# WI VFW AUXILIARY
# 2026-2027 GENERAL ORDERS
# "AN ANCHOR FOR VETERANS"

## November 2026

**LOOSE LIPS SINK SHIPS!**

I don't know about you but for me it has been a busy summer and I can hardly believe we are a third of the way through this year. Keep up the great work of caring for our Veterans and their families. It can be easy to let down the momentum as the holidays approach but this is a good time when people are in a giving mood to ask for their participation in the activities of your Auxiliary. Additionally, please reach out to your members, especially if you haven't seen them recently, as the holidays can be a very difficult time for many. Just knowing they are not forgotten and that someone cares can make a huge difference for them.

The National VFW Auxiliary posted on Facebook that the 2027 By Laws and Ritual book (it has a yellow cover) is available for order through the VFW store and on line, in Malta under Member Resources, for immediate use. The changes that were approved at the National Convention will be underlined in the new manual and you can also find a copy of those resolutions in Malta under Member Resources and then scroll down to the National Convention tab.

Several of the resolutions dealt with Auxiliary property or the disbursement of funds but there were also a couple that will aid us with recruitment or instituting a new Auxiliary, specifically 102D and 201B and C.




Now for the change that I want to specifically address, the addition of 210H which reads: "Divulging of VFW Auxiliary private business outside of the actual VFW Auxiliary Business Meeting, to non-members, shall not be allowed, without proper authority." You would think this would be a no brainer since we check membership to ensure all are authorized to be there before the meeting ever starts but apparently there are those that think nothing of telling tales, complaining or divulging out of context what went on in the meeting to anyone who will listen. THIS IS NOT ACCEPTABLE!

Fortunately, we don't have an actual ship that could be sunk but information passed out of context can be almost as destructive. It can cause misunderstandings by not getting the full context of what was discussed with only getting part of the conversation or just one side. This is how members become disgruntled and leave or prospective members be hesitant about joining. Even discussing what went on in the meeting with someone who also attended you need to be cognizant of where you are and who else may be within hearing. Let's make sure we are always looking out for the integrity and good name of the VFW and Auxiliary by ensuring we don't ever do anything to tarnish that reputation. Loose lips really can sink ships!

Respectfully,
Charlene K. Cobb
WI VFWA President 2026-2027
ckcand2k9@yahoo.com
(262) 348-6547

## Did you know?

Founded after witnessing first-hand the challenges facing the loved ones who care for our wounded warriors, the Elizabeth Dole Foundation raises public awareness, drives research, champions policy and helps uplift American military caregivers and their families.

https://www.elizabethdolefoundation.org/

Elizabeth Dole Foundation
CARING FOR MILITARY FAMILIES

**November 2026 / Veteran and Family Support**
**Jody Mc Kinney / studebaker1971@gmail.com**



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**AMERICANISM**
**Sally Lamers, Chair**
sslamers.gmail.com
(920) 475-0789




**Greetings to the Department WI Americanism and Patriotic Instructors out there!**

Something new Jessica, our 26-27 National Ambassador would like to use is a marketing tool known as a Point-of-Purchase display; I'll call a "POP Sign" - to get people's attention while promoting products and inspire people to act.

Today people's attention spans are even shorter than they were in the '40s. So, let's try a technique that worked in the past.

Everyone has at least one WWII poster we recall which depicts icons like Uncle Sam and Rosie the Riveter, or Loose Lips Sink Ships.

**America is our product and by incorporating symbols like the American Flag, bald eagles, the Statue of Liberty and other patriotic imagery we can use the POP Sign to promote Americanism.**

This POP Sign can be a physical sign or a post on social media.

The goal is to catch people's attention within a few seconds because most won't take the time to read a brochure or listen to our pitches.

Make them fun; enjoy making your signs, work together and be creative!

You have five seconds to GRAB their attention and keep it - sharing what we do and what they can do to promote patriotism in America.

