



## VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

S'MORE NEWS NO.6 (MUST BE READ AT MEETING)

December 2025/January 2026

**REMINDER:** General orders **MUST** be read and chairmen's bulletins summarized at each meeting.

**MEMBERSHIP:** As I write this bulletin, our membership stands at 95.86% paid and 94.65% current (including deceased members). We are in 1st place in the Big Ten and 4th nationally! This is fantastic! Please keep sending in your dues so we remain eligible for monetary awards. You are doing a **GREAT** job with **27 Auxiliaries being 100% or higher** in membership. Many are so close to being 100%. We can make this year's **GOAL of 101%**. As, we aim to achieve a membership goal of 101% by fostering creativity in our approaches. We encourage everyone to share their innovative strategies and experiences in recruitment, as collaboration can enhance our overall effectiveness.

**FALL COUNCIL:** We extend our gratitude to all who participated in the Fall Conference. The event was marked by insightful questions and engaging discussions. We eagerly anticipate the presentation of the 26 Auxiliaries that will showcase their poppy displays with the anniversary poppies at the upcoming Mid-Winter event. We had some great training from National Representatives Sandra Uzell and Libby Deall Tezza on Membership Growth Initiative.

**SPRING TRAINING:** There will be Secretary training in February via Zoom. Please keep a watch for dates and times. We will be doing this by districts, like we did for the treasurer and trustee training.

**ANY OFFICERS WHO HAVE NOT PAID THEIR DUES** will be removed from office after December 31, 2025. Currently, I have a limited number of Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers on my list. You have already been contacted, so please ensure your dues are processed promptly.

**CAMPFIRE FOR COURAGE:** You have done an excellent job supporting the veteran and spouse retreats for PTSD at Highground. Your efforts are greatly appreciated, and I encourage you to continue this vital work. If you're interested in exploring more ways to raise funds and awareness for this initiative, please reach out to me. Many individuals have expressed that this program is very meaningful to them, as it is to Ty and me. We still have some way to go to meet our departmental goal, but I am confident we will succeed together. For updates, visit our Facebook page.

**MID-WINTER CONFERENCE** is scheduled for February 6-7, 2025, at The Hilton Paper Valley, Appleton. The registration form is available on the first page of our auxiliary website (vfwauxwi.org) and is included with this mailing. Rooms are \$129 per night, and **registration is due by January 23rd, 2026.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** **Credentials will be completed at Mid-Winter.** The required quorum is 40 (40%) auxiliaries present. Please plan accordingly with your delegation. The delegation forms sent last June for the convention remain valid.

**SPECIAL EVENTS:** If you want a Department Officer to attend an event, fill out the request form on our website. We will do our best to accommodate your wishes.

I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a healthy, happy New Year! Reach out to those you love and create lifelong memories. My sincere appreciation for all you do for our veterans and families.



**"We Rise by Lifting Others" "From Sea to Shining Sea, Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free.**

Kim McWilliams  
Department of WI President  
815-999-9214  
mrsffliemt@gmail.com

## Veterans and Family Support

December/January 2025

### Government Shutdown Information

During this partial government shutdown, federal facilities will be closed to claimants seeking accredited VA claims assistance. Thankfully, VFW Accredited Service Officers should have the ability to still assist veterans from any reliable internet connection. Please email your accredited service officer directly via the information provided in the "Find a Service Officer" tab below. If you are a separating service member, contact us directly at [BDD@vfw.org](mailto:BDD@vfw.org). If you cannot contact your accredited representative, but still need assistance, please contact the VFW Member Service Center at [1.833.VFW.VETS \(1.833.839.8387\)](tel:1833VFWVETS).



### Student Veteran Support

Today's veterans can face any number of obstacles while furthering their education. Taking advantage of all the benefits you've earned and DESERVE shouldn't be one of them! This is why we have teamed up with Student Veterans of America and Sport Clips Haircuts to provide the assistance you need.

#### Scholarships

The **VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship"** provides service members and veterans with the financial assistance they need to complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt. It's just another way for us to say "thank you" to those who fought for our freedoms.

