

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

Your monthly news & updates

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I want to give a huge congratulations to Jr. Past Department President Betty Decker (AKA Awesomest Department President and Queen Regent) for making the Circle of Excellence! Thank you to all New Mexico for cheering her on as she walked across the stage. Congratulations to the chairmen who placed at National and to the Auxiliaries who won Awards for Auxiliaries. Thank you to everyone that attended National Convention and participated in all the events. We hope to have more in attendance at the National Convention in Phoenix next year.



A few updates from National Convention:

- National President Jane Reape from Department of New York
- National Commander in Chief Tim Borland from Department of Arizona
- Bylaw was passed for Auxiliaries to have a Debit Card Only if they wish to have one
- Bylaw was passed to allow service animals into the meetings
- Bylaw passed to allow caregivers into the meeting, vice versa
- Bylaw passed to have Assistant Treasurer appointed, but they can't write checks

It was nice to see many members at the North and South Joint Trainings, I hope the members learned a lot and took it back to their Auxiliaries to pass on and start working on programs. Thank you to Post and Auxiliary 401, 3242, and 10124 for hosting the trainings and providing great hospitality.

District meetings have started, you will have a department officer as the representative at each meeting. They will contact the District President prior to the meeting to be sure they have all the details.

Due date is coming up for the Bonds, be sure to get those submitted and a

copy is sent to Department Treasurer Penney Howard. You can also work on the E-990. Those are both required to be turned in and qualify for President of the Year!

Dues! Time to start collecting dues, don't just collect the dues, check on the member, invite them to the meeting and events. Let them know they are missed!

Upcoming events:

Statewide Food Drive- September 9-11

Department C of A- September 24 at 9am, remember this is open to ALL MEMBERS!

Department President Homecoming- September 24, invitations to be sent out

Department is here to help, please feel free to contact me or my officers if you or your auxiliary needs help and support. Lets have another successful year!

Dominique C Garcia
Department President



Auxiliary Outreach

Kelly Fouse

Hello everyone! I am so sad, yes pouting sad, I cannot be there this weekend!

Thank you, Jeanette, for presenting it for me! Sisters and Brothers, please know you can contact me with any questions; and I look forward to your reports, pictures and correspondence! My promotionals have all of my contact information; and I will be reaching out to each President over the next couple of weeks. I learned a lot at National and will

share part of it now, as will the other Department Chairman! This will be my August Promotional as well, please, please, ensure your auxiliary members get this information, it is a part of who we are as an organization! I send Prayers for health and love to all!

- Auxiliary Community Outreach Is now called Auxiliary Outreach, (to help the confusion with the VFW's Community Service)
- Any event must be voted on in the Auxiliary to participate
- If you have a last-minute event you are allowed to do the event, and vote/ratify it at the next meeting to accept the event
- Like all things voted on in our meetings it must be in the minutes
- Auxiliary Outreach is not to be reported under any other Auxiliary Program, (however, please report it to the VFW-more on that in a few)
- We are the volunteer! We do not arrange, organize or set up the event
- Only members and hours are reported under Auxiliary Outreach Report- we should not be spending Auxiliary money for the event-we are the volunteer(s)
- It can be one Auxiliary member or several that volunteer
- It can be every week; month; year or a one-time event
- To differentiate between what is and what isn't Auxiliary Outreach

- It does not matter how many volunteers are needed; one or many; however, it cannot be only one member allowed to help. In other words, as an example: Shirlee is an usher at Pope Joy Hall, if Shirlee cannot attend, if another Auxiliary member can fill in for her, it is a reportable Outreach event. If only Shirlee can do it; and they won't let anyone else, from the Auxiliary fill in for Shirlee, it is not a reportable event.
- You can claim events at your Post home-IF you are not coordinating anything to do with the event. Example: Elks are using your Post to have a fund raiser; and you as a volunteer are helping serve food, or accept tickets-you are only a volunteer- not an organizer, you can report it under Community Outreach! This was changed from previous years, as some Posts do not have a brick-and-mortar building, they meet at, for example, a Community Center. Now they and those with a brick-and-mortar building can claim their Auxiliary Outreach at their Post.
- Make sure you wear something that signifies you are a member of the VFW Auxiliary! A pin, cap, shirt whatever is appropriate. National does NOT want us actively recruiting at these events! This program is to let our communities know, we as an organization support our communities. With that said, have a business card, or some kind of written information about your local Auxiliary, answer questions-just don't give the impression that is the only reason you are there. "Your volunteering is the best advertising to give potential members a taste of how great our organization is".
- "Remember who we are. We are members of an organization that takes pride and pleasure helping our veterans, their families, our community and our nation. Volunteering does make a difference in our communities. It enriches our lives and the organizations that receive our help through partnerships".

