



The Texas V.F.W. Auxiliary
Our Two Cents
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DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT IRMA SOLIS

“THANKFUL & GRATEFUL FOR THE SACRIFICE”

“FROM OUR ROOTS TO OUR BRANCHES, EXTENDING SERVICE TO OUR VETERANS”

To all Auxiliary members, thank you for a successful Mid-Winter Roundup. There were a lot of activities and hope everyone enjoyed the night with Brenda Bryant, the National President, the Membership Celebration, the VOD Banquet and the VFW State Commander’s Homecoming.

Heartfelt thanks to Districts I visited in January. Thank you for such gracious hospitality. The District Presidents held good informative meetings.

I continue my travels this month. I will be visiting Districts 1, 5 and 6. I will also be attending the National Mid-Winter Conference from February 1 through February 6.

The Department office will be closed February 17th, 2025 for President’s Day.

The end of the year is quickly approaching and Auxiliaries should be focusing on what is left of the programs to be worked and reported. Check the status sheet for any remaining obligations that have not met for the year.

District Presidents remember to have the Year-End Reports sent to the appropriate Chairman by the deadline date.

Thank you, members, for the continued support that has been shown.

FEBRUARY DATES

February 1 thru February 6, 2025	National Mid-Winter
February 8, 2025	District 6
February 15, 2025	District 5
February 17, 2025	President’s Day Holiday
February 23, 2025	District 1



MEMBERSHIP

**Gerald Spradlin – Chairman
Cyndy Yancey – Co-Chairman**

**“From Our Roots To Our Branches Extending
Service To Our Veterans”
“Thankful and Grateful For The Sacrifice”**

What a great job you are all doing on Membership! We enjoyed getting to celebrate with you at Mid-Winter.

Don't give up on achieving 100%, if your District and/or Auxiliary are not there by December 31st! We have until June 30th, so keep up the good work you have been doing. That gives you almost 6 months to achieve that goal. So many of you are so very close! Talking to people and sharing with them know why you are part of this organization and how they could be an asset to the Auxiliary, too.

Be sure to offer to share the QR code to give them time to read and mull over a basic idea of what our organization is and what we do. The fact sheet and application they can fill out electronically and print to sign are there for them and it will make them think of questions they might have so that they reach out to you to get the answers. Some prospective members may feel pressured by face-to-face conversations. Keep the QR code on your phone so you can easily share it.

Let's continue to work hard to make Texas Number 1 in Membership! Have fun recruiting new members! Let them see your dedication and commitment. As always, if we can help, let us know!

Happy Valentine's Day

LEGISLATIVE

**Michelle Booker – Chairman
Karen Kaylor – Co-Chairman**

Greetings We have now crossed the halfway mark of this program year. How exciting our first half was. We can reflect on all our accomplishments in 2024 what informative information we received at our Mid-Winter Conference. We can feel very proud of our work in being advocates for our Veterans. However, we still have much to do. We must continue to assist in the fight

along with the VFW. We must continue to stay abreast of all issues that pertain to the betterment of our Veterans and their families. We can accomplish this by staying current with Action Corps Weekly and responding to all Action Alerts.

I can't express enough on what a viable tool Action Corps Weekly is to our Veterans and their families. I can see this within all your reporting with your attending town hall meetings and writing letters to your local politician. As a result of your signing up to receive Action Corps Weekly you responded to the Action Alerts. You shared the QR code with friends and family and members while educating them on its importance. You took the opportunity to share and educate others on how Action Corps Weekly support our Priority Goals. Now we can visibly see that all our advocating for our Veterans has paid off with the passing of the Elizabeth Dole Act.

The VFW thanks all the advocates from around the country who responded to our Action Alert urging their Representatives and Senators to support this historic legislation! This is a significant VFW Legislative victory that will fund a range of enhancements vital to critical health care services for Veterans and caregivers who need help now.

With Team Texas you understood the assignment that Ambassador Guyette promoted. (You partnered with your VFW. You engaged in activities within your communities. You educated yourselves on the Priority Goals. You educate others and got involved.)

