

97th Department Convention
Department of Illinois
Springfield, IL

Friday, June 11, 2021

The 97th Annual Convention was opened by Cheryl Michel, Convention Chairman at 12:32 pm

Good Afternoon and welcome to the 97th Annual State Convention of the Department of Illinois Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. I am Convention Chairman Cheryl Michel and my Co-Chairman is Susan Rolando. If at any time during this convention you need assistance, please know that Susan and I will be seated to the right of the stage (your left) in the PDP section. Susan and I will also be roaming the room and you can stop us at any time to visit, answer questions, or assist in any way.

Please be courteous and turn off or silence your cell phones during the meeting. If you receive a call that you must take, please exit the room so as not to disturb those around you.

There will be no Patriotic Rally this year

There will be no program books distributed for the 2021-2022 year, all information will be on the website.

The 2021-2022 t-shirts will be on sale Saturday. The polo shirts need to be special ordered with incoming Dept. President Rhonda.

If for any reason you feel unwell, please visit the First Aid station in the back of the room which is manned by Emma Sue Wienhoff and Tara Dillard.

We all know how difficult this year has been and it is now time to celebrate the successes of the "Making Life Bearable for Our Veterans" term. We wish to thank you for all you have done and will continue to do for our Veterans. We wish you all a very enjoyable convention.

Cheryl Michel asked the Officers to retire for the Cross of Malta where they took their respective stations.

President Linda introduced Cheryl Michel, Convention Chairman and Susan Rolando, Co-Chairman

Department President Linda Armstrong called the 97th Convention to order and asked all persons not members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary to retire.

President Armstrong explained that Dues Cards would be inspected Saturday after the lunch break prior to election of Officers and that your badge will suffice until then.

President Armstrong then asked everyone participating in the Flag and Banner Presentation to retire. Cindy Watters, Conductress conducted the Flag and Banner Presentation where the District Presidents, with their Flag and Banner, were introduced along with their Past Department Presidents and she read a poem.

It was moved by Rhonda Borkgren, Senior Vice President and seconded by Marvie Wisniewski, Junior Vice President to give President Linda Armstrong the option to sit when needed - motion carried.

Patti McLeod, Department Secretary called the Roll of Officers.

President		Linda Armstrong	Present
Sr. Vice President		Rhonda Borkgren	Present
Jr. Vice President		Marvie Wisniewski	Present
Secretary		Patti McLeod	Present
Treasurer		Linda Lorenz	Present
Chaplain		Lynn Smith	Present
Conductress		Cindy Watters	Present
Guard		Diane Ahrens	Present
Chief of Staff		Diana Rudeen	Present
Past National President		Colette Bishop	Present
National District Council Member		Mercie Woolfolk	Present
Past Department President		Samantha Schmidgall	Absent
Past Department President		Mary Spindler	Present
Past Department President		Susan Parrish	Present
Jr. Past Department President		Billie Guthals	Present
Past Department Presidents			
Frances Roche	Absent	Ruth Smit	Present
Mildred Leff	Absent	Maureen Hayden	Absent
Carolyn Gorin	Absent	Donna Walker	Absent
Lillian Mayer	Absent	Jan Morrow	Present
Cynthia Paris	Absent	Jo Lynn Altvatter	Present
Rosemary McMurchie	Absent	Beverly Beyer	Present
Janet Long	Present	Diane Pencak	Present
Colette Bishop	Present	Mercie Woolfolk	Present
Linda Jackson	Absent	Diana Rudeen	Present
Linda Lorenz	Present	Barbara Howard	Present
Rita Frank	Absent	Samantha Schmidgall	Absent
Cheryl Michel	Present	Mary Spindler	Present
Patricia Martyn	Present	Susan Parrish	Present
Nancy Adams	Absent	Billie Guthals	Present
District 3 – President		Michael Maruszak	Absent
District 5 – President		Diane Ahrens	Present
District 6 – President		Diana Rudeen	Present
District 7 – President		Nancy Spraker	Absent
District 8 – President		Heather Pierson	Absent
District 9 – President		Lynn Bankard	Present
District 10 – President		Janet Kays	Present
District 11 – President		Valerie Turnbow	Absent
District 12 – President		Becky Willmore	Present
District 13 – President		Sarah Higginbotham	Present
District 14 – President		Cheryl Miller	Present
District 15 – President		Pat Caraker	Present
District 16 – President		Irma Davis	Absent

District 17 – President	Norma Janney	Present
District 18 – President	Barbara Howard	Present
District 19 – President	Mary Ellen Hollis	Absent
Patriotic Instructor	John Thomas Gardner	Present
Historian	Mary Spindler	Present
Assistant Conductress	Nancy Rieke	Present
Assistant Guard	Lynda White	Present
Color Bearer #1	Janie Crum	Present
Color Bearer #2	Karen Scherer	Present
Color Bearer #3	Candance England	Present
Color Bearer #4	Laurie Sparwasser	Present
Flag Bearer		
Banner Bearer	John Watters	Present
Musician	Marilyn Schultz	Absent
Soloist	Tera Mann	Present

Department President Armstrong announced the following Pro Tem Officers: Juanita Leonberger, Flag Bearer; District 3, Eleanor Skopek; District 7, Billie Guthals; District 8, Janie Crum; District 11, Dawn Mozingo; District 16, Dan Hansen and District 19, Angela Davis.

Opening Services were conducted according to Ritual.

President Linda then asked National President Sandi Onstwedder and the other National Officers in attendance to retire.

The Conductress, Assistant Conductress and the Color Team escorted National President Sandi Onstwedder to the Altar where Department Soloist Tera Mann sang her a special song. National President Sandi then proceeded through the Aisle of Honor to the President’s station where she was introduced and given a warm Illinois welcome.

Department President Linda asked the Conductress, Assistant Conductress and Colors to escort our other National Officers to her station. Introduced were Past National President Colette Bishop; National District Council Member Mercie Woolfolk; National Auxiliary Outreach Ambassador Diane Pencak; National Color Bearer Mary Spindler and Big Ten Guard Susan Parrish.

President Armstrong noted that since there was no Convention last year with a Council of Administration Meeting being held in its place, those minutes were approved at the August 2021 Council Meeting. We had no Convention minutes to approve.

Presentation of Convention Rules - Ruth Smit, Chairman
Committee: Lillian Mayer and Patricia Martyn

Ruth noted the Convention Rules were in the Officer’s Report Book. She pointed out that cell phones should be turned off or put on silent.

It was moved by Ruth Smit and seconded by Pat Martyn to accept the Convention Rules - motion carried

Ruth thanked President Linda for this appointment on behalf of myself and my committee, Lillian Mayer and Jan Morrow.

Since the Convention Appointments had been published in the Officer's Report Book, we dispensed with reading them.

**Event/Convention Chairman
Co-Chairman**

Cheryl Michel
Susan Rolando

**Credentials
Registration Chairman
Committee**

Diana Rader
Diane Hawk
Sharon Ishmael, Bessie Bruce,
Angie Bachewicz

**First Aid Technicians
Convention Floor Rules Chairman
Committee**

Emma Sue Wienhoff, Tara Dillard
Ruth Smit
Lillian Mayer, Patricia Martyn

**Presentation of Past Department Presidents
Chairman
Committee**

Rhonda Borkgren
Marvie Wisniewski

**Presentation of Hospital Chairman, VAVS
Reps, Deps, Associate Reps and Deps
Chairman
Committee**

Mary Spindler
Sarah Higginbotham, Norma Janney, Jan
Morrow

**Presentation of Patriotic Organizations
Chairman
Committee**

Jo Lynn Altvatter
Rosemary McMurchie,
Heather Pierson, Valerie Turnbow

**Presentation of Gold Star Parents
Chairman
Committee**

Mercie Woolfolk
Lynn Smith, Donna Walker,
Nancy Spraker

Memorial Address

Janet Long

**District President of the Year Chairman
Committee**

Susan Parrish
Susan Rolando

Resolutions Chairman

Committee

Diane Pencak

Nancy Adams, Linda Jackson,
Rita Frank

Presentation of Flags and Banners

Chairman

Committee

Cindy Watters

Maureen Hayden, Marilyn Schultz, Tera
Mann

**Presentation of Chief of Staff, District
Presidents and Deputy Chiefs of Staff**

Chairman

Committee

Beverly Beyer

Diane Ahrens, Lynn Bankard, Cindy Paris

Presentation of Department Chairmen

Chairman

Committee

Barbara Howard

Carolyn Gorin, Michael Maruszak, Cheryl
Miller

Presentation of Auxiliary Presidents

Chairman

Committee

Patti McLeod, Linda Lorenz

Rebecca Willmore, Patricia Caraker

Presentation of 45+ Members

Chairman

Committee

Billie Guthals

Mildred Leff, Irma Davis,
Danielle Krull, Lori Taylor

**Presentation of Pages: Presidents, Officers,
Floor & Department Pages and Aide to
National Representative**

Chairman

Committee

Samantha Schmidgall

Janet Kays, Mary Ellen Hollis

President's Boutique Chairman

Annette Wooldridge

**Aide to National Representative
Greetings to the IL VFW**

Annette Wooldridge

Linda Armstrong, National President Sandi
Onstwedder,
Mercie Woolfolk

Officer Pages

President

Linda Armstrong

Penny Smith, Tammy Danner

Sr. Vice President

Rhonda Borkgren

Renee Mierop

Jr. Vice President

Marvie Wisniewski

Melanie Ecker

Secretary

Patti McLeod

Jo Lynn Altvatter

Treasurer

Linda Lorenz

Terry Adams / Angela Davis

Chaplain

Lynn Smith

Laura Knackstedt

Guard

Diane Ahrens

Lynda White

Floor Pages

Sharon Thomas

Sheila Mysliwicz

Presentation of Department Chairmen – Barbara Howard, Chairman

Cheryl Miller, Carolyn Gorin and Michael Maruszak, Committee

The Roadmap to the Honey Pot

In my story the Queen Bee, President Linda Armstrong , has assigned her worker bees to help her to maintain the Honey Pot. These bees are our Chairmen and I will tell you what each one's job is.

