



# WI VFW AUXILIARY

## 2024-25 GENERAL ORDERS



**"HONORING VETERANS TOGETHER"**

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July 2024

MUST BE READ AT MEETING

Issue 1 • Volume 3

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Congratulations to all new District and Auxiliary Presidents and Officers. We are counting on everyone working as a team to make this year enjoyable and successful. By now, you should have appointed your program chairs at both the auxiliary and district level. Encourage them to keep notes that will assist in their year-end reporting.

- General orders must be read entirely at each meeting. I have asked our Department Chairs to keep their bulletins short. More information on these programs may be found on our website. This should enable you to keep your meetings to an hour or less.
- Our First Council of Administration and Chairmen's Promotional Meeting will be held at Stoney Creek in Onalaska on July 12 & 13, 2024. Tentative Agenda is posted on the website.
- District President's – it is critical that we be informed early of any potential issues with the auxiliaries in your area. Please contact Linda Moran – Department Chief of Staff. The same is true if you know of any "Bachelor Posts" interested in starting a new auxiliary.
- We will continue to be green this year in regard to General Orders mailings. For those wanting a paper copy, please see the form on the last page of these orders and on the website for cost and details.
- The National Convention will be held in Louisville, Kentucky from July 27-August 1, 2024.
- The National President's visit will be held October 9-11, 2024. More information to follow.

The National President for the 2024-25 year is Brenda Bryant and her theme is "From Our Roots to Our Branches – Extending Service to Our Veterans".

My theme for the coming year is "Honoring Veterans Together".

Respectfully,

Cheryl Woodards

Department of WI President

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## VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

by Kathie Lendosky, V & FS Chairperson  
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Cell: 414-588-9339 (Leave a message)



Hello Brothers and Sisters, I am Kathie Lendosky from District 6 and I am very honored and proud to be your Department Veterans and Family Support Chairman for 2024–2025. Veterans and Family Support is the core of our organization. It is for the entire Family, not just the veterans. Many of our veterans and active – duty service members suffer in silence, and their families suffer along with them. Over the course of this year, I will provide you with information on how to find the resources, materials, crisis lines, and support needed to meet their needs. I will also provide you with enough information to fill out awards for National, and Department year-end reports. Please send me pictures.

This year the National Ambassador Evan Smiley's theme is issuing a challenge to each auxiliary member to be innovative thinkers, be creative and always Keep Moving Forward for our Veterans and their families. The main focal points for this year will be:

- National Veterans Service Suicide Prevention
- Unmet needs with a need for monetary donations and what they are used for
- Childcare for active-duty service members
- Veteran and Military Support Programs

I will give you information on how to accomplish each focal point one at a time in separate monthly reports with the General orders, and how your auxiliary can be successful in meeting those needs to Keep Moving Forward. A special focus on this year's Veterans & Family Support Program Is giving back to the families, and I will provide you with ideas on how you can accomplish this.

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## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Patty Jansky, Chairperson / [pajansky@charter.net](mailto:pajansky@charter.net)



Welcome to an exciting new VFW Auxiliary Program Year! I'm honored that President Cheryl has asked me to stay on as the Youth Activities Chairman for 2024-2025. Dominique Garcia, our new National Ambassador, has been involved with the Auxiliary since she was five years old. She says, "I feel that being involved at a young age not only helps grow our membership, but teaches children what it means to be involved, patriotic and an American. It also teaches youth who our men and women of strength are." Our Auxiliaries can encourage our youth to make a difference in the lives of our veterans, our communities, and our country. This year the Youth Activities Program will focus on:

- Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups
- Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations
- Patriotic Youth Awards
- R.A.P. Cards
- Patriotism Through Literacy
- Illustrating America



(The "Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue!" National Anthem Contest will not be offered this year.)

Watch for more details in our upcoming monthly bulletins, on our Wisconsin Auxiliary website and on MALTA Member Resources under Youth Activities. Let's make 2024-2025 the Year of our Patriotic Youth!

# VFW BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME PROGRAM

by Sue Carlson, Program Chairperson

The VFW Auxiliary works to honor and make a difference in the lives of veterans, service members and their families. Two ways we do this are through the VFW Buddy Poppy Program and the VFW National Home.

Before Memorial Day in 1922, we conducted the first poppy distribution. The poppy was soon adopted as the official memorial flower of the VFW, as remains so today. The Buddy Poppy program provides compensation to those who assemble the poppies, financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans' rehabilitation and service programs and partially supports the VFW National Home.



