

The page is framed by a decorative border. The top and bottom borders consist of a repeating pattern of red stars and hearts containing the American flag. The left and right borders feature a repeating pattern of hearts containing the American flag and blue stars.

To our National Representative,
Past National President Dixie Hild,
to National Hospital Ambassador
Mary Spindler, Past National
President Colette Bishop, Past
Department Presidents, Officers,
Delegates, and members here
assembled for the 99th Annual
Convention of the Veterans of
Foreign Wars of the United States
Auxiliary, Department of Illinois, in
Springfield, Illinois, we submit the
following reports:



Marvie Wisniewski Department President

"It's not so much the journey that's important, as in the way that we treat those we encounter and those around us, along the way." Jeremy Aldana

It is hard to believe this journey is coming to its final stage. There have been so many major life events that have happened along the way, and my Auxiliary family has been there for me. I will never be able to express in words how grateful I am to have had an extended family to lean on. There are so many thank you's to be given, and I am sure I am going to miss someone.

Thank you to all the Auxiliaries and Districts Presidents for the fun luncheons and coming out for hugs. 😊 Thank you for all the wonderful gifts. Now that summer is almost here, I can put them out and around my pond. To the Upstate (Lisa Rivera), Midstate ((Barb Sweger), and Downstate (Laurie Spawasser) mentors thank you for giving back to our organization. It was great reading all the nominations for this "special" award. Being able to give back to those people that work so hard within their Auxiliaries to mentor was an honor.

A huge shout out to Danielle Krull for rocking membership again this year!! We are almost 100% in actual membership, and that is all because of you, your leadership, and encouraging our members to recruit and pay their dues! Your drive and determination made it happen!

Tammy Napier, where should I begin except at the beginning! We were brought together because of our mutual mentor aligning the stars so we could be a team. I am sure she is smiling down knowing that this year has brought us together to be friends for life.

To my Chief of Staff Paula, thank you for keeping the momentum going in saving Auxiliaries! Mary Lee and Nancy Reike, I looked forward to your call from the road that began with "I am leavingand ending with Love Ya!," traveling hours to assist Auxiliaries, and doing it all with compassion for our members.

To the 3rd District, THANK YOU!! You all have gone above and beyond to make this year amazing. Diane Pencak, this is the beginning of all the thank you's (since I owe you forever). To my niece Melanie, thank you for giving up your birthday weekend to not only be my page but to be there to support me. I love you and can never thank you enough!

To my Post and Auxiliary, look out I will be home soon and ready to get back to work with all of you!

Thank you to each and every one of you who volunteer your time for our Veterans and their families. Your work and dedication to our cause never ceases to amaze me. THANK YOU!! In the words by "Nancy Sinatra" and sung by the Downstate Presidents, "These Boots Were Made for Walking" and it is my time to complete this journey. I will be forever grateful!

With Love and Hugs,

Marvie



Lynn Smith **Senior Vice President**

As I took the Office of Sr Vice President in at 98th VFW Auxiliary Department of Illinois Convention, I felt very honored to be able represent our members. In July, I was able to attend the National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri. That was a year to remember as the Jr. Past Department President along with the Department President, Jr. Vice President and Chief of staff were all home due to COVID and the Secretary and Treasurer didn't attend due to health reasons. They were truly missed, but I and the other Line Officers handled anything that arose. (I think).

I attended the following District Meetings, 5th, 6th, 8th, 13th, 17th, and 18th. I would like to thank everyone for their hospitality. It was truly a pleasure to meet everyone.

I also attended National Home Day, the Department Commander's Homecoming, the Department President's Homecoming, all three luncheons, and all Council of Administration meetings.

In March, I went back to Kansas City to attend the Sr. Vice President's Conference. I was able to meet the other Sr. Vices from across the Nation. It was a learning experience. The National Organization does a great job preparing us for our year.

In closing, I would like to thank the 15th District, District President Patricia Caraker, and District Commander Chris Maynor for their support as I travel this journey through the chairs.

To the Department of Illinois VFW Auxiliary, thank you for the confidence you have in me to represent you. To my traveling partners Cindy Watters and Jo Lynn Altvatter, thanks for our times together. They were great ones. To Jo Lynn, thanks for all the nominations and making sure I get everything done.

Loyally,

Lynn Smith
Sr. Vice President



Cindy Watters **Junior Vice President**

As I was sitting here this morning talking to John about Auxiliary things we needed to do like reports and getting our paperwork in order, I told him about a change I would like to see happen in a couple of Districts. In my eyes, it is something very little but would make a big difference. He said "Oh, that would be early and throw everybody into a tizzy." My reply, "We need to embrace change!" Bad or good, if we do not try new things or go out of our comfort zones, we do not know what is possible! If it is bad, we go back to doing things the old way, if it is good, then look at where we can go now!!

This year has been a big change for me. The reality of becoming President of our Organization is coming close. I have so much to learn, so much to do!

However, I have always been a total believer in, Whatever Will Be, Will Be! During my official visits to Districts 5, 8, 9, 13, 16, and 18, my eyes were opened to what works for them and what would possibly work in other areas.

I attended all the luncheons, which were fabulous and so much fun. Big 10 was nice as I got to meet the other Jr. Vice Presidents and talk to them about their journeys. Illinois day at National Home was also a good time enjoyed by all. Some already know my addiction to ice cream. Thank you, Illinois, for gifting that to them years ago. My copilot, John, and I went to Scott Air Force Base on September 11th and the Chili cookoff in Sesser. Marvie's Homecoming was a hoot, complete with costumes. I really enjoy myself when I just get to go to other posts and have fun enjoying each other's company. I even attended a couple of regular meetings and fundraisers in my District. VOD this year, again, was a beautiful event, as listening to our winners gives you encouragement in the success of our youth.

I will be attending my Jr. Vice conference after this was submitted. I cannot wait to see everyone and learn some things that I need to go forward. Thank you for allowing me to represent you.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Watters
Jr. Vice President



Tammy Napier
Secretary

Have you ever stopped to think about all the different types of boots out there? There are cowboy boots, muck boots, hip boots, steel-toe boots, combat boots, and the list goes on and on. What do all these types of boots have in common? They are all worn by people doing work in different professions. Of course, being a VFW Auxiliary member, the men and women who have worn, or are wearing, combat boots make this type of boots very special to us. The 2022-2023 "Boots on the Ground for Our Veterans" Auxiliary year challenged all of us to put whatever type of boots we wore on the ground to work for the good of our Veterans, active-duty military members, their families, and our communities. All the Department Line Officers and Chairmen, Auxiliaries, and Districts have worked hard to make this an outstanding year but, just because the year is ending, does not mean it is time to put up our boots because the work is done. The work the Department of Illinois VFW Auxiliary members do is important and ongoing.