Cindy Watters our Americanism Chairman has the job of helping us to teach patriotism, respect for our flag and instruct all in correct display of the American flag. She also needs to keep track of all the American flags and POW flags distributed or sold by your Auxiliary. (size and up).

Danielle Krull, the Buddy Poppy/ VFW National Home Chairman's duties are to remind us that the poppy is a symbol of remembrance of those who served. These Poppies are entirely made by Veterans. The VFW National Home is completely funded by the donations made by you. The Department of Illinois supports 2 homes at the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. The VFW pays for all repairs needed on the outside of the homes and the Auxiliary pays for all things needed on the inside and we are proud to say that through your generous donations we can still do that.

Diana Rudeen is the Extension Chairman and her duties are to help President Linda with faltering Auxiliaries by going or sending a deputy to an Auxiliary meeting to resolve conflicts, answer questions and resolve problems. She is also instrumental in helping the organizer of new Auxiliary to be sure all applications are eligible. Her job is important to help our organization grow.

Lynn Smith has the most solemn duties and that is Grave Registration. This program is our last tribute to our Sisters and Brothers who have passed away. It is your Chairman's duty, to report to the Department Chaplain

your members who have passed so that our lasting tribute is placing their name in the Department Memorial book that is on display at each Memorial Service held at Convention yearly.

Hospital Chairman, Laura Knackstedt and Co-Chairman, Debbie Gard have the responsibilities to see to it that our Veterans in Veterans Homes and Hospitals get the things they need. We ask each Auxiliary to donate to 1 or all of our sponsored VA facilities. This money is used by our Reps to hold bingos, give them canteen cards, bring donuts for a coffee get together, or provide them with personal items they may need. And sometimes just come to visit. Note that this money is held in a restricted fund and can only be used for our Hospitals and Homes.

Mercie Woolfolk takes care of the Legislation Program. She makes sure that we are informed of the legislation before the Congress, pertaining to all Veterans. She lets us know how to let our congressman know what and why we support or do not support a certain bill. It is our duty to protect and improve the rights of our Veterans.

Membership Chairman Terry Adams and Co-Chairman, John Watters created a fun and important program for our organization. Membership is so important because without it we cannot exist. The more members we have the stronger we are to represent all Veterans when it comes to representation to our Congress.

Chairing Mentoring for Leadership is the job of worker bee Michael Maruszak. He is there to help us to mentor our new and present members on the workings of the Auxiliary and the responsibilities of all Officers and answer any question they may have. This helps prepare someone who is thinking of becoming an officer in the future.

Veterans and Family support Chairman Janet Kays reminds you of the help we can give our Veterans and their families, what they need most whether it is financial or physical. We need to know where they can go to get the help that we cannot provide. We can also financially help like paying a utility bill, buying groceries; sometimes they are in need of Christmas gifts for children or supplying things such as transportation, clothing and school supplies. It is our solemn duty to help them in any way we can.

Scholarships is one of my favorites. Chris Breyne, Chairman gives us the details of the 2 patriotic essay contests we participate in. First, the Patriot's Pen is for students in 6th through 8th grade. Second the Voice of Democracy is for 9th through 12th grade. The other program under Chris is the Young American Creative Art contest which is art depicting their patriotic views on a subject. All of these students have the opportunity to win scholarships of up to \$40,000. Who couldn't use a little financial help?

Youth Activities Chairman Paula DeDoncker deals with the future of our country and our organization. Her job is to remind us that there are many ways to keep our youth on the straight and narrow. Sponsor Girl Scouts, Boy Scout, Sports teams and any other youth programs in your community. Use them to help when you are holding events. We need to support and help our youth to be good citizens and become better adults.

Carol Shutts had the task of providing the President's Pin to your Auxiliary. In years past the President Pin was known as the Cancer Pin and all of the proceeds went to support the National Cancer Fund. When this National Fund became sustainable it was voted to continue selling a pin designed by your Department

President as the Department President's Pin. All proceeds are donated to the President's choice that will help Veterans. \$3 is not a bad investment to building our financial support for our Veterans.

Shoppers Corner been managed by Annette Wooldridge for several years. Each year she brought new items for you to purchase for personal use or for a gift. Purchasing 1 item helps to continue our support of our Veterans.

Without Cheryl Michel as Events Coordinator, we would not have all the things we need in our C of A meetings like microphones, podium, how to set up the rooms and how many extra chairs we need for our members. She also sets up hotels, and negotiates what rooms we need for lodging, meetings, luncheons and cocktail parties. She also works with the hotels on menus and prices for luncheons.

The Webmaster, Dan Hansen posts information on the VFW Auxiliary website. The website is available for every member to negotiate and find out about the Officers, programs, events, special dates, check if your donations, audits and reporting are recorded. They can also read the quarterly reports from the President and Chairman.

And, last but not least, the District President of the Year Chairman Susan Parrish and her Committee have to choose which District President has done the most fantastic job of representing her District.

These are the worker bees who have been assigned by President Linda to do the work of our programs for the 2020-2021 year. All the information they received from your Auxiliaries throughout the year has been collected, organized and submitted to the National Ambassador of that program for an opportunity to win cash prizes for the Department of Illinois and recognition for a fantastic job done.

That is how we reach the Honey Pot, by all of the Chairman and the Auxiliaries doing their job to fulfill their responsibilities to report their activities and participation. Our Honey Pot Overflows.

Madam President, thank you for asking me to chair this Presentation of the Chairman and giving me, Michael Maruszak and Chery Miller as my committee. In this, the most difficult year, I found that even though we were quarantined a lot of the time our work did not stop. Your Chairman encouraged our members to do whatever they could to complete this task. Good luck at National Convention.

National President Onstwedder presented National Citations to the following Chairmen

Americanism	Cindy Waters
Auxiliary Community Outreach	Samantha Schmidgall
Buddy Poppy / National Home	Danielle Krull
Chief of Staff / Extension	Diana Rudeen
Historian /Media Relations	Mary Spindler
Hospital	Laura Knackstedt
Legislative	Mercie Woolfolk
Membership	Terry Adams / John Watters
Mentoring for Leadership	Michael Maruszak
Scholarships	Chris Breyne

Veterans and Family Support
Youth Activities

Janet Kays
Paula DeDoncker

Presentation of Hospital Chairman, VAVS Representatives, Deputies and Associates and VA Hospital Administrators - Mary Spindler, Chairman

Sarah Higginbotham, Norma Janney, Jan Morrow, Committee

The Hospital Reps and Deputies came up to the President's Station to introduce themselves and their respective facilities in which they volunteer.

- * Debbie Gard, Hospital Co-Chairman and VAVS Rep at Illiana Medical Center
- * Emma Sue Wienhoff, Associate VAVS Rep at Jefferson Barracks
- * Mercie Woolfolk, VAVS Rep at Edward J. Hines VA Hospital
- * Diane Ahrens, Deputy at Edward J. Hines VA Hospital
- * Geri Anderson, Rep at Manteno Veterans Home
- * Janet Long, Rep at Quincy Veterans Home

The Hospital presentation was given by the above members. Each committee member held a card with the eight letters in the word "hospital" and what it stands for, as follows:

H is for **heart**, which is the very essence of this organization. Our hospital workers are some of the most kind, caring and loving individuals of the VFW Auxiliary.

O is for "**Our** Mission to Serve Veterans." That is our purpose, and our members have been helping hospitalized veterans for over 100 years.

S is for **service** to those in need. If something is needed, our Hospital reps will find a way to provide it. Let's throw in another "S" word, which is "special."

P is for being **passionate** about the work you do, and the care and concern you show for their needs.

I is for **impact**. Your work truly impacts lives and makes a difference.

T is for **thoughtful**. Whatever the need, you find a way to do it for our veterans.

A is for **ambitious**. The hospital volunteers work hard all year, planning activities and carrying heavy boxes of supplies, and sorting and distributing them.

L is for **love**, the most important thing we can give our veterans. You all have great big hearts, as evidenced by your work.

President Linda was thanked for the appointment, as well as the committee members for being part of the presentation.

Patti read notes from Manteno Veterans Home noting they are open and having visitors 1 on 1 and Volunteers are allowed. LaSalle Veterans Home is getting ready to reopen and are thankful for the recent donation of televisions and thanked Laura and her team. I note from Jennifer Sheehan-Wells, Acting Chief Voluntary Services at Iliana wished us a successful Convention.

Hospital - Laura Knackstedt, Chairman

To our National President Sandi Onstwedder, to National Council Member Mercie Woolfolk, Past National President Colette Bishop, Past Department Presidents, Officers, Delegates and members here assembled for the 97th Annual Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary, Department of Illinois, in Springfield, Illinois, we submit the following reports.

We have all heard it over and over that this has been a trying year. Definitely that is the case for our Veterans but also to our VAVS reps and deputies. They love what they do and not being able to be in the facilities and spend time with our Veterans has been difficult. I am very proud of our members who have come up with creative ways to still engage with our Veterans and to show them that we care and miss them. Thank you all for everything you have done this year. Hopefully soon the facilities we begin to open back up and we can get back to what we do best: supporting and assisting our Veterans in whatever their needs are.

National Awards

District Awards

1. A Citation to the District Chairman who identifies and submits applications to Department for the Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year Award by March 1, 2021. **District 5 Diane Ahrens**
2. A Citation to the District Chairman for being 100% reported by December 31, 2020 in Hospital Donations and Pledges. **District 10: Janet Kays** **District 15: Pat Caraker** **District 17: Norma Janney**

Auxiliary Awards

1. A Citation to Auxiliaries donating to all 12 facilities the Department of Illinois sponsors. Donations must be submitted to the Department Treasurer before December 31, 2020. Donations must be at least \$1.00 to each facility.

