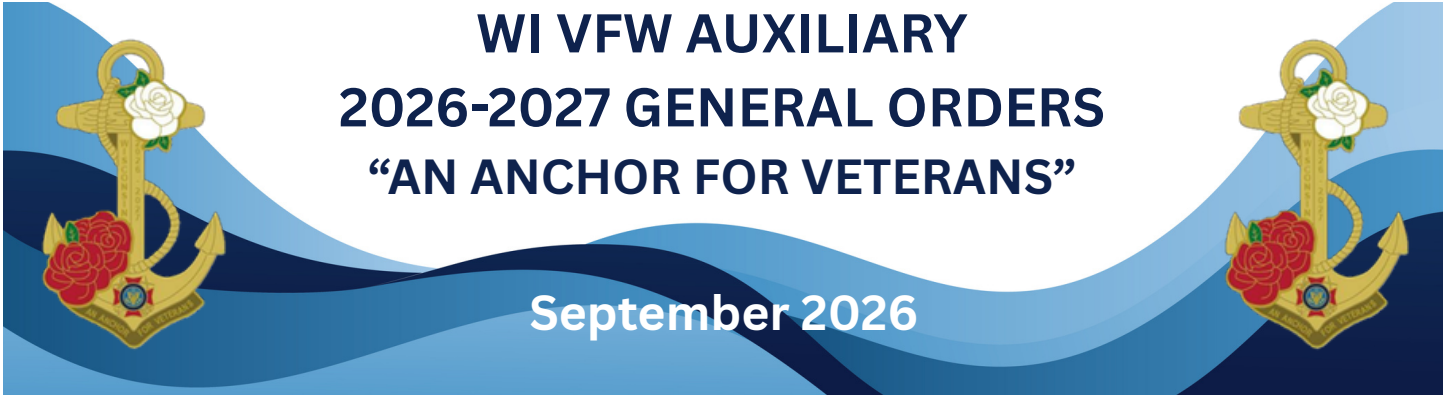




WI VFW AUXILIARY 2026-2027 GENERAL ORDERS “AN ANCHOR FOR VETERANS”

September 2026

Our National Convention was a very busy week. It is always great to catch up with old friends, make new ones and see what everyone else is doing to care for our Veterans and their families.

It was a good trip and the Department received several awards, congratulations to all our awardees. The Department also qualified for the Circle of Excellence again this year, number five overall and fourth consecutive; congratulations everyone on your hard work and a successful year! Commander-in-Chief elected this year is our own Cory Geisler and the Supreme Seam Squirrel is Tracy Woodman, also from Wisconsin.

September is a busy time for us all. School is back in session which means homework and sports activities to fit in to the schedule. This is also the beginning of the District Fall meetings and a continuation of the Auxiliary inspections by the District President. Along with that we have Commander-in-Chief Cory Geisler's Homecoming in Milwaukee. Anyone planning to attend or available to help please let Faith or me know; the dates are the 25th and 26th of September.

A couple of housekeeping items: anyone wanting this year's President pins please contact Vicki Newbauer. She has them as Chairman of the Ways and Means. Also, please look at the requirements for the Department Achievement Awards not only to earn awards for your Auxiliary but also to help the Department maintain our good standing with the National organization. What the local Auxiliary does or doesn't do reflects directly on our standing with National. Watch for a separate email from our Secretary/Treasurer with all of the Department Achievement Award Entry Forms, read them over and see which awards your Auxiliary could earn.

If the last couple of months are any indication this year will be busy and go by extremely fast. Let's make every day count and ensure that we are taking care of the Veterans and their families in our communities but also remember that it is just as important that we educate our fellow citizens that the freedoms we enjoy aren't free and the cost to each of us is to "care for those who have borne the battle and their widows and orphans" ~A. Lincoln.

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

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

Jody McKinney, Chair

studebaker1971@gmail.com

(715)651-8546



Why wear the Veteran & Military Suicide Awareness Blue Teardrop? It is the VFW Auxiliary's symbol to give this issue the attention it so desperately needs. Wear the teardrop to open a conversation; when asked what the teardrop is, share that it's to create awareness for veteran and military suicide. The Veterans Crisis Line call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1, chat online, or send a text message to 838255 to receive confidential support 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Find more great information at vfwauxwi.org

AMERICANISM

Sally Lamers, Chair

sslammers@gmail.com

(920) 475-0789



This is a great time of year to present a U.S. flag. Here are a few ideas:

Invite a Scout troop to help with a flag retirement ceremony. Contact a local school and, with permission, work with a class to teach students how to present and fold the flag properly. The Department of Wisconsin has provided President Charlene and each District President with enough flags for every Auxiliary to participate. Start planning which youth group your Auxiliary will present a flag to.

