

FOM THE DESK OF THE SECRETARY

December 2025



Happy Holidays!

⭐ Christmas is right around the corner! ⭐ Our VFW Auxiliary at Jerry Skrivanek VFW Post No. 8185 is hard at work planning a festive Christmas Conference for everyone to enjoy. 🎄 🎁 Check out their event flyer at: www.vfwauxmd.org → NEWS→CALENDAR

2025 – 2026 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS*			
Date	Event	Location	Time
Dec 6	Christmas Conference	Jerry Skrivanek Post 8185 520 Susquehanna River Road Port Deposit, MD 21904	Doors open 9 am
Jan 4	District 16 Visitation	Meuse VFW Post 194 821 East William Street Salisbury, MD 21904	12 Noon
Jan 18	VFW Scholarships Award Banquet	Jerry Skrivanek Post 8185 520 Susquehanna River Road Port Deposit, MD 21904	1 pm
February 1	District 10 Visitation	North East VFW Post 6027 813 Turkey Point Road North East, MD 21901	1 pm
February 7	District 14	Wells-McComas VFW Post 2678 6521 North Point Road Baltimore, MD 21219	Lunch 12 Noon Meeting @ 1:00 pm
Feb 9 – 13	Mid-Year Conference/Cruise	See event flyer @ www.vfwauxmd.org →CALENDAR	
Feb 28	Celebrating America's Freedom Event	Washington, DC See event agenda @ www.vfwauxmd.org →CALENDAR	
Mar 2 - 6	VFW Washington Conference	Washington, DC See event agenda @ www.vfwauxmd.org →CALENDAR	
March 14	Commander & President's Testimonial	Cecil Co. Memorial Post 6027 813 Turkey Point Road North East, MD 21901	Cocktails 5 pm
March 15	Auxiliary Council of Administration Meeting	Chesapeake City Post 7687 304 Basil Avenue Chesapeake City, MD 21915	Lunch 12 noon Meeting 1 pm
May 26 - 29	VFW & Auxiliary Department Convention	The Grand Hotel Ocean City, MD	

UPDATE YOUR DEPARTMENT DIRECTORY

Charlton-Miller Auxiliary No. 6054 welcomes a new President -
Dr. LaTonnia Jones
2807 Bynum Overlook Drive
Abingdon, MD 21009 703-220-8400 drtonik@icloud.com

John R. Webb Auxiliary No.
3285 - Change of meeting place
- Their new Post is located at
5951 Old National Pike
Frederick, MD 21702



◆ Please keep me informed of any updates to officers, contact details, or Auxiliary meeting information.

👉 Be sure to use the **Officer Change Form** available at www.vfwauxmd.org → Resources → Officer Change Form.

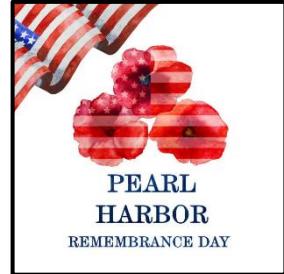
Remember to keep your **Department Directory** current by incorporating the monthly updates I provide in my Secretary Mailings.

