



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN
"We Rise by Lifting Others"**

GENERAL ORDERS NO.7 (MUST BE READ AT MEETING) February 2026

REMINDER: General orders **MUST** be read and chairmen's bulletins **summarized** at each meeting. Auxiliary chairman, add your own touch to your program and how you can incorporate the programs into your communities.

YEAR-END REPORTS: As the deadline approaches, it is essential to complete and submit them to your District President and prospective chairman before April 15th. Ensure that you send them to the correct address to avoid any delays or missed award opportunities. It is crucial to fill out the reports thoroughly to receive the recognition your auxiliary deserves; without your input, we may not be aware of your accomplishments. Additionally, while you are reporting for this year, continue to track your hours and pass this information to the next chairman for their report next year.

MEMBERSHIP: As I am writing this bulletin, we are at **100.11% Paid and 98.48% Current** (with deceased members) in membership!! This is awesome!! **To achieve 100% plus in Current membership, we only need approximately 119 New Members.** It is important to continue submitting dues and new applications. All applications that receive approval must be forwarded to the Department Treasurer within seven days of the auxiliary's decision. Adhering to this timeline is crucial for ensuring proper processing and enabling new members to access their benefits promptly

TREASURERS: Have all the requested donations been made? Please check the donations sheet on our website. It's posted under the Treasurer tab. Please send the donations to the proper place.

Mid-Winter: We look forward to seeing everyone soon at the Mid-Winter at the Hilton Paper Valley, February 7th and 8th. I hope to see many of you at the Paint N Sip as well. There will be a school of instruction on Friday morning; see the VFW News for a tentative agenda.

WAYS AND MEANS: Auxiliary participation in our department's fundraising initiatives is essential for supporting the smooth operation of our activities. We

anticipate more opportunities for involvement in the near future. While engaging in enjoyable activities like the Paint N Sip event can generate some funds, the success of our raffles is particularly important, as they provide significant support for our initiatives.

PROGRAMS NEEDING ATTENTION: We are seeking donations to support the first-place winners of the Voice of Democracy and Patriots' Pen Essays. Contributions should be sent to Lenore Otto, the Department Treasurer, and clearly marked for the 1st place winners. Your generosity in supporting our youth is greatly appreciated.

As a reminder, if you have not contributed to the VFW News, please send them to Lenore Otto, Department Treasurer.

CAMPFIRE FOR COURAGE: Has your auxiliary donated to the President's Special Project, PTSD/Suicide prevention retreats at the Highground? If not, now is the time to do so. We are so close to our goal of helping 100 veterans and spouses. Thank you to all who have already made donations to this important cause.

Please remember to send pictures to Karen Janssen, our Historian & Media Relations Chairman.

100-YEAR COMMITTEE REMINDER: Everyone who is registered for the Mid-Winter Council meeting will be entered into a drawing for \$75.

To those of you who have suffered loss or have been ill, please know that you are in our thoughts and prayers. If we can be of any help, please reach out.

Thank you for all that you do! Please continue to support our veterans and families as **"We Rise by Lifting Others" "From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free"**!

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

Join us in honoring

National President
LOIS CALLAHAN

April 7th-9th, 2026

HOTEL RESERVATIONS
HYATT PLACE MADISON/VERONA
846 LIBERTY DRIVE, VERONA, WI, 53593, USA
1 608 497 3359

ROOM BLOCK UNDER VFWA

DOUBLE QUEEN ROOM \$149 (INCLUDES BREAKFAST, WI-FI, AND PARKING)

[HTTPS://WWW.HYATT.COM/EN-US/HOTEL/WISCONSIN/HYATT-PLACE-MADISON-VERONA/MSNZV?CORP_ID=G-VFWA](https://www.hyatt.com/en-us/hotel/wisconsin/hyatt-place-madison-verona/msnzv?corp_id=g-vfw)

**ONLINE REGISTRATION
CAN BE FOUND ON THE DEPARTMENT WEBSITE
VFWAUXWI.ORG**



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Department of Wisconsin
Veterans and Family Support



February Bulletin 2026 www.vfwauxwi.org

March is just around the corner, and that means it's time for the 2026 VFW Washington Conference which will be held March 1-5, 2026. For nearly 75 years, the VFW's annual Washington Conference has provided an opportunity for VFW Department representatives from each state to lobby their respective lawmakers and watch as the VFW's current Commander-in-Chief testifies on Capitol Hill before a joint session of the House and Senate Veterans' Affairs Committees on behalf of veterans'.

