



Welcome to March



Hope everyone is doing well as we enter our final quarter. If you are fortunate enough to receive a tax return this year, please remember our veterans and their families that are at the National Home.

If you are looking for another way to support the National Home, how about having a contest among your members to see who can bring in the most new members and have the prize be a membership to the National Home? And please print out enough copies of the attached application for all your members, you never know who may be interested.

Keep track of when you hand out any Buddy Poppies and report, report, report

And again, I want to thank each of you for what you do volunteering can be stressful and expensive at times. But you are very much appreciated and needed. Keep up the good work!



Respectfully;

Department of New Hampshire
Buddy Poppy/National Home Chair

Colleen Pierce



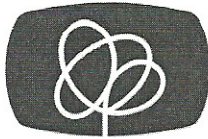
VETERANS DAY: The History and the Story of the Poppy.

Veterans/Remembrance Day - The History

In 1918, World War I ended on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month. The entire world celebrated. An armistice (a truce) was signed declaring the "war to end all wars" was finally over. The next year, on November 11th, the US called the day "Armistice Day" in memory of all the men and women involved in WWI. On Armistice Day, surviving soldiers marched in parades through their home towns. Politicians and veteran officers gave speeches and had ceremonies in thanks for the peace that had been won.

The Story of the Poppy - In Flanders Fields

Poppies, which are a bright red flower, became a symbol of Veterans Day after the bloody WWI battle in Flanders Field, in Belgium. The soil in the battle fields became scattered with rubble, making the soil rich with lime (the mineral, not the fruit). Poppies thrived in the fertile soil. Many soldiers were buried in Flanders field, creating a contrast of white crosses and vibrant red poppies. Major John McCrae was a Canadian surgeon who was moved by the sight of this, leading him to pen one of the most memorable war poems ever written - *In Flanders Fields*.



LIFE MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MEMBER INFORMATION

Title: Mr. Mrs. Ms. Miss Name:
Address:
City: State: ZIP Code:
Date of birth: Email: Phone:
Membership Type:
Associate (not a member of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary)
Life Member (must be a member in good standing of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary or a unit of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary. Complete affiliation information below. If no Post or Auxiliary number is provided, an Associate Membership will be issued.)

VFW & VFW AUXILIARY INFORMATION
(Required if a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member)

I am a member of VFW Post in the Department of VFW
I am a member of VFW Auxiliary in the Department of VFW Auxiliary

RECRUITER (Not required)

Recruiter name: Recruiter Post or Auxiliary number:

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Please allow 3-4 weeks for your membership certificate, card and other information to be sent. You can also apply online at: www.vfwnationalhome.org/membership
One time membership fee and Life Member pin \$50

- Check enclosed and made payable to VFW National Home for Children
Charge my Visa Mastercard Discover American Express

Name on card: Card number:
Signature: Expiration date:

WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A LIFE MEMBER

BEING A LIFE MEMBER or an Associate Life Member of the VFW National Home for Children is one way you can create a bond between yourself and the mission of the National Home. Your support and encouragement honors our veterans and today's military by helping their children and families in times of need. Life Members in good standing with the VFW or VFW Auxiliary may vote for trustees representing their National Home District and proposed Bylaw or Articles of Incorporation changes.

Department of New Hampshire
VFW Auxiliary President's Special Project
Veterans Homeless Awareness



March 2024 General Information

VFW Auxiliary Cookbook

Thank you to everyone that contributed to the Cookbook, and I can't wait for everyone to start cooking to help our Veterans in New Hampshire! The Cookbook will be available at the 04/20/2024 COA at the Holiday Inn Concord, NH Downtown and at the Department of NH VFW Auxiliary President's Testimonial! Cost \$10.00/ cookbook!

Where will your donations help?

Homeless & Struggling Veterans in New Hampshire need our help! One of the big issues our Veterans have is paying for the out-of-pocket medical and dental expenses. These expenses include copays, deductibles, and expenses that are not covered by insurance. We all know exactly how expensive medications can be especially when our own insurance will not cover what the doctor has prescribed. Remember your recent visit to the Dentist and its time for a root canal or a crown? Dental insurance typically doesn't cover it all.

A special account has been created at Liberty House in conjunction with the VFW for a specific line in the ledger that will be used for those out-of-pocket expenses. Funds received for this Special Project will be earmarked for this newly created account line item. Funds received will be distributed on an as-need basis to a Veteran in need until the account is exhausted.

Look beyond the box!

You will never know where you will find your next donation! Post your event on social media (Facebook, TikTok, Instagram, and X (formerly Twitter)). A great example: I posted on a local Facebook page about the cookbook, I received a message from a local woman. "I don't really have any good recipes but would like to donate to Liberty House." She donated a TON of items including (Hats, Socks, Water Bottles, Deodorant, Razers, Shaving Cream, and Snack Bars.

