



WI VFW AUXILIARY

2024-25 GENERAL ORDERS

"HONORING VETERANS TOGETHER"



February 2025

MUST BE READ AT MEETING

Volume 3 - Issue 7

GENERAL Orders and Program Bulletins can be found on the Department Website at:
<https://vfwauxwi.org> Look under the News tab and click on General Orders.

As we look forward to our Mid-Winter Convention on February 14 & 15, 2025, where we will hopefully open our hearts and minds to new ideas, learning more about Veteran Services, and find a new way to do your Year End Reports.

DID YOU KNOW: It is time to start looking at where you would like to see your Auxiliary be next year. Nominations and elections will soon be upon us, and I would really like us all to think about what we can do to keep our auxiliaries strong and moving in the right direction.

Have you ever considered taking an office within your auxiliary? Or have you always said it's not the right time, I don't have the time right now, or I might when I retire? We are losing auxiliaries faster than we can get another up and starting. Unfortunately, that is a fact that our Veterans and current services members can't afford us to do. They need our voice, support and backing like never before. Most of the offices within your auxiliary don't take a lot of time or energy. The ones that are the most time-consuming is your Treasurer and Secretary. Duties can be found in your Podium Book although some are quite general. If you would like more information on each office don't be afraid to reach out to someone who has done it before you, or one of your district line officers.

IMPORTANT: Now, if you are in the position where you think no one is going to step up and take an office in your Auxiliary for the coming year, we need to know now so we can help. If at all possible, we want to save your auxiliary and not close it down. Please, please reach out to us.

MEMBERSHIP – We currently sit at 98% paid membership and 96.58% in actual membership. We are 268 members shy of becoming 100%. Please continue to recruit, recruit and recruit.

HELP NEEDED: By now, all auxiliaries should have made most of their donations for the year. If you feel good about what you have done so far and still feel you can give, please remember we have had a lot of recent disasters around the country who would love your support. Please go through the appropriate VFW channels should you choose to support any area. They are better equipped to ensure it gets to the appropriate place and people.

Let's keep looking forward, remembering those who need our support, prayers, and healing thoughts.

Cordially,
Cheryl L. Woodards
Department of Wisconsin President
608-692-4027
Wivfwacheryl55@gmail.com

**"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

Lendosky16@charter.net

Landline: 262-692-9661 (leave a message)

Cell: 414-588-9339 (Leave a message)



Soldier's Angels send Valentine's for Veterans every year to Service Members and Veterans. The cost to distribute these cards is so high. Soldier's Angels are not able to provide enough funding to get these cards to our Military and Veteran heroes.

How can you help?

- All you need to do is include \$1 per Valentine you send! This will help them cover the cost of packing & mailing boxes of Valentine's Day cards to deployed troops overseas and VA Hospitals!
- **Mail your cards and \$1 per card to: Soldiers' Angels Valentines for Veterans 2895 NE Loop 410, Suite 107 San Antonio, Texas 78218**
- The deadline is February 14 **Cards can be store-bought or handmade *Individually wrapped candy can be included if it is attached to the card *Include \$1 per card, cash or check *You can include an envelope if you want, but not necessary *If you include an envelope, *do not seal * you are welcome to include your return address in the event the recipient may write back to you. *If you would like a donation receipt mailed to you, make sure to include your name and mailing address somewhere on or in the box, otherwise we will not know where it came from!*
- Check with your CVSCO in the area if there are veterans and their families, homeless vets, women vets, who may be in need of supplies, clothing, food, diapers. Offer to have a collection drive for Valentine's Day. Check with churches, police, etc., where homeless veterans are located, etc. See the following website on how to host a collection drive: <https://soldiersangels.org/volunteer/special-campaigns/valentinesforveterans/>

AMERICANISM

by Sally Lamers 24-25 VFWA Patriotic Instructor and Americanism Chair

1861 Oakridge Road, Neenah, WI 54956 sslamers@gmail.com

920.475.0789 *please leave a message*



At the VFW Auxiliary, EVERY day is VETERANS DAY!

Going to mix things up a bit: If you read and retained messages from my earlier reports you will do juuust fine on this little quiz:

1. By passing our patriotism on to the next generations we instill (what) while honoring Patriots and our Country.
2. May 1 reaffirms our loyalty to the United States and recognizes the heritage of American freedom. What is the name of that patriotic holiday?
3. What have I asked you to do since July?
4. It is officially "school sport season" so be sure to sing (what) LOUD AND PROUD at all the games you attend!
5. Constitution Day and Citizenship Day is September 17. On this day in 1787 (what happened)?
6. Get out to (where) to educate; show your patriotism and how much you value your freedom by representing our great organization!