Many patriotic days of celebration are coming up, and I hope you will join me and our Auxiliary sisters and brothers in honoring them. Our work is not only to celebrate holidays, but also to show our patriotism every day. We are Americans. We raise the flag. We thank our veterans. We support our troops. We honor our fallen heroes. We support the families of those who serve and have served. And we are proud to do so.

Here is an update on our partnership with the VFW Teacher of the Year Program: Please begin thinking about teachers in your community whom you would like to nominate. As soon as the VFW finalizes the application and program guidelines, I will send them to you by email. By working together, we can help make this year's Teacher of the Year entries stronger than ever.

AMERICANISM - (CONTINUED)



**26-27
NOMINATIONS**

**SMART/MAHER VFW NATIONAL CITIZENSHIP
EDUCATION TEACHER PROGRAM**

Teachers who encourage civic responsibility, flag etiquette, and patriotism are ideal candidates for this award. If you know a teacher promoting democratic values through special projects, honor them today

WHO CAN ENTER
Elementary, middle, and high school teachers (certified/licensed) are invited to participate.

HOW TO ENTER
Teacher nomination entries must be received at a local participating VFW Post by the Oct. 31 deadline.

**When making
arrangements to
interview your nominee,
ask if you may present a
3X5 foot US Flag at an
assembly and show them
the proper way to fold
and present Old Glory!**

BUDDY POPPY

Jane Bynum, Chair

hellofromjane@gmail.com

608-408-9222

What a summer we had. Hope everyone is healthy & safe & recovered from the storms, tornadoes & heat that hit our state.

I am looking forward to seeing pics from Poppy events that your auxiliary held from Memorial Day through 4th of July. I have received a lot of pics already. Thank you! Poppies should be promoted year round. Keep track of distributed poppies & donations received.

Check out Facebook to see the awesome poppy displays that were entered at 2026 National Convention in Reno. They are fabulous! I can't wait to see them in person next year when Milwaukee will be the sight of the 2027 National Convention. Hope many of you will be able to attend and plan on having an entry.

MID-WINTER BUDDY POPPY CONTEST FEBRUARY 2027

Design a display to show how the Buddy Poppy impacts any of the National Programs. Use one or both Auxiliary President's themes:

Dept Pres Theme: An Anchor for Veterans

Natl Pres Theme: Serving America's Heroes

One (1) Buddy Poppy MUST be used in the original form with the red color and label attached. All VFW Post and Auxiliary members can enter this contest. Send me an email if you will be entering the contest or if you have any questions. The Entry Form will be in November's General Orders & must be brought in with your entry.

We are Serving America's Heroes one Poppy at a time.

EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION

Chief-of-Staff Marla J. Morgan

marlamoose1@gmail.com

715-384-2500 or 715-650-2442



The main duty of the Chief-of-Staff is to observe any issues surrounding troubled Auxiliaries and keep the Department President informed of those issues. The goal is to bring any “yellow or red flags” – things that do not indicate a “Healthy Auxiliary” - to GREEN, indicating a well-functioning team.

What might be a yellow flag? A “fixable” issue like one incorrect or late Audit. Red flags are more serious deficiencies: continuous lack of a quorum; multiple Audits missing entirely; incomplete or missing reports; no donations or activities; etc.

A “Chief” doesn’t work alone – it takes a village! If you see something, SAY something to your District President or Chief; the Dept. Chief; or the Dept. President. Let’s all GO GREEN and be as healthy as we can to support our Veterans and Service personnel, their families, and our communities.

Lastly, a CORRECTION to the August message: The District 8 Chief is PDP Linda Moran, not Morgan as published. Although I tried to get her to change from an Irish name to a Welsh one, apparently husband Pat won’t hear of it...