#### *Scholarship Details:*

- Scholarships of up to \$5,000 will be awarded to qualified applicants.
- Awarded scholarships are limited to one per family per semester.
- Applications for the fall semester will be accepted Jan. 1 through April 30.
- Applications for the spring semester will be accepted Aug. 1 through Nov. 15.
- Fall semester scholarships will be awarded in August, and spring semester scholarships will be awarded in January.
- Scholarships must be used by the end of the school semester for which the veteran is applying or they will become null and void.
- Scholarships are restricted for tuition and fees only and will be paid directly to accredited schools.

#### *Eligible Applicants Must:*

- Be a citizen of the United States.
- Be retired, honorably discharged, active duty, or a member of the National Guard or Reserve.
- Have completed Basic Training and follow-on training (Advanced Individual Training, technical school, etc.).
- Separated with or currently hold a military rank of E-5 or below.
- Demonstrate a need for financial assistance.
- Participate in, be accepted to or currently enrolled in a VA-approved program or school at an accredited post-secondary institution.

If you have questions please [view our FAQ](#) or [email us](#) with additional questions.

#### Student Veteran Support Grant

The VFW recognizes that both funding and support for our student veterans and dependents at institutions of higher learning, can often be difficult to find. The **VFW's Student Veteran Support Grant** offers much needed assistance to support specific student veteran events. The grant, administered by the VFW Washington Office, focuses on

supporting the overall student veteran population within the community, which consists of many student veterans at campuses across the country that are not affiliated with an SVA chapter. The grants will be disbursed to a VFW Post or Department that has submitted an application, to support the student veterans at the university or college.

#### Grant Eligibility:

- Applicants must be VFW members associated with an appropriate entity of the VFW (VFW Post, District, Department, or National).
- Appropriate VFW Post, District, Department, or National leadership serve as the convening authority on the grant request and is responsible for receiving funds.
- Funds must be utilized for events and outreach designed to assist and support veterans currently enrolled in institutions of higher learning.
- Grants may be awarded up to \$500 to support each event, and grants can be awarded to a VFW entity twice each fiscal year, totaling up to \$1,000.

#### VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship

We have been advocating on behalf of veterans, service members and their families for more than a century, and we want to share our experience with a new generation of veteran leaders. The **VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship** grants exemplary student veterans (Fellows) the chance to join the VFW legislative team on Capitol Hill during the VFW Legislative Conference hosted in early spring each year. The Fellows will walk the halls of Congress, educating their legislators on the issues facing today's student veterans and have the opportunity to meet with policy-makers from federal agencies responsible for implementing veterans' policy.

*If you have not already, please share this website, there is so much information that could help a veteran/your veteran. Knowledge is key and sharing is caring. You can apply to everything listed here on the site.*

#### Student Veteran Support - VFW

Jody McKinney – Veterans and Family Support

[Studebaker1971@gmail.com](mailto:Studebaker1971@gmail.com)

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN  
AUXILIARY OUTREACH S'MORE NEWS  
November 2025**

There are fillable business cards provided by National in Malta, under member resources then Auxiliary Outreach. You can include the **QR Code** so organizations can just scan and see what we are all about.

Donating your time involves offering your skills, energy, and hours to support a cause, organization in your community in need. Reach out to local organizations in your communities or search for the online platform like... **VolunteerMatch.org** website which would help connect you with local opportunities.

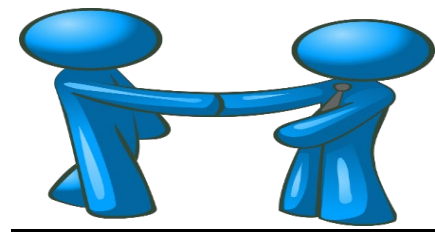
It's not too late to start using **#AuxiliaryOutreach**. Make sure to share what you do for Auxiliary Outreach on social media. The more you share and publicize, the more opportunities will come to you to help other groups. I encourage you to use this hashtag when posting anything on social media so members from across the country can see what you are doing, and it may just inspire them to do the same.  
**#AuxiliaryOutreach**

Date to remember:

***November 22: National Family Volunteer Day***

***December 5: International Volunteer Day***

I look forward to hearing from each of the Department Auxiliaries and seeing all the great things your auxiliaries are doing for Auxiliary Outreach. Please share.



Karen Janssen, Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman

125 W 10<sup>th</sup> St, Kaukauna, WI 54130

920-460-3897

Janssenk2007@gmail.com

# VFW Wisconsin National Home

## est 1937

December 25/January 26 Bulletin



The 2025 VFW National Home Fall Bus Trip was a great Grease Trip!!!