All programs that are not Auxiliary related only, for example: Mentoring and Leadership, are to be reported to your VFW, (per National, if you have any questions – call me 575- 973-2213), and of course, your Department President, Department Secretary and Department Chairman. If you are not reporting you can lose your non-profit status with the IRS. We are a military non-profit organization; per National and the IRS you must have records, and report your programs!

Our National Ambassador, Laurie Lukas out of Washington, has priorities for us to focus on; and are reflected in her awards.

Auxiliaries:

- *Citation to every Auxiliary that partners with another organization within their community. Criteria and entry form, (required) available at vfwauxiliary.org/resources. Due to me by March 31, 2023 Citations will be mailed directly to the Auxiliary from National Headquarters.
- I encourage everyone to get on and read all of the abundance of information on this site-for all programs, including National President Jane Reape's book!!
- *Citation and \$25 one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences with the most outstanding community partnership. Winners will be announced and awards presented at the 2023 National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. I know how awesome y'all are! Please send me pictures and info on your programs! I would love to hear that one of our Auxiliaries was recognized at National!!

Buddy Poppy/National Home

Barbara Santillanes

We have completed our 1st training and when we return From National, we will be headed to Las Cruces for our next training. I am looking forward to National as I know I will come back with a lot More information.



**CHALLENGE!!!!!!! A
CHALLENGE IS OUT THERE!!!!!! YOU CAN WIN \$100.00
BY END OF YEAR REPORTING IN APRIL.**

**HOW- THE POST/AUXILIARY OR COMBINATION OF THE
TWO, WHO HAS THE MOST DONATIONS OF POPPIES
THAT'S HOW!!!!!!**

**IT'S EASY, SO GET YOUR POPPIES OUT OF THE CLOSETS
AND BOXES AND DRAWERS!!!!!!
(REMEMBER!!!!!! POPPY DONATIONS)**

Let's remember our Poppy and its significance. Poppies help support Veterans and Family programs and rehabilitation and some of the proceeds go to support our National Home.

That is the connection....

Take a step back and remember the many ways you can raise donations for these programs. Poppy Drives, making sure that the poppy is handed out at every event you have and other events you attend.

Sharing its history with our children possibly by using the Story of Flanders Fields. Having an auction will poppy items.

Is there someone creative in your Post/Auxiliary? How about making poppies items? Be creative. Let's not Forget our very own home posts, are your poppy can's out for people to see? Need to make sure, they are in our canteens, so people can drop a quarter, or maybe even a dollar.

I look forward to what I bring back and will continue to share ideas and thoughts on how you Can get the Buddy Poppy distributed, so we can bring in lots of donations for National Home and the other programs we support.

Good Luck on your donations for the contest!

Barbara Santillanes

Department Buddy Poppy/National Home Chair

bsantillanes@centurylink.net 505-610-5665



Renee King

Happy August! This month I'd like to let you know what our program Goals are:

- The National Presidents Visit! I will need to submit a report to National after her visit, so I will need help with great pictures from everyone. More information on the dates of her visit will be forth coming.
- Pictures of our Department President Dominique Garcia for an end of year collage/ PowerPoint. As Madam President makes her official visits to the auxiliaries and districts or attends your event, please take pictures and

send them to me. Be sure to include who was there, what the event was for, when and where.

- Facebook, if you haven't already "like" our Facebook page "New Mexico VFW Auxiliary"

Reminder we are recording our VFW Auxiliary's history for the future members to look back on, and for the current officers and members to leave their mark.

The month of September we are usually busy with Patriotic Holidays so be sure to have your camera or phone ready.

- Patriot Day – September 11
- POW/MIA Recognition Day – 3rd Friday in September
- Gold Star Mothers Day – Last Sunday in September

Just a reminder, the Department's website is "VFWAUXNM.ORG" if you haven't visit the site please do so as there is a lot of information for members.

Any pictures, posts, articles, questions can be sent to the information below. Thank you for everything you do.

Loyally,
Renee King

reneeking.vfwa@gmail.com

Legislative
Marsha Short

**Auxiliary Legislative
Chairmen, We are on
a MISSION!!**

Even though the PACT Act, an important bill which would provide a much-needed framework for addressing toxic

exposure benefits to our affected veterans and their families, was passed by BOTH the House and the Senate with broad bipartisan support in June, it is



now DELAYED AGAIN, just before it was slated to be sent to the White House to be signed into law by President Biden. This time it is due to one Senator who is seeking to add an amendment concerning spending (again, even though the bill included this element when it was previously passed).

Our veterans and family members cannot keep waiting for relief from their suffering!!

Following is our latest ACTION ALERT, which was sent by email to EVERYONE who has signed up for "Action Corps Weekly" to date, so it may look familiar to many of you:

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### No More Delays, Pass the PACT Act Now!!

