



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 1

2026-2027 SERIES

August 11, 2026

1. Having been elected National President and having been installed in office in accordance with the Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary, I hereby assume command.
2. The following officers have also been duly elected and installed by the 113th National Convention and will be accorded with the recognition due them:

National Senior Vice President

Kim Harney, Auxiliary 9972, Sierra Vista, Arizona

National Junior Vice President

Sandra L. Uzell, Auxiliary 7536, Lyndhurst, Ohio

National Treasurer

Ann Panteleakos, Auxiliary 5446, Plainfield, Connecticut

National Chaplain

Margaret Jane Feher, Auxiliary 7387, Hazard, Kentucky

National Conductor

Cynthia P. Davis, Auxiliary 8509, Baltimore, Maryland

National Guard

Jeanette D. Garcia, Auxiliary 401, Albuquerque, New Mexico

National District Council Members (NDCMs):

NDCM No. 1	Maine/New Hampshire	Celeste Nicholas
NDCM No. 2	Vermont/Massachusetts	Sheila Spaulding
NDCM No. 3	Maryland/New Jersey	Elizabeth DallaTezza
NDCM No. 4	Delaware/New York	Karen Ann Dotson
NDCM No. 5	Missouri/Illinois	Danetta Wakefield
NDCM No. 6	West Virginia/Virginia	Carol Vangi
NDCM No. 7	Tennessee/Kentucky	Cindy Kohrs

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NDCM No. 8	Georgia/Alabama	Dianne Tiller
NDCM No. 9	South Carolina/North Carolina	Sandra Johnson Leu
NDCM No. 10	Oklahoma/Arkansas	Teresa Price
NDCM No. 11	Wisconsin/Iowa	Renee Quinn
NDCM No. 12	Wyoming/North Dakota	Arlene Birkle
NDCM No. 13	Kansas/Colorado	Tessa Butcher
NDCM No. 14	Montana/Idaho	Denise Sampo
NDCM No. 15	New Mexico/Arizona	Betty Decker
NDCM No. 16	Hawaii/Alaska	Patricia Sauer
NDCM No. 17	Utah/Nevada	Renee West
NDCM No. 18	Rhode Island/Connecticut	Kathrine Fleischauer
NDCM No. 19	Mississippi/Louisiana	Mary Johnson
NDCM No. 20	Oregon/Washington	Debbie Little
NDCM No. 21	Nebraska/South Dakota	Nancy Worth
NDCM Area A	Pennsylvania	Bonnie Drake
NDCM Area B	Michigan	Deborah Scheetz
NDCM Area C	Indiana	Linda Misuraca
NDCM Area D	Ohio	Jessica Gardner
NDCM Area E	Minnesota	Sonia Tatge
NDCM Area F	Florida	Teresa Bachand
NDCM Area G	California	Kathleen Smith
NDCM Area H	Texas	Melanie McConaghy

3. The following appointments are hereby announced:

National Secretary

Ann Panteleakos, Auxiliary 5446, Plainfield, Connecticut

National Chief of Staff

Bette Jean Biedrzycki, Auxiliary 2754, West View, Pennsylvania

National Patriotic Instructor

Jessica Gardner, Auxiliary 2800, Dayton, Ohio

National Historian

Teresa Price, Auxiliary 539, Henryetta, Oklahoma

National Assistant Conductor

Evan Smiley, Auxiliary 11404, Brandenburg, Kentucky

National Assistant Guard

Edna Kiviniemi, Auxiliary 2492, Imlay City, Michigan

National Color Bearer No. 1

Michael S. Yates, Auxiliary 4252, Hernando, Florida

National Color Bearer No. 2

Stephen E. Doherty Sr., Auxiliary 8955, Westerly, Rhode Island

National Color Bearer No. 3

Jason Manke, Auxiliary 5319, Athens, Michigan

National Color Bearer No. 4

Philip C. Reinpold, Auxiliary 5812, Pueblo West, Colorado

National Banner Bearer

Ella Barks Wilson, Auxiliary 4759, Starks, Louisiana

National Flag Bearer

Margaret Russo, Auxiliary 7164, Avenel, New Jersey

National POW-MIA Flag Bearer

Benjamin McDonald, Auxiliary 2208, Waverly, Iowa

National Musician

Patsy Cole, Auxiliary 4190, Decatur, Alabama

National Soloist

Willa Watts, Auxiliary 3629, Fairbanks, Alaska

National Assistant Musician

Bethany Knoll, Auxiliary 7743, Osborne, Kansas

National Assistant Soloist

Karen Camera, Auxiliary 10804, North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina

4. As a reminder, some of the objects of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary shall be fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable and educational; to assist the Posts and members thereof of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and its own members whenever possible. We therefore support the VFW in their focus to identify, address, and eradicate racial bias and discrimination. And the VFW Auxiliary leadership unites with the VFW leadership in the pursuit to eliminate racial injustices and discriminatory practices within our organization.
5. In accordance with the VFW Auxiliary National Bylaws, Article XI-Discipline, any member who commits offenses recognized by the VFW Auxiliary may be subject to disciplinary action and may be assessed the penalties provided in this Article. Further, issues governed by Article XI should be addressed at the appropriate lowest level before they are elevated to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters. The VFW Auxiliary joins with the VFW in stating that acts of sexual harassment, racial or sexual discrimination, or any other conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or

- deemed unbecoming of a member will not be tolerated. Harassment and discrimination include any verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment, or that otherwise interferes with another's ability to participate in VFW Auxiliary activities. All members are expected to conduct themselves with dignity, respect, professionalism, and common courtesy always.
6. For the purposes of clarification, we do not operate as a men's organization or a ladies organization, but as the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and its VFW Auxiliary.
 7. Every Auxiliary chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary will be expected to participate in at least one program that benefits veterans. Additionally, it is necessary that all Auxiliary, District, and Department Presidents comply with all provisions of the VFW Auxiliary National Bylaws, the Booklet of Instructions, and the Ritual.
 8. Presidents and Treasurers, all levels, attention is directed to VFW Auxiliary National Bylaws, which requires the offices to be bonded with an indemnity company in a sum at least 1.25 the amount of the funds and value of property for which they may be accountable. However, I recommend bonding in a sum for twice the amount of the funds and value of property for which they may be accountable to ensure appropriate coverage.
 9. Attention is directed to VFW Auxiliary National Bylaws, Section 814 – Trustees, Duties of (All Levels). All audits are to be completed by the Trustees. Audits are conducted and submitted timely.
 10. Attention is directed to the requirement of timely filing of Internal Revenue Form 990. Contact the Department Treasurer for assistance.
 11. Attention Presidents, an annual official visit of all Auxiliaries and Districts is necessary to ensure compliance with the VFW Auxiliary National Bylaws.
 12. Attention is directed to VFW Auxiliary National Bylaws, Article X, Sec. 1003-Auxiliary Emblem and Logo. The Emblem and Logo of the Auxiliary belongs to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Organization. Departments, Districts, Auxiliaries or individual members shall not manufacture or have manufactured or reproduce any article or emblematic jewelry, pins, or badges containing this emblem or logo without prior written consent of the VFW Quartermaster General.

13. Caution is urged in the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI). Fact check all information before posting to ensure that it is accurate and aligns with the VFW Auxiliary National Bylaws.

14. As we begin a new VFW Auxiliary year, we also begin a new opportunity to serve. Elections have concluded, officers have been installed, and our members have entrusted them with the responsibility of leading their Auxiliaries, Districts, and/or Departments. While not every member may have supported those who were elected, once the election is over, we must come together with a shared commitment to respect the offices they hold and support them as they carry out their duties.

The true measure of our organization is not whether we always agree, but whether we can work together with dignity, respect, and a common purpose. Personal differences, disappointments, or past grievances should never be allowed to overshadow the mission that unites us all. We owe our veterans, service members, their families, and our communities our very best—not our divisions.

Let this be a year marked by unity rather than discord, encouragement rather than criticism, and collaboration rather than conflict. When we choose to lift one another up, we strengthen our Auxiliaries, inspire future leaders, and ensure that the VFW Auxiliary continues to be an organization worthy of the veterans we proudly serve. Together, let us lead with integrity, serve with compassion, and remain steadfast in our commitment to our mission.

BY ORDER OF:
Donna Mills
National President

OFFICIAL:



Ann Panteleakos
National Secretary-Treasurer

DM: AP: cb