

TEXAS VFW AUXILIARY

OUR TWO ¢ENTS

VOL 35 ISSUE 3

September 2024

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

**“Thankful & Grateful for the Sacrifice”
“From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to Our Veterans”**

COMMENTS FROM THE PRESIDENT—IRMA SOLIS

Well...here we are!! School is in full swing. Our auxiliary year has begun. Districts have started their Schools of Instruction and some even started their inspections. Members and auxiliaries have been given information at every level to ensure we have a successful year taking care of veterans and their families.

The National Convention was busy with lots of walking as usual. The program presentations were very informative. I want to extend congratulations to our immediate Past Department President, Susie Carter, on getting into the Circle of Excellence Award. Also, I want to offer a special congratulations to all the 2023-2024 chairman on the awards they won. Great job! Those awards were listed in the last edition of Our Two Cents.

Now, we are off Eaton Rapids Michigan to the Celebrating America's Freedom Event (CAFÉ) at the VFW National Home. It will be exciting to be there for this amazing event. I will share the highlights upon our return.

District Presidents- Some of you have already started with the inspections of your

auxiliaries. I would like to say "Good job!" I will be starting my visits this month also. Please remember to send a copy of those visit reports to the Chief of Staff Patsy Kemp so she can work with you on any problems or concerns. Hopefully, Voice of Democracy (VOD) and Patriot's pen (PP) information has been shared with all your local schools and home school groups. Please be sure to follow up and remind counselors, teachers and students of the deadline of 31 October.

Let us all work together and always be "Thankful & Grateful for the Sacrifice" that our veterans have made. "From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to our Veterans" is our goal. Until next month, Blessings to All

Irma Solis



CHIEF OF STAFF / EXTENSION/REVITALIZATION/ MENTORING

PATRICIA KEMP
4700 London Circle
Orange, TX 77632
409-886-2796 (h) or 409-988-3269 (c)

Be the Reason Why - Someone feels included, welcomed, valued, listened to, supported and loved.

YOU are the Why! Each and everyone of us should be the reason others want to belong to the VFW Auxiliary.

We just returned from National Convention. My Ambassador, Betty Arnold, and the other Ambassadors did an excellent job of giving encouragement, excitement and showing we can have fun and still achieve success in all of our programs.

September is the month we hope to be able to see the leaves change colors and cool winds begin to blow. We also want to see all Auxiliaries starting their programs, working membership and spreading the Good News- of our hard work.

I have not received as many Auxiliary Mentor Request Forms, for the number that are working hard and making a big difference. If you are or plan to be a Mentor for your Auxiliary or District let me know. The strength of all Auxiliaries is measured by each member's commitment to making their Auxiliary "strong & healthy." That is what a mentor does. MENTORING is a Working Word in the Auxiliary vocabulary. Helping new members work on our programs, encourage them to be officers and most importantly make them feel needed. We are all mentors and must show that being Kind & Courteous to all members, at all times, can be done.

I am "Thankful & Grateful for Your Service," to all that are working so hard to make their Auxiliary the Best It Can Be. And keeping it in the GREEN LIGHT area.

District Presidents, you are the one the auxiliaries will go to if they have problems and can not handle them in their own auxiliary. It is

always better to handle all problems yourself, but if this cannot be achieved, contact your Department President. She is there ready to assist in whatever way to make tis a great Department. Remember, get all facts before making a decision. This will eliminate a lot of problems by being through.

Auxiliary Presidents, have you gone to Malta and looked at all of the resources you can use? The Good Job Certificates used throughout the year are always appreciated. People that do the most for an auxiliary's advancement are often the ones who demand the least recognition. That makes acknowledging their hard work even more special.

"From Our Roots to Our Branches. Extending Service to Our Veterans". There are four steps to accomplishment: Plan purposefully. Prepare prayerfully. Proceed positively. Pursue persistently. By doing this, we will have honored out past and strengthened our future.

I am as close as the phone, email or mailbox. No question is a bad question. Until next month, may God be with each one. Now, set your goals, plan activities that will draw in the community, get your smile on and show your enthusiasm.

Till next time – God Bless Patsy



Program Coordinator

Debbie Daniel

Hello Team Texas.... We are home from the National Convention, stoked, full of information and ready to knock the socks off the rest of the country as we get started on our "Thankful & Grateful For The Sacrifice" year. Your Department Chairmen are well equipped with all the info Texas needs to start kicking.