With each new Auxiliary year, there are changes...changes in officers and changes in chairmen at all levels of the organization, changes in National and Department programs, and changes in Circle of Excellence requirements for the Department and Auxiliaries. All these changes make this an excellent time for the Department of Illinois' Auxiliaries to review the new year's objectives/requirements, set new goals, and plan how to achieve those new goals. We, as Auxiliary members, have heard many times and for many years that "Change is good!". Change is inevitable within the Auxiliary, within our lives, and within the world. We must adapt to the changes we encounter within the Auxiliary while remembering and adhering to the traditions

upon which this organization was built. If we all strive to make changes while building on our Auxiliary's traditions and foundations, the VFW Auxiliary will be stronger and thrive into the future.

Thank you to my Auxiliary, Olney Memorial VFW Auxiliary #4226, for your support this year as I served as Department Secretary. I have been out of town much of this year and have not been able to attend many meetings in person or help with fundraisers as I have in the past. Thank you for your understanding! To my Auxiliary President Tim Anderson, thank you for stepping up to serve as President this year. You did a fantastic job!

Thank you to my 13th District VFW Auxiliary and District President John Watters, as always you have worked hard and achieved your goals. Because of the members of the 13th District my circle of friends is a bit bigger. I've missed seeing everyone this year and hope to be able to attend a few more District meeting next year. My time spent with you is always memorable.

To Susan Rolando, as assistant Secretary, thank you for making sure the "i's" were dotted and my "t's" crossed. Thank you for being there on short notice and always having great suggestions. Your expertise is a treasure that I value dearly. I also want to thank and acknowledge Susan Rolando, as Reports Coordinator, for keeping track of everything...the reports, dollars, hours, members, tallying the stats and updating the X-Sheet monthly. Thank you for all you have done for the Department this year, it is very much appreciated.

To my mom, Janet Snyder, thank you for always answering the phone, listening to me when I was frustrated, calming me when I was upset, helping me stuff envelopes, forwarding my mail, and doing anything and everything I asked you to do. You may not have had an official Department title this year, but you always have and always will hold the title of "Best Mom in the World!"

Department Treasurer Linda Lorenz, you have been a joy to work with. You are so knowledgeable and made my first year as Department Secretary go smoothly. I do not know what I would have done without you. I enjoyed our phone calls whether to work on a problem or just to chat! Thank you for always being at the other end of the call!

To the Department Line Officers and Chairmen, it has been a pleasure working with you. Thank you for your patience! This was a learning year for me in this position and, because of you, it was a great year. Thank you for all you have done and will do in the future for the Department of Illinois. It's been an honor working with you this year!

To Lynn Smith, my best wishes to you, your Officers, and Department Chairmen for the 2023-2024 Auxiliary year. I am looking forward to working with you. Please know that I am only a phone call, text, or email away.

To the Department President Marvie, this year may not have been as you planned during your years going through the Department chairs, but I have no doubt there are people looking down on you with smiles on their faces and feeling proud of all that you have accomplished. You have been an outstanding leader for this Department. Your compassion for our members and passion for our Veterans reflect in everything you have done this year. It has been my honor to serve you and this Department as Secretary. Thank you for the opportunity. Now it's on to Phoenix, Arizona for National Convention this July and may Illinois' Chairmen bring home many awards this year!

To my Brothers and Sisters of the Department of Illinois VFW Auxiliary, it has been my honor and privilege to serve you as Department Secretary. I have enjoyed communicating with all of you this year through emails, phone calls and all the face-to-face conversations. Please do not hesitate to approach me and introduce yourself, it's special when you can put a name and a face or voice together. Whether it's an easy question, hard question, or just talking to catch up on life, I enjoy every minute.

Unconditionally,

Tammy Napier
Secretary



Linda Lorenz
Treasurer

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of being the Treasurer for the Department of Illinois. This is a truly rewarding position. I love helping you when you have a question or need help on processing things in MALTA. You show a great love and compassion through the things you do every day for our Veterans and your communities.

It has been a pleasure to work with the Department Line Officers and Chairmen. From the Budget meeting in July, the Council of Administration Meetings and the Audits in July, January and most recently April, as well as all the other places we have been, you have shown your dedication. You are always thinking of our Veterans and members and how we can keep the VFW Auxiliary moving forward.

To Department President Marvie Wisniewski, my wish for you is that you and your chairmen will be exhausted after the National Convention in Phoenix because of the awards that Illinois will receive. You have represented Illinois well this year. As the year ends, I hope that you will be able to look back and celebrate your achievements.

To Department Secretary, Tammy Napier. It has been a pleasure working with you this year. Your attention to details and your ability to get things done is amazing!! Even when you are at your busiest, you always take time to answer your questions and help the officers and members. I am looking forward to working with you this next year.

To Lynn Smith, I pledge to you my full support. We started on a path 35 years ago when we were District Presidents together and became friends. I am excited to be able to be a part of your year. I know that you will achieve your goals.

To the District Presidents, it has been a privilege to work with you. Your focus is and has always been on making the future better for our Veterans and their families.

I want to thank the Batavia Overseas VFW Auxiliary and the 19th District VFW Auxiliary for your support over the years. To Terry and Chris, thank you for being my friend. I don't know how I would have made it through the past couple of years without you.

A big thank you to my brother Larry and sister-in-law, Robin, for your support and understanding when phone calls interrupt dinner.

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Lorenz

Department Treasurer



Department of Illinois Auxiliary VFW, Inc.
Linda L Lorenz, Treasurer
Treasurer's Report
July 2022 - April 2023

	<u>Total</u>
Revenue	
2022 - 2023 Polo Shirt Donations	3,959.34
2022 - 2023 Presidents Pins	7,878.00
2022 - 2023 Presidents Shirts	2,401.79
2023 - 2024 Polo Shirts	480.00
2023 - 2024 Presidents Pins	-6,730.75
Big 10 Ditty Bags	100.00
Department Convention Income	
Delegate Fee Dept Convention	14.00
Total Department Convention Income	<u>\$ 14.00</u>
Department Dues	38,383.70
General Fund Misc Income	22,799.16
Illinois Fundraiser	1,073.00
Label/Calendar Fund Raiser	20,686.24
Lottery Raffle Donation	270.00
National Convention Awards	900.00
National Discount	522.23
National Membership Awards	450.00
Total Revenue	<u>\$ 93,186.71</u>
Cost of Goods Sold	
Department Convention	
Conv. Badges	72.19
Convention Cocktail Party	202.49
Microphones, Piano, etc	2,581.05
Total Department Convention	<u>\$ 2,855.73</u>
Total Cost of Goods Sold	<u>\$ 2,855.73</u>
Gross Profit	<u>\$ 90,330.98</u>
Expenditures	
Bank Fee	69.00
Chairman's Expenses & Awards	294.12
Membership Awards	2,470.00
Membership Chairman Exp Big 10	200.00
Membership Incentives	1,623.58
Night on the Town	1,791.85
Program Awards	75.00
Total Chairman's Expenses & Awards	<u>\$ 6,454.55</u>
HOSPITAL REPS CONFERENCE	1,387.69
Insurance	
Officer's Travel	340.00
Total Insurance	<u>\$ 340.00</u>