The tour of the National Home community was great, and all were able to tour an open home this year. The newest home, number 43, has just opened and is sponsored by Missouri! Wisconsin has made a commitment to sponsor another home and is waiting to hear when the next build will start. VFW National home continues working towards the goal of 50 homes.

You are all next year's willing participants! You have early next year to get ready for the 2026 bus trip. Next year we will be hosting. That means we will be serving pizza, brats and hot dogs and serving drinks such as sodas, setting up the water cooler or maybe even some lemonade. We will need to pack some treat bags to give out to the kids, and plan for about 80. We can put some candy in and some non-candy goodies would also be welcomed. We will set up and run 6 games for the kids. People and prizes are needed for the game area. We will have the privilege of attending the yearly meeting prior to the games and food.

I hope that all who participated were able to see how vital this program is to our veterans and their families. Please share your experience with your units and your communities.

Please remember the National Home when completing your Buddy Poppy Distribution forms. The Home can also be supported through membership, Lifetime membership or purchasing a garden or tribute brick. See the wish list at the National Home site at [VFWnationalhome.org](http://VFWnationalhome.org).

As the holidays draw near remember to keep the staff and families in your prayers.

Louise Engness, Department National Home Chairman

## Buddy Poppy

Louise Engness, Chairman

I hope you all had your anniversary poppies ordered to pick up at the November C of A meeting in Beaver Dam. I look forward to seeing all the Buddy Poppy displays at the February 2026 Mid-winter meeting. The Entry Form for the Mid-Winter Displays is on our website at: [vfwauxwi.org/programs/BuddyPoppy/NationalHome](http://vfwauxwi.org/programs/BuddyPoppy/NationalHome).

Be sure to have your Buddy Poppy distribution request form filled out to review at your next meeting for submission prior to December. Remember your Buddy Poppy Distributions need to be completed prior to placing any orders for poppies.

The *Donation request form* can be found on the Department web site, under resources/treasurer.

Remember to take pictures of Buddy Poppy Distribution, most enthusiastic, well-dressed and branded VFW to win! Send Pictures to [wagnerla4@gmail.com](mailto:wagnerla4@gmail.com).





# Extension & Revitalization

December, 2025  
January, 2026

## The Power of Mentoring in Our Auxiliaries

Mentoring is key to keeping our Auxiliary strong and active! When experienced members take the time to share their knowledge, offer guidance, and encourage new members, we build confidence and connection throughout our organization. Revitalization starts with each of us—welcoming fresh ideas while honoring our traditions. Together, through mentorship and teamwork, we can ensure the continued growth and success of our Auxiliary for years to come.



## Happy Holidays!

As we celebrate this holiday season, let us take a moment to reflect on the blessings of friendship, service, and community that unite us as members of the VFW Auxiliary. We are grateful for each of you—our dedicated volunteers, veterans, and families—who give so much of your time and heart to support those who served and their loved ones. May your holidays be filled with peace, joy, and gratitude, and may the coming year bring renewed purpose as we continue our mission of service and remembrance.



Sherrie Rosenau  
Chief-of-Staff  
littlemama6@yahoo.com  
920-251-8888

We Rise By Lifting Others

## **A BABY SHOWER!!**

### **AT THE TOMAH VA WOMEN'S CLINIC**

The VFW Auxiliary Volunteers at the Tomah VA Medical Center are planning a Baby Shower to assist the Tomah VA Women's Clinic in supporting Veteran Families with a new little one by giving them a starter bag that includes some or all of the items listed below as a CONGRATULATIONS for the family:

Diapers – size 1, 2 or 3                      Wipes

Shampoo/body wash                      Diaper Rash Ointment

Receiving Blankets                      Bottles and Pacifiers

Newborn outfits or onesies – either sex colors up to 18 months

Diaper Bags or medium sized backpacks

If you would rather give gift cards rather than items they also would be appreciated because we would purchase items locally at Target or Walmart for the little ones.

This Baby Shower is being planned for January 2026, but if you want to provide items or gift cards before then:

Mail gift cards or donation checks to:

Laurie Coffin  
503 South "L" Street  
Sparta, WI 54656

If you have purchased items from the list, contact Laurie at 608-792-1422 or email at: [laurie2bk@gmail.com](mailto:laurie2bk@gmail.com) to work out how to get the items to Tomah.