What is Liberty House?

Liberty House is an organization that provides substance-free housing and connections to various community services that help New Hampshire veterans transition to independence.

Community veterans: They regularly work with struggling or homeless veterans from the community, male and female, many of whom are on fixed incomes, providing them with assistance such as food, clothing, transportation (gas cards, bus passes), camping gear and community referrals. While our transitional living program only serves male veterans, support for our community veterans is open to both male and female veterans.

Ways to raise funds!

There are many ways to have an event to help! Here are some suggestions but this is only the beginning:

- 5K and 10K races
- Motorcycle rides
- Meat Raffle's
- Restaurant nights
- Food and clothing drives
- Bake sales

WORD!

Now that you have scheduled an event, how do you get the word out? Send me an email or tag me on Facebook with the event information and or a flyer. It will be communicated to the local newspapers, The Patch, WMUR, and Facebook! If you schedule it, they will come! They served our country to keep all of us safe. Let's work together to support this great cause to organizations helping our Veterans get the resources they need and make a difference in their lives.

Events?

Have you scheduled your event / fundraiser? Send me the notification and I will ensure it goes out to all the media outlets in your area! Some media outlets include: WMUR, The Union Leader, The Patch, and the Facebook Department Page.

Don't forget to put your flyer for your event/fundraiser at your local Post Office, Town Hall (if allowed), Senior Center, and Library.

Email to: julie.derubeis@gmail.com

Mail via US Postal Service: 12 Hartwood Dr - Merrimack, NH 03054

Best regards,

Julie DeRubeis

Dept of NH VFW Auxiliary Department
President Special Project Chair 2023-2024



LIBERTY
HOUSE

A Program of Catholic Charities NH





VFW Auxiliary Department of NH

March 2024 General Information



Historian Media Relations

2023-2024



VFW Auxiliary Legacy Member Video!!!

STARS **Deadline is Approaching!!!!**

- Have you chosen your legacy member? Please email me with the legacy member's information that you have chosen to interview.
- Remember this should be fun and the legacy member is a great source of information.
- Photography opens doors to the past, but it also allows a look into the future. A camera is a SAVE button. Let your Auxiliary legacy members become STARS, for without our STARS, our Auxiliary would not exist. This Program Year, connect with a legacy member and complete a three-to-five-minute video interview:
 - Ask why they joined.
 - Please emphasis on bringing the past to life
 - Ask about their favorite memorable moment(s)
 - If your Auxiliary has no legacy members, look to your District or Department
- Submit your video interview to your Department Historian & Media Relations Chairman **by March 31, 2024**, for judging. The Department Chairman will sign and send a copy of the completed Department winning entry along with the winning video to the National Historian & Media Relations Ambassador by April 30, 2024. The winning video may be shown at National Convention
- **Tips & Tricks**
 - *Be clear when you speak.*
 - *Do not talk too fast.*
 - *Pause at the end of a question so that you don't talk over the interviewee.*
 - *Smile and look interested.*
 - *Sit up straight and have good body language.*
 - *Keep up good eye contact – look at your camera rather than at the screen.*
 - *Make sure the microphone on your phone or camera is close enough to hear.*
 - *Test your phone or camera in advance to ensure it's working properly, and you know how to use it.*
- **Need some Help?**
 - Give me a call and I will be glad to help!!



UNWAVERING SUPPORT



VFW Auxiliary Local Talking Points

- Established in 1914, the VFW Auxiliary is the nation's oldest veterans' service organization auxiliary.
- Members of the VFW Auxiliary are the relatives of those who have served in overseas combat.
- There are nearly a half million members representing all 50 states. **We have ____ members in (list your state or Auxiliary).**
- We serve the veterans of this country and our communities in honor of the sacrifices and commitment of every man and woman who has served in uniform.
- It is our mission to assist the VFW in any way we can. We share a common goal of serving veterans, their families and our communities.
- During the last year Program Year, Auxiliaries provided a total of two million dollars in aid to veterans, military service members and their families.
- Some of the ways members offer support are:
 - By being a voice for veterans, locally and on Capitol Hill; we are instrumental in assisting the VFW pass or block legislation that impacts veterans and their families.
 - By assembling and mailing care packages to active-duty troops.
 - Holding send-off and welcome-home events for troops.
 - Spreading the word about PTS and military/veteran suicide awareness.
 - Participating in Stand-Downs and assisting homeless veterans.
 - Visiting veterans in VA hospitals, nursing homes and veterans homes.
 - Offering youth scholarships and educating youth about the American Flag.
 - Spreading patriotism and educating our communities about America's patriotic holidays.
 - **Highlight other ways your Auxiliary offers support (i.e. holiday parties for children, sponsoring a local baseball team, delivering meals to shut-ins, etc.)**

There are more than 3,600 Auxiliaries nationwide **and we are working here in (your city/town name)** to improve the lives of our nation's veterans. Learn how you can get involved at www.vfwauxiliary.org and **visit our Facebook page. Search for (list your Auxiliary name here).**

February Events to Capture in Pictures

- Navy Reserve Birthday (03/03)
- K-9 Veterans Day (03/13)
- Vietnam Veteran's Day (03/29)
- Seabee Birthday (03/04)
- St Patrick's Day (03/17)
- Easter Sunday (03/31)
- Daylight Savings Day (03/10)
- Medal of Honor Day (03/25)
- Meat Raffles / Dinners / Socials

Don't forget to keep posting on your Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and all other social media sites.