Office Expenses		
Assistant Secretary		180.00
Bonding of Dept. Treasurer		767.50
Clerical Roster		1,211.79
Hospital Insurance Secretary		2,166.60
Retention Storage		550.00
Telephone/Internet		259.90
Update Quick Books		1,825.00
Utilities - Secretary		625.00
Utilities - Treasurer		1,000.00
Webmaster		3,000.00
Website		72.00
Total Office Expenses	\$	11,657.79
Officer Travel		
Audit Committee Expenses		111.20
Budget Committe Expenses		658.22
Chief of Staff Travel Stipened		232.80
Chief/Deputy of staff expenses		497.20
Council of Admin Expenses		20,427.74
Natl Rep Aid Expenses C of A		37.58
Total Council of Admin Expenses	\$	20,465.32
Dist Pres. Travel Stipend		2,580.00
Total Officer Travel	\$	24,544.74
Other Expenses		
Big Ten Delegates Stipend		1,500.00
Big Ten Dues		200.00
Memoriam Postage (Graves Reg)		58.00
National Presidents Love Gift		100.00
National Presidents Visit		466.00
Remembrance		80.00
Total Other Expenses	\$	2,404.00
Other Types of Expenses		
Memberships and Dues		10.00
Total Other Types of Expenses	\$	10.00
Payroll Expenses		
Taxes		2,077.28
Wages		25,100.00
Total Payroll Expenses	\$	27,177.28
President Expenses		
American Freedom Event		417.62
Lad Aux Mid Year Conf		1,400.11
National Home Office Visit		100.00
Official Travel		3,000.00
Total President Expenses	\$	4,917.73
Supplies		
Office Supplies		533.45
Postage		911.40

Postage/Supplies Dues Notices		232.00
Roster Printing		-475.00
Total Supplies	\$	1,201.85
Total Expenditures	\$	80,164.63
Net Operating Revenue	\$	10,166.35
Other Revenue		
Interest Income		
Checking Account		236.07
General Reserve Fund		7.21
Restricted Funds		89.34
Total Interest Income	\$	332.62
Road Home		17,622.26
Total Other Revenue	\$	17,954.88
Net Other Revenue	\$	17,954.88
Net Revenue	\$	28,121.23

Department of Illinois Auxiliary VFW, Inc.
Balance Sheet
As of April 30, 2023

	<u>Total</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Anna - Heartland 19424	5,101.04
Chicago Vet Home - Heartland 19457	2,435.24
Danville VA - Heartland 19432	5,797.29
Dept of IL Reserve Fund CD - Heartland	10,957.18
Dept of IL Reserve Fund CD 2 - 12039	20,000.00
Dues Reserve Fund - Heartland 07345	9,490.89
Ed Hines, Jr - Heartland 19275	5,447.71
Heartland Bank - General 19267	136,446.96
Hospital Money Market - Heartland	11,028.59
IL Art Fund CD - Heartland	9,659.39
IL Cottage Money Market - Heartland	12,561.54
Illinois Cottage CD - Heartland Bank	35,009.70
J. Barracks - Heartland 19515	7,789.23
James Lovell - Heartland 19507	6,278.34
Jesse Brown - Heartland 19382	4,846.56
John Cochran - Heartland 19481	9,055.14
La Salle - Heartland 19440	6,743.41
Manteno - Heartland 19416	1,943.96
Marion VA Medical - Heartland19499	11,763.30
Office Reserve Fund - Heartland 07337	9,067.41
Quincy - Heartland 19408	7,014.29
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 328,437.17
Other Current Assets	
Undeposited Funds	480.00
Total Other Current Assets	\$ 480.00
Total Current Assets	\$ 328,917.17
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 328,917.17
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
Payroll Liabilities	-696.07
Federal Taxes (941/944)	-1,552.18
Federal Unemployment (940)	-80.08
IL Income Tax	-38.87
IL Unemployment Tax	-32.00
Total Payroll Liabilities	-\$ 2,399.20
Total Other Current Liabilities	-\$ 2,399.20

Total Current Liabilities	-\$	2,399.20
Total Liabilities	-\$	2,399.20
Equity		
General Unrestricted Net Assets		28,844.09
National Presidents Pins		-315.00
Restricted Net Assets		
Cancer Aid & Research		3,482.50
Cancer Memorial		315.00
Total Cancer Aid & Research	\$	3,797.50
Dues Reserve		37,882.60
Hospital Money Market		10,900.97
Illinois Art Fund		9,449.82
Illinois Cottage		26,791.02
Illinois Cottage Fund Cds		47,272.52
Membership Raffle		14,811.56
National Dues		2,575.99
National Home Activities		10.00
National Home General Operation		28,272.23
National Home H & E Playground		3,025.00
National Home Misc. Fund		500.00
Total Hospital Equity		0.00
Hospital Bank Accounts		77,915.89
Hospital Pledge		11,460.95
Total Total Hospital Equity	\$	89,376.84
Total Restricted Net Assets	\$	274,666.05
Net Revenue		28,121.23
Total Equity	\$	331,316.37
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$	328,917.17