District 3: 2729, 5220, 9773

District 5: 1307, 4308, 4551, 5040, 8043, 8741

District 6: 342, 540, 2665, 2955, 3878, 5149

District 7: 454, 630, 886, 2608, 2857, 4826, 8350

District 8: 1571, 1921, 2257, 2301, 5083, 8078, 8890

District 9: 1492, 3883, 4079, 4668, 4999

District 10: 1239, 1756, 6408, 10302

District 11: 4431

District 12: 1300, 1308, 1377, 2859, 5694

District 13: 2055, 4226, 4276, 4535, 8222

District 14: 6504, 6865

District 15: 2671, 3479, 5222, 9763

District 16: 311, 450, 2580, 2791, 4241, 8141, 8283, 9801

District 17: 1592, 1769, 2876, 3601, 4325, 5762, 5975, 7862, 10009 District 18: 5422, 5788

District 19: 1197, 2164, 2801, 3873, 5768, 5815, 5819, 6791, 7446, 7452, 8081, 11018

At Large: 3579, 9284

2. A Citation to all Auxiliaries making the required Hospital Pledge by December 31, 2020.

District 3: 2729, 5079, 5220, 9773

District 5: 7186, 9284, 1293, 1307, 2298, 4308, 4551, 8043, 8741

District 6: 342, 2665, 2955, 5149, 5300

District 7: 454, 630, 886, 2608, 2857, 4826, 8350, 9789, 9961

District 8: 1422, 1571, 1921, 2257, 2301, 5083, 8078, 8890

District 9: 2470, 3883, 4079, 4668, 4999, 5921

District 10: 1239, 1756, 6408, 10302

District 11: 4431, 4495, 6190, 6410

District 12: 976, 1300, 1308, 1377, 2859, 5694

District 13: 2055, 4226, 4276, 4535, 8222, 9153

District 14: 805, 2698, 3523, 6504, 6632, 6865, 7710

District 15: 1301, 1567, 2671, 3455, 3479, 5222, 7190, 9763

District 16: 450, 2580, 2791, 8141, 9801

District 17: 1592, 1769, 2876, 3601, 4325, 4549, 4598, 5762, 5975, 7862, 10009

District 18: 367, 725, 1486, 6422, 5788

District 19: 503, 1197, 2164, 2801, 3873, 5768, 5815, 5819, 6791, 7446, 7452, 8081, 11018

3. An Award and a Citation to the winner of the Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year Award. **Diane Ahrens (Deputy at Hines)**

4. An Award for the First Auxiliary to make 100% in all 12 points on Hospital Report form by December 31, 2020. A written report, pictures, promotional material are due by January 5, 2021 to Department Hospital Chairman. **None qualified**

5. A Citation to Auxiliaries that participate in the Veterans Voices Writing Project such as subscribing to the magazine, making a donation or volunteering by March 31, 2021. **None qualified**

6. A Citation and a Sewing Pin to each Auxiliary member that makes handmade items for any VA Medical Center, Illinois Veterans Home, local hospital or nursing home. Report must be submitted on the Sewing Pin Hours Report Form by March 31, 2021. **Connie Barton (District 14 Aux #6504) 300 hours; Esther Williams (District 14 Aux #6632) 2500 hours**

VAVS and Facility Representative Awards

1. A Citation to VAVS, Deputy, Associate Representatives and Representatives at Illinois Veterans Homes that timely submit nine (9) monthly reports from July 2020 to March 31, 2021. **Debbie Gard, Mercie Woolfolk, Diane Ahrens, Joanne York, Emma Wienhoff, Marilyn Crawford, Maggie Davis, Janet Long**
2. An Award and Citation to VAVS, Deputy, Associate Representatives and Representatives at Illinois Veterans Homes recruiting one or more regular volunteer by February 2021. **None qualified**
3. An Award, VFW Auxiliary Pin and Citation to VAVS, Deputy, Associate Representatives and Representatives at Illinois Veterans Homes having volunteer hours as defined in the Hospital Program Guide **None qualified**

Department Guard Diane Ahrens announced that Past Department Commander Russ Rieke and Dan Schmidt, Commander of Highland Post #5694 would like to speak to the Convention.

Department President Linda asked the Conductress to retire to escort our guests to her Station. Russ thanked President Linda for allowing them to speak to us. Russ felt this should be acknowledged more than once a year but they appreciate all we do. Commander Schmidt asked permission to have Nancy Rieke to come to the President's Station where he presented Nancy with the Certificate of Recognition Highland Post received at their Convention for Patriot's Pen/VOD noting she deserved the recognition for all she does and has done for this program noting no one does it better than Nancy.

President Linda asked that our guests be escorted from the room.

Membership – Terry Adams, Chairman and John Watters, Co-Chairman

“The Picnic Basket” - A citation to each Auxiliary reaching 100% in membership by May 31,2021:
85 Auxiliaries will receive.

“The Bear Hug” - An Award to each District President who Attains 100% plus in Membership by May 31, 2021, with a special award to be presented at District Presidents’ “Celebration.”

I am very sad to report: **None Qualified.**

“The Honey Pot” - To sweeten the honey pot you had to sign up a new and/or rejoined members from July 1, 2020 to May 31,2021 and the form received by the Department Membership Chairman by June 5, 2021, they will receive the following based on members recruited:

5 new/rejoined members will receive \$20.00 **John Watters from the 13th District and Barbara Howard District 18**

10 New/Rejoined members will receive \$50.00. **Deborah Kirby from District #3, Sarah Higginbotham from the 13th District and Chris Breyne from the 19th District.**

20 Plus New/Rejoined members will receive \$100.00 **Karen Scherer from District #13**

Terry mentioned they missed Mary Spindler in the awards and a check will be sent to her.

Terry thanked Department President Linda for the appointment.

Presentation of Chief of Staff, District Presidents

and Deputy Chiefs of Staff - Bev Beyer, Chairman

Committee: Diane Ahrens, Lynn Bankard , Cindy Paris

Lynn Bankard as a District President and Deputy thanked the Chief of Staff, the District Presidents and Deputies for the work they did this year noting that without them this year would not have been “Bearable”.

She proceeded to introduce the District Presidents.

Diane Ahrens, District 5; Diana Rudeen, District 6; Janet Kays, District 10; Becky Willmore, District 12; Sarah Higginbotham, District 13; Cheryl Miller, District 14; Pat Caraker, District 15; Norma Janney, District 17; Barbara Howard, District 18 and she is Lynn Bankard, District 9.

She acknowledged those Presidents not with us today - Michael Maruszak , District 3; Nancy Spraker, District 7; Heather Pierson, District 8; Valerie Turnbow, District 11; Irma Davis, District 16 and Mary Ellen Hollis, District 19

She proceeded to introduce the Chief of Staff Diana Rudeen and Deputies Billie Guthals, Sheila Mysliwicz, Laurie Lesperance and herself.

Diane Ahrens said it was an honor when she was called to be on this Committee. They were the “bear necessities”, essential workers this year. I think all our Districts and our Presidents did their best this year. Thank you President Linda.

Department President Armstrong asked the District President of the Year Chairman and Committee to come to the podium.

District President of the Year – Susan Parrish, Chairman
Committee: Susan Rolando

Thank you Madam President. These Presidents are all on it; they went above and beyond. She was going to announce the District President of the year but she noted we needed to have fun at the Convention and said they were going to be given sashes that they had to wear for the remainder of the Convention.

Runner Up is Sarah Higginbotham, District 13
District President of the Year is Janet Kays, District 10

Janet and Sarah both said a few words.

Barbara Howard presented Janet with the Grossman-Tanner Award (\$100.00) from the Past Department President’s Club.

Officer’s and Chairman Reports - Jo Lynn Altvatter, Department Assistant Secretary noted she had proofread the Officers Report Book and found all reports to be thorough and informative and we are very proud of all the work you did.

Presentation of Patriotic Organizations – Jo Lynn Altvatter, Chairman
Committee: Rosemary McMurchie, Heather Pierson,
Valerie Turnbow

None were present

Supplemental Graves Registration Report – Lynn Smith,

This is my final report for the period of May 16, 2021 to June 1, 2021. I have received 7 more notices and sent out 7 memorial cards.

President Linda, I would like to thank you for this appointment.

Memorial Services were held in accordance with the Ritual. The roll call of departed Sisters included:

Past Department Presidents

Doris Langenbahn 1979-1980
Lorraine "Lori" Taylor 1990-1991
Theresa Ann Calabrese 1994-1995

District 3	31
District 5	22
District 6	38
District 7	52
District 8	82
District 9	21
District 10	10
District 11	14
District 12	72
District 13	40
District 14	39
District 15	30
District 16	20
District 17	54
District 18	48
District 19	41
Non-District	7
Members At Large	14

The Memorial Address was given by Past Department President Janet Long

In time of tears, remember the laughter
In times of sadness, remember the smiles,
In times of loneliness, remember all you shared.

We come together at this time to remember the ones we have lost. Those who have guided, mentored and given advice. No matter how long or short a time they are gone, we still remember how they helped to make our organization what it is today. Even though they are gone each of us has fond memories of ones who recruited and welcomed us. Those who were always there to help, to inspire and to teach us the ways of the VFW Auxiliary. Those who were always ready to listen to new ideals and to encourage us to carry them through.

There are three special ladies that come to mind – Doris Langenbahn, Lori Taylor and Terry Ann Calabrese. These ladies rose to the challenge of leading our State Organization.

Doris Langenbahn is one of the first ladies I met when I joined Cronin Brothers Auxiliary 1756 fifty-one years ago. She welcomed me with open arms and was a great friend. Doris was Department President in 1979-1980. Many of you remember Doris for her calm attitude and the kindness she extended to all.

Lori Taylor was Department President in 1990-1991. I got to know Lori when she was going through the Department chairs. Lori always had a smile on her face and welcomed all. What a surprise it was when Lori asked me to be her Historian. Lori encouraged everyone to work all programs and events during the year and her Historian book shows that.