Let's continue staying steadfast with our unwavering support to our Veterans.

**“Being Thankful and Grateful For The Sacrifice
“From The Roots To Our Branches, Extending
Service To Our Veterans”**

Happy Valentine's Day

AUXILIARY OUTREACH

**Pamela Fintel – Chairman
Ilona Shipley – Co-Chairman**

I hope everyone made it home safely from the Mid-Winter Conference. We only have a few more months to finish up our program. You are all doing an AMAZING job reporting. Don't forget we have Valentine's Day coming up and this would be a fantastic

time to partner with an organization to help them on this special day. Remember you need to approve it on your floor before you can help that organization.

With the weather being a little warmer more Food Banks will be popping up and those organizations can really use the help in your community. Also, there are food pantries that need help stocking, cleaning, organizing and even handing out boxes of food. It is so important we help these other organizations in our communities. It lets them see us as members of the Auxiliary working in our community. We also have a chance to talk about what and why we do what we do. Maybe you might even pick up a new member for the Auxiliary or even make a new friend.

There is plenty of time to reach out to other organizations in your community. Here are some more ideas: Salvation Army Soup Kitchen, Meals on Wheels, Garden Club, Chamber of Commerce, Race for the Cure, Red Cross Blood Drives and even local libraries.

We are still getting some reports where you have donated money or items to groups or even helped your Post host an event. Please remember that money or values but you cannot be reported under the Auxiliary Outreach Program.

I want to remind you that the National Program Award is due to me by March 31, 2025. You can get the form from MALTA under program resources Auxiliary Outreach. You make a collage (e.g. flyers, brochures, social media posts, newsletters handouts, photos) and describe the activities and/or events that were partnered with in the photo collage. I will also send it out thru your District Presidents.

Please keep those reports coming in. Thank you for all you do.

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**HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS
Marissa Anderson**

Happy New Year! Moving into 2025 means big goals. My big Goal for 2025 is to reach more people throughout Texas and record our happy moments as a group together! How do we do that? Media - all kinds of media. On a more personal level, my self-goal is to

help as many Auxiliaries as I can create and understand their Facebook presence.

If your Auxiliary or one in your District would be interested in getting help with their Facebook Page creation and set up with less risk of being deleted as spam in a month, please email me at marissahanderson1120@gmail.com.

Send me information on who will be running your page once it is set up as well as a good contact email. Also, to speed up the process, please send me a personal friend request on Facebook from the person who will be in charge of the page. This will make it easier for me to find them after the page is ready! I don't want any group's progress to be stifled by the fact that they don't know where to start. Let me be your starting point!

With that I ask that you be patient with me while I try to help everyone. I look forward to working with many groups in 2025 and moving our organization forward!

**“Thankful & Grateful For The Sacrifice”
“From Our Roots To Our Branches, Extending
Service To Our Veterans”**

Happy Valentine's Day

**CHIEF OF STAFF
EXTENSION/REVITALIZATION/MENTORING
Patricia “Patsy” Kemp**

This is the month of Love. Love of family, love for County and love for our fellow man.

So many of you have given years of love for the VFW Auxiliary, spent hundreds of hours volunteering, not to mention thousands of dollars on our programs. Thank you!

For most Districts, there are only one or two District meeting left. District Presidents and Deputy Chief of Staffs, now is the time to get the word out and encourage all members to attend. The purpose of a District meeting is to conduct Schools of Instruction and elections that means at each meeting, members should be learning.

District meetings are where we meet other members, share ideals and get the information about how to improve our programs. This year we were **“Thankful & Grateful for the Sacrifice”** and remembered that **“From Our Roots to Our Branches. we “Extend Service to Our Veterans”** as we served all Veterans, their families and our communities. The District Convention is where you will elect officers for the 2025-

2026 year. Think long and hard about their capabilities and desire to do a good job, before electing them.

Keep working membership -- We still have March, April and until May 30th to get it into Department. But, try and get them in by May 15th so everything will clear, if there is a problem.

My Ambassador Betty Arnold, reminded us "There is no time like the present to mentor and renew our patriotic and enthusiastic spirit, as members of the VFW Auxiliary."

