



# VFW Auxiliary to Wells-McComas Post 2678

## Newsletter

July 2024



### Auxiliary 2678 Officers for 2024 – 2025

- President – Helen Crossett
- Senior Vice-President – Linda Henderson
- Junior Vice-President – Sandy Kirkpatrick
- Secretary – Cathy Gistedt
- Treasurer - Cathy Gencel
- Chaplain – Richard Ryan
- Conductor – Bonnie Carter
- Guard – Dorothy Swigon
- 1 Yr. Trustee – Kathy Hoefler
- 2 Yr. Trustee – Nancy August
- 3 Yr. Trustee – Stephanie Serio
- Patriotic Instructor – Pat Swigon
- Historian – Bonnie Carter
- Soloist – Sandy Kirkpatrick



### What Are Auxiliary Programs?

The mission of the Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States is to serve our veterans, our active military personnel, and their families. To best serve them, our National President establishes areas of focus we call our *programs* to assist veterans in different ways.

This year's national programs include:

- Americanism
- Auxiliary Outreach to Our Communities
- Buddy Poppy & National Home
- Hospital
- Legislative
- Media Relations
- Membership
- Scholarships
- Veterans & Family Support
- Youth Activities

Each year our Department President also chooses a Special Project. This year, state President Debbie Sturgis is asking Maryland auxiliaries to support *Patriot Point*, a retreat on Maryland's Eastern Shore for veterans and their families to receive help to heal from the stress of combat. Fundraisers will be held this year to assist them in their work.



### Bill Siperek Elected State Senior Vice

Congratulations to 2678 Auxiliary Past President Bill Siperek elected at the State Convention in Ocean City to the office of Department Senior Vice-President for the 2024 - 2025 program year. Have a great year, Bill!

### Coming Up in July and August

#### July

- 4<sup>th</sup> – Independence Day...*celebrate safely*
- 9<sup>th</sup> – Auxiliary Meeting at 7pm...*join us!*
- 13<sup>th</sup> - BBQ Chicken Dinner 5-7pm...*order ahead*
- 26<sup>th</sup> – Firemen's Parade...*look for our float!*
- 27<sup>th</sup> – Bar Stool Bingo 8pm in the Canteen

#### August

- 10<sup>th</sup> – BBQ Chicken Dinner 5–7pm...*order ahead*
- 13<sup>th</sup> – Auxiliary Meeting at 7pm...*join us!*
- 17<sup>th</sup> – Department President's Homecoming  
*(all are invited to Post 5118...let's carpool)*
- 24<sup>th</sup> – Post Birthday Celebration in the Canteen  
*(bring a covered dish or dessert to share)*
- 31<sup>st</sup> – Bar Stool Bingo 8pm in the Canteen

Friday Karaoke starts 7pm in the Canteen  
Saturdays look for Trivia Nights & Live Music

Starting September, our Calendar will be sent by email to members. Check MALTA online to be sure your email is correct to stay informed.



**Veterans Crisis Line  
Dial 988 - Press 1**

## Congratulations VFW 2678 Officers '24- '25

The Auxiliary is looking forward to working with the in-coming officers of the Post:

Commander - Dan Woolfrey

Senior Vice-Commander - Dennis Angst

Junior Vice-Commander - Juan Olivares

Quartermaster - John Gistedt

Adjutant – Angelo Catalano

Chaplain - Tim Byrd

Judge Advocate - John Gistedt

Surgeon - Greg Kirkpatrick

1-Year Trustee - Les Badders

2-Year Trustee – George Ferandes

3-Year Trustee – Bob Sandlass

Service Officer - Nancy Harris

Officer of the Day – Les Badders

Guard - George Ferandes

Bar Chairman – Bob Runk



### Know Someone Serving Overseas?

Is someone in your family or a friend serving in the military overseas? Our Auxiliary understands how important communications from home can be. The Auxiliary is proud to send *care packages* to our military men and women to let them know their service is appreciated. Filled with goodies, toiletries, and leisure items, our boxes bring a smile to the faces of those protecting our nation. Contact Cathy Gistedt, our program chairman, with the name and address of someone you would like to receive one of our *care packages*.

Call 410-477-1078 or email Cathy online at:

[cathygistedt123@gmail.com](mailto:cathygistedt123@gmail.com)



### Auxiliary Scholarship Awarded at SPHS

Congratulations go out to **AUSTIN SHIFLETT**, this year's recipient of the Wells-McComas Post 2678 Auxiliary Scholarship. Austin graduated in June from Sparrows Point High School. Our \$500 scholarship is awarded to the graduating senior related to an Auxiliary or Post member to help with the financial demands of either college or trade school. Applications are accepted in April.

For more information on the Memorial Bricks flyer included in this newsletter, contact:  
Dan Woolfrey (443-388-7482)  
Cathy Gencil (410-340-1779)

## Awards Received at the 2024 Department Convention



Wells-McComas Auxiliary competed in Group 6 (composed of the largest auxiliaries in Maryland) for awards for our work this past year. We were named *Auxiliary of the Year* for our group based on our projects and programs and also received recognition for:

- Americanism Program 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Linda Henderson, Chairman
- Legislative Program 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
Linda Henderson, Chairman
- Hospital Program 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Nancy August, Chairman
- Veterans & Family Support Program 2<sup>nd</sup>  
Cathy Gistedt, Chairman
- Membership Program 2<sup>nd</sup> Place  
Cathy Gencil, Chairman
- Media Relations Award for Reporting  
Bonnie Carter, Chairman

Cathy Gistedt was also awarded *Mentor of the Year* for Maryland. In addition, June Kinnear and Cathy Gistedt received plaques from the state Chief of Staff for Outstanding Service to the Department of Maryland.

## \$ RECRUIT and WIN \$50 \$

Your membership in the VFW Auxiliary supports veteran legislation and programs....our numbers give our representatives strength in Washington that will assist veterans and our active military and their families. Strength in numbers is so true.

It's time to recruit! Enclosed is an Auxiliary application. For each new member that you sign up for Wells-McComas Auxiliary 2678 this year, your name will be entered in a drawing at May's meeting to win \$50. Recruit 5 new members for 5 chances to win \$50! Be sure to enter your name and membership number as the recruiter at the top and have all information completed on the application.

You can help our veterans from your home by signing up for "**Action Corps Weekly.**" You will receive links to legislators to send messages supporting veterans' issues. Go to the National VFW Aux website under "Legislative" to sign up.