

Serving Our To-toly Oz-some Veterans



March 2026

Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters,

Let me begin by thanking everyone who gave their time and effort to make the February C of A a success. Your preparation, participation, and teamwork truly made a difference. Our VOD, Patriot Pen, and Teacher of the Year winners were announced, so let us continue to support these students and educators as they advance to the national level of competition. Their success is a proud reflection of the impact we make through our programs.

As we move forward, please continue to focus on membership, growth, and retention. I hope each Auxiliary met the challenge of making personal contact with all unpaid members as well as members-at-large. A simple phone call can make a difference in helping someone feel valued and encouraging them to remain an active part of our mission. Our current membership is 98.42%. We reached our February 28 goal! Our next goal: **100% by April 30**. We need 110 members to reach this goal. I am confident we will achieve this goal by working together!

With elections approaching, I encourage each of you to thoughtfully consider stepping up to serve. Leadership at every level is vital to our success. Please take care to elect qualified, dedicated leaders who will guide your Auxiliary with integrity, organization, and heart for our veterans and their families.

Please remember that raffle ticket sales remain an important priority. Every ticket sold directly supports our projects and strengthens our ability to serve you, and our veterans. Your continued effort in promoting and selling tickets is sincerely appreciated.

In addition, the importance of meeting reporting deadlines cannot be overstated. Your deadline for entering your reports is **April 15**. Timely reports ensure our accomplishments are recognized and counted at every level. Reporting helps demonstrate the full impact of your Auxiliary's service.

Communication is key to our success. If you are unable to attend a meeting or complete an assigned responsibility, please be sure to notify your President or appropriate leader as soon as possible- whether it is your Auxiliary, a District meeting, or a Department meeting- so plans can be adjusted and responsibilities properly covered.

Remember applications for the Erlene Mayberry Scholarship are due **April 15**. All necessary instructions and application are found on our Department website- vfwauxnc.org.

Thank you for your dedication, your leadership, and your continued service to our veterans, their families, our communities, and to one another.

In Auxiliary service,

Lín



March 26 @ 7 PM

Topic: Elections,
Installation Report,
Delegates



A Message from the Department Treasurer

March 2026
Vfwauxnc.org



Brothers and Sisters,

By now, I should have the 31 December audit from each Auxiliary. If I do not, your Auxiliary is in arrears, and you should get it to me as soon as possible. And, I again have to remind you that the date the audit is presented (every balance read) to the Auxiliary members, a motion made to accept and voted on is **REQUIRED**. I am still receiving too many audits without this information, which means I have to contact the treasurer or the President to add this information to the audit. Please save me the time of having to do this by simply making sure the date is on your audit form when you submit it. Until I have it, the audit is not considered acceptable.

Each Auxiliary should also have their Department fundraiser raffle tickets by now. We cannot stress the importance of your participation in this important event for the Auxiliary. As President Lin stated in her letter, these funds enable us to equip our officers and members with the necessary tools to be confident and knowledgeable, thereby maintaining the strength and confidence of our Auxiliaries. The proceeds help provide awards and recognition for the hard work of our members and Auxiliaries, supporting the programs and Veterans. Please sell the tickets you were provided to your Post members, family, friends, and everyone. Separate the stubs and send the stubs and monies to me on an **AUXILIARY** check before 25 May. Please do not wait until the Department Convention to turn these in. This just adds to the confusion. I would really appreciate it.

This month, I am enclosing the delegate forms for District, Department, and National. Your District delegates should be voted on at your March meeting, as the spring District conventions will begin in April. Send your list of delegates to the **DISTRICT Secretary**. And take a copy with you to your meeting. Plan on attending the Thinking Thursday training this month, which will be held on Thursday, 26 March at 7:00 p.m. We will be talking about delegates at each level and the importance of electing and submitting your delegates.

Start working on your Treasurer of the Year applications! The form may be found on the Department website under resources-Of the Year forms. Auxiliary treasurers are amazing, and you have a lot of responsibilities. Now it is your time to shine. Pat yourself on the back. You deserve it. The applications will be due to me by 15 April.

As always, if you have any questions or need any assistance, please reach out. I am here to help.