Auxiliary Presidents, Deputy Chief of Staffs and District Presidents

1. Did you send me a nomination for someone that assisted in revitalizing his/her Auxiliary and who used the Healthy Auxiliary materials? Give details
2. Did you turn in a name of a member that demonstrated mentoring in his/her Auxiliary and/or Department? Give details.
3. Do you have an Auxiliary that used publicity, such as radio/TV/social media, in forming their Auxiliary or revitalizing their Auxiliary? Give detail and back up material.
4. Did you have an Auxiliary that implemented the CARE Mentoring Program or some other mentoring program? Give details.

District Presidents there are still a few Auxiliaries that need help reporting. Please assist them and make sure they report what they did do.

Thank you, Sisters and Brothers, for striving to achieve all of our goals this year. It could only happen by working together as a team.

The one thing that I hope everyone learned this year was to communicate better, more often and the importance of communication. It is never too late to start. I look forward to seeing you in Corpus.

Happy Valentines Day

***Getting something done is an accomplishment;
getting something done right is an achievement.***

**"Thankful & Grateful For The Sacrifice"
"From Our Roots To Our Branches, Extending
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Happy Valentines Day

VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Missi Palmore – Chairman

February is the month of love and Valentines. Throughout time and among each of us, there are different renditions of the definition of LOVE. I found one that I am very fond of, "Love is a selfless act of caring and concern for the well-being of another person." A little bit of caring and concern for another can go a very long way in the eyes of the individual.

The weather is chilly, people talking about lovey-dovey stuff, hustle remaining from the holidays any of those things could easily turn a smile upside down. Make a person feel just plain BLAH!

How might this month impact our wonderful Veterans? Spouses or Families left behind? The deployed partner trying to juggle the world? With that I turn the opportunity of "love" to you wonderful Auxiliaries. But where do you start to even know HOW to make an impact you may ask? Just like my favorite (truly, honestly, 100% junky here) little seasonal pink box of candy---it starts with a CONVERSATION.

That's correct, conversation to open the door of love and caring. How easy a task.

I am sure within your Auxiliaries you have some Veterans that could use a little smile. One great idea—make a little letter to them using the conversation hearts! Glue them on a little cardstock and you are guaranteed a smile and hug for sure! What a way to brighten up someone's day.

What about a little babysitting or mini day care so your young Veteran couples can have a little dinner date on their own? Set up fun games and activities for the kids.

Hospitalized or shut-in Veterans might need to get a few things from the store, easy task for some of to grab it. Then sit and have a little chat with them as you return. Perhaps throw in a little Valentine treat for them as a surprise. All little ways to pass along some love for another person. Perhaps one you don't truly know, which warms the heart even more.

National Salute to Veterans Patients is this month, February 9-15th. This I know could be an event with reports across a few different programs. We chairmen love to see the work grouped together --- use your youth, hospital volunteer and V&FS skills to knock it out of the park for Valentines Day 2025.

Continue from Our Roots (*you & the auxiliary legacy*) to Our Branches (*community & youth*), Extending Service to Our Veterans! Continue to work together within your Auxiliary and community to shine the light bright on our Veterans and their needs. Help

them with the tools, connections and assistance they need and deserve. These men and women truly “LOVE/LOVED” this country (from my definition above) and we owe them much in return for their bravery and support of the USA.

I can't wait to see some great reports as we move into the first quarter of 2025. I am in awe of the greatness that you all do monthly. Continue to be Texas fabYOUlous in all that you do! Keep Rockin it TEXAS style my friends

Happy Valentine's Day

BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME

Sabrina (Sally) Jarrett – Chairman
Sarah Begley – Co-Chairman

Buddy Poppy

Hello! February, Valentine's Day is coming up very soon please get your Valentines ready for your Veterans. Your Valentine the only one they may get. Get creative, have your kids make some or give them a little party. A sweet snack goes a long way. Do not forget to attach a Buddy Poppy on your Valentine.