Terry Ann Calabrese was Department President in 1994-1995. Terry, Rosemary McMurchie and I went through the Department chairs together. What a time we had. We worked, laughed, cried, shared confidences and excelled with our programs all across this state. Terry was great for sending cards and notes of pats on the back and always reminding us “I am only a phone call away”

Life is a journey of sweetness and sorrow,
Of yesterday's memories and hopes for tomorrow,
Of pathways we choose and detours we face
With patience and humor, courage and grace,
Of joys that we've shared and of people we've met
Who have touched us in ways we will never forget.

The book of life tells us “I am the Resurrection and the Life”, he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live”. And our Ritual goes on to say “Through thy great mercy, may we all meet at last in joy before Thy Throne in Heaven”.

Credentials Report – Diane Hawk, Chairman

	Thursday (6/10)	Friday (6/11)
Auxiliary Presidents	12	6
Auxiliary Delegates	54	25
Department Officers	3	1
National Officers	0	0

Past Department Presidents	3	1
District Presidents	2	0
Appointed Officers	0	0
Guests	1	1
Total	75	34

Registered to Date: 109

Registration reports were given to the District President. If there are any corrections, please let Diane know.

It was moved by Susan Parrish and seconded by Jo Lynn Altvatter to accept the Credentials Report - motion carried.

Announcements – Colette asked that District Presidents and Chairmen be in the room at 7:15 am tomorrow to have their photos taken for the website. Patriotic Artwork is at the back of the hall for everyone to look at. Incoming Department President shirts can be picked up tomorrow after the morning break.

President Linda announced the meeting will start at 8:00 am tomorrow morning.

The Bible was closed and the meeting recessed at 3:22 pm

Saturday, June 17, 2017

Before the Bible was opened we held the Department Drawings. Mary Lee read Joyce’s report and all additional tickets were in the bin for the drawing. Winners were

\$25 to Jonah Pierce and \$25 to Auxiliary #1239 for past Council Meetings

Overall winners were \$1,000 to Shirley Schoonover, Machesney, IL (Linda Lorenz asked that someone contact Shirley Schoonover so Linda can send her an IRS #1099)
 \$500 to Debra Bough, Charleston, IL
 \$300 to Troy Auxiliary #976

The Bible was opened at 8:15 am

Resolutions - Diane Pencak, Chairman
 Committee: Nancy Adams, Rita Frank, Linda Jackson

The Committee did not receive any resolutions so the only resolution recommended by the Committee is the standard courtesy resolution sent to the City of Springfield along with the Sales Manager and staff of the President Abraham Lincoln/Doubletree for the many courtesies and efforts extended to ensure a comfortable and successful Convention.

The Committee recommends adoption of the resolution.

Thank you, President Linda for this appointment and for my Committee Nancy Adams, Linda Jackson and Rita Frank

Veterans and Family Support – Janet Kays, Chairman

Once more, I would like to thank all of the Auxiliaries that were able to report in Veterans and Family Support. You reported many very special projects.

I would like to announce two awards today. An award to the Auxiliary Chairman with the best promotion of The Veterans and Family Support Program to the public through media sources goes to **Denita Ricci** from Lake Villa VFW Memorial Post Auxiliary #4308. Denita and her Auxiliary did a great job of using social media and The Post newsletter to promote awareness of food insecurity in military families, which helped them host a successful Veterans Service food drive. Their entry for most outstanding activity to increase awareness of food insecurity among military service personnel and their families was Illinois' winner and was forwarded to the National Ambassador to be judged. Good luck!

An award to the District Chairman with the best promotion of the Veterans and Family Support program goes to **George Drucker** of District #3. George did a great job with his reports and in getting those reports sent to me. Thank you, George.

Thank you, President Linda, for this appointment and thank you all for your great support of this fine organization.

Americanism – Cindy Watters, Chairman

I want to thank everyone for your participation. Congratulations to the winners shown in the Officers Report Book. Here are the other winners.

Coloring contest winners are:

3 year old - Charlie Brimer, District 14, Aux 6504

4 year old - Hannah Prock, District 3, Aux 5220

5 year old - Griffin Wardell, District 10, Aux 1239

6 year old - Kylie Jenson, District 19, Aux 2801

Essay Contest winner is Frank Plescia, District 3, Aux 5079

Poster Contest winner is Max Busacker, District 12, Aux 5694

Thank you President Linda for this appointment.

Buddy Poppy / National Home - Danielle Krull, Chairman

What a year! In a year unlike any other we have experienced; **I am so proud of Illinois** and the work we continued to do in the face of uncertainty and limitations. Our leadership has adjusted, adapted, and thrived with the challenges this year presented. Our Auxiliaries, our Districts, and our Department made two programs that usually need faces and bodies out into the community thrive with new ideas, fundraisers, and many new options virtually.

As your Chairman for this past year, I enjoyed reading all the new ideas and the ideas adapted to the restrictions set by our state for our Buddy Poppy Program. In a year when a lot of our Veterans and their families, needed it the most, you all did your part. When the uncertainty of some of your own pockets or Auxiliary bank accounts was existing, you did not hesitate to put the money forward for our Veterans and their families in your communities.

As a Department we were able to help the VFW National Home in their time of hardship and uncertainty, we donated \$10,466.36 in their greatest time of need. I firmly believe “Everything happens for a reason” and the fact that we had two accounts for the National Home untouched from 2014, it was meant to be that this money be there for when the National Home needed it the most. With this money and a lot of money donated from across all 50 states in a time of worry, we made it possible for them to continue their great work for our Veterans and families that depend on their help without strain! Our Health and Happiness donations from across the state Auxiliaries equaled a grand total of \$5,562.50; I am in amazement of you Illinois! With Illinois Day cancelled this year we were unable to visit the home, but we definitely made our mark on them this year with the many other ways of support we were able to provide.

(As we are all aware of many changes and adjustments needed in the past year one award has changed below and is noted as a change)

Auxiliary Awards

1. A Citation to all Auxiliaries that participate in both programs – Buddy Poppy and National Home for Children by April 15, 2021

District 3: 2729, 5079, 5220, 8821, 9773

District 5: 1293, 1307, 2298, 4308, 4551, 4600, 5040, 8043, 8741

District 6: 342, 540, 1461, 2665, 2955, 3878, 5149, 5300, 5418, 9759

District 7: 454, 630, 2608, 2857, 4826, 8350, 9789

District 8: 1303, 1571, 1921, 2257, 2301, 5001, 5083, 5117, 8078, 8890

District 9: 1492, 4079, 4668

District 10: 1239, 1379, 1756, 6408, 10302

District 11: 4431, 4495, 4829, 6190, 6410, 6577

District 12: 976, 1300, 1308, 1377, 2859, 3912, 5694, 7678

District 13: 2055, 2244, 3999, 4226, 4276, 4535, 8222, 9153

District 14: 513, 805, 1117, 2698, 3480, 3523, 3553, 6504, 6632, 6865, 7682, 7710, 7980

District 15: 1301, 1567, 2671, 3455, 3479, 5222, 7190, 9763

District 16: 311, 450, 2580, 2791, 8283

District 17: 1592, 1769, 2876, 3601, 4325, 4549, 4598, 5762, 5975, 7862, 10009

District 18: 367, 725, 1486, 5422, 5917, 9545

District 19: 503, 1197, 2164, 2801, 3873, 5768, 5815, 5819, 6791, 7446, 7452, 8081, 11018

2. A Citation to all Auxiliaries that promote the purchase of a Life Membership to the VFW National Home for Children.

District 3: 2729, 5220

District 5: 1293, 4308, 4551, 4600, 5040

District 6: 342, 1461, 3878, 5149

District 7: 2608, 2857

District 8: 1571, 2301, 5083, 8078

District 9: 3883

District 10: 1756, 6408, 10302

District 11: 4431, 6410, 6577

District 12: 1308, 5694, 7678

District 13: 2055, 4226, 4276, 4535

District 14: 513, 805, 2698, 3553, 6504, 6632, 7682, 7980

District 15: 1301

District 16: 450

District 17: 1592, 1769, 3601, 4598, 5762, 7862

District 18: 1486, 5422

District 19: 503, 2164, 2801, 5815, 6791

3. An Award and Citation to the Auxiliary Chairman with the best promotion of each part of the "Buddy" Poppy / VFW National Home for Children program in their meetings. All parts of the program must include and reports due to the Department Chairman within 30 days of your meeting.

Sarah Higginbotham Auxiliary 4226, Olney

4. An Award and Citation the Auxiliary with the best community outreach of the "Buddy" Poppy program through distribution, education, involvement, and publicity.

Crawford County VFW Auxiliary 4549

5. A Citation to all Auxiliaries who make 25 cents or more donation to Health & Happiness based on their June 30, 2020 membership total.

District 3: 2729, 5079, 5220, 8821, 9773

District 5: 1293, 1307, 2298, 4308, 4551, 4600, 5040, 7448, 8043, 8741

District 6: 342, 540, 1461, 2665, 2955, 3878, 5149, 5300, 5418, 9759

District 7: 454, 630, 886, 2608, 2857, 4826, 5520, 8350, 9789, 9961

District 8: 1303, 1422, 1571, 1921, 2257, 2301, 5001, 5083, 5117, 8078, 8890

District 9: 1492, 2470, 4079, 4602, 4668, 4999, 6634

District 10: 1239, 1379, 1756, 6408, 10302

District 11: 99, 4168, 4431, 4495, 4829, 6190, 6410, 6577

District 12: 976, 1300, 1308, 1377, 2859, 5694, 7678

District 13: 2055, 2244, 3999, 4226 4276, 4535, 8222, 9153

District 14: 513, 805, 1117, 2698, 3480, 3523, 3553, 6504, 6632, 6865, 7682, 7710, 7980

District 15: 1301, 1567, 2671, 3455, 3479, 5222, 7190, 9763

District 16: 311, 450, 2580, 2791, 8141, 8283, 9801

District 17: 1592, 1769, 2876, 3601, 4325, 4549, 4598, 5762, 5975, 7862

District 18: 367, 725, 1486, 5422, 5788, 5917, 6049, 9545

District 19: 503, 1197, 2164, 2801, 3873, 5768, 5815, 5819, 6791, 7446, 7452, 8081, 11018

Auxiliaries at Large: 9284

6. A Gift and Citation to one Auxiliary in the downstate, upstate, and mid-state who have the most participation at Illinois Day at the VFW National Home. EVENT CANCELLED

Award Change:

A gift and Citation to one Auxiliary with the highest donation to the VFW National Home Health & Happiness Fund. Prize was a National Home coin and Puzzle

Auxiliary 2055 Centralia (Donated \$900.00 to Health and Happiness)

District Awards

1. A Citation to the District that participates in all parts of the "Buddy" Poppy / VFW National Home for Children program in District meetings

District 3, District 5, District 6, District 7, District 8, District 9, District 10, District 11, District 12, District 13, District 14, District 15, District 16, District 17, District 18, District 19

2. An Award and Citation to District Chairman with the best community outreach of the "Buddy" Poppy program through distribution, education, involvement, and publicity.

