

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY  
Department of South Dakota General Orders  
and Bulletin #1 – July 2017



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# VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA



## General Orders Number 1 – July 2017

### Must be read at the first meeting following receipt before being filed for reference.

1. **Responsibility:** I promise, having been duly elected and installed as President of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, Department of South Dakota at the convention in Pierre, SD, on June 25, 2017, I hereby assume the duties of this office. I pledge to uphold the principles of this organization and will do my very best to carry out the duties of the office to the best of my ability. Thank you for your confidence.
2. **Officers and Chairmen:** Being elected and appointed on all levels for the 2017 – 2018 term of office shall assume the duties of their respective office immediately. All 2016-2017 appointments are null and void. Past Officers and Chairmen are requested to give your successor all books, papers and other items pertaining to your office. Please offer them your assistance and guidance. Thank you for accepting these positions.
3. **Auxiliary Presidents:** Get your program chairmen lists to your District President AND Department Secretary as soon as possible. This allows our department chairmen to immediate and closer contact with their auxiliary counterparts allowing for better execution of our programs.
4. **Auxiliary Secretary:** Please distribute the Program bulletins included with each General Orders to the respective chairmen prior to the meeting that immediately follows that publication so she/he can study the bulletin and promote the program at your meeting.
5. **Auxiliary Treasurers:** The new MALTA program is available with video training on the national website. You will find in these general orders, there is an instruction sheet of how to process through the new system. This will be a learning process for us all, but we have some great support with Department Treasurer Carol Gross, Department Assistant Treasurer Pam Vissia and National Recruiter/Trainer Nancy Worth. You will find all contact information for these three officers in the Department Roster included. Additional training will be available at the Annual Retreat and Fall Council.
6. **President and Treasurer Bonds for Auxiliaries and Districts:** The Bond Applications will be emailed in early July 2017 with a link to purchase these Bonds online. Those without email can find the Bond Applications in the Treasurer's Kit. Be sure to complete the applications and mail them with a check (earmarked Bond) **IMMEDIATELY** to: Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary National Headquarters, 406 W. 34th Street 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111. Remember President and Treasurers are required to be bonded per Section 814.
7. **Communication:** All General Orders from Department President are official and must be read at the first meeting following receipt before being filed for reference for one year. (Reference: Booklet of Instruction, page 6.) All other communications from National or Department Officers are also official and should be read at once. All Chairmen bulletins should be read in advance by the Program Chairman and only a report should be given on the Auxiliary floor.
8. **Correspondence:** 2016 Bylaws, Section 812. All communications of any nature whatsoever intended for the consideration of the National Body shall be signed by the President and forwarded by the Secretary of the Auxiliary to the Department President. All official communications to National Officers from the Auxiliary must also be forwarded through channels. See Booklet of Instruction, as to how correspondence is to be handled.
9. **Audit:** The second quarter Audit is due July 30, 2017. It shall be conducted during the month of July with both the outgoing and incoming Treasurer and Trustees present. Refer to 2017 Bylaws Section 814, Pages 95-96; Trustees, Duties of (All Levels). The President, Secretary and Treasurer

- should attend the Audit. The Trustees shall submit and read the written report during an Auxiliary meeting. A motion to accept the audit is required. A copy of the accepted audit shall be included in the minutes record book. The Senior Trustee shall send a signed copy of audit immediately to the Department Treasurer who will review it for accuracy and corrections.
10. **National Convention:** National Convention will be July 22 - 26, 2017, in New Orleans, LA. The 2017-2018 National Program Book is now available on the National Auxiliary website ([vfwauxiliary.org](http://vfwauxiliary.org)). We are looking forward to having a good group at National.
  11. **Department, District and Auxiliary Rosters:** The roster is included in this General Orders. Please review for accuracy and notify Department Secretary, Jennifer Little, with corrections. Jennifer's email is: [littlegirlz3@msn.com](mailto:littlegirlz3@msn.com) and her mailing address is: 1192 Dakota Drive, Box Elder, SD 57719
  12. **Make plans for:** Third Annual VFW Auxiliary Retreat at the Roost in Grenville, starting at noon, August 17 to late morning August 20, 2017. We are hoping to have a great time as always. This is not an officers retreat, this is open to ALL MEMBERS and we have lots of fun. You will find a registration form in these general orders. Please mail or email your registration to Department President Carrie Alm: 12234 Harper Lane, Custer, SD 57730, [littlegirlz3@msn.com](mailto:littlegirlz3@msn.com). Call with any questions: 605-517-0287
  13. **Celebrating America's Freedom Event (CAFÉ):** The CAFÉ event will be held this year on October 19, 2017 at the Yorktown Battlefield in Yorktown, VA. Registration forms and information are included with these general orders.
  14. **National President's Celebration:** National President Dee's Celebration will be October 20-21, 2017 in Williamsburg, VA immediately following the CAFÉ event. If you come to one, you might as well stay for both. Registration forms and information are included with these general orders.
  15. **Congratulations:** Congratulations to Department Commander Rick Williamson on your election and installation as Department Commander. All members of the South Dakota Auxiliary extend our best wishes to Rick and his Officers and Chairmen for a most successful year. Some special congratulations to Past Department Commander Dennis Sharp and your comrades for making All American!
  16. **Appreciation:** Thank you to each and every SD Auxiliary member for all you do for Veterans, their families, and this organization. Thanks again for your vote of confidence in my leadership for the coming year. Thanks to those members who stepped up and volunteered to be on the newly formed Ways and Means Committee to improve our incoming funds. If you are still interested or have ideas, please get them to Zoe Berman-Yellin. Remember to "Accentuate the Positive" through the year and "The Future is Now", so keep working for our veterans.

By Order Of:

Carrie Alm  
Department President

Attest:

Jennifer Little  
Department Secretary



## *President's Positive Points*

Message from Department President Carrie

**July 2017**

Thank you to all of you for your confidence in my leadership for the upcoming year! Department Commander Rick and myself are excited for the upcoming year and want to not only take care of business, but also bring some fun to our posts and auxiliaries.

First, I would like to address the themes we have chosen for the upcoming year. My theme is "Accentuate the Positive" because we need to be positive and supportive to keep this veteran service organization running like a well-oiled machine and moving in a "positive" direction. Department Commander Rick's theme is "The Future is Now" and this is the future we keep working for. You will notice that my logo (upper left corner on this page) has both of our themes listed. It was designed by my grandson, Shawn Robertson, and he was given both our themes and left for his own creativity to find a way to display this. The logo shown is what he creatively came up with. We left the part of "Alleviate the Negative" in his artwork because that's what we need to do keep this organization running well.

Please review the Summary of Proposed Revisions to the National Bylaws. Let your delegates who will be attending the National Convention know your wishes. National Convention is July 22-26, 2017 in New Orleans, LA.

We are looking forward to our Third Annual VFW Auxiliary Retreat in Grenville, SD at the The Roost Resort. A special thank you to Skip and Patti for allowing us to again gather there. I want to remind all of you that this is not an officer only event. ANY AUXILIARY MEMBER is welcome to attend so please come for part of the time or all of it if you can.

The CAFÉ and National President's Celebration are scheduled together this year. They will be in Yorktown and Williamsburg, VA, respectively, starting October 19<sup>th</sup> through October 21<sup>st</sup>. It will be a fun time, so come join us if you can.

I want to again congratulate the outstanding presidents and runners up that were named at Convention. This is a great honor and these members and their auxiliaries work very hard to earn this award. I want to take a minute to let everyone know who these winners were for the 2016-2017 year.

- In the 10-50-member category, we have Alcester Auxiliary with Clarice Paulson as Outstanding President and Eureka Auxiliary with Verlena Mehlhoff as runner up.
- In the 51-110-member category, we have Plankinton Auxiliary with Colleen Miller-Foland as Outstanding President and Beresford Auxiliary with Donita Mullinix as runner-up.
- In the 111-225-member category, we have Sturgis Auxiliary with Nancy Worth as Outstanding President and Burke Auxiliary with Elsie Forsch as runner-up.
- In the 226+ member category, we have Pierre Auxiliary with Penny Galinat as Outstanding President and Yankton Auxiliary with Shirley Christensen as runner up.

Another great honor is to be the overall Outstanding Auxiliary President from this group of winners and that honor went to Nancy Worth. She was also awarded the Outstanding District President for her

leadership of District #10. What would we do without her and the rest of these great ladies? Thanks again for your support and dedication to our organization.

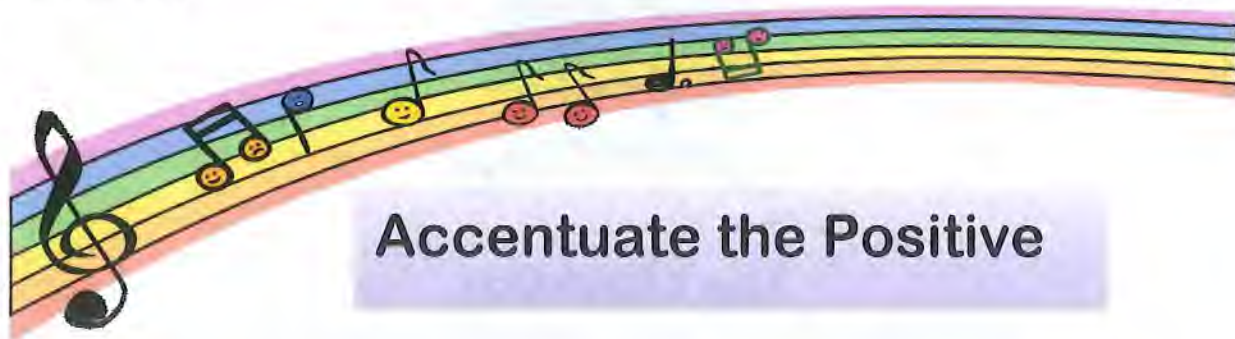
In these general orders, you will find a blank community service report that will assist you and your auxiliary in keeping track of your community service hours. Although the auxiliary doesn't keep track of this anymore, the Post does and they can use our hours too so this helps us to keep track and report to them. Thanks goes out to District #10 President Nancy Worth for sharing this easy way to track these with us.