Did you know that since 1964 the VFW's Congressional Award has been presented annually to one sitting member of the House or Senate for their significant legislative contributions on behalf of those who have worn the uniform? Attendees also often hear from guest speakers who are invited to discuss important veterans' issues.

We need to heed the call to continue our advocacy "For Veterans, By Veterans," VFW and VFW Auxiliary member so we can pack the house alongside Commander-in-Chief Carol Whitmore as she testifies before a special joint hearing of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans Affairs.

Even if you can't join us in Washington, please be part of the 2026 VFW Washington Conference convention by following **#VFWDC2026** on social media platforms.

For more information on the above and much more, please go to:

[2026 VFW Washington Conference - VFW](#)

Jody McKinney studebaker1971@gmail.com - **Veterans and Family Support Chairman**

Our National Ambassador's theme for 2025-2026 "*A rising tide lifts all veterans to success!*"

Our Department Presidents theme is "*We rise by lifting others!*"





In my previous bulletins, I have had the pleasure of informing you of patriotic holidays, attempted to inspire you and your Auxiliary to promote Americanism, gave you information about our amazing organization's ritual and traditions and was hopeful your Auxiliary would participate in the program in some way.

At our DEPT -WI Convention June 10-13 at Holiday Inn – Rothschild we WILL BE doing a “Parade of Flags”. The flags will be provided (all you will need to do is line up with your District President or President Kim if you are unaffiliated with a District). Please encourage members in your Auxiliary to attend. Fill the car and head to Rothchild! Because it involves waving American Flags, it is a very uplifting part of the Americanism Program! Because the Convention schedule is not yet finalized the morning we will have the Parade of Flags has not yet been determined. Stay tuned!

**P
A
T
R
I
O
T
I
S
M**

Patriotic Instructor/Americanism
February 2026 Bulletin
Sally Lamers
sslamers@gmail.com
920.475.0789

In the November bulletin, you received the Americanism End of Year Report. Please get it to your DISTRICT PRESIDENT BEFORE the deadline of APRIL 1st!

List all the activities and donations your Auxiliary accomplishes after March toward the next calendar year. It is important to recognize and report all you do – ALL YEAR LONG.

Thank you for all you do for Veterans, and for the awesome way you stepped up for Americanism so far this year!

Something you may not be aware of:

Share all your Auxiliary's National Program accomplishments with your Post. The Posts need to submit our hours of service to retain their “not for profit status”. Please be sure to communicate the information to them.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS DEPARTMENT
OF WISCONSIN AUXILIARY, SOME' MORE NEWS
AUXILIARY OUTREACH
February 2026 Report #3
*****VOLUNTEERS NEEDED*****

This past weekend I attended a gathering of Churches, Food Banks, Food Pantries, after School Programs and Community Shelters. The need is immediate. I live in the Fox Valley, consisting of several small towns including Appleton. I never imagined that as many as 500 homeless adults are wandering our streets. 30% of the adults are working and living in their cars, the rest are suffering from mental health issues, alcoholism and drugs. Of that total, 300 are school age children. These children get a free bag lunch every day from a food pantry. The school provides the names. Think about how close you are from being in their place. Sr. citizens are fast becoming a large part of this group. Low- income housing is greatly needed in EVERY community.

Every community has this problem. They are all looking for volunteers. Please visit your Village, town and city halls to get the names of places that could use your help. Ask your churches in your area who is looking for volunteers. Please have your auxiliary members get to the places who do have a need for help. Remember to vote on it at your meeting. Wear your uniform with pride, show the world who we are. Compassionate members of the VFWA.

