



Brothers & Sisters,

We would like to offer our heartfelt congratulations to PDP Deborah Sturgis and her 2024-2025 team. PDP Debbie was honored with induction into the Circle of Excellence at the National Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

Additional awards received by Maryland:

AMERICANISM – Chairman Cheri Brown, PDP

- 1st Place Outstanding Performance Award

AUXILIARY OUTREACH – Chairman Karen Rooker, PDP

- 2nd Place Outstanding Performance Award

CHIEF OF STAFF/EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION – Chairman Betty Ann Johnson

- 2nd Place Outstanding Performance Award
- Award 1: “Best promotion of mentoring and/or training to educate their auxiliary members on the duties of the Officer roles to ensure the future of the Auxiliary.”

HISTORIAN & MEDIA RELATIONS – Chairman Cathy Gistedt

- 1st Place Outstanding Performance Award
- Award 1: “For the best training/education on the use of social media sources to promote VFW Auxiliary Programs.”
- Auxiliary Award 1: Lt. Peter J. Zouck Auxiliary 521 for “Most outstanding promotion of VFW Auxiliary Programs to the community through social media sources.”

HOSPITAL – Chairman Cynthia Davis

- Auxiliary Award 1: Union Memorial Auxiliary 8806 for “Most creative ways to interact with and to provide happiness to veteran patients”

LEGISLATIVE – Chairman William “Bill” Siperek

- Award 1: “For the best promotion of ensuring elected officials are educated on the importance of VFW legislative goals and veterans’ rights.”

MEMBERSHIP – Chairman Felicia Weeks

- Award 2: National Membership Achievement Award to member who recruit twenty (20) new and/or rejoined members. Award received by Susie Milburn, E.E. Streets Memorial Auxiliary 5118.
- Award to each Department within the Conference with the highest total percentage by June 30th. Awarded to the Eastern Conference – led by Membership Coach Libby DallaTezza.



SCHOLARSHIPS – Chairman JoAnne Bierly

- Award 1: “For best promotion of scholarship opportunities in the VFW and VFW Auxiliary.”

YOUTH ACTIVITIES – Chairman Crystal Hallen

- 2nd Place Outstanding Performance Award

VISIT OUR DEPARTMENT WEBSITE FOR THESE AUXILIARY EVENTS

To view the event flyer, go to: www.vfwauxmd.org →NEWS→AUXILIARY EVENTS



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

For more activities, please see the 2025-2026 Schedule of Events included in this mailing.

DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY Please notify me of any changes in officers, contact information or auxiliary meeting information. Use the form available at www.vfwauxmd.org Resources→Officer Change Form.

Auxiliary 1411 - Correction to Treasurers contact information -

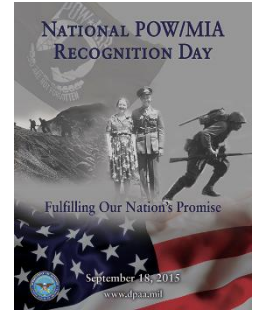
Cheri Robison, 13506 New Oakland Dr. NE, Cumberland, MD 21502 c.l.rand.rob@gmail.com

Auxiliary 2996 - Meets 1st Thursday @ 6:00 pm at Mt. Pleasant UMC, 36536 Mount Pleasant Rd Willards, MD 21874, Phone 443-480-4112

Auxiliary 5627 - Change in meeting time - 2nd Wednesday @ 6:30 pm

2025-2026 September Program Promotion Preview

Patriotic Instructor and Americanism Chairman Cheri Brown, PDP notes that it is back-to-school season and provides suggestions for teaching youth about flag etiquette. With POW/MIA Recognition Day approaching in September, Cheri also recommends planning activities to observe this day.



Auxiliary Outreach Chairman Kathy Williams shares the basic questions "What Counts?" and "What Doesn't Count?." Kathy lists many upcoming events in Baltimore City, Calvert County, Caroline County and Carroll County, making it easy for all to be a positive FORCE in the community.

"Buddy® Poppy" & National Home Chairman PDP Karen Rooker is considering back-to-school initiatives. She provides recommendations for students at the Early Education Center at the National Home and anticipates the upcoming holiday season, offering suggestions for incorporating poppies during that period.



Chief of Staff Cathy Gistedt provides numerous recommendations in her September **Extension and Revitalization** materials to support the ongoing success of your auxiliary. Please review her guidance carefully. The material covers a range of topics for programs and duties of officers.

The September mailing for **Historian/Media Relations Chairman Dorothy Swigon** suggests using FACEBOOK as a tool for recruiting. Please read the step-by-step "MORE ABOUT REELS - Creating a Reel From Your Phone."



Hospital Chairman Cynthia Davis encourages "Be A Force for our Homeless Hospital Veterans." She details supporting homeless veterans and lists how you can help amplify and support this project. Cynthia also encourages reporting and explains how YOUR auxiliary can be recognized.

Legislative Chairman Linda Eberhart shares "the main objectives of the Legislative program."



Linda shares the six areas of concern and her focus this month is on HEALTH CARE. She informs us there are currently over seventy bills benefiting our veterans in Congress. Follow the link in her promotion to be the voice for our veterans.

Jackie Kimball, Membership Chairman is dedicated to expanding membership. Please refer to her correspondence for insightful recommendations on developing your auxiliary this year. Additionally, she provides guidance on "Creating a Successful Membership Committee." Be sure to review the available membership awards, which offer both financial incentives and recognition.



The **Maryland House Kitchen Remodel** is the topic of **President's Special Project Chairman Mary Cardinal-Vogt's** mailing. Mary, a.k.a. Rae remains focused on the fundraising for the restoration of our home at The National Home.

Scholarships Chairman Nancy Shenk discusses key takeaways from the National VFW Auxiliary Convention and shares fundraising ideas for the VFW National Auxiliary Continuing Education Scholarships—part of 2025-2026 National President Lois Callahan's special project.



Department Treasurer Jackie Kimball, PDP provides comprehensive **Information for Treasurers** with several key FYIs. She requests that all Treasurers review and become familiar with the Membership awards available this year.



Essential information for all Auxiliary members is provided by **Veterans & Family Support Chairman VaNette Jones, PDP**. She offers an overview of the **Veterans Crisis Hotline** and includes a link to printable resources for distribution. Additionally, VaNette presents valuable insights regarding National Service Dog Month.

Youth Activities Chairman Missy Tracey shares her "Transmission from HQ." She creatively communicates her mailing to us using terminology from the Star Wars universe. See her "Mission Protocol Reminder," "Key Galactic Dates to Remember" and much, much more!!!!

Nancy August, Liaison to Department VFW, encourages recruiting for the VFW with additional information on obtaining the required DD-214 for proving eligibility.

Joint Project Chairman Crystal Windsor would like to remind everyone that the holiday season is approaching and encourages auxiliaries to begin considering fundraising ideas for The MCVET special project. Crystal appreciates the reports received thus far and looks forward to receiving additional submissions.

Always faithful!

Libby DallaTezza, Secretary & Programs Coordinator
VFW Auxiliary Department of Maryland