**LET'S MAKE AMERICANISM POP!**

**BUDDY POPPY**
**Jane Bynum, Chair**
hellofromjane@gmail.com
608-408-9222

A busy time of year is approaching fast - Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas & of course, Mid-Winter Conference in February.

Thank you for all you are doing with Buddy Poppies for our Veterans. Remember to always set out your poppies at any type of function. Have flyers to hand out that explain about the Poppy. Let people know how their donations help support all Veterans & active Military in need.

Keep track of your poppy distributions & donations for your year-end report. Don't forget to send me pics of your events promoting the Poppies for surprises at Mid-Winter & awards at Convention.

**MID-WINTER "BUDDY"® POPPY CONTEST FEBRUARY 5-6, 2027**

All VFW Post and Auxiliary members can enter this contest.
**One (1)** "Buddy"® Poppy **MUST** be used in the original form with the red color and label attached.

Display should promote our President's theme "An Anchor for Veterans" and/or our National President's theme "Serving America's Heroes". You can incorporate the National Home or aid to Veterans also.

**AWARDS:** 1st Place $20.00 2nd Place $15.00 3rd Place $10.00 Honorable Mention $5.00

Email or text me if you are bringing an entry so I can update you on when & where to bring your displays.

**Mid-Winter "Buddy"® Poppy Contest Entry Form must be with your display.**

POST/AUX NAME_____#_____ DIST#_____

PERSON/S RESPONSIBLE FOR DISPLAY_____

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF DISPLAY_____

_____

TOTAL NUMBER OF BUDDY® POPPIES USED_____

## EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION

**Chief-of-Staff Marla J. Morgan**
marlamoose1@gmail.com
715-384-2500 or 715-650-2442



The fall season is an especially busy one, with many events, holidays and of course family obligations. It can be particularly stressful for some individuals as they navigate through those occasions. But we don't have to run ourselves ragged – many hands make light work!

As National Chief-of-Staff Bette Jean Biedrzycki (pronounced Bih-JET-ski) discussed in her second promotion of the year, we should be seeking those **"Hidden Talents"** in our Auxiliaries:

> "Continue engaging members in your Auxiliary's activities and look for ways to put their talents to work. Everyone has a "hidden" talent that can help an Auxiliary thrive. Work with your members to find their hidden talent. This can lead to some unexpected successes for all our members."

Everyone doesn't have to participate in everything happening at your Auxiliary and Post. Encourage and seek out those special skills (hidden talents) and recognize what **all** members have to offer in some way, large or small. Some folks help with multiple projects; some prefer to focus on what interests them most or works out best within their time constraints. Take the time to **ASK** about their interests; **LISTEN** to their answers; and **INVOLVE** them accordingly! Healthy helpers = a **HEALTHY AUXILIARY!**

**Work hard, be kind, and amazing things will happen!**

## HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS

Sue Carlson, Chair
susankcarlson1@gmail.com
(715) 271-8088




In today's digital world, a Facebook page is often the first place local veterans, families, and community members go to learn about the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. Simply having a page isn't enough—maintaining a good Facebook page makes all the difference between attracting new members and being overlooked.

Here is why a strong Facebook presence matters for an Auxiliary:

- E**stablishes Credibility and Trust:** Complete contact details, meeting times, and active posts serve as your digital front porch. It shows potential members and the local community that your Auxiliary is active, welcoming, and organized.
- **Builds Community and Connection:** A great page isn't just a bulletin board; it's a space for two-way communication. Replying to messages, thanking supporters in comments, and answering questions turns casual visitors into involved members.
- **Highlights Your Mission and Events:** Regular updates featuring local service projects, fundraiser results, youth programs, and event flyers keep patriotism and veteran support top-of-mind, encouraging community involvement and shares.
- **Reaches the Next Generation:** Up-to-date posts and eye-catching photos help connect with younger military families who rely primarily on social media for local news and community support.

**The Bottom Line** A neglected page can make an Auxiliary look inactive, but a vibrant, well-maintained Facebook page honors our veterans, strengthens community ties, and helps secure the future of our organization.

**LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN**
**Gail Brown Bensen, Chair**
gsbbensen@gmail.com
518-209-8362 (talk/text)




The mid-term elections are over, so make sure to identify who your representatives in Congress will be in January 2027 –
Our Wisconsin senators are still Sen. Baldwin and Sen. Johnson since they were not on the ballot this year, but your representative in the House of Representatives may be changing. This change will be reflected on Action Corps, but local offices and phone numbers may also change.

Please continue to email/write/call our senators and ask them to oppose Section 108 of TCAVA (H.R. 9327/S. 4744) and to pass the Major Richard Star Act [H.R. 2102]:

**Sen. Tammy Baldwin: (202)224 -5653  Sen. Ron Johnson: (202)224-5323**

**#VFW#ActionAlert#HonortheContract#ProtectVeteransBenefits#Veterans#StillServing**

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**MEMBERSHIP**
**Jennifer Mauritz, Chairman**
jmauritz922@gmail.com
715-383-8628




**"All Aboard: Every Member, Every Stop, Every Opportunity"**

Warm Up Your Membership Outreach!

Hello Fabulous Riders!

November is your **warm connection month** — the perfect time to strengthen relationships and keep members engaged as we move deeper into the membership year.

November brings the perfect mix of crisp fall air and joyful momentum, giving us the ideal moment to reach out, reconnect, and spark fresh engagement across our Auxiliaries. This month is all about warm vibes, meaningful appreciation, and inviting every Rider to stay connected to the mission that keeps our Membership Train rolling full steam ahead.

🎯 **Membership Actions for November**

- Host a fall-themed social to build connection
- Send heartfelt thank-you notes to active members
- Reach out to unpaid members with kindness
- Ask Life Members to invite someone new aboard
- Share a "Why I Ride the Train" testimonial

Warm connections = strong retention. Let's make November glow with gratitude, joy, and meaningful outreach that keeps every Rider feeling valued and excited to stay aboard.

**Let us all be "An Anchor for Veterans".**

**HOSPITAL**
**Laura Coffin, Chairman**
Laurie2bk@gmail.com
608-792-1422

Another month has gone by and maybe the decisions have been made by your Auxiliary as to where you will donate this year. If you decide to have a fundraiser where will that money go? You do the same on deciding what to spend your own money on! What bills do I pay this month or what can I afford to do once my bills are paid.

Think, for a moment, of the Veteran who served our country and now must reside in a VA Hospital or a Veterans Home for their health, either for rehab, medical, or because they can no longer get by living at home or in an apartment. They no longer have some or any of their possessions and some can no longer "go home" or have family visit due to where they are from or where their family lives. Look around you when you get home from your meeting and decide what you would like to take with you if that was you in this situation!

At the beginning of each new Auxiliary year, we ask that you send donations to certain programs to help locally, statewide or nationally. If you haven't yet sent in your donations for the Hospital Program or decided not to do it this year – **Please reconsider!** Your donations are greatly needed to help improve the lives of these Veterans as they sit in hospitals or nursing homes sometimes far away from their own homes.

In case you have forgotten – we have two (2) areas that we need your help with! **Hospital Programs** – this is the $2 donation per member based on your membership as of 06-30-2026. These funds go toward the VAVS Representative allowance and mileage, convention charms, and the annual gifts we give to each facility during the President's annual visit.

The second one is **Hospital Projects** – these funds go toward canteen books, coffee and treats and so we can do events at these facilities such as Oktoberfest that we just had at Tomah VA. We had a band and pumpkin bars, root beer and yes, some of the residents danced (in their wheelchairs) and they had a great time.

"Volunteers" are always welcomed and needed – whether it be for an hour to take a Veteran to church or to play bingo. Please consider becoming a volunteer and help when you can! If you would like to volunteer and have questions, please reach out and we can answer your questions.