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

HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS

Sue Carlson, Chair

susankarlson1@gmail.com

(715) 271-8088



Historian and Media Relations Program encompasses memory keeping and collecting the five W’s: the who-what-where-when and why of an Auxiliary. Members involved with the program 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 and beyond its borders.

Hospital

Laurie Coffin, Chair

Laurie2bk@gmail.com

608-792-1422



Our Ambassador for the Hospital is Debbie Sturgis. She would like to have more volunteers helping with a Final Salute to Veterans. This is conducted at each Veterans Hospital, and I believe at Veteran's Nursing Homes. For veterans who have passed away.

She would like to have everyone come up with ideas for traditional holidays and also non-traditional holidays. You can look up ideas on the computer and see what you can find and incorporate crafts or other ideas along this way. August 7th – left handers day August 8th Zucchini Day (what do you do with all of that zucchini?) Think of ways to celebrate at the VA Hospital or Nursing Homes and bring smiles to their faces.

Debbie would like to see women veterans receive veterans' benefits and services that honor their military service. Currently women veterans comprise 15% of the active-duty military and 18% of the Guard and Reserve. Many of them may be eligible for VA Benefits including disability compensation, pension, education and training, health care, home loans, insurance, vocational rehabilitation and employment and burial.

If you want to volunteer, please remember that even an hour a day, week or month can make a difference to those hospitalized or living in nursing homes. Many don't have family nearby to come visit. (A Community Service form to record your hours is at the end of these orders.)

The holidays will be here before we can realize it. Can YOU or your Auxiliary donate items or gift cards to these brave men and women? When you volunteer, please remember to keep track of your hours, \$ amount spent, mileage and #of items donated. You can make a form or use the one that the VFW Has on their site (if still available) so that at the end of the year it will be easier to fill out your end-of-year reports.

IF you are not currently a volunteer but would like to be, please contact one of our VAVS Representatives or a representative at a Nursing Home or Hospital near where you live. Thank you for all you do for this Organization and for our Veterans and their families.



EXTRA SEPTEMBER HOSPITAL BULLETIN

OGJ Children's Christmas 2026



Re: Oscar G. Johnson VA, Iron Mountain, MI

Another year and we have to remember the children of our comrade brothers and sisters. We took on a special project of gathering funds for Christmas gifts for the children of needy veterans from Northern Wisconsin and Upper Michigan. We are doing this in conjunction with the Military service groups of Michigan. Most years we have gifted 90+ children of needy veterans. The VA receives thank-you notes from veterans, expressing how much being able to provide Christmas for their children has meant to them. My sister Audrey and I have a soft spot in our hearts for these families.

Oscar G Johnson VA (Iron Mountain) has requested that we purchase the Walmart gift cards since the VA does not have a purchase agreement with Walmart. The Walmart cards will be purchased and delivered to Oscar G Johnson VA Voluntary Services for distribution to the needy families with children.

We are asking for help again for this worthy project. Oscar G. Johnson VA's Voluntary Service Department has assured us that the gift cards will go to needy veterans' children and families. Any money you can provide will be appreciated. Funds need to be received by November 4, 2026.

We have made arrangements with VFW Department of Wisconsin for them to be the clearinghouse for all these donations. Oscar G. Johnson VA will receive a listing of all donors. Please make your check payable to VFW Department of Wisconsin, earmark "OGJ Children's Christmas," and mail to:

**VFW Department Headquarters
Attention: Tom Heath, QM
P. O. Box 6128
Monona, WI 53716-0128**

Thank you for all you do for our veterans.

Rod Fifield
9256 Holtz Road
Oconto Falls, WI 54154
Phone: 414-403-3366

Pat & Linda Moran
1225 Suburban Drive
Depere, WI 54154
Phone: 920-337-9922

Audrey Dotzauer- retired VFWA WI Rep

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

Is YOUR voice being heard in Washington, DC?

The VFW's Voices of Service program can amplify your story so legislative representatives can hear you loud and clear.



Scan the QR code to start the process. If you have a phone, you can send a powerful message to Congress!

Advocacy in action:

Your emails, phone calls, and social media posts are working!!

In July, the Take Care of America's Veterans Act (H.R. 9237) was expected to receive a vote in the House; however, the vote was pulled before final consideration. Now that Congress has returned from summer break, we need to keep up the pressure!

