

Department of Colorado Program Book



“All Veterans, All Voices”

Nadia Flores
Department President
2024 - 2025

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Thoughts from your Department President

I want to give my warmest and sincerest thanks to all of you, as without you, the membership that makes up the VFW Auxiliary Dept. of Colorado, we would not be able to do what we do to support and take care of our veterans. The veterans that we call family or friend, depend on all of us to use our voices and listen to theirs when they need help, but our acts of kindness and our listening ears are what are most important to the veteran who thinks that they have been forgotten. Each veteran is unique, and has their own story to tell, which ties into my theme for this year, *“All Veterans, All Voices.”* I encourage all of you to listen to the veterans you meet over the next year, and you may be surprised to hear what they have to say. Some of their stories may move you to laughter, some may bring tears to your eyes, some may be full of happiness, and some may be full of sorrow, but knowing they were able to use their voice will give them something greater than you will ever know and mean more to them than you could ever imagine. My President’s pin and its meaning, as well as my colors for the year are below.



Pin Design

Pottery Shape: To give honor to my culture and family.

Sand Dunes: To give respect to the area I was raised in, the San Luis Valley, which is home to the Great Sand Dunes.

Feathers: To honor the strength, freedom and power of my ancestors, and the prayers that are still made to guide and strengthen.

Colors

Turquoise: For prayer over all that we do and abundance in all that is good.

White: For the hope that every individual needs in their life, especially those who are going through private struggles.

Gold: For the rays of sunshine that break through storm clouds

Many of those who know me know that helping others is my biggest passion in life. I work in a career where I help others at some of the darkest and scariest points in their life, and also spend countless hours volunteering through different organizations and the VFW Auxiliary to help others with whatever they may need, so with that in mind, the special project for this year had to be something that would really help and make an impact in an area that is very near and dear to my heart. This year, Commander Carol Thomas, and I, have decided to have a joint special project, that project is the White Ribbon Project. The White Ribbon Project brings awareness to sexual assault, sexual harassment, and domestic violence and a pledge to bring an end to these. The funds that are raised from the veteran pin sales, (a description of the pin and its meaning is below), will go towards a program, within the Rocky Mountain Regional VA's Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program (IPVAP), called "*Equine-imity*." The "Equine-imity" program will be hosted with Horse Partners out of Colorado Springs and will help those veterans who have experienced Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), such as Military Sexual Trauma (MST), sexual assault, sexual harassment, or domestic violence on their healing journey through a creative approach of working with animals and not rely on the traditional approach of talk therapy or group therapy. Colorado will be the second state to implement this program in their VA system to help those who are survivors, the San Diego VA was the first to implement the program to help support survivors of intimate violence, and I am excited to see how this program will help to heal veterans in our state. It is a difficult topic to bring awareness to, and even more difficult for survivors to speak about and this program will help to not only give them a voice in their journey, but a more meaningful approach to how they heal. Patsy Gilmore will be my Special Project Chairman for this year, and in charge of all pin sales, and I know she will do an absolutely wonderful job!

Veteran Pin Description & Meaning:



Outline: Bronze outline to represent the rays of sunshine that come through storm clouds of gray.

Ribbon: The color of the ribbon is white, which brings a message of hope to survivors, that the wearer pledges to never condone, commit, or remain silent about intimate violence committed against others.

Feather: The feather represents the strength, power, and freedom of the survivor that was gained when they were able to use their voice and begin their healing journey.

Each program that we support and promote throughout the year is important in its own way, and we shouldn't forget about those programs either. I encourage each of you to look over the programs on the national website, www.vfwauxiliary.org, and take a moment to speak with each of the Program Chairs at each of the Parade of Programs being held this year or emailing them to get ideas or have questions answered. We can all help and share ideas with one another to make this year a successful year for each auxiliary.

I am excited to continue working with the VFW to continue fostering the relationship between the VFW and the Auxiliary. Working together is the best way to make sure that the veterans we strive to help daily, have their voices heard, and changes made that will benefit not only our veterans today, but generations of veterans and their families to come.

Again, thank you to each and every one of you, who make up the membership of the great Department of Colorado Auxiliary! Thank you to the Program Chairs for all that you are doing to make the year successful in the programs. Thank you, Ginny Rosa, for all that you have done in getting the Program Book together, and so much more. Thank you to all of the line officers, Treasurer, and Chief of Staff, for all that you are taking on this year. You are all amazing, and I am so honored and humbled to be serving as your Department President for the 2024-2025 year, and I know that we will all join together to make this a wonderful year.

“Kindness in words creates confidence. Kindness in thinking creates profoundness. Kindness in giving creates love.” - Lao Tzu

Warmest Wishes,

Nadia Flores

Dept. President 2024-2025

VFW Auxiliary Dept. of Colorado

DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO OFFICERS

PRESIDENT	Nadia Flores (899) 719-849-9428	20024 County Road 6, La Jara CO 81140 n.floresaux@gmail.com
SR VICE PRESIDENT	Rena Cales (6461) 719-290-0164	7461 Fortman Ave, Fountain CO 80817 rlcales88@yahoo.com
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SECRETARY	Ginny Rosa (12009) 970-560-0639	416 S Pine Dr, Bailey CO 80421 humming657@gmail.com
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DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN 2023 – 2024

PROGRAM COORDINATOR	Brigitte Dolan (7945) 720-394-5474	2314 S Fundy Way, Aurora CO 80013 bmdolan@live.com
ALL STATE ACHIEVEMENT	Patsy Gilmore (3917) 719-661-6854	1719 Ascot Rd, Colorado Springs CO 80906 papajoash@gmail.com
	Gayle Stockwell (6624) 970-3601-5510	2038 27 th Ave Ct Apt4, Greeley CO 80634 gmstockwell@hotmail.com
	Charlotte Lattin (5061) 303-909-6303	8912 W Radcliff Pl. Littleton CO 80123 charlotte@dkrranch.com
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AUXILIARY NEWS COLORADO VETERAN	Rachel Rodgers (9644) 720-394-7093	3650 S Federal Blvd Lot 106, Sheridan CO rachel@vfwo.org
AUXILIARY OUTREACH	Queenie Barz (5231) 970-749-9320	P.O. Box 533, Mancos CO 81328 qbarz@hotmail.com
AUXILIARY WEB SITE	Rachel Rodgers (9644) 720-394-7093	3650 S Federal Blvd Lot 106, Sheridan CO rachel@vfwo.org
BUDDY POPPY/ NATIONAL HOME	Kathy Kurtenbach (5061) 907-347-3873	2442 S Chase Lane, Lakewood CO 80227 kruse@acsalaska.net
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GAMES & RAFFLES	Stephanee Trujillo (2121) 970-396-4197	4012 W 30 th St, Greeley CO 80634 DeptCOAUX.ChiefofStaff@outlook.com
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MEMBERSHIP/ RECRUITMENT	Lucille Chavez (4171) 303-720-8806	1710 Pierce St, Apt 206, Lakewood CO 80214 myboysmokey2020@gmail.com
PARLIAMENTARIAN	Judy Sadler (1) 720-244-5382	12208 E 52 nd Pl, Denver CO 80239 jmtsadler51@gmail.com
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WAYS & MEANS	Alice Smith (4171) 303-552-7202	4592 S Devinney St, Morrison CO 80465 uglystepsisters47@gmail.com

VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF COLORADO AWARD GROUPS
2024 - 2025

Group 1 (10 - 34 Members)

859 Two Mile High Leadville	17	7305 LTC Fred A Ettleman Colorado City	23
3411 Kit Carson	17	8898 Henry A Hess Boone	18
4264 Schubring Cruse Steamboat	28	9374 Kremmling	22
4671 Republican Valley Wray	20	12009 Chew Commons Slocum Conifer	32
5181 Troy Young Dove Creek	33	12189 SPC Gabriel Conde Memorial Berthod	18
5221 Clarence G Dzuris Calhan	25	12226 Platte River Sterling	18
5843 Meeker	31		

Group 2 (35-50 Members)

899 Mount Blanca Alamosa	40	4334 Harold Hensley Ault	44
2788 Ralph Frank Janousek Penrose	45	5812 Pueblo West	45
3541 Jake Uhrig Sterling	45	6612 Joe Will Hugo	37
3571 Lee Marts Delta	49	7829 Msgt William J Crawford Monument	44
3981 Western Slope Grand Junction	46	11411 Flo-Geo Florrisant	48
4265 Samuel Havenga Jr Craig	37		

Group 3 (51-80 Members)

101 Lt Marion L Willis Colorado Springs	76	3641 Minnequa Pueblo	62
322 Danny Dietz Englewood	76	5231 Montezuma County Cortez	57
336 John Butler Ordway	66	9221 Grand Mesa Cedaredge	51
1247 Beye Lotz Grand Junction	77		

Group 4 (81 - 135 Members)

41 Loveland	125	3631 CWS David R Carter Aurora	100
1781 Rocky Mountain Fort Collins	128	4061 Royal Gorge Canon City	102
2121 Pioneer Greeley	112	4331 Arvada	130
2411 Las Animas	108	8121 Seigfred-Leyte Del Norte	106
2585 Johnstown Milliken	84		

Group 5 (136 - 199 Members)

1 John S Stewart Denver	181	4444 Currie/Toles/Gary A Castens Comm City	153
501 Francis Brown Lowry Denver	147	5061 Dean K Phillips Denver	174
2601 Longs Peak Longmont	162	6461 Fontaine Qui bouille Fountain	153
3917 Cheyenne Mountain Security	196	6624 Adamson-Warmuth Evans	180
4031 Durango	148		

Group 6 (200 + Members)

1771 Mile High Lafayette	248	7945 Joseph J Jacques Jr Thornton	268
4051 Pikes Peak Colorado Springs	239	9644 Verle Huffman Sheridan	354
4171 Golden	288		

Program Reporting

In 2023 – 2024 the Department of Colorado went to online reporting. This was accomplished through the Department website at vfwco.org. This made it where any member could report the activities they were involved in and made it simpler for all concerned.

The instructions were provided in the Program Book for 2023 – 2024 and we are including the instructions again for your use.

After logging into the website, you will need to click on **Auxiliary** and then **Reporting**. You will see a brief description of the activities that you can report on for each National program. As you scroll down the page, you will find a picture and underlines name of each program. Click on the picture and just fill in the blanks. Wherever you see an arrowhead, you can click there to see a list of options provided for you. For instance, when asked “Who Participated” click the arrowhead and choose VFW, Auxiliary or Both depending on who you are reporting for.

When you have filled in all the relevant boxes simply click “Submit.” Please do not try to mail paper copies to the VFW Department office. They will not be accepted.

All the program reporting received through the website will be available to be viewed by the Department Program Chairmen for annual judging.

Supplemental Reporting

Department Program Chairmen are required to report some information annually to the National Ambassadors that is not included in our shared reporting system. Updates have been done to the reporting form that was created last year for our Auxiliaries to use to report this additional information. You can complete this form as often as you wish but should complete at least annually. Completed forms can be mailed or emailed to the Department Secretary, Ginny rosa at 416 S Pine Drive, Bailey CO 80421 or humming657@gmail.com for distribution to the Chairmen. The deadline for this supplemental form is the same as our program year which ends March 31, 2025.

Please direct any questions on what can be reported not addressed on the website to the specific program chairman.

We want you to see how easy it is to report, report, report.

VFW Auxiliary

Supplementary Program Report Form 2024-25

Aux # _____

This form is to report information not included in the on-line reporting program. This can be filed monthly, quarterly or as needed. A minimum of one report to be filed by March 31, 2025.

Please indicate if you used the materials/resources available in Malta for each program listed.

_____ Extension and Revitalization

_____ Historian

_____ Legislative

_____ Media Relations

_____ Membership

Historian/Media Relations

- 1 Did your Auxiliary create a Historian Book by any means for the year? _____
- 2 Did your Auxiliary send a monthly/quarterly newsletter to members? _____
- 3 Does your Auxiliary have a Facebook page? With Post _____ Alone _____
- 4 Does your Auxiliary have a website? With Post _____ Alone _____
- 5 Did your Auxiliary hold a media training? (Malta, Facebook or other social media) _____

Hospital

- 1 Did your Auxiliary co-host with your post to promote, or participate in the following:
Honors Escort____ Natl Salute to Veteran Patients(Valentines)____ Veterans Health Care____
Women Veteran Health Care Program____

Legislative

- 1 How many members subscribe to the Action Corp? _____

Membership

- 1 Did your Auxiliary promote, participate, host or co-host with the Post activities regarding education and membership recruiting? _____
- 2 Did your Auxiliary educate members on the benefits of membership? _____
- 3 Did your Auxiliary educate members on the National Membership Awards? _____
- 4 How many members participated in a recruiting event on any level? _____
- 5 Did the Auxiliary recruit at least one new member? _____

Scholarships

- 1 Did you promote the National Continuing Education Scholarship Contest? _____
- 2 Did your Auxiliary make a monetary donation to the Continuing Education Scholarship? _____
- 3 List the number of student entries you received and the number of entries sent to Department for judging in the following contests: # Entries # To Department
- Creative Patriotic Art _____
- 3-Dimensional Art _____
- 4 Did your Auxiliary make a monetary donation to the Creative Patriotic Art fund? _____
- 5 Did your Auxiliary make a monetary donation to the 3-D Dimensional Art fund? _____

Veterans and Family Support

- 1 List the approximate number of veterans, service members or families assisted. _____

Youth

- 1 List the number of youth that the Auxiliary worked with during the year. _____
- 2 List the number of books donated through Patriotism Through Literacy. _____
- 3 List the number of student entries you received and the number of entries sent to Department for judging in the following contest: # Entries # To Department
- Illustrating America _____

Submitted By: _____

Date: _____

Send to: Ginny Rosa, Dept Secretary, humming657@gmail.com /416 S Pine Drive, Bailey CO 80421

Greetings Auxiliary Members,

I would like to thank Madame Department President Nadia for appointing me as the All State Achievement Chairman and appointing an awesome Committee to work with. The Committee members that are also helping with this program are Charlotte Lattin and Gayle Stockwell. We are very honored to be the Committee for the All State Achievement Program. The goals we have for the All State Achievement Program are:

- 1) All Auxiliaries and Districts are eligible to earn All State Achievement recognition.
- 2) Help grow and improve Auxiliaries and Districts by completing tasks on the report.