**You don't have to be great to serve, but you have to serve to be great. Look for opportunities to Love. Serve. Care.**

**Smile and laugh more.They are natural anti-depressants!**

**National Scholarships**
**Alicia Weix, Chairman**
duds444@gmail.com
(715) 370-2096



How is it already November? Holidays are right around the corner.So, you should have the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essays judged at your local level. Some of you already have them sent onto district for further judging. Good job everyone. I hope this year you were able to get into the schools and get more entries than ever.Have you picked a date to recognize the winners? If not, get on it. 😊 Now it's time to focus on our next contest.

**Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest**
Eligible to students in Grades 9 – 12. The deadline is March 31. A few have called or emailed to confirm the deadline. This deadline has not changed. The submission requirements were in last month's General Orders and are on the VFW Auxiliary Dept of Wi website under Programs.

**YOUTH ACTIVITIES**
**Patty Jansky, Chairman**
**pajansky@charter.net**
**715-723-0408 (h)**
**715-497-4066 (c)**




## ILLUSTRATING AMERICA DUE DATES ARE COMING UP!

**Remember that National has set some earlier deadline dates this year. Illustrating America** patriotic artwork and entry forms are due to your local Auxiliary by **December 15, 2026.** After your judging is complete, send in your Auxiliary's first-place winner in each grade division (K-2, 3-5, and 6-8) to me for Department judging by **January 15, 2027.** I must have them by then since we need time to judge the entries and forward our three state winners to National by **January 31, 2027**. Mail and UPS deliveries sometime take longer to arrive than we think. We don't want to miss any of our great student artwork!

Please mail your entries to me:
Patty Jansky
12758 43rd Ave.
Chippewa Falls, WI 54729

*(We may be able to work out an in person drop-off if needed.)*

**In order to prevent anything that would disqualify an entry, National has put together a check-off list for your Auxiliary to use with your art entries.See the attached copy!**

☑ ☑ ☑ ☑ ☑




***Reese D., a 5th grader at Holy Ghost School in Chippewa Falls, took 2nd place Nationally in the 3-5 grade division last year! Will your Auxiliary have a winner this year?***

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**ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**
**Marge Southworth, Chair**
dmsouth2228@yahoo.com
(715)551-3487

By this time all of our District meetings are in the books, and the November Council of Administration meeting is behind us. Are you keeping up with events and recording your points as you go? How are your membership dues coming? By keeping track of your points month by month, it will not be such a chore at the end of March. Not only should you keep your Achievement Award year end form handy, but the Chairmen should all print out the year-end report for their program and check your progress. Vfwauxwi.org under Programs.

# VFW Auxiliary National Patriotic Art Contest
# Illustrating America
# 2026-2027

## Check off list for Auxiliary, District and Department level judging.

**Contest Eligibility**

- ☐ Student is not a previous winner of VFW Auxiliary Illustrating America Art Contest on the national level for the same grade division of which they are entering. The student may enter the subsequent grade division.
- ☐ Student is in grade K-8 by **December 15** deadline.
- ☐ Student is 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 is a 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.
- ☐ Student is not a foreign exchange student.

**Contest Rules**

- ☐ Entry is original and created by the student.
- ☐ Entry is not a copy of and/or is not a tracing of existing works of art.
- ☐ Entry was completed during the current school year.
- ☐ Entry is two-dimensional art that has length, width and is flat.
- ☐ Entry is on canvas or paper.
- ☐ If canvas entry, it is submitted on a stretcher frame or canvas board.
- ☐ If paper entry. It is reinforced with heavy paper, cardboard or foamboard.
- ☐ Entry is not framed art with wood, metal, plastic or glass. Mats may be used, including mounted and floating mats.
- ☐ Entry is not smaller than 8”x10”
- ☐ Entry is not larger than 18”x24” **including** mat.
- ☐ Entry is not a coloring sheet.
- ☐ Entry does not include digital art, AI or photography.
- ☐ Due to the age of the student, if the American Flag is displayed in a manner that clearly identifies it as such, it **does not** need to adhere to the Federal Flag Code specifications regarding its colors and number of stars and stripes.
- ☐ Entry form is completed typed or printed legible in English.
- ☐ Entry form includes parent and/or guardian signatures.
- ☐ Students’ name, age and grade level is printed on back of art entry.