Tell your representatives in Congress to:

- Honor the Contract.
- Expand Benefits. Preserve Earned Compensation.
- Fix Past Injustices. Don't Create New Ones
- Veterans Should Never Have to Fund Veterans' Benefits.
- Congress Can Do Both.
- America Should Honor the Contract, Not Rewrite It.

CALL Sen. Baldwin: (202)224 -5653 CALL Sen. Johnson: (202)224-5323
E-MAIL! SEND A LETTER! POST ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

Are all the members of your auxiliary signed up for Action Corps? That is the quickest and easiest way to send emails to your reps in the House of Representatives.

Now is the time to send the message to DC!

#HonorTheContract #VFW #Veterans #VeteranAdvocacy #ProtectVeteransBenefits

MEMBERSHIP

Jennifer Mauritz, Chairman

jmauritz922@gmail.com

715-383-8628

“All Aboard: Every Member, Every Stop, Every Opportunity”



Membership Visibility Month!

Hello Wisconsin Stars! **September is your visibility month — the more people who SEE you, the more people JOIN you.**

When we show our communities who we are and what we do, we open the door for new connections, new members, and new opportunities to serve. September is your chance to step forward, be seen, and remind Wisconsin why our mission matters. Every photo shared, every event hosted, and every personal invitation strengthens the future of our Auxiliary.

Membership Actions for September

- Host a community event or table
- Share photos of your Auxiliary in action
- Encourage members to bring a guest to a meeting
- Follow up with unpaid members before fall gets busy
- Highlight a member story on social media

Visibility = membership growth.

Let's all be “An Anchor for Veterans”.

National Scholarships

Alicia Weix, Chairman

duds444@gmail.com

(715) 370-2096



It's hard to believe, but summer is winding down and school is back in session. This bulletin will focus on VOD and Patriot's Pen. The due date of October 31st is just around the corner.

Our mission is to involve as many eligible students as possible to participate in our contests. Have you contacted your teachers, administrators, school counselors, and career coaches? Have you reached out to parochial schools, virtual schools, and students that are home schooled?

VFW Voice of Democracy Scholarship

An audio-essay competition for students in grades 9 – 12. This year's theme is “What a Veteran Taught Me About America.” Students interested in participating must submit their audio essay prepared on this year's theme, with a completed entry form to their local participating VFW Post. Download the 2026-2027 entry form from our website – www.vfwauxwi.org/Programs/NationalScholarships, then find your sponsoring local VFW Post as essays must be turned in by **midnight, Oct. 31.**

VFW Patriot's Pen Scholarship

The essay contest is for students in grades 6 – 8 and encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing their views based on the patriotic theme, “What a Veteran Taught Me About America.” Students interested in participating must submit their essay prepared on this year's theme, with a completed 2026-2027 entry form from our website – www.vfwauxwi.org/Programs/NationalScholarships, to their local participating VFW Post. Find your sponsoring local VFW Post as applications must be turned in by **midnight, Oct. 31.**

Also, do not forget during the year to share pictures on your local Department's social media pages and with National (info@vfuvauxiliary.org).

VFW National Home
Louise Engness, Chairman
wagnerla4@gmail.com
715-308-9302



Fall Festival October 23-25, 2026

Let's get busy promoting the VFW National Home. This year the Auxiliaries that submit the most creative activity and/or event that demonstrates what and where the VFW National Home is and who is eligible for the services provided by the VFW National Home. The entry form is available on MALTA member resources. Promote the Trip and record your promotion of the VFW National Home for your entry due by March 31, 2027.

Our time to serve at the VFW National Home is during the Fall Festival October 23-25, 2026.

The Theme: Hocus Pocus. Recycle a favorite costume that is family friendly this year!

The Bus: Kobussen, \$150 per seat for each individual, prices subject to change.

The Sponsors: The D9 Riders Group drew their raffle August 8th 2026. The proceeds will go to defer the cost of the bus. Be sure to thank a D9 Riders Group members for their support!

The Rooms: A choice of two hotels to choose from. Make your own reservations once the block is available, all prices subject to change. The bus will stop and pick up at these two locations.

- Hampton by Hilton Lansing West, 900 N Canal Road. Lansing, MI 48917
20 rooms at a discounted group rate of \$119 + tax
- Hilton Garden Inn, 633 N. Canal Rd. Lansing, MI 48917
20 rooms at a discounted group rate of \$129 + tax

The VFW will post when the reservations are available for bus and room. If you try to make reservations before they are 'open' you will pay a higher rate!

