



Autumn greetings!

Can you believe Thanksgiving is just weeks away? And with it, the holiday season is fast approaching! Jerry Skrivaneck VFW Auxiliary No. 8185 is already in the spirit and hard at work planning a festive and fun-filled Christmas Conference. Be sure to check out the event flier included with this mailing—we can't wait to celebrate with you!

2025 – 2026 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS*			
Date	Event	Location	Time
Nov 15	District 2 Visitation	Brig. Gen'l. McGee VFW Post 341 1601 Kenilworth Ave NE Washington, DC 20019	11 am
Nov 16	District 7 Visitation	John R. Webb VFW Post 3285 Frederick, MD	Coffee&Donuts @ 10:30 Meeting @ 11:00 Lunch to follow
Dec 6	Christmas Conference	Jerry Skrivaneck 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 Skrivaneck 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	
Mar 2 - 6	VFW Washington Conference	TBD	TBD

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	



Let's give a heartfelt WELCOME—and an even bigger THANK YOU—to LaTasha Thomas for stepping up as our Youth Activities Chairman for the remainder of the 2025-2026 program year!

LaTasha currently serves as President of Scott-Johnson-Collins Auxiliary No. 9619 in District 1, and she's generously added this new role to her already impressive list of responsibilities. Her dedication to our mission is truly appreciated.

Be sure to check her recent mailing for the Youth Activities report form, which includes her contact information. Please send your completed forms her way—she'll be thrilled to hear from you and support your efforts.

VISIT OUR DEPARTMENT WEBSITE FOR THESE AUXILIARY EVENTS

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



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

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

Address Change -

LaTasha Thomas, Auxiliary 9619 & Youth Activities Chairman

4415 Arnold Road T4

Suitland, MD 20746



MINUTES MADE EASY

The Secretary is not required to include in the minutes all that takes place at meetings. Generally speaking, only decisions should be embodied. A record is made of what is done, not what is said. Lengthy or detailed minutes are not necessary.

The following information **MUST** be included:

- ✓ Name and number of the Auxiliary
- ✓ Date and place of meeting - note if a regular or special meeting
- ✓ Time called to order
- ✓ Name of the presiding officer
- ✓ Number of persons present; list any pro tem officers
- (Must have a quorum of 5 members in good standing present at the meeting location in order that business may be transacted)
- ✓ Names of visitors, if any are present; note specific titles if appropriate
- ✓ Names of candidates for membership, the eligibility of the veteran listed
 - the outcome of their acceptance or rejection
- ✓ Action taken on the minutes of the previous meeting
- ✓ Only the motions
 - o note who made and seconded and
 - o whether the motion passed or failed
- ✓ A copy of the Treasurer's report and each quarterly audit report to incorporate into the minutes
- ✓ List both the correspondence read, and bills presented

November 2025 Program Promotion Preview

Patriotic Instructor and Americanism Chairman Cheri Brown, PDP, reminds us of two important days to honor and celebrate in November.

On November 10th, the United States Marine Corps marks its 250th anniversary—a proud milestone in American military history. The very next day, November 11th, we observe Veterans Day, a time to recognize and thank all who have served. Cheri shares inspiring ideas for how Auxiliaries can celebrate these occasions and spread patriotism in their communities. Be sure to check out her suggestions and join in the tribute!



Auxiliary Outreach Chairman Kathy Williams is helping us better understand the heart of community service by sharing new examples of activities that qualify as “What Counts?”—and those that fall under “What Doesn’t Count?” Her insights help ensure our efforts align with the program’s purpose and make the greatest impact.

Kathy also highlights several upcoming events in Frederick, Garrett, and Harford Counties, offering meaningful opportunities for Auxiliaries to partner with their communities and show what service looks like in action.



“Buddy® Poppy” & National Home Chairman PDP Karen Rooker shares a special VFW National Home Donation Fund Wish List, highlighting ways we can help fulfill meaningful needs at the National Home.

Karen also encourages Auxiliaries to incorporate Buddy® Poppies into their November activities—a powerful symbol of remembrance and support for veterans and their families.

Circle of Excellence Chairman Debbie Sturgis, PDP, reminds us to keep an eye on upcoming due dates tied to key responsibilities that help your Auxiliary earn valuable points toward recognition.

An updated tracking spreadsheet will be included in the December mailing, so be sure to review it and stay current—every point counts!



Chief of Staff Cathy Gistedt introduces a thought-provoking challenge: “Try Reverse

Mentoring.” This clever idea encourages fresh perspectives and mutual growth across generations—be sure to give it a read!