I found out the shelters need blankets, sleeping bags, basic toiletries, non-perishable food, toilet paper- individually wrapped, safe parking, winter boots, socks, children's clothing for all school age kids and for all ages and genders.

Due to a lack of low-income rental facilities, a lot of these people had to move to their cars. It's only getting worse. Fair housing rental rates are in great need.

This is my plea to get us involved in our communities. Please do what you can. As your Outreach Chairman I will be doing my part.

Have a Happy Holiday season. Be committed in the Spirit of Rising to Lift Others.

Karen Janssen, Department Outreach Chairman
125 W 10th St. #302
Kaukauna, Wi 54130
920-460-3897
Janssenk2007@gmail.com



Extension & Revitalization

by Sherrie Rosenau
Dept. Chief of Staff

February 2026

Revitalization & Extension: Building on the Past for a Stronger Future

Revitalization and extension are powerful strategies used to breathe new life into our organizations and our communities. While revitalization focuses on restoring or improving what already exists, extension expands capacity, reach, or functionality. Together, they create a balanced approach to growth—one that honors the past while preparing for the future.

Revitalization: Renewing What’s Already There

Revitalization is about transformation. Organizations revitalize outdated processes to boost efficiency and morale. At its core, revitalization is a commitment to renewal—making the old new again.

Extension: Expanding Possibilities

Extension complements revitalization by pushing boundaries. Extension is forward-looking, driven by the desire to grow, innovate, and meet emerging needs.

The Power of Combining Both

When revitalization and extension work together, the results are transformative. This dual approach ensures that progress doesn’t come at the cost of heritage, and preservation doesn’t hinder innovation.

A Sustainable Path Forward

Revitalization and extension offer a thoughtful, sustainable path to development. They remind us that growth doesn’t always require starting from scratch—sometimes, the most meaningful progress begins with what we already have.

Mentoring: Helping to Build our Future

Mentoring our Auxiliary members is about strengthening the organization by investing in people. Effective mentors share their experience, traditions, and practical knowledge while encouraging newer members to find their own voice and confidence. It’s a relationship built on respect—honoring the Auxiliary’s mission while empowering others to carry it forward with fresh energy and ideas. When seasoned members take the time to guide, support, and inspire, they help create a welcoming environment where everyone feels valued and prepared to serve veterans, their families, and their communities with purpose.



Remember: Together We Can! We Rise by Lifting Others!



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN
AUXILIARY
S'MORE NEWS HISTORIAN REPORT
February report 2026

Now is the time to get your information for year end reports together. Send me the pictures you would like incorporated in Kim's Photo album. No jpegs, we are trying to keep cost down, so send me the prints only. Any information for your year-end report should be in your auxiliary minutes.

Go to MALTA member resources under Historian and Media Relations, Website and Social-Media, how to create a "Facebook Reel".

I am looking forward to all the reels. If you make one, please send it to me.

Please remember to check your 2025-2026 National Program Book for information on awards and deadlines. Look under Malta, Member Resources. One think for sure is that ***FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA*** we will continue ***HONORING OUR VETERANS WHO KEEP US FREE.***

Kareen Janssen
Historian, Media Relations Chairman
125 W 10th Street Apt 302
Kaukauna, Wisconsin 54130
Janssenk2007@Gmail.com

WANTED

FOR THE CRIME
OF
25 YEARS PLUS
VOLUNTERISM

????

JEANETTE FRANK CONTINOUS SERVICE AWARD
WILL BE AWARDED AT THE JUNE CONVENTION.

APPLICATION CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE

www.vfwauxwi.org

PLEASE ADHERE TO THE DEADLINE

Lenore Otto, Chairman
1383 W Wisconsin Ave
Oconomowoc, WI 53066
262-560-1222
lennylavfw@yahoo.com

FEBRUARY 2026 LEGISLATIVE



Your **HEART** is in the right place – you want to support all our veterans, but how? ADVOCATE, ADVOCATE, ADVOCATE!!