The report is meant to reward **ALL** Auxiliaries and Districts that are completing tasks that are required in the VFW Auxiliary By-laws. Other tasks on the form are meant to build a stronger Auxiliary through communication, training and working together. Examples are completing these tasks on time, installation reports, audits, purchasing bonds, filing the IRS 990 form, delegate forms and officer dues paid. Other tasks that are in the report that we feel will help improve the Auxiliary or District are attending the Council of Administration weekends to share program information/updates and other Department information. Another task in the report will be membership goals. Recruiting and retaining members are both important factors in keeping this great organization strong and viable for many years to come. There will also be bonus points available. There will be **no** set number of Auxiliaries or Districts that qualify and receive All State Achievement. It will **not** be Auxiliaries and Districts competing against each other for this recognition. Finally, to make the report simpler, we are encouraging the President, Secretary and Treasurer to work together filling out this report. It will be less stressful and time consuming, so more time can be spent taking care of our Veterans. The one-page All State Achievement Report that gives Auxiliaries and Districts points earned for completed tasks will be available on the website, vfwco.org and in the 2024-2025 Colorado Program Book. Those Auxiliaries and Districts will earn All State Achievement that:

- 1) Reach the minimum points required by completing tasks.
- 2) Have submitted the All State Report by the deadline.
- 3) The report is signed by the President, Secretary and Treasurer.

So come on Colorado, let's get busy creating new memories and working together for "All Veterans, All Voices".

Hugs

All State Achievement Committee

Patsy Gilmore – Chairman

Charlotte Lattin

Gayle Stockwell

DISTRICT ALL STATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM - DISTRICT REPORT FORM

DISTRICT # _____

DUE BY MAY 15

MEMBERSHIP STANDING on 05/31 (based on previous year 06/30 final Membership statistics.) Choose one.	Possible Points	Actual Points
Over 100% in Membership, not including Deaths (current percent)	110	
100% Plus in Membership, not including Deaths (current percent)	100	
100% Plus in Membership, including paid Deaths (paid percent)	90	
97-100% in Membership, including paid Deaths (paid percent)	80	
TOTAL		
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLIANCE:	Possible Points	Actual Points
Installation report received at National Headquarters by June 30.	15	
District bonded by July 31- 15 Points District bonded by August 31 - 10 Points	15	
Dues of Officers paid by Dec 31. If not paid, officers will have to be relieved of their offices.	10	
IRS 990 filed by November 15.	10	
Auxiliary Pres, Treasurer and Secretary complete and submit Year End All State Achievement Report by 5/15.	25	
TOTAL		
AUDITS:	Possible Points	Actual Points
Due 60 days after quarter, accepted by Aux. and sent to Dept. Treasurer. (10 Points each) (Circle Yes or No)		
Quarter end June 30 - Yes or No Quarter end September 30 - Yes or No	20	
Quarter end December - Yes or No Quarter end March 31 - Yes or No	20	
All Audits sent to Dept. Treasurer on time - 10 Bonus Points	10	
District Commander provided with June 30 year end membership count and audit by September 1.	10	
TOTAL		
DISTRICT COMMUNICATION:	Possible Points	Actual Points
District President communicate with Auxiliaries at least once a quarter in one or more of the following ways: pictures, email , mail, Department President newsletter - 10 Points per Quarter . (Circle Yes or No)		
Quarter end September 30 - Yes or No Quarter end December 31 - Yes or No	20	
Quarter end March 31 - Yes or No Quarter end June 30 - Yes or No	20	
TOTAL		
TRAINING:	Possible Points	Actual Points
District President schedules a School of Instruction at 2 District meetings (10 Points each)	20	
Parade of Programs CoA information distributed to all Auxiliaries in District. (15 Points)	15	
Submit list of program chairmen to Dept. Secretary	10	
District Treasurer host training session on uses of MALTA.	10	
LEADERSHIP:	Possible Points	Actual Points
District (President or Officer) be represented at COA meetings. 10 points per COA. (Circle Yes or No)		
Fall - Yes or No Winter - Yes or No Spring - Yes or No	30	
District (President or Officer) be represented at ALL COA meetings. (10 Bonus Points)	10	
District (President or Officer) be represented at Parade of Programs. 10 points per COA. (Circle Yes or No)		
Fall - Yes or No Winter - Yes or No Spring - Yes or No	30	
District (President or Officer) be represented at ALL Parade of Programs meetings. (10 Bonus Points)	10	
District President Auxiliary Inspections completed & sent to Dept Secretary by December 31. (choose one)	50	
District President Auxiliary Inspections completed & sent to Dept Secretary by March 31.	30	
TOTAL		
*DISTRICT ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS REQUIRE A MINIMUM OF 400 POINTS.	GRAND TOTAL	

DISTRICT PRESIDENT _____
 DISTRICT SECRETARY _____
 DISTRICT TREASURER _____

DATE _____

Send Report to the following:

Patsy Gilmore - papajoash@gmail.com or 1719 Ascot Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80906

AUXILIARY ALL STATE ACHIEVEMENT PROGRAM - AUXILIARY REPORT
DUE BY MAY 15

AUXILIARY # _____
 DISTRICT # _____

MEMBERSHIP STANDING on 05/15 (based on previous year 06/30 final Membership statistics.) Choose one.	Possible Points	Actual Points
Over 101% in Membership, not including Deaths (current percent)	110	
100% Plus in Membership, not including Deaths (current percent)	100	
100% Plus in Membership, including paid Deaths (paid percent)	90	
97-100% in Membership, including paid Deaths (paid percent)	80	
TOTAL		
ADMINISTRATIVE COMPLIANCE:		
	Possible Points	Actual Points
Installation report received at National Headquarters by June 30.	15	
Auxiliary bonded by July 31- 15 Points. Auxiliary bonded by August 31-10 Points. (choose one date)	15	
Dues of Officers paid by Dec 31. If not paid, officers will have to be relieved of their offices.	10	
IRS 990 filed by November 15.	10	
Delegates and Alternates due 30 calendar days before District Convention.	10	
Department Delegates and Alternates sent prior to Department Convention.	10	
National Delegates and Alternates sent by May 31.	10	
Auxiliary Pres, Treasurer and Secretary complete & submit Year End All State Achievement Report by May 15.	25	
TOTAL		
AUDITS:		
	Possible Points	Actual Points
Due 60 days after quarter, accepted by Aux. and sent to Dept. Treasurer. (10 Points each) (Circle Yes or No)		
Quarter end June 30 - Yes or No Quarter end September 30 - Yes or No	20	
Quarter end December 31 - Yes or No Quarter end March 31 - Yes or No	20	
All Audits sent to Dept. Treasurer on time - 10 Bonus Points	10	
Post Commander provided with June 30 Membership count and audit by September 1.	20	
TOTAL		
AUXILIARY COMMUNICATION: Auxiliary President communicate at least once a quarter in one of the following		
ways: pictures, email , mail, Colo Veteran, Dept President newsletter - 10 Points per Quarter. (Circle Yes or No)	Possible Points	Actual Points
Quarter end September 30 - Yes or No Quarter end December 31 - Yes or No	20	
Quarter end March 31 , 2020 - Yes or No Quarter end June 30, 2021 - Yes or No	20	
TOTAL		
TRAINING:		
	Possible Points	Actual Points
Auxiliary President schedules a School of Instruction of National Program at least twice a year.(10 points each)	20	
Auxiliary Treasurer host training session on uses of MALTA.	10	
TOTAL		
PROGRAM REPORTING:		
	Possible Points	Actual Points
Submit a program report each Quarter 10 points each. Program report for all quarters. (10 Bonus Points)	50	
Purchase Poppies-10 points. Hold at least one Poppy Drive- 10 points.	20	
Submit list of program chairmen to Department Secretary.	10	
Nominate an Auxiliary member for Salute to Service.	15	
Auxiliary complete at least one project, activity or donation that benefits Veterans by April 15 of current year.	15	
TOTAL		
LEADERSHIP:		
	Possible Points	Actual Points
District meetings be represented by Auxiliary (President or an Officer).10 Points per meeting. (Circle Yes or No.)		
Fall - Yes or No Winter - Yes or No Spring - Yes or No	30	
COA meetings be represented by Auxiliary (President or an Officer). 10 Points per meeting.		
Fall - Yes or No Winter - Yes or No Spring - Yes or No	30	
Parade of Programs meetings be represented by Auxiliary (President or an Officer). 10 Points each.		
Fall - Yes or No Winter - Yes or No Spring - Yes or No	30	
TOTAL		
*AUXILIARY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS REQUIRE A MINIMUM OF 500 POINTS.	GRAND TOTAL	

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT _____
 AUXILIARY SECRETARY _____
 AUXILIARY TREASURER _____

DATE _____

Send Report to the following:

Patsy Gilmore - papajoash@gmail.com or 1719 Ascot Rd, Colorado Springs, CO 80906

AMERICANISM

2024 – 2025 brings many opportunities to honor our great nation highlighting our Americanism ways in the VFW Auxiliary style! I look forward to meeting all of you and watching your auxiliaries' events and programs. Our National Ambassador, Katlyn Burke, has challenged us to give special attention to our patriotic holidays, especially the lesser-known holidays. Make a special effort to fly our US flags on all the official days of flag flying etiquette rules! So let us take her on! So, first check over your flag inventories. Make a designated space for all your flags to be stored in. Best to store standing, rolled carefully, have containers for smaller flags and all your stands stored with your flags. Next, where to fly them, where to display them? Be respectful with your placements. Make sure there is a light to shine on your flags if you place them outside or assign members to bring them inside at sunset. When your flags begin to fade in their colors or become torn or grayed, place them in a container to retire them in the correct way and perform a retirement ceremony. All this care and placements can be invitations to all your Post and Auxiliary members, other groups like Scout troops, church groups, civic organizations, other patriotic organizations, friends, families, individuals who are working on becoming naturalized citizens, government officials, individuals you are recruiting to join the Post and/or Auxiliary.

This year is a presidential election year. Now more than ever is the time to show our love of our USA and displaying, handing out, educating about our flag. I pledge to you, this VFW Auxiliary year, my plan, and focus will be on your ways, places, numbers shared of our flag. We are privileged to remind all who are in this great nation our national symbol of democracy and freedom. The best way to be recognized by your auxiliary, District, Department and at National levels is to report what you are doing!! Do your reports once a month, be detailed in the space for more description. The reason for the extra description given helps me, as your Department Chairman, to determine which Auxiliary and what program or event I am charged to submit to our National Officers as they review and judge what Auxiliary will receive National awards for their outstanding work on sharing Americanism in your community. What you do matters. All you share with me within reporting, pictures, Facebook posts, Instagram shares, TIKTOK reels, I will read, watch, listen to and categorize and rate for me to determine the one Department of Colorado Americanism to be sent to National.

Now, this year our National Ambassador, Katlyn Burke, is focusing on all the lesser-known patriotic holidays and especially those that are designated as flag flying days! I have that focus light turned on as well as you should send me updates of your activities. What ways can you do more to bring attention those lesser-known holidays? Research the history of that day. First stop for this search – MALTA resources. When you go to MALTA to find information, clarification, verifications, be sure to note this on your report. Yes, this really does matter. Libraries, bookstores, and of course, Google, Alexa,

Siri, your old classroom books, your kids, or grandkids history books. Go to your museums, visit with veterans in your community, look up articles in your local newspaper's archives. Treasured bits of history about these holidays will ignite yours and others interest in these holidays and see how you can bring it to life this year in your own Auxiliary's wonderful way of sharing.

Our Patriotic Instructors are gold for providing information, instruction and to spotlight these holidays right inside of your auxiliary meetings. It is prepared, it is shared. Now, take it on the road. Go to two organization meetings, gatherings your auxiliary has never met with and present this school of instruction. Be sure to place it in your newsletters, not just post level, but send to the editor of your District newsletters...what your district does not have a newsletter? Bring it up at your next district meeting. Have the conversation with others in your District. This is how we get the word out about activities, events, and instructions.

Another way to honor our veterans and be visible in the way our VFW never forgets our fallen. This is the missing man table display. Where is yours? What does it look like? People see this, how will they know and understand what it is? How important is this table compared to the other tables in the room? I intend to travel a bit to different posts in Colorado. I want to find your missing man display. I want to know you respect and honor this display by the way you house and give it its special spot. Please invite me by calling, texting, emailing invites through this year to all your Americanism events and programs. I will attend as many as I am able. Invite other folks besides your members to all ceremonies or programs you host about Americanism. You are the expert on this subject. You know the meaning and the amazing history on this subject. Share your valuable knowledge. This will be shared. This strengthens our nation from the ground up. Yes, what you do matters.

I am so excited for this new year coming open to us. I am available for any questions, concerns, or suggestions. You can reach me by calling, texting or by email. This is a great year to walk tall in our Americanism Ways in the great USA!

Respectfully submitted,
Marilyn Peters
Department of Colorado Americanism Chairperson

AUXILIARY OUTREACH

Greetings all my Auxiliary friends!

First of all, I would like to thank President Nadia Flores for having faith in me by allowing me the opportunity to serve as your Auxiliary Outreach Chairman again this year. Our organization has always been active in our communities, we just need to remember to report it differently. We are all learning this new program so let's learn together and have some fun!

The VFW Auxiliary Outreach Program involves your Auxiliary partnering with other organizations for the benefit of our communities. Auxiliary Outreach is time given to help, not monetary or in-kind donations. It is a partnership wherein one or more of your Auxiliary or Post members help another organization or group make their project successful. Like us, many organizations are short on volunteers, so if we all join forces and work together, just imagine what great things we can accomplish!

Ask what your Auxiliary can do to help the community, not what they can do to help us! Form a partnership to help other organizations by reaching out into your communities, local groups and organizations and offer to assist. When an Auxiliary partners with an organization outside our own, it is considered Auxiliary Outreach. It is also a way to show the importance of the local VFW and VFW Auxiliary to the community.

Where does your Auxiliary find these partnership opportunities?

- Ask your Auxiliary members: Most members belong to more than one organization.
- Look in your local newspaper for upcoming events.
- Check local community bulletin boards.
- Check your local and surrounding town/city websites for their calendar of events.
- Make a list of the organizations that your Auxiliary wants to work with and do a blanket vote at a meeting so if an opportunity comes up at the last minute without time to hold a vote, your members can help those organizations and get credit for helping.
- On rare occasions such as a natural disaster or an emergency community need, the project may be voted on after the fact.

Suggestions for VFW Auxiliary Outreach

- Work with local police, fire and EMT on their activities (Child ID, fire safety and fire prevention activities at the local schools.)
- Work with local parks and recreation departments to plant trees, clear trails and beautify parks.
- Serve food at soup kitchens or distribute food at food banks/cupboards.
- Drive for Meals on Wheels or help prepare food for delivery.
- Assist with local fundraising walks as a volunteer, not an entrant.
- Help your local library by working at book fairs.
- Assist local youth activities and at senior centers.
- Help during your local town or city during elections but remain non-partisan.
- Partnerships can be a single day event or ongoing events throughout the year.