I have a goal to try and visit all your auxiliaries at some time throughout the year. As you know, some times are busier than others, but if you have a special celebration or a particular time you would like me to visit, please contact me and I will do my best to make that time work. I have spent five years practicing waving in parades, so feel free to have me come wave in yours. ☺

KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK OUR AUXILIARY DOES AND "ACCENTUATE THE POSTIVE" IN ALL YOU DO!

*Carrie Alm*

Department of South Dakota  
Auxiliary President 2017-2018



The words "Accentuate the Positive" just makes you want to break out in song. So, let's keep a positive attitude and a positive outlook at this vital transition time in our organization's year. Let's all sing!

The Veterans of the South Dakota Veterans of Foreign Wars have rearranged the Districts from 7 Districts to 5 Districts. This is old news, but during this transition time, we will begin to work with a 5 District system. **Let's be welcoming to members coming into new Districts!!**

Please share with us the transition happenings in your District:

- More or less Bachelor Posts
- Possibilities of new Auxiliaries
- Posts/Auxiliaries choosing to turn in their charter
- Audits and/or Installation reports missed the deadline
- Communication
- All Auxiliaries and District Auxiliaries must turn in their financial report and membership numbers to their corresponding Post within one month
- All Presidents should **train** their elected and appointed officers or the officers will not know what the President wants and what she/he is planning for the year

In future bulletins, we will learn more about the **Healthy Auxiliary Toolkit:**

- VFW Auxiliary Sample Meeting Agenda
- **Auxiliary Meeting Checklist (for the Auxiliary President) – included in this bulletin**
- Healthy Communication Phone/Text Tree
- R U Healthy Checklist – Auxiliary To-Dos and Deadlines
- VFW Auxiliary Meeting Challenges & Solutions
- VFW Auxiliary Member Questionnaire
- VFW Auxiliary Health Certificate
- VFW Auxiliary Good Job Award



## The Checklist:

### *What the Auxiliary President needs for a meeting*

- Current Podium Edition of *Bylaws, Ritual and Booklet of Instruction*
- National Program Book (available for download at [vfwauxiliary.org](http://vfwauxiliary.org).)
- Department Program Book
- Current year's Department General Orders (if applicable)
- Order of Business/Agenda prepared with the assistance of Secretary and Treasurer prior to meeting
- Chairman Reports to be distributed prior to meeting
- Arrive early to check that the room is prepared for meeting:
  - Charter
  - Gavel
  - Altar Cloth
  - Bible
  - Flag stands properly placed
- Start and end the meeting as scheduled.
  - A clock on the podium will help achieve the suggested one hour time.  
Hint: Set a timer!

## National Certified Recruiter Trainer Update – July, 2017

Job well done and congratulations to Karen Sharp, 2016-17 Department President!

Best wishes for a wonderful year to Carrie Alm, 2017-18 Department President! With every year, there is change to contend with, but this year we are “Accentuating the Positive.”

And the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary has a lot of positive things to be proud of – we are a hidden gem to prospective members. We just need to open up and share these great programs and benefits available to Veterans, active-military and their families.

Let’s grow our membership, which is important to keep our organization going. I want each and every Auxiliary member to pledge to talk with at least one new person each day about our organization. Ask them if they have a family member who has served in the military – and then begin to tell them about the programs of the VFW & Auxiliary.

I have actually talked with several folks in the last couple of weeks who think they aren’t eligible as their Veteran is deceased! We need to spread the word that this is not true – the potential member has the best opportunity to honor their family member by helping other Veterans and their families!

How? Through association with the VFW & Auxiliary family! Auxiliaries need to work closely with their Posts to grow membership with those family members of Veterans while the Posts can also grow through the Veterans of Auxiliary members. You would be surprised at the number of Auxiliary members whose Veteran is not a VFW member.

An idea that has been brought forward is to have a family-oriented event as a membership drive. This could be planned around the anniversary of either the Post or the Auxiliary. What a great opportunity to highlight all of the programs and activities with a news-worthy event.

Keep in mind that an electronic presentation will soon be available to help show the public all of what the VFW Auxiliary does in South Dakota. Pierre #2038 member, Sue Jones, is working on a pictorial presentation to help promote our organization and “Accentuate the Positive.”

Nancy Worth  
South Dakota  
National Certified Recruiter Trainer



VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

2017-2018

Dear Auxiliary Treasurers:

Welcome to the exciting year of 2017-2018 as your local auxiliary Treasurer!

There are a lot of new changes this year in the way we conduct our business. If you have any questions or problems, please contact me and I will help you in any way I can.

Some of these changes include:

Changes to the system for everything ---- National has switched companies, and this requires new methods of reporting for all activities. There will be training sessions done for all Treasurers, Secretaries, and Presidents. Dates to be determined.

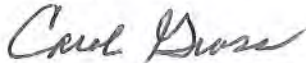
MALTA system of remitting dues for members: This is a whole new system set up by National Headquarters. Membership dues may now be paid directly to National by any member, any auxiliary treasurer, or by the Department Treasurer. To learn this new system, please attend training sessions so that there will be less chance of making mistakes and resulting in members not being listed as paid. Please note that you will have the option of sending in your dues directly to the Department Treasurer as you have always done. Just PLEASE make sure you are using the correct forms for new members, transferring members, and Convert-to-Life members which are also included in this mailing.

There will be a whole different sign-in page, and there is a system in place for opening up the program. This will be taught to you during training session.

Also, there is a place in this new system for purchasing your Bond, and this will also be taught to you during the training sessions. Also available is the ability to make your annual \$2.00 donation to Cancer Aid & Research or other National programs using this program.

If anyone has any questions on this, please let me know.

Loyally,



Carol Gross, Department Treasurer

**MEMBER/TRANSFER APPLICATION** PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY Recruited/Recommended by: \_\_\_\_\_

No. \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Member ID (If already a member) \_\_\_\_\_

Annual Membership  Life  Rejoined Previous Member No. \_\_\_\_\_, Previous Auxiliary \_\_\_\_\_

Member-at-Large  Life Member-at-Large in Department of \_\_\_\_\_ or in  National

These fields required. Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_ Male \_\_\_\_\_ or Female \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**POST AFFILIATED:** (\*Must be a member to the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.)

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ to Eligible Veteran\* \_\_\_\_\_ VFW Membership ID \_\_\_\_\_

**NON AFFILIATED:** (\*Veteran is not a member of the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.)

Relationship \_\_\_\_\_ to Eligible Veteran\* \_\_\_\_\_ VFW Post \_\_\_\_\_ (If applicable)

**LIFE MEMBER TRANSFER**, Previous Auxiliary \_\_\_\_\_ (Note: Eligibility proof and investigating committee not needed.)

Accepting Treasurer's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**ANNUAL TRANSFER**, Previous Auxiliary \_\_\_\_\_ Paying \_\_\_\_\_ or Nonpaying \_\_\_\_\_? (check one)

**ANNUAL TRANSFER CONVERTING TO LIFE**, Previous Auxiliary \_\_\_\_\_ (Fill out Life Membership information below.)

Name of campaign ribbons or medals: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates of Service \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

I attest that I am a citizen of the United States or a U.S. National, and am at least 16 years of age. I further state that I believe in God. I pledge to comply with the National Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary. I attest I am not eligible for membership in the VFW. I further state that the above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Investigating Committee: 1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_ 3) \_\_\_\_\_

Per Section 102 of the National Bylaws.  Rejected  Election Date \_\_\_\_\_ Obligated Date \_\_\_\_\_

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP**  Check here if this is a gift.  
 Card will be mailed to the Auxiliary Treasurer.  
 Payment:  Cash  Check  Visa  
 Mastercard  Discover  
 Life Membership Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name on credit card \_\_\_\_\_  
 Billing address for card \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 C. C. # \_\_\_\_\_  
 CVV Code \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_  
 Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**LIFE MEMBERSHIP**  ACH (Bank withdrawal)  
 Name of Bank \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bank Routing No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Attach voided check HERE. (Required)**



**LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES**  
 Effective 1/1/2017  
 Attained age at 12/31 of year applying for Life Membership.

Through 20	\$253
21-25	\$242
26-30	\$230
31-35	\$219
36-40	\$213
41-45	\$201
46-50	\$196
51-55	\$184
56-60	\$173
61-65	\$161
66-70	\$150
71-75	\$132
76-80	\$109
81-85	\$86
86-90	\$69
91 and over	\$58

**OBLIGATION**  
*In the presence of Almighty God and the members of this organization here assembled, I do of my own free will and accord, solemnly promise that I will never wrong or defraud this organization nor a member thereof nor permit either to be wronged if in my power to prevent it. I will never propose for membership any person not eligible, according to our Bylaws. I further state that I believe in God. I will be faithful to the United States of America, obedient to the laws and loyal to the Flag. Should my membership with this organization cease in any way, I will consider this obligation as binding outside of the organization as though I had remained a member. I do so promise.* Signature \_\_\_\_\_ (Must be signed by all members.)