Jo Lynn Altvatter District 15

3. A monetary award and Citation to the District President with the most NEW Life Memberships to the VFW National Home. \$50.00

District 18, Barb Howard with 17 NEW Life memberships in District 18 for 2020-2021

Extension – Diana Rudeen, Chairman

Because Michael Maruszak, Mentoring for Leadership Chairman was out of town on a business trip, Diana presented the Mentoring for Leadership awards.

1st Place - **Laurie Sparwasser, Auxiliary 6504 - District 14** - Conducting Mentoring workshop as well as a creating welcome a packet's that included the History of the VFW Auxiliary. Utilized the Resources from the National Organization Online resource. Assisted newly Elected Office to familiarize them with the duties of the offices.

2nd Place - **Lisa Rivera, Auxiliary 5220 – District 3** - Conducting Monthly Mentoring workshops during her Auxiliary's monthly Meetings. Creating a folder that included information from the National Resource Library.

3rd Place - **Linda Armstrong, Auxiliary 6408 - District 10** - For Leadership in Conducting Monthly Mentoring workshops at her Auxiliary Meetings.

Diana continued with the Extension Report

I want to thank every Auxiliary for making the Extension Program 100% and reported by December 31, 2020. Even through this Pandemic, you maintained, mentored and revitalized Auxiliaries with hard work and dedication. We did lose a few Auxiliaries this year, yet we gained a new one to our family.

New Auxiliary Awards

1. \$50.00 to each new Auxiliary instituted between July 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021, provided a transmittal and proper paperwork is received at National Headquarters by April 10, 2021.

Sesser Auxiliary #4753

2. \$20.00 and a Citation to the Organizer who has the most members present at the time of institution (minimum of 15 to qualify)

Lynn Smith

Auxiliary Awards

1. A Citation to Auxiliaries who used publicity to revitalize their auxiliary. Report to be sent to Department Extension Chairman before March 15, 2021.
District 3: 2729, 5079, 5220, 8821, 9773
District 5: 1293, 1307, 2298, 4308, 4600, 8043
District 6: 342, 540, 2665, 2955, 3878, 5149, 5300, 5418, 9759
District 7: 2857, 9789, 9961
District 8: 1571, 1921, 5083, 8890
District 10: 1756, 6408, 10302
District 11: 4829, 6577
District 12: 1308, 1377, 2859, 5694
District 13: 3999, 4226, 4535, 8222
District 14: 1117, 6504, 6632, 6865, 7682
District 15: 1301, 3455
District 17: 1592, 3601, 4549
District 18: 367, 1486
District 19: 1197, 2801, 6791, 7446, 7452
2. A Citation to Auxiliaries that used the Mentoring resources available to start/continue mentoring in their Auxiliary. Report to be sent to Department Extension Chairman before March 15, 2021.
District 3: 2729, 5079, 5220, 8821, 9773
District 5: 1293, 1307, 2298, 4308, 4600, 8043

District 6: 342, 540, 2665, 2955, 3878, 5149, 5300, 5418, 9759

District 7: 2857, 9789, 9961

District 8: 1571, 1921, 5083, 8890

District 10: 1756, 6408, 10302

District 11: 4829, 6577

District 12: 1308, 1377, 2859, 5694

District 13: 3999, 4226, 4535, 8222

District 14: 1117, 6504, 6632, 6865, 7682

District 15: 1301, 3455

District 17: 1592, 3601, 4549

District 18: 367, 1486

District 19: 1197, 2801, 6791, 7446, 7452

District Awards

1. \$10.00 to the new Auxiliary that has the most members of the new Auxiliary present at the time of institution (minimum of 15 to qualify)
Sesser Auxiliary #4753
2. \$10.00 and a citation to the new Auxiliary that has the greatest number of members transmitted on the first transmittal following institution.
Sesser Auxiliary #4753
3. \$10.00 and a citation to both the District President and the Deputy Chief of Staff assigned to that District who institutes a new Auxiliary in their District Between July 1, 2020 and April 30, 2021.
15th District President Patricia Caraker and Jo Lynn Altvatter
4. \$10.00 and a citation to the organizer who organizes and institutes a new Auxiliary between July 1, 2020 and April 30, 2021.
Lynn Smith

Awards for Deputy Chief of Staff

1. \$10.00 and citation to the Deputy Chief of Staff who provides the most assistance to faltering auxiliaries in her assigned Districts. The Deputy Chief of Staff's report and all other communications received throughout the year will be used in consideration of this award.
Billie Guthals
2. \$10.00 and a Citation to the Deputy Chief of Staff who has shown the best promotion on the Extension Program throughout the year. The Deputy Chief of Staff's report and all other communications received throughout the year will be used in consideration of this award.
Billie Guthals

To Department President Linda Armstrong, thank-you for appointing me as your Chief of Staff for: Making Life Bearable for our Veteran's Year. I learned a lot and cannot be prouder of all our members in the State of Illinois for their commitment to Veterans, their families, and communities.

The Singular Outstanding Award is for mentoring an Auxiliary through struggling and trying times this past year; as their leader he kept the Auxiliary from disbanding and turned in over 7,000 volunteer hours and the award goes to: **John Thomas Gardner, President Auxiliary #5149**

Auxiliary Community Outreach – Samantha Schmidgall

I submit the following supplemental report:

This was a new program for the 2020-2021 Auxiliary year. As a state-wide community, we have completed outstanding projects! The Auxiliaries reached out to their communities and made life *bearable*. They learned how to think outside the box, be creative, be selfless, and were always giving. It was a challenging year but it only strengthened those that already volunteered their time. All awards are listed in the book, except the winners of Auxiliary Award #1 and District Award #1. Thank you to all of those that sent reports to me. They are as follows:

1. Award and citation for the most outstanding Auxiliary Community Outreach program. Auxiliaries must send report to the Department Auxiliary Community Outreach Chairman within 30 days of presentation but must be received by March 31, 2021.

Auxiliary 6504 Waterloo Metzger-Crook-District 14

1. Award and citation to the District Chairman with the best promotion of the Auxiliary Community Outreach program. Report must be received by the Department Chairman within 30 days of presentation but must be received by March 31, 2021.

Lisa Rivera -District 3

It has been my pleasure to be appointed Chairman of this program. Having been the recipient of all of the reports, I will forever be reminded of the love and kindness each of our Auxiliaries extended to the community. You truly amazed me with your generosity and care. Thank you for your good work!

Historian - Mary Spindler

I've truly enjoyed being the Department Historian this year, and I want to thank President Linda for appointing me to this position. It's been so much fun following all your events on Facebook, reading the newspaper articles that were shared, and learning how you promoted the program at all levels. Thank you for everything you have done all year long to "Make Life Bearable for our Veterans."

Yes, we were thrown a lot of curve balls, but we weathered through it, stayed positive, and made things happen in spite of the pandemic. I want to thank the leadership of the Department of Illinois for the way things were handled. We never knew from day to day what was going to happen, but in every instance it was worked out. It was truly a team effort.

And now for the awards. You might notice that they have been changed a little bit, since some of them were no longer applicable or simply did not take place. Sometimes you just have to roll with the punches.

1. Citation to each Auxiliary that provides a photo to be included in the Power Point presentation. Must include a description of the event, i.e, who, what, when, where and why. Deadline to Department Chairman is March 31st, 2021.

These are listed in the Program Book.

2. Citation to each Auxiliary that participates and reports in the Historian/Media Relations Program by December 31st, 2020. (Note: All Auxiliaries that reported are included)

These are also listed in the Program Book.

3. Citation to the Auxiliary Chairman that publicizes the District President's Visit (using any media) within 60 days of the visit. Copy must be sent to Department Chairman by May 31st, 2021.

District 10: Auxiliary 1239 – There was only one, so I am mentioning that here.

4. An award to one Auxiliary that submits a monthly/quarterly newsletter promoting Auxiliary news and events and sends a copy of each newsletter to the Department Chairman by May 31, 2021.

Auxiliary 5762, President is **Norma Janney**

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS:

Award to the top three Historians who have published the most articles through any media and mailed them to me, in addition to completing National Historian and Media Relations Award #1.

1. **Red Bud 6632 – Irma Birkner, Historian, District 14**
2. **Guthrie Pierce Auxiliary 1239 – District 10**
3. **Coulterville VFW Auxiliary 6865 – District 14 – Diana Cole**

DISTRICT AWARDS:

1. A citation to all District Chairmen who publicize the Department President's Official Visit to their District (through the use of any media). Must be mailed to the Department Chairman by May 31, 2021.

Districts 6, 11, 13, 17,19

2. A citation to each District President that sends out a minimum of four quarterly newsletters. Copies must be sent to Department Chairman by May 31, 2021. **None qualified.**

3. An award to the District Chairman with the best coverage of the Historian/Media Relations program at District Meetings. Please send a copy to the Department Chairman after each promotion. Must be submitted to Department Chairman by May 31, 2021. **District 5, Barb Maruzak**

And finally, President Linda, I present you with Volume 1 of your scrapbook, along with all the newsletters and articles from the IL VFW News. Volume 2 will follow after the Convention is over.