We partner to make a difference in our community, but we also receive benefits:

- Helping others
- Learn new skills.
- Career advancement
- Increased confidence

- Fighting stress and depression
- Meeting new people & possibly getting new Auxiliary members
- Developing a sense of purpose
- Personal growth

Keys to making your Auxiliary Outreach Program successful.

- Find organizations that need your help.
- Vote on the activity at your meetings
- On rare occasions such as a natural disaster or an emergency community need, the project may be voted on after the fact.
- Activity can be a one-time event or an ongoing event.
- One or more Auxiliary member(s) must participate.
- Projects may be done by the Auxiliary alone or with the VFW Post
- Wear your VFW Auxiliary attire (name badge, shirt, hat, jacket, etc.)
- Report, report, report your hours volunteered.

What does NOT count toward Auxiliary Outreach?

- **Auxiliary Outreach is for projects NOT AFFILIATED with VFW or VFW Auxiliary programs.**
- Volunteer work that is performed for the benefit of the VFW Post or Auxiliary is **NOT** considered outreach service. Examples of projects that do not qualify include:
 1. Repairs or maintenance to the Post Home
 2. Cooking or serving a meal for a Post or Auxiliary fundraiser
 3. “Buddy Poppy” distribution
 4. VFW or Auxiliary meetings, Conventions, Conferences or Schools of Instruction
 5. Church activities for one specific congregation and not the entire community (e.g., usher, teacher, elder, deacon, minister, etc.)
 6. Taking comfort items to the local USO
 7. Donating trophies to a youth sports group
 8. Hosting a luncheon/dinner for a local community club
 9. Sending an auxiliary check to support a charity that organized a walk, run, or donation request.
 10. Collecting clothing and comfort items for homeless Veterans at the Post Home

There are more resources available that outline Auxiliary Outreach on the website behind your MALTA login, Member Resources, Auxiliary Outreach.

I know that all of our Auxiliaries are busy in our communities, helping other organizations with their events. This year, Nadia has asked that we share stories about our activities in our communities at our COA meetings. So PLEASE, PLEASE report to me what you are doing and tell me what made your event with another organization a success. Tell us what you did, how you participated and any fun things that happened. We want to learn from you what made the event a success so we can steal your ideas and make our events better! Take time when reporting to tell what you did in the note or comment area on the report form online. I look forward to hearing from each and every auxiliary with lots of exciting and fun stories. I can be reached at qbarz@hotmail.com or by phone 970-749-9320. If I don't answer, please leave me a message and I will return your call.

Queenie Barz
Auxiliary Outreach Chairman

Buddy Poppy

I want to thank Department President Nadia Flores for asking me to be program chairman for the Buddy Poppy and National Home for Children for the 2024-2025 year.

The “Buddy”® Poppy has been an integral part of the VFW community for 100 years. The VFW “Buddy”® Poppy is worn as a profound gesture of respect to honor the valor and sacrifice of those who have laid down their lives for their country. The first “Buddy”® Poppy distribution was held on Memorial Day 1922.

Donations collected during your “Buddy”® Poppy distribution will be allocated to the Relief Fund per our Bylaws. This fund is for helping our members who are in need of financial assistance, sending monetary gifts to National Auxiliary Cancer Aid and Research, and to foster true patriotism through historical and educational programs. I encourage you to consult the Booklet of Instructions found within your Podium Edition: Bylaws and Ritual on ways to use the funds.

When you are ready to hold a “Buddy”® Poppy drive be sure you order your Poppies from the Department VFW and allow enough time for delivery. There are now two options for the “Buddy”® Poppies, they are the traditional “Buddy”® Poppy and the VFW also has a metal “Buddy”® Poppy that is available. This new metal Poppy is nice for a collar or suit jacket. Each “Buddy”® Poppy purchased for distribution contributes to the following:

One (1) cent goes to the VFW National Home

One (1) cent goes to the VFW National Headquarters Veterans Service Fund

One and a half (1.5) cent goes to Department Veterans Service Funds

In addition to a “Buddy”® Poppy Drive, there are many creative ways to distribute the “Buddy”® Poppy including window displays, posters, wreaths, remembrance walls, hats, event centerpieces, etc. Let your imagination run wild!

Remember – Report! Report! Report! Include mileage, hours, and number of volunteers.

VFW NATIONAL HOME

Almost a century ago, the VFW National Home began as a place where families left behind by war could remain together. Today, the National Home has evolved to meet the changing needs of America’s military and veterans’ families.

On January 7, 2025, the VFW National Home will turn 100 years old! It is time to join the **CELEBRATION!** The VFW National Home was the FIRST National Program for the VFW Auxiliary.

During this year, I ask Auxiliaries take the time to **CELEBRATE**. I hope each Auxiliary will consider sending a birthday card to the VFW National Home in celebration of its 100th birthday. Please have the cards to the National Home by the beginning of January so they can be displayed for the birthday party. Plans are being made to have the celebration shared so everyone can join in on the fun. Instead of sending gifts for the traditional birthday party remember the VFW National Home has an Amazon Wish List with things they could use, or your Auxiliary could make a donation to help with costs of the 100th celebration in June.

Over the span of a century, the VFW National Home has undergone a remarkable transformation. When the Home first started there was a hospital and a dentist office on campus. This has been transformed into the Health and Education Building, which also houses the Veteran and Family Resource Center. The center provides an area for the veteran and their family to meet with employment specialists, peer support specialists and case managers to work on their personal goals, family goals and self-care. Now, more than ever families are participating in activities held on campus creating a “community” feeling.

Auxiliaries have supported the National Home for a century from building a chapel to most recently renovating the Welcome Center. There are so many different ways to support the Home, including:

National Home’s Amazon Wishlist
Become a Life Member
Donate to Health & Happiness
Purchase a brick for the Tribute Park
Become a Hometown Hero contributor.

Over the course of the year, there will be many events and special things for the National Home, and I hope Auxiliaries will participate and help in all of the celebrations. The biggest celebration will be held at an event on the National Home grounds in June 2025. For more information visit their website at <https://vfwnationalhome.org> or follow them on Facebook

“Buddy”[®] Poppy and National Home Program Awards

Other Awards for Auxiliaries – National Level

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event using the VFW “Buddy”[®] Poppy to educate their community about the VFW “Buddy”[®] Poppy.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event using the VFW “Buddy”[®] Poppy to educate their community about the VFW “Buddy”[®] Poppy.
2. Most outstanding activity and/or event to recognize and celebrate the VFW National Home’s 100th Birthday.

- Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event to recognize and celebrate the VFW National Home's 100th Birthday.

Entry forms required for each award and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry forms to the Department "Buddy"® Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman by March 31, 2025, for judging. The Department "Buddy"® Poppy and VFW National Home Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry forms to the National "Buddy"® Poppy & VFW National Home Ambassador by April 30, 2025, for judging. Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

Remember – Report! Report! Report! Include mileage, hours, and number of volunteers.

Kathy Kurtenbach
Department Chairman Buddy Poppy-National Home

2023-2024 Post/Auxiliary Buddy Poppy Order Form

Department of Colorado



MAIL TO: Credit Card & Check Payments

Checks Payable to: Department of Colorado VFW
Department of Colorado VFW
1400 Carr Street, Lakewood, CO 80214

Credit Card Payments Only

Fax: 303-421-1727

Email: vfw@vfwco.org

Revised 8/31/2023

Date of Order : _____

VFW Colorado Membership # _____ only

POST/AUX #: _____ LOCATION: _____

Please place order for the following: (Minimum Order 500 Buddy Poppies)

_____ Buddy Poppies @ \$270.00 per each thousand \$ _____

_____ Buddy Poppies @ \$135.00 per each 500 \$ _____

Plus Shipping & Handling

\$100.01—\$200.00.....\$15.95

\$200.01—\$300.00.....\$29.95

\$300.01 - \$400.00.....\$34.95

\$400.01 - \$500.00.....\$39.95

\$500.01 & OVER.....\$69.95

Shipping \$ _____

Total Amount of Order \$ _____

Date of Buddy Poppy Fundraiser _____

Please Print:

Ship Order to: _____ Title _____

Address: _____

(NO PO BOX. Orders are ship by UPS)

.....
Card Type: MasterCard Visa Discover **Total Charge\$** _____

Cardholder Name (as shown on card) _____

Cardholder Billing Address: _____

City, State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Card Number: _____ - _____ - _____

Expiration Date: (MM/YY) _____ **CVV:** _____

Signature : _____ **Date:** _____

By Signing above I authorize Department of Colorado VFW to charge my credit card for the agreed upon purchase.

Revised 8/31/2023

2023-2024 Post/Auxiliary **Metal Buddy Poppy** Order Form
Department of Colorado

Credit Card Payments
Fax: 303-421-1727
Email: vfw@vfwco.org

Revised 10/1/2023



Buddy Poppy Fundraiser Date _____
Order Date _____

Check Payments MAIL TO: Department of Colorado VFW
1400 Carr Street
Lakewood, CO 80214

VFW Membership # _____ (ALL Orders ordered with ONLY a VFW Membership Number)

Place Order for the following POST/AUX # _____ LOCATION _____
(circle Post or Aux to receive credit)

_____ **Metal Buddy Poppies** @ \$130.00 per each thousand \$ _____

_____ **Metal Buddy Poppies** @ \$70.00 per each 500 \$ _____

Plus Shipping & Handling

\$ 50.01 - \$100.00.....\$10.95

\$100.01 - \$200.00.....\$15.95

\$200.01 - \$300.00.....\$29.95

\$300.01 - \$400.00.....\$34.95

\$400.01 - \$500.00.....\$39.95

\$500.01 & OVER.....\$69.95 \$ _____



#####

Card Type: Master Card Visa Discover Total Charge \$ _____

Cardholder Name (as shown on card) _____

Cardholder Billing Address: _____

City: _____ State _____ Zip _____

Card Number: _____ Exp. Date(MM/YY) _____ CVV _____

Signature: _____

By Signing above I authorize Department of Colorado VFW to charge my credit card for the agreed purchase.

Revised 10/1/2023

Chief of Staff

Extension & Revitalization

Mentoring

It is time to start the 2024 – 2025 year off for “All Voice, All Veterans”! Thank you to Department President Nadia Flores for this opportunity to serve as her Chief of Staff. It is an honor to be asked and I do understand that this position comes with an enormous of responsibility and trust not only from President Flores but from our line officers and all our auxiliary members. Please understand, that I am not a person who sees just black or white – I tend to see the color within and will always ask questions to get more clarification. I promise to work with each of you with the best intentions, within the best of my abilities, and in accordance with the written bylaws of both National and our Department. My email and phone are available to any member. I always want to hear someone’s idea on a new event or fundraiser. Even a traditional or random out of the box thoughts or opinions. I love to hear and engage in respectful debates when it comes to difference of opinions but most importantly, I enjoy when I can assist two different sides find a compromise to a situation. I have faith this year that all voices within the Department of Colorado will be heard as we work hard for our veterans *and* as we grow more branches on our auxiliary tree while deepening our roots!

This year National wishes to remind us of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary’s original “tradition and promise for the future.” Our National Chief of Staff, Ms. Betty Arnold, wants us to remember that the Auxiliary was “built on a **strong** foundation based on the **traditions** (*bylaws*) established in 1914. With those traditions comes a sincere promise to safeguard the future of the Auxiliary.” She has also mentioned that “branches grow tall when the roots run deep”. Meaning as the Department Chief of Staff it is my responsibility to work closely with the Department President, District Presidents, Auxiliary Presidents, and all members to fortify that all our auxiliaries continue to be “strong and vibrant so our organization **GROWS** and produces **PROUD** patriotic and **ENERGETIC** members who will honor and protect our veterans and their families.”

This year, ***Mentoring for Leadership***, falls under the Chief of Staff. Part of mentoring is educating and training new as well as seasoned members on a wide range of topics. However, the end goal remains the same; per Ambassador Arnold, we want to “ensure the legacy of the VFRW Auxiliary continues through strong and healthy Auxiliaries comprising members who are prepared to take on leadership roles to continue to move the VFW Auxiliary **FORWARD**.” She also mentions that “technology is a **wonderful** tool that gives us the ability to reach so many members...” This year, the Department of Colorado will be doing something **NEW** and **BENEFICIAL** to all members! Starting in September, once a month, we will be hosting a zoom meeting on a specific topic. We will have either an officer or program chairman discuss the topic and then have a Q&A session with those in attendance. We are going to call this, **CO VFWA: Mentoring for Success & Excellence**. We are hoping to record these meetings and if all goes right, we will be posting them so members who are unable to attend may watch and/or reference the sessions later. I’m **ESCTATIC** that President Flores is behind me on this idea We have several topics already lined up, but we are also open to ideas. Please send me your ideas via email stephanee.trujillo@gmail.com.

Chief of Staff

Extension & Revitalization

Mentoring

Remember the acronym C.A.R.E. when it comes to mentoring:

C – Catch the member when they first join

- introduce yourself, exchange contact information with the member, reach out to them on meeting night.

A – Ask them to participate

- invite them to events, or committee meetings.

R – Remember what it felt like to be new

- Did you get overwhelmed at your first meeting? Were you shy at first? Share your ritual book during their first meeting or teach them the traditions of the ritual.

E – Engage them in a program that fits them

- talk to them about the national programs, give them information on the national programs that pique their interest, ask them for fundraising or event ideas on a program.

This year, Ambassador Arnold uses a stop light as a metaphor when she speaks about healthy auxiliaries. In her analogy, for an Auxiliary to be a **GREEN LIGHT** aka 100% healthy auxiliary – they are meeting all their deadlines on or before required dates. They filed their I-90 on or before July 31, 2024, bond paperwork was filed on or before August 31, 2024, and they closed out the year prior's paperwork in a timely manner. The auxiliary has and continues to complete *and* turn their audits into Department in a timely manner. The auxiliary holds at least 10 memberships meetings within one (1) calendar year, in accordance with the by bylaws. The auxiliary is promoting and completing all national program goals. Auxiliary members are recruiting and helping the auxiliary grow. Seasoned members are mentoring each other, and they are all working together as a team. Now, I ask, do you consider your Auxiliary to be a healthy aka **GREEN LIGHT** auxiliary? If yes, can you tell me how your auxiliary works together to stay on track? What works best for your auxiliary, what does not work, what would you suggest to a struggling auxiliary?

For an auxiliary to be considered a **YELLOW LIGHT** auxiliary, this means the auxiliary is showing a few cautionary signs that they are struggling. What do we consider cautionary sign? Maybe they are not able to host a membership meeting due to lack a quorum, they are not meeting their deadlines for specific paperwork and audits, they are not completing national or department program goals, they are not reporting any voluntary hours or recruiting new members. Do you feel your auxiliary is a **YELLOW LIGHT** auxiliary? If yes, please tell me how you could help get your auxiliary get back on track?