# VFW Auxiliary Membership Update Form

Rev. 12-16

**REQUIRED FIELDS:**

Member's Current Name \_\_\_\_\_ Membership ID No. \_\_\_\_\_  
 Current Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Current Auxiliary # \_\_\_\_\_ Department of \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME CHANGE** Former Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 First Last

**ADDRESS CHANGE**

**CONTINUOUS ANNUAL DUES (no pre-printed card)**

**CONVERT TO LIFE MEMBER**

Life Membership Fee \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if this is a gift. It will be mailed to the Auxiliary Treasurer.

**Payment Methods:**

**Check:** Make check payable to: **VFW Auxiliary**

**Credit Card**     VISA     MasterCard     Discover

Name as it appears on the card: \_\_\_\_\_

Address associated with the card holder: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Number \_\_\_\_\_

CVV Code \_\_\_\_\_ (3 digit code shown on back of credit card) Expiration \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_  
 Month / Year

Card Holder's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**ACH (Bank withdrawal)** Name of Bank \_\_\_\_\_ Routing Number \_\_\_\_\_

Attached voided check HERE (required) Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

**REPLACE MY LIFE MEMBER CARD**

**NAME CHANGES OR LOST CARD REQUESTS MUST BE ACCOMPANIED**  
 BY A CHECK made payable to VFW Auxiliary for \$5.00 or complete the payment information above if using a credit card or ACH. Please send directly to National Headquarters at 406 W. 34<sup>th</sup> St., Kansas City, MO 64111.

**DEATH REPORT** Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_

<b>LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES</b>	
Effective 1/1/2017	
Attained age at 12/31 of year applying for Life Membership.	
Through 20	\$253
21-25	\$242
26-30	\$230
31-35	\$219
36-40	\$213
41-45	\$201
46-50	\$196
51-55	\$184
56-60	\$173
61-65	\$161
66-70	\$150
71-75	\$132
76-80	\$109
81-85	\$86
86-90	\$69
91 and over	\$58

\*\*\*\*\*An email we received that Treasurer Carol thought might be of some assistance\*\*\*\*\*

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:**

**You will NOT receive a Treasurer's Kit this year!**

Due to the transition to our new membership system, MALTA, we will not be sending Treasurer's Kits this year. The 2017-2018 Treasurer Resources page can be accessed here:

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/treasurer-resources/>

**Q: How will members get their membership cards?**

A: Once National Headquarters receives annual dues for a member, MALTA will create a list of those who need annual cards. That list will go to a printer where all the cards will be printed and mailed.

**Q: How long will they have to wait to get their card?**

A: Once payment has cleared at National Headquarters and the member's information is sent, printed and mailed, we expect a time frame of 2-4 weeks.

**Q: What will a member show at meetings to prove they are a member?**

A: You must provide an official receipt for their payment. If they pay their dues online through MALTA, they can access a digital version of their membership card right away and can show this as proof of eligibility for any official VFW Auxiliary function. A receipt template can be found on the 2017-2018 Treasurer Resources page.

**Q: Do I HAVE to use MALTA?**

A: We highly encourage you to use this wonderful new tool that was designed with YOU in mind. However, we do recognize that not everyone has the technology or desire to use new software. You can use the old forms and old methods of processing dues.

**Q: Where do I get all these forms?**

A: You can get those forms on the Treasurer Resources page where you downloaded them from last year. All of the documents have been updated for the 2017-2018 year.

**Q: Will we get a new Treasurer's Guide?**

A: Yes! The 2017-2018 Treasurer's Guide is available on the Treasurer Resources page. Remember, you can still process dues EXACTLY how you've always done it before. OR, you can choose to process them online through MALTA or teach your members how to do it themselves online.

**Q: How will I know how to use MALTA?**

A: Your Department Treasurer, or Department representative, was trained in May. That person will teach others in your Department how to use it. There are also training videos on the [Online Auxiliary Academy](#) and there will be training videos and instructions within MALTA on how to use it.

**Q: Who do I call if I have questions about using MALTA?**

A: We are pleased to tell you that there is a helpline just for MALTA users: 1-800-349-3670. Calls will be answered beginning July 7, Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m., Central Time.

**Q: What about Life Members? Will they get new cards?**

A: Yes! All Life Members in our system as of April 26, 2017, will receive a brand new Life Membership Card compatible with MALTA. Life Memberships purchased between April 27 and June 30 will receive their cards in late July.

*Because of this, any current Life Members who transfer Auxiliaries between May 1 and June 30, 2017, will not receive a new Life Membership card issued from National Headquarters. In the first part of July 2017, these members will receive a new card with their old Auxiliary information. National Headquarters will then submit data to our fulfillment firm in early July for Life Members who transferred between May 1 and June 30, 2017. It is our expectation that these Life Members will receive a new card with their new Auxiliary information on it near the end of July that will contain their correct Auxiliary information.*

*Thank you!*

Thank you to all the Auxiliary Members who encouraged me and supported me in my campaign for Department Treasurer. I have learned so much during this great venture and have met so many wonderful people. Congratulations to Carol Gross on your election for Department Treasurer. I wish you the best in the year to come and know that you will do an awesome job. I look forward to continuing to be involved in this great organization.

Let's have another great year and continue to work for our  
Veteran's.

Again, thank you from the bottom of my heart for all your  
support.

Pam Vissia

VFW Auxiliary, Department of South Dakota  
Council of Administration Minutes  
June 25, 2017 - Pierre, South Dakota

The Council of Administration meeting came to order at 11:32AM at the Convention Center at the Ramada Inn in Pierre, SD on June 25, 2017 with Carrie Alm, Department President, presiding.

The minutes of the previous Council of Administration meeting were dispensed as the meeting was during this convention and previous secretary, Nancy Chester, has not had time to get them together. It was stated they would be published in the General Orders for review.

Attendance was called with all officers in attendance per the attendance register.

Opening prayer was read by Chaplain Donita Mullinix. The pledge of allegiance was recited and the Star-Spangled Banner was sung.

Communications were read from SD Veteran Cemetery Committee updating us on their progress this year and requesting dues and names of our representatives.

President Alm introduced visitors to our meeting of Immediate Past Department President Karen Sharp, newly installed District 6 President Nancy Chester and Department Guard Patricia Mitchell. She also gave an introduction of all her 2017-2018 officers.

The financial report was requested from the Department Treasurer Carol Gross, she advised there was no change since it was read during convention.

The proposed budget was read for the 2017-2018 year by Budget Chairman Nancy Chester. It was moved by District 6 President Nancy Chester and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jr. Vice President Sandy Moss to accept the budget. Department President Alm informed them of correcting a header on their form to state "Hospital" and brought up that the part of the budget about the Legislative Auction was a district fundraiser and we cannot require them to give us the amount we have listed on the budget. Nancy Chester explained that the amounts we needed to cover our budget was not able to be balanced without adding that in to make it work. Karen Sharp, Past Department President, advised that we would need a change in the standing rules to make the budget and rules match so that we could go forward with the change. District 10 President Nancy Worth advised that suggested that instead of changing the Standing Rules, we just do a live auction at Legislative for our part and bringing in some of the fun that State Commander Rick Williamson had talked about at installation. Department Treasurer Carol Gross advised that she can only pay and reimburse from what is in the budget. If it's in the standing rules and not in the budget, she advised that she could not compensate for that item per National's instruction. Past Department President Sharp spoke again and offered some clarification that if the budget was approved is the only reason we would need to change the standing rules. PDP and Chief of Staff Vickie Rosse offered information as to how the process and correction would work. Department Jr. Vice Moss offered information about the positive response and funds of silent auctions and how not many items would be needed. President Alm asked for a vote at this time, there was a majority vote for accepting the proposed budget, motion was carried.

The audit report was requested and Sr. Vice President Mary Kirkvold advised the available audit was given during convention with no change yet.

#### Unfinished Business

Department President Alm added some introductions that she forgot. Vickie Rosse is our Big 10 Hospital Chairman and Pat Cerny is our Big 10 Legislative Chairmen.

Chief of Staff Vickie Rosse presented President Carrie Alm with the District 2 original 1949 and current Charter.

District 6 President Chester and Past District 8 member presented President Alm with the District 8 Charter.

It was brought to the floor that some of the awards are not properly specified such as not doing a winner for each category, just an overall winner and so on, and this needed to be corrected.

These are past department president awards, not something the floor needed to fix. Chief of Staff Rosse and Past Department President Club representative said they were aware of this and were getting things corrected. President Alm and Department Secretary Jennifer Little said they would get a copy of the proper awards out in general orders once they were corrected.

President Alm wanted to thank everyone for their support and confidence in her for the upcoming year and thinks that all working together we will have a great year.

#### New Business

It was moved by District 10 President Worth and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jr. Vice President Sandy Moss to add a spot on standing rules in Section 5 and adding Item C to do fundraisers to increase budget as a Department, there was no discussion, vote was unanimous, motion was carried.

It was moved by Chief of Staff Rosse and 2<sup>nd</sup> by District 10 President Worth that we have delegates for Big 10 of Department President Carrie Alm, Sr. Vice President Mary Kirkvold, Chief of Staff and Big 10 Hospital Chairman Vickie Rosse, Jr. Vice President Sandy Moss and Big 10 Legislative Chairman Pat Cerny, vote was unanimous, motion was carried.