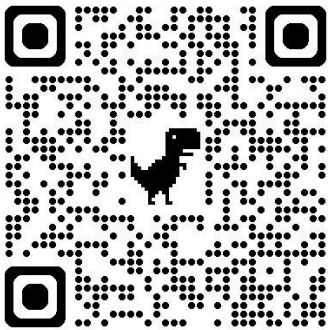
Please utilize your Department of Texas program development book. Contact info is listed for each chair and/or co-chair. Don't hesitate to reach out to these chairmen if you have any questions. Have a fantastic month as we go "From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to our Veterans" Go Team Texas !!!

MEMBERSHIP

Gerald Spradlin, Chairman Cyndy Yancey Co-Chair

"From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans"
"Thankful and Grateful for the Sacrifice"

Hello, Team Texas!! IT'S HEEERE!! The Membership QR Code has been launched! You can share it with prospective members and give them access to information about being a member of our organization as well as access to a fillable application that can then be printed out for them to sign and submit with proof of their eligibility. How sweet is that!?! Here it is:



We are extremely excited to have a better way of sharing membership information

with new people who may be eligible for membership in a way that will appeal to younger future members and reach more of them where they are...online and on their devices! Keep the QR code with you and on your phone so it can be shared easily and quickly. Spread your branches out to meet these potential new members through their devices and social media.

Let's all work together and get the Department of Texas to 100% by December 15, 2024, so we are at 100% before the end of 2024! Let's show everyone that the Department of Texas is the best Department in the VFW Auxiliary and **Team Texas** can achieve anything we work together on! Keep working on your JustOne; have you found yours yet and brought them on to the Team? Get out there and share this QR Code! Add it to your Facebook pages, newsletters, and to your recruiting efforts.

We look forward to hearing about your successes!



VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Missi Palmore Chairman

Here we are looking at the month of September where has this year already gone? Sometimes time seems to slip away and then again it may just hang in limbo. For most of us we move through the days and weeks like normal, but to some it can get to be overwhelming and too much to handle. Getting caught in the daily battle can be too much for many, causing a staggering reported 20 veterans to die by suicide daily. That is a narrative I believe deep in my TEXAS soul each of us can help champion to change both the stigma of the enemy that our veterans are fighting against and help change the direction of that narrative. And it starts with each of us and our little 'ole Auxiliaries here in this great state of Texas showing the love **From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to Our Veterans.**

So how do we start looking to change the stigma or change the direction of narrative? It can all start with conversations in your canteens or meeting, being out in your communities, events to support to emotional well-being, opening your ears and hearts, lending a hand to a friend, and/or talking to your little blue soldier to bounce some ideas off them to see what sounds like some actionable ideas to support our troops and help fight this battle.

In 2008, September was first declared National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. A month dedicated to remembering the lives lost to suicide, and to the millions of people who have struggled with suicidal ideation and acknowledge those impacted. It all starts with looking at our emotional well-being and being able to talk openly about that narrative.

As we work together on changing the direction of our emotional well-being, we should all concentrate on the following healthy habits of emotional well-being: take care, check in, engage, relax, and know the 5-signs*. What are the 5-signs* you may ask, they are the five signs of

emotional suffering: personality change, agitation, withdrawal, poor self-care, and hopelessness.

If you recognize someone if suffering reach out, connect with them. Let them know someone is there, someone has "their 6", that you have time to listen, or you can offer help.

It was asked in the training why are some things interpretations or suggestions, each Auxiliary knows their footprint or community. Find what works for YOUR community and serve your VETERANS. Find the best ways to help assist with veteran suicide prevention in September.

MALTA has links veteran's crisis line and the suicide awareness teardrop stickers. September 10 th is World National Suicide Prevention Day. Perhaps print out the stickers and links hand out the information in your community to show support to your veterans as a way of support.

In your program books (page 92) for the State Project, it was listed to raise funds to support Texas Veterans Suicide Prevention and submit check(s) earmarked Texas Suicide Prevention. I would like to expand that to either one of the following excellent platforms being utilized by the comrade's side of the house: 1tribefoundation (1tribefoundation.org) OR Operation Daily Battle (www.operationsdailybattle.org). We are all so honored for the life and freedom we are given today. Let us work to ensure we work hard to show that we are Thankful & Grateful for the Sacrifices.