MEMORIALS

District	Auxiliary	In Memory of	Donation To	Amount
3	9773 Hometown	All Members of Aux 9773	Road Home	10.00
5	1307 Elgin	Deceased Members	Road Home	25.00
5	4600 Fox River	Auxiliary 4600	Road Home	25.00
6	5300 Hanover	Arlin Back	Cancer	20.00
7	454 Bloomington	Charlene Barth	Road Home	10.00
7	454 Bloomington	Linda Gray	Road Home	10.00
7	454 Bloomington	Betty Newby	Road Home	10.00
7	454 Bloomington	Michael Zogg	Road Home	10.00
7	454 Bloomington	Elizabeth Hill	Road Home	10.00
7	454 Bloomington	Edna Smith	Road Home	10.00
7	454 Bloomington	Eleanore Long	Road Home	10.00
7	454 Bloomington	Michael Thoms	Road Home	10.00
7	454 Bloomington	Gloria Ryburn	Road Home	10.00
7	454 Bloomington	Janice KIndler	Road Home	10.00
7	454 Bloomington	Viola Paulus	Road Home	10.00
7	4826 Hoopeston	Pam Bell	Road Home	15.00
7	8350 Chenoa	Auxiliary 8350	Cancer	25.00
8	1571 Aledo	Phyllis Mizner	Road Home	20.00
8	1571 Aledo	Laurie Etter	Road Home	20.00
8	1571 Aledo	Shirley Barnes	Road Home	20.00
8	1571 Aledo	Shirley Dellitt	Road Home	20.00
8	1571 Aledo	Georgia Rader	Cancer	20.00
8	2301 Monmouth	Auxiliary 2301	Road Home	50.00
8	5083 Geneseo	Mary Lou Taube	Quincy Veterans Home	25.00
8	8890 East Moline	Auxiliary 8890	Cancer	5.00
9	3883 Bartonville	Auxiliary 3883	Cancer	25.00
10	755 Springfield	Auxiliary 755	Road Home	25.00
10	1756 Lincoln	Our Sisters	Cancer	100.00
11	99 Decatur	Auxiliary 99	Road Home	5.00
11	6410 Sullivan	Auxiliary 6410	Cancer	10.00
12	976 Troy	Auxiliary 976	Road Home	25.00
12	2859 Wood River	Eva Faye Leisset	Cancer	25.00
13	3999 Flora	Auxiliary 3999	Road Home	75.00
13	4226 Olney	Terry Conour	Cancer	25.00
13	4276 Mount Carmel	Auxiliary 4276	Road Home	10.00
14	805 O'Fallon	Cherie Ross	Road Home	25.00
14	3480 Eeast St. Louis	Anne Smith	Road Home	10.00
14	3553 Chester	Eunice Singer	Cancer	10.00
15	2671 Benton	Auxiliary 2671	Road Home	10.00
16	2580 Midlothian	Auxiliary 2580	Road Home	20.00
16	8141 Calumet City	Brian Mysliwec	Manteno Veterans Home	50.00
16	9801 Markham	Of those gone before	Road Home	25.00
17	1769 Effingham	Auxiliary 1769	Cancer	25.00
17	3601 Paris	Clyde Ogle	Road Home	50.00
17	4598 Greenup	Auxiliary 4598	Cancer	25.00
17	7862 Arcola	Auxiliary 7862	Road Home	10.00
18	367 Joliet	Auxiliary 367	Road Home	25.00
19	2801 Villa Park	Deceased Members	Road Home	25.00



Diane Ahrens Chaplain

This year has been a challenging chapter of learning and growing, even completing this report is part of the growing. Learning new skills, meeting members, traveling new roads, visiting VFW & Auxiliary posts that I haven't been to before. Forcing myself to venture out and try something new, be the person to break the silence and introduce myself, start the conversation. It has been a very enjoyable year, meeting so many members, so thankful that the Posts are able to host events again, to get past the COVID period, to enter the new normal, to attend events, finding new ways to support our Veterans and members.

Department Chaplain & Graves Registration Chairman are a dual & solemn responsibility, I have been honored to share the prayers at our C of A's, our Voice of Democracy Banquet, and the President's Luncheons along with other events. I have sent the Memorial cards to member's families to encourage them in their time of grief. I had the duty of recording the names of our deceased members in the Department Memorial Book. Thank you to the Auxiliary Chaplains that sent information to me, it was most appreciated and helpful.

I did enjoy traveling across the state to enjoy the different District meetings plus I was able to visit the Illinois Veterans Home in Quincy, it's exciting to see all the construction happening on campus.

Thank you, President Marvie and all the Line & District Officers, for your hospitality, support and friendship. I look forward to sharing many more events together.

Semper Fi,

Diane Ahrens
Department Chaplain



Danielle Krull Conductress

What a great year we have had in 22-23! I was nervous entering this year as this is always the most controversial position; some are intimidated, some would rather not, and others LOVE the floor work and the Conductress position. I will let you all know for sure after Department Convention. Lol!

I can confirm, however, that I have loved every part of it so far! Attending the Luncheons, organizing the Aisle of Honor, and having the opportunity of escorting Marvie through that aisle has been so fun! My wisdom teeth had other plans for me for the downstate luncheon and I was sad to have missed it, but those pesky teeth won't get in the way anymore. The greatest honor was getting to know and escort National President Jane Reape throughout our VOD Weekend. Someone was able to get a great photo of this over that weekend and it is one of my favorites!

A lot of my travel is done with my girls, Kay and Kennedy. I thank each and every one of you in Illinois who welcomes my kids along with me. Being able to share this journey with them means the world to me. And who are we kidding, they love staying in hotels and swimming especially during our winter visits! Ha Ha. Sometimes I travel alone, but don't feel bad; we moms of younger kids need a nice quiet ride or hotel stay (ALONE) every now and then! 😊

During my travels this year, I have been so grateful to meet so many new Auxiliary brothers and sisters, getting to know them and their successes and sometimes their failures. We are allowed to fail and accept failure; everyone fails at something, but we cannot go on without trying. Our world is ever-changing around us, and we need to make sure we are **trying** to change with it. I say try because we aren't always going to succeed, and we are not always going to hit it out of the park, but we will never know unless we TRY!!

This year was a great year always learning more and more, thank you Illinois for electing me Conductress and allowing me to continue this journey within Department Leadership. I cannot wait to learn so much more in these upcoming years.

Respectfully Submitted,

Danielle Krull
Conductress



**Terry Adams
Guard**

To the Officers. Delegates and members assembled for the 99th Annual Convention of the Department of Illinois Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, I submit the following report:

I attended all meetings of the Council of Administration.

In July I attended the National Convention in Kansas City Missouri, where I attended all business sessions and marched in the Parade with our Department.

In August I started visits to Auxiliaries across the Great State of Illinois. Also, went to Hospital Chairmen's Conference and learned so many new and fun things.

September proved to be a very busy month. I attended the Celebrating America's Freedom in Pennsylvania "Flight 93 National Memorial" was very moving, and very sacred grounds. Then it was off to THE VFW National Home what a beautiful place and equally beautiful day.

October brought with it the "BIG 10" in Milwaukee WI where I met my big 10 counterparts and the National Guard Kim Harney. Then it was time for Marvie's Homecoming what a blast as the Department officers were the "Wizard of Oz" fun times had by all.

January I was delighted to represent the Department of Illinois at the 6th District's Voice of Democracy and Patriotic Pen dinner what a great evening.

In February it was time to get back with our friends in Springfield for Voice of Democracy weekend. Also, the National Presidents visit and the Night on the town. Congratulations to all for all your hard work.

March started off with the Downstate Luncheon in Highland and finish up with my visits. I can't Thank Districts 12, 8, 6, 10,3,16, and the Niles Auxiliary # 6839 for your hospitality and friendship.

