



# WI VFW AUXILIARY

## 2024-25 GENERAL ORDERS



**"HONORING VETERANS TOGETHER"**

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May/June 2025

MUST BE READ AT MEETING

Volume 3 - Issue 10

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**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.

I can hardly believe it is already May, and we are rapidly approaching the end of our year. As we move closer to June 30, 2025, let's not forget the following:

**Installation** – By now you should be installing the new officers at both the Auxiliary and District level. Once completed don't forget to get your installation forms either sent into Faith Elford or uploaded into MALTA. This information also helps us get ready for the new year with developing a Roster.

**Membership** – Wisconsin currently sits at 99.20% in paid membership. We are approximately 63 paid members away from 100%. Please keep recruiting. Don't do it for us, do it for the veterans.

**Quotas** - By now you should have sent in your quotas for the year. If you have not, there is still time to do so. We need those to keep our programs funded and going forward.

**June Convention** – The convention this year will be in Middleton, Wisconsin at the Marriott West from June 11-14, 2025. Your deadline to register, pay for meals and get a hotel room will be approaching quickly. Please check the website for information on this. Don't forget those delegate forms and audits. If a vote comes on the floor and your auxiliary audit is not in you will not be able to vote.

**Food For Thought** – Have you ever considered running for Department Chairs. We will be seeking someone to fill the Guard and Conductor Chairs. Please don't be afraid to ask what any position entails and expectations. We are here to assist each other.

**Memorial Day** – May 26 – Take time to honor our fallen Veterans.

At this time, I would like to thank everyone for allowing me to represent Wisconsin. This has been an extremely rewarding year that I will always remember. I have met and worked with wonderful men and women. What makes this organization great is there is always someone willing to help and step up our veterans. May we keep moving forward together Honoring Veterans from Our Roots to Our Branches.

From The Heart,

Cheryl L. Woodards  
Department of Wisconsin President  
608-692-4027  
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**"From our Roots to our Branches Extending  
Service to our Veterans" as we are  
"Honoring Veterans Together"**

## MEMBERSHIP

By Charlene Cobb, Dept. Jr. Vice &  
Membership Chair  
ckcand2k9@yahoo.com



**THANK YOU** for the hard work you have done this year. I am looking forward to seeing everyone at convention to celebrate the beginning of our 100<sup>th</sup> year as an organization here in Wisconsin. We have quite a legacy to continue for the next 100 years. For the benefit of our Auxiliaries and the Department let's KEEP PUSHING FORWARD!

Membership incentives for your Auxiliary in May.

- Anyone that becomes a Life Member between July 1<sup>st</sup> 2024 and May 31<sup>st</sup> 2025 will be eligible to be in a drawing for a life member rebate. There is still time to convert or bring a new member in as a life member. The paperwork needs to be to Lennie by May 31<sup>st</sup>.
- Any Auxiliary that had less than 100% membership on April 30, 2024 but then reaches 100% by May 31, 2025 will be eligible for a membership award drawing. Those Auxiliaries that only need one member ~ you can do this.
- Anyone that has or will recruit five or more members by May 31<sup>st</sup> 2025 will also be eligible for an award drawing.

There is still time WE CAN DO THIS. **Remember Lennie needs the paperwork by May 31<sup>st</sup>** to be eligible for any of the drawings. Let's KEEP PUSHING FORWARD and get the department to 100%. WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER. Thank you for the dedication and hard work you bring to your Auxiliary and community, YOU TRULY DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

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## BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME

By Sue Carlson, Chairman  
(715) 271-8088; susankcarlson1@gmail.com

### Mid-Winter Buddy Poppy Contest Winners

Congratulations to our Mid-Winter Conference "Buddy" Poppy Contest Winners. Thank you to Helen Stearns and Sally Lamers for judging.