- Tags me on your Facebook Post with Pictures
 - Using **#NHVFWAUXHISTORIAN** & **#VFWAUXHISTORIAN**
- Email me Photos of your Events!
- Send me your event information to be sent to WMUR / Union Leader / Patch
- Request me to attend an event.

Keep up the great work and keep posting your event's pictures and upcoming events!

Best regards,

Julie DeRubeis – Dept of NH VFW Auxiliary Historian / Media Relations Chair 2023-2024

Email to: nhvfwauxhistorian@gmail.com Phone: 603-546-5533

US Postal Service: 12 Hartwood Dr - Merrimack, NH 03054





“Grampa would be very proud of you today for you stood tall and saluted him proudly.”



This journey is not easy for death is never easy on anyone especially if it is someone you loved very much. But wait there is something that we can all do when the time has come to give your....



Final

Salute to a Veteran

When a Veteran has passed, especially in a hospital or Veterans Home, a family can request that their loved one receives this “*showing of respect*” brief ceremony for his/her service to their country provided the facility is able to carry it out. This is important and should be shared with all Veteran families to

make them aware.....hopefully the facility will remember to ask all patients and their families when they are admitted, this particularly important question:



Did you Serve?

“*The Final Salute*” for deceased veterans is a way to acknowledge their dedication and sacrifice in serving their country. It is a time to honor their commitment to protecting our freedoms and to express gratitude for their selfless contributions for their service.

The Honors Escort Program or as it is sometimes referred to as a “Final Salute” can show honor & respect for one’s military service to his or her country. It is a tribute and a unique way of saying thank you to this Veteran that has now passed. Surrounded by his loved ones, or in some instances just staff, a short prayer is shared and then the American Flag now covers this Veteran as he is escorted from the facility with “Taps”



being played.....

Auxiliary members, our Mission at hand is to **“Challenge the Needs of our Veterans” & their Families by “Banding Together for Our Veterans”** and being the spokesperson to find out or put into place.....

- If the question is asked when a patient is admitted, “Are you a Veteran?”
- Would something of this nature take place based on current circumstances (i.e., covid protocols in place if in fact this patient is a Veteran and does pass while at their facility?)
- Most facilities have some form of Clergy available that can offer a comforting prayer as the deceased is draped with the American Flag for his/her exit from the facility.

- Is there a way we can work together with facilities to be a source of making sure we have a contact person in place around the state that can easily supply the facility with American Flags to be used in the case of a Veteran passing and they were able to carry out a Final Salute for the Veteran. This can be shared by multiple contacts based on the hospital/medical facilities location in the state.

Remember the final mission is not whether they have full hospital participation, or just the family and a hand full of staff, what truly matters that the dearly departed Veteran receives this “Final Salute!”



“So, like I said, Grandpa who was a very proud Veteran that served his country, is very grateful he was able to be honored with a Final Salute just for him today, and especially your salute too!”

This is an important goal of our Hospital Program, and we all must do our part to educate and share this information with the medical facilities and nursing homes in our state. Let us roll up our sleeves and spread the word, we are the VFW Auxiliary, and this is who we are and what we do, **Support Our Veterans especially when they need it most!**

Thank you!

Madeline Dreusicke, Hospital Chairman



Auxiliary members as we all see and experience, the days are flying by and before we know it, we will be ending our reporting year for 2023-2024. Again, as we know each Program Chairman is called upon to answer certain questions surrounding the goals of their individual programs. As your Hospital Chairman I will need this valuable information from you regarding the activities you have embraced during the year to fill out this information

for the Department, who must then share with our National Organization.

I need your **help**....I need your **support**.....I need **your answers** to complete this task. As you enter your reporting into our online program, I ask that you reflect on what you have done under the Hospital Program during the year as outlined below.....(**whether at VAMC, WRJ, NHVH or your community facilities**)

1. Number of Auxiliary members that volunteered at any VA and/or non-VA medical facility. (Auxiliary member to be counted one time only per year.)

2. Total number of hours that Auxiliary members volunteered at any VA and/or non-VA medical facility.

3. Total number of hours that Sponsored Volunteers and/or students volunteered under the VFW Auxiliary sponsorship and supervision at any VA and/or non-VA medical facility.