It was moved by Jr. Vice President Sandy Moss and 2<sup>nd</sup> by Department Guard Patti Mitchell to make our alternates for Big 10 Conference Department Conductress Wanda Mix, Department Chaplain Donita Mullinix, PDP Jan Endes, PDP Karen Sharp and PDP Nelda Jorgensen, vote was unanimous, motion was carried.

Gloria Fortin addressed the floor about the District President who did not get her Susie Radigan award plaque at the banquet the night before because it was not ordered. It seems the committees were not completely aware of their duties in their entirety and it was requested that we get better information to them so that nothing gets overlooked.

Nelda Jorgensen addressed the floor stating that she didn't receive her Gold Star Mother invitation until long after the registration was turned. She felt this was a waste of money and the invites need to go out earlier or just forget sending them.

#### Announcements

We need General Order Bulletins ASAP.

Please get your VAVS rep or deputy forms filled out.

Let Department Secretary Little know if you need the 2017-2018 Officers book or program book.

President Alm reminded us to Support our Officers, no backbiting or petty stuff among our sisters and brothers.

Department Guard Mitchell advised of her Buddy Poppy Quilt, she wanted districts to take pictures and take back to your district. Vets and Family Support chairman in your auxiliary have the opportunity to win that blanket depending on a points system that they will be turning in monthly. Patti will be sending those criteria out very soon. The chairman with the most points will win the quilt at next convention.

The meeting was closed in regular form at 12:45PM. The next meeting will be on October 7, 2017 at Cedar Shores Convention Center in Oacoma, SD.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Little  
Department Secretary 2017-2018



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary  
Department of South Dakota  
Council of Administration Meeting  
June 22, 2017 Pierre, South Dakota

**Call to Order** by President Karen Sharp at 1:08 PM. Guard Wanda Mix reported membership cards were checked at the door.

**Roll Call** by Secretary Nancy Chester with all Council members present except District #6 President, Sheryl Ruckman and Past Department Presidents Neta Peterka and Vicki Williams.

The opening prayer was performed by Chaplain Sandi Moss and Pledge of Allegiance was led by Patriotic Instructor Pam Vissia. President Sharp asked if there were any 1<sup>st</sup> timers at the meeting; there were members from Brookings and Custer.

**Minutes** of the last meeting had been disseminated and were approved as printed. There were no new official communications.

**Financial Report:** Treasurer, Carol Gross read. The Budget Report was given by Senior Vice President, Carrie Alm, and she made recommended to accept the Budget Report. Motion carried. The Audit Committee Report was given by Junior Vice President Mary Kirkvold. She recommended the audit be accepted and the motion carried.

There was no unfinished business.

**New Business:** National Representative, National Conductress Sandra Onstwedder spoke on the Guard position that needs to be filled in the Department of SD VFW Auxiliary at the Convention.

President Sharp made the following announcements:

2:30 Officer March Practice – Gallery BC

3:00 Ritual Practice – Gallery BD

5:00 Past Department Presidents' Dinner – Red Rossa

Award Presenters meet with VFW and Auxiliary Chairmen – Gallery A

7:00 Joint VFW and Auxiliary Awards Presentation – Gallery A

Flag and Banner Practice – Friday, June 23, 8:00 a.m. – Gallery BC

Closing remarks were given by President Sharp.

Membership Cards are needed for meetings

Tickets are in your Badge Holder for all meals and drinks

Financials and Standing Rules are in Council member packets

Guard Position is open and we need at least one candidate

Membership is still not 100% but we can make it if we all try harder

**Closing Prayer** was by Chaplain Moss. Meeting closed at 2:12 pm.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary  
Department of South Dakota  
Department Convention  
June 23 - 25, 2017 Pierre, South Dakota

**Opening:** Flag and Banner presentation followed by the Officers March. The convention was opened at 4:15 on Friday, June 23, 2017 by Department President Karen Sharp.

**Call to Order:** Ritualistic Opening was performed and the National Representative, National Conductress Sandra Onstwedder, Councilwoman #23, Vickie Rosse and National Recruiter Trainer, Nancy Worth were escorted into the meeting.

**Roll Call** of Officers was conducted by Secretary, Nancy Chester. All Council members were present except District #6 President, Sheryl Ruckman. 18 Past Department Presidents. 26 Auxiliaries were represented and 6 District Presidents.

Membership cards were checked at the door by Guard Wanda Mix.

**Minutes:** Motion by PDP Imogene Ellis to accept the minutes of the previous convention as previously printed and disseminated. Second by Chaplain Sandi Moss. Motion carried.

**Official communications:** There were various communications from Virginia, Maryland, Hawaii, Michigan, and Florida endorsing National Officers. New York and New Jersey both advanced a name for National Guard.

There were various notices of illnesses, loss of family members, etc., for National and State Officers.

We were notified of Auxiliary #3061 Vermillion Auxiliary disbanding.

National Representative, National Conductress Onstwedder gave the National President's interpretation of Section 902, Bullet 210; any electronic videos of meetings must have prior approval of the group before the video is made.

Check from Chaplain Moss for \$25 as a memorial for PDP Thelma Dittman.

Debra Turner family sent a Thank you.

We received a receipt on April 12, 2017 for our donation to the Special Olympics in the amount of \$2248.65.

**Introduction of Convention Pages:** Pages were appointed by Department President Sharp: District #2, District 4, District 7 and District 8 Presidents. Badges were presented to each of the pages for their use. Nancy Worth, District 10 President was not made a Page due to her being a Banner Bearer.

**Registration Report:** It was reported that 72 VFW and 79 Auxiliary members and 3 guests have registered to date for a total of 154 registered.

Imogene Ellis moved to accept and Chaplain Moss seconded to adopt the report of the Convention Rules Committee. There was no discussion and the motion passed.

Secretary Chester announced to have announcements sent up with the pages for placement in folder. District# 8 will be meeting right after this meeting adjourns.

Chaplain Moss closed the Bible. Meeting adjourned until 8 AM Saturday, June 24, 2017.

**Saturday, June 25, 2017**

PDP and District# 8 President Connie Heggstad opened the meeting and presented President Sharp with the gavel to begin the convention at 8:05 AM.

Bible was opened by Chaplain Moss.

**Roll Call** was completed for the remaining members eligible to have their own vote.

President Sharp asked how many 1<sup>st</sup> time convention attendees - there were seven attendees who had not attended a Department Convention before. Joyce Schat was attending her 65<sup>th</sup> consecutive Department Convention.

**Communications** continued:

Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen participants Thank You cards

May 30, 2017 notification that the District of Columbia Auxiliary was disbanded

Letter from South Dakota Governor Daugaard about the Christmas Tree at the State Capital and the over 17,000 visitors received.

**Presentation of Membership Awards** by National Representative National Conductress Onstwedder, Councilwoman #23, Vickie Rosse and President Karen to Auxiliaries and Districts for being 100% or more in membership:

Canton, Alcester, Brookings, Brandon, Sisseton, Millbank, Faulkton, Gettysburg, Scotland, Parkston, Plankinton, Wagner, District #8, Pierre, Winner, Burke, Sturgis, Quinn and Custer.

PDP on Council Vicki Williams moved and PDP Pat Cerny seconded that we pay Junior Vice President Mary Kirkvold for the Gold Star Mothers' bill. Motion passed.

**Auxiliary President Judging:** Pat Cerny announced the winners

2016-2017 Outstanding Presidents

Category 1 10-50 members

Outstanding – Clarice Paulson, Alcester

Runner Up – Verlena Mehlhaff, Eureka

Category 2 51-110 members

Outstanding – Colleen Miller Foland, Plankinton

Runner Up – Donita Mullinix, Beresford

Category 3 111 – 225 members

Outstanding – Nancy Worth, Sturgis

Runner Up – Elsie Forsch, Burke

Category 4 226 plus members

Outstanding – Penny Galinat, Pierre

Runner Up – Shirley Christensen, Yankton

**Veterans and Family Support** – Patti Mitchell

The 153<sup>rd</sup> sent a Thank You for the coffee pot and coffee.

The Day County Coyote Hunt made the goal for the year and was able to help six units from the South Dakota National Guards.

What have you done for veterans and their families? Buddy Poppies can be used every day and anytime. Do not forget our veterans or troops.

