



Department elections were held, followed by a joint installation ceremony with the VFW. Past Department President Cynthia Davis installed the officers for the 2025-2026 term.

Brothers and Sisters,
Welcome to an inspiring new program year. Under the leadership of Department President William "Bill" Siperek, we embark on a journey guided by his theme: *"A Force For Veterans."*

Ocean City's coastal charm provided a picturesque and memorable setting for this year's Department Convention. The event celebrated the unwavering dedication of our members, featuring the presentation of awards to auxiliaries in honor of their outstanding contributions—an experience enjoyed by many in attendance.

President	William "Bill" Siperek
Sr. Vice President	Nancy Shenk
Jr. Vice President	Melissa Tracey
Secretary	Libby DallaTezza
Treasurer	Jackie Kimball, PDP
Chaplain	Karen Rooker, PDP
Conductor	Scott Hanixman
Guard	Kathy Williams
Patriotic Instr.	Cheri Brown, PDP
Historian	Dorothy Swigon
Jr. Past Dept. President	Debbie Sturgis, PDP

District 1 President	Karen Rooker, PDP
District 2 President	Jeanne Mansell
District 3 President	Janice Judy
District 4 President	Debbie Sturgis, PDP
District 6 President	Melissa Tracey
District 7 President	Dawn Daly
District 10 President	JoAnne Bierly
District 11 President	Cynthia Davis, PDP
District 14 President	Cathy Gistedt
District 16 President	Sheila Justice

Introducing our new Department Conductor and Department Guard

Scott Hanixman, representing Delmar Memorial VFW Auxiliary No. 8276, was elected to serve as Department Conductor.

Kathy Williams of Molleville Farm VFW Auxiliary No. 467 was elected to hold the office of Department Guard.

CONGRATULATIONS & THANK YOU SCOTT & KATHY!

2025 School of Instruction



S.O.I. presented a clear picture of keeping our auxiliaries healthy while meeting the expectations and responsibilities of officers and chairmen so they can work with members to fulfill the mission of the VFW Auxiliary to support veterans and their families.

Time to roll out the red carpet for
National President Lois Callahan
October 14 - 16, 2025



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.

2025-2026 August Program Promotion Preview

Patriotic Instructor and Americanism Chairman Cheri Brown, PDP encourages chairmen to follow a few simple steps when completing report forms. She emphasizes the Americanism goals for this program year and shares the important role of the Patriotic Instructor in teaching auxiliary members on the proper way to stand at attention, salute the flag, and what parade rest means.

Auxiliary Outreach Chairman Kathy Williams shares the basic Who? What? and Where? Guidelines for joining "Forces with our Communities". Kathy has additionally supplied a letter to assist you in contacting organizations to offer auxiliary support. This is a must-see and save letter.



"Buddy® Poppy" & National Home Chairman PDP Karen Rooker reminds us that it's time to order you Poppies. Karen proudly speaks of her recent to the VFW National Home 100th Birthday celebration+



Our **Chief of Staff Cathy Gistedt** has many suggestions in her August Extension and Revitalization material to help keep your auxiliary healthy. Review her reminders and check the completed tasks off your to-do list. She addresses various subjects and programs.

The August mailing for **Historian/Media Relations Chairman Dorothy Swigon** gets to the basics of her program. Topics included are "What Makes Social Media So Great?", "Newsworthy Activities and Events", "The Tools You Need to Get the Word Out" and "Programs to Create Your Reel." There's no time like the present to start collecting the who-what-when-where-and-why of your auxiliary.



Hospital Chairman Cynthia Davis was overwhelmed with your generous food and monetary donations supporting her special project "Be A Force for our Homeless Hospital Veterans." See Cynthia's August promotion for information on reporting as well as some incentives she is offering.

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 BUDGET. She challenges you to take the simple steps to be AN INFORMED VETERANS' ADVOCATE.

Jackie Kimball, Membership Chairman, has set her main goal for this year: increasing our department's membership while encouraging Life Membership for the future of our organization. Please review all Department Membership Awards, as they are all quite generous.



The Maryland House Kitchen Remodel is the topic of **President's Special Project Chairman Mary Cardinal-Vogt's** mailing. Mary is helping auxiliaries to "Get Started" as she presents a full range of strategies for effective fundraising.

Scholarships Chairman Nancy Shenk recommends to "Start Now to Promote, Promote, Promote." Her focus this month is VFW National Auxiliary Continuing Education Scholarships. This happens to be the 2025-2026 National President Lois Callahan's special project.

Department Treasurer Jackie Kimball, PDP presents her **Information for Treasurers**. Jackie reminds everyone of the IRS E-Form 990 filing deadlines. Please refer to her mailing for your specific due date. Other topics include the ease of completing her Membership Award forms and tips for filling out a Membership Application.



Information every Auxiliary member should know from **Veterans & Family Support Chairman VaNette Jones, PDP**. She shares ideas on "Ways to serve veterans on Purple Heart Day". Be sure to catch VaNette's suggested Observance dates. You wouldn't want to miss the Marine Corps or Coast Guard Birthdays. And... She provides the specific details regarding the Help A Hero Scholarship Program.

Youth Activities Chairman Missy Tracey prepares us for another year of learning and adventure. She creatively communicates her mailing to us using terminology from the Star Wars universe.

Nancy August, Liaison to Department VFW, provides updates regarding community service reporting and the process for ordering Buddy Poppies.

"Don't raise your voice—raise your hand to help."

Always faithful!

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

