



Department President's Message



December 2023

Greetings VFW Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers,

I hope that each of you enjoyed your Thanksgiving holiday. There are so many things to be THANKFUL for. **Amongst my lengthy list, I am thankful not only for our active military and our veterans but also for every one of you who chooses to continue to serve them and their families through your membership in our wonderful organization!**

I have enjoyed my district visits thus far. I love hearing your Auxiliary President's Reports and all about the wonderful things that you all are doing to support our veterans and their families. I am overjoyed at the amount of support that you have given to my special project US Kennels. Remember that you must send your monetary donations to Department Treasurer Jackie Kimball. Your apparel orders should be completed through Department Special Project Chairperson Shelia Justice. That is the only way in which we can keep track of your donations and orders. We want each of you to get credit for your donations.

The month of December recognizes the following military dates and events:



- 12/1 – Civil Air Patrol (USAF Auxiliary) birthday,
- 12/7 - National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day,
- 12/13 - U.S. National Guard's Birthday and,
- 12/16 - National Wreaths Across America

Do not forget our Christmas Conference on Saturday, December 9th at Chesapeake City VFW Post #7687. The address is 304 Basil Avenue, Chesapeake City, MD 21915. Doors open at 9 am and the program starts at 10 am. Remember to bring your Disney-themed centerpieces and holiday desserts to share.



MEMBERSHIP MATTERS!

Our department is currently hovering around 90% in membership. **Remember that all officers who are annual members need to have their dues paid by 12/31/2023 to remain a member in good standing.**



Please contact our Department Membership chairperson Betty Ann Johnson via email at: vfwauxmembership2324@gmail.com or via phone at (410) 253-5550 if your auxiliary has members that can be "adopted." We are also in need of new members! Those auxiliaries who have already had their District visits – remember the membership challenge that was issued at your meeting. Check out the eligibility wheel if you are unsure about who qualifies for membership. Think about giving the gift of membership this holiday season!



There are still some auxiliaries who have not been reporting. I have heard about events that you are sponsoring and attending. *You are doing the work so report, REPORT, REPORT!* Please reach out to our

Department Chairpersons if you are unsure about how to report an event or project. They are there to help and assist you. When you think of

reporting do not think of it as a chore, think of it as another way of assisting our veterans. *President Harry Truman said this "Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service of our country can never be re-paid. They have earned our undying gratitude. American will never forget their sacrifices."* When you look at it in that light, completing a report form seems small in comparison to their sacrifices – doesn't it?

Report forms and promotions are available on our website at: www.vfwauxmd.org. Don't forget to send your upcoming events to Department Secretary Libby DallaTezza so that she can add them to the Department calendar and send them to our Department Facebook manager PDP Betty Stahm so she can add them to our Facebook page.

It is so hard to believe that in a few short weeks we will be entering a brand-new year  With that being said, I want to say THANK YOU to each of you for everything that you are doing to support our veterans and their families!



*In closing, I would like to wish each of you a wonderful holiday season filled with family and friends, good food, and memories that will last a lifetime. Take the time to enjoy not only the big blessings, but also the small wonders and blessings all around us. Keep our veterans, active military and their families in your thoughts and prayers. Thank you for **Banding Together for our Veterans and continuing to be a Veteran's P.A.L.***