The weekend will begin with the annual meeting come and meet the new commander, followed by a tour of the VFW National Home community. Hopefully we will have an update on any new programs or homes being built to reach their goal of 50 homes. Come dressed for cool or hot weather for the outside tram tour of the community. When exploring be sure to find your brick on the sidewalk, tour the museum and new community store and plan to purchase all the latest VFW National Home Swag!

Department of WI will host the Fall Festival noon meal followed by games and costume contest, along with the Department of Missouri. Plan to come and have Fun!!!

Remember this is our time to serve at the National Home and find out first-hand how the VFW National Home supports our service members, veterans and their families!

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Patty Jansky, Chair

pajansky@charter.net

715-723-0408

VFW AUXILIARY LENDING LIBRARY



Did you realize that approximately 61% of low-income families do not have children's books in their homes? In addition, not all communities have a local library to make books available for boys and girls. Debbie Little, our new YA National Ambassador, urges us to start a **VFW Auxiliary Lending Library**. These little "Take a Book – Share a Book" libraries can be stocked with books from our Patriotism Through Literacy reading list as well as other titles that will appeal to kids of all ages and reading levels. Outdoor boxes are easy to assemble and can be found on Amazon and other retailers. Perhaps you could build one yourself, get a youth group involved or ask a high school woodshop teacher to make it a class project. Paint it in patriotic colors and make it clear that it is sponsored by your VFW Auxiliary. Lending libraries can be placed outside your VFW Post or anywhere (with prior approval). Go one step further and organize a reading event at your Post. Use #auxlendinglibrary to promote your project. By setting up a VFW Auxiliary Lending Library with an emphasis on youth books, your Auxiliary can make a difference. You can help children do better in school, as well as expand their imagination and open up their world through reading!

**"Take a Book.
Share a Book."**

The **NATIONAL YOUTH ACTIVITIES PROGRAM AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES**

this year go to the **most creative and/or unique VFW Auxiliary Lending Library**. Give it a try! A citation and \$25 goes to one Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions. Your Auxiliary must send your entry form to me by March 31, 2027. Forms can be found on our Wisconsin Auxiliary website or MALTA Member Resources under Youth Activities. If you start your own Lending Library, don't miss out on this opportunity!



ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS

Marge Southworth, Chair

dmsouth2228@yahoo.com

(715)551-3487



Our District Meetings are upon us. Presidents, be sure to attend for the Circle of Excellence points. Not only do you earn the most points for your auxiliary, but you gain more knowledge of our programs from your District Chairmen to take back to your members and share. Make plans for Cory Geisler's Homecoming, our Commander in Chief, in September. This year in October we have Big 10 in Kalamazoo, Michigan, and Fall Festival at the National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan a week later.

All members of an auxiliary have a part in achieving awards. Help each other in your programs, involve youth, involve each other, work on a buddy system, do what it takes to get out in your communities and make a difference to our veterans. And, as always, keep membership applications with you to sign up new members. Be an "Anchor for Veterans" as we are "Serving America's Heros".

Lillian Campbell **MEDICAL** SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

★ 2026–2027 ★

*The Future of Healthcare Begins
With Us!*

★ CELEBRATING OUR IMPACT!

Thanks to YOUR generosity, **three** deserving students received Lillian Campbell Medical Scholarships this past year!

♥ Even more exciting—**13** outstanding applicants competed for these scholarships, making this one of the most competitive years we've ever had!

Now it's time to do it again!

YOUR DONATION SUPPORTS FUTURE:



NURSES



PHYSICIANS



PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS



PHARMACISTS



EMTS & PARAMEDICS



THERAPISTS
(PHYSICAL & OCCUPATIONAL)



RADIOLOGY
PROFESSIONALS



DENTAL
PROFESSIONALS



VETERINARIANS



MENTAL HEALTH
PROFESSIONALS ♥



Mental health care is more important than ever as PTSD, depression, anxiety, and other invisible wounds continue to affect our veterans, service members, first responders, and their families. Your support helps prepare compassionate professionals who will be there when they are needed most.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY!

Your gift helps another student achieve their dream of serving others through healthcare.

