



WI VFW AUXILIARY

2024-25 GENERAL ORDERS



"HONORING VETERANS TOGETHER"

October 2024

MUST BE READ AT MEETING

Volume 3 - Issue 4

- General Orders and Program Bulletins can be found on the Department Website at: <https://vfwauxwi.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp> Look under the news tab and click on General Orders. This will be available for the following month by around the 20th of each month. You do not need to wait for an email. We know emails have been having difficulties as late. National is working on this. Also, it is important to check your junk folder regularly in case they have fallen into that category.
- By now official visits have been completed for a majority of all auxiliaries and we will be finishing up fall district meetings by the middle of October. I hope the majority of you took the opportunity to attend your district meeting. You can learn a lot of valuable information at these meetings. Keep up your good work.
- 990's - The deadline for the 990's will be approaching very quickly, so if you haven't already done the paperwork, please get it started. If you need assistance, please let us know.
- Audits - Your fall audit will also be due shortly. Don't forget to date it the day you do the audit and when it was approved at a meeting.
- Fall Council of Administration Meeting will be held on Saturday, November 16, 2024 at the Portage VFW. Anyone is welcome to attend this meeting, but we will ask you to let us know so we can plan for how many we will need to plan for lunch. This is another great opportunity to learn. Orders for this meeting will be out shortly.
- Membership – We are currently at 88.54% paid membership. We are well on our way, but we can't stop here. Continue to reach out and look for new members.
- Events - Do you have an event that you'd like a Department Officer to attend? Just fill out the request form on our website. We will do our best to meet your wishes.
- Thank you for all you continue to do for our veterans and your communities. It does not go unnoticed.

Cordially,
Cheryl L. Woodards
Department of Wisconsin President
608-692-4027
Wivwacheryl55@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)



VFW's **National Veterans Service (NVS)** was established to help all veterans, service members, their families and survivors. * NVS consists of a nationwide network of VFW Accredited Service Officers and Pre-Discharge Representatives who are experts in navigating VA processes, claim filing, and **childcare for active-duty military**, veterans and their families * **one of the most vital services offered is child care support.** Active-duty military members, veterans and their families often face unique challenges, and finding reliable, affordable child care is a significant one.

Ambassador Evan Smiley extends service Shark style. Shark-Infused Support. *Child care support isn't just a convenience; it's a lifeline that helps these families keep moving forward. *Our support ensures that their children are well cared for with Veterans transitioning from military to civilian life which can face uncertainties. *Reliable child care provides stability, making it easier for them without stress. * Whether it's a spouse managing daily routines or a grandparent taking on caregiving duties, having dependable child care options helps everyone stay afloat.

1). Eliminate barriers that make accessing child care challenging. * Connect families with local resources to advocate for more flexible options. **2). Streamline Services** - stream the process of finding and accessing quality child care. * **Partner with local child care providers** to offer military and veteran families priority access and special rates. **3). Support and Resources squad** should be always on the lookout for new ways to support families. * Whether it's through funding programs, informational resources, or community events.

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*



The MALTA website has numerous tools and resources to “freshen up your community involvement” and help you spread the message that the VFWA is active and approachable! Simply go to your home page on MALTA, click on Member Resources, then Americanism.

[Click here: malta.vfwauxiliary.org/MemberResources/Americanism](http://malta.vfwauxiliary.org/MemberResources/Americanism)

Thank you to the officers/members/auxiliaries that sent photos showing HOW you promote Americanism in your community.



Get out to the schools to educate; show your patriotism and how much you value your freedom by representing our great organization!

EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION

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



Brothers and Sisters:

As members of the VFW Auxiliary, we are committed to honor the dead by helping the living. We have over one hundred years of committed service to those who have served us, and have given us our precious FREEDOM---OUR VETERANS. Membership is the key. Membership gives us the power, strength and unity to make a difference. Each member counts! Each member makes a difference! YOUR membership makes it happen. Past National Chief of Staff (Rita Byers) found this parable entitled THE MEMBER WHO NEVER CAME BACK (ANONYMOUS)

"It amuses me now to think that your organization spends so much time looking for new members.... When I was there all the time. Do you remember me?"