First Place –  
Auxiliary 2113, DePere



Second Place –  
Auxiliary 1038, Chippewa Falls



Third Place -  
Auxiliary 10262, Plover

## BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME-cont.

### Buddy Poppy:

The Official National VFW “Buddy” ® Poppy Display Contest takes place annually at the National Convention. There are three (3) categories that displays are judged in:

- Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign
- Memorial or Inspirational Displays
- Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies

Auxiliaries should follow the link: <https://malta.vfwauxiliary.org/MemberResources>  
Click on the “Buddy” ® Poppy & VFW National Home tab on the left for the Contest Rules and Judging guidelines.



See the rules and guidelines for our State Convention Buddy Poppy Contest on the last page.



### National Home:

Our CELEBRATION is far from over! On June 28, the VFW National Home will host an exciting Community Celebration filled with fun for all ages. From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., families can enjoy a variety of activities, free carnival rides and more! But the excitement does not stop there, after 4 p.m. get ready for live music and a laser light show. Mark your calendars and join them for the unforgettable event.

For more information or to volunteer to help follow the link below:  
<https://vfwnationalhome.org/news-and-events/events/community-celebration/>

Please visit their website for more information: [vfwnationalhome.org](http://vfwnationalhome.org)

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## LEGISLATIVE

by Debbie Nackers, Legislative Chairperson  
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Cell: 920-362-8184



**We can never fully repay America's heroes; but we can make our voices heard on their behalf!**  
**Help demand that our nation's leaders honor America's Promise to our Veterans.**  
**Now is the time to push the new sessions of Congress to do just that.**  
**Let's Spring into Action!**

National 2025 VFW Priority Goals: Ensuring Sufficient Budget for the VA. Cracking down on Claim Sharks. Improving Benefits for Education, Employment & Health Care.

Wisconsin VFW Goals: Eligibility Expansion of WI Property Tax Credit. Funding MIA Recovery Project.

- To learn more, go to: [VFW.org/advocacy](http://VFW.org/advocacy) or, [MALTA/memberresources/legislative](http://MALTA/memberresources/legislative)
- To find your Legislator go to: [Congress.gov](http://Congress.gov) and [legis.wisconsin.gov](http://legis.wisconsin.gov) and put in your address.

Thank you everyone who has contacted your Representatives. Keep up the great work by continuing to use Action Corps, Voter Voice, Making Calls, Writing Letters, Emailing, Attending Meetings, etc.

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

by Patty Jansky, Chairperson  
pajansky@charter.net



“Spring’s greatest joy beyond a doubt is when it brings the children out.”– Edgar Guest



Even though our **Illustrating America** contest has met its deadline and our Program Year is drawing to a close, our Auxiliaries should keep reaching out to our youth. As our Youth Activities National Ambassador Dominique Garcia says, “Continue to work with the youth; they are the future leaders of this great organization. You never know, you may be educating the future National President of this organization.”

Spring has arrived and summer is right around the corner. There is a need for coaches, umpires, referees, etc. for youth sports teams. Your Auxiliary could also offer to sponsor a team. In turn, you can encourage these youth and their families to participate in patriotic projects and work with you to help our veterans. This is the season when veterans and elderly neighbors may need help with starting their gardens, planting flowers or cleaning up their yards. In addition, your Auxiliary can invite your local youth to celebrate with you the many special days coming up, such as Loyalty Day, Mother’s Day, Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Father’s Day and July 4th.

Keep sharing the love of books through our **Patriotism Through Literacy** Program. Show youth that we appreciate their patriotism and love for our veterans by awarding them **Youth Groups Supporting our Veterans Citations**, individual **Patriotic Youth Awards or R.A.P. cards**. We can include youth in ALL our Auxiliary Programs. Getting children involved in as many projects as possible is a wonderful way to spend time with them – our country can only benefit from our partnership with our youth.

As our Program Year is winding down, I would like to thank again all our Auxiliaries for continuing to promote our Youth Activities Program. Your support is greatly appreciated! Your efforts make a big difference in the lives of our children, our veterans, our communities, and our country.



## Journey to 100 Years Request



The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee would like to do a display of all of the different Auxiliary uniforms and uniform looks that there have been over the last 100 years at next year’s convention. However, there are two of the uniforms they cannot find: the tan/kaki dress and the light blue cotton dress.

