

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN**

GENERAL ORDERS NO.2 (MUST BE READ AT MEETING)

August 2023

1. Bonds for the President and Treasurer will expire on August 31, 2023. Please renew them ASAP. Department Treasurer Lenore Otto has challenged all auxiliaries to get their bonds in by July 31, 2023. If this happens, there will be a special prize drawing for one Auxiliary.
2. Trustees: Have you mailed your Audit for April, May & June? If not, do it now!
3. Thank you to all who attended our first council meeting and training in Eau Claire that was held in July. Hopefully the information received was useful and you will share with your Auxiliaries.
4. It was voted on and approved that all general order mailings will be done via email. If for some reason your Auxiliary wants a paper copy of all the mailings for the year, please send \$35 to the Department Treasurer, earmarked "Snail Mail Fee" and then we will mail them to you.
5. For our special project "Sierra Delta Life Buddy Program", over \$3000 was raised on the auxiliary side and \$1200 was raised by the VFW. That's a terrific start. Donations are always welcome and can be sent to the Department Treasurer. This program is very beneficial to our veterans, and we'd like to raise as much money as possible. Please earmark your checks "President's Special Project".
6. Just a reminder that Department Dues will be going from \$6 to \$10 per member starting October 1, 2023. To avoid the increase, you can pay now or convert your membership to Life.
7. Our new website is up and running. We are currently working on updating pages so be patient. It is a work in progress. vfwauxwi.org
8. Our National President, Carla Martinez will be visiting Wisconsin August 28-30th. Please see the flier in this General Orders mailing for details.
9. Don't forget to purchase/sell your "Bee in the Money" Raffle Tickets. All monies and stubs are due September 15, 2023. These CANNOT be mailed.
10. District dues are now due to your DISTRICT TREASURER based on your June 30, 2023 membership.
11. To all District Presidents and Line Officers: Please return monies for the President's Pins that you were given at the convention to sell, to Department Treasurer, Lenore Otto. We do have some pins remaining. If you are looking for additional pins, please contact Laurel Ann Wiese at wiesel@charter.net

Loyally,

Sherrie Rosenau
Department of WI President
920-251-8888
littlemama6@yahoo.com

VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

AUGUST 2023

The 3 Program Goals of Veterans & Family Support are:

- Veterans & Military Support Programs
- National Veterans Services
- **Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Awareness**

This Year's Focus:

Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Awareness

National Suicide Prevention Week will be Sept 10-16, 2023.

Recognizing the signs of suicide

- Thinking about hurting or killing yourself
- Looking for ways to kill yourself
- Talking about death, dying or suicide
- Self-destructive behavior such as drug abuse, weapons, etc.

Take Immediate actions and call 911 if you notice any of these crisis signs

- Hopelessness, feeling like there's no way out
- Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, mood swings
- Feeling like there is no reason to live
- Rage or anger
- Engaging in risky activities without thinking
- Increasing alcohol or drug abuse
- Withdrawing from family and friends

Contact the Veterans Crisis Line if you experience any of these warning signs.

ALWAYS HAVE AVAILABLE the **VETERANS CRISIS LINE** phone number:

988 press 1

The **Veterans Crisis Line** connects veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat or text. (chat online at veteranscrisisline.net or send text message to 838255) This service is available 24/7/365. Support for the deaf and hard of hearing is also available.

Statistics indicate that 22 Veterans commit suicide each day. That is over 8000 Veterans each year. The **loss of life to one Veteran** due to this horrible action is **one too many**.

The Veterans & Military Suicide Awareness Blue Teardrop Sticker is the VFW Auxiliary's symbol that gives this issue the attention it so desperately needs. The Teardrop template can be found online for a download.

Mental Health Awareness

1 in 5 Americans lives with a mental health condition

Raise awareness and reduce the stigma surrounding behavioral health

- May "Official Month of Awareness"
- July "National Minority Mental Health Awareness" month
 - Brings awareness to the unique struggles that racial & ethnic minority communities face.

Mental Wellness Support & Resources:

- **VFW Mental Wellness Campaign** vfw.org/assistance/mental-wellness
- **The Campaign to Change Direction** changedirection.org
- **Give An Hour** giveanhour.org
- **Patients Like Me** patientslikeme.com/join/vfw
- **One Mind** onemind.org
- **The Elizabeth Dole Foundation** elizabethdolefoundation.org
- **Help Heal Veterans (Therapeutic Craft Kits)** healvets.org
- **Veterans Voice Writing Project** veteransvoices.org

As we go through the year, I will highlight other months of significance related to these issues. So we begin, "Banding Together for Veterans" and step forward to "Bee the Change."