A ten-gallon thank you for all the great reports coming in. I see some fabYOUlous things being done to show love for our Texas Veterans. Keep up the great work and send in those reports!



DON'T FORGET!!

For additional support for your Suicide Awareness and Prevention events, reach out to a Military Order of the Cootie Pup Tent or Auxiliary and ask them to participate or help! They get credit for the Big Boot Program and you get some extra hands for your event!!

HOSPITAL/VAVS

A Big Texas Greeting to All our Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers in this Great State!

September is suicide prevention month. September 10 is Worldwide Suicide Awareness Day. During September, and throughout the year, we can care about suicide prevention; connect to community, culture, data, and research; and collaborate with others to address this public health problem that has impacted millions of Americans.

Our Veterans are at a higher risk of suicide due to their military experience and current physical condition. Include us as caregivers to our loved ones and our friends as well. Life is very stressful. How we cope is a major part of our mental health.

Know the Warning Signs: Some warning signs may help you determine if a Veteran is at risk for suicide, especially if the behavior is new, has increased, or seems related to a painful event, loss, or change. If someone you know exhibits any of these, seek help.

Behavior like:

- ⇒ Looking for a way to kill themselves, like searching online or buying a gun.
- ⇒ Talking about feeling hopeless or having no reason to live.
- ⇒ Talking about feeling trapped or in unbearable pain.
- ⇒ Talking about being a burden to others.
- ⇒ Increasing the use of alcohol or

Glenda Hunt

drugs.

- ⇒ Acting anxious or agitated; behaving recklessly.
- ⇒ Sleeping too little or too much. Withdrawing or isolating themselves.
- ⇒ Showing rage or talking about seeking revenge.
- ⇒ Extreme mood swings.

Start a conversation. We don't have to be an expert to talk to Veterans facing challenges. We just need to show genuine care and concern. We remember, understand and honor our Veteran's military service.

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline is a 24/7 confidential crisis support for Veterans and their loved ones. Dial 988, then PRESS 1. You may also Chat Online, or text 838255. The call is free, and you can decide how much information to share. You will also be connected with resources that can help when you're in distress.

Note about reporting. Tell your story. Explain in detail your event. Tell why, when, where, who, how, and amount of funds spent. You are appreciated.

We serve our Veterans with caring hearts and helping hands. (:



DISTRICT MEETINGS

Sept 14—District 20 Post 7108

Sept 14— District 14 9192 (Pres Visit)

Oct 5—Dist 2 Beaumont

Oct 5—District 8 Abilene (Pres Visit)

Oct 12—District 29 Hewitt (Pres Visit)

Oct 19—District 3 Lancaster

Oct 19—District 6 Corpus Christi

Oct 19—Dist 30 Ennis

Oct 20 Dist 13 Del Rio (Pres Visit)

Oct 26—District 9 Dumas

Oct 26—District 19 Hemphill (Pres Visit)

Oct 27—Dist 21 Ft Worth

OFFICE INFO

Office Information

Hours: Monday – Thursday
8:00 am – 4:00 pm

Phone: 512-834-9190
Asst Secretary/Treasurer Press #1
Secretary Press #2
Treasurer Press #3

Fax: 512-834-0747

Addresses:

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PO Box 15285
Austin, Texas 78761

Dept. of Texas VFW Auxiliary
8503 North IH 35
Austin, Texas 78753

Office Staff

Secretary—Natalie Copeland
Treasurer—JoElla Menn
Asst Secretary—Margie Menzel
Asst Treasurer—Shary Tutt

