

From the Desk of the Secretary - September 2024



Brothers & Sisters,:

Congratulations to PDP VaNette Jones, her 23-24 TEAM M & M, and the Department of Maryland. PDP Jones was accepted into the Circle of Excellence at the National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.

Other awards brought home to Maryland:

OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARDS

- **Auxiliary Outreach** – 1st Place to Chairman Cathy Gistedt
- **Hospital** – 2nd Place to Chairman Cynthia Davis, PDP



Other Awards for Departments and Department Chairmen

- Award #1 – For the best promotion of “supporting veterans, service members and their families” awarded to **Chairman Phyllis Cooks.**
- Award #1 – For the “most effective promotion of the Auxiliary Outreach Program” awarded to **Chairman Cathy Gistedt.**
- Award #1 – For the best promotion of “education of veteran Legislative issues” awarded to **Chairman Bill Siperek.**
- Award #1 – For best “promotion to educate their Auxiliary members on how to mentor future leaders for a specific position within the Auxiliary” awarded to **Chairman Bobby Goldman.**
- Award #1 - "Most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about Patriotism Through Literacy and utilizing the Random Act of Patriotism card (R.A.P.)” awarded to one auxiliary in each conference. **Charles Evering VFW Auxiliary 6506** was awarded in the Eastern Conference.



MALTA - THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT:

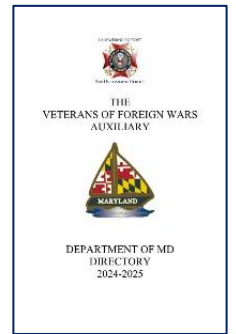
Apple URL - <https://apps.apple.com/app/vfw-auxiliary-malta/id6482576653>

Android URL - <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.vfwauxiliary>

For a clickable link – www.vfwauxmd.org Go to News

Changes, updates, and corrections to the Directory.

- New address for Past Department President Margaret Smith
Margaret Smith, Room 29
c/o The Heartland Assisted Living
639 Ave. H
Powell, WY 82435
Phone #410-610-2623



2024-2025 September Program Promotion Preview

Patriotic Instructor and Americanism Chairman Cheri Brown, PDP suggests it's time to organize and make plans for the Patriotic Holidays. She encourages educating others about the US Flag and volunteering at local schools to teach Flag education and respect.

Auxiliary Outreach Chairman Karen Rooker, PDP provides further explanation and examples on things that do count as Auxiliary Outreach and some things that do not count.

Our clever "Buddy"® Poppy & National Home Chairman PDP **Betty Stahm** shares the many ways to creatively use "Buddy"® Poppies in every National Program. In the VFW National Home portion of her promotion, Betty explains the importance of the VFW National Home Life Membership Program and the two types of membership. Don't miss the announcement that the Centennial Life Membership program has begun.



Chaplain Melissa Tracey has another beautiful prayer to share with us this month. See her mailing for September dates to remember and/or celebrate. Melissa has some excellent suggestions for staying in touch with auxiliary members. For fun, she has included a September-themed Word Search puzzle.

Our **Chief of Staff Betty Ann Johnson** reminds us to Revitalize and GROW! See Betty Ann's mailing for your 1st Challenge as she encourages a simple but effective "New Members" booklet.

Circle of Excellence Chairman Mary Cardinal-Vogt reminds auxiliaries that all are welcome into the Circle of Excellence. She has the rules for earning the required points and lists the ways your auxiliary can receive this prestigious award.



She's wowed us again... **Historian/Media Relations Chairman Cathy Gistedt's** September mailing is packed full of tips, tricks, and guidance for Historians. See Cathy's Newsletter tips, Publicity

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tips, and her 10 reasons to have an Auxiliary Facebook Page. Don't miss Cathy's tri-fold auxiliary handout for some ideas to create for your auxiliary.

Hospital Chairman Cynthia Davis, PDP gives us a recap on the August Birthday events at Loch Raven VAMC and Perry Point VAMC. See her explanation of how the hospital treats donations are used.

Lots of information is shared in **Membership Chairman Felicia Weeks'** September mailing. Did you submit your membership teams? She reviews the Membership Award Opportunities and announces the first winner of the "Annual convert to Life" drawing and encourages promoting this incentive to annual members.

Scholarships Chairman JoAnne Bierly explains her special pins for Auxiliary Scholarships Chairmen. Don't miss the four (4) \$50 cash awards she is offering at the Department Convention next year.



Patriot Point is the topic of **President's Special Project Chairman Sheila Justice's** mailing. She details the eligibility for a retreat and the activities offered. Get 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** - Her topics this month include Treasurer vs. Membership Chairman, Membership Cards, Dues Reminders and Audits. She details the Trustees' role in an Auxiliary.



See **Youth Activities Chairman Crystal Hallen's** suggested reading, just in time for POW/MIA Recognition Day. Also, Crystal explains important information from National with an Illustrating America Art Contest update.

Information every Auxiliary member should know from **Veterans & Family Support Chairman VaNette Jones, PDP**. September is Suicide Prevention Month and VaNette shares the warning signs, how to start the conversation with a veteran in crisis, and other ways you can help. Be sure to read about her two contests.

Sailing away... SEA you later!

Libby

Libby DallaTezza, Secretary
VFW Auxiliary Department of Maryland