The VFW National Home can be traced to Amy Ross, who in 1922, at only 23 years of age, made it her mission to help find jobs for the thousands of unemployed veterans in Detroit. News of her efforts reached millionaire cattleman Corey Spencer, who gifted 472 acres of land near Eaton Rapids, Michigan, to build on Ross' mission. Then on January 7, 1925 the VFW National Home was founded, helping to fulfill the VFW pledge to "honor the dead by helping the living." The National Home's commitment is to honor our nation's veterans and active-duty military by providing help and hope for their children and families.

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## EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION

by Linda Moran, Department Chief of Staff

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Welcome to the "HONORING VETERANS TOGETHER" year. As your Chief of Staff it is my responsibility to work with Department President and the District Presidents to provide guidance, resources and tools to help our Auxiliaries and Organization succeed.

By now, your Auxiliary should have submitted your installation reports, worked on getting your bond, sent a financial report to your Post and started on your 990 and have your audits completed. These are just a few things an Auxiliary can do to be healthy and not a Red Flag Auxiliary.

What is a Red Flag Auxiliary? Remember these questions:

1. Conducting 10 meetings per year? Yes or No
2. Good attendance at the monthly Auxiliary meetings? Yes or No
3. Completing required paperwork in a timely manner? Yes or No
4. Elect new Officers or re-elect the same members? Yes or No
5. Officers, Chairmen & members work as a team? Yes or No
6. Member involvement, input during meetings? Yes or No
7. Participating in the National/Department Programs? Yes or No
8. Membership Growth? Yes or No

ONE "NO" IS A RED FLAG

Red Flags can be an easy fix, just reach out and help will be on the way.

See you at the C of A in July.





## LEGISLATIVE

by Debbie Nackers, Legislative Chairperson  
debnack666@gmail.com

**Be a Veteran Advocate! Sign up for Action Corps & Voter Voice!**

Image the power of all our voices, requiring our Legislators to pass important Veterans Bills.  
Like: H.R. 8371 This bill would improve benefits and care for veterans, survivors and caregivers.

Here's how to sign up: Scan the barcode and your amazing phone will take you to the website to sign up.

Not tech savvy like your kids and grandkids? No problem. Just send me your info. and I can sign you up. (See email address above)

Use camera mode to scan code



After sign up, you will get email alerts about important VFW backed bills.

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## MEMBERSHIP

by Chris Benson Membership Chair

As of 06/17/24, the Dept of WI was sitting at 99.91% paid membership with only 7 members needed to reach our goal of 100%.



As we move forward into the new year, I would like to encourage each of you to re-familiarize yourself on the tools at your disposal - such as the New Member Engagement Packet. This packet can be found on the National website In MALTA under Membership and Leadership Resources. Getting new members is important, but it is even more important to get members who want to be engaged and understand: Who we are, What we do, and Why we do it.

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## SECRETARY/WEBMASTER NOTES

by Faith Elford PDP, 2024-25 Secretary & Webmaster  
wivfwafaith@outlook.com

*"Now is the time for all good members  
to take a look at your account in  
MALTA."*

New this year, thanks to National, we have the capability of creating our roster straight from MALTA. This will save hours of typing and updating our past rosters. We will also be communicating with all members with email through our email engine built into our website. However, it is still a matter of "Junk in, Junk Out" if you do not keep your info up-to-date.

Never been in Malta before – it is easy to sign in. Go to the National VFW Auxiliary website at: [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org). Click on the "Malta Member Login" tab. On the next page you will see MALTA ACTIVATION on the right side of the screen. Have your membership number handy and follow the directions to set up your password. Once you are into your account you will see the word Profile at the top left side of the page. Click on that and you will see all the information National has about you. There are edit buttons that you can push to update that information. Please go in and update your information as soon as possible or ask a friend or young family member to help you.

I will be creating some print copies of the roster by mid-July so we want it as up-to-date as it can possibly be. Contact me if you need help or with any questions.



## July 2024 – Journey to 100 Years question:



### Who was the Past Department President that organized and cooked at VFW Auxiliary Tomah Days for 25 Years?

Send your answer NOT LATER THAN July 31st.

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 in the fall, if held. Otherwise at the 2025 Mid-Winter meetings.

The 100th Anniversary Committee

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## Need The General Orders in Print for the 2024-25 Year?

Again this year, if your Auxiliary has no access to a computer or any other way to get our General Orders and bulletins on-line, for \$35 for the 2024-25 year, the Department Secretary will send your Auxiliary paper copies via snail mail.



Fill out this form with your payment and return to:

Dept. VFWA Treasurer, Lenore Otto  
1383 W. Wisconsin Ave.  
Oconomowoc, WI 53066

Make Auxiliary check for \$35 payable to VFWA-WI, earmark checks "General Orders Mailings".

Please print clearly:

Auxiliary Name & Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail General Orders to: (Check One) ☐ President or ☐ Secretary

Provide Mailing Address: Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_