To my travel partners, Thanks for making travel painless. The places we go are unforgettable when we go together.

I was able to attend all my Auxiliary meetings and most of the 19th District meetings where I served as "Community Outreach" Chair and had a hand in the Steak Fry.

To the Department Officers, thank you for all your guidance and friendship. I promise to do all I can to help achieve our goals, and to be the best I can be.

To the members of the Department of Illinois, my sincere gratitude for all the support you have shown me this year. I commit to you, to do my best.

I am proud to be from the Noisy 19th District, thank you all for your support and friendship. You all mean the world to me.

To Auxiliary 6791, my family, no matter where I go...you'll always be my home.

Maureen, I found a true friend in you, and I hope someday to be half the leader you are. Thank you for your friendship and guidance.

Marvie, Thank you for your leadership and trust. I wish you a great Convention. So, as we close this year lets go out with a bang! Be proud, we are the BEST!

Respectfully Submitted,

Terry Adams
Department Guard



Paula DeDoncker
Chief of Staff

Department of Illinois VFW Auxiliary 2022-2023 District Presidents

Joanne York 3rd District President

In preparing for my year as District President, I attended the Incoming District President's Conference in Springfield. I then started my year by attending the Department Convention at which time I was installed and then attended the first council meeting of the year followed by the reception for our Department President Marvie and Department Commander Bobbie. The next day off to home to start getting my boots on the ground as well as all my District members.



I did not attend the National Convention as it was the same time as my husband's Army Reunion, which they did not have for the past 3 years and I wanted him to enjoy himself before he was without me for the year. He knew he would not be #1 for the rest of the year, as I would be busy with the District.

Once we were home it seemed I started each day with checking membership on Malta. At least once a week, I sent an email to my Presidents, so they knew how the District and their Auxiliary was doing not only in membership but with donations and reporting.

We had a School of Instructions for all members. We went over all the information regarding the National and Department Programs. Officer's duties were also gone over. All 5 Auxiliaries were represented.

I attended all Council of Administration meetings, as well as the Dept President's Home Coming. The committee worked very hard the past years raising money and putting together the Home Coming. I hope everyone enjoyed themselves.

I held 3 District meetings and will hold the Convention meeting after this report is due. I found a poem and 2 stories that I felt were important. The author is unknown for all three. The first meeting was "The Stone". It's about not holding on to things or words that hurt us but letting go and remembering the good things and words. The second meeting was a poem, "The Person Who Thinks They Can - Attitude is Everything!" It reminds you that if you feel defeated you are but if you think you can do something you will succeed. The third meeting with elections coming up was a story called "The Goose Story". It's about helping each other out and sharing the lead.

I always look forward to Illinois Day at National Home and then VOD Weekend. There are so many things to be proud of this year. I was told that this is the first time in a long time that each Auxiliary made their 100% in membership, making the District 100%+. We started the year needing 662 members and ended with 667. I thank them for their hard work and giving me the honor of a special night out at VOD Weekend with a night of axe throwing with the National President and other District Presidents. We were the first District to reach 100% in membership and with all the money we won we were able to raffle off a life membership for each Auxiliary. All Auxiliaries were 100% reported in all programs before December 31, 2022. My District worked hard and accepted each challenge I gave them. This year 4 of the Auxiliaries made the Circle of Excellence. We are very proud to be the Home

District of our Dept President Marvie and can't wait to have her back home with us...Marvie, we are very proud of you and hope we made you proud of us.

WELCOME HOME MARVIE. I THINK YOU AND I NEED A NEW PAIR OF BOOTS, BUT OUR SPECIAL ANGEL PROBABLY HAS GONE THRU SEVERAL PAIRS TAKING CARE OF BOTH OF US.

Loyally,

Joanne York

3rd District President

Katie Makey
5th District President



Diana Rudeen
6th District President

I attended the Department Convention in June of 2022 and attended all meetings except February as I was out of town; my Senior Vice President Becky Coulson sat in for me. I held training courses for all Officer's Duties and Department and National Programs with inviting our Department Treasurer Linda Lorenz to take part in our training session. At each meeting all correspondence from National and Department was read and shared with all members. A special School of Instructions was also read at each meeting. Building on the Foundation was again utilized for the special trainings and each member was given a copy to take home, read and utilize throughout the year.



Our memberships as of June 30, 2022 was 1274 and our current total is 1267 in membership. As of June 30, 2022, all Auxiliaries were in good standing and no new Auxiliaries were instituted and none were disbanded. As District President, I inspected eight out of our nine Auxiliaries and my Senior Vice inspected my Auxiliary which makes us 100% inspected.

I attended the incoming District President Conference and could not attend National Convention, Big Ten Conference or VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan or National Presidents visit. I have attended for many years in the past and had personal issues as to not attend.

Highlights of my years as District President included being invited to several special functions at Auxiliaries and attending them with pride and honor. We also had some challenges this year, yet we met them head on and discussed the issues and came up with viable solutions. One Auxiliary really went through hard times yet persevered, coming out on top with getting members to rejoin and grow as a stronger unit. They elected many new officers for the ensuing year along with seasoned members and are working together as a family to strengthen the Auxiliary. I thank them for letting me attend monthly meetings and working closely to get the issues resolved quickly so they can move forward. I am proud of the Sixth District for reaching out when issues occurred so they could be resolved and also sharing the good things happening in their Auxiliaries at District Meetings.

President Marvie, I know you will have a great Department Convention and hope you bring home many awards at the National Convention. You had a fantastic year and I thank you for your leadership. To all the Line Officers and Chairmen, you did an outstanding job this year.

To all the District Presidents, Congratulations on all your achievements this year. To our incoming Department President Lynn Smith, I wish for you the best as you take the helm and to everyone assuming newly elected offices and officers. A special thank-you also goes out to our Chief of Staff Paula DeDoncker. You were amazing this year and helped me through many challenges, and I will always be grateful to you.

Loyally,

Diana Rudeen
6th District President

Diane Hawk **7th District President**

Attended June 2022 Department Convention: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Number of Council of Administration Meetings attended: 4

Did you host a District training covering officers' duties ☐ Yes ☒ No

Did you host a District training overviewing the National and Department programs? ☐ Yes ☒ No

What was exemplified at each District Meeting? (List Below)

I tried to have each chairman explain the programs and the importance of each. In my school of instruction, I stressed standing rules, the importance of membership, and why reporting hours are important. I also discussed the C.A.R.E. and R.E.F.R.A.I.N. principles shared by the Department Chief of Staff.