Please understand that as soon as a District President, a District Deputy Chief of Staff, a Department Officer, and/or a member starts to see or notice that an auxiliary is showing multiple cautionary signs – it is asked that you notify the Department Chief of staff (me). This way, I am aware of what auxiliaries need assistance to reset their course. It is my responsibility to work with President Flores to observe and offer mentoring or assistance to any auxiliary that may be showing cautionary signs. Both President Flores and I know all too well that not all our 58 auxiliaries within the Department of Colorado are the same. We

Chief of Staff

Extension & Revitalization

Mentoring

understand that what works for an auxiliary that has members of 100+ members do not work for an auxiliary that has 30 members. However, we are both extremely motivated and ready to work with all the auxiliaries within Colorado.

Can you guess what would cause an auxiliary to be considered a **RED-LIGHT** auxiliary? To put it simply, an auxiliary that is facing and/or an auxiliary that is put on suspension would be considered a **RED-LIGHT** auxiliary. Per Ambassador Arnold's explanation, any auxiliary that is considered a red-light is asked to take a "step back and regroup" – it "simply means there is some work to do to get the auxiliary where it needs to be; with hope that the auxiliary will recover and come back stronger and better than before."

Throughout the year, President Flores and I will be speaking to Bachelor VFW Posts in our Department about starting an auxiliary within their posts. Currently, our department has 58 auxiliaries, and we are eager to deepen our Colorado roots by adding more auxiliaries to our department. If any member is interested in being part of our extension team, please let me know via email or phone call.

As always – continue to be yourselves, continue to work together, continue to be the light in someone else's day, continue to remember the mission of this organization, continue to do great things for our veterans, military, and their families, and continue to spread love, kindness, and positivity. It is with these things that you will help your auxiliary branches grow and your voices to be heard!

Stephanee Trujillo
Department of Colorado Chief of Staff
4012 W. 30th St.
Greeley, CO 80634
stephanee.trujillo@gmail.com
970-396-4197 (call or text)

Remember to use our Resources:

- Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit – *Included in this book.*
- Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation – found under the resource tab on MALTA.
- All MALTA resources – print handouts, get ideas, or further your knowledge.
- The current year National Program Book and Department of Colorado Program book
- "Understanding Auxiliary Traditions" video – National Auxiliary YouTube
- CO VFWA: Mentoring for Success & Excellence – coming to you via zoom this year!



The Checklist:

What the Auxiliary President needs for a meeting

- Current Podium Edition of *Bylaws, Ritual and Booklet of Instruction*
- National Program Book (available for download in MALTA/Member Resources)
- Department Program Book
- Current year's Department General Orders (if applicable)
- Order of Business/Agenda prepared with the assistance of Secretary and Treasurer prior to meeting
- Chairman Reports to be distributed prior to meeting
- Arrive early to check that the room is prepared for meeting:
 - Charter
 - Gavel
 - Altar Cloth
 - Bible
 - Flag stands properly placed
- Start and end the meeting as scheduled.
 - A clock on the podium will help achieve the suggested one hour time. Hint: Set a timer!



Healthy Auxiliary Checklist Auxiliary To-Dos and Deadlines

What Your Auxiliary Needs to Do:

Deadline:

Election of Officers, and Delegates and Alternates.

○ April 30

Installation Report forwarded to Department and National Headquarters.

○ June 30

Bond Application submitted for offices of President and Treasurer bonded with an indemnity company authorized by National Headquarters or the Department.

○ August 31

Last quarterly audit and membership status of the VFW Auxiliary given to the Post Commander.

○ Within 30 days of assuming the office of President

District Dues - Based on June 30 membership of prior year. (If applicable.)

○ September 30

Audit Reports

Period 1/1 – 3/31 completed by 4/30

Period 4/1 – 6/30 completed by 7/31

Period 7/1 – 9/30 completed by 10/31

Period 10/1-12/31 completed by 1/31

○ Approved Audit to Department Treasurer
Period 1/1 – 3/31 due by 5/31
Period 4/1 – 6/30 due by 8/31
Period 7/1 – 9/30 due by 11/30
Period 10/1-12/31 due by 2/28

Project, promotion and/or donation in National Programs. See the National Program Book for goals, awards and more information.

○ See the National Program Book and your Department Program Book for deadlines.

Minimum of ten members paid in order to maintain charter.

○ February 1 of the current year

Hold at least ten business meetings per year.

○ Between July 1 and June 30

VFW Auxiliary Meeting Challenges & Solutions



Challenge

Members do not know when the meeting is scheduled.

Solution

The day of the month, time and location of the meeting is voted on and approved by the members. The presiding Officer closes the Auxiliary business meeting with "The next business meeting will be..."

Other suggestions for contacting members are telephone calls, email, newsletters or postcards. If your Post and/or Auxiliary has a website, display this information front and center. Consider a Facebook page for your Auxiliary, an excellent (and FREE!) way to inform members and increase public awareness.

Our meetings are too long.

A prepared Order of Business/Agenda can help a meeting start and end on time. Business that can be transacted formally, such as making a motion and voting, keeps distractions at a minimum. If an event requires more discussion, invite members to stay after the business meeting for further discussion within.

Have a white board or separate piece of paper to create a "Parking Lot" to hold issues that need to be discussed in depth later. This will table an issue and keep the meeting focused on the business at hand.

Consider the option of a roundtable or contemporary meeting. See the Ritual for guidelines.

Auxiliary Officers who know their roles and duties beforehand will also help the meetings run smoother.

There is no agenda.

The Ritual provides detailed outlines for conducting an official Auxiliary meeting. Prior to the meeting, the Auxiliary President can meet with the Secretary and Treasurer to draw up an agenda containing projects to be discussed, motions to be voted on and any other business. A written agenda will keep the meeting on track as the President moves efficiently through the unfinished and new business.

Challenge

There is too much socializing.

Certain members speak too many times.

Members see no reason to come or do not feel needed or involved.

We do not seem to get anything done for our veterans.

There is lack of respect for other members and too much gossip.

Solution

If socializing is an important part of your Auxiliary meeting, reserve a half hour prior to or a half hour following the scheduled meeting for socializing. A designated social time allows the new and seasoned members to get acquainted, share ideas and enjoy one another's company. Scheduling social time fills this need while being courteous to members who prefer to attend meetings for the business session only.

Leadership of the President can help with membership participation. Encourage members to express their views while being respectful of everyone's input. Limit conversation to the topic at hand.

Increase involvement by asking members to attend. During an Auxiliary function is the perfect opportunity to ask a member to participate or provide them with a "job." It feels good to be needed. Mentor a new member – offer to pick them up for a meeting or an event. Your personal contact will make a difference. An Auxiliary newsletter or email are other communication tools to request volunteers. Each member has their own special talents; encourage and utilize their contributions.

Our twelve National VFW Auxiliary Programs have veterans, their families and member-driven objectives. Educating members on these Programs will create awareness and enthusiasm toward Program goals. Auxiliary Chairman promotions and projects help provide Program awareness and participation. Two communication tools available to all members are the e-newsletter with sign-up through the National VFW Auxiliary website and the VFW Auxiliary Programs Blog, which allows all members to read the latest information and ideas from the National Ambassadors in regard to their Programs.

A good leader will set the dynamic of the meeting. Effective leadership techniques and a positive manner from the Officers and Chairmen will help alleviate the negative. Being diplomatic and fair to each member's comments and/or concerns is key.



Health Checkup for Your Auxiliary Member Questionnaire

1. Why are you a member of the VFW Auxiliary? _____

2. Do you volunteer for, or offer financial support to, any of the twelve (11) National Programs: Veterans & Family Support; Americanism; Auxiliary Outreach; "Buddy"® Poppy & VFW National Home; Extension & Revitalization; Historian & Media Relations; Hospital; Legislative; Membership; Scholarships and/or Youth Activities?

YES **NO** (circle one)

3. If you answered "YES", to question #2, what do you do and why? _____

4. If you answered "NO" to question #2, please share the reason why. _____

5. Do you feel our National Programs benefit our local veterans, their families and our own members?

YES **NO** (circle one)

6. If you answered "YES", to question #5, what do you do and why? _____

7. If you answered "NO" to question #5, please share the reason why. _____

8. Are there activities you would like to see in this Auxiliary? _____

9. Is the monthly business meeting conducted at a time that is suitable for you?

YES **NO** (circle one)

If not, what time would you like to see the meeting scheduled? _____

10. Is the monthly meeting length appropriate for the business conducted?

YES **NO** (circle one)

11. Do you have ideas on how to increase meeting attendance? _____

12. What do you feel would bring new members into our organization? _____

13. Where do you see the VFW Auxiliary ten years from now? Will you still be a part of it? _____

Sample VFW Auxiliary Meeting Agenda

Auxiliary Name

Date

*** Please silence your cell phones**

*** 1 rap**

1. Opening according to Ritual (p.____)
2. Introduction of National and/or Department Officers
3. Reading and Referring of Applications for Membership
4. Report of Investigating Committee
5. Voting on Candidates
6. Initiation (Optional)
7. Presentation of Minutes of Previous Meeting
(approved – will stand approved as read..... will stand approved as corrected)
8. Reading of Official and Other Communications
9. Treasurer’s Report of Previous Meeting (any discussion – will be filed subject to audit)
10. Presentation of bills
11. Introduction of Guests (non-Auxiliary members)
12. Reports of Committees, Standing and Special
13. Unfinished business
14. New business
 - Reminders
 - Guests to speak
15. Report of Trustees and Action Thereon (audit report – needs a motion)
16. Suggestions for the good of the order
17. Closing ceremonies (p.____)

It has been moved and seconded that.....

- Discussion
- In favor – “Aye”
- Opposed – “No”

Motions made at this meeting	Made by	Second by	Approved

Donations	To	For	Amount

Reports from Program Chairmen – Information To Be Added To Year End Report	

2024 – 2025

Department Scholarship Raffle Information:

Every year at the Spring (March) Parade of Programs / Council of Administration meetings it is the responsibility of Games and Raffle Chairman to distribute scholarship raffle booklets to ALL Auxiliary and District Presidents, Department Officers, and Department Chairman.

The proceeds from these raffle tickets /booklets go towards the Department of Colorado Auxiliary awards to the winners to have participated in the youth scholarship programs and contests such as:

- **Voice of Democracy**
- **Patriots Pen**
- **Creative Patriotic Art Contest**
- **Get Excited for the Red, White, and Blue!**
- **Illustrating America**
- **Patriotism through Literacy**

The students who participate in these contests and programs are not only the future leaders but potentially future members of our organization – let us show our support and encouragement of their participation via supporting this raffle!

Tickets are \$1.00 each or a buy a book of 6 tickets for \$5.00!

Only an auxiliary member may sell these specific raffle tickets **BUT** anyone is allowed to purchase a ticket!

It is suggested that Auxiliaries purchase one book for themselves – this way the Auxiliary has a chance of winning one of the three prizes!

Tickets can be sold at events, to friends and family, after meetings etc. Make sure to ask all VFW Post members if they wish to participate!

With the cooperation of all auxiliary members, this raffle will have a FANTANTASIC turnout and will be sure to have all the funds needed to support all the winners of our scholarship and contest programs.

Reminders:

- *Winners will be drawn during the final session of the Auxiliary Department Convention in June.*
- *First prize - \$500, Second prize \$300, Third prize \$200*
- *Department of Colorado Treasurer mails check to the winner.*

Stephanee Trujillo
Department of Colorado Games and Raffle Chairman
4012 W. 30th St.
Greeley, CO
stephanee.trujillo@gmail.com
970-396-4197

HOSPITAL

Greetings brothers and sisters! President Nadia has asked me to be your hospital chairman for this upcoming year and I am very excited for this wonderful opportunity. I look forward to working with all of you to help take care of and bring some cheer to those in our communities who need it most.

Following are the main things that National would like us to work on this year -

Volunteer Recruitment, Recognition and Support

We will talk a lot about this over the coming year. The main thing to keep in mind is that anyone can volunteer – they don't have to be a member. Also, the fact that volunteering can be done in any facility. If you have medical facilities close to you that are non-VA, that is perfectly fine to volunteer there. It doesn't have to be a VA related facility. Another important aspect of volunteering, especially with new volunteers, is to make sure they have support and the information they need so that they remain enthusiastic about volunteering.

Valentine's for Veterans

This involves sending cards, having parties or really any kind of recognition events for veterans on Valentine's Day.

Women Veterans Health Care

There are many resources out there for women veterans. They have help available that is specifically tailored to them and their needs, but many may not know that. Our job this year will be to find those resources and also find ways to get this information out to those who need it most.

Honors Escort

I think the national website describes this best – “The Honors Escort Program is an opportunity to honor each veteran in a respectful and open manner and provides an opportunity for a veterans family and friends, other veterans and medical facility staff to participate in a display of high regard and reverence for the individual at the time of death”. I hope we will all take some time to look into an Honors Escort opportunity. It would truly be an honor to be able to participate in this.

I also wanted to review the awards that both auxiliaries and individual members may be eligible to win at the end of the year. These entry forms will all be due by March 31, 2025, and are available on the national website. I've also attached them here for your convenience. For members – most volunteers recruited in each program division, volunteer of the year to one person in the nation who recruits the most volunteers, and one Outstanding Hospital Volunteer in each program division.

For auxiliaries – Most creative ways to interact with and provide happiness to veteran patients. Citation and \$25 to one auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that has the most creative ideas.

Everyone put your thinking caps on, and let's come up with some innovative ways to serve our veterans! Please attend COAs, sign up for my newsletter, and also keep an eye on the national website at [Member Resources \(vfwauxiliary.org\)](http://MemberResources(vfwauxiliary.org)) that has lots of resources!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, brilliant ideas you want to talk over – anything at all I can help you with. I am really looking forward to working with all of you!

Brandi Dolan

Dept. of Colorado Hospital Chair

purpleseals@comcast.net

720-495-7773



Hospital

National Program Awards 2024-2025 Entry Form

Awards for Auxiliaries

1. Most creative ways to interact with and to provide happiness to veteran patients.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that creatives ways to interact with and to provide happiness to veteran patients.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

**VFW Auxiliaries must send this completed entry form to the
Department Hospital Chairman by March 31, 2025 for judging.**

VFW Auxiliary Name: _____

VFW Auxiliary No: _____ Department of: _____

Describe the creative ways that VFW Auxiliaries interacted with and provided happiness to veteran patients. (e.g., flyers, brochures, social media posts, newsletters, e-newsletters, handouts, photos, links to videos, etc.)

The Department Hospital Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to National Hospital Ambassador Paulette McCord by April 30, 2025 for judging.

Department Hospital Chairman: _____
Signature

Date: _____

Forms sent to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters will not be processed or forwarded.