As always, Cathy offers valuable guidance for every corner of our Auxiliary. Her latest tips include helpful instructions for Chaplains, District Presidents, and Secretaries, along with practical strategies in her feature: “Ideas to Help Your Auxiliary Reach 100%.”



In her November update, **Historian/Media Relations Chairman Dorothy Swigon** shares helpful insights on using Website Solution and the power of celebrating with photos to spotlight your Auxiliary's impact.

Dorothy also encourages Auxiliaries to think big—consider publicizing your event or fundraiser on local TV! Her message is clear and confident: "You Can Do It!"



Hospital Chairman Cynthia Davis, PDP has shared a heartfelt reminder of the Hospital Program's mission: to bring comfort, care, and connection to our hospitalized veterans. As Veterans Day approaches, she encourages all members to take a moment to send cards to veterans receiving care—your words can make a world of difference.



Looking to do more? Be sure to check out the WISH LIST for several VA hospitals in our area. Every thoughtful donation helps brighten a veteran's day.

Legislative Chairman Linda Eberhart offers a clear overview of the Legislative Program's core objectives, designed to empower members as advocates for veterans and their families. The program centers around six key areas of concern, with this month's spotlight on Education, Employment, and Transition Assistance—critical components in supporting veterans as they navigate life after service.

Want to make your voice heard? Be sure to check out "A Guide to Contacting Your Legislators" for tips and tools to take action.

Membership Chairman Jackie Kimball is rallying us toward an exciting goal—98% membership! To help us get there, she's offering special incentives for both Auxiliaries and individual members who meet set benchmarks.

Jackie has officially declared November as the Month of MOMENTUM, encouraging everyone to build energy, enthusiasm, and engagement. Let's keep the momentum going and make this a record-breaking season for membership growth!



President's Special Project Chairman Mary Cardinal-Vogt shares an inspiring update on the VFW National Home Maryland House Special Project—a much-needed kitchen remodel that will enhance comfort, functionality, and service for our veterans and community.

She outlines the project's key goals and invites all members to be part of making this vision a reality. Whether through donations, fundraising, or spreading the word, your support can help turn blueprints into blessings.



Scholarships Chairman Nancy Shenk reminds us that final due dates are approaching for the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen youth essay contests. Now's the time to ensure all entries are submitted!

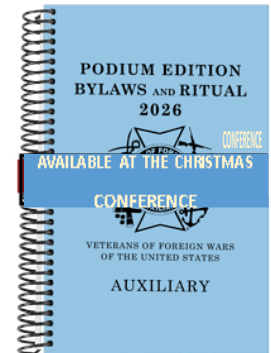
Nancy also encourages VFW Posts and Auxiliaries to share any extra entries with neighboring Posts that may not have received submissions. By working together, we can recognize more young voices and expand the impact of these powerful programs.



At the upcoming Christmas Conference, **Department Treasurer Jackie Kimball, PDP**, will have the Podium Edition of the Bylaws and Ritual available for purchase at the bulk rate of \$7.50 each.

In addition, Lottery Calendars will be on sale for \$25.00 each—offering a chance to win every single day of the year!

For details on an updated membership application, please refer to the information provided by Jackie, to be released January 1, 2026.



Veterans & Family Support Chairman VaNette Jones, PDP, has designated November as a time to recognize the extraordinary sacrifices and challenges faced by military family members who stand behind those in uniform.

To support this meaningful observance, National Ambassador Annie O'Connor encourages participation in two heartfelt initiatives: Military Care Packages and Blessing Bags. These projects offer tangible ways to show appreciation and support for service members and their families.



We're excited to announce that **LaTasha Thomas** has stepped into the role of **Youth Activities Chairman**. Be sure to thank her for her leadership and dedication the next time you see her!

To kick off her term, LaTasha is shining a spotlight on each of the program's goals—encouraging every Auxiliary to actively include youth in all aspects of our work.

Nancy August, Liaison to the Department VFW, reminds us to keep an eye on upcoming youth contest deadlines. Timely submissions ensure our young participants receive the recognition they deserve!

In addition, Nancy highlights several other contests sponsored by the Department VFW. She encourages Auxiliaries to support their Posts in these efforts—helping shine a light on outstanding individuals and making a meaningful impact in our communities.

Joint Project Chairman Crystal Windsor shares compelling insights into the mission and impact of MCVET (Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training). As temperatures drop, she encourages us to rally behind MCVET's efforts to prepare for winter—ensuring our veterans have the resources and support they need during the colder months. And don't forget our Joint Project with the VFW this year is helping to raise funds to purchase a shuttle bus that is needed at MCVET in Baltimore to transport their veterans to their medical appointments, job interviews, and other obligations.



Always faithful!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Libby".

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