Helen Stearns

hlstearns1021@gmail.com



Americanism Chair and Patriotic Instructor

August 2023 Report

Greetings brothers and sisters of the Department of Wisconsin. It is my pleasure to share information from our National Ambassador Linda.

This month we will focus on:

#MoreThanLetters (POW/MIA/KIA)

- A POW is a number, a *Prisoner of War is a person*.
- Those who have *Fallen* or are *Missing* are people, not acronyms (POW, MIA, KIA).
- Vow to educate and motivate the change to use the words rather than the acronym.
- Honor our promise to *use the words* publicly.
- Never Forget.
- #Morethanletters

#AuxTRIBE

- Service to country builds Americanism/work together while having fun/volunteering builds you up in many ways/a simple sacrifice of time makes a big difference
- Unified in effort and purpose/different perspectives working to one end for our VETERANS/learn something new/making a difference makes you a different person
- Common goals and lifestyle/tribes have similar goals and work as a team/work together/work smarter
- Ideals of equality are realized/end results make us proud/broaden our base/come together as a unit, a tribe, a family
- A community of familiar speech and culture/know your goal/work toward it with others/strengthen your strengths and others will teach you to strengthen your weaknesses while you help them get stronger/all for one and one for all/together



It's time for PATRIOTIC celebrations all over the city/town/village/county/department/country!

Encourage your Auxiliary to promote any patriotic community activity by volunteering the assistance of your Auxiliary. *Consider community involvement "enlarging your AuxTRIBE" and please send pictures my way.*

Network with other organizations or community-based groups to meet new people. They may become your new member, offer a new way to fundraise or just help with the workload. Wear patriotic clothing or your pins to start a conversation. Show others the Veterans of Foreign Wars and their Auxiliary are out in the community *and proud to be there!*

Soon I will email District Presidents and District Americanism Chairs to provide details about Patriotic Holidays, #MoreThanLetters and #AuxTRIBE to be shared at your next District Meetings.

Thank you and God Bless America as we "Bond Together for our Veterans" & "Bee the Change."

Sally Lamers

2023-2024 Dept WI Americanism/Patriotic Instruction Chair

sslamers@gmail.com

Phone or text 920.475.0789 (please leave a message)

FIND INFORMATION 24/7 Online

- <https://vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/americanism/>
- <https://vfwauxwi.org> => click on Programs, then Americanism
- <https://malta.vfwauxiliary.org/MemberResources>



Buddy Poppy/National Home Program-2023-24

August/September Bulletin

July 12, 2023

"Buddy"® Poppy



This year the "Buddy"® Poppy Program has evolved due to the high costs of supplies and the pandemic. Our poppies are now being made in Kansas City by a group of disabled individuals that work for Cottonwood Inc. These individuals can make an authentic poppy. With the help of Cottonwood Inc, National VFW can ship poppies out within three days. Check out Cottonwood Inc. by clicking or copy and pasting this link to see a video about them. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BZDIwgH-wY>

Unfortunately, the cost of our poppy has doubled in price. You will want to check the new price on the order form before you vote on the number of poppies you are going to buy. Also starting this year, all orders need to go through the WI VFW Headquarters in Monona. They have access to a program to put the orders into National.

With the cost increase, VFW has investigated finding new forms of poppies at a lower price. They have found a metal poppy (See picture below) that will be able to be purchased from the VFW store. The price is still being determined and more information on this will be available in September.



Come to the National Home!



Every year, Ambassadors and Chairmen have told you about the wonderful VFW National Home and its mission—"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."

If you truly want to understand what a wonderful community has been created at the National Home, you need to see it for yourself!

The Wisconsin and Missouri VFWs and Auxiliaries have the honor of visiting the National Home each year in October. We attend the National Home Annual Meeting and provide a Halloween Party for the families that live at the National Home. We have the opportunity to tour the entire community-see the Wisconsin House; the Pre-School; chapel; and other facilities on the grounds.

Our VFW has reserved bus transportation for us. Lamers Bus service will pick us up at one of multiple locations around the state on Friday morning, October 27th. We will drive to the Quality Suites in Lansing, MI. On Saturday morning the bus will take us to the National Home for the Annual Meeting, take a tour of the facilities, and then lunch and the Halloween party in the afternoon. We return to our hotel after about 3 p.m. The bus service will also drive us to a local VFW Post that offers dinner on Friday night, and then we find a place to go out to dinner on Saturday night. Breakfasts will be provided at the hotel.

TRIP COST: The cost to ride with us and two-night stay at the hotel is \$300 per person for double occupancy and \$435 for single occupancy. However, check this out!