VFW Auxiliary National Hospital Volunteer Recruiter Award No. 1 & No. 2 2024-2025

No. 1 "Hospital Volunteer Recruiter" Citation to one VFW Auxiliary member in each of the 10 Program Divisions who recruits the most Hospital volunteers (VA and non-VA facilities) from July 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025. Winners will be announced and citations presented at the 2025 National Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

No. 2 "Hospital Volunteer Recruiter of the Year" Plaque awarded to one VFW Auxiliary member in the nation who recruits the most Hospital volunteers (VA and non-VA facilities) from July 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025. Winner will be announced and plaque presented at the 2025 National Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

Hospital Volunteer Recruiter's Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Hospital Volunteer Recruiter's Membership No.: _____

Hospital Volunteer Recruiter's VFW Auxiliary No.: _____ Department of _____

Total number of volunteers recruited: _____ Program Division Number: _____

In case of a tie, please consider the below information.

Number of hours served from July 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025. _____

Total lifetime hours served as a hospital volunteer: _____

Number of VA and non-VA facilities where the Hospital Volunteer Recruiter volunteers. _____

Number of other Hospital Programs has the Hospital Volunteer Recruiter participated in. _____

What are the volunteer assignments? _____

Auxiliary Hospital Chairman signature: _____ Date: _____

*Auxiliary Hospital Chairman will forward the completed Hospital Volunteer Recruiter form with the most total volunteers recruited to the Department Hospital Chairman by **March 31, 2025**.*

Department Hospital Chairman signature: _____ Date: _____

*The Department Hospital Chairman will forward the completed Hospital Volunteer Recruiter form with the most total volunteers recruited to the National Hospital Ambassador Paulette McCord by **April 30, 2025**.*

Forms sent to National Headquarters will not be processed or forwarded.

National Hospital Ambassador Paulette McCord will select the Hospital Volunteer Recruiter with the most total volunteers recruited in each of the 10 Program Divisions and one Hospital Volunteer Recruiter in the nation with the most volunteers recruited to be recognized at the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Columbus, Ohio.



VFW Auxiliary National Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year Award No. 3 2024-2025

No. 3 "Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year" Citation to the Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year in each of the 10 Program Divisions. Winners will be announced and citation presented at the 2025 National Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

Eligibility:

- Volunteer may be any VFW Auxiliary member who serves as a VFW Auxiliary Hospital Volunteer in any medical facility in your Department (VAMC, military, community, children's hospital, nursing home, therapy center or clinic).
- Volunteer must serve from July 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025.
- Volunteer hours at VA and non-VA facilities may be combined for award purposes.
- VAVS Representatives and Deputies are also eligible to be considered as Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year.

Hospital Volunteer Recruiter's Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Hospital Volunteer Recruiter's Membership No.: _____

Hospital Volunteer Recruiter's VFW Auxiliary No.: _____ Department of _____

Total number of volunteers recruited: _____ Program Division Number: _____

Number of hours served from July 1, 2024, through March 31, 2025. _____

Total lifetime hours served as a hospital volunteer: _____

Number of VA and non-VA facilities where the Hospital Volunteer Recruiter volunteers. _____

Number of other Hospital Programs has the Hospital Volunteer Recruiter participated in. _____

What are the volunteer assignments? _____

Please attach a separate sheet with detailed information on why this VFW Auxiliary member is an Outstanding Hospital Volunteer.

Auxiliary Hospital Chairman signature: _____ Date: _____

*Auxiliary Hospital Chairman will forward the completed Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year form to the Department Hospital Chairman by **March 31, 2025**.*

Department Hospital Chairman signature: _____ Date: _____

*The Department Hospital Chairman will select **ONE** Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year and will forward the completed form to National Hospital Ambassador Paulette McCord by **April 30, 2025**.*

Forms sent to National Headquarters will not be processed or forwarded.

National Hospital Ambassador Paulette McCord will select ONE Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the year in each of the 10 Program Divisions to be recognized at the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

Legislative Program

Thank you, President Nadia, for allowing me to serve as your Legislative Program Chair for the 2024-2025 year. I was able to visit in person with our Senators and Representatives in Washington, DC along with the Colorado VFW and Auxiliary teams last year, and I realized how important it was that our Legislators know how we feel about the issues that affect our Veterans and their families. We all must have some knowledge of proposed and on-going legislation that affects Veterans, and act to make sure that the legislation that is enacted serves them in a positive way. Here are some things that you can do to keep your members informed:

- Learn about the current VFW Legislative Priority Goals. This important information will give you an idea what the issues and areas of concern for Veterans are, and how the VFW is actively working to advocate for our Veteran community. Please go to: www.vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service. A copy of this information is also available in MALTA Member Resources. Focus on just a couple of issues that matter to you and your community, and let your members know that they need to get behind these issues.
- Sign up for Action Corps Weekly on the VFW National website and get your membership to do the same. Respond to VFW Action Alerts. When you sign up, you will automatically be subscribed to the Weekly Newsletter which will keep you updated on the issues and events that you need to know about. Anyone can be part of this effort – encourage friends, teachers, community members, coaches, and others to sign up also – they can help too!
- Try to keep informed of current events, both on the local and national levels – most especially those events that concern Veterans and families in your area. Then share the word with your Auxiliary teammates. Let me know if you think what you have found would concern the Auxiliary on a statewide level. Attend school board and other community events, VOTE, send letters to your legislators. Above all, document what you are doing and report your efforts to us so that we can highlight it!
- There is also a most excellent resource on the VFW National website entitled Veterans Vote. It covers so many aspects of what we can all do to make sure that our veteran's voices are heard. It really is very good. Please pass this out at your Auxiliary meetings and spend some time discussing it and forming a plan of what your Auxiliary will do to make your efforts a reality. I have attached a copy of this for your reference.

I am really looking forward to advocating for Veterans and for you this year.

Phil Reinpold
Legislative Program Chair 2024-2025

preinpold@q.com
(719) 252-5667

Get Involved in the Election



It's your right ... It's your responsibility. VFW members truly know what words like citizenship and patriotism mean and the obligations that come with them.

There is no group of citizens that has a more vested right to vote than our nation's veterans. We must continue to play a role as patriotic citizens and get involved in the elections!

We Must Elect a

Pro-Veteran Government



Veterans and military quality of life and national security issues must be a priority of Congress and the Administration. The only way to ensure this is to vote for those candidates who believe in our issues.

With continued talks about deficit reduction, budgets and cuts in spending programs that affect veterans, the military, and their families, it is doubly important that we support candidates who understand and support VFW Priority Goals.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

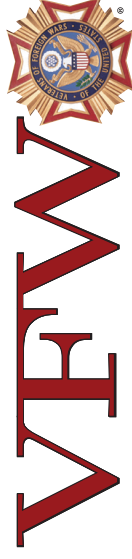
NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

www.vfw.org

Veterans of Foreign Wars
200 Maryland Ave, NE
Washington, DC 20002
(202) 543-2239
Email: vfwac@vfw.org

VETERANS VOTE

Get Involved in the Election Process



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.



As a citizen and VFW advocate, you should be registered to vote! Contact your local board of elections or visit www.eac.gov for more information and voter assistance.

Uniformed Services members and their families can find more information about absentee voter registration at the Federal Voting Assistance Program website at www.fvap.gov.

Encourage Others to

Register

Plan a voter registration drive well in advance of any state registration deadlines. To ensure a good turnout:

- Find a central location such as a library, a grocery store, a public transportation station, etc.
- Make sure you receive enough applications from your board of elections.
- Display banners or signs to advertise and attract attention to your booth.

Find Ways to Get

Involved

If candidates cannot make it to your Post, ask veteran-related questions at other public forums. See that our legislative priorities are on their agendas. If you know the moderator or someone on the panel, urge them to bring up veterans issues, too.

Although VFW members cannot endorse candidates on behalf of the VFW, there is nothing preventing you from working on behalf of your favorite candidate.

Campaigns are always looking for volunteers, and offering a hand can be a great way to help candidates in their election bids.

See if the candidate has a veterans council or advisory panel, and provide any input. Every effort helps.

Stay

Informed

Subscribe to the Action Corps Weekly to stay informed on issues facing our veterans, our military and their families that your federal legislators should be tracking and addressing. To sign up, visit www.vfw.org/ActionCorps.

Arm yourself with the VFW's latest talking points and the VFW Priority Goals brochure, available to download at www.vfw.org/LegislativePriorities.

Host a

Town Hall Meeting

or Candidates Forum

Candidates and campaigns are always looking for places to host events and speak to audiences. Here are some tips for hosting an event:

- Send a letter or email of invitation to each candidate — set a date and a location, such as the closest VFW Post, and follow up with a phone call.
- Promote the event to community groups, veterans groups and the public. Use social media and your local media to publicize it.
- Select a moderator who is comfortable speaking in front of an audience and who can keep the program on topic.
- Prepare questions in advance.

Hello Sisters and Brothers,

I am so pleased to be your Membership Chairman for 2024-2025. Thank you, President Nadia for appointing me for your year. We will be working hard this year to be sure that we can have our Auxiliaries at 100%. It will be hard work, but knowing how well we all did this past year, I have no doubt that we can accomplish this goal.

The National Ambassador is including a QR code in our Membership papers. I will have these for you at our first Council of Administration in August. This QR code will have things like:

Fact Sheets

Membership Applications

Auxiliary Locator

What we do as an Auxiliary and anything else we might need in our "Recruiting Tool"

We are the "Branches" of the Auxiliary and new members are our "Leaf's". Membership this year will involve changing everything about how we approach people. We can reach them in person, phone and even email to follow up with someone who you may have spoken to about joining our Great Organization, but the QR Code is something that the new member can read and find out "what we do", and YES no more paper to give them.

We need to Branch out to our young people (Leaf's) who are family, friends or persons to help our organization in membership. Here is what we can do with Family.

Column A =Family you KNOW will qualify

For as many as possible in Column A, commit to gifting a membership to them for their birthday or to celebrate a holiday or any special date.

Column B= Family who MAY qualify

This is your opportunity to reach out and reconnect with family who MAY qualify for membership, but you are unsure.

Can you imagine how this would help your Auxiliary to reach that 100% goal with each of you recruiting ONE family member.

I know that this year will be another great year for Colorado. You, the Auxiliary and members are the **ROCK** of Colorado. You work hard, yet you have fun with Membership Drive's.

Attached are drafts of Membership and after National Convention, I will have the original with the QR Code also.

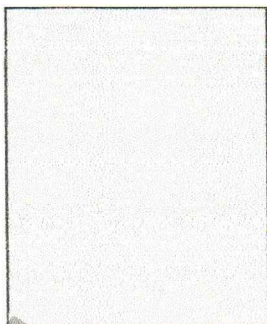
Thank you for all you do and continue to do for our Veterans and Families

Lucille Chavez

Dept. of Colorado

Membership Chairman 2024-2025

MEMBERSHIP AMBASSADOR



LINDA ROLOFF

505 Westfield Drive
Fairfield, AL 35064-1555
205-637-0612
Roloff3@outlook.com

CONFERENCE COACHES



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1388 Park Avenue East
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EASTERN STATES

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SOUTHERN STATES

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bethvwaux@gmail.com



WESTERN STATES

Kathy Smith
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Orangevale, CA 95662-4202
916-989-9398
cKat4re@sbcglobal.net

Keep Your "Why" Close By

It has been said that in order to know where you are going, you must know where you've been. Pretty simple concept, right?

When thinking about Membership, it's helpful to revisit WHO we are. You will never get someone to join you until you know who you are and what you stand for.

From Our Roots "Prepare Your Ask"

How many of us have read the Congressional Charter issued to the Veterans of Foreign Wars? It is a good reminder of WHO WE ARE!

The purposes include :

- To preserve and strengthen camaraderie among its members
- To assist worthy comrades
- To perpetuate the memory and history of our dead, and to assist their surviving spouses and orphans
- To maintain true alliance to the government of the United States, and fidelity to its Constitution and laws
- To foster true patriotism
- To maintain and extend the institutions of American Freedom, and
- Preserve and defend the United States from all enemies.

Those are amazing reminders of the mission IF we adhere to that charter. Our VFW Auxiliary Charter closely mirrors that of the VFW, and we are coming off the longest war in American history, so why are we not bursting at the seams with members?

To Our Branches

It's time to get real...now that we've reacquainted ourselves with our roots, we need to focus on reaching skyward with our branches! For us, that means figuring out the disconnect with the current generation of war veterans and their families...a.k.a. our potential members. As close as I can estimate, that little spark of magic is going to be in meeting them WHERE THEY ARE.

Where the elusive THEY are is online: on their phones and on social media. This generation literally makes life decisions (e.g. choosing their potential life partners... (think I'm cute; swipe right") in 1.4 seconds! Be where they are and do things like they do. If we give you some of the tools, do you think you can do it? YOU CAN!

What We Must Do

Membership this year will involve changing everything about how we approach people. The veterans/families we are trying to attract will do just about anything to escape a face-to-face conversation with somebody they don't really know or have just met. But if you can "slide into their DMs" (kidding, but good imagery), by getting onto their phone and making it easy for them. When THEY feel like looking at it, YOU'VE GOT 'EM!

Something for Everyone "Get Your Ask In Gear"

Using our tree metaphor, we need to step into the gap between the branches.

Make a list with two Columns:

Column A = Family you KNOW will qualify
For as many as possible in column A, commit to gifting a membership to them for their birthday or to celebrate a holiday.

Column B = Family who MAY qualify
This is your opportunity to reach out and reconnect with family who MAY qualify for membership, but you're unsure.

Can you even imagine? If every one of us did this method with ONE family member...We'd DOUBLE our Membership overnight! YOU are the key to success!

At the Speed of Light "Don't Be Dead On Your Ask"

Ready to take this thing to the next level? Our Membership Team (the National Conference Coaches, National staff and myself) are providing a "new" electronic pathway to recruiting and membership.

We have created a QR code (see below) which is a link to access information that you can provide to potential members. (No more hard copies of stuff that folks can just toss as soon as they are out of sight.) This will happen phone to phone...a method that is familiar to and preferred by a tech savvy generation. The entire interaction can be quick and painless; AND it shows us to be modern and adaptable.

Behind this QR code will be things like the Fact Sheet, Membership Application, What We Do, Auxiliary Locator and anything else we might need in our "Recruiting Tool Kit".

To use military terms, we are in a target rich environment; so why aren't we hitting anything? If we embrace new techniques, we WILL be able to turn the membership tide and hopefully turn it into a tidal wave!