Please text email or snail mail your answers to me – we will have a drawing from all entries at our Dept Mid-Winter, February 14-15 in Oshkosh

Thank you for all you do for our veterans, and for promoting Americanism every day!

ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

by Kim McWilliams, Achievement Award Chairman
mrsffiiemt@gmail.com 815-999-9214



I know everyone has a busy schedule and the next few months will go by fast. I just want to remind everyone that the achievement award forms are due by May 1st, 2025. You can email or mail them to me. If mailing please allow enough time to arrive by May 1st, 2025. If you have any questions, please contact me. The forms you need are on the Department VFW Auxiliary website (<https://vfwauxwi.org>) under Programs/Achievement Awards.

I look forward to seeing what you send in.

AWARDS PROGRAM-JEANNETTE FRANK

by Helen L Stearns, PDP, Awards Chairman
hlstearns1021@gmail.com 920-319-2621(please leave message)



Each year at the State Convention, the special recognition of a dedicated Auxiliary member takes place who has serviced the organization for at least 25 consecutive years. It is the Jeannette Frank Continuous Service Award. Jeannette served as Department President in 1965-1966 and as National President in 1980-1981. Her dedication exemplified her dedication to the Veterans, the Auxiliary and the community.

The nomination process that takes place in the final quarter of the Program Year is simple. Any member in good standing may nominate another outstanding Auxiliary member who they feel deserves this recognition. Nominees must have served for a minimum of 25 consecutive years. (NOTE: Past Department Presidents are NOT eligible as they receive a separate Continuous Service Award.)

Nominations for the 2024-2025 Jeannette Frank Continuous Service Award must be postmarked by April 10, 2025.

Information & nomination forms were in the October 2024 General Orders and are the last page of these February 2025 Auxiliary General Orders. It is also on the Department VFW Auxiliary website (<https://vfwauxwi.org>) under Programs/Awards; and by request.

EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION

by Linda Moran, Department Chief of Staff
Loopylin1950@gmail.com 920-337-9922 (H) 920-639-9987 (C)



Welcome to the second month of 2025---how time flies! We cannot let time get away from us as we work the Extension & Revitalization Program. There is no time like the present to mentor and renew our patriotic and enthusiastic spirit as members of the VFW Auxiliary. (Note from National COS— Betty Arnold)

Remember the change of Command if having problems.

Member—Auxiliary President—District President—Department President

What is not acceptable—calling or emailing multiple people with the same questions until you get an answer you think fits your interests best.

Recognize these yellow caution lights and **ACT** immediately. Don't wait until the last minute—just ask! **YELLOW CAUTION LIGHTS**

Audits not done timely-----No representation on District meetings---No change in officers—
No new members--- No Program reports.

Please remember that every one of our members has great ideas and we need to avoid saying that “WE tried that before and it didn't work” or “This is the way we have always done it.” New ideas or new twists can create fantastic results.

Please be the reason someone feels welcomed, loved, heard, seen, supported and accepted today and every day!

**If you need anything at all, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I am here to help if I can.
God Bless and Happy Valentine's Day!!**

HOSPITAL

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

Donations for Department Hospital Projects and Programs are down.

- Hospital Program-Helps Representatives and Deputy with mileage and allowance and giving each 8 VA Hospitals and WI Veterans nursing home a donation when they visit each hospital.
- Hospital Projects-Reps and Deputies can have activities at their Hospitals with Bingo, treats, camp VA day at Tomah, concerts, and parties.

Auxiliaries, if you have extra money, please give it to the Hospital Funds.

Thank you to those auxiliaries who do donate.

Following is a list of the three National Awards that your Auxiliary or a member could earn. Go to our Dept. VFW Auxiliary website at: <https://vfwauxwi.org> and then Click on Programs/Hospital to find the forms to fill out and mail to Karen Johnson Hospital Chairman by March 31, 2024.

National Awards

- Hospital 24-25 Auxiliary Award No. 1 -for creating ways to interact with and to provide happiness to veteran patients.
- Hospital 24-25 Member Award No. 1 & No. 2-for Hospital Recruiters and Volunteer Recruiter of the Year
- Hospital 24-25 Member Award No. 3 Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year

HOSPITAL - CONTINUED

The following are the Department Hospital Awards that can be earned.