4. Number of Auxiliaries that *promoted, participated or hosted* any activity listed below in any way that your Auxiliary was able to do:

- *Honors Escort*
- *National Salute to Veteran Patients-Valentines for Veterans*
- *Veterans Health Care (VHA)*
- *Women Veterans Health Care Program*

5. Number of Auxiliaries that *promoted, participated or co-hosted* with their VFW Post, any activity listed below:

- *Honors Escort*
- *National Salute to Veterans Patients-Valentines for Veterans*

- *Veterans Health Care (VHA)*
- *Women Veterans Health Care Program*

6. Total dollar amount spent on all Hospital Program related items and/or projects (which also include any that I have promoted as Hospital Chairman i.e. school bags, Christmas wishes, baby shower, Thanksgiving Baskets.....)



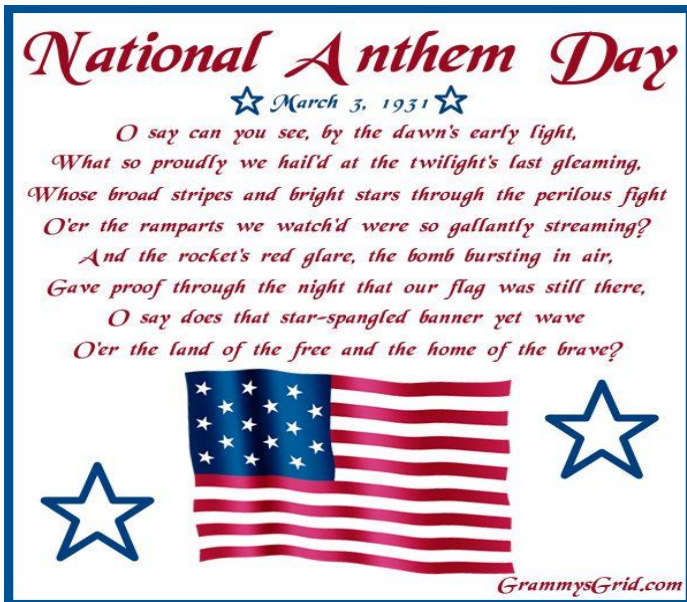
As we all realize the Hospital Program has endured many hurdles thru the past few years, but we continually come together, use outside the box thinking, unique and original ideas to embrace the goals of this program which only requires your time, your heart and your commitment to embrace our Veterans by ***“Challenging the Needs of Our Veterans” simply by “Banding Together for Our Veterans”.***

The time has now come to reflect all that you have done for 2023-2024 and share it by stepping up and reporting it under the Hospital Program and stand proud for all that you have done, I know I sure am and

Thank You for all You Do!
Madeline Dreusicke, Hospital Chairman



AMERICANISM



On **March 3, 1931**, the U.S. Congress passed a joint resolution (46 Stat. 1508) making the song the official national anthem of the United States, which President Herbert Hoover signed into law. In recognition, National Anthem Day is celebrated each year in honor of the patriotic song that celebrates America's triumph and endurance. The song was originally a poem, penned by Francis Scott Key in 1814 with a different title.

Francis Scott Key penned his poem during a naval attack on Fort McHenry in Baltimore, on the Chesapeake Bay, by British ships during the war of 1812. As a result, Key watched the battle unfold in the pouring rain — and eventually, he was able to determine that the Fort's storm flag had survived the barrage and that by dawn, the larger revile flag was proudly raised. "He had witnessed Britain's 25-hour bombardment of the Fort, and for Key, the raising of the American flag was a triumphant symbol of bravery and perseverance." That is the image that inspired him to write the Poem. The poem was originally titled "The Defense of Fort M'Henry" and Key put the words to a familiar drinking song at the time, "To Anacreon in Heaven," written by British composer John Stafford Smith.



National Vietnam War Veterans Day is celebrated on March 29th.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day is a commemorative holiday in the United States that recognizes the sacrifices veterans and their families made during the Vietnam War. It is also a day to give proper recognition to the men and women who returned home from that war and did not receive a proper welcome. It has been celebrated since 1973 on either March 29th or March 30th of each year through a patchwork of state resolutions. However, in 2017, the date of the holiday was set as March 29th by U.S. President Donald Trump. This day is now officially known as National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

The Vietnam War was a divisive and difficult time for the United States, and many veterans did not get the recognition for their service they deserved, which is why commemorating this holiday is so important.

Let's try to recognize our Vietnam War Veterans on their day as well as teach our children the Star Spangle Banner and its history.

Happy St. Patty's Day everyone and may you have luck of the Irish all year long. Have a Happy Easter. Stay safe and Healthy.

Deborah Milligan

NH VFW Auxiliary

Americanism Chairperson (2023-2024)



Membership 2023-2024

MARCH 2024

The year is almost over, Irish luck is with us lets push for 100% in the month of March!

