, your Mentee will become comfortable and be able to fully participate at all level our Auxiliary. How would you explain to a Member the precision floor work that a Conductress/Conductor executes creating the Cross of Mata? (I am amazed and awed by it)

We need to be supportive, encouraging and kind to those who are taking Leadership roles. No Leader wants to do everything by themselves nor can they. The last thing a Leader wants to

deal with is discontent and cliques among members. It is our job and purpose as Mentors to show our Brothers and Sisters the right path. To lead by example. To encourage kindness, unity and our why. We have members who just need a little encouragement, one-on-one mentoring and simply an “I believe in you” to take on these roles. If members feel supported and see that leadership is being supported this will lead to more taking these roles.

Within our Auxiliaries stress the importance that we are all different, but we need to help each other for the better of our Organization. No matter how a person does things, if it is within the Bylaws, it is okay. We are a TEAM, and we are here to serve our MISSION.

Remember to always **CARE** and most importantly **R.O.C.K**

SCHOLARSHIP – CHRIS BREYNE



Thank you to all the Auxiliaries who have participated in the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Scholarships! Support your VFW Post to score the entries and submit them to District by November 15th. For quick reference, the score sheets are below.

[Patriot's Pen Judging Scoresheet](#)

[Voice of Democracy Judging Scoresheet](#)

The next available scholarship deadline is Feb 15, 2021, for Continuing Education program. This is a scholarship for Auxiliary members (at least one year), their spouse, son or daughter. Many Auxiliaries have holiday

member events. This would be a good time to promote this scholarship program since it is open to members and their immediate family. Below is the quick reference for information you can print.

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/continuing-education/>

For high school students (grades 9-12, traditional and homeschool), the Young American Creative Patriotic Art scholarship program has a March 31st deadline. I have seen most success from Auxiliaries who reach out to teachers before the holiday. This gives students time to design and create their entries. For more information, use the link below. You also can request pamphlets from National free of charge. There is a fillable PDF order form that may be emailed to info@vfwauxiliary.org. Allow two weeks for delivery.

Scholarships Details:

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/young-american-creative-patriotic-art-contest/>

Brochure Order Form:

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/VFW-Auxiliary-Brochure-Order-Form.pdf>