Legislative – Mercie Woolfolk, Chairman

District Award #2 - 16 Citations for each District for participating in the Legislative Program

Auxiliaries Award #1 - 151 Citations for each Auxiliary for participating in Legislative Program

Auxiliary Award #2

Award and citation to one Auxiliary from Downstate **District 14 - #6504 Janet Mogg**

Award and citation to one Auxiliary from Midstate **District 10 - #6408 Rodney Ash**

Award and citation to one Auxiliary from Upstate **District 3 - #5220 Lisa Rivera, 1st Place**

Award and citation to one Auxiliary from Upstate **District 19 – #2801, 2nd Place**

Auxiliary Award #3 - Award and citation to Auxiliary member with the MOST contacts with Legislators **District 19 - #3873 Jenny Dawley**

5 Awards and citations who submitted training of members on the Legislative Process to National

1st Place: **District 3 - #5220 Lisa Rivera**

2nd Place: **District 14 - #6504 Janet Mogg**

2nd Place: **District 5 - #4308 Denita Ricci**

3rd Place: **District 14 - #513 Samantha Schmidgall**

3rd Place: **District 19 - #7446 Mercie Woolfolk**

Scholarships - Chris Breyne, Chairman

Thank you all for your help this year in promoting the different Scholarship Programs. You persevered to reach students, get entries and make them feel loved.

Here are the Scholarship awards to be announced at this Convention.

Auxiliary

2. An award and citation to the Auxiliary Chairman with the best promotion of all four part of the Scholarship Program. **Nancy Rieke, Auxiliary #5694- District 12**
3. An award and citation to the Auxiliary Chairman with the best promotion of the Young American Patriotic Art. **Denita Ricci, Auxiliary #4308 – District 5**
4. An award and citation to the Auxiliary Chairman with the best promotion of the Continuing Education Scholarship. **Alice Reece, Auxiliary #7862 – District 17**

Patriotic Art Contest Winners

1st Place is **Chloe Gruszeczka** sponsored by Auxiliary #8078 – District 8

2nd Place is **Allison Pillers** sponsored by Auxiliary #11018 – District 19

3rd Place is **Olivia Rees** sponsored by Auxiliary #3873 – District 19

Congratulations to all! Thank you Linda for this appointment.

Youth Activities - Paula DeDoncker, Chairman

Despite all the challenges this year, you got the job done. Through social media, newspapers, etc. we supported our youth so take a moment and give yourselves a pat on the back. She forwarded our winners to National but for future we need to focus on what the particulars are. She announced her contest, District and Auxiliary winners.

President Linda asked the Past Department Presidents to come to her Station. She asked the audience to look at the ladies on stage who have forged the path for us. They are your mentors, your teachers and they are here to assist you in any way and we need to give them a big round of applause. National President Sandi commented that it's remarkable to have so many Past Presidents who are still in the house and still willing to help, I applaud you. President Linda asked them to introduce themselves and give us their year and theme.

With us were

Janet Long	Beverly Beyer
Colette Bishop	Diane Pencak
Linda Lorenz	Mercie Woolfolk
Cheryl Michel (2 terms)	Diana Rudeen
Patricia Martyn	Mary Spindler
Ruth Smit	Susan Parrish
Jan Morrow	Billie Guthals
Jo Lynn Altvatter	

President Linda asked the Chaplain to close the Bible and we took a 10 minute recess.

President Linda asked the Chaplain to open the Bible and we reconvened.

Presentation of 45 year + Members - Billie Guthals, Chairman
Committee: Mildred Leff, Irma Davis, Danielle Krull

We have the honor of introducing our members who have belonged over 45 years. They were the ones who showed us how to "make life bearable for our Veterans" and how things could be accomplished. They were asked to come to the President's Station and give their names and the number of years they had been a member. Lois Allen, Auxiliary #1756 with 64 years was our most tenured member.

President Linda, thank you for this appointment. She also thanked her Committee Irma and Danielle and remembered Lori Taylor.

Presentation of Auxiliary Presidents - Patti McLeod and Linda Lorenz, Chairmen
Committee: Becky Willmore, Pat Caraker

Auxiliary Presidents were requested to come to the President's Station.

Your leadership role as an Auxiliary President is to inspire and motivate others, to create a vision of the future that is vivid and compelling and that motivates members to want to be active and achieve. Everyone wants to be a part of something that makes a difference in their community. As a leader, you are best able to help the members of your team connect what they do in their community with the impact of our mission of service to our veterans, military and their families.

Great leaders have integrity, are honest and take responsibility. You have all stepped up to this role and we applaud you for your time and service to your Auxiliary. Thank you for all you have done this year, it was not an easy year but you all did what needed to be done!

They were all asked to introduce themselves.

*The pessimist complains about the wind.
The optimist expects it to change.
The leader adjusts the sails.*

John C. Maxwell

President Linda asked the Conductress and the Color Team to retire for the purpose of escorting Department Commander Laurie Emmers to the Altar for Department Soloist Tera Mann to sing a special song.

The Commander was then escorted to the President's Station where she was greeted with a warm welcome.

President Linda then asked the Conductress, Assistant Conductress with the Colors to escort the other guests to her Station.

President Linda welcomed Commander Laurie noting she was an asset to the Department. Commander Laurie thanked all our Auxiliaries noting we are partners working for our Veterans and we are all here for the same cause. It was a pleasure working with you this year and we all, the VFW, truly appreciate the Auxiliaries. Thanks so much.

President Linda asked Commander Laurie to introduce those with her. Accompanying Commander Emmers was John Muckelbauer, General Counsel of the VFW; Phil Maughan, National Council Representative; Mike McGrath, National Home Director; Maurice Bridges, Chief of Staff; Sam Scaife, Officer of the Day.

After all were introduced, President Linda asked each of them to speak.

Department Commander Laurie thanked Linda so much noting this year has been so challenging but we got thru it and did so much for our Veterans this year, both the VFW and the Auxiliary mentioning that she also was an Auxiliary member.

John Muckelbauer thanked us on behalf of the VFW Commander in Chief for all the work that has been done. He talked yesterday about what gets it done and heard it several times this morning and that's teamwork and it's great to see the teamwork in Illinois. With both of us focused on the same thing, we cannot fail and he

appreciates all that we do for our Veterans. We've been thru a heck of a year and he believes we are stronger than we've ever been before. He wished us the very best.

Mike McGrath echoed what Commander Emmers and John said. He's been the National Home Director for about 12 years and thanked us from the bottom of his heart for all we do. He announced Illinois National Home Day is September 25th. The VFW has a table set up across the street with all the information on Illinois Day.

Phil Maughan thanked us and said it was great to see so many friends and those he has yet to meet. He stressed the impact the Auxiliary has and appreciates it.

Our guests were escorted from the room.

President Linda asked the Pages to approach her station.

Presentation of Pages- Samantha Schmidgall, Chairman
Committee: Janet Kays, Mary Ellen Hollis

Janet Kays asked the Pages to stand, she introduced them and all were welcomed.

President Linda announced the Nomination of Officers noting that after for calling for further nominations two times, final nominations and election would take place after lunch

Department President Linda announced nominations were open for the **Office of President**

Good morning, I am Paula DeDoncker, a Delegate to this Convention and this is my last year of doing this so here goes

There are three defining points of a leader. If you look at our District we have a Past National President, a two-time Department President and Auxiliary Presidents so Rhonda took the time to learn from these ladies. She took the best and gathered information along the way. She also learned from her grandfather Maurice.

Our District is so proud of you and I am honored to nominate Rhonda Borkgren for the Office of President.

Department President Linda announced were open for the **Office of Sr. Vice President**

Good morning my name is Melanie Ecker, Secretary and member of Auxiliary 5079. Fifteen years ago Marvie Wisniewski joined Chicago Bridgeport Auxiliary under the eligibility of her Father Marvin T. Landis who was an Army Veteran serving in World War II Korea and Vietnam who's distinguished Award was a Purple Heart. Throughout her 15 years of membership Marvie has proudly worked her way through the Auxiliary and District Chairs and has also held numerous Chairmanships and positions in the Auxiliary, District 3 and the Department of Illinois. The highlight of her Chairmanships was her work for the Junior Girls Unit.

Marvie's passion and love for Veterans has led her down the path to eventually lead the Department of Illinois VFW Auxiliary. Watching my aunt in her various roles has certainly made me a proud niece and Auxiliary Sister.

With that said and with the support of Auxiliary 5079 and District 3, I hereby nominate Marvie Wisniewski for the Office of Senior Vice President.

Department President Linda announced were open for the **Office of Jr. Vice President**

I am Jo Lynn Altvatter, a member of Beggs-Gurley VFW Auxiliary in Vienna, a Past Department President and a Delegate to this Convention.

I am delighted to nominate a Sister who many of you know from her years in the Auxiliary. She is kind, dedicated and helpful and continues to learn as she goes thru the Chairs. I am confident she will do an outstanding job representing the Department of Illinois.

I ask for your consideration in electing Lynn Smith for the Office of Jr. Vice President.

Department President Linda announced nominations were open for the **Office of Treasurer**

Angela Davis, President of Batavia Overseas Auxiliary in Batavia. It my honor to nominate Linda Lorenz who is been a member since she was 16 years old. She has held offices in her Auxiliary, District and Department. She is prepared to work with all the Department Officers and is a mentor and coach. I hereby nominate Linda Lorenz for the Office of Treasurer.

Department President Linda announced nominations were open for the **Office of Chaplain**

John Watters, President of Olney Memorial Auxiliary nominated Cindy Watters.

First of all, I would like to thank everyone in this Convention Room. All of you have dedication and are passionate about our Veterans.

The candidate I am about to nominate is very dedicated and passionate to our Veterans. She is proud of her Hero, her Father, Robert E. Gaston who served in the United States Army during WWII. He was an Infantry Soldier and came home with a Purple heart. She is a Life Member of Olney Memorial Auxiliary #4226 in Olney and from the 13th District.

I proudly nominate Cindy Watters for the Office of Chaplain for the Department of Illinois VFW Auxiliary for the coming year.