"I'm the person who came to every meeting, but nobody paid any attention to me. I tried several times to be friendly, but everyone seemed to have her own friends to talk to and sit with. I sat down among some unfamiliar faces several times, but they didn't pay much attention to me.

"I hoped somebody would ask me to join one of the committees or to somehow participate and contribute.... but no one did.

"Finally, because of illness, I missed a meeting. The next month no one asked me where I had been. I guess, it didn't matter very much whether I was there or not. On the next meeting date, I decided to stay home and watch a good television program. When I attended the next meeting, no one asked me where I was the month before.

"You might say that I'm a good person. That I hold a responsible job and love my community.

"You know who else I am? I'm the member who never came back."

Sisters and Brothers, we can't let this happen in our Auxiliaries. WE need to be kind, mentor, involve and listen to our members. Remember if your Auxiliary has problems or questions, we are only a phone call away. Don't wait until the last minute for help---just call.

God Bless as we continue "HONORING VETERANS TOGETHER."

HOSPITAL

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



During the next few months our department officers are now visiting the VAVS Hospital and VA Nursing Homes. So far, they are all doing great. We go to the Hospitals to check on how the hospitals are taking care of our veterans. When we visit these hospitals, we also give them a donation. This is where we use our hospital program fund. Our representatives and deputies are doing a great job helping the veterans and having a lot of events to keep a ray of sun on the veterans' faces. On our visit to Zablocki we had a talk with the director and then to a baby shower which they gave all thing for a newborn baby to new mothers. Tomah, we talked to the director and had a tour of the therapy unit. Then in the afternoon the department put on a party with music and pie and ice cream everyone enjoyed. The reps and deputies receive funds for these projects from our hospital projects fund. Thank you to those who donated the Hospital programs and hospital projects funds, if you haven't given, please do so we always need these funds to keep the events for VA hospital and nursing home going. We are looking forward to going to King, Madison, Oscar Johnson, and Chippawa Falls.

Volunteering for a VA Medical facility or nursing home is a job that can be rewarding. It can boost your self esteem and life satisfaction.

- Has your auxiliary promoted volunteerism.
- How have you recognized that volunteer.
- Have you sponsored a member of your auxiliary or non-member to be a volunteer.
- There is a drawing for \$10 from the Dept. for the Auxiliary or member who recruits the most Hospital volunteers and reports to me.

Please look out for that person that could be a good volunteer.

LEGISLATIVE

by Debbie Nackers, Legislative Chairperson
debnack666@gmail.com



**Help Veterans and their Caregivers. Sign up for Action Corps!
Go to Vfw.org and sign up for alerts.**



VA Budget Shortfall Action Alert: Recently, VA announced a budget shortfall that may delay the timely delivery of benefits to people nationwide. Veterans, family members, and caregivers have earned VA benefits through service, and we are frustrated to hear certain ones may not be adequately funded through the end of the fiscal year. This is not a problem caused by Congress, but our elected officials in Washington, D.C., have the responsibility to ensure these benefits are paid on time to those who have earned them. Each year VA has been provided with the resources it requested for veterans' care and benefits, and our legislators must ensure that happens this time as well.

Review Your Message

- Senator Ron Johnson
- Senator Tammy Baldwin

Subject

Take Action to Avoid Lapse in VA Benefits

Message Body

Pass the Veterans Benefits Continuity and Accountability Supplemental Appropriations Act to provide supplemental funding for VA benefits in order to make sure these vital programs are funded through the end of the fiscal year. Do not make veterans, survivors,

Review Your Profile [Not Debbie?](#)

Mrs. Debbie Nackers
debnack666@gmail.com
1571 Ravine Dr, Green Bay, WI

Send Message

Example of an alert and message that will be sent to Congress.
Contact me with questions or for help.