DISCOUNT PROGRAM: If you sign up by August 10, 2023 you will receive a 10% discount off of the cost. (i.e. \$300 for double occupancy will be \$270 and \$435 single occupancy will be \$391.50).

Plus, If we have a minimum of 40 members signed up by September 25, 2023, each member that has signed-up and paid in full, will receive a \$40.00 rebate.

THEME: Our Halloween theme for this year at the National Home is Harry Potter. The VFW has divided the state up between the four houses of the Hogwarts Academy. Slytherin: Districts 1, 7, 8, & 11; Ravenclaw: District 2 & 4; Hufflepuff: District 3 & 10; and Gryffindor: District 6 & 9. If you are unsure of a costume, there are lots of pictures and information on the internet regarding Harry Potter.

I really hope you will join us for this fantastic trip to a wonderful facility for Veterans.

Forms for Poppies & the National Home Trip can be found on the WI VFW Auxiliary website at: vfwauxwi.org and then click on Programs and go to the Buddy Poppy/National Home page and scroll down.



Faith A. Elford, PDP
2023-24 Chairperson
608-322-5144
faelford@outlook.com



CHIEF OF STAFF
EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION

August 2023

CHAIN OF COMMAND

Auxiliaries: If you are experiencing problems contact your District President!

District President: If you cannot solve the problem using our National Bylaws and Resources contact the Department President!

Department President: Will work with you and/or assign a knowledgeable Officer or Chairman to help you!

Please do not contact the District Commander to discuss Auxiliary business.



Auxiliary Official visits will begin soon.

District Presidents and/or their Representatives are a vital part of the Extension and Revitalization program.

In their Official Visit with you, they will be on the lookout for red flags that your Auxiliary may be struggling. They are not there to criticize the President or any member. They are to help you in making sure you are in good working order.



Vicki Newbauer

Chief of Staff



Have you been invited by your District President to join Chubby MCBee & the Honey Sweets Band for our next performance? It will take place on Monday August 28, 2023 in Oconomowoc. We will be doing a special selection for our National President when she visits us! All are welcome to join in the fun and festivities! Please bring your favorite band instrument and join us. Bring a friend or potential member. See you there!



VFW Auxiliary
Dept of Wisconsin

HISTORIAN / MEDIA RELATIONS

August 2023

On a search for STARS!

This years National Historian/Media Relations Ambassador Diana Morris has an amazing project preposed for this year!

A camera is a SAVE button. Let your Auxiliary legacy members become STARS, for without our STARS, our Auxiliary would not exist. This Program Year, connect with a legacy member and complete a three- to five-minute video interview: Ask why they joined. Ask about their favorite memorable moment(s). Place emphasis on bringing the past to life. If your Auxiliary has no legacy members, look to your District or Department. Submit your video interview and entre form to me by March 31, 2024, for judging.

Hello Brothers and Sisters, it's me again, Nikki David, returning as your Historian/Media Relations Chairperson for the 2023-24 year! Thank you, President Sherrie, for asking me to continue with this Chairmanship. As always I look forward to seeing everything your Auxiliaries get up to this year. Remember the more photos you send in to me the more I have for our Departments PowerPoint for National at the end of the year.

The work of the Auxiliary is important. By sharing our stories, we are doing our part to promote the Auxiliary in our communities. Service is more than something we do; it is who we are. I am always astounded by the service and heart we give to our communities and veterans. This is going to be a year of courage, kindness, service, and unlimited possibilities to share the history-in-the-making of our organization. Our Auxiliaries are well worth preserving and in this coming Program Year my hope is that we will band together to preserve our history with open hearts.

**Where can you find the National
Historian Award form?**

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

**Where do you send photos from
your Auxiliary events?**

Email: nikdmetalsmith@gmail.com



Hospital report

August 2023

Our National Hospital ambassador is promoting Non-Traditional Holidays. While veterans have come to enjoy special day like Christmas and Valentine's Day for veterans, Della would like to shake it up and celebrate the little-known specials day of the year. With this innovative way to entertain our hospitalized or long-term care patients, they are sure to have some good times between the traditional holidays we celebrate yearly. Always be a month ahead on the special days that you want to celebrate. Some facilities might not be ready for these special events, so contact each facility to confirm their current protocol and then get your Auxiliary to sponsor a non-Traditional holiday. And do not forget the staff and doctors. While all facilities and hospitals were on lockdown, it was the staff that stepped up the needs of veterans. Just like our veterans, the staff has seen the repetition of the traditional celebrations year after year so please include the doctors and staff in all your new celebration plans. Here is a great link for you to start your planning: calendar.com/united-states/observances-2023. National and Department have awards for the program.