We need to keep reaching out to our representatives in Congress and in Madison to HONOR THE CONTRACT by providing the resources our veterans have earned. This can only be done when policies are modified and laws are codified. PLEASE make your **HEART** felt appeal to your legislators through VFW Action Corps ACTION ALERTS.

Here's a partial list of legislation that requires our immediate attention:

H.R.740/S.275 *Veterans' ACCESS Act of 2025*: so our veterans receive clear and timely health care through increased efficiency and coordination of VA's community care program.

H.R.4837 *Written Informed Consent Act*: to make sure our veterans are fully aware of the risks and benefits of new, powerful medications for PTSD and other mental health issues; and,

H.R.2623 *Innovative Therapies Centers of Excellence Act of 2025*: to expand access to innovative PTSD treatments to reduce reliance on heavy medication.

H.R.1845 *Transition Assistance Program (TAP) Promotion Act*: to include accredited reps from national, state, and local organizations in TAP classes veterans attend during the first year after leaving service – a critical time for veterans and their families.

S.1032/H.R.2102 *Major Richard Star Act*: to make sure veterans who were medically retired due to combat injuries receive both Department of War retirement pay **and** VA disability compensation.

So again, I'm tugging on your **HEART** strings, and asking for your help:

Action Corps (www.vfw.org/JoinActionCorps) **Voter Voice** (www.votervoices.net/VFWWI/home)

FW Voices of Service – *Stories in Action*

NEW WAY TO GET INVOLVED: for veterans, service members, caregivers, survivors, and families to share their real-life experiences directly with VFW National so those stories can be used (with permission) to educate Congress and strengthen our legislative advocacy. Please see the attached flyer and use the QR code to access VFW Voices of Service – *Stories in Action*.



Wisconsin Veteran MIA is identified



The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced Dec. 5 that U.S. Army Air Forces Cpl. John J. Ginzl, 27, of Rhinelander, Wisconsin, killed during World War II, was accounted for June 11, 2025. Ginzl will be buried in his hometown in May 2026. Welcome Home, Cpl Ginzi.

Gail Bensen, 2025-2026 Legislative Chair gsbbensen@gmail.com 518/209-8362

VFW Voices of Service

Stories in Action



The VFW is gathering real stories from veterans and military families. These experiences help show how decisions made in Washington affect real lives.

Scan the QR code to share your story.



VFW

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

Share Your Story. Shape the Future.



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary – Department of Wisconsin
‡ Lillian Campbell Medical Scholarship (LCMS)
February 2026 Bulletin

As we close out the year, I would like to share a brief update on the **Lillian Campbell Medical Scholarship**. While the program itself remains consistent in purpose and structure, its impact continues to grow because of your continued generosity and commitment.

We are very optimistic and **anticipate a record number of applicants** in the upcoming application cycle. With that in mind, I kindly ask that you continue to share information about the LCMS with your Posts, local colleges, medical facilities, newspapers, as well as friends and family. Your outreach truly makes a difference.

In the coming weeks, I will be reaching out to request assistance with **reviewing scholarship applications** and **selecting our recipients**, which will include:

- **Three (3) medical students**, and
- **Two (2) paramedic students**.

Your willingness to serve in this process is sincerely appreciated and essential to ensuring a fair and thoughtful selection.

Thank you all for your continued **support, dedication, and commitment** to the Lillian Campbell Medical Scholarship. Together, we are helping future medical professionals achieve their dreams while honoring Lillian Campbell's lasting legacy.

In closing, I would like to **present 3 citations in recognition of the generous \$1,000 donations** received in support of the Lillian Campbell Medical Scholarship. These contributions are vital to sustaining and growing this program, and we are deeply grateful for that support to Appleton, West Bend, and Wausau.

With gratitude,

Kimberly Goss

Department Chairman – Lillian Campbell Medical Scholarship

☎ 715-946-3285

✉ kimberly.gossdistrict9aux.wi@gmail.com

Please continue to support the LCMS Scholarship

Donations (earmarked LCMS) may be mailed to:

Lenore Otto, Department Treasurer

1383 W. Wisconsin Avenue

Oconomowoc, WI 53066

“We Rise by Lifting Others.”