Department Awards

- \$10 drawing for the Auxiliary who has the most creative ways to interact with and provide happiness to veteran's patients and reports what you did to me.
- \$10 drawing to the auxiliary or member who recruits the most Hospital volunteers. Report to me.
- Charms for volunteers having over 50 hours.
- Award for a member nominated as an Outstanding volunteer of the Year and sending me the nomination form which is on the Dept. VFW Auxiliary website at <https://vfwauxwi.org> then click on Programs/Hospital-Hospital 24-25 Member Award No. 3 Outstanding. Don't forget to send a separate sheet telling me why you think this member deserves this award.

LEGISLATIVE

by Debbie Nackers, Legislative Chairperson
debnack666@gmail.com



HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Time to celebrate a win. On Jan 2nd 2025 President Biden signed the:

Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Health Care & Benefits Improvement Act.

This bill will help many veterans and their families. Thank you to all the many VFW and Auxiliary members who contacted their representatives to get this bill passed. Our voices were heard. But we are not done yet! The new session is starting. Let Congress know about these Wisconsin VFW Priorities:

Disabled Veteran Property Tax Credit
MIA Recovery Project Funding
Tuition Remission

Sign up for Action Corp @ VFW.org & Voter Voice @ Votervoice.net/VFWWI/home

Awards will be giving to 4 auxiliaries at Convention in June. If you have gotten members to sign up for Voter Voice or have passed out cards to friends and family, send me your Aux. name, number, district & city to be entered in the drawing.

MEMBERSHIP

by Charlene Cobb, Membership Chairman
ckcand2k9@yahoo.com; 262-348-6547



We are each a vital piece of the puzzle. Your Auxiliary, our Department and National Organization couldn't function without your continued support. We are stronger together.

I watched a movie the other night where a student was talking about tensile strength. He had uncooked spaghetti noodles and was able to break one easily. However, when he bunched them together, he was able to support the weight of a child's truck on them. By ourselves we can get discouraged and feel there is nothing we can accomplish but when we work together, we can accomplish amazing things.

If we each just recruited one member we would double our membership. Last month we looked at recruiting family but don't forget about your next-door neighbor, the person that sits next to you in church, that works next to you, or that you meet as you are out and about. Just ASK – maybe they'll say no but they could also say YES – and you'll never know unless you ASK!

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

by Deanna Carothers, Chairman

600 Madison Ave., Fort Atkinson WI 53538, phone: 920-728-1176

e-mail: dhaugen53538@gmail.com



Hello! As I write this, it's mid-January and guess what is right around the corner?? Spring you say? Well, that may be the case in a few months.... BUT, I'm referring to the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contests (YACPAC to shorten it up)!!Yes, it's that time of year already... and we need to get our butts in gear and get the word out about this scholarship program so the students have enough time to create those fantastic pieces of art! The deadline to turn an entry in is March 31st – so let's get the word out now. Talk about the program at your meetings, post about it on your social media pages, hand out the entry forms, tell your local art teachers about it, tell your friends with high school age kids.

Who's eligible to enter the YACPAC? Students in grades 9-12 enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the U.S.

What kind of art can be submitted? There are TWO contests: a 2-dimensional and a 3-dimensional contest. 2-D art can be on canvas or paper. Watercolor, pencil, pastel, charcoal, tempera, crayon, acrylic, pen, ink, oil, or marker. 3-dimensional art can be made from paper, papier-mâché, pottery, clay, metal work, and/or fabric.

Are there rules about how big or small the art can be? Yes, for the 2-dimensional contest the artwork should be no smaller than 8" x 10" but no larger than 18" x 24", INCLUDING mat. Do not frame the art (other than a mat). For the 3-dimensional contest the artwork should be no larger than 18-inches in any direction, and no heavier than 5 lbs.

Is an essay required also? Not an "essay" per se, but an explanation of the art is part of the submittal. Students should submit a typed explanation of the patriotism expressed in their art (250 words or less) along with the entry.

Where can I get the entry form? Here's a link to the National VFW Auxiliary website page that includes links to the entry forms: <https://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/young-american-creative-patriotic-art-contest/> and lots of other cool stuff about this fun program!

What are the deadlines?

March 31st – deadline for the students to have the artwork turned into your Auxiliary

April 15th – deadline to have your 1st place winning artwork sent to myself (address below) for State level judging. Students will get the artwork back after our June Convention. The first-place entry will be forwarded on to National to compete against other state entries from around the nation. Exciting!