CORRECTIONS

SMALL DIRECTORY

Ronny Mote
512.541.8494

Past Dept President 2001-2002
Kay Paulk
17780 Robin Rd
Canyon TX 79015-7001

LARGE ROSTER

Dist 21 Benbrook Auxiliary
10429
Treasurer's email
jeneagle46@yahoo.com

Aux 7835 Granbury meets 4th
Monday of the month

AMERICANISM/PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

Amanda Humphrey/Paula Welling

Hello, Hello to the Great State of Texas! My Oh My hasn't this summer just flown by? School clothes shopping and supplies have been purchased and hopefully get used this year! With all the kiddos back in school comes football games and other activities!! With September coming up on us so quickly please be prepared, have a stand down meeting with your post, this will make sure everyone is on the same page.! I hope that everyone has made plans to recognize as many of the Patriotic Holidays as possible. How "Thankful & Grateful for the Sacrifice" are you?? "From our roots to our branches, extending service to our Veterans" by remembering to email your reports on all that you do. If you ever have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at any time!! Amanda Humphrey 1-254-317-6345 Please text first in case I don't recognize the number or have it saved. tx.vfwaux.americanism@gm

ail.com When you email, Paula and I both will receive it. Thank you all for all that you do, you are appreciated and loved.



Be looking at the October Patriotic Holidays and start planning now.

10/7 Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) Afghanistan
10/13 US Navy Birthday
10/23 Beirut Bombing



THIS SPACE AVAILABLE FOR ADVERTISING SPECIAL EVENTS.

We would like to hear from you! Do you have suggestions for the Our 2 Cents, Let us know what you like or do not like.

Email to:

Secretary@texasvfwaux.org

Have a big event you want the Department to know about? Send it to us and we will get it in. Remember, these are put together a month in advance. Deadline for input is the 10th day of the previous Month.

HAPPENINGS

Sept 2

LABOR DAY

Sept 7–12th

Annual C.A.F.E

VFW National Home

Sept 11

Patriot Day

Sept 14th

VFW AUXILIARY Birthday

Sept 20th

POW-MIA Day

Sept 29th

Gold Star Family Day

Sept 29th

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS Birthday

NURSING SCHOLARSHIP

Renee Clark Chairman

JUST DO SOMETHING FUN WITH CLIP ART!



HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS

Marissa Anderson

Thank you to those at the Post and District Levels promoting our organization on their Facebook pages. I have been working on getting together a database of links to all these pages for quick reference that can be added to distribution allies like the website. To assist, please send a link to your Facebook page to me at my email, marissahanderson1120@gmail.com. Looking at it myself so far, I have noticed 2 major things I want to clarify. Firstly, for a VFW Auxiliary to share a Facebook page with their Post side and still “count”, the Facebook page name must include “Auxiliary” to show that we are represented by the posts made on the page. Secondly, there is a difference between a Facebook page and a Facebook group. If you would like to have a group, private or public, for your members to share ideas, resources, etc., that is a great resource you can utilize. However, for our purposes, a page is more beneficial to reach out to our community with news and information about our organization. I’ve heard that some people are running into issues utilizing the pre-made Facebook posts provided in the Malta Resources. I’m not sure, personally, why Facebook flags these posts on some people’s pages and not on others. My best advice would be to utilize photos along with your post to personalize the posts more or reword the information in your own words. Speak to your followers like you’re speaking in person – this is the best way to keep the automated systems from thinking you’re a robot!

Greetings to All;

Can you believe it's already September? With our State training and National convention behind us we're ready to charge ahead. "Ain't no stopping us now, we're on the move advocating for our veterans' rights.

Our National Ambassador Deanne Guyette wants us to promote Legislative bills that make it to Capitol Hill at a local level. We need to ensure that our elected officials understand how important it is to protect our veterans. We need to make sure they understand what our veterans have done for us and the sacrifices they made to secure our freedom.

One way to do this is by inviting local officials to special patriotic events and dinners. Ambassador Guyette says "There's nothing more impactful than being witness to veterans being honored, recognized or remembered". These events would also provide opportunities for direct communication with local government officials.

Refer others to visit the VFW website and sign them up for the Action Corps Weekly. Currently, the website has information regarding how to identify and avoid predatory 'claim sharks' who charge a fee to file a VA disability claim. An action alert was released to garner support to pass H.R. 8371, Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st. We must advocate bringing awareness to this bill.