**Department of Wisconsin
VFW Auxiliary
February 2026
MEMBERSHIP NEVER ENDS**

Membership really is the life blood of an organization. Without them all the great ideas and programs have nowhere to go.

In 1866, the Union Veterans that fought in the Civil War formed an organization called the Grand Army of the Republic. This organization grew to over 400,000 members advocating for Veterans and also established Memorial Day. However, when the Spanish-American War Veterans attempted to join, they were told no the organization was just for Civil War Veterans. Therefore, in 1956 when the last Union soldier died the organization ceased to exist.

Let's stop the downhill slide and show growth this year in membership. We need to ensure the continuation of the VFW Auxiliary for the next hundred years; our Veterans and their families need us!

The Department is over 100% in paid members, but DON'T stop. Our goal is 7500 in current members, which would be an increase of 79 over last year's total members. For most of the Auxiliaries that just means recruiting or retaining 5 members. A few Auxiliaries would need a dozen members; all doable this spring.

Here are a few tips that may help you with your membership efforts (From MN Membership Letter):

- Create a recruiting / renewal committee
- Place the VFW Auxiliary Membership QR Code on EVERYTHING!
- Use flyers, local media and social media—with the QR Code. Letters to the Editor of your local newspaper are usually free.
- Create a phone tree to activate members.
- Gift membership to qualifying relatives.
- Get your Post roster and contact their spouses and family members who are not yet Auxiliary members. Many VFW members have children and grandchildren age 16 and older who were younger when the VFW member joined your Post.
- Ask your Post Commander to visit their meeting to talk about their Auxiliary and put an application and the QR Code in their hands. Be sure to leave your contact information.

Remember to have Auxiliary and VFW membership QR Codes, applications, and fact sheets at all your Post and Auxiliary events. Include them along with the scholarship information you distribute to your schools and area students. Work with your community organizations to include VFW Auxiliary and VFW information at book fairs, breakfasts, steak fries, vendor markets, and community celebrations. Leave membership information at your local Chamber of Commerce and Veterans Service office. Ask to hand out flyers and QR Codes along parade routes. All you need to do is ask; most are willing to include us.

Check out your Former Member report that is in MALTA under View Members. Reach out to these lost members (in person, if possible) and encourage them to come back onboard. Tell them about all the great work your Auxiliary is doing and the benefits of rejoining. If they do not want to rejoin, ask them why. You can use this information to improve your Auxiliary.

MEMBERSHIP NEVER ENDS! We need to ensure the future of our great organization by consistent, steady growth. Each one of our memberships need to be full, healthy and vibrant.

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

VFW National Home Talking Points
Winter 2026
District #7 Trustee Michele Rathke
Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, and Wisconsin

Mission Statement: “The VFW National Home assists military, veterans, and their families with children, by creating a foundation of services and resources to achieve their personal and family goals in order to move forward in a positive, safe and healthy environment.”

Campus Victory: Anna’s Journey-Strength, Stability & Success

- Anna came to the National Home determined to build a better life for her two sons.
- Her boys thrived through after-school programs, holiday events, and music lessons—one has graduated and is working full-time, the other just started high school.
- With clear goals, Anna improved her credit, saved diligently, and became a proud homeowner.
- She balanced multiple jobs while raising her sons and now has full-time employment with benefits.
- Anna’s story shows how determination, paired with the National Home’s support, can transform lives.

Notables:

- **Advancing Education Opportunities Through VRAD (Veteran Regenerative Agriculture Demonstration Farm)** – Three VRAD participants are moving forward with enrollment at Cleary University. Two are preparing for Bachelor’s programs, and one is pursuing an MBA. This marks significant progress toward their long-term career goals.
- **Formal Partnership with Camp Southern Ground** – The National Home finalized an MOU (memorandum of understanding) with Camp Southern Ground, founded by the musician Zac Brown, creating new opportunities for shared resources and mission awareness. National Home residents now receive priority access to the “Warrior Week” program. This partnership significantly enhances the support we can offer Veterans.

