

From the Desk of the Secretary - August 2024



Brothers & Sisters,

Welcome to an exciting time as we begin a new program year. Our Department President Deborah Sturgis will lead us with her theme "Setting Sail For Our Veterans".

We had a wonderful convention at The Grand Hotel & Spa in Ocean City. Department elections were held and a joint installation with the VFW followed the convention on Friday. Past Department Commander Brian Sturgis, husband of President Debbie, installed the 2024-2025 officers.



President	Debbie Sturgis	District 1 President	Karen Rooker, PDP
Sr. Vice President	Bill Siperek	District 2 President	Michele Hebert
Jr. Vice President	Nancy Shenk	District 3 President	Faith Friend
Secretary	Libby DallaTezza	District 4 President	Susan Feyl
Treasurer	Jackie Kimball, PDP	District 6 President	Melissa Tracey
Chaplain	Melissa Tracey	District 7 President	Dawn Daly
Conductor	Theresa Baynes	District 10 President	JoAnne Bierly
Guard	Karen Rooker, PDP	District 11 President	Cynthia Davis, PDP
Patriotic Instr.	Cheri Brown, PDP	District 14 President	Cathy Gistedt
Historian	Cathy Gistedt	District 16 President	Sheila Justice
Jr. Past Dept. President	VaNette Jones, PDP		



Introducing our new Department Guard Karen Rooker

Karen Rooker, a Scott-Johnson-Collins VFW Auxiliary No. 9619 member, was elected Department Guard. This is not a new adventure for Karen as she climbed the Department chairs and served as Department President in 2017-2018. CONGRATULATIONS & THANK YOU KAREN!

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Time to roll out the red carpet:

National President Brenda's Official Visit to Maryland

September 19 - 21, 2024

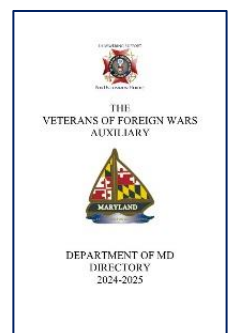


For more activities, please see the 2024-2025 Schedule of Events included in this mailing.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY Please notify me in writing (email is preferred) of any changes in officers, contact information or auxiliary meeting information.

Changes, updates, and corrections to the Directory.

- Legislative Chairman Bill Siperek
2546 Lodge Forest Drive
Baltimore, MD 21219
mdvfw.bills@gmail.com
- District 3 Treasurer and Auxiliary 10077 Treasurer's new address:
Shelbadean Harvey
159 Harveys Road
Deer Park, MD 21550-6410
- Sheridan Hood Auxiliary # 3065 President Michelle Maszon has a new cell phone number 443-449-0168

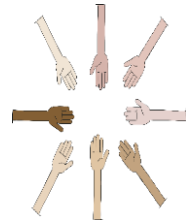


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2024-2025 August Program Promotion Preview

Patriotic Instructor and Americanism Chairman Cheri Brown, PDP encourages us to study the history behind some of the "lesser-known patriotic holidays". She provides us with upcoming examples of these holidays. She emphasizes the Americanism goals for this program year and shares the important role of the Patriotic Instructor in instructing auxiliary members on the proper way to stand at attention, salute the flag, and what parade rest means.

Auxiliary Outreach Chairman Karen Rooker, PDP shares suggestions from her National Ambassador, Bambi Johson. Karen further explains that Auxiliary Outreach is about giving yourself and your time and she provides a list of organizations that you may want to partner with.



Be sure to read "**Buddy® Poppy**" & **National Home Chairman PDP Betty Stahm's** explanation of why it is so important to purchase poppies every year. Have you ever wondered where the money is used from the purchase of poppies? Wonder no more...Betty has that information for you. She also has the VFW National Home Amazon Wish List information in her material with step-by-step instructions to place your order.



Our **Chief of Staff Betty Ann Johnson** has us reminiscing about our experiences when first joining the auxiliary. Betty encourages us to do a better job of welcoming new members and mentoring them.

Historian/Media Relations Chairman Cathy Gistedt's August mailing is packed full of tips, tricks, and guidance for Historians. See Cathy's explanation of using templates for getting publicity out to the membership. Her topic "Polish Up Your Photos" is a must-read for all photographers. See her step-by-step instructions on setting up an email group for your auxiliary, she also provides a link for more detailed instructions. And last but not least, don't miss Cathy's "We Know This Because... Historians Told the Story!"... she shares a unique story you don't want to miss.


Hospital Chairman Cynthia Davis, PDP shares her contact information for the six VA Medical Health Care Facility locations in our service area. She stresses the importance of volunteers and their needs in each of the facilities. Don't miss her monthly planning fun days. August is full of ideas that can be incorporated into a hospital visit.



The August topics from **Legislative Chairman Bill Siperek** are Be Informed... Be an Advocate... Be Engaged. He explains why it is important to be an advocate for our veterans. Bill is requesting that you add your auxiliary number and month to your report file name when attaching your report to an email.

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Membership Chairman Felicia Weeks, PDP wants you to use the QR code designed to access information that you can provide to potential members. Behind this QR code will be things like the Fact Sheet, Membership Application, What We Do, Auxiliary Locator and more!

Scholarships Chairman JoAnne Bierly talks all about awards in her August material. She has special pins to offer, \$50 cash awards, as well as the Department and National awards. She is stressing that  to get the word out.

Patriot Point is the topic of **President's Special Project Chairman Sheila Justice's** mailing. She shares information about the safe, secure and tranquil outdoor recreational retreat facility for wounded, ill, and injured active duty service members, veterans, their families and caregivers who face daily struggles related to their time spent defending our great nation.



Department Treasurer Jackie Kimball, PDP presents her **Treasurers' Stuff** - See her reminder about filing a 990 and details to complete the audit. She has a clear explanation of the "Life Membership Incentive for Annual Members." You don't want to miss Jackie's information on the New Convention Awards coming in 2025.



Youth Activities Chairman Crystal Hallen shares her ideas for working with the youth. She also provides helpful information on how to submit a report. Check out her mailing to see if your auxiliary is on her "Shout Out" list.

Information every Auxiliary member should know from **Veterans & Family Support Chairman VaNette Jones**, PDP. She shares details on the Help A Hero Scholarship, Assistance for Family Caregivers, and 2024-2025 National President Brenda's Special Project. Everyone in your auxiliary can participate in Stamps for the Wounded and Support Our Troops® by clipping coupons. See VaNette's fact-filled mailing for all the details.

Sailing away... SEA you later!

Libby DallaTezza, Secretary
VFW Auxiliary Department of Maryland

