



WI VFW AUXILIARY

2024-25 GENERAL ORDERS

"HONORING VETERANS TOGETHER"



December/January 2024/25

MUST BE READ AT MEETING

Volume 3 - Issue 6

GENERAL Orders and Program Bulletins can be found on the Department Website at: www.vfwauxwi.org
Look under the news tab and click on General Orders.

ANY OFFICERS WHO HAVE NOT PAID THEIR DUES will be removed from office after December 31, 2024. We have just a handful of Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers that are on my list currently. In my opinion I feel officers should lead by example. This is not an example of good leadership. District Presidents will be getting a list of unpaid officers from me.

MEMBERSHIP – We are currently sitting at 94.13% in paid membership and 93.31 in actual membership. Keep up the good work and keep looking for new members. We continue to lead the Big Ten Conference.

The **MID-WINTER CONFERENCE** is February 14 and 15, 2025 Oshkosh Marriott Waterfront Hotel & Convention Center, 1 N Main Street, Oshkosh, WI 54901-4810 -- (855) 987-1317. Call Marriott to reserve a room. Room rate is \$125.00. Mention the VFW Room Block. More information will be found on the VFW Website as well as our own. Room block will only be available until January 12, 2025.

DID YOU KNOW – that according to the by-laws under Section 902 – Meeting Etiquette – Section D – States that NO Alcoholic beverages will be permitted during Auxiliary meetings. Having traveled around to quite a few auxiliaries I noticed that this is not being followed. I totally get that it may be your one night out and you want to relax. However, making decisions about your auxiliary while drinking may have some unintended consequences. We really need you to make good choices for your Auxiliary. Have a drink before or after the meeting when you can truly socialize with your fellow friends and members.

UPDATE – If you were unable to attend the fall Council of Administration Meeting in Portage part of what we went over was “Who Are You Going to Call?” We really need to try to follow the Chain of Command. Within the Auxiliary – its to your Auxiliary President, then the District President and then the Department President. Having said that I am always happy to try to help anyone out. Please feel free to reach out if you would like any type of training for your officers and we will be happy to help out. Remember we are in this together.

My Christmas Wish for everyone is that you find time to spend with your family and friends making memories and looking forward to a Happy New Year for 2025. Find inspiration and joy in the small things that matter most.

Cordially,
Cheryl L. Woodards
Department of Wisconsin President
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**“From our Roots to our Branches Extending
Service to our Veterans” as we are
“Honoring Veterans Together”**

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

by Kathie Lendosky, V & FS Chairperson
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Landline: 262-692-9661 (leave a message)
Cell: 414-588-9339 (Leave a message)



There are many organizations that support veterans and their families during the holidays, of which you can donate or offer your services:

Operation Homefront which provides emergency financial and other assistance to the families of service members and wounded warriors. **Operation Christmas Spirit** which is an annual project that supports military families and service members through morale-boosting events. **SSAFA, the Armed Forces charity** Provides welfare, health, and support services to serving personnel, veterans, and their families. Other resources for military families include: **Veterans Crisis Line:** Call or text the Crisis Line at 988 or chat live at veteranscrisisline.net which also help veterans who are lonely, lack of funds to support their family, homeless, pay a heating bill, utilities bill, especially during the holidays.

Military Family Readiness System: Connects people to resources that promote military family readiness, resilience, well-being, and quality of life. Operation Homefront (OH) provides emergency financial and other assistance to the families of our service members and wounded warriors. **Soldiers' Angels Adopt-A-Family program** which allows volunteers to “adopt” a Military or Veteran family, offering holiday gifts for the children and food assistance in the form of a grocery gift card for their holiday meal. Don't forget **“Operation Bottom Cover”** is a great Christmas gift There is a need for diapers for the babies of our Military and our Veterans. Go to our website at: www.vfwauxwi.org and click on Programs - National President's Special Project.

Donate to: **Sports Clip Memorial Relief Fund, Dream Flights** (formerly Ageless Aviation Dreams Foundation), **Honor Flight Network, or Gratitude Initiative** Sport Clips helps support the organization in their mission to provide educational support and college scholarships to the children of military service members, veterans, disabled veterans and those killed in defense of our country. Other ways are to Purchase poinsettias for veterans, Christmas cards, **New Year memo cards**, gift baskets, games, puzzles, cards, books, read to veterans, sew, cook, clean, pay copays, or offer gas cards, a special focus this year is giving back to the families so be sure to include the family in your endeavors/projects.