Extending Service to Our Veterans What You Can Expect From Us

This might seem a bit unusual right here, but it's important that you know how much we appreciate every single member who recruits another person to join us in our mission to serve veterans and their families. That's why you should know what you can expect from us to support you in your efforts. The Conference Coaches and I are committed to open communication with the Department Membership Chairperson(s), Department Presidents and each other. We will employ Zoom meetings to meet electronically face-to-face for the purpose of encouragement, skills and team building and coaching.

We are here for our veterans and their families, right? YOUR Membership Team is here for you and that's a promise!

Our Family Tree

Like a mighty Redwood, our goal is to be "Sempre-Virens" Always Living. A truly achievable goal if we model our organization after this indomitable giant. We MUST root ourselves firmly in our history, traditions and legacy of service. We MUST branch out and include EVERY one of our qualifying family members in our mission. And we MUST provide our new branches and young leaves with all of the necessary support to thrive indefinitely like the mighty Redwood. We are constantly reaching skyward. So don't "leaf" any qualifying member behind.





MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

Invite New Members • Include Current Members • Invest in the Future of the Organization

The VFW Auxiliary started with a small group of women who wanted to serve veterans; it has grown exponentially and now includes both males and females as members. There is only one way to add members: ask someone to join. And once they join, ask them to participate.

Ask Someone to Join

There are numerous places and times to ask someone if they want to join the VFW Auxiliary. Your approach will look different depending on who your audience is.

In all cases, the potential member should have some knowledge of what the VFW Auxiliary is and what we do before they ever receive an application.

Important tools:

- Fact Sheet, available for free from National Headquarters.
- Business card with contact information. (Order yours from the VFW Store, vfwstore.org.)
- MALTA Member Resources.
- QR Code - See Page 38.

Follow Up!

Most likely, the first time you talk to someone new about the organization, that person may not be ready to commit. It's important to ask for their contact information and then follow up within a week.

Ask Them to Participate

The key to keeping members is getting them involved. Call or email a new member within a week with the next meeting date and time, or the next possible event or project. Offer to pick them up, or invite them to get coffee before or after a meeting.

Put a team of members in charge of contacting new members or members who haven't been to a meeting recently. The team should be friendly and knowledgeable about the Auxiliary.

Ways to Encourage Participation

- Monthly sign-up sheet for regular events.
- Emails and phone calls for special events.
- Public recognition of current volunteers. (Consider posters at your VFW Post Home, if permitted, that spotlight member involvement.)
- Be specific about what they will be doing, including the time commitment.
- Find out how that person best communicates, whether by phone, email, Facebook or texting.
- Have another member stay with them for the entire length of the activity or event.
- If they say "no" to the first invitation, be sure to ask again!
- Plan family-friendly events! Members with children in the home want opportunities to do things with their family.

Have a Plan

Every Department and Auxiliary should have a Membership Plan. This plan should include:

- Contacting current members.
- Outreach to former members.
- Recruiting events for new members.
- Picking a mentor for a new member.
- Before a membership year begins, set your calendar for these events:
 - Make it as easy as possible for members to renew their dues. They can renew online in MALTA!
 - Plan recruiting events in your community each year. This can be done by just the Auxiliary or in conjunction with your VFW Post.

MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM AWARDS

MEMBERSHIP AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES, DEPARTMENTS AND CONFERENCES WILL BE BASED ON THE PAID TOTAL LISTED ON THE CMR-PAID, CANCELED & DECEASED REPORT IN MALTA.

Awards for Members

1. Recruiter pin to each VFW and VFW Auxiliary member who recruits five (5) new and/or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary from July 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025. Department Treasurer must enter membership in MALTA with credit given to the recruiter by June 10, 2025. Recruiter pin will be mailed directly to the member from National Headquarters.
2. National Membership Achievement Award to each VFW and VFW Auxiliary member who recruits 20 new and/or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary from July 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025. Department Treasurer must enter membership in MALTA with credit given to the recruiter by June 10, 2025. VFW Auxiliary Treasurers on all levels are not eligible for this award. Winners will be announced and awards presented at the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Columbus, Ohio. If winner is not in attendance, award to be mailed directly to winner from National Headquarters after National Convention.
3. Top Recruiter award to the one recruiter in each of the 4 conferences who recruited the most new and/or rejoined members in their conference. VFW Recruiters and VFW Auxiliary Treasurers on all levels are not eligible for this award. Winners will be announced and awards presented at the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Columbus, Ohio. If winner is not in attendance, award to be mailed directly to winner from National Headquarters after National Convention.
4. VFW Auxiliary Recruiter Drawing for each VFW Auxiliary National Membership Achievement Award winner. Winners will be entered into a drawing to receive one \$500 Visa gift card. VFW Recruiters and VFW Auxiliary Treasurers on all levels are not eligible for this award. Winner will be announced and award presented at the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Columbus, Ohio. If winner is not in attendance, award to be mailed directly to winner from National Headquarters after National Convention.

Recruiter Award Forms are no longer needed for VFW Auxiliary members. Reports are compiled by VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters from information entered in MALTA.

VFW members who recruit new and/or rejoined VFW Auxiliary members will need to fill out the required VFW members only form that is available in MALTA Member Resources. Completed form must be received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters and Department Treasurer must enter membership in MALTA by June 10, 2025.

Awards for Auxiliaries

1. \$50 to each Auxiliary that reaches 100% Plus in Membership by June 30, 2025*.
2. VFW Auxiliary Drawing. Each VFW Auxiliary that reaches 101% Plus by June 30, 2025* will be entered into a one-time drawing to receive \$500.

Awards for Department Chairmen

1. \$25 VFW Store gift certificate to one Department Membership Chairman in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most outstanding training and promotion of the Membership Program.
2. The Outstanding Performance Award and Second-Place Outstanding Performance Award will be awarded in each of the 10 Program Divisions based on the criteria listed on Page 5 and for the promotion of the Program goals listed at the top of Page 39.

Winners will be announced and awards presented at the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

Awards for Departments

1. Bronze Department Award #1: \$200 to each Department that reaches 95% Plus in Membership by November 30, 2024*.
2. Silver Department Award #2: \$250 to each Department that reaches 98% Plus in Membership by March 31, 2025*.
3. Gold Department Award #3: \$300 to each Department that reaches 100% Plus in Membership by June 30, 2025*.
4. Platinum Department Award #4: \$400 to each Department that reaches 101% Plus in Membership by June 30, 2025*.

Departments that receive the Platinum Department Award #4: \$400 ACH will still receive Gold Department Award #3: \$300 for a combined total of \$700.

5. Conference vs. Conference

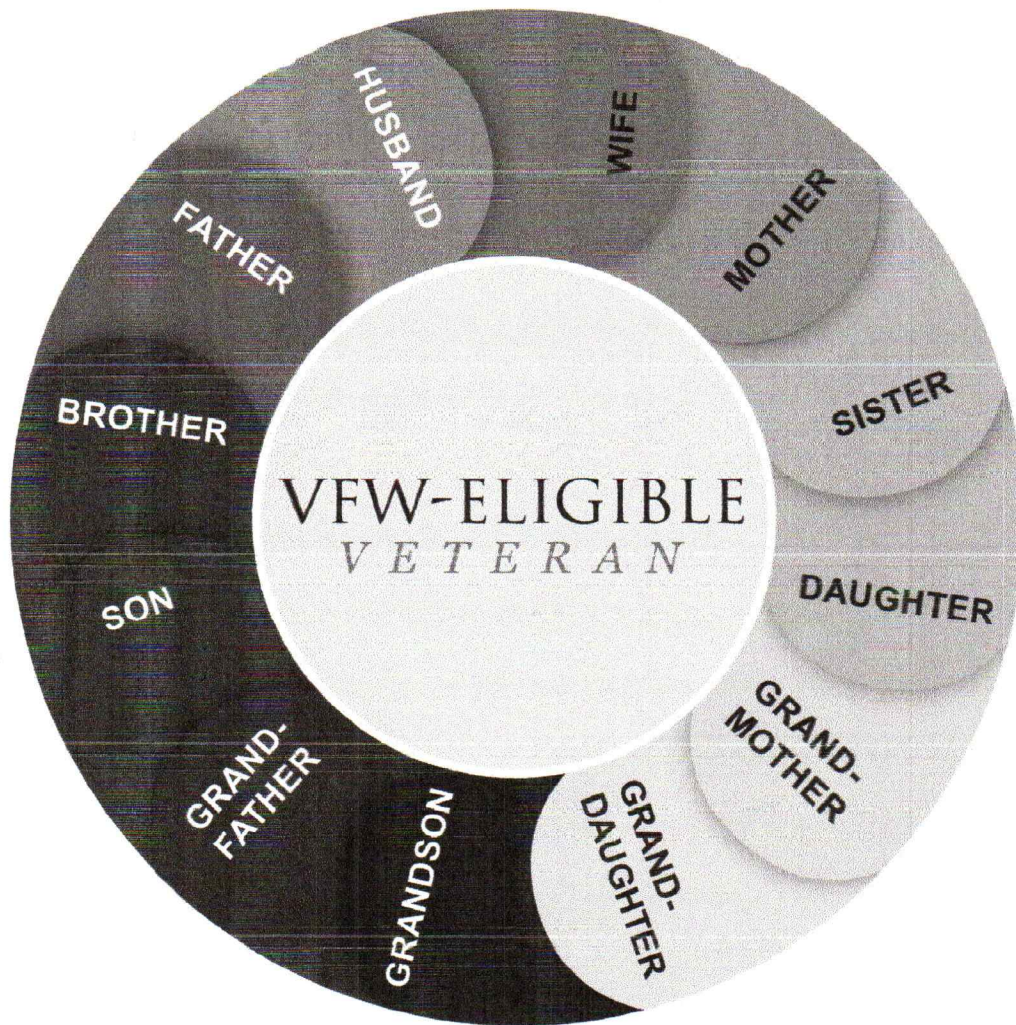
- a. \$50 to each Department within the Conference with the highest total percentage by January 31, 2025*.
- b. \$50 to each Department within the Conference with the highest total percentage by June 30, 2025*.

Award for Conference Coaches

1. Keepsake to each of the four (4) Conference Coaches for their hard work and dedication in this Program.

**Based on the June 30, 2024 year end membership numbers.*

VFW AUXILIARY ELIGIBILITY WHEEL



**Step- and adopted parents, children, siblings (and half-siblings), grandparents and grandchildren are considered the same as biological parents, children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren and may join the VFW Auxiliary under their VFW-eligible veteran.*

VFW AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP / MEMBER TRANSFER APPLICATION

An incomplete application could delay your membership start date.

Applicant completes sections A, B, C or D and F. Auxiliaries/Departments complete section E.

A Recruited/Recommended by: _____ Recruiter Member ID _____
 Auxiliary No. _____ City _____ State _____ Member ID (if already a member) _____
 Annual Membership Rejoin
 Life Membership Transfer
 Member at Large in Department of _____ Member at Large - VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
(If not a transfer, skip to B.)
 LIFE MEMBER TRANSFER Previous Auxiliary _____
 ANNUAL TRANSFER Previous Auxiliary _____ Paying Nonpaying
 ANNUAL TRANSFER CONVERTING TO LIFE (Fill out Life Membership information below.) Previous Auxiliary _____

B **THESE FIELDS REQUIRED**
 Name _____ Date of Birth _____
 Address _____ Female Male
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____ Email _____

C **POST-AFFILIATED** (*Must be a current member of the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.)
 Relationship _____ to Eligible Veteran* _____ VFW Membership ID _____

D **NON-AFFILIATED** (*Veteran is not a current member of the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.)
 Relationship _____ to Eligible Veteran* _____ VFW Post (if applicable) _____
 Name of campaign ribbons or medals: _____
 Dates of Service: _____ to _____ Location: _____

E Investigating Committee Signatures
 1 2 3
 Per Section 102 of the National Bylaws. Rejected Accepted Meeting Date _____ Obligated Date _____

F OBLIGATION *In the presence of Almighty God and the members of this organization here assembled, I do of my own free will and accord, solemnly promise that I will never wrong or defraud this organization nor a member thereof nor permit either to be wronged if in my power to prevent it. I will never propose for membership any person not eligible, according to our Bylaws. I further state that I believe in God. I will be faithful to the United States of America, obedient to the laws and loyal to the Flag. Should my membership with this organization cease in any way, I will consider this obligation as binding outside of the organization as though I had remained a member. I do so promise. I attest that I am at least 16 years of age. I pledge to comply with the National Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary. I attest I am not eligible for membership in the VFW. I further attest that the above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, including my stated relationship to the Veteran.*
 Signature _____ Date _____
(Must be signed by all members.)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP ONLY Check here if this is a gift.
 Credit cards may **NOT** be used for initial payment of Annual Dues.
 Cash Check Visa MasterCard Discover AMEX _____ Life Membership Fee
 Name on credit card _____
 Billing address for card _____
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
 Credit Card No. _____ CVV Code _____
 Exp. Date _____ Date _____ Signature

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES
Life Membership fees are not refundable.
 Attained age at 12/31 of year applying for Life Membership.

Through 20	\$253
21-25	\$242
26-30	\$230
31-35	\$219
36-40	\$213
41-45	\$201
46-50	\$196
51-55	\$184
56-60	\$173
61-65	\$161
66-70	\$150
71-75	\$132
76-80	\$109
81-85	\$86
86-90	\$69
91 and over	\$58

By signing this, I agree to the stated charges for a Life Membership fee.

Revised February 2024

I would like to thank Madame Department President Nadia for appointing me chairman of her Special Project. What a beautiful Veteran pin she has designed to promote the *White Ribbon Project*. This program brings more awareness and prevention to the problems facing today's society involving sexual harassment, sexual assault and domestic violence. This program also encourages people to sign a pledge, hoping to lower incident numbers of those effected by these preventable and sometime violent behaviors. Her Special Project will be shared in a joint effort between President Nadia and her counterpart, State Commander Carol Thomas. The monies raised will be going to the "*Equine-imity*" Program of the *White Ribbon Project*. The "*Equine-imity*" Program is a project in which those who receive services for any of the above referenced and in need of help, would be able to participate in a program that isn't the standard approach of therapy. Individuals who participate in the "*Equine-imity*" project would participate in sessions that would span over approximately six weeks, assisting them to heal through connecting with the animals at *Horse Partners*. Currently, the project is geared more towards Veterans and Veteran caregivers, but the Intimate Partner Violence Assistant Program(IPVAP) has already been looking at creating a model of this for the survivors of Intimate Partner Violence(IPV), Domestic Violence and Sexual Abuse. The Rocky Mountain Regional VA would be the second VA facility to incorporate the program. San Diego VA was the first to implement this program for IPTV survivors. President Nadia's Veteran pin that will be used to raise money for the "*Equine-imity*" Program is a white ribbon outlined in gold. The VFW Auxiliary logo is centered in the middle of the ribbon. Below the logo are two feathers shaded in a descending order of colors beginning with a blue, teal, white, beige and ending with a caramel shade of brown on the tip of the feather. The feathers also contain gold highlights which help the outline of the feathers stand out.