Sandra Johnson-Leu,
VFWA Department Treasurer Department of NC
919-906-7592
ctrysun@embarqmail.com
103 Covered Bridge Rd., Clayton, NC 27520



"The world is restless, noisy, filled with injustice and chaos right now. We can still choose peace, stillness, truth, and kindness amidst the chaos." Toni O'Keefe



VFW AUXILIARY
Department of North Carolina
Deborah Crowder, Secretary

910-622-6749
sec4vfwauxnc@gmail.com
4717 Ilex Drive
Wilmington, NC 28412

MARCH NOTES

I'm happy to see the daffodils blooming. Nothing says springtime like the sight of those smiling yellow blooms. They also remind me of a simpler time when I was a Girl Scout. It was a crest for the troop I belonged to, and aligned with our mission of personal growth and trying new things. Let's adopt the attitude of those younger days of resilience and the wonder of learning new things. Let's be open to all of the new things available to us through technology. The VFW has adopted a new format for communications with members across the state and even the country. The Auxiliary will follow suit, and you will see more information regarding this over the next few months. I still hear that we have members who do not use computers. I'm sure that is true though hard for some of us to grasp after having access to technology for so many years. I actually got foreign language credits for taking COBOL and FORTRAN in college, so you know my skills are way outdated! I try to keep up, but things change so fast, I feel left behind. We've gone from computers that took an entire well airconditioned room to a device we hold in our hand every day. How many of you think you could not get by without that smart phone? I like that I can hold so much valuable information in the palm of my hand. Need to know something about one of our programs? Just sign into MALTA. Can't find your membership card? Sign into MALTA. You get the picture. Stay tuned for more information about exciting changes.

As you read through this month's mail, you will notice several forms for your use. Three of them are specifically related to the election and transmittal of Delegates AND Alternates at the District, Department, and National level. Please read the instructions for each of these forms as they are different for each specific level. In addition, the completed forms are to be sent to different places. The only fee associated with these forms is for the Department Convention Delegates, and that fee must be paid regardless of whether or not anyone from your Auxiliary attends the Department Convention. Please register Delegates AND Alternates for the National Convention, and be sure your Secretary enters the required information into MALTA by the deadline of MAY 31. Any member attending the National Convention will be able to register and pay their registration fee through MALTA. They DO NOT register themselves as a Delegate. That MUST be done by the Auxiliary Secretary. If the member is entered into MALTA, by the Auxiliary Secretary, they will be able to see that designation when they register to attend the National Convention. Please remember to do this. It was very disappointing last year to have members who thought they were Delegates not be able to register and vote as a Delegate because the Secretary failed to enter the information into MALTA. The District Delegates and Alternates are to be sent to the District Secretary. Tune in to the next THINKING THURSDAY on MARCH 26 to learn more about Delegates and Alternates. The other forms are to do with scholarships and are included because of fast approaching deadlines.

“The Chaplains Treasure Box”

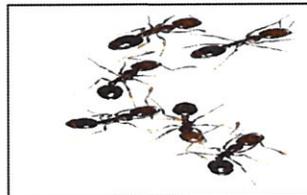
March 2026

Parable of the Ants

OCTOBER 30, 2023 (WesGay.com)



There once were two groups of ants. One group was comprised of individuals, the other with team members. The first group decided it was best for each to scatter and fend for themselves. The second decided to work for the benefit of the team. The first group began seemingly well. Each ant went and searched to find food for himself. Each individual was feeling strong and independent. But then, it happened. The individuals began to realize that there was to be some competition for the food. No one cared about another; each was focused on his own well-being. Soon, egos began to inflate, and chaos was soon to ensue. The second group, however, did not immediately scatter. Each team member was forced to push pride aside and admit their weaknesses, along with their strengths. With pride aside, a few clear leaders arose to organize the group. Those strong in searching were sent out to find food. Once they returned with their discovery, each ant began to fall in line and work together to pass the food from the source to the hill. A few ants began to become discontented, feeling their talents were not being used best. The leaders stepped in, able to encourage most of them to step back into their positions, assuring them that they were in fact being used well. The remainder decided to leave and join the group of individuals. How they would soon regret their decision. At the end of the day, group one was frustrated, separated, and angry. Some were left severely injured, others wounded by their battles against each other. Their goal to fend for themselves was thwarted by, well, themselves. They were left broken, bruised, defeated, and still angry. The second group, on the other hand, returned to the hill at the end of the day, feeling good as they reflected on a job done well. Ample provisions were gathered, and each member was able to take pride in contributing to the benefit of the team. You see, thanks to their leadership, each ant in group two understood their role. They began to see how uniquely they were each created, and how that unique creation mixed perfectly with those placed around them. Realizing they were stronger together than they ever could be separately revolutionized the way they viewed their work. Their goal was to gather food to sustain life, and their team approach made that easily attainable. Their realization of a necessary dependence on each other created the culture of success through teamwork, which turns out to be how they were created.



The ants in the story represent what can be achieved through collaboration and working together towards common goals. No matter what your size or age everyone has a unique way that they can contribute. If done together consistently even the smallest contributions can have an amazing ripple and achieve amazing results. Using everyone's talents and abilities.