Thank you in advance, and for your support

Laurie Coffin, Department Hospital Chairman



## DECEMBER 2025/JANUARY 2026 LEGISLATIVE

One year comes to an end and a New Year begins.

Our efforts on behalf of our veterans continue.

As we look forward to 2026, let's all:

### RESOLVE:

- To pay more attention to pending legislation that helps our veterans.
- To ask 'What's going on in Washington, DC that affects veterans?'
- To ask 'What's going on in Madison, WI that will impact veterans' benefits?'
- To sign up for and/or check **ACTION CORPS** weekly.
- To sign up for and check **Voter Voice** WEEKLY.
- To know what Congressional District you live in.
- To know who your state representatives are and how to reach out to them.
- To support candidates with proven records of veteran support.
- To embrace a bi-partisan approach for the sake of our veterans.



**Action Corps** ([www.vfw.org/JoinActionCorps](http://www.vfw.org/JoinActionCorps)) **Voter Voice** ([www.votervoice.net/VFVWI/home](http://www.votervoice.net/VFVWI/home))

We are many faces, with many beliefs and we all share a passion to help veterans. Make it your resolution to become MORE ENGAGED, MORE ENERGIZED, MORE ENTHUSIASTIC. Let's RESOLVE to get legislation passed that will impact our veterans for years to come.

Wishing you and your family happy holidays.



"We Rise By Lifting Others"

Gail Bensen, [gsbbensen@gmail.com](mailto:gsbbensen@gmail.com) (518) 209-8362 (talk/text)

# *Season's Greetings*

*From your  
Lillian Campbell Medical  
Scholarship Chairman  
Kimberly Goss*

*As we celebrate this season of giving and gratitude,  
Please help spread the word about this incredible opportunity  
for students in the medical field.*

*What a great gift it would be heading into the new year!  
Information, applications, guidelines, and requirements  
can be found at*

*[www.vfwauxwi.org](http://www.vfwauxwi.org) under Programs/Lillian Campbell*

*Wishing you a festive holiday season  
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!*

*VFW Auxiliary  
Celebrating 100 Years!*

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

**"From sea to shining sea, honoring veterans who keep us free"  
"We rise by lifting others."**

## MEMBERSHIP – DOES IT REALLY MATTER?

### December 25/January 26 Bulletin

Membership affects us all; from the local Auxiliary all the way to the National level. Locally we are best in a position to know the needs of our Veterans and their families in our communities and what we can do to assist them. When we work in tandem with our Post, we are a force that is not easily dissuaded or defeated.

As we move up the organization it is about tensile strength (the maximum strength a “body” can withstand before it breaks). One person alone or even 5, 10, or 15 can be ignored or overwhelmed and therefore fail in the mission to “care for those who have borne the battle and their widows and orphans” ~ A. Lincoln. However, when we band together, we can accomplish phenomenal achievements. There is “tensile” strength in numbers!

The Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary are organizations that takes care of veterans and their family that need assistance not just financially, but we also take veterans for hospital visits, to the store, we build ramps, do some minor repairs on homes, and visit veterans who are shut in just to mention a few things. We support our communities as well as so much more.

The VFW leadership reaches out to congress making sure our Veterans never lose the benefits they were promised when they served our country. Additionally, we are committed to ensuring our young people understand our service and sacrifice and learn to be responsible Americans that will care for our country as we do.

*A comrade said recently, “it was one of those moments that reminds you why bringing people together matters. Everyone in the room came with real experience, strong knowledge, and a unique way of looking at the same problems.... I’m grateful to sit with people who can challenge each other without losing the shared goal. When everyone brings something different to the table, the work gets better, the outcomes get clearer, and the mission becomes easier to move forward.”*

For one hundred years the Wisconsin VFW Auxiliary has stood with the Post, the District, the Department and the National Organizations to provide for the relief of those who fought in defense of our country and those depending on them who may need our aid. Ours is a great work, lasting throughout life; for so long as there are Veterans, so long will our work continue. We have an obligation to continue this legacy that has been given us. To that end it is critical that we reach out to retain our current members, reinstate our lapsed members, and recruit new ones. Let's continue to grow our organization to ensure our voices are never silenced.”

Membership – Does it really matter? YES, YES, YES!!!