What can the students win? There are monetary awards at the State level and National level, and your Auxiliary may want to award your top entries as well! Feel free to browse the website page listed above for more info on awards and photos of past entries. Let's get those creative juices flowing WI! 😊

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

by Patty Jansky, Chairperson
pajansky@charter.net



“January is for dreamers . . . February is for doers.”

– Marc Parent

“ While February is our shortest month, it can also be one of our busiest months. The midway point of our Auxiliary Program Year also marks the midway point of the school year. School supplies that were donated in August are now depleted; perhaps your Auxiliary would like to provide more items to help the students finish the year without a hitch! To get through our cold Wisconsin winters, kids may need coats, hats, gloves, mittens and boots. Have you checked with your local schools to see if they need help in the library, classroom or with special projects? How about purchasing patriotic books for youth groups or libraries? Valentine’s Day is coming up – veterans love to receive creative cards made by boys and girls. There is still plenty of time and ways to get involved with youth!



Patriotic artwork and applications for the Illustrating America contest are due to your local Auxiliary on March 31st and then to me by April 15th for Department judging. You can send in your Auxiliary’s first-place winner in each grade division (K-2, 3-5, and 6-8). Be sure to use the new updated entry form (revised September 2024). It includes new rules like printing the child’s name, age, and grade level on the back of their art.

The 2024-2025 Youth Activities National Program Awards go to the most outstanding activity and/or event of youth reading to veterans and/or veterans reading to youth. What a great way to get our veterans and kids together! A copy of the entry form was included in the December/January General Orders. This Auxiliary Award application is due to me by March 31st. Thank you!



Journey to 100 Years

February 2025 Question



**What project did the VFW and Auxiliary do jointly into the 1990’s
that they don’t do anymore?**

Send your answer NOT LATER THAN February 28, 2025.

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

DEPARTMENT SCHOLARSHIPS

by Jennifer Mauritz, Department Scholarships Chairman
715.383.8628
jmauritz922@gmail.com



The Lillian Campbell Medical Scholarship program was started to honor our Wisconsin Auxiliary member, Lillian Campbell from Neenah, WI, who went on to become our National Auxiliary President during the Golden Anniversary year of 1963-1964.

- Multiple scholarships of \$1,000 are awarded to applicants currently enrolled in a medical program.
- There will also be one (1) \$750.00 Scholarship for a Paramedic Student.
- Application and Guidelines and Instructions can be found at: <https://vfwauxwi.org> Then under Programs/Lillian Campbell
- Please see the Eligibility and Requirements form and application for more information.
- Don't forget to forward our Department Scholarship information to eligible students.
- Application deadline is April 1, 2024

Let's focus on spreading the word and letting people know about this wonderful opportunity for a medical scholarship to hopefully increase the number of applicants this year

- Reach out to local Colleges and Technical Colleges to see if they offer any Medical Programs. If they do see if they will pass our information on to their students and provide them with the Guideline form and Applications.
- Speak with your family and friends, see if they know anyone who is in a Medical program who may qualify and pass the information and forms to them.
- Work with Districts and Post who utilizes social media platforms, to promote awareness and participation in this program on those platforms.
- Share this scholarship opportunity with other Veteran Service Organization, such as American Legion, DAV

Mail donations earmarked LCMS before May 1, 2025, to:

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

Happy
Valentine's
Day



2024-2025 Jeannette Frank Continuous Service Award
Nomination Form
(please type or print clearly)

Auxiliary

Name _____ Aux.# _____ District _____

Nominator

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City/ST/Zip _____

Email _____

Current Auxiliary Office (if any-not required to be nominated)

ABOUT THE NOMINEE:

NAME _____

(First, middle name or initial, last)

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER _____ JOINED IN _____

OFFICES/CHAIRMANSHIPS HELD _____

ADDED INFO: Please use extras sheets stating why your nominee should receive this award. Be sure to list specific accomplishments & activities! Letters of recommendation from other Auxiliary members or individuals & organizations may also be included. REMEMER: The nominee MUST have at least 25 years of continuous membership to qualify. Past Department Presidents and previous recipients are NOT eligible for nomination! ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY April 10, 2025 TO BE CONSIDERED.

Helen Stearns, PDP Awards Chairman
122 Mary Ann Rd #3
Beaver Dam WI 53916

920-319-2621
(leave message)