This made me think about the VFW and its Auxiliaries. We as an organization have many gifted and talented people. We have a common Purpose and Goal. Our Veterans, their families and our active-duty military personnel. When we have our VFW Comrades and Auxiliary Sisters and Brothers working together as a Team for Our Common Goals. We achieve great things for those we took an oath to serve.



Which ants do you want to be? Wasting time and effort fighting or working together to achieve great things!



Theresa Billips
Department of North Carolina
Chaplain
704-322-8345
Sistertnc@aol.com



Americanism

March 2026

“Americanism is a question of spirit, of conviction and purpose, not creed or birthplaces. The test of our worth is the service we render.”

President Roosevelt

March Patriotic Days

Women’s Day 8th, Pi Day 14th, St Patrick Day 17th, National Crayon Day 31st

It is March that means Awards are due by March 30th to me. You can access the Americanism Award on Malta under member resources Americanism. The form is the Americanism Aux Award #1. Make sure your auxiliary chair fills it out and emails it to me at j.m.platt83@gmail.com by the 30th as they are due to the National Americanism Chair by the 31st of March. We can’t win awards at National if your auxiliary doesn’t put in the work aka the paperwork.

For the auxiliaries that turn one in for my judgement I will be awarding 3 Auxiliaries for their contributions to the Americanism program at the next COA.

Now for our Patriotic Days in March there are some “holidays” you can make patriotic. Women’s Day is March 8th celebrate the women veterans at your post, show them that you appreciate them not just as a veteran but as strong women who defended our country. St Patty’s Day celebrate our Irish American Veterans. I am going to be celebrating national crayon day on the 31st and color some patriotic coloring pages with the youth of my post.

If you haven’t done your reporting yet please do so. We don’t want to wait until the last minute. There is still time to have a flag retirement ceremony with local youth groups and roast some marshmallows afterwards. That is always a good way to interact with our youth but instill the importance of what we do and how to treat our flag.

As always coordinate with your VFW so that we can honor our veterans and continue to complete our programs.

If you need ideas or more information on Flag etiquette, history of the flag or the U.S Flag code you can visit VFW.org/community/flag-etiquette

Jeanette (Jeannie) Platt
Americanism Program Chairman
phone number (910) 599-8044 email j.m.platt83@gmail.com

Auxiliary Outreach March



March is the month of Saint Patrick's Day. A religious and cultural holiday on March 17. This is the date of Saint Patrick the foremost patron saint of Ireland.

Time is getting short for reporting, so we need to identify more opportunities for volunteering to support our veterans. Some good places to volunteer include museums, food pantries, hospitals, libraries, Red Cross Disaster, or simply helping neighbors.



Remember to follow all the guidelines and report. Let's all help make this a great year. If you have questions or concerns, I will be glad to help.



Patty Harris
Auxiliary Outreach Program Chairman

1565 Spicer Mtn Road Sparta, N.C.28675

pattyharris@skybest.com Phone: 336-657-1770



“Buddy” ® Poppy



Donna Wright
Donna1023m@aol.com



It's time to submit your Buddy Poppy King and Queen essays! This contest is open to boys and girls ages 9 thru 12. Post/Auxiliary entries should arrive to the Department Chairpersons by Wednesday, April 1st, 2026.

The essay topic is: **"Freedom Isn't Free: The Sacrifice Behind the Buddy Poppy"**
An essay focusing on the lives lost and sacrifices made by Service members, symbolized by the Buddy Poppy.

Rules and application linked below:

<https://vfwauxnc.org/uploads/documents/Poppykingqueen2526.pdf>

The Buddy Poppy Prince and Princess contest is open to all boys and girls, ages 5 thru 8.

Each patriotic drawing shall have at least one RED Buddy Poppy and shall be on 8 1/2 X 11 drawing paper. The Buddy Poppy may be drawn in any type of scene they would like to create.

Rules and application linked below:

<https://vfwauxnc.org/uploads/documents/PrincePrincess2526.pdf>



The VFW National Home Community page features 43 single-family homes across the country. The homes are designed to provide a space for veteran and military families to grow and thrive and families will find the support they need within the community.

<https://vfnationalhome.org/about-us/community/>

“Serving our Toto-ly Oz-Some Veterans”
NC Department President's Theme
2025-2026



**CHIEF OF STAFF
EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION**

DEBORAH CROWDER

MARCH 2026

910-622-6749
crowder84hd@gmail.com
4717 Ilex Drive
Wilmington, NC 28412

Spring! As we look forward to new flowers, green buds, and the **Luck o' the Irish**, I want to remind you that there are still a few more weeks for reporting all the work that your Auxiliary has done during this program year. It won't be luck that places your Auxiliary in contention for Department awards. It will be how well you represented that work in your reports. Before I get into Mentoring and some Revitalization pointer, I want to recognize the Auxiliaries that celebrate another year during March.