PDP Awards – Best Overall promotion of programs – Pat Cerny and Mildred Ratigan

Category 1 — 10-50 members - Alcester

Category 2 –51 – 110 members - Canton

Category 3 – 111 – 225 members - Brookings

Category 4 – 226 plus members – Pierre

Collected the most Money – PDP Emma King - Aberdeen

Overall Promotion of Program – Evelyn Hanes – Goodwin

Unmet Needs - Janice Vreim – Elk Point

National Award was presented to Mitchell by National Conductress Onstwedder and President Sharp

**Americanism** - Pam Vissia presented awards

Category 1 – 10-50 members -Eureka – Connie Jung

Category 2 –51 – 110 members - Plankinton – Jeanie Starr

Category 3 – 111 – 225 members Spearfish – Carol Hess

Category 4 – 226 plus members - Winner – Jan Endes

PDP Awards - Sharon Mitchell and Carol Gross for Auxiliary and Chairman with best promotion of Patriotism specializing in youth

Brookings – Jan Olson

Beresford – Marion Neuroth

Sisseton - Tammy Chase

National Award was presented to Vissia by National Conductress Onstwedder and President Sharp

**Chief of Staff** - Jan Endes presented awards

Best Revitalization of an Auxiliary to Brookings - Janice Olson

Best use of publicity by an Auxiliary to Revitalize to Brookings

National Award was presented to Jan Endes by National Conductress Onstwedder and President Sharp

**Hospital** - Leanne Payne presented awards

Best Promotion of Military Suicide Awareness – Winner

Best Veterans' Voice Writing – Deadwood

Best Sponsorship of Programs – Custer

Best Promotion of Burrito pillowcases – Brookings

Hospital Pins – both to Brookings - Neva Jean Collette 6000 hours and Grace Linn 25,000 hours

Past Department Presidents Marva Barg, Nancy Fickbohm, Clara Wiedemer, Vicki Williams presented awards for Best sponsor of events in the four membership categories to: Goodwin, Plankinton, Brookings and Winner

A National Award was presented to Leanne Payne by National Conductress Onstwedder and President Sharp

**Legislative - Sandi Moss**

Most Communication – Lois Knudson – Pierre

Best Get Out the Vote – Angela Ross – Sturgis

Best Promotion of Priority Goals – Jan Endes – Winner

Past Department Presidents Pat Cerny and Imogene Ellis presented an award for Most Legislation Reported to Jan Endes - Winner

A National Award was presented Sandi Moss by National Conductress Onstwedder and President Sharp

**Membership - Mary Kirkvold**

The following Auxiliaries were at 100% plus unless otherwise noted:

Canton, President Laurie Mulder

Alcester, President Clarice Paulson

Brookings, President Wanda Mix

Brandon, President LaVonne Schrader

Sisseton, President Tammy Chase

Milbank, President Myrna Bell

Faulkton 100%, President Ardyce Hadrick

Gettysburg, President Roseland Eldeen

Scotland 100%, President Neta Peterka

Parkston, President Donna Nolz

Plankinton, President Colleen Foland

Wagner 100%, President Velda Jerke

District 8 – President Connie Heggstad

Pierre, President Penny Galinat

Winner, President Sandra VanKekerix

Burke 100%, President Elsie Forsch

Sturgis, President Nancy Worth

Quinn 100%, President Neva Hamann

Custer, President Kat Craig

Cash awards given to each membership chairman and their auxiliary with 100% paid membership in each category

Membership categories 10-50

- 1<sup>st</sup> Quinn Dist 10 President Neva Hamann, Chairman Neva Hamann
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Alcester, Dist 1 President Clarice Paulson, Chairman Lena Peterson
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Parkston, Dist 7 President Donna Nolz, Chairman Donna Nolz

Membership Categories 51-110

- 1<sup>st</sup> Plankinton, Dist 7 President Colleen Foland, Chairman Pam Vissia
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Milbank, Dist 4 President Myrna Bell, Chairman Joann Hoeke
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Brandon, Dist 2 President Janie Olson, Chairman Julie Peterson

Membership Categories 111-225

- 1<sup>st</sup> Sturgis, Dist 10 President Nancy Worth, Chairman Jackie Dale
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Gettysburg, Dist 6 President Roseland Eldeen, Chairman Beverly Thomas
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sisseton, Dist 4 President Tammy Chase, Chairman Tammy and Brian Chase

Membership Categories 226 plus

- 1<sup>st</sup> Pierre, Dist 8 President Penny Galinat, Chairman Karen Sharp
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Winner, Dist 8 President Sandra VanKekerix. Chairman Betty Sell
- No 3<sup>rd</sup> Place

Past President Awards from Evelyn Haines for Greatest Numerical Gain went to Gettysburg and Pierre – a tie with 17 each.

Past President Awards from Imogene Ellis was presented for Greatest Numerical Percentage

154.54% - Alcester

105.30 – Gettysburg

Gettysburg and Pierre tied for the Greatest Number over Quota

A National Award was presented to Mary Kirkvold by National Conductress Onstwedder and President Sharp

Bible was closed by Chaplain Moss.

9:45 to 10:20 break

Bible was opened by Chaplain Moss.

It was reported the Ways and Means table had taken in \$300 plus up to that time at the convention.

**Scholarships - Donita Mullinix**

Young American Patriotic

Category 1 10-50 members – no entries

Category 2 51-110 members - Beresford

Category 3 111 – 225 members - Brookings

Category 4 226 plus members – Rapid City

### Continuing Education

- Category 1 10-50 members – no entries
- Category 2 51-110 members - Scotland
- Category 3 111 – 225 members - Custer
- Category 4 226 plus members – Watertown

### Voice of Democracy

- Category 1 10-50 members – Lemmon
- Category 2 51-110 members - Scotland
- Category 3 111 – 225 members - Madison
- Category 4 226 plus members – Winner

### Patriots Pen

- Category 1 10-50 members – Lemmon
- Category 2 51-110 members - Milbank
- Category 3 111 – 225 members - Brookings
- Category 4 226 plus members – Winner

Those Auxiliaries that sent in articles, pictures, promotional info, etc. were: Lemmon, Beresford, Milbank, Scotland, Brookings, Madison, Custer, Burke and Winner. All Auxiliaries sent in or called with a report even if you didn't participate.

Past Department President Neva Jean Corlette – VOD award to Scotland, MaryEllen Luikens and Patriots Pen to Lemmon, Desiree Anderson

Past Department President Nelda Jorgenson, Patriotic Art – Brookings, Lois Ladegaard, Continuing Education – Scotland, MaryEllen Luikens

Jerry & Connie Heggstad Award for Patriotic Art: Brookings – Halle Maroney

A National Award was presented to Donita Mullinix by National Conductress Onstwedder and President Sharp

### **Youth Activities** – Tammy Chase

Award for giving out the most Random Acts of Patriotism card/coins

Tie with 500 Sturgis – Arlene Kopp (coins) and Canton – Julie Crawford (cards)

Award for best publicity of youth programs - Brookings – Wanda Mix

Award for most Activities/Citations with youth groups - Scotland – MaryEllen Luikens

Past Presidents Awards in each membership category from Nancy Chester, Diane Hickenbotham and Neta Peterka

10-50 Parkston – Mary Tiede

51-110 Scotland – MaryEllen Luikens

111-225 Aberdeen – Lisa Jensen

226+ Watertown – Verna Messerschmidt

A National Award was presented to Tammi Chase by National Conductress Onstwedder and President Sharp

National Representative, National Conductress Onstwedder spoke about the up-coming election and mentoring younger, less experienced members.

**Nominations for the Election of Officers:** President Sharp named Mildred Ratigan as Judge and Tellers as Nancy Fickbohm and Lois Ladegaard

Credentials Committee Report - Sharon Mitchell, Credentials advised of the votes available:

District 1 = 25

District 2 = 30

District 4 = 20

District 6 = 22

District 7 = 13

District 8 = 29

District 10 = 34

There were an additional 24 votes available to Officers

This was a total of 197 votes available.

Nominations were opened for the coming year's officers. Nominees were:

President – Carrie Alm

Senior Vice President – Mary Kirkvold

Junior Vice President – Sandi Moss

Treasurer – Carol Gross and Pam Vissia

Chaplain – Donita Mullinix

Conductress – Wanda Mix

Guard – Patti Mitchell

Bible was closed by Chaplain Moss

Lunch break was from 11:30 AM to 1:00 PM

**Buddy Poppy Hat, Clothes & Display Contests** - Patti Mitchell

Best Hat – Brookings

Best Clothes – Beresford – Gerri Dahlin

Category 1 – Goodwin

Category 2 – Brookings (this display was inspired by the Patriotic Art entry from Brookings)

A skit was presented to President Karen Sharp followed by gifts. It was reported that the Past Department Presidents gave \$100 to Karen's project – Flags for Gold Star Families.

Bible was opened by Chaplain Moss.

A Memorial Service was held and the charter draped in honor of our departed brothers and sisters. National Representative, National Conductress Onstwedder gave the address.



We were visited by the VFW – Dennis Sharp, Department Commander; B.J. Lawrence, National Commander In Chief, National Representative; Gordon Paul, Chief of Staff; DD Couch, National Council Member; and Vern Hanson. After comments from the VFW, during which time we learned Department Commander Dennis Sharp made his membership goal and would be going to Ireland and also made All State Commander, they departed and Department President, Sharp; National Representative, National Conductress Onstwedder; Nancy Worth, National Recruiter Trainer; Jan Endes, Chief of Staff; and Vicki Rosse, National Councilwoman #23 went to visit the VFW side.

During the absence of the delegation to the VFW, Senior Vice President Carrie Alm was in charge and did memorials for Past Department Presidents Ruth Nordbye, Thelma Dittman and Jacqueline "Jan" Walker who all passed within the last year.

Bible was closed by Chaplain Moss  
Break from 2:45 to 3:15 PM  
Bible was opened by Chaplain Moss

Presentation of Past Department President's Jewel to Department President Sharp was made by her daughter-in-law and Auxiliary member, Laural Sharp.

Ways and Means table reported there is now \$384 collected at the table.

It was reported that we had 76 Post members, 86 Auxiliary members and 0 guests registered for the convention.

**Election of Officers:** Credentials - Sharon Mitchell went over the number of votes from 26 Auxiliaries equaled 174 voting strength and 24 Officers and PDP's to equal the total of 198 ballots.

Election of Officers was uncontested except Treasurer.