My goal is that all Auxiliaries would consider purchasing at least 10 Veteran pins. This would assist in raising more money for President Nadia's Special Project.

So come on Colorado, let's get busy creating new memories and working together for "All Veterans, All Voices".

Hugs

Patsy Gilmore

Patsy Gilmore
Special Project Chairman



2024 - 2025 Veteran's Pins Order Form

Department of Colorado Auxiliary President's Special Project



Post or Auxiliary Name & Number _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Quantity _____ Pins X \$3.00 each = \$ _____ Amount Enclosed

Ordered By _____ Phone _____

Please pay by check or money order (do NOT send cash) made out to:

Department of Colorado VFW Auxiliary

Mail your order to:

Patsy Gilmore
1719 Ascot Rd.
Colorado Springs, CO 80906

Greetings Auxiliary Members,

I would like to thank Department President Nadia Flores for appointing me as the Scholarship Chair for the 2024-2025 program year. I look forward to working with each one of you throughout this year! My number one goal for this year is to help auxiliaries to "Get the Word Out!" about our amazing scholarship opportunities. We have many auxiliaries out there doing amazing things and want to ensure you capture what you are doing, so please remember to report all activities for your auxiliary.

National Scholarship Ambassador, Dina Hudson, will be focusing on the following areas for the Scholarships Program: student participation, recipient recognition, community awareness, and increasing the Escrow Funds available for the Patriotic and 3-Dimensional Art Contests. These four areas will be included for each auxiliary, in my year-end report to National. Below is a list of the scholarship opportunities that we need your help in promoting for this program year.

Continuing Education Scholarship Contest: Open to any Auxiliary member (who has been a member for at least one year), their spouse, son, or daughter with a financial need. Entrant must be at least 21 years old.

Deadline: Due to National Headquarters by February 15, 2025:

Program Awards Administrator
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111

**2024-2025 Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contest: Open to all students in 9th-12th grade.
Theme: "Is America Today, Our Forefathers' Vision?"**

**2024-2025 Patriot's Pen Essay Contest: Open to all students in 6th-8th grade.
Theme: "My Voice in America's Democracy"**

Deadlines for VOD and Patriot's Pen:

Entries to VFW Post – Midnight, October 31, 2024

Post Judging Complete-November 15, 2024

Department Judging Complete-January 10, 2025

Department Winner to VFW National Headquarters-January 15, 2025

Young American Creative Patriotic Art (Two-Dimensional) Contest: Open to all students in 9th-12th grade.

3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest: Open to all students in 9th-12th grade.

Deadlines for the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest:

Entries to Local Auxiliary – March 31, 2025

VFW Auxiliary Department-April 15, 2025 (District Judging is optional)

VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters-May 5, 2025

Applications and brochures with more information/ requirements for each contest are available at vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships, in MALTA Membership Resources, or you may contact me directly for more information.

This year, the Scholarship Program Awards will be focusing on the most outstanding activity/event that educates the community about scholarship opportunities that are available through the VFW Auxiliary. The following Scholarship Program Awards are available for participating auxiliaries:

A citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity/event that educates their community about scholarship opportunities. A citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences that hosts the most outstanding activity/event educating their community about scholarship opportunities. Entry forms and more information for these auxiliary awards are available in MALTA Membership Resources.

I look forward to working with you in promoting these scholarship opportunities! Remember, the best way to ensure the continuing growth and support of our organization is by continuing to support and encourage our younger generations through these scholarship opportunities.

Sincerely,

Crystal Proffitt
VFW Dept. of Colorado Auxiliary
2024-2025 Scholarship Chair

Treasurers and Trustees

As they say in the movies "I'm back" and I am very glad to be back as your Department Treasurer. Whether you are new to this job or are a returning Treasurer I would like you to know I am here to help you learn and to answer any questions you may have.

Colorado current year forms that you will need are here and also listed under Forms and Documents on our Colorado website at vfwco.org. Please check this website for all the latest information and forms. I would suggest that you take time to look over the Auxiliary and District achievement report forms. Several of the items required are your duties. Also included is a timeline to help you to know what the deadlines are for your position. Don't forget that through MALTA there are resources that includes everything National headquarters has to help you. Find it all at vfwauxiliary.org when you sign into MALTA.

Processing membership is a big part of your duties. Please be thorough in checking over the applications you receive so that there are no delays in processing our new members because something is missing or not legible. Membership should be processed as quickly as possible after receiving it. If you are not able to do MALTA processing, please contact me and I will be glad to help.

Everyone should be aware of the dues increase on both the National and Department level beginning July 1, 2024. The portion of the annual dues that needs to be remitted either to National through MALTA or sent to me is now \$20.00. It will be very important for you to make sure your members are aware of the increase and that your Auxiliary dues are high enough that your Auxiliary has money in their treasury. All treasurers should verify the amount of your auxiliaries' dues in MALTA. If it has been changed by vote of your auxiliary, please be sure MALTA matches. If your members pay through MALTA, it will only collect the amount shown there.

Trustees, it is your responsibility to make sure the audits are done in a timely way. While doing the audit please be sure to see that your auxiliary is bonded for enough money and that the 990N has been completed when due.

I look forward to working with all of you and want to thank each of you for taking this position. Best wishes for a successful year.

Cindy Anderson
Dept Treasurer
codept.treasurer@gmail.com
303-52-5626

Timeline for Treasurers

July

Check MALTA to be sure it shows the correct dues amount for your Auxiliary.

Provide books for audit. (April-June)

Purchase bond.

New Treasurers-file form 8822B with the IRS to register the name and address of the current responsible party (Treasurer) Form can be found on MALTA or IRS websites.

New Treasurers-Go to bank and have the signature cards changed on any accounts.

Two check signers are still required and must be current Treasurer and President.

August-September

Deadline for bond purchase August 31.

Send the first dues notice to annual members. (You can have Dept do this for you)

Have Auxiliary review standing rules for expenses to be paid though the year.

Good time to purchase poppies for Auxiliary.

Start processing dues.

Send a copy of the June 30 audit and membership total to Post Commander by Sept 1

Attend Parade of Programs Treasurer Training

October

Provide the books for audit. (July – Sept)

Good time to pay per capita expenses (these are based on the number of members from last year on June 30) District dues.

Health and Happiness

Dept. Hospital

November- December

Send second dues notice.

Good time to make any donations to VA Hospitals or Community Living Centers

Deadline to file 990 return with IRS November 15. Send a copy for the confirmation to the Department Treasurer

Be sure all officers and chairman have annual dues paid by December 31.

Check to see that all donations have been reported on the Program Report form.

January

Provide books for audit. (Oct – Dec)

Make any other donations approved by membership.

February- March

Contact any annual members whose dues are unpaid.

Cutoff for Program Reporting March 31

April

Provide books for audit. (Jan-March)

Have current membership total for the President when delegates are elected.

May-June

Send Presidents love gift.

Sell Dept. raffle tickets.

Audit Report 2024 - 2025

Distribution of Receipts, Disbursements and Cash Balance by Fund

Audits are to be completed by: **1st Qtr-April 30** (Jan 1 – March 31), **2nd Qtr-July 31** (Apr 1 – June 30), **3rd Qtr-October 31**(July 1 – Sept 30), **4th Qtr-January 31** (Oct 1 – Dec 31) Additional 30 days are allowed for audit to be accepted by auxiliary and sent to the Department Treasurer.

(If you have a Bingo/Raffle Account, please file a separate audit for that account)

VFW AUXILIARY TO POST _____ DISTRICT _____

FOR THE PERIOD _____ TO _____

****Treasurer must have all bank statements, cancelled checks, savings account books, and ledger books available to audit committee****

FUND	CASH BALANCE LAST REPORT	RECEIPTS (+)	DISBURSEMENTS (-)	CASH BALANCE THIS REPORT (=)
1. Auxiliary General Fund	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
2. Dept & Natl Dues	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
3. Auxiliary Relief Fund	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
4. _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
5. _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
6. _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
7. _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
8. TOTAL (Lines 1 thru 7)	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____ *
9. Savings Account or CD	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____	\$ _____
TOTAL BALANCE – All Funds including Savings Account (Line 8 + Line 9).....				\$ _____
Bank Balance as shown on Bank Statement.....				\$ _____
Plus, Deposits not shown on Bank Statement _____			Total Amount \$ _____	
Less Outstanding Checks _____			Total Amount \$ _____	
TOTAL ADJUSTED BANK BALANCE (This line MUST agree with Line 8)				\$ _____ *

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE BOOKS OF THE SECRETARY AND TREASURER HAVE BEEN AUDITED, FOUND CORRECT, AND ALL MONEYS PROPERLY ACCOUNTED FOR. THIS ALSO CERTIFIES THAT A BOND IS HELD ON THE AUXILIARY PRESIDENT AND AUXILIARY TREASURER WITH _____ IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ _____ THAT EXPIRES ON _____

DATE OF AUDIT _____

DATE 990 RETURN WAS ACCEPTED _____

DATE AUDIT ACCEPTED BY AUX VOTE _____

Trustee Signatures:

1 Copy for the Auxiliary Secretary

#1 _____

1 Copy for the Auxiliary Treasurer

#2 _____

1 Copy for Auxiliary #1 Trustee

MAIL OR EMAIL ORIGINAL TO:

Cindy Anderson, Dept. Treasurer
8281 Clay St. Unit A
Westminster, CO 80031
codept.treasurer@gmail.com

#3 _____

President's Signature _____

Donation Form

From: Auxiliary # _____

Send to: Cindy Anderson, VFW Auxiliary Dept. of CO
8281 Clay St. Unit A
Westminster, CO 80031

Date _____ Check # _____ Total Amt. _____

2024 – 2025
Dept. Hospital Donation
Suggested amount \$.75/member

- Hospital – VA Hospital and CLC Cheyenne
- Hospital - VA Hospital Denver
- Hospital – VA Hospital and CLC Grand Jct.
- Community Living Ctr. Fitzsimmons
- Community Living Ctr. Florence
- Community Living Ctr. Home Lake
- Community Living Ctr. Pueblo
- Community Living Ctr. Rifle
- Community Living Ctr. Walsenburg

Dept. President Special Project
The White Ribbon Project

Other _____

Make above checks payable to VFW Auxiliary Dept. of CO

OPTIONAL
Ralph Emerson/Jack Gulden Blood and Cancer Fund
VFW Colorado Foundation
Checks payable and Mail to VFW Dept. of Colorado
1400 Carr St. Lakewood, CO 80214

GIFTS
National Home Health and Happiness and any cancer donation
Can be paid through MALTA or make and mail checks to VFW Auxiliary
406 W 34th St 10th Floor Kansas City, MO 64111

VETERANS AND MILITARY SUPPORT
Includes: MAP, Unmet Needs, Natl Veterans Service
Make check and Mail to: VFW National 406 W 34th St 9th Floor
Kansas City MO 64111

Donation Form

From: Auxiliary # _____

Send to: Cindy Anderson, VFW Auxiliary Dept. of CO
8281 Clay St. Unit A
Westminster, CO 80031

Date _____ Check # _____ Total Amt. _____

2024 – 2025
Dept. Hospital Donation
Suggested amount \$.75/member

- Hospital – VA Hospital and CLC Cheyenne
- Hospital - VA Hospital Denver
- Hospital – VA Hospital and CLC Grand Jct.
- Community Living Ctr. Fitzsimmons
- Community Living Ctr. Florence
- Community Living Ctr. Home Lake
- Community Living Ctr. Pueblo
- Community Living Ctr. Rifle
- Community Living Ctr. Walsenburg

Dept. President Special Project
The White Ribbon Project

Other _____

Make above checks payable to VFW Auxiliary Dept. of CO

OPTIONAL
Ralph Emerson/Jack Gulden Blood and Cancer Fund
VFW Colorado Foundation
Checks payable and Mail to VFW Dept. of Colorado
1400 Carr St Lakewood, CO 80214

GIFTS
National Home Health and Happiness and any cancer donation
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406 W 34th St 10th Floor Kansas City, MO 64111

VETERANS AND MILITARY SUPPORT
Includes: MAP, Unmet Needs, Natl Veterans Service
Make check and Mail to: VFW National 406 W 34th St 9th Floor
Kansas City MO 64111

Greetings Dear Auxiliary Members,

I am so grateful to Department President Nadia for asking me to be your Veterans and Family Support Chairman this year. This is a passion that many of us share. There will be a lot of knowledge given at the COA's about what National is asking us to focus on in addition to all the great programs we already work hard for.

Our Veterans & Family Support Programs include:

National Veterans Service Suicide Prevention
Childcare for active-duty service members
Veterans and Military Support Programs

Please go onto the National Website vfwauxiliary.org and go to "What we do" then scroll to "Veteran and Family Support for information on each of the above programs.

We will be focusing a lot on Suicide Prevention and Mental Health. It is so very important we know the warning signs and what we can do to help our veterans in need. As we know from last year, there is the new number one in need can call **988** and **press 1**. The Veterans Crisis Line is **1-800-273-8255, press 1**. A text message can also be sent to **838255**. These services are confidential and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year.

Few are a couple of websites to look at to help with mental health. It is so much more common than people want to admit. VFW Mental Wellness Campaign VFW.org/assistance/mentalwellness. The Campaign to Change Direction, changedirection.org. I will provide more resources at our COA's.

As we are giving **All Veterans, All Voices**, let us remember to **Keep Moving Forward** and do all we can to help each one of our veterans, especially in their time of need. Colorado let's take a stand and change the stigma of mental health.

Please feel free to reach out to me if you have questions or if I can help point you to resources.

Christina (Tina) Lilly
2024-2025 Veterans and Family Support Chairman
cmlilly1975@gmail.com

Hello Auxiliary brothers and sisters,

My name is Rowena Martinez, and I am very honored that my daughter President Nadia Flores, asked me to serve as her Youth Activities Chair for 2024-2025.

This is an exciting year for me as I hope it will be for all Auxiliaries this year. Working with our youth is such an important key to our future. Helping them to understand more about the importance of our freedom and to be proud of our land we stand on. To see a child, stand up and place their hand over their heart as our Flag is coming by in a parade is moment they are beginning to learn and want to know more. When you place a buddy poppy in their hand, they want to know why and what does it mean. Teaching our youth how they one day can be a leader to continue all these important meanings to their children to come. Our young teenagers are also yet another key to our way of continuing to teach them as well getting them involved in activities gives them a good sense of being and helps them go after what matters to them, knowing what freedoms they have, being an American of the United States. As well as helping achieve scholarships just by being active in the community.

