

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S AUGUST MESSAGE

Hello Department of Maryland VFW Auxiliary,

Let me begin by saying THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU to each and every one of you who attended the School of Instruction. I was beyond overjoyed with the number in attendance. I hope that you not only learned a lot from the department chairmen but also had a great time. District and Auxiliary Presidents, remember to not only choose your chairmen but share the information with your chairmen and members by using your "forwarding finger". THANK YOU to the department chairmen who provided excellent information on their programs. A special THANK YOU goes out to Wells McComas Post & Auxiliary #2678 for the **phenomenal** job they did with planning, setting up, food preparation, serving and clean up. I am so very thankful for each of you who made the School of Instruction an immense success! Teamwork makes the Dream Work and TEAM M & M YOU ROCK!!!!



Hopefully, by now, you are aware that my Gmail account (vanetterforveterans@gmail.com) was hacked/cloned during the School of Instruction. In an effort to prevent scammers and spammers from using my information to solicit funds from you, I have completely disabled and closed that Gmail account. I have set up another account through Comcast/Xfinity. **My new email address is BeAVeteransPal@comcast.net**. Please delete the vanetteforveterans@gmail.com account as anything sent to that email address will "bounce" back to you as undeliverable.

For those of you who may still be wondering what the P.A.L. stands for in my slogan. . . wonder no more, here is the explanation:



Be a Veteran's P.A.L.

1. Be A Veteran's Person Always Loving – We want our veterans to know that we love them for the great sacrifice they have made for the many freedoms that we have today.
2. Be a Veteran's Person Always Listening – We want to always listen to the spoken words and unspoken actions and cues of our veterans and
3. Be a Veteran's Person Always Legislating – this is one of the main reasons we must report, we want our legislators to know all about the things we do for our veterans and to help get bills passed to support the needs of our veterans.

- ❖ Our report forms are just a little bit different this year, we moved the hours, project cost, mileage, and number of volunteers towards the top. This is to ensure that you complete this very important information. In the end, this information helps us to get more resources for our veterans. Also, the report forms are designed to assist the department chairmen in completing their year-end reports. Please, we want you to tell us all about your projects, the space is at the bottom for any additional information and details you wish to include. You can attach additional pages, as necessary.
- ❖ Our department chairmen take a lot of time to research and develop an informational promotional mailing for you. Please read them and SHARE the information.



- ❖ We encourage you to use our website: www.vfwauxmd.org if you do not get your program materials or just want to read up on other programs, check upcoming events, or look up a phone number. Department Secretary Libby does a wonderful job of keeping it updated with the most current information.

I look forward to seeing you at our **Department Family Freedom Festival on September 9th at**

VFW Post #7472, 4225 VFW Lane, Ellicott City, MD 21043. This FREE event is open to each of you, your family, and our community members.

This will also be the weekend for our National President's Visit to Maryland. There will be fun activities for the children, food, giveaways, as well as community and veteran-focused resources. Can't make the event and wonder how you can still be a part of it? Check out the

Donation Wish List and donate. If you have not received the list please contact our

Department Freedom Festival Chairman PNP Sandi Kriebel via email at kwizoz@verizon.net or Co-Chairman Theresa Baynes via email at treec60@gmail.com.



I am overjoyed at the number of inquiries and information requests that I have received for my Special Project – U.S. Kennels. To date, they are processing paperwork to approve two veterans for their certified Service Dog Training program. This happened based on the presentation and information that was given at the School of Instruction. If you know of a veteran who is looking for a service dog – please contact them. Their contact information is included in the Department's President's Special Project Chairman's promotion.

I am looking forward to visiting your Districts and Auxiliaries for events. I want you to have fun while doing the work for our veterans! Each of you are a necessary and vital part of this wonderful organization. Remember to treat each other with kindness. It is okay to disagree, but please be respectful. And just because "we have always done it this way" does not mean there is not another way to do it. National President Carla's slogan is to Be Humble and Kind as we Band Together for our Veterans. *"If the plan doesn't work, change the plan not the goal"* — Author Unknown. So, let's practice kindness to one another and especially extend kindness, humility, and thankfulness to and for our veterans.