#### **Background**

A procedural issue required Congress to amend and pass the PACT Act again. The House has done its job and passed the bill with bipartisan support. Every day this bill is delayed means another day a veteran could get sick and die. The Senate must stop any further delays and immediately pass the Honoring our PACT Act.

This comprehensive legislation would help millions of toxic-exposed veterans receive VA health care and benefits. This bill is supported by more than 60 veterans organizations. It would create a concession of exposure for burn pits and airborne hazards, establish a list of presumptive conditions, and provide a framework for assessing future conditions linked to any toxic exposure, foreign or domestic, past, present, and future.

#### **Take Action**

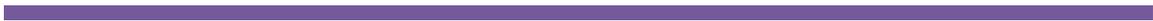
Contact your senators and tell them no more delays, no more amendments. They must bring the Honoring our PACT Act to the floor immediately and vote YES. Sick veterans cannot afford to wait any longer for health care and benefits. The Senate must act now!

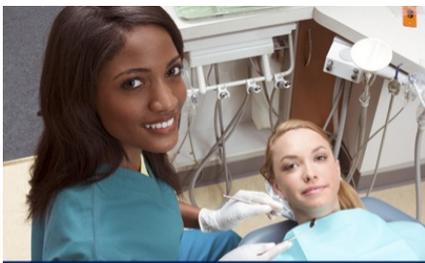
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Suggestion: Chairmen, this is such a great opportunity to show all of our Auxiliary members the importance of signing up for Action Corps Weekly!! Please consider standing up in your meetings when it is time for Committee Reports, and asking how many of your officers and members have not signed up. Then show those who haven't how easy it is! Have them get out their phones and join right then and there (it takes not even 2 minutes!). Then encourage them to hit the "Take Action" button when they receive the Action Alert, in order to contact their congressmen and women and urge them to pass this incredibly important bill NOW. It's such a powerful and immediate way to have our voices heard. And don't forget to REPORT the members you helped sign up and their contacts with legislators so your Auxiliary and our Department get credit for these actions.

Thanks in advance for helping us get the word out. If you need anything, feel free to contact me.

Marsha Short
weezerino@gmail.com





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Scholarship

Angelia Velarde-Logsdon

School is starting in a couple of weeks, and the October 31st deadline for VOD, PP, and teacher awards will be here before you know it! Call around your community to find out what type of back-to-school events are taking place. Is there any organization giving out school supplies? Ask if they would be willing to

Continuing Education Scholarship



include scholarship applications in their giveaways.

Check to see if there any charter schools in your area that are having open house for the lottery winners. This would be a great place to pass out scholarship applications.

Start building relationships with teachers in your area. Try to meet with them in person, and don't forget to mention the teacher awards.

If allowed collect the emails of students who are interested, so you can follow up with them later. This will let the students and teachers know that you care and may be the extra push they need to get the job done. I recommend following up weekly to make sure there are no questions and to remind them of upcoming deadlines.

Ask local schools and community centers if you can post scholarship flyers and applications on their community boards.

Come up with a schedule to visit schools and teachers. Work closely with your post members, share ideas, and divide and conquer!

As always please feel free to reach out to me for any questions, concerns, and/or ideas.

Angelia Velarde-Logsdon
angiepvelarde@gmail.com

Treasurer

Penney Howard

MEMBERSHIP:

Department 2023
Membership are now being tallied; we have 3058 Members as of today (7/27/22) that is better than last year's 2960 that we had last



year at this time. As of July 1st anyone that paid 2022 dues can now pay their 2023 dues and you as an Auxiliary Treasurer can transmit them directly into MALTA. Our goal is always to be 100%+ so that is what we work toward throughout the year. National is also wanting us to work hard on RETAINING our existing Annual members as well as bringing in New and Rejoins. The Goal this year is to GROW not just maintain. Send out those 2023 Annual Dues notices, MALTA makes it very easy (just print and mail, I like to include a self-addressed envelope and a list of Life Member rates)

All New and Rejoin and Transfer Members that your Auxiliary votes to put in, need to be Transmitted through me the “OLD WAY” by mailing Completed Applications (This includes Committee signatures and date of meeting accepting application), a filled out transmittal form and your Auxiliary check for \$13.00 per Annual Member and the full amount of Life Memberships or a New Life membership can fill out credit card information on their application and you also send that to me then I submit it to National for them to collect the money from the credit card. You as an Auxiliary Treasurer cannot enter these in MALTA yourself effective July 1, 2018.

AS OF 7/27/22 PAST DUE AUDITS: District Audits: I STILL have nothing from Dist. 5 from 20-22 year, March 2022: missing #2182, #1389, #1131, #3271, Dist. #5 & Dist. #7. It is now time to do your year end June 30th Audits, invite both 21-22 and 22-23 Trustees to the Audit.