<p style="text-align: center;">VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND AUXILIARY / OFFICER / MEMBER CHANGE FORM</p> <p>AUXILIARY NO. _____ DISTRICT NO. _____ CURRENT DATE: _____</p> <p>A. INDICATE AUXILIARY INFORMATION THAT IS TO BE UPDATED (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)</p> <table border="1"><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> CHANGE OF MEETING PLACE:</td><td>Previous Meeting Place</td><td>New Meeting Place</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> CHANGE OF MEETING DAY/TIME:</td><td>Previous Meeting Day/Time</td><td>New Meeting Day/Time</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> CHANGE OF ANNUAL DUES:</td><td>Previous Dues Amount \$</td><td>New Dues Amount \$</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> CHANGE OF OFFICER:</td><td>Indicate Office</td><td>Name of Previous Officer</td><td>Name of New Officer</td></tr></table> <p style="text-align: center;">NOTE: New Treasurer Must File IRS Form 8822 B Within 60 Days.</p> <p>B. INDICATE MEMBER INFORMATION THAT IS TO BE UPDATED (CHECK ALL THAT APPLY)</p> <table border="1"><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> CHANGE OF NAME:</td><td>Former First Name</td><td>New First Name</td></tr><tr><td></td><td>Former Last Name</td><td>New Last Name</td></tr><tr><td><input type="checkbox"/> CHANGE OF ADDRESS</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> CHANGE OF TELEPHONE NO.</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS</td><td><input type="checkbox"/> DEATH OF MEMBER</td></tr></table> <p>C. MEMBERSHIP CARD REPLACEMENT:</p> <p>Replacement card fees: ANNUAL MEMBER - \$5 or LIFE MEMBER - \$10. Cards can be replaced in any of the following manners: 1. Member can order their own replacement card thru their MALTA account. Paper cards can also be downloaded from MALTA. 2. Auxiliary Treasurers can purchase replacement cards on members behalf. 3. Member can send request and applicable fee to the Department Treasurer. Make check payable to "VFW Auxiliary Department of MD", earmarked "Replacement Card".</p> <p>To Process Changes - SEND COMPLETED FORM TO: DEPARTMENT SECRETARY LIBBY DALLATEZZA 1751 Keysville Road So. - Keymar, MD 21757 EMAIL: vfwauxsecretary4md@comcast.net</p>				<input type="checkbox"/> CHANGE OF MEETING PLACE:	Previous Meeting Place	New Meeting Place	<input type="checkbox"/> CHANGE OF MEETING DAY/TIME:	Previous Meeting Day/Time	New Meeting Day/Time	<input type="checkbox"/> CHANGE OF ANNUAL DUES:	Previous Dues Amount \$	New Dues Amount \$	<input type="checkbox"/> CHANGE OF OFFICER:	Indicate Office	Name of Previous Officer	Name of New Officer	<input type="checkbox"/> CHANGE OF NAME:	Former First Name	New First Name		Former Last Name	New Last Name	<input type="checkbox"/> CHANGE OF ADDRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> CHANGE OF TELEPHONE NO.	<input type="checkbox"/> CHANGE OF EMAIL ADDRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> DEATH OF MEMBER
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December 2025

Program Promotion Preview

Patriotic Instructor and Americanism Chairman Cheri Brown, PDP, calls our attention to a significant day of remembrance in December. On December 7th, we observe National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Please honor the memory of those who gave their lives in service to our country by flying your Flag at half-staff. Cheri also provides a list of other notable dates to remember throughout the month of December.



Auxiliary Outreach Chairman Kathy Williams is shining a spotlight on events across Maryland. This month, she highlights Howard, Kent, and Montgomery Counties. The featured list offers Auxiliaries meaningful opportunities to connect with their communities and demonstrate service in action. Don't miss her inspiring collage showcasing Auxiliary members making a difference.



Buddy® Poppy & National Home Chairman, PDP Karen Rooker reminds us that now is the time to secure your National Home Life Membership! Be sure to enroll before December 31st, as the cost will rise to \$100 beginning January 1st. Karen also looks forward to receiving your reports and photos showcasing the creative ways you've incorporated poppies into your holiday celebrations.

Circle of Excellence Chairman Debbie Sturgis, PDP, reminds us to stay alert to upcoming audit deadlines. Credit is awarded once all four audits are received by Department Treasurer Jackie. Debbie has provided an updated tracking spreadsheet—be sure to review it regularly and stay on top of your progress. Every point matters!



Chief of Staff Cathy Gistedt's monthly mailing is packed with practical tips to keep your Auxiliary on the nice list. With guidance on topics such as Conducting Good Meetings, Needed: Strong District Leadership, and Challenges Facing Auxiliaries, no Auxiliary should ever slip onto the naughty list! Each issue brings valuable insights and resources, including National Headquarters' newest tool to support your Auxiliary. Be sure to check out Cathy's latest promotion highlighting the detailed PIP Plan—another way to strengthen your team and ensure success.

One person doesn't have to do it all! **Historian/Media Relations Chairman Dorothy Swigon** encourages auxiliaries to think teamwork: create a Media Team to handle Historian duties more efficiently. Check out her mailing, "Looking Back at 2025."