Department President Linda announced nominations were open for the **Office of Conductress**

Linda Lorenz, a delegate to the Convention and Department Treasurer nominated Diane Ahrens noting her accomplishments of what started off as a small project doing Baby Showers for our Veterans at VA Hospitals and she is a military Veteran. She has done an excellent job this year and Linda nominated Diane Ahrens for the Office of Conductress.

Department President Linda announced nominations were open for the **Office of Guard**

I am Ruth Smit, Past Department of Illinois President here today to do the honor of introducing you to Sister Danielle Krull.

Danielle joined the Auxiliary under the eligibility of her husband Keith, a decorated Marine, having served two tours of duty during Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Danielle joined in 2016, and immediately hit the ground running. In her first membership year she served as her Auxiliary's Conductress and as the 16th District Junior Vice President. The following year she became both President of the 16th District and her Auxiliary. She served in those positions for 2 years.

Danielle is currently serving as the Department of Illinois Buddy Poppy/National Home Chairman, Conductress of the 16th District, Sr Vice President of Auxiliary #450, and Trustee on both the District and Auxiliary levels.

As I have said, she is a very busy, driven young lady. She has excelled in every position she has held, all while working a full time job and raising two beautiful daughters. Her daughters and husband not only support her in all of her Auxiliary efforts, but help as well wherever, whenever they can. One could say they serve proudly beside her.

Danielle's bravery to share her story with us has opened doors for others and gained her the respect she so deeply deserves.

As a Past Department President, I see in Danielle the leadership qualities and tenacity needed to run our Department. It is with that sentiment and with the full support of Alsip Auxiliary #450 and District 16 that I nominate Danielle Krull for the office of Department Guard.

Victor Wooldridge, President of Pontiac Auxiliary #886 nominated Annette Wooldridge. Annette grew up in the VFW Auxiliary joining under the eligibility of her father who served in Vietnam. She is Life Member of Auxiliary and National Home. She has chaired the Shopper's Corner for several years and has held Offices both in her Auxiliary and District. She has the full support of her family. Victor feels Annette would be a great asset to the Department of Illinois. Thank you.

Announcements – President Linda noted that both Danielle and Annette would make themselves available for any questions we may have.

Department Secretary announced that the drawings for the Membership and Shopper's Corner would be held during lunch. Get ready for the Membership Skit at 12:15 pm

The Bible was closed and the meeting recessed for lunch at 11:08 am to reconvene at 1:00 pm

During the recess, Department President Linda, National President Sandi Onstwedder, National District Council Representative Mercie Woolfolk and Diana Rudeen, Chief of Staff went to extend their greetings to the VFW Convention.

We proceeded with the 2021-2022 Membership Skit presented by Danielle Krull, Membership Chairman and Sarah Higginbotham, Co-Chairman.

Rhonda: Dues Master General

Danielle and Sarah: Dues Delivery Masters

PDP's: Subscription Delivery

Line Officers: Prime Delivery

Chief of Staffs: UPS/AUX Delivery

District Presidents: USPS/VFWA Delivery

Random chosen Aux Members: House Residents

Opening:

Danielle: Good Morning/Afternoon from your Dues Delivery Masters.

Sarah: We would like to introduce you to our Dues Master General, Rhonda.

Danielle: This is who we will take our Dues delivery guidance from and how we will get to our OVER 100% delivery goal for 2021-2022.

Sarah: Let's see which route she is going to send us for dues first.

Subscriptions:

Rhonda: I would like for you two to start the roundup of the "subscription dues" for delivery.

Danielle: You got it ma'am! Sarah, let's get the deliveries ready for our Automatic subscription delivery of Life Members.

Sarah: Subscriptions ready for delivery! Subscription carriers deliver your mail. ***In come the PDP's with boxes/letters labeled "To Life Members"***

Danielle: Although we already have the commitment of a subscription from these members, our delivery drivers are delivering updated newsletters and/or THANK YOU cards for their continued subscription.

Sarah: These handwritten Thank You Cards and/or updated events reminders can really go a long way for their continued commitment to our organization.

Danielle: Subscriptions delivered, Dues Master General. What is next?

Rhonda: Our Prime Carriers need to deliver their first round of reminders to get our Prime Delivery Members paid.

Danielle: Prime Carriers are you ready with your parcels?

Sarah: Prime Carriers are ready. ***In come the Line Officers with envelopes that are labeled "Dues Reminders"***

Sarah: Our Prime Delivery Members will deliver their dues with Prime delivery, they are always on time and typically never let their membership get close to lapsing.

Danielle: It is always a good idea to remember as an Auxiliary to remind these Members how you appreciate their being on time, every time. A great idea for the first two months or so of dues deliveries, would be to offer an extra incentive for paying early!

Sarah: Yes Danielle, a certificate of appreciation or a small Dunkin or Starbucks gift card can make someone's day for always being on-time.

Danielle: Deliveries have been completed, General!

Rhonda: Great, next we have our AUX Ground Deliveries to make.

Sarah: We are on it.

Danielle: Carriers are you ready with your missed delivery tags and next round of dues reminders? ***In come the Chiefs of Staff with door tags and letters that are labeled "2nd dues Reminders"***

Sarah: Your AUX Ground Delivery Carriers are reminding those members who have not submitted their dues yet, that we missed them with a hand-written note in the reminders as a missed door tag.

Danielle: These members may have forgot or just needed an extra reminder to pay, you know we are all so busy!

Sarah: UPS Ground Deliveries have been completed.

Rhonda: Now we need a personal way to deliver to those that we still need to reach...

Sarah: We have already set up the VFWA Sure Post Carriers for this delivery.

Danielle: These recipients need a little bit more of an everyday delivery approach. Start with working from what our other carriers have completed and go from there.

Sarah: Yes, Danielle these carriers are ready to deliver their more personal way of delivery.

Danielle: SurePost Carriers start your deliveries. ***In come the District Presidents, some will sit at a table with phones, others will deliver greeting card colored envelopes, or envelopes with "EVENTS" on them, the District Presidents will act as if they are having conversations about the Auxiliary to these houses***

Sarah: As you can see here our SurePost delivery drivers are using multiple ways to get these last few member dues paid. They are using phone calls, event reminders, or handwritten cards about meeting reminders or that their dues are due.

Danielle: We have found that if a note or card comes handwritten or in a colorful envelope it is more likely to be opened and not categorized as "junk mail."

Sarah: Dues Master General, your Dues Masters are here at your service for the 2021-2022 year and we are ready to deliver 100%+ of your dues!

Danielle: We also have some great opportunities and ideas to get your dues UPGRADED to Life Members.

Sarah: Yes, these ideas are delivered to you in our Program Guide.

Danielle: With these deliveries, we have used all our resources to deliver dues and retain members with satisfaction!

Senior Vice President Rhonda Borkgren asked for the Bible be opened.

Presentation of Floor Officers and Aide to National Rep - Rhonda Borkgren, Chairman

Rhonda commended the Floor Officers on the fine job they were doing and asked them to come to the President's Station and introduce themselves. Nancy Rieke presented Cindy Watters, Conductress with a gift from the Floor Officers. Annette Wooldridge, Aide presented National President Sandi with a gift.

Senior Vice President Rhonda asked the Conductress, Assistant Conductress and the Color Team to retire and escort Department President Linda to the altar and Department Soloist Tera Mann sang her a special song.

Department President Armstrong was welcomed back to her Convention with a warm round of applause then she was escorted to her Station. Presented Linda was presented with some gifts and they announced the winner of the Fruit Basket that National President donated to be raffled off for Linda's special project.

Tim Delaney of Humana was escorted to the President's Station by the Conductress. Diane Ahrens noted that Humana was very helpful with the Baby Showers. Tim was welcomed and noted he was a member of Don Cherry VFW Post #5083 in Geneseo. Tim thanked us for all we do and talked about all the services that Humana offers. Tim was escorted from the room.

President Linda proceeded with her "Farewell Speech"

Wow

What an emotional roller coaster of a year we have had. Historically we have documented many, many firsts. This year of 2020/21 will not be soon forgotten. I want to thank everyone who has stepped up and made this “MAKING LIFE BEARABLE FOR OUR VETERANS” year a huge success in many ways.

I want to thank my family, friends, Auxiliary, District and my community for their encouragement this past year and for not letting me give up when things got really bad especially after my unfortunate accident.

I also want to thank our National Leadership for always being there to guide me in the right direction when issues arose.

And lastly, I want to thank Diana Rudeen my friend, my mentor and my rock, for all the late-night phone calls that mentored me all through my journey to get to this position. She continued to believe in me even when I did not believe in myself.

I pledge my unyielding support to Rhonda, her team and the future leaders that follow. I wish you all the best of luck in the future.

God bless you all.

Stay healthy Stay safe and please above all Stay Kind

Credentials Report – Diane Hawk, Chairman

Saturday (6/12)

Auxiliary Presidents	2
Auxiliary Delegates	-4
Department Officers	0
National Officers	0
Past Department Presidents	0
District Presidents	4
Appointed Officers	0
Guests	2
Total	2
Auxiliary Presidents	20
Auxiliary Delegates	75
Department Officers	4
National Officers	0
Past Department Presidents	4
District Presidents	6
Appointed Officers	0

Guests	4
Total Registration	113
TOTAL VOTING STRENGTH	287
NEEDED TO ELECT	144
TOTAL NUMBER REGISTERED	113

It was moved by Colette Bishop and seconded by Jo Lynn Altvatter, to accept the Credentials Report – motion carried.

National President Sandi explained that since we did not have a majority of Delegates present due to Covid, we were to hold our Election and our actions would be ratified at the first Council of Administration Meeting immediately following the close of Convention.

President Linda announced we will be proceeding with the final nominations and Election of Officers and announced the Judge is Susan Parrish and the tellers are Pat Martyn and Ruth Smit.

Department President Linda announced nominations were open for the **Office of President**

After calling for Nominations two more times, **Rhonda Borkgren** was elected Department President by Acclamation.