I am looking forward to working with all the Auxiliaries this year as we focus on this year's important key areas of this year's program:

- Youth reading to Veterans & Veterans reading to youth.
- Youth groups
- Illustrating America
- R.A.P. Cards (Random Act of Patriotism)

Youth reading to Veterans & Veterans reading to youth:

Reading is a big part of growing up and learning. Many students have nightly reading starting at a young age in school. Sometimes just talking to the students about patriotism, America and our country can be dull. But taking the students on a journey in a book might capture their attention more and open their minds up. I find that children like to listen to new things with a bit of excited in learning and tend to remember what they learned. So showing them in illustrated books is a great way.

Great way to access is on the MALTA member resources, under Youth Activities they have the Patriotism through Literacy list. It is even divided up by grade levels. Pick some books from there.

Visit your local library and see if they are in stock. I know that some libraries can search to see if they can get them as well. Or maybe local bookstores maybe able to do a donation as well.

Some local libraries hold a reading day to children, maybe see about getting on that list to set up a reading day with a Veteran would be a great opportunity to get the excited with children.

Visiting your local VA or nursing home, to see if they can set up a reading area for the children to read to veteran or the veterans to read to them.

When going out on Buddy Poppy drives, parades take a few extra moments when you hand a Poppy to a child give them a little story about what the Poppy means. This topic would be a great story as well to share in a classroom. So, I challenge each auxiliary to see how many classrooms you can visit throughout this school year, and I will personally give out to the top 3 auxiliaries a 50.00 gift card at the end of the year.

Youth Groups:

Working with youth groups is an excellent way of helping to educate and as well as helping the gain community service hours for those youth who continuing their education by going to college. Colleges love to see how these students being very productive in the community. And what a great way to get involved with our veterans. Reaching to some of the following youth groups:

- Boys and Girl Scouts
- Youth church groups
- Boys and Girls Club
- School Sponsored Groups (Key Club, Student Council, FBLA, etc.)
- JROTC

Getting them involved:

- Placing Flags on graves
- Helping with an event
- Inviting them to come help create cards for veterans for holidays.
- Celebrating a meal with veterans

Recognizing them for a job well done and their accomplishments. With Patriotic Youth Awards you can get on MALTA.

Illustrating America:

Open to any student in grades K-8 by March 31 deadline who is enrolled in a public, private, or parochial school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions: or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen. Foreign exchange students and students aged 15 or older are ineligible.

Entries will be judged on patriotic theme and technique. The contest consists of three grade division: K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. Please see the student brochure and entry form in MALTA Member Resources or on the VFW Auxiliary website for more details on requirements and contest rules.

Deadlines:

Entries received by:

Local Auxiliary – March 31

Department – April 15

National Headquarters – May 5

R.A.P Cards (Random Act of Patriotism)

Rewarding and praising children for doing a good job. Goes a very long way in children helping to boost their confidence that they can do anything they set out to do. When a child shows a Random act of Patriotism, recognize them with a card and explain to them why they are receiving it.

Children love receiving rewards as well, see what kind of reward program you can come up with in your auxiliary.

I encourage auxiliaries to participate in the Most outstanding activity and/or event of youth reading to veteran and or veterans reading to youth. Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to their Department Youth Activities Chairman by March 31, 2025, for judging.

Remember to always, report all activities, early or as soon as you completed related activities.

Please reach out with any questions or comments you may have. I am very excited to working with you in the coming year.

Getting excited about working with our youth and teach them all we know so they may become great leaders for the future. Share the knowledge and grow.

Rowena Martinez

Department of Colorado Youth Activates Chair

rowmtz84@gmail.com

719-580-2510

OUTSTANDING YOUNG VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be a U.S. Citizen
- Must be recommended by a Colorado VFW Auxiliary in the form of a letter of recommendation and be signed by the Auxiliary President and Secretary
- Must be between the ages of 12 – 15
- Volunteer service performed by youth between January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018
- Youth must be attending a school in Colorado

CRITERIA:

- Volunteer activities may include: volunteering in hospitals and nursing homes, aiding senior citizens, assisting in Buddy Poppy campaigns, providing services to Veterans, involvement in scouting, church or school programs and other activities which serve the community.

HOW TO APPLY:

- Send entry form and at least one letter of recommendation from each organization the youth volunteered for to the VFW Auxiliary Youth Activities Chairman. Letters should be on letterhead stationary and include the following information:
 - How well the youth performed the work they volunteered for
 - How the youth's volunteer work benefited others
 - How many hours the youth spent on each project
 - A description of the project the youth volunteered for
 - A "Why I am a Volunteer" **handwritten** essay, not to exceed 150 words, explaining how youth's volunteer efforts go above and beyond normal activities **written by youth** applying for award

DEADLINES:

- Youth must submit entries to the VFW Auxiliary by February 1, 2019
- VFW Auxiliary must submit all entries to the Department Youth Activities Chairman by February 15, 2019

AWARDS:

- Outstanding Young Volunteer of the Year will be awarded \$200.00 at the State Convention in June 2019

OUTSTANDING YOUNG VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR ENTRY FORM

YOUTH NAME: _____ **DATE OF BIRTH:** _____

COMPLETE ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ **E-MAIL:** _____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN NAME: _____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____

Briefly describe all youth volunteering activities and projects in the space below.

VFW Auxiliary name and number recommended by:

OUTSTANDING YOUTH GROUP OF THE YEAR AWARD

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- Must be recommended by a Colorado VFW Auxiliary in the form of a letter of recommendation and be signed by the Auxiliary President and Secretary
- Volunteer service performed by youth group between July 1, 2018 – April 30, 2019
- Members of youth group must be attending a school in Colorado
- Youth group must volunteer on at least three different projects, through three different organizations

CRITERIA:

- Volunteer activities may include: volunteering in hospitals and nursing homes, aiding senior citizens, assisting in Buddy Poppy campaigns, providing services to Veterans, involvement in scouting, church or school programs and other activities which serve the community.

HOW TO APPLY:

- Send entry form and at least one letter of recommendation from each organization the youth group volunteered for to the VFW Auxiliary Youth Activities Chairman. Letters should be on letterhead stationary and include the following information:
 - How well the youth group performed the work they volunteered for
 - How the youth group's volunteer work benefited others
 - How many hours the youth group spent on the project
 - A description of the project the youth group volunteered for

DEADLINES:

- Youth Groups must submit entries to the VFW Auxiliary by May 15, 2019
- VFW Auxiliary must submit all entries to the Department Youth Activities Chairman by May 31, 2019

AWARDS:

- Outstanding Youth Group of the Year will be awarded \$300.00 at the State Convention in June 2019

OUTSTANDING YOUTH GROUP OF THE YEAR ENTRY FORM

YOUTH NAME: _____ **DATE OF BIRTH:** _____

COMPLETE ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____ **E-MAIL:** _____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN NAME: _____

PARENT OR GUARDIAN SIGNATURE: _____

Briefly describe all youth volunteering activities and projects in the space below.

VFW Auxiliary name and number recommended by:

IMPORTANT DATES 2024-2025

2024

July 1	Articles for Colorado Veteran Due
July 4-5	Independence Day – Headquarters Closed
July 27-Aug 1	National Convention - Louisville
July 27	National Korean War Veterans Day
August 1	National President Celebration
August 3	Boom Days Parade – Leadville
August 7	Deadline for Auxiliary CAFÉ Event – Eaton Rapids MI
August 17	Western Welcome Grand Parade - Littleton
August 24	Parade of Programs – Annex Bldg - Cortez
August 24	MOC Scratch - Cortez 3:00 pm
August 25	Council of Administration – Annex Bldg – Cortez
August 31	MOCA Scratch – Post 5061 Denver - 10:00 am
August 31	Deadline to Purchase President and Treasurer Bonds
September	Military Suicide Awareness Month
September 2	Labor Day – Headquarters Closed
September 11	National Patriots Day
September 6-8	CAFÉ Event – National Home, Eaton Rapids MI
September 20	POW/MIA Recognition Day
September 22	Veteran Suicide Awareness Day
September 22	Gold Star Mothers and Family Day
September 27	VFW Auxiliary Established 1914
September 29	VFW established 1899
October 1	Articles for Colorado Veteran Due
October 5	Commander Homecoming – Post 1166 Buena Vista
October 12	MOCA Scratch – Post 3917 – 10:00 am
October 14	Columbus Day Observed
October 15	Colorado Springs Stand Down
October 19	MOC Scratch – Post 3981 Grand Junction 3:00 pm
October 16	Registration Deadline for Western Conference
October 19	Parade of Programs – Post 1247 -Grand Junction
October 20	Council of Administration – Post 1247 – Grand Junction
October 26	Make a Difference Day
October 31	Voice of Democracy/ Patriot Pen/mart/Maher Teacher Education Award Entries to Post
Oct 31 - Nov 3	Western Conference – Honolulu HI
November 1	Mid-Winter Conference Registration Deadline – Cancun
November 3	End Daylight Saving Time – set clocks back
November 5	Election Day
November 11	Veterans Day
November 15	Voice of Democracy/Patriots Pen/Smart Maher Teacher Post Entries Due to District
November 28-29	Thanksgiving Day – Headquarters Closed
November 30	Hospital VAVS Reps and Deputy Reviews Due
December 7	Founders Day
December 7	Pearl Harbor Day
December 15	Voice of Democracy Patriot Pen/Smart/Maher Teacher Education Award Entries to Department
December 24-26	Christmas Day – Headquarters closed
December 31	Auxiliary Dues Must Be Paid or Member Not in Good Standing

2025

January 1	Articles for Colorado Veteran Due
Dec 31 -Jan 1	New Year's Day – Headquarters Closed
January 15	Voice of Democracy/ Patriot Pen/Smart/Maher Teacher Education Award Entries to National
January 20	Martin Luther King Jr. Day
January 25	VOD Banquet – 3917 Security
February 1	Entries for Outstanding Youth Volunteer to Auxiliary
February 1-6	Mid-Winter Conference - Cancun
February 10-14	Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week
February 15	Continuing Education Scholarship Application Due to National
February 15	Entries for Outstanding Youth Volunteer to Dept Youth Chairman
February 17	Presidents Day – Headquarters Closed
Feb 28 - Mar 4	Parade of Winners – Voice of Democracy – Washington, D.C.
March 8	MOCA Scratch – Post 5061 Denver 10:00 am
March 13-16	Sr. Vice Presidents Conference – Kansas City, MO
March 9	Daylight Saving Time – set clocks ahead
March 15	MOC Scratch - 9644 Sheridan 3:00 pm
March 15	Parade of Programs – 9644 Sheridan
March 16	Council of Administration – 9644 Sheridan
March 29	National Vietnam War Veterans Day
March 31	Auxiliary Reporting Cut Off Date
March 31	Young American Creative Patriotic Art Entries Due to Auxiliary
March 31	3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Entries Due to Auxiliary
March 31	Red, White and Blue Entries Due to Auxiliary
March 31	Illustrating America Entries Due to Auxiliary
March 31	Outstanding Youth Group Entry to Auxiliary
April 1	Articles for Colorado Veteran Due
April 1-7	Winter Sports Clinic – Snowmass Village
April 5	Gold Star Spouse Day
April 13	Palm Sunday
April 20	Easter Sunday
April 20-26	National Volunteer Week
April 15	Auxiliary Program Reports Due to Department
April 15	Young American Creative Patriotic Art Entries Due to Department
April 15	3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Entries Due to Department
April 15	Red, White and Blue Entries Due to Department
April 15	Illustrating America Entries Due to Department
April 15	Outstanding Youth to Department Youth Chairman
April 15	Outstanding Youth Group to Department Youth Chairman
May 1-3	National President Official Visit
May 1	Department Chairmen Reports Due to Department President
May 3	Loyalty Day Parade – Post #5221 Calhan
May 5	Young American Creative Patriotic Art Entry to National
May 5	3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Entry Due to National
May 5	Red, White and Blue Entry Due to National
May 5	Illustrating America Entry Due to National
May 10	MOC/MOCA Grand Convention – Post 3917 Security
May 11	Mother's Day
May 15	Year End Reports and Awards to Department Secretary
May 15	Entries for Outstanding Youth Group to Auxiliary

May 15-19	Jr Vice Conference and National Home Visit
May 17	Armed Forces Day
May 26	Memorial Day Observed – Headquarters Closed
May 31	Entries for Outstanding Youth Group to Dept. Youth Chairman
June 6	D-Day Allied Landing 1944
June 12-14	Department Convention – TBD
June 14	Flag Day
June 15	Father’s Day
June 28	National Home 100th Birthday
July 1	Articles for Colorado Veteran Due
July 4	Independence Day – Headquarters Closed
Aug 9 -13	National Convention – Columbus OH



Department of Colorado
1400 Carr Street, Lakewood, CO 80214
303-421-1630

RALPH W. EMERSON/JACK GULDEN MEMORIAL
BLOOD/CANCER FUND

Member Name: _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Phone #: _____

Member of VFW Post Name & #: _____

VFW Membership #: _____

Member of VFW Auxiliary Post Name & #: _____

VFW Auxiliary Membership #: _____

(VFW Auxiliary Members Attach Copy of Current Annual/Life Membership Card)

OUT OF POCKET BLOOD/CANCER COST/EXPENSES \$ _____

Maximum of \$500.00, Must Attach Copy of Bills/Receipts.

MAIL COMPLETE APPLICATION AND ATTACHMENTS TO:

Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Colorado, 1400 Carr Street, Lakewood, CO 80214

Call: 303-421-1630 with any questions

X _____

Signature of Requestor

Date

DEPARTMENT OFFICE USE ONLY

Approved by: _____ Dept. of Colorado Date: _____

Approved by: _____ Chairman Date: _____

Amount Sent \$ _____ Date Sent: _____



NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

Colorado

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

Deceased Members
For the Colorado Veteran & Joint Memorial
Service May 1, 2024 thru April 30, 2025

VFW or Auxiliary Post #: _____

District #: _____

Dear VFW Comrades & VFW Auxiliary:

In order to have your deceased members listed in the Colorado Veteran for "TAPS", we are requesting you to submit the names of deceased members for the current year.

The New Year will start May 1, 2024. These names will be listed in the Joint Memorial book at State Convention.

Please send your deceased names on a regular basis (Monthly or as needed). This form does not automatically decrease members in the VFW or VFW Auxiliary National Data Bases.

Please submit this form by Fax: 303-421-1727, E-Mail: vfw@vfwco.org or mail to the address listed below. To ensure listing in the Memorial Book for Convention final listing must be submitted by May 20, 2025.

Thank you,
VFW Department of Colorado Headquarters
1400 Carr Street
Lakewood, CO 80214

Please print or type the name so that they are not misspelled.

Multiple horizontal lines for name entry.

Thank you for your
Support