Charlene Cobb, Sr. Vice President  
Membership Chairman  
[ckcand2k9@yahoo.com](mailto:ckcand2k9@yahoo.com)  
(262) 348-6547

## National Scholarships – Dec 2025-Jan 2026 Bulletin

RELAX. By this time all the essays for Voice of Democracy and Patriots' Pen have been judged and students are waiting to hear if they are winners. We will be celebrating winners of the Voice of Democracy and Patriots' Pen at the Mid-Winter banquet on February 7, 2026. Attend and you will be able to meet the youth and hear their amazing essays. It is exciting for them and we can show our support by being there. (If you haven't donated to the program yet, please do so.)

Did you or are you recognizing the winners in your auxiliary? Invite them to your meeting to recite their essays and present them with a certificate.

The Continuing Education deadline is February 15<sup>th</sup>. My National Ambassador, Philip Reinpold has requested every auxiliary hold a fundraiser to increase the funds in the program to allow more money given to each conference winner. Also, did you donate to the National Presidents special project? Now is a good time to do it.

Enjoy the holidays "From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans Who Keep us Free" as "We Rise by Lifting Others".

Marge Southworth  
National Scholarships Chairman  
[Mdsouth2228@gmail.com](mailto:Mdsouth2228@gmail.com)



## WI Veterans Assistance – Dec 2025-Jan 2026 Bulletin

Merry Christmas to you all! Hard to believe the end of 2025 is near. There's still time to get your donations in to WI Veterans Assistance. Any amount is helpful. Make your check out to VFW Dept. of WI, earmark WI Veterans Assistance. Mail to VFW Dept. of WI, PO Box 6128, Monona, WI 53716-0128. Then email, text or snail mail me with Aux. name, number, district number and city. Your auxiliary will be entered for a chance to win one of four awards at Department Convention in June. Remember this helps our WI Veterans. Thank you to those who have donated.

From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans, We Rise by Lifting Others

Mary Lou Duerr WI Veterans Assistance Chairman  
2313 S. Washington Ave trl 3-4  
Marshfield, WI 54449  
715-305-5052  
[marylduerr@gmail.com](mailto:marylduerr@gmail.com)



VFW NEWS – Dec 2025-Jan 2026 Bulletin

By Sharon Kamrowski, VFW NEWS Chairman

608-406-0924 / [skshar@aol.com](mailto:skshar@aol.com)

If you haven't already made your donation per your Auxiliary membership. The donation is \$1.00 per person, based on June 30, 2025 final membership total.

Make checks payable to: VFWA-WI and don't forget to earmark your check VFW NEWS.

Send to:

Dept. Treasurer Lenore Otto  
1383 W. Wisconsin Ave.  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Please send in by December 31, 2025 if possible, but definitely no later than March 31, 2026.

Thank you for your continued support.



**Message from National VFW Auxiliary Headquarters  
Read at meeting and put in December Orders**

**From:** "Cortina Barnes" <[cbarnes@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:cbarnes@vfwauxiliary.org)>

**To:** "Information" <[info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org)>

**Sent:** Wednesday, October 15, 2025 4:13:50 PM

**Subject:** 2026 Podium Edition Bylaws and Ritual is Available on MALTA

All,

The VFW Auxiliary Podium Edition Bylaws and Ritual 2026 is now available in MALTA under Member Resources. Please share this information with members as appropriate. Note: the hard copy book will be available in the VFW Store soon. Thank you.

Loyally,

Cortina Barnes

Director of Administrative Services

Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary

[cbarnes@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:cbarnes@vfwauxiliary.org)

P: 816-561-8655

F: 816-931-4753

406 W. 34<sup>th</sup> St., 10<sup>th</sup> Fl.

Kansas City, MO 64111

[www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org)

**Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary  
Department of Wisconsin  
Dec./Jan. S'more News  
Ways and Means**

Hello Sisters and Brothers,

The Mid-Winter Paint and Sip event is coming. Attached is the sign-up form. Please fill it out and return it no later than January 15, 2026, so I have time to get the canvases pre-printed. This event will be a great opportunity to get together and have fun.



We still have the Mobility Scooter Raffle going. Below is more information. Please continue to get those tickets sold. Please reach out if you are in need of more.



**Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary**  
1383 W WISCONSIN AVE OCONOMOWOC, WI 53066  
**BUZZAROUND CARRYON MOBILITY SCOOTER**



Travel anywhere in the Buzzaround CarryOn folding scooter! Whether by plane, cruise or train, this lightweight & portable scooter promises comfort & style on-the-go.

Weight Capacity: 300 lbs Length: 38" Width: 19.5"  
Operating Range: 14 miles Maximum Speed: 3.6 mph

DRAWING WILL BE AT 8PM FEBRUARY 6, 2026  
AT MID-WINTER IN APPLETON, WI

Need not be  
present to win.

**\$20 EACH TICKET**

Raffle License  
#R0032634-A-82120

TICKET NO. 0001

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

NO. 0001

- ❖ Drawing will be at Mid-Winter on Friday, February 6 @ 8pm during the Paint and Sip.
- ❖ Contact the Ways and Means Team for Tickets.
- ❖ Sell them to the public, friends, and family. Or buy them as gifts.
- ❖ **REMEMBER: YOU CANNOT SEND THE TICKETS OR MONEY THROUGH THE MAIL!**  
You can bring them with you to the Mid-Winter Conference on Friday, February 6th or hand deliver them to a Ways & Means Team member, Lenore Otto, Treasurer, your District President, or a Line Officer. **WE COULD LOSE OUR LICENSE.**

THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO FOR OUR VETERANS AND THIS ORGANIZATION

“WE RISE BY LIFTING OTHERS”

“FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA HONORING VETERANS WHO KEEP US FREE”

Hoping everyone has a wonderful holiday season.

**The Way and Means Team**

Jennifer, Aimee, Lerline and Barbara

[Jmauritz922@gmail.com](mailto:Jmauritz922@gmail.com)

[fancysbags12@gmail.com](mailto:fancysbags12@gmail.com)

[rohaas4@gmail.com](mailto:rohaas4@gmail.com)

[stillmanb@att.net](mailto:stillmanb@att.net)



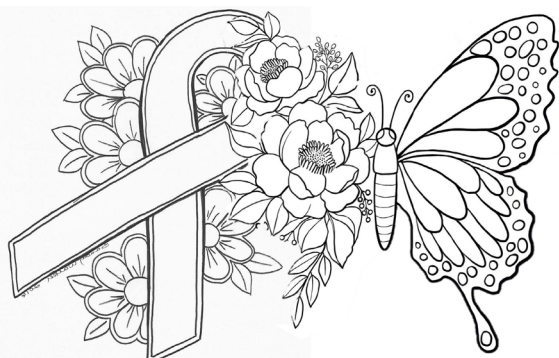


Join us at the VFW Mid-Winter Paint and Sip

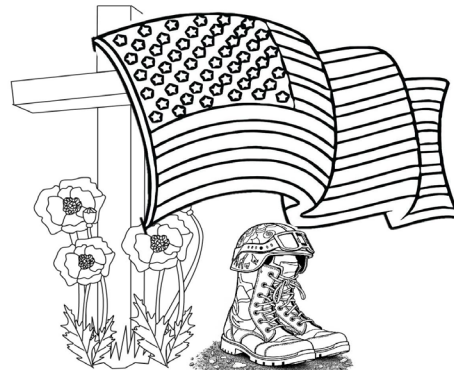
Appleton, WI February 6, 2026 7pm

\$25 per person

1



2



3



4



Pictures will be pre-printed on 8x10 Canvas, and all paint supplies will be provided.

Please make checks out to VFWA-WI, Earmarked: Paint & Sip

Please return slip and money by January 15, 2026, to:

Lenore Otto

1383 W Wisconsin Ave  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Picture # \_\_\_\_\_ If number 4: A or B

Drink: Reg Soda\_\_\_\_\_

Diet Soda \_\_\_\_\_

White Wine\_\_\_\_\_

Red Wine\_\_\_\_\_

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

December 2025 / January 2026

VFW Auxiliary – Department of Wisconsin

Patty Jansky, Chairman / pajansky@charter.net



### PATRIOTISM THROUGH LITERACY

*"A book is a gift you can open again and again." ~ Garrison Keillor*



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 updated **Patriotism through Literacy Recommended Reads List**. This list has great ideas, but you are not limited to these titles. Your Auxiliary can donate books to local libraries, 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 Lois Callahan. Both the suggested book list and the labels (sporting a brand new look this year!) can be found on our Wisconsin Auxiliary website or on MALTA Member Resources under Youth Activities.