Membership of District as of June 30, 2022: 1,145

Membership of District as of this report: 1,067

Number of Auxiliaries in good standing as of June 30, 2022: 11

Number of Auxiliaries instituted in District since last Convention: 0



Number of Auxiliaries Disbanded since last Convention: 1

Number of Auxiliaries inspected by you as District President: 10

Is District 100% inspected? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Did you attend the Incoming District Presidents Conference? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Did you attend the National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Did you attend the BIG 10 Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Did you attend Illinois Day at VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Did you attend the National President's Visit? ☒ Yes ☐ No

What was the highlight of your year as District President?

The highlight of my year was seeing our District Voice of Democracy student take 2nd place in the Department. Seeing Annalyn Harper from the small town of Colfax receive her check for \$2,500.00 was so exciting. The other thing that was a highlight is returning to Manteno and Danville Hospitals and working with the Veterans directly.

SIGNED: *Diane Hawk*

District # 7 President

Rhonda Borkgren **8th District President**

I went out as Department President after our June Convention. Then I got installed as the new 8th District President. I guess it is true, no rest for the wicked! It has been a busy and strange year. There was a meeting that I was the only Past Department President on council in attendance at. Thankfully, Marvie let some District Presidents come sit with me, so I wasn't alone. When one year ends and another starts, please don't stop attending meetings. Your friends will miss you!



The 8th District started out the year with a training session. We had all but one Auxiliary in attendance. We went over everything from officer's duties to chairmanships. How to send in stuff to Department and National and how to report. It did help with reporting; we were 100% reported. As of April 1st, we are 100.09%. That doesn't mean we are done. Dues can be paid up to June 30th. We started with 1123 members and now have 1124 paid and are at 98.49% actual. We have lost 18 members due to death this year. If we don't replace those lost, our Auxiliaries will continue to get smaller.

I have had a busy year. I attended Illinois Day at National Home, Big 10 in Wisconsin, and got COVID when I should have been at National Convention getting my Circle of Excellence award. Colette brought my award home and presented it to me at our Council meeting in Springfield. I thought it had gotten lost in the mail! I had a great time at the National President visit over VOD weekend. We also had the District President's night on the town. It was a great time!

I am proud of the job our Auxiliaries are doing coming out of covid. I wish I could say the same for the posts. We have a few Auxiliaries who are giving posts money to keep them going. It's great to help them, without them we don't exist. Just sad that we need to.

At District meetings, we talked about being kind, following ritual and bylaws, working together and the importance of getting new members active, and teaching others all positions so they can replace more seasoned members who have done a job forever. Overall, I had a great year, and have built friendships that will last a lifetime. Our members know I am always here for them, no matter what my title is. They can call me about anything, and I will help them.

I inspected all our Auxiliaries, while our Sr. Vice Debbie Simaytis did mine.

I have also been sent to several places by our Department President to help with conflicts. I am sorry to say, I had to close an Auxiliary. The members cried and made me want to cry. They were all elderly and not in the best of health. They didn't want to lose their Auxiliary; they just couldn't keep it up anymore. Please, like I am always saying, don't let that happen to you. Work hard at getting younger members and getting them involved. If you don't, one day that will be your Auxiliary closing. On a happy note, thanks to everyone in the 8th District for all you do for me! I love you all.

Respectfully,

Rhonda Borkgren
8th District President

Sarah Pfeifer **9th District President**

Attended June 2022 Department Convention: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Number of Council of Administration Meetings attended: 3

Did you host a District training covering officers' duties? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Did you host a District training overviewing the
National and Department programs? ☒ Yes ☐ No



What was exemplified at each District Meeting? (List Below)

I tried to remind the Auxiliaries of their duties and gave them opportunities to join Department events.

Membership of District as of June 30, 2022: unknown

Membership of District as of this report: unknown

Number of Auxiliaries in good standing as of June 30, 2022: 7

Number of Auxiliaries instituted in District since last Convention: 0

Number of Auxiliaries Disbanded since last Convention: 1

Number of Auxiliaries inspected by you as District President: 6

Is District 100% inspected? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Did you attend the Incoming District Presidents Conference? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Did you attend the BIG 10 Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Did you attend Illinois Day at VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Did you attend the National President's Visit? ☒ Yes ☐ No

What was the highlight of your year as District President?

Representing the 9th District at the LaSalle Veterans Home for bingo and a scavenger hunt.

SIGNED: *Sarah Pfeifer*
District #9 President

Carol Shutts **10th District President**

Attended June 2022 Department Convention: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Number of Council of Administration Meetings attended: 5

Did you host a District training covering officers' duties? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Did you host a District training overviewing the National and Department programs? ☒ Yes ☐ No

What was exemplified at each District Meeting? (List Below)

Beginning the year as a team with the VFW Duties of officers and explanation of programs

What it takes to be a chairman of a program

Membership of District as of June 30, 2022: 565

Membership of District as of this report: 7

Number of Auxiliaries in good standing as of June 30, 2022: 7

Number of Auxiliaries instituted in District since last Convention: 0

Number of Auxiliaries Disbanded since last Convention: 0

Number of Auxiliaries inspected by you as District President: 6



Is District 100% inspected?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Did you attend the Incoming District Presidents Conference?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Did you attend the National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Did you attend the BIG 10 Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Did you attend Illinois Day at VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Did you attend the National President's Visit?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No

What was the highlight of your year as District President?

The whole year was a highlight...hard to pick out just one: going to the C of A's was fun and helpful; meeting all the District Presidents, new and old; making new friendships with all the Sisters and Brothers of the Auxiliary.

SIGNED: *Carol Shuttz*
District #10 President

Jennifer Hunter
11th District President



Attended June 2022 Department Convention:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Number of Council of Administration Meetings attended:	2 October & February	
Did you host a District training covering officers' duties?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Did you host a District training overviewing the National and Department programs?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

What was exemplified at each District Meeting? (List Below)

Membership of District as of June 30, 2022:	605
Membership of District as of this report:	544
Number of Auxiliaries in good standing as of June 30, 2022:	6
Number of Auxiliaries instituted in District since last Convention:	0
Number of Auxiliaries Disbanded since last Convention:	1 - Clinton
Number of Auxiliaries inspected by you as District President:	5

Is District 100% inspected?

☒ Yes ☐ No

Did you attend the Incoming District Presidents Conference?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Did you attend the National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Did you attend the BIG 10 Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Did you attend Illinois Day at VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan?

☐ Yes ☒ No

Did you attend the National President's Visit?

☒ Yes ☐ No

What was the highlight of your year as District President?

Expanding my knowledge of the Auxiliary. Meeting new people and being allowed to help others.

SIGNED: *Jennifer Hunter*

District #11 President

Doris Zobrist **12th District President**

I attended the Department Convention and all of the Council of Administration meetings this year. I did not attend as the District President. I first became the District President at the end of our November District Meeting due to the resignation of the current District President.