Reminder of changes to the Life Membership program:

- Life memberships are now \$100. Members receive the regular pin and a plastic wallet card—a handy keepsake of their support.
- Purchase memberships here: <https://vfwnationalhome.org/you-can-help/membership/>

Centennial bricks are still available in the Centennial Garden:

Each \$500 8"x8" brick is a lasting way to honor someone or mark a special event — and once all 1,000 are sold, that's it. We'd love your help spreading the word so we can fill the garden. To find more information and to order:

<https://vfwnationalhome.org/centennial-brick/>

2025-26 VFW National Commander-in-Chief Whitmore & Auxiliary National President Callahan combined special project- Retail Store:

The new Retail Store will be inside the remodeled Welcome Center. This fundraiser will fund the coolers, freezers, and an honor-system point-of-sale program, so residents can shop with a swipe card and pay by credit card — even after hours.

Donations can be made at vfwnationalhome.org/donate; just type 'Retail Store' in the comments. Please call 866-482-9642 with any questions.

Share Thank You message:

On behalf of the VFW National Home, thank you for your generous support and belief in our mission. Because of friends like you, we can provide a safe, supportive community for veterans, service members, and their families as they rebuild and strengthen their futures. Your partnership truly makes a lasting difference, and we are deeply grateful for your continued commitment to the National Home.

District #7 Trustee Michele Rathke
VFW National Home Board of Trustees
District7trustee@vfwnationalhome.org
715-218-0440



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Department of Wisconsin
National Scholarships February 2026



Art is up next. Who's Art? Not who, but what. The Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest! It is for students in grades 9 through 12. The deadline is March 31st to receive entries at your auxiliary; if the students aren't working on their projects yet they don't have much time to get them submitted.

All the details (contest rules, eligibility and entry form) can be found on <https://vfwauxiliary.org/nationalscholarships>. This includes 3D art.

Also, all entries for Continuing Education should be in. Did your auxiliary hold a fundraiser for the National Presidents' special project? You still have time to do it. Share your ideas.

“From Sea to Shining Sea, Honoring Veterans who Keep us Free” as “We Rise by Lifting Others”

Marge Southworth,

Nt'l Scholarships Chairman

mdsouth2228@gmail.com

**Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Department of Wisconsin
February S'more News
Ways and Means**

Hello Sisters and Brothers,

By the time you read this Department Mid-Winter will be over, so I would like to start by thanking those who joined us at the Paint and Sip event. I hope all had a great time.

We will also be finished with our Mobility Scooter raffle. Now for the bad news, as we did not have great success with the Mobility Scooter raffle, we need to do more fundraising. We are working on the details, and it will be or has been announced (depending on when your meeting is) during the Department Mid-Winter. Please help support our great organization by promoting the new raffle.

Keep working on the fundraising initiative, known as "Fill the Boot." This should be actively promoted within your community to support the Ways and Means program. By doing so, you not only contribute to the department Auxiliary's efforts but also enhance the visibility of your Auxiliary within your community.



- ❖ This boot is to be put out into the community to help you raise funds.
- ❖ You can set it out at a business or rotate locations throughout your community or do a day of collecting in the community.
- ❖ This will help get you out in your community and help promote your auxiliary.
- ❖ Provide your auxiliary contact information with the boot.

If you have any ideas or suggestions, please reach out to our team as we are always looking for new great ways to raise funds. This is the year or thinking outside the box and finding new ways to help our organization.

**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”

The Way and Means Team

Jennifer, Aimee, Lerline and Barbara

Jmauritz922@gmail.com

fancysbags12@gmail.com

rohaas4@gmail.com

stillmanb@att.net



**VFW Auxiliary of WI
Wisconsin Veterans Assistance
February 2026**



As we celebrate 100 years, that in itself is exciting. WI Veterans Assistance is important to us as well. We help WI Veterans. So far this VFW Auxiliary year \$33,017.67 has been granted to 25 WI Veterans. 20 grants were not approved (due to ineligibility, ineligible expenses, or failure to respond to follow-up questions, and/or request for additional information). Their grants may be used for rent, house payment or car repair, medical bills, groceries and whatever comes up. We still need donations to help our WI Veterans.