“Thank you for putting me in this position. I will do my best not to let you down. I especially want to Thank my Auxiliary and my District for all the support the past 5 years. Without you, I couldn’t have done this.

I really want to work hard to grow our Department in the coming year. I want us to grow together as a Department. I want us to work together in ways we haven’t done in many years. I worry that we are losing the interest of our members. We need to find ways to reunite our current members and make us stronger. I want to start the momentum, so when our newly elected Guard is standing here in this position, we have many more members, than we have today! That hasn’t happened in many years. We are all dedicated to working together as a team. We can create a rebirth now, after COVID. We know change isn’t easy. It’s hard to change the way we have always done things. But if we keep doing what we have always done, we won’t be here in the future. We can all work together and make the Department of Illinois much stronger!

I want you to know that I am always here for everyone. I know I won’t be able to make everyone happy with the decisions I make, but I can promise I will be fair and impartial. We have a great team who will be there for all of you.

This year we are going to be doing the Circle of Excellence for all of our Auxiliaries. Next year at Convention when we are doing awards, I want to see every Auxiliary up here on this stage being honored as a first time member to the Circle of Excellence Illinois!!! Each one of us can make a difference, but together we can make a change.”

Department President Linda announced were open for the **Office of Sr. Vice President**

After calling for Nominations two more times, **Marvie Wisniewski** was elected Department Sr. Vice President by Acclamation.

Department President Linda announced were open for the **Office of Jr. Vice President**

After calling for Nominations two more times, **Lynn Smith** was elected Department Jr. Vice President by Acclamation.

Department President Linda announced nominations were open for the **Office of Treasurer**

After calling for Nominations two more times, **Linda Lorenz** was elected Department Treasurer by Acclamation.

Department President Linda announced nominations were open for the **Office of Chaplain**

After calling for Nominations two more times, **Cindy Watters** was elected Department Chaplain by Acclamation.

Department President Linda announced nominations were open for the **Office of Conductress**

After calling for Nominations two more times, **Diane Ahrens** was elected Department Conductress by Acclamation.

Department President Linda announced nominations were open for the **Office of Guard**

Asking for more nominations, President Linda asked for the Bible to be closed for a short recess to caucus. The Bible was then reopened to continue with our Election.

During the Election for Guard, Annette Wooldridge conceded and President Linda announced **Danielle Krull** was elected Department Guard.

President Linda thanked the Judge and Tellers for their hard work and dismissed them.

President Linda asked Rhonda to announce her 2021-2022 appointments.

Chief of Staff	Paula DeDoncker
Secretary	Patti McLeod
Patriotic Instructor	Terry Adams
Historian	Mary Spindler
Assistant Conductress	Nancy Rieke
Assistant Guard	Renee Mierop
Assistant Secretary	Jo Lynn Altvatter
Assistant Treasurer	Barbara Howard

Color Bearer #1	Karen Scherer
Color Bearer #2	Janie Crum
Color Bearer #3	Sheila Mysliwicz
Color Bearer #4	Candance England
Flag Bearer	Jan Powers
Banner Bearer	Michael Maruszak
Program Coordinator	Tammy Napier
Americanism	Terry Adams
Auxiliary Community Outreach	Lynn Bankard
Buddy Poppy/National Home	Angela Davis
Extension / Mentoring for Leadership	Paula DeDoncker
Graves Registration	Cindy Watters
Legislative	Lynne Wilson
Membership	Danielle Krull
Co-Membership	Sarah Higginbotham
Scholarships	Laurie Sparwasser
Veterans and Family Support	Diane Ahrens
Youth Activities	Janet Kays
President's Pins	Janie Crum
Shopper's Corner	Annette Wooldridge
Co-Chair	Katherine Stauber
Deputy Chiefs of Staff	Jo Lynn Altvatter
	Mary Lee
	Laurie Lesperance
	Diane Pencak
	Janet Snow
Events Coordinator	Cheryl Michel
Webmaster	Colette Bishop
District President of the Year	
Chairman	Ruth Smit
Committee	Pat Martyn
Audit Chairman	Cindy Watters
Audit Committee	Diane Ahrens
	Danielle Krull
Budget Chairman	Colette Bishop
Budget Committee	Rhonda Borkgren
	Marvie Wisniewski
	Lynn Smith
	Linda Lorenz
	Patti McLeod
	Cindy Watters

	Diane Ahrens Danielle Krull
Hospital Chairman	Laura Knackstedt
Hospital Co-Chairman	Debbie Gard
Illiana VAVS Rep	Debbie Gard
Illiana VA Honorary Rep	Gloria Nelson
Edward Hines Jr. VA VAVS Rep	Mercie Woolfolk
Edward J. Hines Jr. Deputy	Diane Ahrens
Edward J. Hines Jr. Honorary Deputy	Ross Ann Lobb
Jesse Brown VAVS Rep	Joanne York
Marion VAVS Rep	Lori Crites
Marion VA Deputies	Marcia English, Karen Robinson, JoAnn Webb
Capt. James Lovell VA VAVS Rep	Judy Patterson
Jefferson Barracks VA Associate Rep	Emma Sue Wienhoff
John Cochran VA Associate Rep	
Wm Middleton VA Associate Rep	Katherine Stauber
Wm Middleton VA Deputy Rep	Fern Pack
IL Veterans Home - LaSalle Rep	Gerri Anderson
IL Veterans Home – LaSalle Deputy	Linda Patterson
IL Veterans Home - Anna Rep	Marilyn Crawford
IL Veterans Home - Manteno Rep	Margaret Davis
IL Veterans Home - Manteno Deputy	Sandy Coleman
IL Veterans Home - Quincy Rep	Janet Long
IL Veterans Home - Quincy Deputy	Marge Bisby

President Linda announced a break before the installation and asked the Chaplain to close the Bible.

President Linda asked for the Bible to be opened and asked the Conductress with the Colors to retire to escort the Mistress of Ceremonies to her Station. After introducing Mary Lee, she turned over the command to Install the Officers of the Department.

Mary welcomed all and proceeded with the Installation by having the Installing Conductress, Assistant Conductress and Color Team escort the family President-Elect Rhonda Borkgren to the President's Station.

Mistress of Ceremonies Mary asked the Conductress and Assistant Conductress with the Color Team to retire and escort the Installing Officer to her station.

Mary welcomed and introduced Past National President Colette Bishop, Installing Officer and turned the command of the Department over to Colette.

Colette thanked Mary and proceeded with the Installation of Officers. Colette requested that the Conductress and Assistant Conductress escort the Officers to the Altar and the Department Assistant Secretary read the list of Officers to be installed.

The following Officers were Installed into Office for the 2021-2022 term

President	Rhonda Borkgren
Sr. Vice President	Marvie Wisniewski
Jr. Vice President	Lynn Smith
Treasurer	Linda Lorenz
Chaplain	Cindy Watters
Conductress	Diane Ahrens
Guard	Danielle Krull
Chief of Staff	Paula DeDoncker
Council Member	Linda Armstrong
5 th District President	Diane Ahrens
6 th District President	John Thomas Gardner
7 th District President	Billie Guthals
8 th District President	Heather Pierson
9 th District President	Sarah Pfeifer
10 th District President	Lynda White
11 th District President	Susan Dorn
12 th District President	Susan Parrish
13 th District President	John Watters
14 th District President	Cheryl Miller
15 th District President	Patricia Caraker
16 th District President	Irma Davis
17 th District President	Norma Janney
18 th District President	Vicki Gress
19 th District President	Mary Ellen Hollis
Historian	Mary Spindler
Assistant Conductress	Nancy Rieke
Assistant Guard	Renee Mierop
Assistant Secretary	Jo Lynn Altvatter
Color Bearer #1	Karen Scherer
Color Bearer #2	Janie Crum
Color Bearer #3	Sheila Mysliwicz
Color Bearer #4	Candance England

Colette requested the Installing Conductress escort President Rhonda to her Station and the other Officers to their stations. Colette congratulated Rhonda and thanked her for asking her to be her Installing Officer.

Mary Lee congratulated Rhonda who introduced her daughter Heather Pierson.

Rhonda apologized to Patti and again reiterated that she wants to work with everyone so we get back to where we should be.

Presentations were made to Rhonda and she thanked her District for all they have done for her.

The Mistress of Ceremonies requested the Installing Conductress escort out-going Department President Linda to the Altar and to seek out Penny Smith for the purpose of a presentation. Penny presented Linda with her Past Department President's pin and said she was very proud of her. Tera Mann sang a special song. President Linda was then escorted back to the President's Station.

The Mistress of Ceremonies Mary Lee asked the 2020-2021 Officers to resume their stations and turned the command of the Convention back to retiring President Linda for the closing ceremonies.

President Linda presented Rhonda with a gift and asked her Line Officers to come to her Station where she presented them with gifts. Additional presentations were made to Linda including her gift from the Auxiliaries.

President Linda asked National President Sandi Onstwedder to say a few words.

Madam National President Colette, I have one regret, they should have sent me to Illinois many years ago. Sandi apologized for being critical noting that we all have traditions and we should continue to follow them. She was pleased to announce that the VFW Auxiliary was going to hold a full Convention with the VFW doing business only. The VFW put feelers out to nine Departments and Kansas was the only Department to respond so we are going to Kansas City this year. Jean Hamil is ready to lead our organization next year and she has great ideas. Madam President, we all know that we are to leave the Department a little better than it was the year before and I thank God, you didn't stop. We have until June 30th to get our membership in so there's still hope. Please be kind and considerate within the Auxiliary. It has been my pleasure to be here with you. Thank you to each and every one of you and I look forward to seeing all the Line Officers go thru the Chairs. God Bless each and every one of you.

President Linda presented Sandi with a give from the Department. Sandi noted in previous years the Senior did not take "love gifts" but this year she will accept it for her special project for Unmet Needs and thanked us.

Closing ceremonies were conducted and the Convention adjourned at 3:30 pm to reconvene at the call of the Department President.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jo Lynn Altvatter
Department Assistant Secretary