Our work does not stop with the VFW website, Action Corps, or action alerts. This year, we need to focus our advocacy efforts at the local government level and on working with our own VFW Posts to have our voices heard. There is another Action Alert. It's the Major Richard Star Act in the NDAA. We

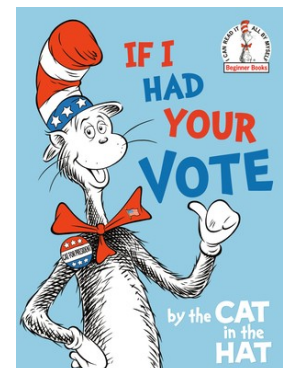
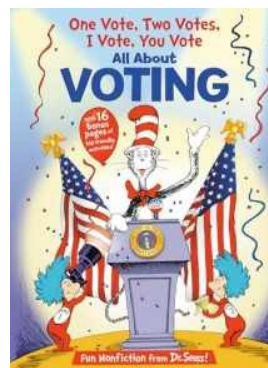
must ensure that benefits for combat-wounded veterans are improved, and not eroded...

Interesting fact: September is a month for reflecting. Reminding us of what our veterans and country had endured. Sept 11, known as – Patriot Day – is now an annual observance to remember and honor day for those who were injured or killed during the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. As a result of that attack, you can see how one of our priority goals was implemented. (Education, Employment, and Transition Assistance).

The post-9/11 GI Bill (Chapter 33) was created for our veterans. It is design to assists veterans pay for school or cover expenses while they are training for a job. If they've served on active duty after September 10, 2001, they may qualify for the post-9/11 GI Bill.

Let's continue to be advocates for our veteran's rights. It's in election year! Our veterans are depending upon us to vote to pass all legislative laws beneficial for them and their families. Reminder, sign up for Action Corps Weekly if you haven't done so. We are looking forward in the sharing of all your events.

Being Thankful & Grateful For the Sacrifice
"From the Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to Our Veterans.



MESSAGE FROM AREA H COUNCIL MEMBER

Karen Kaylor

I attended my first National Council meeting on 2 August. Many ways to save our members money was discussed. Membership quota has been reached in the last 3 years. Please keep it up.

There are 4 new committees that are being formed for a more efficient National Auxiliary to better help serve our Department's and Members. They are Life Legacy, Sponsorships, Investigative and Discipline Bylaws review Committee. This will help streamline some processes to serve all better.

The Budget and standing rules were accepted as corrected. Minor changes were made. It was quite an experience being installed and introduced as a new council member. I look forward to working for the National Organization and our Membership .

BUDDY® POPPY/NATIONAL HOME

Sally Jarret chairman Sarah Begley Co-chairman

“Back to School” is the buzz phrase this month for everyone. Now is the time to order and pass out “All About the VFW Buddy® Poppy” coloring & activity books for elementary school students. You can find these brochures at VFW-Store.org (product code 4133)

I want to thank everyone that has sent in your reports to us. We appreciate all the reporting and pictures! Our VFW National Home Ambassador wants to be informed about all our activities going on. Please start planning your Buddy® Poppy drives. With the weather changing, now is a great time to schedule your drives. Have fun with them! Don't forget, bring some Auxiliary membership applications. Also, please remember to let everyone know the donations collected help veterans and their families. The VFW Buddy® Poppy is worn as a profound gesture of respect to honor the valor and sacrifice of those who laid down their lives for our country.

Little reminder, please contact your VFW Post to re-order Poppies. Two to three months before your distribution date should be your target. Have a beautiful Buddy® Poppy Day!

VFW National Home

Over the course of the year, The VFW National Home has many events and special activities planned. The biggest celebration will be when they hold their event on the VFW National Home Grounds in June 2025. I hope your Auxiliary will plan to participate and help with one of the celebrations and festivities. One way your Auxiliary can support the VFW National Home is through gifts of 10 cents per member to Health or Happiness Fund. The address is located on page 26 in your Department Program Development Book. Your donations are very appreciated since the campus receives NO government funding. Your contributions truly make a significant difference for deserving families who are working on rebuilding their lives. You can follow the events and current happenings along with photos of the families on campus at the VFW National Home Facebook Page.

Please review Awards for Auxiliaries (page 27, program, Department Plan and execute #1 and #2 before the deadlines. #3 is the most VFW National Home Life Memberships Awards in each division due April 10, 2025.