There is still time to donate and be entered into a drawing for a chance to win one of four awards at Department Convention in June of \$5 each. Make checks out to VFW-WI earmark WI Veterans Assistance. Mail to VFW WI, PO Box 6128, Monona, WI 53716-0128.

We have 13 Auxiliaries entered so far. Don't miss out on this opportunity to help our WI Veterans and a chance to win money for your Auxiliary.

Thanks to all who have donated so far. Don't forget to let me know when you make your donation. Call, text, email even snail mail your auxiliary name, number, district and city.

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

Respectfully,

Mary Lou Duerr
marylduerr@gmail.com
715-305-5052
2313 S. Washington Ave trl 3-4
Marshfield, WI 54449

VFW NEWS



By Sharon Kamrowski VFW NEWS Chairman
608-406-0924/ skshar@aol.com

Happy New Year to you all. Much appreciation to those that sent in articles and pictures of your events and outings.

Thank you for the donations sent in this past year. Our year-to-date total in donations is \$5260.50. There is still time for those Auxiliaries that haven't donated to still do so.

Please continue to send in your articles, pictures and upcoming event notifications to:

VFW NEWS: wivfweditor@gmail.com and skshar@aol.com

Secretary Training is Coming



The Department is going to do more training via Zoom in March. Last Fall we talked with Treasurers and Trustees about the Audit. This time we will be talking to Secretaries about:

1. What's in your minutes book?
2. What goes into your minutes?
3. Secretary's role in an Audit.
4. Delegate Forms – who, what, where and especially Why.
5. Any other questions you may have.

We will be sending out Zoom invitations to Secretaries in District groups again at the beginning of March. However, if you cannot make it on your designated night, but could join on another night, let me know after you receive your invitation.

District 1 – 4: Tuesday, March 10 – 6:30 PM

District 6-8: Wednesday, March 11-6:30 PM

District 9-11: Monday, March 16 – 6:30 PM

YEAR END REPORTS ARE AVAILABLE DUE BY APRIL 1ST

Our 2025-2026 Program Year will be over before you know it. Year End Reports must be completed and sent to your District President by **April 1st**.

You can find the 2025-2026 Year End Reports on our Department website:

www.vfwauxwi.org **under Programs – Year End Reports 2025-2026** is the top title on the Drop-down menu.

- You will find a complete packet of all Program Reports that you can download and print.
- There are also individual Program Year End Reports available that are fillable.
- Every Auxiliary should have participated in at least one program.

You will also find a copy of the Auxiliary and District Achievement Award forms-due to Sr. Vice Pres. Charlene Cobb by May 1st. Fill it out for the chance to win an Award.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

February 2026

VFW Auxiliary – Department of Wisconsin
Patty Jansky, Chairman / pajansky@charter.net



YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

RANDOM ACT OF PATRIOTISM (R.A.P) CARDS

As we all know, recognizing our youth for their achievements will encourage them to keep giving back to our veterans and community. Through our Youth Activities Program, we can award our boys and girls with **Random Act of Patriotism (R.A.P.) cards, Youth Acts of Kindness Certificates, Individual Patriotic Youth Awards, and Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations.** This month, I would like to focus on the R.A.P. Cards.

Have you seen a child show respect to the Flag, recite the Pledge of Allegiance, or honor our veterans and our country in some way? Let them know that you see them by giving them a R.A.P. card. We have four new designs this year!



DEADLINES ARE COMING UP QUICKLY!

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. Send in your Auxiliary's first-place winner in each grade division (K-2, 3-5, and 6-8). Be sure to use the 2025-2026 entry form. One is included with this bulletin.