MEMBERSHIP

by Chris Benson, Membership Chairman
cbenso@owns-minor.com (6080 577-9657)

Now that you have your lists – Let's move At the Speed of Light

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

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

Behind this QR code will be things like the Fact Sheet, Membership Application, What We Do, Auxiliary Locator and anything else we might need in our "Recruiting Tool Kit." To use military terms, we are in a target rich environment; so why aren't we hitting anything? If we embrace new techniques, we WILL be able to turn the membership tide and hopefully turn it into a tidal wave!



HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS

by Nikki David, Chairman
(920) 650-3737; nikdmetalsmith@gmail.com



Hello Brothers and Sisters, fall is here!!

I have to admit this is my favorite time of year. Keep sending in those photos of events and Official visits.

Are you going to the VFW National Home's Fall Festival Party? Remember to take lots of pictures and then send them to me! I can't wait to see everyone in their Wizard of Oz Costumes!

Historians compile and chronicle memories and events in written format, photographs, memorabilia and print news/video clips. They also spread the word about our valuable National Programs and share how we are making a positive impact in the lives of veterans, service members and their families in thousands of communities across the country. Remember to toot your own horns and spread the word about all you do!

Speaking of Official visits. Our National President Brenda Bryant will be visiting Wisconsin in October. You can follow along with Brenda's travels by clicking on the link to **Brenda Lost & Found: Branching Across America**. Follow our National President as she makes her way across the U.S. Can't wait to add Wisconsin to her map!



Journey to 100 Years

October 2024 Question



What Department Program Award was instituted in 1976 and first presented by Past State President Ruth Brown?

Send your answer NOT LATER THAN October 31st.

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

No entries will be accepted after the deadline. All entries with correct, complete answer will be put into the drawing for the month. This month will be drawn at the Council of Administration meeting in the fall, if held. Otherwise at the 2025 Mid-Winter meetings.

The 100th Anniversary Committee

POPPY REMINDER



Please be advised that the National VFW now requires that you must order Buddy Poppies through a VFW Member, not an Auxiliary Member. The order form requires a VFW Member's number and the Buddy Poppies must be sent to the corresponding VFW Member Number's address. You can find the forms under Buddy Poppy on the WI VFW website: <https://vfwwi.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=5636>

VFW NEWS

by jody McKinney, VFW News Chairman
715-651-8546 • studebaker1971@gmail.com



It's time for the **Auxiliary Member "Half-Price Subscription Special" for the Wisconsin VFW NEWS**. The regular subscription price for one year (four printed and mailed issues) of our award-winning WI VFW NEWS is \$10 – a bargain - **but for a limited time**, Auxiliaries can secure subscriptions for their members at **only \$5 per year**. The necessary form is included in this month's e-mailing and may also be found at vfwauxwi.org – click on PROGRAMS, then VFW NEWS, scroll down to the link to the form.

DEADLINE for the Subscription Special is December 16, 2024. Be sure to complete the form clearly so that all names and addresses are entered correctly, and **send it with one total AUXILIARY check to VFW State Headquarters** in Madison. (Do NOT send to our Treasurer!)

If your Auxiliary has not yet sent **your \$1.00 per member donation**, based on your June 30, 2024 membership total, please complete that ASAP. **YES**, that donation **DOES** get sent to Dept. Treasurer Lenore Otto!

And keep submitting all your great photos and events to WI VFW NEWS Editor Marla Morgan. Remember, have fun with it, **WE ARE HONORING VETERANS TOGETHER!**

WI VETERANS ASSISTANCE

by Mary Lou Duerr, Chairman
715-305-5052 marylduerr@gmail.com



Please continue to donate to this great program. You can even get support from businesses to donate to this cause. The important thing to remember here is the monies raised for this program are for Wisconsin Veterans only. They don't have to be a VFW member. They apply at www.vfwwi.org.

This program helps them with their basic needs. The money goes directly to the bill owed. Example if needs car repair money goes to the place where getting the repairs. There will be 4 awards for \$5 each at the Dept. Convention in June. How you qualify is by emailing or snail mail me. I will need aux. name, number, district number and city also the amount you send in.