New officers for the 2017-2018 year are as follows:

President – Carrie Alm  
Sr Vice President – Mary Kirkvold  
Jr. Vice President – Sandi Moss  
Treasurer – Carol Gross  
Chaplain – Donita Mullinix  
Conductress – Wanda Mix  
Guard – Patti Mitchell

President Sharp dismissed the Judge and tellers.

**PDP Donation** given by PDP Chairman Vickie Rosse was \$100 to Cancer Aid & Research in memory of deceased PDP's this last year and \$100 to President Sharp's project of Flags to Gold Star Families.

National Representative, National Conductress Onstwedder offered some words of wisdom:

Blast will be coming out on Facebook  
Year-End Books will be available at National and on-line, but will not be mailed out.  
There are several resolutions coming up at National and she went over them in general.

Onstwedder presented a \$25 donation to Karen's project, Flags for Gold Star Families.

President Sharp thanked all the members for attending the convention and especially for their help with the convention.

President Sharp closed the convention with Closing Ritual and retiring of the colors at 4:10 PM. The Convention will officially close with the Joint Installation of Officers. Installing Officer was National Representative, National Conductress Onstwedder.

Loyally submitted,  
Nancy Chester, 2016-2017 Department Secretary

*Nancy Chester*



**VIRGINIA'S 2017-2018 NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S  
CELEBRATING AMERICA'S FREEDOM EVENT (CAFE)  
YORKTOWN, VIRGINIA**

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2017, 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM**

**YORKTOWN CAFE REGISTRATION FORM**

**CAFE Registration Fee (Thursday only): \$50/\$52.00\***  
**Deadline Date to register: September 10, 2017**

**Event Location:** Yorktown Battlefield Visitors Center  
1000 Colonial Visitors Center, Yorktown, VA 23690

**Hotel Reservations:** DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel,  
50 Kingsmill Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185  
(757) 220-2500 – See Hotel Form

**Thursday CAFE Fee Covers:**

- Transportation to National Park for CAFE
- Entrance to American Revolution Museum
- Boxed Lunch & Drink (Lunch will follow the VFW Auxiliary ceremony that will take place at Noon. Please select your sandwich below).

**\*\*\*PLEASE wear Uniform Shirt with Black  
Pants and Black Jacket – No flags.  
Wear comfortable walking shoes.\*\*\***

**COMPLETE ONE REGISTRATION FORM PER PERSON**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Department Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact :**  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone/Cell \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you have a special need? (Yes)  (No)
- Special Dietary Needs: (Yes)  (No)
- Briefly Explain: \_\_\_\_\_
- Are you bringing a Wheelchair or a Scooter? \_\_\_\_\_

**Choose your Lunch Sandwich:**  
Ham  Veggie Wrap   
Curried Chicken Salad  (Dee's fave)  
If so, can you climb a few bus steps? \_\_\_\_\_

**Do you wish to walk in Morning Parade with the National Colors (about 1.5 miles)? (Yes)  (No)**   
**(The parade is part of Yorktown Days and members of the VFW Auxiliary will walk as a group.)**

**Make checks payable to: Dept. of VA, VFW Auxiliary      Earmark check: Thursday – CAFE**

**MAIL OR EMAIL REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK/CREDIT CARD INFO TO:**

Debbie Martin, Celebration Treasurer 2017  
539 Westwood Drive, Ruckersville, VA 22968-3676  
Phone: (434) 985-7987      email: [deb0506@embarqmail.com](mailto:deb0506@embarqmail.com)

**CREDIT CARD PAYMENT:** Check one –  VISA  MASTER CARD  DISCOVER  AMERICAN EXPRESS  
Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
CVV Code: \_\_\_\_\_ (3 digit code shown on back of credit card)      **\$2 Credit Card Fee = \$52.00\***  
Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions: Please call Patricia Jurgensen, CAFE Registration Chairman**

**Phone: 703-754-1244, Cell: 703-380-3024, email: [pjurgy@aol.com](mailto:pjurgy@aol.com)**

**Registration fee will not be refunded if cancellation is received after September 30, 2017.**



**VIRGINIA'S 2017-2018 NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S  
CELEBRATION  
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA  
October 20 - 21, 2017**

**CELEBRATION REGISTRATION FORM**

**Hotel:** DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel, 50 Kingsmill Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185  
Phone (757) 220-2500 – Reservation Form attached

**Registration Fee:** \$100.00/\$103.00\*      **Deadline Date to register:** September 10, 2017

**COMPLETE ONE REGISTRATION FORM PER PERSON**

Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Department Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip sdfasd  
Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

**Emergency Contact :**  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone/Cell \_\_\_\_\_

- Do you have a special need? (Yes)  (No)
  - Special Dietary Needs: Diabetic  Peanut Allergy  Vegetarian
- Briefly Explain any Health issues/concerns: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please let us know if you are in a wheelchair due to Transportation) Yes  No



**Friday Night Tuscany Buffett (Casual Dress):** Tuscany – Pasta & Flavors of Italy  
**Saturday Night Banquet (Semi-formal) Choose:** Pork  Salmon  Vegetarian

1. Whole Grain Mustard & Black Pepper-Crusted Pork Loin w/ Wild Mushroom in Marsala Sauce
2. Pan-seared Sesame Crusted Salmon Filets
3. Vegetarian

**Make checks payable to:** Dept. of VA, VFW Auxiliary      **Earmark check:** Virginia's Celebration

**MAIL OR EMAIL REGISTRATION FORM AND CHECK/CREDIT CARD INFO TO:**

Debbie Martin, Celebration Treasurer 2017  
539 Westwood Drive, Ruckersville, VA 22968-3676  
Phone: (434) 985-7987      email: [deb0506@embarqmail.com](mailto:deb0506@embarqmail.com)

**CREDIT CARD PAYMENT:** Check one –  VISA  MASTER CARD  DISCOVER  AMERICAN EXPRESS  
Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_  
CVV Code: \_\_\_\_\_ (3 digit code shown on back of credit card)      **\$3 Credit Card Fee = \$103.00\***  
Name on Card \_\_\_\_\_ Billing Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Questions:** Please call Patricia Jurgensen, Registration Chairman  
Phone: 703-754-1244, Cell: 703-380-3024, email: [pjurgy@aol.com](mailto:pjurgy@aol.com)

**Registration fee will not be refunded if cancellation is received after September 30, 2017.**



**VIRGINIA'S 2017-2018 NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S  
CAFE and CELEBRATION  
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA  
October 18 - 22, 2017**

**TRANSPORTATION REQUEST  
for American or Delta Flights**

Courtesy transportation will be provided **ONLY** from the **NEWPORT NEWS/WILLIAMSBURG** Airport to the **DoubleTree Hotel** and your return to the airport. This transportation is provided by VFW and Auxiliary volunteers.

There is **NO** VFW transportation from the **NORFOLK** or **RICHMOND** Airports. You could get a rental car for transportation. There is no Hotel shuttle to/from any Airport.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

AIRLINE: \_\_\_\_\_

ARRIVAL DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME: \_\_\_\_\_ FLIGHT #: \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTURE DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME: \_\_\_\_\_ FLIGHT #: \_\_\_\_\_

CELL PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

List names of everyone traveling with you: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** If you are arriving **before** October 18, 2017 or departing **after** October 22, 2017, you will need to arrange for your own transportation. [We can pick-up folding wheelchairs; folks with Electric Scooters must arrange their own Transportation.](#)

Greeters will be at the baggage area and direct you to the VFW Shuttle/Vehicles.

Mail or E-mail Transportation Form to:

Name: VFW Post 9808 (POC: Mike Boehme, Commander 2017-18, Dept. of VA)

Address: 7168 Flag Lane, Mechanicsville, VA 23111

Phone: 804-746-9808 for Reservation      Emergency Cell: 804-402-8651

Email: VFWPost9808@comcast.net

**TRANSPORTATION WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE IF THIS FORM IS NOT RETURNED!**

***\*If you are attending both CAFE and the Celebration, you only need to submit this form once\****



**VIRGINIA'S 2017-2018 NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S  
CAFE and CELEBRATION  
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA  
October 18 - 22, 2017**

Please make your reservations directly with the hotel either via the hotel's website link or by calling the phone number below. When making your reservations, please use our group name to receive group rate discount.

**HOTEL INFORMATION**



DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel  
50 Kingsmill Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185

**For phone reservations please dial:  
(800) 222-8733**

Reference group name **VFW Auxiliary**

**For online reservations please visit:**

**www.Williamsburg.DoubleTree.com**

*On the left of the page enter the dates of your arrival **OCT 18 or 19, 2017** and **select "Add special rate code."** Under **"Group Code,"** enter **VET**. The group rate for this event is \$124.00 per night. Total with tax & fee: \$139.00*

➤ **Reservation Deadline:** It is important for reservations to be received by **SEP 10, 2017**.

Hotel Phone: 1-757-220-2500	Check In: 4 pm
Hotel Fax: 1-757-221-0653	Check out: 11 am

Room Amenities

- large HDTV
- WiFi and
- a mini-fridge
- room service

Dining:

- Three on-site dining options &
- a convenient internet café
- lounge

Parking:

- Self parking: (complimentary)
- Valet: Not Available

**LOCAL ATTRACTIONS:**

- Busch Gardens at Williamsburg (hotel shuttle will take you)
- Williamsburg Winery Tours
- Colonial Williamsburg
- Colonial Plantation Tours
- Golf at Kingsmill (site of LPGA)
- Premium Outlets Shopping Mall (10 miles)

For Tours, please research Colonial Williamsburg on the web for your options.