The Department of NH is currently **93.85% as of 02/27/2024**. Our production of Grease featuring THE MEMBERS has stalled a bit, as with any production this can happen. Let's work together to complete the production!! We are almost at 100% keep up the momentum. Great work to all the cast and crew!! Make this the year of

LIFE MEMBER INCENTIVE!!

Reminder the Department of NH has rolled out a new incentive program for Life Members. Think of these as loyal viewers for our production of Grease!

For each Auxiliary who converts or enrolls 10 Life members will be put in a drawing for \$500.

This will be cumulative from July 1st 2023 to May 31st 2024. All members must be in Malta by May 31st 2024 to be eligible.

"Challenging The Needs Of Our Veterans"

Reporting!

I HAVE ATTACHED THE YEAR END REPORT WORK SHEET FOR AUXILIARIES. The deadline to submit the form to me is April 14, 2024

When reporting your membership projects keep in mind these goals from our National Ambassador

Auxiliaries that utilized any of the Membership materials/resources available in MALTA Member Resources.

Auxiliaries that promoted, participated, hosted or co-hosted with their VFW Post activities regarding VFW and/or VFW Auxiliary education and Membership Recruitment.

Auxiliaries that regularly educate their members on the benefits of their membership (Example: insurance plans, travel benefits, cancer grants, hearing plans, etc.)

Auxiliaries that educate their members on the National Membership Program Awards.

Any Auxiliary Members that participated in any recruiting

Auxiliaries that recruited at least one new member.

"Banding Together for Our Veterans"

Shrink The Change

Here is a clever self-help technique that you can adapt and share with your Auxiliary members who may be hesitant about recruiting new members. It is called the "5-Minute Room Rescue," proposed by Marla Cilley, a home-organizing guru who calls herself the Fly Lady.

Here's what you do: Get a kitchen timer and set it for 5 minutes. Then go to the worst room in your house – the one you'd never let a guest see – and as the timer ticks down, start clearing a path, and when the timer buzzes, you can stop with a clear conscience.

While there's not much good in only 5 minutes of cleaning, it gets you moving, and that's the hardest part. Starting a difficult task is always worse than continuing it. So once you start, chances are you won't stop at 5 minutes.

If people are facing a daunting task (for example, recruiting new members), and their instinct is to avoid it, you've got to break down the task. Shrink the change. Make the change small enough (5 minutes of recruiting at a time) that they can't help but score a victory. Once people start to clean a single room (or recruit a single new member), their reluctance starts to dissipate, and their progress begins to snowball.

Trish St. Germain
Membership Chair 2023-2024

Membership Year-End Report Worksheet

This form is for statistical purposes only.
Chairmen submit to your Department Chair by April 15

Auxiliary: _____

1. Did you use Membership materials/resources available in MALTA Member Resources?
2. Did you promote, participate, host or co-host with their VFW Post, activities regarding VFW and/or VFW Auxiliary education and Membership Recruitment?
3. Did you regularly educate their members on the benefits of their membership (Example: insurance plans, travel benefits, cancer grants, hearing plans, etc.)?
4. Did you educate members on the National Membership Program Awards?
5. Number of Auxiliary Members that participated in any recruiting event on any level?
6. Number of new members recruited?

Any Additional Information

Auxiliary Chair signature: _____ Date: _____



AUXILIARY OUTREACH MARCH 2024

"Banding Together For Our Veterans"



Top of the morning everyone!

I would like to take this opportunity to pass on important information.

1. Auxiliary Outreach Award No.1 Due MARCH 31,2024 to Auxiliary Outreach Chairman.
2. Please make sure all your reporting is entered by APRIL 9,2024 into the new reporting system.
3. Auxiliary Outreach Year End Report 2023-2024 due by APRIL 15,2024 To the Department Chairman Susan Joslyn.

We still have the plenty of time to be working the Auxiliary Outreach program by following our five steps below.

- Find the organization that needs help.
- Ask your Auxiliary to approve the activity and vote on it.
- One or more of your members to participate in the activity.
- Wear your VFW Auxiliary name tag shirt or hat.
- Report back to your Auxiliary, number of participants and hours volunteered

Don't forget to report all your good work. Most important have fun, remember Challenging the needs of our Veteran.

Happy Easter to you and your Families.

Susan Joslyn, Auxiliary Outreach Chairman

SusanJoslyn61@gmail.com cell 603-762-7446 ,603=239-8607





Auxiliary Outreach

Auxiliary Award No. 1

Entry Form • 2023-2024 Program Year

1. Most outstanding community partnership with another organization.
 - **Citation** to every Auxiliary that partners with another organization within their community. Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.
 - **Citation and \$25** to one Auxiliary in each of the four (4) Conferences with the most outstanding community partnership with another organization. Winners will be announced at the 2024 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

Auxiliaries are to send this completed form to their Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman by March 31, 2024.