Hospital Chairman Cynthia Davis, PDP, reminds us: "The cost of our freedom can



be seen at any VA Hospital." As the holiday season draws near, she encourages every member to pause and send a card to veterans receiving care—because a few heartfelt words can make a world of difference.

With Valentines for Veterans - Salute Week approaching, now is the time to plan. At your January meeting, set aside time to get creative and find meaningful ways to show gratitude and compassion to those who have served..

Legislative Chairman Linda Eberhart provides a concise overview of the Legislative Program's mission—equipping members to be strong advocates for veterans and their families. The program focuses on six vital areas, with this month's emphasis on **Military Readiness**. Learn more about H.R. 2878 and take action by contacting your legislators. H.R. 2878 is the Daniel J. Harvey, Jr. and Adam Lambert Improving Servicemember Transition to Reduce Veteran Suicide Act, introduced in April 2025 by Rep. Zachary Nunn (R-IA). It focuses on strengthening mental health support for servicemembers leaving the military and veterans in their first year of separation.

Membership Chairman Jackie Kimball, PDP is rallying Maryland—let's finish strong and bring it home!

Auxiliaries reaching 100% or more in paid membership by December 31st will be entered into a \$150 drawing.

- Two winners will be chosen from each Membership Division
- That's 12 auxiliaries walking away with \$150 each!

Jackie also offers a dynamic list of recruiting tips you won't want to miss. And, in true Jackie fashion, she wraps it all in rhythm and inspiration with a special membership poem.

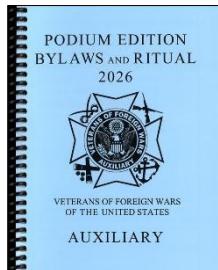
**AUXILIARIES
WITH
100%+
IN MEMBERSHIP
MAY WIN
\$150**

Scholarships Chairman Nancy Shenk spotlights Recipient Recognition in her December mailer.

Be sure to mark your calendar for the VFW Department Awards Ceremony on January 28, 2026, at 1:00 pm at Jerry Skrivanek VFW Post 8185. It's your chance to celebrate achievements and meet our future leaders.

Nancy also provides practical strategies to boost participation in the Young American Patriotic Art Contest and includes a thoughtful thank-you letter template for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen contestants.

Department Treasurer Jackie Kimball, PDP, reminds all members that the updated Membership Application must be used beginning January 1, 2026. To assist you, she has prepared step-by-step instructions for completing the new form, which is clearly marked "Revised January 2026."

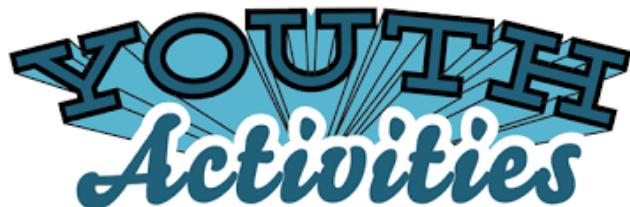


Additionally, at the upcoming Christmas Conference, Jackie will have the Podium Edition of the Bylaws and Ritual available for purchase at the bulk rate of \$7.50 each. Also, Lottery Calendars will be on sale for \$25.00 each—offering a chance to win every single day of the year!

Veterans & Family Support Chairman VaNette Jones, PDP, reminds us of the goals for her program. This is the perfect time of year to remind us to clip postage stamps and send them to "Stamps for the Wounded". Be sure to follow the suggested guidelines provided by VaNette. She also encourages the saving of manufacturer coupons and mailing them to "Support Our Troops®".



Youth Activities Chairman LaTasha Thomas is expanding on guidance from the Youth Activities National Ambassador Shannon Stanley, offering creative ideas to ensure youth are included in every VFW Auxiliary National Program.





Nancy August, Department VFW Liaison, encourages members to use hashtags (#) on social media to share meaningful stories of veterans and service members. In addition, your Post or Auxiliary may be eligible for support through VFW Foundation Grants. Please refer to the December mailing for full contact details.

Joint Project Chairman Crystal Windsor reminds us of this year's collaboration with the VFW: raising funds to purchase a much-needed shuttle bus for MCVET in Baltimore. This bus will provide vital transportation for veterans to attend medical appointments, job interviews, and other essential commitments.

Always faithful!

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