\_\_\_\_\_ **Auxiliary Community Service Report**

**Project Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

**# of Volunteers:** \_\_\_\_\_ **# of Youth Volunteers:** \_\_\_\_\_

**# of Hours Spent:** \_\_\_\_\_ (X \$19.50 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_)

**# of Miles Driven:** \_\_\_\_\_ (X \$0.30 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_)

**Auxiliary Funds Spent:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Donated Funds:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**# of Those Benefited:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Details:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Date Submitted**

**Project Contact Person**

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\_\_\_\_\_ **Auxiliary Community Service Report**

**Project Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date of Activity:** \_\_\_\_\_

**# of Volunteers:** \_\_\_\_\_ **# of Youth Volunteers:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Donated Funds:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**# of Those Benefited:** \_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Project Details:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Date Submitted**

**Project Contact Person**

*Americanism Patriotic  
General Orders July 2017  
Catch the Dream for Our Veterans  
Accentuate the Positive -The Future is now  
Pam Vissia, Box 371, Plankinton SD 57368  
Email: [pvissia@siouxvalley.net](mailto:pvissia@siouxvalley.net)*

Greetings Fellow Brothers and Sisters:

I hope that everyone that attended the Convention this year had a great time. What an awesome convention we had. Kudos to the Pierre Auxiliary for all the work they did.

I want to Thank President Karen for giving me the opportunity last year to be the chairman and also to President Carrie for the honor and privilege of doing it again this year. I am so excited to see what the year has in store for us. The national theme this year is Catch the Dream for Our Veterans and the South Dakota theme is Accentuate the Positive-The Future is now! I look forward to nothing but positive things coming out of the Auxiliary this year.

Just around the corner is Independence Day and what better way than to fly our American Flag and decorate our yards with flags.

I am hoping to share some of the different ideas from the Auxiliaries from across the state in future General Orders. I was so amazed and impressed what the auxiliaries across the state do to promote Americanism. I truly enjoyed reading all the reports. Keep up the good work everyone.

The new school year will be here before we know it so start thinking of different ideas and promotions to educate our youth. I will try and do some research and find some new and exciting ideas to share with everyone.

One of our life members shared a fundraising project that an organization was doing in their community. What a fun idea it is. The member reports that they have been flagged! What happens is during the middle of the night a mystery person sneaks into the yard and places a sign "Flags for Veterans" and explains on



the sign that in order to have the flags removed they are asked to make a donation for a special project you may have. When the donation is made they person then requests you remove the sign and flags and place it in another yard of a friend. They also place 6 or 8 flags in the yard. We did this several years ago as a fund raiser and used the pink flamingos and it was quite the conversation piece at the coffee shops and people would drive around to see what yard was next. What a great way to promote Americanism and Patriotism in your community.

I am looking forward to another exciting year and remember to write down everything that you do.

I am open to any ideas or suggestions from anyone and please feel free to contact me at anytime. We can brainstorm together.

Have a great 4<sup>th</sup> of July everyone and look forward to seeing some of you at the retreat in Grenville. I plan on attending and hope to have some ideas ready to share with everyone.

Respectfully submitted

Pam Vissia

Americanism & Patriotic Instructor

**VFW AUXILIARY**  
**DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA HOSPITAL**

**Accentuate the Positive**

**BULLETIN #1, JULY 2017**

Thank you President, Carrie Alm, for asking to me to once again chair this position. Last year was truly a learning experience and I plan to use those skills and add to them, to make the Hospitals, State Home for Veterans, and Nursing Homes a better place for our Veterans.

The goal of the Hospital & VAVS program is to meet the needs of hospitalized patients in VA Medical Centers and other hospitals throughout this country. With the influx of this generation's veterans and the rise in long-term rehabilitative services, there is a greater need for volunteers. However, volunteering needs are changing. Be sure to speak with your local VAVS Representative to find out how you can serve these special veterans.

Ladies Auxiliary VFW members have been volunteering in the hospitals and medical facilities since the organization's inception in 1914. The Hospital Program was one of the first nationally adopted programs for the organization.

**Who can serve?**

Members

Non-members

Youth

Families

**Where can we serve?**

Members, non-members and youth can volunteer in many different types of facilities under this program.

Local hospitals

Veterans' homes

Nursing homes

Domiciliary

Both VA and non-VA medical centers and clinics

**What can we do?**

Volunteer opportunities are different based on the facility in which you are volunteering. Some facilities will have a volunteer program in place with specific jobs, events, and needs. Many facilities will have varying types of opportunities with different ages and abilities. Be sure you follow all the guidelines given by the facility and regularly ask how you can assist them.

The Hospital program has always been very focused on the Veteran!

Leanne Payne - Dept. of South Dakota Hospital/VAVS chairman

Phone: 605-942-7568

E-mail: [oldcripp@siouxvalley.net](mailto:oldcripp@siouxvalley.net)

PO Box 126, Plankinton, SD 57368

I want to thank President Carrie for appointing me to serve as the Legislative Chairman for the Department of South Dakota for the coming year. I will do my best to keep you and the Sisters/Brothers up to date on all the current and important Legislative information.

It is imperative that we take care of our Veterans by working with the Legislature on all levels. This includes local, state and national levels. Now is the time for us to start taking action on the Legislative level to protect our Veterans, Active Military and National Guardsmen.

We ask that all Auxiliaries take part in any way they can, to protect the rights of our heroes. There is no one more deserving. It is rather simple and does not take much time or money – you can send emails to all your legislatures on all levels, write letters, make phone calls, educate your communities by putting articles in the local or area newspapers, etc.

Here’s the addresses and emails of South Dakota’s Senators and Representatives. Please keep them handy so you can write, email, and/or call them to inform them on how you feel on certain Legislation for the Veterans.

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Sen. John Thune - 511 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515  
<http://www.thune.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/contact> Phone: (202) 224-2321

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Sen. Mike Rounds – 502 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20515  
<http://www.rounds.senate.gov/content/contact-mik> Phone: (202) 224-5842

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Rep. Kristi Noem – 2422 Rayburn House Office Bldg. Washington, D.C. 20515  
<http://noem.house.gov/index.cfm/email-kristi> Phone: (202) 225-2801

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Another way of keeping informed is to go to the VFW Auxiliary website:

- www.vfwauxiliary.org and find out:
- How to sign up for the VFW Action Corp Weekly
- How to access the Veterans Vote Brochure
- VFW Fact Sheet
- VFW Checkpoint Newsletter

Loyally,

Wanda R. Mix  
Email: [wandarmix@gmail.com](mailto:wandarmix@gmail.com)

Phone: Cell 605-690-0170 205 Mustang Pass  
Brookings, SD 57006

# MEMBERSHIP

General Orders #1 - July 2017

National Theme: Catch the Dream for Our Veterans  
SD Department Themes: Accentuate the Positive  
The Future Is Now

Brothers and Sisters, we have a challenge ahead of us!! The challenge is to get 100% Membership as soon as possible!! WE CAN DO IT!! There are numerous men and women out there who are eligible for our Organization. We just have to ask!! I, myself, was eligible to join the Auxiliary many (more than I care to say) years before someone finally asked me. The best way to get new members is to ask, but, I am getting ahead of myself.

First things first. . . Do you know someone who didn't pay their dues last year? Talk to them, find out why. Maybe they have not been asked to participate, they haven't been mentored, someone signed them up to get a new member and forgot that to grow our organization, we must nurture it. Nurturing or mentoring is very important. Just as you can't plant a seed and expect it to grow, you can't sign up a member and expect them to automatically be involved. Get a list from your local Membership Chairman or Treasurer and then go out and pay them a visit, find out why they didn't pay their dues. They might not drive at night, may not drive at all, or maybe they are shy. They said yes, they really want to be involved but someone slipped up and didn't contact them about meeting time or place. We live in a very busy world and it is easy to let things slip through the cracks. I have talked to members from across the State and learned that many of our Auxiliaries are learning to embrace the ways of nurturing our new members to grow our organization for years to come.

I am asking every one of you to carry a Membership application with you always – at least one. As you check out at the grocery store, mention the Auxiliary and some of the things we do for the Veterans. It is not hard to do. We have many opportunities during a trip to town to generate interest in this great Veterans Organization. You can also carry a membership application for the VFW.

There were 18 Auxiliaries with over 100% in the 2016-2017 year. We can make that 100% of our Auxiliaries with over 100% before December if we get out there and ASK, ASK, ASK. You will be eligible for a "Catch Five" pin when you recruit five new and/or rejoin Auxiliary members starting July 1, 2017 through April 30, 2018. There will be a copy of the form in General Orders #2 which will have to be in to National Headquarters by May 31, 2018. I will have lots more information for you next time. I am very excited and have so much to tell all of you. I have some special surprises for this year. Meanwhile, get out and recruit new members, without them our Organization will not survive.

Loyally,

*Sandi Moss*

Sandi Moss

sandimoss46@gmail.com

10577 Dogwood Lane

Rapid City, SD 57702-8625

Home: 605-341-0442 Cell: 605-431-6897

**CATCH THE DREAM FOR OUR VETERANS**  
**ACCENTUATE THE POSITIVE, THE FUTURE IS NOW**

**GENERAL ORDERS #1**

**SCHOLARSHIPS: DONITA MULLINIX, CHAIRMAN**

I would like to thank President Carrie for appointing me as this year's Scholarships Chairman. Each of our scholarships encourages patriotism, and assists students in attaining an education. We have four scholarships: Continuing Education, Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest, Voice of Democracy (VOD), and Patriot's Pen Essay (PP).