National awards for Auxiliaries:

- Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and /or event that recognizes veterans on non-traditional holiday.
- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each four conferences that host the most outstanding activities and/or event recognizing veterans on Non-traditional holiday.

Department awards for Auxiliary:

- Drawing of \$10 for the Auxiliary who sponsored the most volunteers in there Auxiliary with member or non/members and reported to me.
- Drawing of \$10 to the Auxiliary who sponsored an event that recognizes veterans on a non-traditional Holiday and reported to me.

Karen Johnson (nursefrazzle)
Hospital chairman
nursefrazzle@new.rr.com



Bee the
Change



Standing up for
our Veterans

Greeting from our National Legislative Ambassador Sherry Holand. She wants to share that supporting our veterans and families requires a deep understanding of those Legislative issues that affect each of them. That with our efforts we can make a positive impact on the US Senators and members of Congress, as well as our State Legislators. She asked that you make a commitment to strive improving the benefits and lives of all those who have served and serve today in each branch of the military.

You can find her complete greetings letter on our website at <https://vfwauxwi.org>.

Check out the Legislative Tab under Program on our New website <https://vfwauxwi.org>

2024 VFW Legislative
Conference will be
held March 3rd-7th in
Washington, DC



Legislative Corner

Additional information can be
found on the Department website.

- 1) Homeless Veterans Grant
- 2) Predatory Claim Companies
- 3) Current Bills pending

Do you know
our goals?
Check them out
at www.vgw.org
under the Ad-
vocacy Tab.



Stay in the know with the VFW Action Corps. <https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts/vfw-action-corps-weekly>. See what the current issues the VFW is fighting for in Legislation..

Kim McWilliams

Department Legislative Chairman

mrsffiemt@gmail.com

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN
MEMBERSHIP REPORT
August 2023**

National Ambassador Ansje Lansing states that MEMBERSHIP is the LIFEBLOOD of our organization and without new and existing members we would cease to exist. We need to INVITE new members; INCLUDE new members; and INVEST in the FUTURE of this organization. This year Ambassador Ansje Lansing wants to make the membership more fun by incorporating movies into our Membership Program. When you ask someone to join you are a TALENT SCOUT for your Auxiliary. You need to be enthusiastic about our organization and show potential members who we are, what we do, and why we do it. Ask others to be TALENT SCOUTS. Put on your happy face and smile for the Camera.

INCLUDE EVERYONE. Get all CAST MEMBERS involved in the Auxiliary. There is always something for everyone to do. You need to shine a light on all members in your membership production and encourage them to stay positive.

ENCOURAGE PARTICIPATION: Everyone is important in making a great award-winning movie. The same holds true for your Auxiliary. It is up to you and everyone to encourage ideas from all members. Put a team of members in charge. Work through your members' strengths and encourage them to work in these areas. Always be positive and appreciate what all members do. A thank-you goes a long way to reinforce that all members are important to the Auxiliary.

DEVELOP A MEMBERSHIP PLAN. Appoint a 5-Membership Team to include the Producer (Treasurer) to help collect dues. Develop a plan to contact current and former members; develop recruiting events; pick mentors for new members; and set your calendar for these events. Plan at least 4 Recruiting Events for the year.

INVEST. By investing in the future of your Auxiliary, you will grow into a successful Franchise. With Lights, Camera, Action! Not only are we having fun, but we will "Bee the Change" in "Banding Together for our Veterans."

**Linda Schluter, Membership Chair
4601 Declaration LN, Madison, WI 53704**

**l.schluter0319@gmail.com
608-209-3080**

MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP

VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

AUGUST 2023

HELLO WISCONSIN BROTHERS AND SISTERS,
IT'S THE BEGINNING OF A NEW YEAR TIME TO GET THINGS STARTED IN THE CORRECT DIRECTION. DISTRICT PRESIDENTS YOUR DEPARTMENT RELIES ON YOU TO EDUCATE AND INFORM YOUR AUXILIARIES AND MEMBERS. YOU SHOULD FAMILIARIZE YOURSELF WITH THE CURRENT BYLAWS AND RITUAL. EDUCATE YOURSELF ABOUT THE DUTIES OF YOUR OFFICE AND GIVE GUIDANCE TO YOUR AUXILIARIES AS NEEDED AT YOUR AUXILIARY VISITS.

PROGRAM GOALS THIS YEAR
ENSURE POSITIVE MEMBER
EXPERIENCE

ENGAGE IN LEARNING AND
TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

DEVELOP AND EMPOWER
MEMBERS FOR LEADERSHIP
ROLES



Linda Moran Mentoring for Leadership Chr.