I did not hold a District Training Session on the officers' duties or programs. During the meetings the chairman of the program did a great job of reporting on their program, which gave members insight on what the program was.

What was exemplified at each District Meeting was program reports, reporting for your Auxiliary, communication, and membership.

The District Membership on June 30, 2022 was 1,194, as of now it is 1,197.

There were no new Auxiliaries instituted or disbanded.

I inspected eight Auxiliaries, and the District is 100% inspected.

I attended the National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri and the National President's Visit.

The highlight of my year as District President was meeting new officers and helping them out when they asked. I met new members and reconnected with some old ones who I haven't seen in a while.

Doris Zobrist

District #12 President



John Watters **13th District President**

As we wrap up the 2022 - 2023 year, many challenges have been raised this year. A lot of hard work, preparation, and training has made our District stronger. With the help from the Department President and Deputy Chief of Staff, problems have been addressed and everyone is moving forward.

I have attended all COA meetings, Illinois Day at VFW National Home, and Big Ten Conference. I made the trip to National Convention but only got to return home thanks to COVID. I attended the Mid-State and helped with Down State luncheon. Also, this year I have visited District 14, 15, and 9. I have attended several District functions and really enjoyed them.

Training sessions have been held in all the District meetings this year and additional trainings were done, where needed.

My Junior Vice President made the official visit to my Post and I did the rest of them. Several trips were made to Auxiliaries that needed help.

We had officers that resigned at the District and Auxiliary level again this year. Our District was 100% reported by the end of December. The District also reached the 98% plus goal in membership by end of December and 100% by the Department VOD. It was such an honor to be a presenter this year at VOD in Springfield.

I have learned so much this year and the Auxiliaries have done a great job for our organization. I am so excited for Convention this year and to see four Auxiliary Presidents on stage for the Circle of Excellence from our District! This will be such a proud moment for me to see their hard work and dedication recognized.

I have enjoyed working with all the Department line and staff this year. Throwing axes with the National President! WOW!! What a fun time, Marvie!

Wishing everyone the best!

John Watters
13th District President



Kathryn Rowold **14th District President**

This was my first year of a two-year term as District 14 President and what an adventure it was as I put my "Boots on the Ground" serving the District! Started off the year by attending the Incoming District President's Conference in May followed by Department Convention in June where I was officially installed—both events in Springfield. I attended five of the five Council of Administration meetings.



I had the pleasure of getting a behind the scenes look at the VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, MI by attending Illinois Day in September. What a wonderful opportunity the Home provides to our Veterans in need with its own community of services. Attending the October Department President's Homecoming was another fun and spooky (Halloween party) opportunity to socialize with Auxiliary members across the State.

Attending the February Council of Administration came with many firsts starting with participating in the Lincoln Pilgrimage with VOD/PP winners where a service was held in Lincoln's Tomb. Meeting our National President, Jane Reape, was an honor in addition to also having the rare opportunity to actually throw an axe (a first for me) with her at the District President's Night on the Town! The compassion for Veterans and thankfulness Jane demonstrated to Auxiliary members is an example to be followed.

Being on the planning committee for the Department President's Downstate luncheon in March was a fun opportunity to be creative and demonstrate "these boots are made for walkin'" as the committee illustrated in our skit.

In regard to District 14 which consists of 13 Auxiliaries, 12 of the 13 Auxiliaries were inspected before December by me with my own Auxiliary being inspected by a Past District President. In regard to District meetings, to date four District Auxiliary meetings have been held with the fifth and final meeting for the year being held on May 7. Department President Marvie and Department Jr. Vice Cindy Watters each attended a District meeting. During these meetings, training was held covering officers' duties and National and Department programs. Regarding program training, I created a game I called "Auxleopardy" as a spinoff of Jeopardy which asked program information questions. The game was also used at several Department President luncheons.

Proud to say all 13 Auxiliaries are in good standing and the District membership is on the rise! District membership as of June 30, 2022 was 1394 and as this report, 1420 members—currently 101.87% in membership! So proud of all the Auxiliaries in their membership drives which got us to 100% by December 20 and we were one of two Districts achieving 100%+ as early as January 3!

And continuing the praise to District 14 members and leaders, 12 of 13 Auxiliaries qualify for the Circle of Excellence! What a GREAT accomplishment for each Auxiliary!

My boots were on the ground and my wheels went round and round as I drove 760 miles for inspections, 566 miles for extra help visits, 656 miles for other Post help, 274 miles for District meetings, 508 miles for other District functions and 2,786 for Council of Administration meetings, convention and other Department functions for a grand total of 5,550 miles.

Thanks to the Fabulous 14th for the opportunity to serve you!

Kathryn Rowold
14th District President

Patricia Caraker
15th District President



Attended June 2022 Department Convention: ☒ Yes ☐ No

Number of Council of Administration Meetings attended: 4

Did you host a District training covering officers' duties? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Did you host a District training overviewing the National and Department programs? ☐ Yes ☒ No

What was exemplified at each District Meeting? (List Below)

The first meeting in August 2022 was about vision and mission. That the Auxiliary is non-profit. Without vision, we perish and, without mission, we lose our way.

Second meeting was about chain of command. All members have a right to expect answers to their questions and resolutions to the problems.

Third meeting was about never stop learning because life never stops teaching.

Fourth meeting was about elections. All members have the right to take an office and welcome them to do so. New ideas are always needed to keep members active.

Membership of District as of June 30, 2022: 866

Membership of District as of this report: 865

Number of Auxiliaries in good standing as of June 30, 2022: 9

Number of Auxiliaries instituted in District since last Convention: 0

Number of Auxiliaries Disbanded since last Convention: 0

Number of Auxiliaries inspected by you as District President: 9

Is District 100% inspected? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Did you attend the Incoming District Presidents Conference? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Did you attend the National Convention in Kansas City, Missouri? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Did you attend the BIG 10 Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Did you attend Illinois Day at VFW National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Did you attend the National President's Visit? ☒ Yes ☐ No

What was the highlight of your year as District President?

We had several "firsts" in our District. We had a chili cookoff and dessert auction at the Cox/Sesser VFW. It was well attended. Line officers had their face painted as well as I.

First ever District Christmas party for members and family. Santa and the live Christmas tree was there.

Marion VFW/Auxiliary hosted our VOD banquet in January. Approximately 120 people attended.

AND how can I not forget the “night on the Town” with our National President. Who would have thought AXE throwing could be so much fun? Just being with everyone was a perfect evening.

Now we are having a “Gathering of Friends” for Lynn to thank her for all she has done for the 15th District and wish her well as she starts on her new adventure.