Auxiliary Name: _____ No.: _____

Department of: _____

Describe the activity and/or event at which the Auxiliary partnered with another organization within their community. (E.g., flyers, brochures, social media posts, newsletters, e-newsletters, handouts, photos, links to videos, etc.)

Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman: _____ Date: _____
(signature)

April 30, 2024 - The Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman is to sign and send the completed Department winning entry form to National Auxiliary Outreach Ambassador Sandra Pinsonault for judging.

AND

April 30, 2024 - The Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman must **email** VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters at info@vfwauxiliary.org a total combined **list** of every Auxiliary in their Department that completed and submitted an entry form.

Forms sent directly to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters will not be processed.

Auxiliary Outreach Year End Report 2023 – 2024

Must be submitted to Department Chairman by April 15,2024

Auxiliary Name _____ Auxiliary # _____

- 1.) Did your Auxiliary utilize any of the Auxiliary Outreach material/resources available in Malta Member Resources. _____
- 2.) Did your Auxiliary as a group volunteer/partnered with another organization not affiliated with the VFW or VFW Auxiliary. _____
- 3.) Number of organizations that Auxiliaries volunteered/Partnered with during the year.
First Responders _____
Churches _____
Towns _____
Disaster relief _____
Cancer, heart, ALS Association _____
Other _____ Explain _____

- 4.) Number of Auxiliary members that volunteered _____ and hours volunteered _____.

Auxiliary chairman Signature _____

Date _____

Must be received by Department Chairman by April
15,2024

Send to: Susan Joslyn

174 South Parrish Rd

Winchester NH 03470

Or Email susanjoslyn61@gmail.com



Deadline

Looming!!!!!!

Don't forget the Deadline is Fast approaching for the Patriotic Art Program.

Rules and application form can be found under member resources tab in Malta.



Deadline to your Auxiliary for the Patriotic Art is March 31st. The winning pieces of Art need to be to me by April 15th for judging. They can be mailed to 20 W. River Dr#10 Manchester NH 03104 if other arrangements need to be made you can contact me at any time.

Tracyk372@yahoo.com

VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT

Banding Together for Our Veterans



Welcome to March! Hopefully we shall see the sun shining more often than not from hereon in. Of course, this also means that each of you needs to be thinking about what you've done so far this year and what you will be striving to do in the next couple of months. In the end it's all about helping veterans, service members and their families. Continue on with your great work.



National President Carla Martinez has a second special focus this year: suicide prevention. With the holidays upon us, a time that brings increased anxiety, depression and desperation for many of those for whom we care, now is the time to share the crisis prevention number: 988. For veterans, Press 1.

This crisis line is not only for veterans, though. Family members of in-crisis veterans can also call and press 1, and those in crisis themselves who are not veterans are also encouraged to dial those three numbers: 988.

Other extensions include pressing 2 for Spanish speakers and pressing 3 for those in LGBTQIA+ community under age 25; all other callers, remain on the line to be connected with a trained representative momentarily.

Even one loss to suicide is too many. Get help today.

I would like to thank Wanda Brigham from John Weeks Auxiliary. She won the Suicide Awareness Challenge. She has received a blue teardrop pin!



The year is quickly coming to an end. If you haven't done so yet please consider making your donations to all of the special areas within this program: MAPP, Unmet Needs, Sports Clips, etc. Also, please note on the End of Year Report form, I'll be looking for those Auxiliaries that helped their Posts in furthering Veterans & Family Support.

IMPORTANT DATES FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH

March 25, 2024-Medal of Honor Day



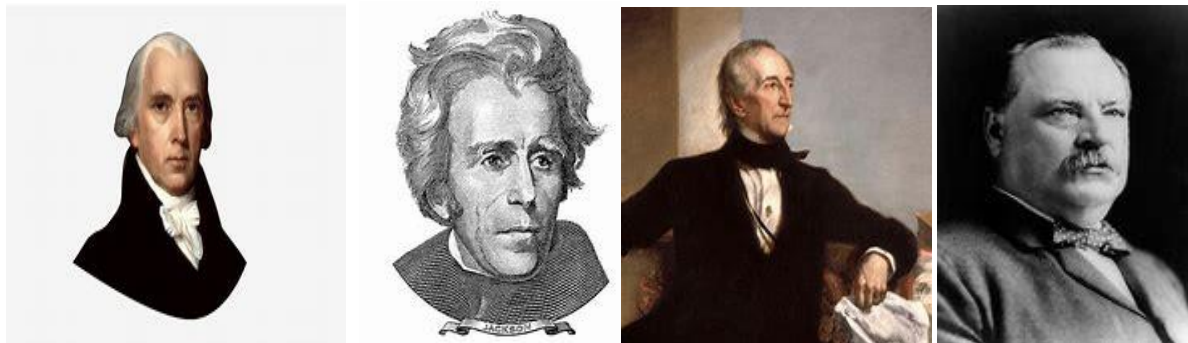
-A holiday to honor the heroism and sacrifice of Medal of Honor recipients for the United States.