July 2026

# Lillian Campbell
## MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP
VFW AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN
*Investing in Tomorrow's Healthcare Heroes*

Helping Students Make a Difference

# HELP US MAKE LILLIAN CAMPBELL SCHOLARSHIP HISTORY!

**THE BIGGEST SCHOLARSHIPS EVER PROVIDED!**



# 3 × $2,500 = $7,500

**FOR WISCONSIN STUDENTS PURSUING HEALTHCARE CAREERS!**

THREE STUDENTS. THREE $2,500 SCHOLARSHIPS. ONE INCREDIBLE GOAL!

*We need YOUR HELP to make it happen!*

**DONATE**
Every donation matters.

**SHARE**
Every share matters.

**SPREAD THE WORD**
Every connection matters.

## PLEASE SHARE THIS WITH YOUR:

- Hospitals & Medical Clinics
- Dental Clinics & Dental Offices
- Veterinary Clinics
- Mental Health Clinics & Providers
- Pharmacies
- EMS & Paramedic Services
- Nursing & Healthcare Organizations
- Physical & Occupational Therapy Clinics
- Colleges & Healthcare Training Programs
- Local Businesses & Community Organizations
- VFW Posts & VFW Auxiliaries
- Friends, Family & Coworkers

*Help us invest in the students who will become tomorrow's nurses, physicians, pharmacists, physician assistants, therapists, dental professionals, veterinary professionals, radiology professionals, paramedics and other healthcare providers.*

**MAIL DONATIONS**
Earmarked LCMS to:

**Faith Elford**
Department Sec/Treasurer
1414 Montclair Pl
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE:**

**APRIL 1, 2027**

LILLIAN CAMPBELL MEDICAL SCHOLARSHIP
VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN

**WI Veterans Assistance**
**Mary Lou Duerr, Chairman**
marylduerr@gmail.com
715-305-5052



Our time is sure passing us by. Christmas is right around the corner. Thanks to all of you who have donated to this great program. There's no donation too small. Plus, you get entered into a drawing to be distributed at our June convention. You must let me know. Remember this is a WI Veterans Assistance program. So, keep those donations coming. Have safe holiday travels.



**2026-2027 JEANNETTE FRANK CONTINUOUS SERVICE AWARD**
**NOMINATION FORM**
**(PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY)**

WHO IS YOUR NOMINEE?

NAME_____

MEMBERSHIP NUMBER_____JOINED IN _____

IS or WAS SHE AN OFFICER and/or CHAIRMAN AT AN LEVEL? YES NO if yes list those held

_____

_____

DOES SHE VOLUNTEER OUTSIDE THIS ORGANIZATION? YES NO if yes list where

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LIST ANY OTHER OUTSTANDING ACCOMPLISHMENTS
ACTIVITIES:_____

_____

THREE(3) MEMBERS TESTIMONY ON WHY THIS MEMBER WAS NOMINATED:(no more than 50 words each)_____

_____

_____

_____

Add sheets if needed:

***REMEMBER:*** *THE NOMINEE MUST HAVE AT LEAST 25 YEARS OF CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP TO QUALIFY. PREVIOUS RECIPIENTS ARE NOT ELIGIBLE FOR NOMINATION!*

***ENTRIES MUST BE POSTMARKED BY: APRIL 15, 2027 TO BE CONSIDERED***

***NOMINATOR NAME_____AUX#_____DISTRICT_____***
***ADDRESS_____CITY/ST/ZIP_____***
***PHONE:_____EMAIL_____***

***LENORE OTTO, AWARDS CHAIRMAN***
***1383 W WISCONSIN AVE***
***OCONOMOWOC, WI 53066***
*lennylavfw@yahoo.com*

**WAYS & MEANS**
**Vicki Newbauer, Chair**
vnewbauer1950@gmail.com
715-482-6228

**VFW Auxiliary**
Unwavering support for uncommon heroes.

# The Great Admirals Regatta





**Department of Wisconsin VFW & Auxiliary Fundraiser**

**Two Admirals. Four Vices. One Hilarious Voyage!**

Supporting Our Veterans – Smooth Seas, Stronger Tomorrows!