ONE AUXILIARY • ONE DONATION • ONE STUDENT • ONE CHANGED LIFE

Thank you for believing in this remarkable program and for your continued commitment to our veterans, their families, and our communities!

★ THE ★ \$100 ★ CHALLENGE!

Can every Wisconsin Auxiliary donate at least \$100 to the Lillian Campbell Medical Scholarship Program this year? ♥

If every Auxiliary participates, together we'll help educate even more future healthcare professionals while honoring the legacy of Lillian Campbell.

WILL YOUR AUXILIARY
ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE?

TOGETHER WE CAN...

- ✓ Award more deserving scholarships.
- ✓ Continue building a strong future for healthcare.
- ✓ Honor the legacy of Lillian Campbell.
- ✓ Support students whose careers will change lives for generations to come.

NO DONATION IS TOO SMALL.
EVERY DOLLAR MAKES
A BIG DIFFERENCE! ♥



PLEASE MAIL DONATIONS
(earmarked "LCMS") TO:

Faith Elford
Department Secretary/Treasurer
1414 Montclair Place
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538



With Gratitude,

Kimberly Goss

Department of Wisconsin VFW Auxiliary
Lillian Campbell Medical Scholarship Chairman



INVEST IN EDUCATION.
INSPIRE TOMORROW.



WAYS & MEANS

Vicki Newbauer, Chair
vnebauer1950@gmail.com
715-257-2099

“Ladies and gentlemen, We have shocking news.”

What’s happening?”

“The Don’t Come Dinner is approaching.”

“Should I dress up?”

“Absolutely not.”

“Should I bring a dish?”

“Only if it’s imaginary.”

“Should I attend?”

“Under no circumstances.”

“So... what do I do?”

“Get family, friends, and neighbors not to come”

“Donate. Stay home. Wear pajamas.

Support veterans. In that order.”

Make checks payable: VFWA of WI

Memo: Don’t Come Dinner

Mail to: Faith Elford, Treasurer
1414 Montclair Place
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

*Reserved
for Nobody*

WI VETERANS ASSISTANCE

Mary Lou Duerr, Chair

marylduerr@gmail.com

715-305-5052



What is WI Veterans Assistance you might ask yourself. The Veteran doesn't have to be a member of VFW but they must live in WI in order to apply for a grant. They must fill out an application through vfwwi.org.

If their application is approved their grant is paid direct to the payee. It can be for medical, house or car repair, rent, house payments etc. Please be generous with your donations.

Remember this helps our WI Veterans. Make checks payable to VFW WI earmark WI Veterans Assistance, mail to P.O. Box 6128, Monona, WI 53716. Then you must let me know by email, text, phone or snail mail. You will be eligible for one of four awards at Department Convention in June 2027.

Sorry didn't get this out sooner but had personal issues. Get your donations in.

Serving America's Heros - An Anchor for Veterans

WI VFW NEWS

Sharon Kamrowski, Chair

skshar@aol.com

(608)406-0924



At this time, the previous WI VFW NEWS paper is not being published, while the VFW NEWS Committee explores other types of publications. The transition to the new format is still being determined, but they do expect to be able to start it sometime later this fall.

In the meanwhile, please hold the items you would have normally submitted for publication, and we will advise when and where to send them.

Auxiliaries are STILL requested and encouraged to submit their \$1.00 per person donation based on their June 30, 2026 membership. **Make the check out to VFWA of WI** and mail to:

Dept. Secy/Treas. Faith Elford
1414 Montclair Pl.
Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

ALSO NOTE: We are NOT offering a WI VFW NEWS subscription special at this time. That is also under discussion with the new format and timetable.

Stay tuned to the monthly e-news and we'll keep you posted!

We appreciate your patience and your support during this time of transition.



Form for Auxiliary to turn in to Post RE: VFW Community Service

Auxiliary to Post # _____

Date From: _____ Date Through: _____

Auxiliary Programs that count

- Americanism
- VFW National Home
- Hospital
- Legislative
- Scholarships
- Veterans & Family Support
- Youth Activities

Total Auxiliary Community Service Information

# of members	# of hours	# of miles	Donations

Auxiliary Programs that do not count for VFW Community Service - Extension & Revitalization, "Buddy"® Poppy, Historian & Media Relations and Membership. Work for your Post Home also does not count.