Loopylin1950@gmail.com 920-337-9922 H 929-639-9987 C

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary

NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS

August 2023

PROGRAM GOALS

- More Student Participation
- Increase Community Awareness



- Recipient Recognition
- Grow the Fund

Complete information and entry forms can be found on our website - vfwauxwi.org

FALL SCHOLARSHIPS

Patriot's Pen (Grades 6-8)

- Essay
- How Are You Inspired by America?

Voice of Democracy (Grades 9-12)

- Essay and oral presentation
- "What Are the Greatest Attributes of our Democracy?"

- ENTRIES TO YOUR POST BY 10/31/2023



WINTER SCHOLARSHIP



Continuing Education

- Open to all members
(member for at least one year)
- Open to spouse, and children
Age 18 or older
- ENTRIES TO NATIONAL BY 2/15/24

SPRING SCHOLARSHIPS

Young American Patriotic Art Contest *And* **Young American 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest**

ENTRIES DUE TO YOUR AUXILIARY BY 3/31/2024



"Bee the Best You Can be."

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

August 2023



Department Commander & President's

Special Project

Sierra Delta

"Life Buddy Program"

VFW Auxiliaries & members who donate to the "Special Project" will have a chance to bring "Georgette" home. She can be your "Life Buddy"!

Donations via a check should be made out to VFW Auxiliary WI and sent to Department Treasurer, Lenore Otto, 1383 W Wisconsin Ave., Oconomowoc, WI 53066, with **"PSP"** (Presidents Special Project) in the memo line. **Deadline is April 15, 2024.** When you donate, your Auxiliary name will go into a drawing to place me with my forever family.

Please be generous!

How Can I Raise Money?



Host a breakfast

Bake Sales

Raffle Baskets

Auctions

Game Nights

Pub Crawls

50/50's

Brat Sales

Life Buddy Program from Sierra Delta: They are committed to assisting veterans with the use of dogs as a partnership to enrich the lives of veterans. Not every veteran needs a service dog, but every veteran could use a Life Buddy.

Will the Auxiliary maintain "bragging rights"?

Will the Auxiliary continue to be the best at supporting the needs of our veterans?

PAWS DOWNWE GOT THIS!

Vicki Newbauer

vnewbauer1950@gmail.com

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

WAYS AND MEANS PROGRAM GOALS INCREASE OUR FUNDS

Our main goal is to increase our funds. We are open to new ideas. Here's a few happening now.



- The calendar Make checks payable: VFW A-WI memo: *Money Raffle* (NO CASH OR PERSONAL CHECKS).
- **The deadline for all ticket sales is September 15, 2023. No exceptions.**
- All stubs and checks need to be given to a District President, Line Officer, or Ways and Means Chair.
- All stubs and Auxiliary checks are to be in an envelope, clearly marked on front with Auxiliary name, number, amount of tickets and Auxiliary check.



Donations of tickets for sporting events, pictures, other items of great value (\$100+). Donate raffle items/ baskets.

Alicia Weix & Barbara Stillman, Ways and Means Co-chairs

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

Wisconsin Veterans Assistance

Mary Lou Duerr

August 2023

Hello Auxiliary Members,
I am Mary Lou Duerr, your chairperson for WI Veterans Assistance. I hope I can get you excited for this program as I am. Your donations help our WI Veterans. May your generosity continue, as there are still going to be WI veterans who will need help with their basic life needs and that's our #1 purpose. This donation can come out of your Relief Fund.

In 2022-2023 we helped 64 veterans so far for a total of \$99,092.92. That's amazing and with your donations we can help more. Veterans need to fill out an application that can be found at www.vfwwi.org.

Thank you all so much for what you do every day for our veterans.

Mary Lou Duerr
WI Veterans Assistance Chairman





YOUTH ACTIVITIES

August 2023

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



Welcome to a brand-new Program Year! I know that this will be an exciting year for Youth Activities. Let's do all we can to encourage our youth to take an interest in our veterans, our communities, and our country. Our new National Youth Activities Ambassador Joyce Caldwell says, "Our youth today are our leaders of tomorrow, our soldiers of tomorrow, our teachers and doctors, and yes, even our Auxiliary members of tomorrow. Education is key to helping our youth become who they will be tomorrow." The different parts of the Youth Activities Program (shown below) act as building blocks in educating our youth about patriotism and honoring our veterans. Stay tuned! Throughout the year, I will spotlight different parts of the program. More information can be found under the Youth Activities Program on our WI Auxiliary website (vfwauxwi.org) or on the MALTA Member Resources Page. Hopefully, we can all reach out to our youth in some way this year!



"Bee the Change" while "Banding Together for Our Veterans".

