

From the Desk of the Secretary - October 2024



Brothers & Sisters,

I hope you received and read the VFW Auxiliary E-Newsletter. The September 12, 2024 issue of the **VFW Auxiliary E-Newsletter** was especially exciting for the Department of Maryland. Our own Past National President Corina Barnes is heading to Kansas. It will be wonderful to have Cortina available to us for questions and guidance.

NEW HIRE AT NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS Cortina Barnes Joining HQ Staff

On September 23, Past National President Cortina Barnes will join the staff at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri as the Director of Administrative Services. This position plays a key role in developing, coordinating and directing the administrative activities of the organization by performing or delegating duties and responsibilities.



"We look forward to welcoming Cortina to National Headquarters!" said National Secretary-Treasurer Ann Panteleakos. "She is an asset to the organization and will be a wonderful addition to our staff."

And then there's this...

The announcement of a new and fun idea for sharing photos. One of the examples used in the E-Newsletter was a photo of the Department of Maryland Members.

SUNDAY FUN DAY! New Social Media Initiative Needs Photos

We would like to introduce a new feature on our social media this Program Year: Sunday Fun Day! But we need your help.

We know our members work hard for our veterans and communities every day, but we have fun, too, and that's what we'd like to see to brighten up the weekends.

Send us your pictures from Halloween parties and sock hops, softball games and corn hole tournaments, face painting at Freedom Festivals, performing in skits, or just enjoying yourselves during a Mid-Year Conference or Convention. We want to see line dancing, ballroom dancing and breakdancing. We want to see candid photos featuring laughter, smiles and even silliness. We want to see you happily involving your children and grandchildren in our Programs. We want to see friendship and fun!

Email these to us at info@vfwauxiliary.org with the subject line **Sunday Fun Day** and we may feature your Auxiliary on a future social media post using the hashtag **#SundayFunDay** - note that this is not an Auxiliary-specific hashtag, which means our posts will come up alongside those of other social media users, hopefully broadening our reach. Thank you to those whose photos we've already received - we are organizing and scheduling them now.



Members of the Department of Maryland had fun in the sun on a riverboat tour in Louisville, Kentucky during National Convention this year!

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Lastly... Someone must have gone into the archives to find the photo below from 2022.

How Does Your Auxiliary Honor Them?

Sunday, September 29 is Gold Star Mother's and Family Day.

Photo below is from the 2022 Gold Star Mothers Luncheon hosted by Auxiliary 7472 in Ellicott City, Maryland. Those in white holding pink flowers are Gold Star Mothers.



WHAT'S NEW ON THE WEB...

MALTA - After signing into your MALTA account, go to **Members Resources** and then go to **National Convention** for the following new information.

2024 Programs Seminar

- A YouTube video of the 2024 National Ambassador Presentations

2024 Adopted or Defeated Resolutions

- A pdf of the 2024 Resolutions as Voted on at the National Convention

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE MARYLAND WEBSITE @ vfwauxmd.org

- PROGRAMS→HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS **Getting the Most Out of the Auxiliary Websites**
- RESOURCES→TREASURER – Find the **Treasurer's Distribution Form in a fillable format** and numerous YouTube videos.
- RESOURCES→SECRETARY – Print and share the debut of the **Dept. of Maryland FACT SHEET**
- Photos have been added to the Gallery, go to ABOUT→GALLERY

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Changes, updates, and corrections to the Directory.

- Patuxent River NAS Aux. 2632 meeting time has changed to 5:30p.
- Past Department President Karen Rooker's Auxiliary is 9619.

2024-2025 October Program Promotion Preview

Patriotic Instructor and Americanism Chairman Cheri Brown, PDP encourages educating youth about the US Flag and shares tips. Her "*Flag Education for Kids*" isn't just for children! Cheri sends the Patriotic Instructors to the Podium Edition Bylaws to answer questions about proper meeting floor plans. She suggests teaching their members what they learn.



Auxiliary Outreach Chairman Karen Rooker, PDP tries something different this month. See her mailing for ideas on projects that ARE considered Auxiliary Outreach. She shares quite a list of projects.

Our clever "**Buddy**"[®] **Poppy & National Home Chairman PDP Betty Stahm** shares the many ways to creatively use "**Buddy**"[®] Poppies in every National Program in October. In the VFW National Home portion of her promotion, Betty announces a "**NEW**" National Home Prayer!



Chaplain Melissa Tracey continues to WOW us with her beautiful prayers. Melissa has some excellent suggestions for cheering up an elderly member or a member who just can't make it to meetings.

Our **Chief of Staff Betty Ann Johnson's** October message is about Mentoring. She shares the benefits of mentoring and the positive impact mentoring can have on your auxiliary. See Betty Ann's Five Golden Rules!

Circle of Excellence Chairman Mary Cardinal-Vogt encourages all auxiliaries to meet the requirements to be admitted into the MD Circle of Excellence. Mary is planning a special ceremony at the Department Convention 2025.

Telling Our Story... **Historian/Media Relations Chairman Cathy Gistedt's** October mailing is full of information. She shares her Auxiliary Fact Sheet along with ideas to help you create your own Fact Sheet to hand out in the community and at Membership Drives.



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Hospital Chairman Cynthia Davis', PDP topic this month is the Honor Escort ceremony. Cynthia shares a link where volunteers and staff members at the Carl Vinson VA Center in Dublin practiced a new Honors Escort procedure for removing the bodies of deceased vets from the hospital.

The Priority Goals are detailed in **Legislative Chairman Bill Siperek's** October mailer. Be sure to check out his "Project Ideas" with suggestions for auxiliary chairmen to keep their members informed.

Lots of ways for you and your auxiliary to win money in **Membership Chairman Felicia Weeks'** October mailing. Did you submit your membership teams? See President Debbie with the Membership QR Code.



Scholarships Chairman JoAnne Bierly asks you to consider sending a donation to the Scholarships Program, either at the Department or National Level. See JoAnne's mailing for the upcoming deadlines.



"Patriot Point" - President's Special Project Chairman Sheila Justice's shares a list of art supplies to donate for their Art Therapy program. Are you getting busy with your fundraising efforts? President Debbie's goal is to raise \$40,000 for Patriot Point.

Department Treasurer Jackie Kimball, PDP presents her **Treasurers' Stuff** - Please read in its entirety for changes in procedure.

Youth Activities Chairman Crystal Hallen teaches us about Indigenous Peoples Day. She provides suggested reading material to purchase and donate to local classrooms. Crystal also points us to the VFW Store for coloring books. She suggests stocking up now before your next Auxiliary activity with youth!

Veterans & Family Support Chairman VaNette Jones, PDP shares National President Brenda Bryant's special project "Operation Bottom Cover." And... you don't want to miss VaNette's mailer for the details of her two new contests.

Sailing away... SEA you later!

Libby

Libby DallaTezza, Secretary
VFW Auxiliary Department of Maryland