Checkout the chart below to see what the post and aux. donated:

Program Results	# WI Veterans Helped	Program Year	Total \$ Spent
approved	37	2017-2018	\$34,068.66
approved	45	2018-2019	35,024.27
approved	44	2019-2020	41,839.70
approved	27	2020-2021	30,504.92
approved	40	2021-2022	66,054.92
approved	64	2022-2023	97,209.42
approved ytd	54	2023-2024	67,189.32
Since July 17, 2017 – YTD Grand Total spent =			\$371,890.85
Total Helped=	311		

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

by Patty Jansky, Chairperson
pajansky@charter.net



SPONSORING AND WORKING WITH YOUTH GROUPS

Let's get our kids involved! Your Auxiliary can engage children in any one of our many Programs, including activities to honor our veterans and display patriotism. You can find youth groups everywhere – sports teams, church youth groups, school programs, Scouts, 4-H, Boys & Girls Clubs, JROTC, home-school associations, and more. Don't forget about your own members' children and grandchildren! Many youth organizations require community service hours – tap into that and encourage these youth to take part in our Auxiliary projects. These activities can even bring new membership to your Auxiliary. When youth and their whole family are included, they feel more connected to your Auxiliary. Our youth are important – let's work together with them to show our love and support for our veterans, our community and our country!

What are some things can we do with our youth?



- Make cards or gifts for veterans.
- Visit nursing homes or hospitals.
- Deliver groceries to disabled veterans.
- Help a veteran with yard work.
- Read a patriotic book with a veteran.
- Send care packages to troops.
- Help with "Buddy" Poppy drives.
- Take part in parades and patriotic events.
- Conduct a flag retirement ceremony.
- Participate in the Oral History Project.
- Promote Patriotism Through Literacy.
- Organize food and clothing drives.
- Make birthday cards for the National Home.
- Place flags on veterans' graves, and more!

JEANNETTE FRANK CONTINUOUS SERVICE AWARD

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 is deserving of 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 will be available in the October 2024 and February 2025 Auxiliary mailings. It will also be on the Auxiliary State website and by request. (www.vfwauxwi.org)

**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)

WISCONSIN VFW NEWS

Subscription Special

INFO YOU NEED TO KNOW: When a VFW member is reported as deceased, the VFW State Headquarters **MUST** be informed (by either the Post or Auxiliary) that the widow would like to continue receiving the Wisconsin VFW News for the next year. THE SUBSCRIPTION IS NOT AUTOMATICALLY CONTINUED! After that year, Auxiliary members must pay for their own subscription. We are again offering **half-price subscriptions** (\$5 instead of the regular \$10) to all Auxiliary members for either new or renewing subscriptions. **Until December 16, 2024**, any Auxiliary may send in a **GROUP LIST** of subscriptions, using this form. **PLEASE**, no *individual* mailings or *personal* checks – Auxiliary checks and one group listing **ONLY**.

Auxiliary Treasurers: please issue **ONE AUXILIARY** check for the whole group. It is up to each Auxiliary to decide if they will pay for the subscriptions or collect the \$5 from each member that wants one. **NOTE:** These may be **NEW or RENEWING** subscriptions and there is no minimum or maximum number required. **Please use reverse side if more space is needed.** Questions? Please call Auxiliary Chairman Jody McKinney at 715-651-8546.

NOTE: The subscription year runs for all four *printed and mailed* issues, **starting in March, 2025.**

Thank you for printing clearly!

NAME	ADDRESS, CITY, STATE, ZIP	NEW?	RENEW?

TOTAL number of subscriptions (including reverse side) x \$5.00 each = \$ _____ enclosed.

MAIL THIS FORM & AUXILIARY CHECK PAYABLE TO VFW DEPT. OF WI by December 16, 2024 to:

VFW Dept. Headquarters, Attn: NEWS Subscriptions, PO Box 6128, Monona, WI 53716-0128