My Co-Chair and I really enjoyed visiting with you at Mid-Winter and exchanging new ideas. Thank you to everyone that participated on the Unofficial Buddy Poppy Statewide Project. We wished that we could recognize more than 3 winners. You all are so creative and thank you for following directions. Results from the judging at the Mid-Winter Conference was sent out to all the District Presidents. Continue to send your reports with pictures PLEASE.

VFW National Home

Join us for the VFW National Home Community Celebration, a special event honoring our 100th anniversary of dedicated service to military and Veterans families on Saturday, June 28th. From 11 AM to 4 PM, the grounds will come alive with free carnival rides, a car show and engaging family activities, ensuring fun for attendees of all ages. A diverse selection of food trucks will be on-site, offering a wide variety of food for purchase.

As the day transitions into the night at 4 p.m., the atmosphere will shift to one of lively entertainment featuring talented musicians, including **The Bronk Brothers**—Michigan's Country Hall of Fame 2024 Inductees.

Enjoy a refreshing selection of beverages at the beer tent and prepare to be dazzled by a spectacular laser light show to cap off the evening.

Does all this sound like something you would like to be a part of? Want to go but a bit limited on funds? Look no further!

At the Mid-Winter Conference, you heard that we have launched a unique way to attend this event. Lodging will be covered to the winner of the “VFW National Home Centennial Lifetime Membership Raffle.”

How can **YOU** enter this raffle? Easy... send us copies of five (5) approved new Centennial Lifetime Memberships via email and you will receive one (1) entry into this raffle. Please email a copy of each Centennial Membership application so that we can verify. Once we receive the verification of these new members, we will notify you of your entry. ANYONE can be a Centennial Member so let us do this for this awesome program!

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AMERICANISM/PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR

Amanda Humphrey – Chairman

Happy Valentines Day to the great State of Texas!! Can y'all believe it's already February our year is halfway over!! We have to write these articles a month in advance so we haven't quite been to Mid-Winter yet, but I'm absolutely looking forward to seeing everyone. I have already started packing though! For the ones that know me this is probably no surprise as I am a planner, organizer, spreadsheet and then some! LOL

With everyone getting back to school after the winter break this is the perfect time for your Auxiliary to visit the schools if you have the funds available or can find a sponsor offer to replace their Flag. Your Auxiliary should show them the proper way to retire the U.S. Flag by having a community Flag Retirement Ceremony. As my National Ambassador perfectly said it “A large part of demonstrating Americanism and Patriotic spirit is respecting and properly caring for the U.S. Flag”. Flag Etiquette covers everything from proper display of our Flag to acceptable conduct around this symbol of our nation. For more information about Flag Etiquette, the

history of our Flag and to read the U.S. Flag Code, visit vfw.org/community/flag-etiquette.” Whether we are celebrating patriotic holidays or promoting patriotism in another way, we need to take every opportunity to educate everyone, about the U.S Flag.

Here are some good topics to educate everyone on.

1. How to properly salute the Flag
2. When to display the Flag
3. How to conduct a Flag-Raising Ceremony
4. How to fold and store the Flag
5. How to conduct a Flag-Retirement Ceremony

February 14th, is Valentines Day – Don’t forget your Veterans in the nursing homes and their nurses that take care of them.

February 15th, is Sinking of the USS Maine

February 28th, is Operation Desert Storm – Work with your Posts to educate your community and honor both of these dates.

The third Monday in February is Presidents Day or formerly known as George Washington’s Birthday, this is a lesser-known patriotic holiday.

Congress first honored George Washington with a Federal Holiday on February 22, 1879, then on January 1st, 1971 Congress shifted the Federal Holiday to the third Monday in February. George Washington created the first military badge of merit for the common soldier, the Purple Heart Medal, it is awarded to soldiers who are injured in battle. The Purple Heart medal was revised on Washington’s 200 birthday in 1932 and now bears his image. Dig into this lesser-known holiday some more and do a presentation for your Post/Auxiliary or take it into a classroom.

Please start thinking about these dates as well.

