

## From the Desk of the Secretary -December2023

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Hello Brothers & Sisters,

As we look forward to the upcoming holiday season, I'd like to provide you with information shared with us from the VFW.



**Holiday Overseas Mail Deadlines Approaching:** The U.S. Postal Service is preparing for the holiday season as many families spend holidays apart due to military service. To ensure overseas packages are delivered before Dec. 25, it has provided the following deadlines: **Dec. 9** for all Air/Army Post Office (APO), Fleet Post Office (FPO), and Diplomatic Post Office (DPO) addresses with AE zip codes using Priority Mail and First-Class Mail; and **Dec. 15** for APO/FPO/DPO addresses using USPS Priority Mail Express (excluding zip

093). The Postal Service offers a free [military care kit](https://store.usps.com/store/product/shipping-supplies/military-care-kit-P_MILITARYKIT) to ship items, go to [https://store.usps.com/store/product/shipping-supplies/military-care-kit-P\\_MILITARYKIT](https://store.usps.com/store/product/shipping-supplies/military-care-kit-P_MILITARYKIT) Don't forget to report to Veterans & Family Support Chairman Phyllis Cooks.



**Bring Christmas Joy Through Toys for Tots:** Since 1947, Marine Toys for Tots has been bringing the joy of Christmas to America's less fortunate children and fostering community engagement. Every holiday season, new unwrapped toys are distributed to children in need. Donated items may be dropped off at designated locations, or you may make a virtual donation. Learn more at <https://www.toysfortots.org/> Report to Youth Activities Chairman Crystal Hallen.

### NEW changes to the Directory.

Queens Point Memorial Auxiliary #6775 President's new email address - [suprice24@hotmail.com](mailto:suprice24@hotmail.com).  
Mentoring for Leadership Chairman Bobbie Goldman's email - [auxiliarygoldman@gmail.com](mailto:auxiliarygoldman@gmail.com)

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### December 2023 Program Promotion Preview

**Patriotic Instructor and Americanism Chairman Cheri Brown** encourages us to go to Member Resources and check out all the Americanism information available. Don't forget to include in your Americanism report that you utilized the material/resources available in MALTA.

**Cathy Gistedt, our Auxiliary Outreach Chairman** has packed her mailing with information. See her volunteer opportunities around Maryland. She answers some FAQs and how to earn bonus points.

Be sure to visit the **Buddy Poppy and National Home Chairman Karen Rooker's** update on ordering Buddy Poppies. Karen also shares gift ideas that keep on giving while benefiting the VFW National Home.

The deadline to send photos to **Historian & Media Relations Chairman Dorothy Swigon** is December 1<sup>st</sup> to qualify for her Christmas Conference awards. See her list of award categories.

**Hospital Chairman Cynthia Davis** proudly adds more auxiliaries to her "Shout Out" list. Be sure to see her other thank you recognitions and reminders.

**Legislative Chairman Bill Siperek** touches on Suicide Awareness and **points us to** the VFW Legislative Priority Goals link in MALTA or check out the Action Corp Weekly newsletters.

**Membership Chairman Betty Ann Johnson** reminds us of all the awards she has available for auxiliaries and members. Betty Ann promises to recognize many for their performances at the Christmas Conference.

Be sure to see **Bobbie Goldman's Mentoring for Leadership** mailing for the little cheat sheet she made for new members in her auxiliary. She has designed this to assist new members with questions they may be too embarrassed to ask.

**President's Special Project Chairman Sheila Justice** shares some upcoming events at U.S. Kennels. Sheila has some important information with regard to ordering U.S. Kennels items. Please read and be sure you know where to send donations and where to order items.

**Scholarships Chairman Melissa Tracey** provides some final details on the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Youth Essay contests. Her focus turns to the Continuing Education Scholarship and the Young Creative Patriotic Art Contest. She her material for those guidelines.

See the holiday reminders from **Veterans & Family Support Chairman Phyllis Cooks**. Be sure to read about the Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training center, MCVET. Phyllis provides a helpful wish list in hopes that you will be able to assist the veterans at MCVET.

T.T.F.N.



Libby DallaTezza, Secretary



## 2023-2024 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION	TIME
December 9	Auxiliary Christmas Conference	Chesapeake City Memorial VFW 7687 304 Basil Avenue Chesapeake City, MD	Doors open at @9:00 Program begins @ 10:00 am
<b>2024</b>			
January 6	District 11 Official Visit	Sheridan Hood VFW Post 3065 1202 Union Avenue Baltimore, MD	10:00 am
January 13	District 16 Official Visit	TBA	TBA
January 14	District 4 Official Visit	Federalsburg Mem. VFW Post #5246 2630 Veterans Drive Federalsburg, MD 21632	12:00 noon
January	VOD & Patriot's Pen Dept.		
February 12 - 17	2024 Mid-Year Conference	5 Night Royal Caribbean Cruise	
March 2	Commander & President's Testimonial	Scott-Johnson-Collins VFW Post 9619 6527 Suitland Road Morningside, MD	6:00 pm social hour 7:00 pm dinner & program
March 3	Council of Administration Meeting *	Scott-Johnson-Collins VFW Post 9619 6527 Suitland Road Morningside, MD	12:00 noon
April 6	Dept. Commander & President's Homecoming	Wicomico Co. Mem. VFW Post 10159 821 West Main Street Salisbury, MD 21801	
May 27 - 30	VFW & Auxiliary MD 97th Department Convention		
July 27 – Aug 1	VFW & Auxiliary National Convention	Louisville, Kentucky	

\*C of A attire is white shirt/blouse, dark pants, and President's tie or scarf. Ties & scarves available on the day of the meeting.