GROUP EXEMPTIONS: From **NOW** until no later than **Nov 15** (after that you will be **Delinquent with the IRS**), you can do your **990-N** e post cards. Send me a copy of your 990-N e post card with your **Group Exemption Package (PLEASE do not send just the E-postcard by itself)**. The new forms are in the “Department Handbook” that will be available soon on the Auxiliary Department website (it is running late this year and most of us Officers are just returning from National Convention). When 22-23 gets there be sure to download it to your computer so you can easily get to your “Treasurer’s” pages. To get to our website vfwauxnm.org be sure to type it into your browser as the site is not yet searchable. Look under Login, Members Only, then 22-23 Handbook. Also check out from **Home Page, RESOURCES then TREASURER.**

ACROSS THE BOARDS: You can start sending your new year 2022-2023 donations.

I have the same contact information as always: **VFW Auxiliary Dept. of New Mexico, Treasurer Penney Howard – PO Box 34 – Flora Vista, NM 87415 my home phone/fax 505-334-8605, my cell 505-330-1023 and of course Email nm-vfwa-treas@comcast.net .**

CITY	AUX#	CANCER A & R	NM Hospitals Albq-Ft Bay-NMST	NH HHCC	DPSP	VFW NVS	VFW V&MS	WAYS & MEANS	MEMBE 2022	RSHIP 2023	%
DISTRICT 1									207	166	80.2%
Aztec	614								119	103	86.6%
Farmington	2182								26	25	96.2%
Grants	3221								62	38	61.3%
TOTALS		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00			
DISTRICT 2									531	424	79.8%
Albuquerque	401								220	167	75.9%
Moriarty	3370								30	20	66.7%
Rio Rancho	5890								195	148	75.9%
Albuquerque	6216								86	89	103.5%
Totals		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00			
DISTRICT 3									996	840	84.3%
Anthony	4384								83	67	80.7%
Las Cruces	6917								192	137	71.4%
Alamogordo	7686								514	496	96.5%
Las Cruces	10124								207	140	67.6%
Totals		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00			
DISTRICT 4									295	247	83.7%
Elephant Butte	1389								143	133	93.0%
Williamsburg	3317								152	114	75.0%
Totals		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00			
DISTRICT 5									179	126	70.4%
Mora	1131								26	22	84.6%
Raton	1793								78	48	61.5%
Clayton	3271								75	56	74.7%
Totals		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00			
DISTRICT 6									242	196	81.0%
Santa Fe	2951								223	180	80.7%
Questa	7688								19	16	84.2%
Totals		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00			
DISTRICT 7									204	140	68.6%
Hobbs	3274								131	90	68.7%
Carlsbad	8703								73	50	68.5%
Totals		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00			
DISTRICT 8									552	483	87.5%
Tucumcari	2528								86	65	75.6%
Clovis	3015								98	82	83.7%
Clovis	3280								294	274	93.2%
Portales	9515								74	62	83.8%
Totals		0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00			
AT LARGE	NM								439	436	99.3%
Dept donations											
ALL TOTALS	24 Aux.	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0	0.00	3645	3058	83.90%
24 Auxiliaries + 8 C											
		BOLD NUMBERS in VFW columns donation sent straight to VFW in CAR & HHCC went straight to National!									
		IF THERE IS A MISTAKE, PLEASE LET ME KNOW, SO I CAN CORRECT IT!!!									
	as of 7/27/2022										



Youth

Mary "Girl" Sanchez

“Let’s talk about kids and schools”.

Schools have started or is going to start very sooner, if you can this is the best opportunity to reach out and talk to the teachers, school principle and

administrator. The school’s curriculum is not set in stone and a great time to add programs for youth.

I have a question - What is meant by youth programs? Youth according to national auxiliary is every young person under the age of 18 is still a youth. So many youth “thanks to COVID” are home or zooming for school credits even the 5 and 6 year old. If you can’t get to the schools how about youth programs

don't forget the youth group (youth sports team, church youth groups, after-school group, school clubs, youth community service group, police dept. community service teens) just to name a few.

Here is a program for this month called Patriotism Through Literacy. This is a fun way of teaching the youth about American history. Promote and support reading, and search about various times in American history on veteran and hero's. Takes them on a journey far away or at home. Let them be the author of their own story or picture book. Share among the post or district. If youth like to read, have a book hour at the post start with 30 minute first. Have youth come in and read a book to the vets maybe their own book of stories. But always remember to award your teen for trying. More information for this program can be found on our website under youth programs.

If you need guidance give me a call or text me at (915) 526-1645 or email me at beefweak7@hotmail.com. Website is at vfwauxnm.org

Convention 2022 Kansas City Memories