March 3rd, Star Spangled Banner Day

March 13th, K-9 Veterans Day

March 21st, is Rosie the Riveter Day

March 25th, is Medal of Honor Day

March 29th, is National Vietnam War Veterans Day

Thank you for all you do,

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HOSPITAL/VAVS Glenda L. Hunt – Chairman

Happy Valentine’s Day! Valentine’s Day is celebrated annually on February 14th. What a special day! Valentine’s Day has a rich history dating back to ancient Rome. The holiday is named after Saint Valentine, a Christian martyr who lived during the Roman Empire. Today Valentine’s Day is a day to celebrate love and affection, whether it’s romantic love, friendship, or familial bonds. It’s an opportunity to express appreciation for the special people in your life and create cherished memories. However, you choose to celebrate, make it a day filled with love, kindness, and joy.

National Salute to Veterans Patients Week at your local VA facilities is a time to pay tribute and express appreciation to our Veterans, increase community awareness of the VA Medical Center’s role and to encourage citizens to become involved as volunteers. Valentine’s Day falls within this week. The Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE)/VAVS staff plan and execute local events and activities at VA Medical Facilities to honor hospitalized and outpatient Veterans. This is the perfect time to promote Valentine’s for Veterans. VA is requesting our organization to send Valentine’s Day cards to your VA to be given to Veterans to show your support and love for their service to our country. The cards provide a small token of your appreciation and really do impact the lives of Veterans. Take bought or handmade Valentine cards and/or sponsor an event or activity in any VA or non-VA medical Facility. Let’s have parties, bingo and concerts. Everyone loves to receive a card and a treat bag on a special day!

Volunteers do not forget to keep a copy of all the hours serving our Veterans at your VA and non- VA Medical facilities. Your Auxiliary will need to know this for nominations of awards and year-end reporting. Make sure you have donation receipts as well. These are needed to determine the amount of monies spent on the Hospital Program. Total hours served are needed to order your Auxiliary Hospital Volunteer Service Pins. Pin presentation programs during Auxiliary meetings or/and District meetings are a great way to recognize volunteer service. This may also recruit new volunteers for the Hospital Program.

Review Hospital Program Awards: **“Hospital Volunteer Recruiter of the Year,” “Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year”** and **“Outstanding Youth Volunteer.”** Forms are required and available

on MALTA under member resources. Deadline for entries is on March 31, 2025. Send directly to Chairman.

Thank you to all our Hospital Volunteers at the VA Facilities and Non-VA Facilities.

Serving our Veterans with a caring heart and helping hands!

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**SCHOLARSHIPS
Ronny Mote – Chairman**

Another Scholarship deadline has arrived! Our Scholarships QR Code, available on the TX VFW AUX SCHOLARSHIPS Facebook page, will provide those interested with all pertinent information and access to the entry form. The information can also be located at vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/continuing-education.

Due to National Headquarters FEBRUARY 15th!!

Who is Eligible to Apply?

- Applicant must be 21 years of age or older
- Applicant **must** be one of the following:
 - o Current VFW Auxiliary Member*
 - o Spouse of current VFW Auxiliary Member*
 - o Son of current VFW Auxiliary Member*
 - o Daughter of current VFW Auxiliary Member*

**Qualifying member must have been a member of the VFW Auxiliary for one (1) year by the application submission deadline.*

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

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**NURSING SCHOLARSHIP
Renee Clark – Chairman**

Brothers and Sisters -

I am so sorry to have missed this year's Mid-Winter Meeting.

I was so thrilled to be able to follow along with the live streaming... Good Job Marissa!

Just wanted to let you know that as of the writing of this February article I have received four scholarship applications.

As mentioned, by District 28 President Lisa Gilmer, I will be contacting all the District Presidents regarding their Districts and/or Auxiliaries sponsoring a Nursing Scholarship entrant. Again, this is NOT requesting a monetary donation or gift for the entrant...just a little thank you and follow-up with the entrant letting them know that WE ARE THANKFUL FOR THEM!

Keep up the good work on reporting. If you email it to me, I will respond with a "received" back to you. Make sure you all **HONOR THOSE NURSES**...

I will bet those that are working during the cold days would really appreciate you bringing them some hot chocolate or coffee...or maybe some snacks or yummy cookies!

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