If you happen to have one or both of those dresses that the committee could borrow, please contact Rita Byers at [rabyers66@gmail.com](mailto:rabyers66@gmail.com)

The 100th Anniversary Committee





## **Journey to 100 Years May 2025 Question**



The Department of Wisconsin Ladies Auxiliary of the Veterans of Foreign Wars was organized and instituted during the 4<sup>th</sup> Encampment of the Department of Wisconsin VFW on June 20, 1925 at Sanger Hall in Manitowoc, WI. by Department Commander Ariel Brandt with delegates and alternates from six auxiliaries. The Charter closed on July 30, 1926 with 8 auxiliaries.

Since we will begin celebrating the Department of Wisconsin, VFW Auxiliary's 100 Year Celebrations at the June Convention this year, this will be the final question in our "Journey to 100 Years" drawings. We have planned something for each Department meeting, so make your plans to attend the events throughout the year.

### **May 2025 – Journey to 100 Years question:**

#### **Who is the most important person at the 100 Year Celebrations?**

Send your answer NOT LATER THAN May 31, 2025, to: Rita Byers at [rabyers66@gmail.com](mailto: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 at the June Convention.

#### **The 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee**

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The Officers of the 2024-2025 WI VFW Auxiliary year hope to see you at our

### **100th VFW Auxiliary Convention as we "Honor Veterans Together"**



**Events begin on Wednesday, June 11, 2025  
through Saturday, June 14, 2025**



#### **Last Day to Book a room is Tuesday, May 20, 2025**

The easiest way to book your room is to go to the WI VFW Auxiliary website, page down on the home page to find the link to book your room on-line.

**The convention will be at:  
Marriott Madison West  
1313 John Q. Hammons Drive  
Middleton, WI 53562**

(See the registration and meals form on the last page of these orders.)

## HOSPITAL

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



I would like to thank all the auxiliaries who turned in their year-end reports. Every Auxiliary does something for our veterans. This is why we belong to this organization. The VA Hospitals and WI VA nursing homes are welcoming organizations to come and visit their residents and play bingo and give out treats. Reach out to your nursing home in your area and see if you can do a visit. Our Department Representatives and Deputies are visiting and doing activities in their facilities. Please keep on giving to our Department Hospital funds.

I am looking forward to our VFWA Convention in June and giving out awards to the Outstanding Volunteer and giving out the hospital charms to our volunteers. Please plan to come.

Thanks again for all you do for hospitalized veterans. Keep up the good work.

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## STATE CONVENTION POPPY DISPLAY GUIDELINES

Have you thought about your “Buddy”® Poppy entry for the VFW State/Department Convention? You still have plenty of time to make a display and enter it into the competition.

There will be first, second, and third place winners in each of the three categories. First place winners will have the option of submitting their entry for judging in the National Competition in Columbus, OH. The three categories are:

### **CATEGORY 1: Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign**

- Window, booth, parade, poster displays, campaign promotion, etc.
- Displays must be designed for public exposure and must bear a message soliciting a donation for and wearing of the VFW “Buddy”® Poppy.

### **CATEGORY 2: Memorial or Inspirational Displays**

- Wreaths, memorial tablets or plaques, patriotic or devotional themes.
- Displays must be designed to honor the dead, to inspire devotion to God and Country, or to dramatize the activities supported by the “Buddy”® Poppy.

### **CATEGORY 3: Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies**

- Post Home displays, table centerpieces, corsages, pictures, models, scenes, hats, novelty pieces, etc.
- \*Any display not meeting the qualifications of Category 1 or 2, shall automatically be entered in Category 3.

**In ALL CATEGORIES, at least one (1) of the poppies used in the display MUST BE in its ORIGINAL FORM AND COLOR WITH LABEL ATTACHED.**

The Convention entry form can be found on the next page.

We hope to see many creative entries this year. Good luck to all.

Renee Simpson  
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