Continuing Education Scholarship is open to any Auxiliary member (who has belonged for at least one year), spouse, son or daughter with a financial need and at least 18 years old. Entrant must complete the application and submit an essay of 300 words or less. \$1,000 will be awarded to the winning applicant. Deadline is February 15, 2018

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest is open to all students, including home-schooled students, in grades 9-12. No digital art will be accepted, and artwork must be on canvas or paper. Students must attend school in the state of the sponsoring Auxiliary. Deadline is March 31, 2018.

Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contest is open to all students, including home-schooled students in grades 9-12. This year's theme is: **OUR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE**. The deadline is October 31, 2017. Our Dept. winner will receive an all-expense paid trip to Washington, DC.

The Patriot's Pen Essay Contest is open to all students, including home-schooled students, in grades 6-8. Student must be a resident of the state where entered. The theme for PP is: **AMERICA'S GIFT TO MY GENERATION** and the deadline is October 31, 2017.

For a complete list of rules and an entry form go to the VFW Programs Guide or log onto the VFW Auxiliaries Web site at [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org). I will have more information on the awards in the upcoming GO. The sooner we can get the information to the schools the easier it will be for the teachers to work it into her lesson plans. You can also run off a copy of the contests rules from the web site. If I can be of any further help, contact me at [do\\_mullinix@yahoo.com](mailto:do_mullinix@yahoo.com) or 605-763-5595.

Loyally

Donita Mullinix  
Dept. Scholarship Chairman

Auxiliary VFW, Department of South Dakota

VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM 2017- 2018

General Orders Bulletin # 1

July 2017

**The Dandelion – The Flower of the Military Child**

The official flower of the military child is the dandelion. Why? The plant puts down roots almost anywhere, and it's almost impossible to destroy. It's an unpretentious plant, yet good looking. It's a survivor in a broad range of climates. Military children bloom everywhere the winds carry them. They are hardy and upright. Their roots are strong, cultivated deeply in the culture of the military, planted swiftly and surely. They're ready to fly in the breezes that take them to new adventures, new lands, and new friends. Experts say that military children are well-rounded, culturally aware, tolerant, and extremely resilient. Military children have learned from an early age that home is where their hearts are, that a good friend can be found in every corner of the world, and that education doesn't only come from school. They live history. They learn that to survive means to adapt, that the door that closes one chapter of their life opens up to a new and exciting adventure full of new friends and new experiences.

**Veterans & Family Support** is truly the "heart and soul" of who we are as an organization and what we do. As family members of veterans, the Ladies Auxiliary VFW is *first and foremost a veterans' service organization founded on the principle of helping veterans*. So, what better way to continue assisting our veterans and their families than through the Veterans & Family Support program? This program, more than any other, *is our opportunity to thank those who served or who are serving and to ensure that every veteran and every veteran's family is never forgotten and is always taken well care of*. One program that encompasses so much. Overwhelming? Absolutely not. Quite the contrary. At its most simplistic definition is comes down to – **"What have you done for a veteran or his/her family today?"** Pretty simple. Wouldn't you agree? It is a program with endless possibilities.

**Our troops and their families** need support now more than ever remember, to keep your Adopt-A-Unit active, must receive an annual Adopt-A-Unit activity report. Units in need of your help I have names of unit's that need your help or to adopt a unit.

**Why should you Adopt-a-Unit?** To support your local military members & families - To help connect military members with the network of resources the VFW has available - To help you recruit new members

**Every day the VFW and VFW Auxiliary are supporting our troops around the world.** Our members offer support in so many ways: Sending care packages to deployed troops - Hosting send-off and welcome-home events - Assisting military families get through long deployments -And the list goes on and on.

**Buddy Poppy:** Here are some important things to consider when preparing for your Buddy Poppy distribution: Identify potential volunteers within your Post and Auxiliary and gather them together for an informational meeting explaining the purpose of the Buddy Poppy campaign. Choose high traffic areas and determine the number of workers you need to cover the locations. Ideal locations include storefronts, office or factory entrances and recreational areas. Make sure you get permission from the business owners before setting up shop. Post

flyers around town in key areas such as the Post Office, coffee shops, gas stations, etc. It will let people know when and where they can get a Buddy Poppy. Remind your volunteers that they are not "selling" Buddy Poppies, but distributing them with the hope of getting donations.

**How can members best support the VFW Post with this program?** Remember that our communities can be involved in almost every aspect of our VFW and Auxiliary Program. • Promote Buddy Poppies • Assist with National Veterans Service and National Military Services • Participate in Hospital volunteerism • Participate in and receive VFW programs. \*Ask your local groups to help: ROTC and Sea Cadet groups can post colors, Scouting groups can conduct flag awareness programs, young people can assist veterans with Buddy Poppy drives and promotions, they can assist with patriotic holiday activities such as placing flags on gravesites or singing to or reading to veterans in nursing homes or hospitals. We have available to us an endless resource of energy and activity. We have only to ask the youth of our community to get involved and we will reap the benefits.

#### **VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM 2017-2018**

**Patti Mitchell**

**888 Slowacki Avenue, Grenville. SD 57239**

**cell phone # 605-280-0777 – Office # 605-486-0016**

**e-mail [pattimitchell4@hotmail.com](mailto:pattimitchell4@hotmail.com)**

VFW Auxiliary, Department of South Dakota  
YOUTH ACTIVITIES  
“Catch the Dream for Our Veterans”  
“Accentuate the Positive—The Future Is Now”  
Bulletin #1, July, 2017

Greetings Auxiliary Members and welcome to a new and exciting Auxiliary year! I am very excited and honored to be your Department Youth Activities Chairman. Thank you, President Carrie for placing your trust in me.

The VFW Auxiliary strives to help teach our nation's youth the skills to become responsible adults through serving our country, communities, veterans and active-duty military. We have a new generation of veterans who need the support of family, friends and country as they serve overseas and when they come home from conflicts abroad. Engaging youth in positive volunteer experiences are one of the ways we can offer support to our veterans.

There are a number of youth programs that your auxiliary can sponsor and/or request their assistance in your many activities:

- Youth sports teams (**any of your school's teams—including your VFW Teener Baseball**)
- Church youth groups
- After-school programs
- Youth-focused organizations (**ie: Boys Clubs and Girls Clubs**)
- School clubs (**ie: FHA—FCCLA—Honors Society**)
- Home-school associations
- Youth community service groups (**ie: Boy Scouts—Girl Scouts—4-H Clubs**)
- Nonprofit organization youth advisory councils
- Service learning and civic departments in high schools and colleges

The Auxiliary offers a special recognition for our youth. It's called **Random Acts of Patriotism (R.A.P.)** We encourage and reward patriotism through R.A.P. If a child is seen thanking a veteran, properly placing their hand on their heart during the Pledge of Allegiance or involved in some other activity that promotes patriotism, we suggest giving them a R.A.P. card and/or coin. It's a fun and unique way to engage children elementary age and younger! The coins can be purchased through the VFW Store and the cards can be printed from the VFW Auxiliary website.

For youth groups that support our veterans, the Auxiliary offers a very special citation, **Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans** citation. Youth groups can be recognized for their efforts and service projects honoring our veterans and assisting active-duty military and their families. Great traditions and citizenship start at an early age. We recognize these bright young citizens for their good work to ensure these activities become a part of their daily lives. The citation application is available on the Auxiliary's website, [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org)

If you have any questions or concerns when working with our youth, the Auxiliary website has **10 Tips for Working with Youth**. I have included this with my bulletin.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. Many thanks for all you do for our Veterans and their families.

Loyally,  
Jan Endes

Phone: 605-452-3270

Email: [tendes@goldenwest.net](mailto:tendes@goldenwest.net)



## **10 Tips for Working with Youth**

When working with youth, it is important to consider their safety and needs. We would like to offer these tips and resources so that you can make sure that all youth you encounter have the best experience possible.

1. Consider taking Youth Protection training. Many organizations working with youth provide and require training. One of the best known is done by Boy Scouts. You do not need to be a member or even involved with the program in order to take their free online training. Find it here: <http://www.scouting.org/Training/youthprotection.aspx>
2. Always respect the time commitments of youth. They are very busy. Be clear about when an event or project starts and how long it will go for. Parents also very much appreciate it when their child is finished at the stated time.
3. Parents should always be welcome to stay and take part in the activity.
4. No matter the project or event, make sure that proper safety measures are taken for everyone involved. Also, be sure that activities or projects are age appropriate.
5. Be extremely conscious of the location where you bring or meet the youths.
6. Do not smoke, drink or use drugs around them.
7. If you are taking youth somewhere other than the Post home or a school, consider getting permission slips from every parent, and make sure the parents understand that the children may be riding in personal vehicles.
8. Receive training from your local Child Abuse Prevention Council or Child Protective Center on the Mandated Suspected Child Abuse Reporting Laws in your state for those working with children.
9. Find out if you need to have individuals working with youth/children fingerprinted before working with youth. There may be laws in your state.
10. Maintain and model healthy boundaries with children – be a role model. Remember it is never appropriate to display acts of violence or abuse around or towards children.

Remember that it only takes a minute to make a difference in the life of a child. There are lots of small, positive things we can all do to help protect and nurture our children that only take a minute. A few words of praise and encouragement to a child, listening carefully to what a child has to say, showing a child you care, all are simple actions that added together have been shown to have a profound impact on a child's life. In these very real ways, we can all support children and strengthen families.