SIGNED: *Patricia Caraker*
District #15 President

Irma Davis **16th District President**

Number of Auxiliaries in your District: 7

Number of inspections that were conducted by you: 6

Number of District Meetings held and conducted by you: 4

Did you submit meeting minutes to the District President of the Year Chairman within 30 days of each District meeting? ☐ Yes ☒ No
Our secretary did.



List the topics of Schools of Instruction you held at your District meetings:

Membership
Outreach
Mentoring
Veterans and Family Support

Describe other training you provided to Auxiliaries in your District and how that was conducted (ie: in-person training, Facebook Live, email correspondence, etc.)

Describe activities/events you attended to support VFW/Auxiliaries in your District :

Stand Down, Fish Fry, Post Anniversary Celebrations, Community Award Programs, Parades, and Holiday Events.

Describe how you worked with your District's Auxiliaries to grow membership by retaining and recruiting members:

I reminded the Auxiliaries that membership is the organization's lifeline. I told them to always have applications available. Also, presentation is the best advertisement. People will judge our organization by how you present yourself.

Describe how you encouraged and assisted your District's Auxiliaries when they were facing difficulties:

I would visit the Auxiliary during their meeting or send our Secretary to provide assistance and support where needed, either at the Auxiliary meetings or private session, whatever was needed.

Were your District's Auxiliaries 100% reported on the X-sheet by December 31, 2022? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Were your District's Auxiliaries 100% reported on the Donations sheet by December 31, 2022? ☐ Yes ☒ No
I encouraged them to do their best.

Indicate which events were attended by you:

- ☒ June 2022 Department Convention
- ☒ Voice of Democracy Program in Springfield
- ☐ Illinois Day @ VFW National Home
- ☐ Mid-Winter Conference

- ☐ All Council of Administration Meetings
- ☐ National Convention
- ☐ Big 10 Conference

Please describe your year as District President. What were the most positive impacts, what would you like to change related to this position?

POSITIVE IMPACT – At a funeral, our District performed a flower tribute to our sister. Later that evening as I was leaving, a lady walked up to me and said, "Our tribute inspired her to become a member of our organization".

Post 8141 and the Auxiliary held a one hour program to recognize Calumet City service providers and students that participated in the VFW Scholarship Programs.

Participatin in a groundbreaking ceremony for a Veterans home in Chicago Heights.

CHANGE – I think some of our committees can be condensed.

Irma Davis

District #16 President

Norma Janney **17th District President**

Number of Auxiliaries in your District: 11

Number of inspections that were conucted by you: 10

Number of District Meetings held and conducted by you: 5

Did you submit meeting minutes to the District President of the Year Chairman within 30 days of each District meeting? ☒ Yes ☐ No

List the topics of Schools of Instruction you held at your District meetings:

Circle of Excellence – August 7
District training – November 6
Thank District for Night on the Town – January 8
Went over **Reveille** – March 5
Election – May 7



Describe other training you provided to Auxiliaries in your District and how that was conducted (ie: in-person training, Facebook Live, email correspondence, etc.):

In-person: Tuscola 10009 for new Secretary and helped President with reporting.

Describe activities/events you attended to support VFW/Auxiliaries in your District :

Villa Grove 2876 – Bingo

I work most evenings so I couldn't do a lot to attend Auxiliary functions/events.

Describe how you worked within your District's Auxiliaries to grow membership by retaining and recruiting members:

Giving out "job well done" awards for X-sheet and donations. \$25.00 to 100% membership Auxiliaries.

Describe how you encouraged and assisted your District's Auxiliaries when they were facing difficulties:

Phone is always open.

Answered questions from all that called

Re-visited struggling Auxiliary

Were your District's Auxiliaries 100% reported on the X-sheet by December 31, 2022? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Made phone calls and sent text messages.

Were your District's Auxiliaries 100% reported on the Donations sheet by December 31, 2022? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Made phone calls and sent text messages.

Indicate which events were attended by you:

☒ June 2022 Department Convention

☒ Voice of Democracy Program in Springfield

☐ Illinois Day @ VFW National Home

☐ Mid-Winter Conference

☒ All Council of Administration Meetings

☐ National Convention

☐ Big 10 Conference

Please describe your year as District President. What were the most positive impacts, what would you like to change related to this position?

This year was good. Lots of help. Auxiliaries were great. Did some training. Answered questions and rewarded Auxiliaries for job well done. We grew as a District. 17th is a great District. Thank you all for all the hard work completed this year. Keep up the good work.

Norma Janney

District #17 President

Jennifer Piehl
18th District President



Jan Bakes 19th District President

I have enjoyed being the 19th District President for 2022-2023 and have had the privilege of representing the 19th District. I have met a lot of great people and even had the honor of meeting the National President Jane Reaper, and getting to know her, we learned what a good ax thrower she is at the Night on the Town. My husband Ron and I have always felt welcomed by Department President Marvie and all the Department officers and we have the opportunity to get to know them.



We attended all the events, Incoming District Presidents Convention, Department Convention, President and Commander's Meet & Greet, Hospital Conference, Dept Commander & President Homecomings, Upstate Luncheon, Illinois Day at the National Home, Big 10 Conference, and the National President's Visit, Lincoln Pilgrimage, VOD Banquet. We finally learned what the Big 10 is and a lot more about Springfield.

I have attended all the Council of Administration meetings and educational programs offered. I have shared the information for my school of instruction and even after the District meetings, I presented the VFW Auxiliary National Program Overview, Online Academy, how to update a change of meeting time and place, "21 Day Challenge" to change complaints to compliments, I have worked with all the Auxiliary president on membership, X sheet and spent hours on the phone teaching them Online reporting to help them get their reports completed. I have attended meeting for support and helped whenever needed. We have attended spaghetti dinner, Warrior's breakfasts and helped another Auxiliary with members Memorial Service, Easter Egg hunt.

Through inspection of 12 of the 13 Auxiliaries, except for my own Auxiliary, I have gotten to know the members of each Auxiliary, learned different and new ideas for fund raisers and programs. I have tried to attend as many events of the Auxiliaries. I have been able to join in on Christmas Caroling and preparing garden plots at Hines, helped with the Baby Showers for Veterans.

We have increased our membership this year from 1551 to 1567. However, we still have 28 lapsed members. I have encouraged all the Auxiliaries to reach out to them." Get the job done".

The most important impact is the support I received from the Department officers, 19th District passed presidents, Auxiliary president and members. The other would be when a president or member expresses their gratitude about what they have learned, how I helped solve a concern or just took the time to listen. Sometimes it just takes a simple "Thank you" to make my day. I have had a very busy year, a lot of work, but a lot of fun! To me a president is only as good as the team behind them! I had a great 19th District Team!

Respectfully submitted,
Jan Bakes
19th District President