“Thankful & Grateful for the Sacrifice”

“From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to Our Veterans”



SCHOLARSHIP *Ronnie Mote*

Thank y'all so much for giving the TX VFW AUX SCHOLARSHIPS Facebook and Instagram pages such an amazing start! In the month since my Welcome post, we already have over 100 followers and that number will definitely keep climbing! The Scholarships Facebook page posts have been shared by other VFW Post, District, Auxiliary and Individual Facebook pages, helping us reach over 4,000 viewers. So, if you haven't taken the opportunity, do it NOW! Search on Facebook or Instagram for TX VFW AUX SCHOLARSHIPS, and click follow to help us **Get The Word Out** across the Great State of Texas!

If you've looked at the Scholarships page, you'll have noticed that links, along with a printable copy of the information page and entry form, have been posted for all our scholarship and contest opportunities. I have also given recognition to all the National Winners for 2023-2024, along with those representing the Department of Texas. Please share these posts on your page, as we want our winners to receive all the recognition they deserve!

DEADLINE ALERT! OCTOBER 31, 2024

Voice of Democracy Patriotic Audio Essay Competition – Grades 9-12

Patriot's Pen Patriotic Written Essay Competition – Grades 6-8

If you've been to Home Depot or Hobby Lobby lately, you've seen all the Halloween decorations that are ALREADY filling the aisles. Let those be useful visual reminders that OUR first deadline arrives on October 31, 2024. Now is the time for us to promote the Voice of Democracy (VOD) and Patriot's Pen competitions. I was recently able to share the links and information for both with my AC repairman and his sons, so make sure and talk to folks you encounter every day. Find out if they have a child or grandchild that qualifies. Or maybe they know of other kids or groups who would be interested in entering. Tell

them about the TX VFW AUX SCHOLARSHIPS Facebook and Instagram pages, and they'll have all the info they need to get started. Also don't forget to talk to teachers, guidance counselors, principals and other leaders of youth organizations. And never forget, someone, somehow initially reached out to Omar Reyes (VOD) and Anisha Hiremath (Patriot's Pen), who ended up representing the Department of Texas and placing eight and third in their competitions at the national level.

Someone also initially reached out to Sophia Lin (VOD) and Bryant Day (Patriot's Pen), and they ended up our National Winners for 2023-2024. Our 2024-2025 Department of Texas and National winners are out there somewhere, possibly waiting for YOU to reach out...

Also don't forget to contribute to both the Texas and National Scholarship Funds, so we can keep recognizing additional outstanding students from Texas and all across the nation.

Student Participation ~ Recipient Recognition ~ Community Awareness ~ Increasing the Fund

“Thankful and Grateful for the Sacrifice”

“From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to Our Veterans”

Ronny Mote

**Texas VFW Auxiliary Scholarships
Chairman**

txvfwauxscholarships@yahoo.com

512.541.8494

#txvfwauxscholarships



AUXILIARY OUTREACH

Pamela Fintel -Chairman

Ilona Shipley – Co-Chairman

We have been receiving some great Auxiliary Outreach reports. It is great to see you out there working together in our communities. You do need to wear something, that signifies you are a member of the Auxiliary... like an Auxiliary shirt, Auxiliary hat jacket, or Auxiliary badge. You do need a picture of your member or members that are participating as well as the event. We can not count your report if you do not wear something that signifies you are a Member of the Auxiliary.

A particularly controversial area in VFW and VFW Auxiliary Community is service to one's church. Generally, these efforts are not considered community service for two reasons:

- 1) they are not performed for the community at large.
- 2) they are part of an individual's service to their faith and not to the VFW or VFW

Auxiliary. The only exception would be performing the same service for ALL religious organizations in a given community. Remember that if what you are doing is reportable under another Auxiliary Program, report it under that program, not under Auxiliary Outreach.

In addition, efforts performed for the benefit of the Post or Auxiliary 's benefit should not be considered as community service.

School is back in session and is a great way to team up with youth groups, First Responder's safety programs, Literacy program for children. Your members may know of organizations that need help. Check with your local Chamber of Commerce also. There are so many organization out there, just waiting on you.

Giving back to the people and organizations in our communities for all the support they give to the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary is a wonderful way of showing our appreciation.

MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE AUXILIARY

Lisa Dayhoff Grand President

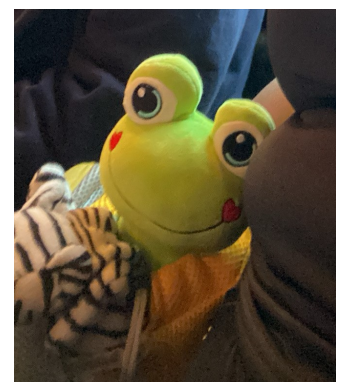
If you ever get the chance to go and visit another District's meeting, I think it's a wonderful idea. Not only do get the chance to get to know your brothers and sisters better, but you might find some nifty ideas they have for fundraising and activities. I was inspired by a recent visit to the District 5 meeting and brought home some goodies too!!

Did you know that we have several Bachelor Pup Tents in the Fertile Hunting Grounds of Texas? Some of them are newer, but not all of them are!! When a Pup Tent gets to be 6 months old, they are considered old enough to decide whether or not they want to have an Auxiliary. That is where my Chief of Staff and the Grand of Texas steps in to help. That doesn't mean that we can't come and help answer questions or

give you a chance to get to know more about us... the more you know, the better prepared you are if you decide that you want to start an Auxiliary or join one that is nearby!

We just got back from New Orleans, which was a little traumatic for Liusa because she had to keep her frog legs hidden in the Big Easy. We did have chances to meet some VFW Comrades and Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters there, as well as talking about the Big Boot Program when somebody asked about my boots.

Listen Up & Speak Out for Our Veterans"



MILITARY ORDER OF THE COOTIE AUXILIARY

Lisa Dayhoff Grand President



Help Heal Veterans Therapeutic Craft Kits

5 August, 2024

Lisa Dayhoff
President, Grand of Texas
Military Order of the Cootie Auxilliary

Re: Cahill Center Operating Costs

Dear Lisa and fellow constituents,

The Cahill Center of Temple, Texas appreciates your support of our mission "to place craft kits in the hands of veterans", through distribution of kits and sharing our information. Heal Vets values your generosity with assistance in funding past Art Exhibits, craft supplies for the Center, and a variety of other necessities. We are honored by the trust you have put in us to steward the funds you donate.

Help Heal Veterans' Director of Finance and Administration, Tracey Kazemi, relayed to us the annual information for our Temple location:

- Over \$125,000 in direct operating expenses, including salaries and insurance.
- \$500,000 in craft kit costs, including those shipping costs.

Please reach out to myself or Tracey for further clarification or any questions you might have. I would like to extend an invitation to visit the Cahill Center for a tour and to see what you help make happen.

With gratitude and regards,



Trish Alger
Lead Craft Care Specialist
819 South 5th Street, Temple, Texas 76504
temple@healvets.org
254-654-3724



Help Heal Veterans is a non-profit, tax-exempt corporation established in 1971

36585 Penfield Lane • Winchester, California 92596 • (951) 926-4500 • Fax (951) 926-3569 • www.healvets.org

Secretary's Corner

Just want to put out some information for all. Thank you for all the BONDS being paid, that has made the department in compliance with National Bylaws. If you were one of the auxiliaries that were not able to complete the bond before July 31, Vote to put it in your standing rules so that the treasurer can pay it in accordance with the National Bylaws.

Second, I have received many questions/concerns with the website. Our historian is working hard behind the scenes to ensure that everything is getting in there properly. She found that the messages under the "Contact us" had not been responded to since 2018. She corrected that in the script of the website and I have gone through and reviewed and answered as needed all 200+ messages. We are back up to date with that and the office will ensure that messages are responded to quickly.

Our 2 Cents is being posted monthly, some of the scripts for previous years were out of location those of you that reported it we

appreciate your support so that it can be updated.

If you are wanting an email copy, for now, send an email to Secretary@texasvfwaux.org and you will receive it when we publish.

Media Relations is working on a contact button that will allow you to receive when published, as long as it is not going to cost the department more money. One thought she had would have been an increased cost through constant contact which we do not want to incur at this time. I believe the forms are next on the agenda for the website, but you can always contact the office and we can email it to you for now. Please be patient as we try to come up to date with our technology.

Remember, the Department office is here to serve you the members. Please feel free to send us your comments and questions.

NEXT UP 990—Get a copy to HQ as soon as possible. Make sure the date you file is 1 July—30 June.

OFFICER'S Dues— Set the example to your membership and pay your dues NOW so you can remain an officer.

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