Your Auxiliary is probably doing some wonderful projects with youth. The **2025-2026 Youth Activities National Program Awards for Auxiliaries** is for the **“Most creative and/or unique activity and/or event of the VFW Auxiliary working with a youth group.”** A copy of the entry form was included in the September S'more News. You can also find it on our Wisconsin website or on MALTA Member Resources under Youth Activities. Why not give it a try? The application is due to me by **March 31st.**



VFW Auxiliary National Art Contest

Illustrating America

2025-2026

VFW Auxiliary National is pleased to present this national art contest to introduce, encourage and recognize young artists with patriotism through art. Entries will be judged on patriotic themes and technique.

VFW Auxiliary National Level Awards

Grades K-2

First place: \$100 gift card
Second place: \$50 gift card
Third place: \$25 gift card

Grades 3-5

First place: \$100 gift card
Second place: \$50 gift card
Third place: \$25 gift card

Grades 6-8

First place: \$100 gift card
Second place: \$50 gift card
Third place: \$25 gift card

Contest Eligibility

- Students do not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate
- Students in grades K-8 by March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial or home school 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 resident (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen.
- Foreign exchange students, students aged 15 or older are **not** eligible.
- Previous winners of VFW Auxiliary National Illustrating America Art Contests are **not** eligible for the same grade division of which they are a previous national winner. However, the students may enter the subsequent grade division.

Contest Rules

- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be two dimensional.
- Entry must be on canvas or paper.
- Canvas entries must be submitted on a stretcher frame or canvas board.
- Paper entries must be reinforced with heavy paper.
- Do **not** frame art with wood, metal, plastic or glass.
- Mats may be used, including mounted and floating mats.
- Entries may **not** be smaller than 8"x10" and **not** larger than 18"x24" **including** mat.
- Acrylic, chalk, crayon, ink, marker, pastel, pen, pencil, tempera, watercolor, glitter or other media may be used.
- If the American Flag is used, it does **not** need conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, numbers of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code.
- Coloring sheets, digital art and photography are **not** accepted.
- Completed typed or printed legible entry form including parent and/or guardian signatures.
- Students' name, age and grade level must be printed on back of art entry.

VFW Auxiliary National reserves the right to modify these rules and eligibility without notice.



VFW Auxiliary National Art Contest

Illustrating America

Contest Entry Form

2025-2026

Please print or type. Incomplete and/or illegible entry forms will disqualify the entrant.

Student Name: _____ Age: _____
School Name: _____ Grade: _____
Title of entry: _____ Date completed: _____
Media used: _____
Parent/Guardian Name: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____
*Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

*I hereby grant permission for the artwork of the student listed above to be published in the VFW Auxiliary National Magazine, website and social media and to be used for any and all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary National organization. VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for entries which are lost, late, illegible, damaged, incomplete, misdirected, stolen, or reproduced. All scores are final as received from the judges. All contestants must agree to abide by the contest rules. Falsifying information on the entry form or any violation of these rules shall cause immediate disqualification and forfeiture of the award.

Participating/Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary contact information

Contact Name: _____ Contact Phone: _____
Contact email: _____ Auxiliary No. _____

To avoid entrant disqualification, this section is to be filled out completely by VFW Auxiliary at each judging level. VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters only accepts Department level first-place winning entries.

Participating/Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary Name & No.: _____ Dept. of: _____

March 31: Student entries due to participating/sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for judging.

Authorized VFW Auxiliary verification signature: _____ Date: _____
Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

April: (Optional) First place winner from each participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary VFW Auxiliary due to VFW Auxiliary District for judging.

Authorized VFW Auxiliary District verification signature: _____ Date: _____
Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

April 15: First place winner from each participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary **or optional** VFW Auxiliary District judging due to the VFW Auxiliary Department for judging.

Authorized VFW Auxiliary Department verification signature: _____ Date: _____
Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

May 5: First place winner from each VFW Auxiliary Department must be received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters for judging.

July/August: All students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form. Selected winning entries in each grade division may be announced on VFW Auxiliary National social media pages and an image may be shown at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

August/September: All art entries received at VFW Auxiliary National will be returned to students and awards mailed to the address provided on the entry form.

VFW Auxiliary National reserves the right to modify these rules and eligibility without notice.