AMERICANISM

by Sally Lamers 24-25 VFWA Patriotic Instructor and Americanism Chair
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My wishes for a wonderful holiday season to all of you! Make your memories even more special by visiting and decorating the homes/rooms of your veteran friends and family who cannot do it themselves. Make it a green and red, white and blue Christmas this year and send me pictures of the smiles you put on faces of people who need a little cheering up!

Remember Pearl Harbor Day, December 7th. To this day, the USS Arizona Memorial on the island of Oahu, Hawaii honors the lives lost on the day of the attack. Visitors to the memorial reach it via boats from the naval base at Pearl Harbor. To see this monument is a humbling and heartfelt experience.

<https://malta.vfwauxiliary.org/MemberResources/Americanism>

EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION

by Linda Moran, Department Chief of Staff
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The holidays are fast approaching and at this time of year we tend to reflect and think about those things for which we are grateful and thankful. Our VFW Auxiliaries exist and I am thankful for all the members who do great thing for our Veterans, their families. Think and reflect about how strong your Auxiliary is at present. Until next time—how about a little fun—a puzzle awaits you.

GOD BLESS AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON AS WE CONTINUE HONORING VETERANS TOGETHER AND REMEMBER OUR PROMISE OF TRADITION AND CARING—FROM OUR ROOTS TO OUR BRANCHES!

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GREEN VOLUNTEER COMMUNICATE SERVE OFFICERS TEACH
 KINDNESS TRUTHFUL MENTOR ASSIST RED SURVIVE YELLOW
 SUPPORT HELPFUL RESPECT AUDITS REPORTS INVOLVED

HOSPITAL

by Karen Johnson Hospital Chairman
nursefrazzle@new.rr.com ; (920) 707-3062



Tis the season to be generous in your donation to the VA Hospitals and nursing home. If you don't have the VA near you contact a nursing home in your area and see what they need. Call a VA representative and see what they need. This is the time to have a party, play bingo or just have a visit and bring them a little present or Christmas card. Some of our veterans don't have family; Thanksgiving and Christmas can be a very lonely time of the year for them. This is where we as volunteers can make a huge difference. It is wonderful to look at the joy on their faces as they open presents. They appreciate everything they get. The most important part is making a difference in a veteran's life.

Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year

LEGISLATIVE

by Debbie Nackers, Legislative Chairperson
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Want to give Veterans a great Holiday gift?

Sign up for:

Action Corps: vfw.org & Voter Voice: votervoice.net/VFVWI

Simply sign up and you will get emails with important information a few times a month.

The more people that sign up, the stronger the message is being sent to Congress to address VFW backed priorities like:

- (1) Elizabeth Dole Act.
- (2) Unaddressed Toxic Exposures.
- (3) Exploring Alternative PTSD Treatments.
- (4) Cracking Down on Predatory Claims (GUARD Act).

Have a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year!
While Honoring Veterans Together



MEMBERSHIP

by Charlene Cobb, Membership Chairman
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Thinking of family first is perfect as we approach the holiday season. Having a checklist is helpful in getting your holiday “ASK in Gear” so no eligible family member gets left behind:

1. Do I know my “Why” and where did I put that thing?
 - a. Because my WHY is my ASK - don't be caught sitting on your ASK
2. Do I have my ASK all dressed up and ready to roll out; is my ASK in gear?
3. Have I created my list of who I am going to share my ASK with?
4. How many lucky family members will have the benefit of my generous ASK? (How many can I commit to keeping up?)
5. Am I ready to put my ASK on the line?

Family can make it easy when it comes to recruiting new members.

WI VETERANS ASSISTANCE

by Mary Lou Duerr, Chairman
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Merry Christmas Everyone!! If you haven't donated to WI Veterans Assistance, it's not too late. Any amount is appreciated. Just let me know your amount, Aux. name, number, District, City. There will be four awards at the Department Convention in June. WI Veterans Assistance helps veterans in Wisconsin. Since July we have helped 17 Vets with a total amount spent \$19,354.88. This is all possible because of your donations. Rent, utilities, vehicle repair, medical bills, car insurance, food, clothing, tree removal damage (by storm threatening to fall on house). So, you see that every dollar helps. Donations at any amount can be given even multiple times a year. Send to VFW Headquarters in Monona earmark WI Veterans Assistance. Thank you all.