**February 5, 2027 • 7:00 PM**

Hilton Appleton Paper Valley • 333 W College Ave, Appleton, WI 54911

**Pre-Sale Deadline: January 30, 2027**

## THE CHALLENGE

The Department Commander and Department President will be secured aboard their vessels (office chairs) for a 25-foot voyage through treacherous waters!

OUTBOUND VOYAGE • Sr. Vice Commander pushes the Commander. Sr. Vice President pushes the President. Race to the Harbor Buoy.

RETURN VOYAGE • Blindfolded Jr. Vice Commander takes over. Blindfolded Jr. Vice President takes over. Guided only by shouted directions from the crowd. First Admiral back to port claims victory!

## YOU CONTROL THE VOYAGE

Purchase duct tape, obstacles, and challenges to influence the race. Every donation supports VFW and Auxiliary programs benefiting veterans.

**Smooth seas never made skilled sailors.**

## PRE-SALE OPTIONS

Duct tape packages and prices are listed on the order form below.

Drop Anchor: 5-second stop • Extra Buoy: obstacle • Fog Bank: extra blindfold

Cross Current: mandatory spin • Headwind: one-handed push • Kraken Attack: sea monster zone

PREDICTION CHALLENGE • $5 per chance. Who reaches port first? Department Commander or Department President.

SUPPORT YOUR FLEET • Team Commander or Team President. Additional donations welcome!

✂ ---------- DETACH HERE AND RETURN WITH PAYMENT ----------

## GREAT ADMIRALS REGATTA PRE-SALE ORDER FORM

Name: _____ Phone: _____

District / Post / Auxiliary: _____ Email: _____

| COMMANDER'S VESSEL | PRESIDENT'S VESSEL | COMMANDER'S CHALLENGES | PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGES |
|---|---|---|---|
| ☐ Deckhand (1 Strip) $5 | ☐ Deckhand (1 Strip) $5 | ☐ Drop Anchor $10 | ☐ Drop Anchor $10 |
| ☐ First Mate (3 Strips) $10 | ☐ First Mate (3 Strips) $10 | ☐ Extra Buoy $15 | ☐ Extra Buoy $15 |
| ☐ Captain (10 Strips) $25 | ☐ Captain (10 Strips) $25 | ☐ Fog Bank $20 | ☐ Fog Bank $20 |
| ☐ Admiral (½ Roll) $50 | ☐ Admiral (½ Roll) $50 | ☐ Cross Current $25 | ☐ Cross Current $25 |
| ☐ Fleet Admiral (Full Roll) $100 | ☐ Fleet Admiral (Full Roll) $100 | ☐ Headwind $50 | ☐ Headwind $50 |
| | | ☐ Kraken Attack $100 | ☐ Kraken Attack $100 |
| Subtotal: $ _____ | Subtotal: $ _____ | Subtotal: $ _____ | Subtotal: $ _____ |

| PREDICTION CHALLENGE | FLEET DONATION | GRAND TOTAL |
|---|---|---|
| ☐ Commander Wins ☐ President Wins<br>Number of chances: _____ × $5 = $ _____ | ☐ Team Commander $ _____<br>☐ Team President $ _____ | $ _____ |

**Make checks payable to: VFWA-WI** **Order Deadline: January 30, 2027**

**Return to: Faith Elford, 1414 Montclair Place, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538**

Thank you for supporting our veterans! • Anchored in Service Together