March 29, 2024-Vietnam Veterans Day

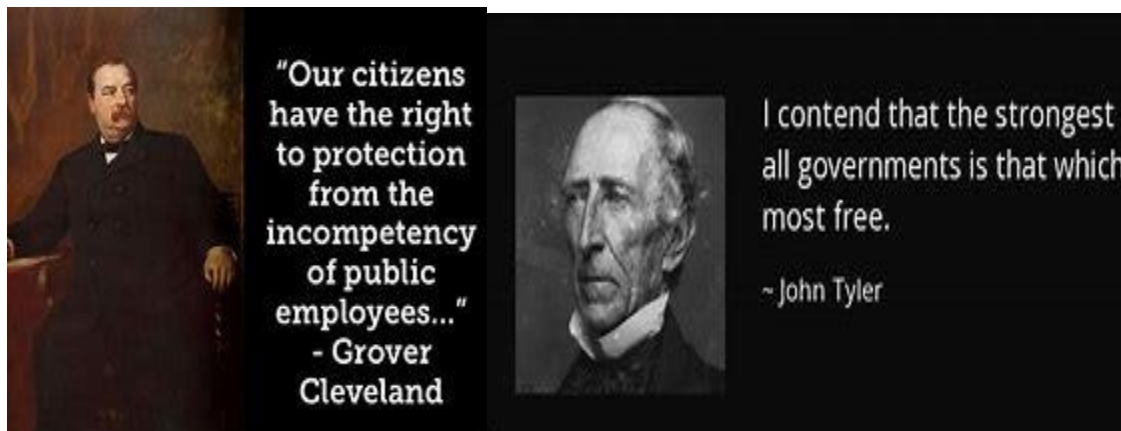


-A national holiday to recognize and honor Veterans who served in the military during the Vietnam War.

PRESIDENTIALLY SPEAKING



Presidents James Madison, Andrew Jackson, John Tyler, and Grover Cleveland were all born in March!





Please get all your online reporting done quickly. As of February 19th, I have only received reports from 2 Auxiliaries. Thank you.

Celeste Nicholas

Dept. Of VA Veterans & Family Support Asst. Chair

(603)393-3092 - text only

union7663aux@gmail.com

For Chairman Linda Theroux

Veterans & Family Support Year-End Report

Auxiliary Name _____

Auxiliary Number _____

- 1) The number of times that your Auxiliary utilized any of the V&FS material/resources available in MALTA Member Resources. _____
- 2) Number of times that your Auxiliary promoted, participated, hosted or co-hosted with the VFW Post activities for any VFW Program listed below:

 - a) Disaster Relief
 - b) Military Assistance (MAPP)
 - c) National Veterans Service (NVS)
 - d) Unmet Needs
 - e) Veterans & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness
- 3) Number of times that your Auxiliary provided direct aid to veterans, service members and/or their families (example; meals, transportation, cards, packages, donations, etc.) _____
- 4) Approximate number of veterans, service members and/or their families assisted. _____
- 5) Total monetary donations and/or value of donations and goods/services provided to veterans, service members and/or their families? \$ _____
- 6) Submitted through Dept. Chairman for the award for most outstanding activity and/or event to increase awareness of military suicide and mental health. _____
- 7) Submitted through Dept. Chairman for the award for the most outstanding activity and/or event to increase support of veterans, service members and their families. _____

Email: union7883aux@gmail.com

mail: P.O. Box 534, West Ossipee NH 03890

All Year-end report forms should be sent to me by March 31, 2024.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

March 31st is just around the corner, and I hope you all had fun finding an artist or singer to enter our contests!



Illustrating America

All entries must be received by your Local Auxiliary by March 31st to be judged locally. Then the winner is then sent on to the Department for judging. Please get them to me by April 15th. After the Department chooses a winner, I will forward the artwork to National for judging. Remember there are 3 grade divisions: K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. There will be National awards for first, second and third place in each grade division. First, second and third place entry in each grade division will be displayed at National Convention! Please see the student brochure and entry form in MALTA Member Resources or on the VFW Auxiliary website for more details on requirements and contest rules.



If you watched the Super Bowl game last month, I hoped you had the opportunity to see and hear Reba McEntire's performance of the National Anthem!

Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue!



This singing contest is open for youths in grades K-12. There are two divisions: K-8 and 9-12. The Department first place winner in each grade division will be forwarded to Auxiliary National Headquarters. There is one National winner in each grade division, with awards for first, second and third place in each grade division. Please see entry form in MALTA Member Resources under Youth Activities for eligibility requirements and contest rules.