Journey to 100 Years

December 24/January 25 Question



In regard to Past Officer's Pins, what change has been made to the By-Laws in recent years?

Send your answer NOT LATER THAN January 31st.

To: Rita Byers at rabyers66@gmail.com for a chance to win the \$25.00 monthly cash prize.

No entries will be accepted after the deadline. All entries with correct, complete answer will be put into the drawing for the month. This month will be drawn at the Council of Administration meeting at the Mid-Winter Conference.

The 100th Anniversary Committee

VFWS NEWS

by jody McKinney, VFW News Chairman
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LAST CALL! VFWS NEWS Subscription Special for Auxiliary Members

The annual subscription special for the VFWS NEWS is still available for those Auxiliary members who do not have a Veteran on the mailing list in their household.

Six issues in 2025 for \$5, instead of the usual \$10.
Deadline is December 16, 2024!

The form was in the October mailing and is also available on the Auxiliary State website – vfwauxwi.org.

Click on **PROGRAMS**, then **VFWS NEWS**, then scroll down to the form link.

It may be filled in online, saved and printed OR print a copy to fill in by hand.

Remember: one list and Auxiliary check for easier processing – sent to **VFWS HQ**. Thank you!

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

by Patty Jansky, Chairperson
pajansky@charter.net



PATRIOTISM THROUGH LITERACY

“The greatest gift is a passion for reading.” – Elizabeth Hardwick, American writer and critic
Christmas is right around the corner, and one of the greatest gifts we can give our children are books and the love of reading. Reading improves writing and grammar skills, promotes better concentration, stretches the imagination, and helps boys and girls understand and share the feelings of others. During this holiday season, let’s focus on a special Youth Activities Program – Patriotism Through Literacy.



Patriotic books introduce youth to our nation’s history and the key figures who built our great country while also fostering a love of reading and a lifetime of learning. Where can you find patriotic books? One place to start is the Patriotism through Literacy Suggested Book List. Your Auxiliary can donate books to your local library, schools, shelters, Boys and Girls Clubs, etc. Place a label inside each book that shows it is from your Auxiliary and is in honor of National President Brenda Bryant. Both the suggested book list and labels are found on our WI Auxiliary website or on MALTA Member Resources under Youth Activities. In addition to donating books, your Auxiliary members could volunteer to read patriotic stories to kids, help out in a classroom or library, host a read-a-thon, run a writer’s workshop for aspiring young authors, or invite an author of historical books to do a book talk or signing.

This year’s Youth Activities National Program Awards go hand in hand with Patriotism through Literacy. Awards go out to the most outstanding activity and/or event of youth reading to veterans and/or veterans reading to youth. **A copy of the entry form is included with this bulletin.** Host a day of reading between veterans and kids at your local library, school, VFW Post, VA Hospital or Veterans Home. Add a few snacks, amp up the fun, and help build a bond between our veterans and youth!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!



BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME PROGRAM

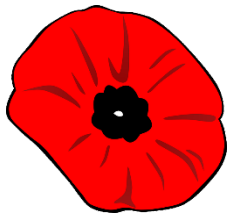
By Sue Carlson, Chairman
(715) 271-8088; susankcarlson1@gmail.com



The VFW National Home will soon turn 100 years old! What a celebration that will be! Here are a few of the events that are being planned: 100th Birthday Party Celebration Tuesday, Jan 7, 2025 4-7pm; Gala Celebration – February 8, 2025 5:30pm Cocktails, 6:30pm Dinner; 7:15pm Program; June 28, 2025 from 11am to 4:00pm – ground will come alive with free carnival rides, plus a whole lot more! 2025 Will be a year to remember!

The National Home Provides: Housing, Education, Daycare, Recreation, and Case Management! Call the Helpline at: 800-313-4200. It is a free service that offers information, creates connections, and gives hope to military and veteran families that are struggling.

Congratulations to Michele Rathke who was elected District #7 Trustee at the National Home in October at the Annual Meeting and Fall Festival. Our theme was “Wizard of Oz” – and Wisconsin was outstanding! If you were in attendance, please email your favorite photo from the Fall Festival with a short description to Nikki David at nikdmetalsmith@gmail.com and CC: me at susankcarlson1@gmail.com and you will receive a special treat at the Mid-Winter Convention.



There will be a Buddy Poppy Contest at Mid-Winter. Please see the entry form in this newsletter.

Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters – from myself and my family – Wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Joyous New Year!