### All Booked for Christmas

Besides 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 workshop for aspiring young authors, or invite an author of historical books to do a book talk or signing.

### READING BUDDIES

As I mentioned above, our Auxiliaries can play a major role in promoting reading among our youth. Hmm . . . where else have we heard that before? Of course, in our new **Be a "Reading Buddy"** Program this year. **Patriotism Through Literacy** goes hand in hand with our **Reading Buddy** initiative. This Christmas season is a perfect time to share the gift of books – both patriotic and otherwise – with our kids. **Merry Christmas!**



## 2026 MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

February 6th & 7th, 2026

Paper Valley Hilton—Appleton, WI

333 W College Avenue, Appleton, WI 54911



Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Post # \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Select to Register Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

All registrations \$20/Advance; \$25/After Jan 7th



Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Aux #: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Select to Register Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

All registrations \$15/Advance; \$20/After Jan 7th

### Past Commanders Lunch

**Friday, Feb 6th ~ Noon**

### VFWA Luncheon

**\$37** The Fiesta - Seasoned Chicken/Beef, Flour

☐ Tortillas, Refried Beans, Mexican Rice, assorted taco condiments and sides

Beef Bourguignon—Red wine braised beef tips, pearl onions, demi glaze, mashed potatoes

**\$39**

☐

**Saturday, Feb 7th ~ Noon**

**Red Carpet Luncheon (By Invitation Only)** - Taste of Home - Garden Salad (Ranch & French dressing), seasonal vegetables, baby red mashed potatoes, chicken gravy, roasted chicken, braised beef tips, and dinner rolls.

**\$52**

**VFW / AUX**

**Mid-Winter Banquet ~ Saturday Feb 7th**

**Cocktails 5:30 pm, Dinner 6:30 pm**

QTY

☐

**Homestyle Feast** - Fresh garden salad (Ranch & French dressing), dinner rolls, green bean casserole, creamed corn, cranberry salad, beef tips with mashed potatoes, stuffed pork

VFW and/or Aux Total Payment Due: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

#### REGISTRATION & RESERVATION POLICY

- ◆ This form accommodates up to 1 VFW Member and 1 Auxiliary Member, for a total of TWO registrations.
- ◆ Use additional forms for more registrations.
- ◆ Advanced registration ends January 7, 2026.
- ◆ Conference registration fee will increase \$5.00 on January 8, 2025.
- ◆ **Conference registration ends on January 23, 2025**
- ◆ **No Refunds.**
- ◆ Cut-off date for meal registrations is January 23, 2025.
- ◆ Late meal reservations, if accepted, are subject to \$5.00 surcharge per meal.
- ◆ Special dietary needs? Please let us know in advance.
- ◆ If entrée choice is unspecified, you will get first item offered.
- ◆ **THE PREFERRED METHOD TO RESERVE A ROOM IS TO SCAN THE QR CODE TO THE RIGHT. ROOM RATE IS \$129.00 PLUS TAX. CUT-OFF DATE FOR ROOM BLOCK RATE IS JANUARY 7, 2025.** To reserve a room by phone call 920-733-8000

**Make all checks payable to:**

**VFW DEPT OF WISCONSIN**

Earmark: 2025 Mid-Winter Conf.

Mail to:

VFW OF WISCONSIN

P.O. BOX 6128

MONONA, WI 53716-0128

Scan the QR Code below using your phones camera to reserve a room and to register for the conference and pay online.



## ROSTER CHANGES

DECEMBER 2025/JANUARY 2026

### NEW AUXILIARY!!

#### 2115 – Hudson Memorial Auxiliary

Meeting Place:

North Hudson Village Hall  
400 7th St. N.  
Hudson, WI 54016  
2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of the month  
1:00 PM

Dayne Gehrman, President  
875 Wert Rd  
Hudson, WI 54016  
[auxiliarypresident@vfwpost2115.org](mailto:auxiliarypresident@vfwpost2115.org)  
(715) 491-7402

#### 1039 - Menomonie Auxiliary – Pg 73

Meeting Place should be:

Moose Lodge 1584  
720 19th Ave  
Menomonie, WI 54751



**Happy Holidays &  
Blessings to our  
Military &  
Veterans  
From the  
Department of  
Wisconsin  
VFW Auxiliary**