Deadlines:

Entries received by:

Participating Auxiliary-March 31st

Department-April 15th

NNational Headquarters-May 5th



Patriotism through Literacy

Now would be a good time to get all of the books your Auxiliary has collected to the local schools and libraries. One of the easiest ways to promote patriotism is through reading among our youth. We need to educate our youth at an early age about who our historical figures were that helped to build this great country, the United States of America!



Make your Auxiliary accessible to today's youth!

With all the social media and information tools available, there should be no reason your Auxiliary can't communicate to the world, especially our youth.

Visit MALTA Member Resources for publicity tips, social media guidelines and other helpful information.

Loyally,

Nathaniel "Buddy" Nicholas

Department of NH VFW Auxiliary Youth Activities Chairman (2023-2024)

Youth Activities Year-End Report

Auxiliary Name _____

Auxiliary Number _____

- 1. Number of youth groups that your Auxiliary worked with during the Program year. _____**
- 2. Number of youths that your Auxiliary worked with during the Program year. _____**
- 3. Number of youth groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations awarded by your Auxiliary. _____**
- 4. Did your Auxiliary participate in Patriotism through Literacy? ____ If so, how many books did your Auxiliary donate? _____**

GET EXCITED FOR THE RED, WHITE AND BLUE! (National Anthem singing).

- 1. Did your Auxiliary promote this singing contest? _____**
- 2. Number of students submitted entries into this contest for judging? _____**
- 3. Number of entries did your Auxiliary submit to Department for judging? _**
- 4. Did your Auxiliary host an award ceremony to recognize awardees and participants in this contest? _____**
- 5. What was the total dollar amount and/or value of awards presented by your Auxiliary? \$ _____**

Illustrating America (Art contest)

- 1. Did your Auxiliary promote the Illustrating America (Art contest)? _____**
- 2. Number of students that submitted art entries for judging. _____**
- 3. Number of entries did you send to Department? _____**
- 4. Did your Auxiliary host an award ceremony to recognize awardees and participants? _____**
- 5. What was the total dollar amount and/or value of awards presented by your Auxiliary? \$ _____**

Legislative Program

2023-2024

Department of NH VFW Auxiliary Legislative 2023-2024

Be An Advocate-Be Informed-Be Engaged

March General Information

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I hope everyone has been enjoying their winter, luckily for most of us it has been a mild one. In last month's general information I informed you that this newsletter would contain all the Legislative Victories for Veterans as well as upcoming bills that require action be taken via Action Corp. I am glad to say there were quite a few that passed legislation, below I have provided information on the bills that are being introduced to Congress along with the number and name of the bill along with a brief description of how it helps our veterans and their families.

S. 1975, the Discharge Review Board Accountability Act, would require a study on the compliance of military discharge review boards to follow statutory requirements related to the application of "liberal consideration" during the decision process for certain conditions. Liberal consideration standards relate to a review of discharge status and requests for correction of military records based on mental health conditions to include post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), sexual assault or sexual harassment. The report must cover seven key areas in determining if discharge review boards are using the liberal consideration standards required in their decision-making process. This legislation, S. 1975, is in accordance with DAV Resolution No. 113, which calls for a more liberal review of other than honorable (OTH) military discharges for the purpose of eligibility for Department of Veterans Affairs benefits and services in cases where veterans may have been suffering with PTSD, traumatic brain injury, or experienced military sexual trauma or harassment.

H.R. 2413, the Dental Care for Veterans Act. This bill would require the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to furnish dental care in the same manner as any other medical service, and defines a 4-year implementation plan beginning with veterans in Priority Groups 1 and 2 (veterans with service-connected disabilities rated at 30% or more) in year one.

H.R. 3452, the Fred Hamilton Veterans' Lost Records Act, which would ensure veterans whose military records are lost by the U.S. government through no fault of their own can still receive their earned Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits. After a 1973 fire at the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis destroyed the records of nearly 16 million veterans, VA established a regulatory process for those affected that allowed veterans whose records were lost to use the next closest medical record or a buddy statement to meet the burden of proof required for VA health care and benefits. S. 3452 would expand that process to all veterans whose records were lost by the VA or the Department of Defense.

S. 3526, the Lactation Spaces for Veteran Moms Act, would require each VA medical center to create a lactation station for veterans who are nursing. As the number of women veterans using VA health care continues to grow, VA must ensure that it creates environments that are safe and welcoming to all veterans. This includes private, convenient and hygienic lactation stations that women can easily and safely access while they are obtaining the health care they have earned.

If you have not already taken action on the above bills please review your emails for any DAV items requesting you take action.

Do not forget local and town elections take place this month so keep an eye out for voting dates this month and please remember to get out and vote!!!



Tammy L. Baker
Department of NH VFW Auxiliary
Legislative Chair 2023-2024