Institution Date	Post/Auxiliary Number/Name	Post/Auxiliary Location
03/03/1950 (76)	9736 Wilson Beatty	Charlotte
03/14/1955 (71)	5352 Oscar L. Joyner	Kernersville
03/05/1978 (48)	10225 South Wake County	Garner
03/17/1988 (38)	8866 Holden Beach	Holden Beach
03/20/1988 (38)	9810 Warsaw	Warsaw
03/10/1992 (34)	111129 West Craven	Vanceboro
03/19/2001 (25)	5464 Garland B. Denny Memorial	Monroe
03/10/2012 (14)	9010 Brewer-Lowder-McCuiston	Clemmons

Congratulations to each of the Auxiliaries celebrating another year of working hard for Veterans and their families. I wish all of you many more years of growth and serving veterans.

Speaking of growth, how many Auxiliaries experienced growth this year? As the Chief of Staff, it is my job to encourage Extension and Revitalization. Extension seems to imply creating a new Auxiliary, and Revitalization might cause you to think of helping an Auxiliary that is not functioning very well. I have another idea. Why not consider Extension as an invitation to someone to join your Auxiliary? Why not grow your auxiliary in numbers? And, Revitalization? Look at your Auxiliary's roster and reach out to those members who have not been to a meeting in a long time. Send a message reminding them of the date, time, and location of the meeting. Include some information about some of your activities. Maybe it will remind them how much they enjoyed helping veterans, and create a desire to return to the meetings. In addition, your district President was provided with a list of all Members at Large with addresses near your location. Please reach out to these members, too. Invite them to attend one of your meetings or a special event.





Jaclyn Jones
Fundraising Chairman
772.302.6099
Jaclynjones06@gmail.com

Fundraising



What an amazing Silent Auction at the Mid-Winter C of A! You all know how to answer the call of request, and you do it VERY WELL! Each one of your auxiliaries and districts should be proud of the support you have provide to the Ways & Means Fund!

We had 20 baskets donated and you raised over \$1,800 for the Department of NC VFW Auxiliary Ways & Means! This shows your dedication to the organization that supports our veterans and their families throughout NC. Enjoy some photos from the auction.

Bavo Zulu to you all!



VFW Auxiliary Dept of NC Historian /Media Relations

March 2026



Barbara Beard
 198 Oakridge Dr
 Raeford, NC 28376
barbeard@roadrunner.com
 (910) 565-2351 hm
 (910) 624-4357 cell



Historian Notes (2025-2026 Historian & Media Relations Award for Auxiliaries)

Most outstanding social media reel highlighting the VFW Auxiliary in action.

Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions with the most outstanding social media reel highlighting their VFW Auxiliary in action.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

VFW Auxiliaries must send this completed entry form and the social media reel to the Department Historian & Media Relations Chairman by March 31, 2026 for judging.

Instructions on how to make a social media reel is in MALTA Member Resources under Historian & Media Relations, Websites & Social Media- Websites, How to Create a Facebook Reel.



Tell your story! I'm still looking for exciting stories of what your Auxiliaries are doing. Take lots of pictures, caption them, and send them to me. It is possible you will see your stories on the National website. Remember: high resolution pictures are the best! Don't forget the 5 W's and use #auxiliariesinaction

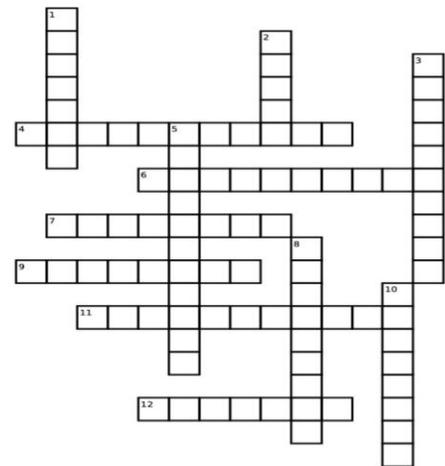
First and foremost, I would like to thank all Auxiliary Historians and Members for joining the Department of North Carolina Historian Group Facebook Page. You submitted some amazing stories about what your Auxiliaries are doing. Keep posting and sharing your stories. This is exactly why this Facebook page was created. This is the central platform for you to share your stories. It is easily accessible; just use your phone to scan the QR Code below. If you have a Facebook account this will take you directly to the Department of North Carolina Historian Group Page.



Department of North Carolina
 Historian Group Page



VFW Auxiliary Crossword Puzzle



Down:

1. the action of helping or doing work for someone.
2. young people
3. red flower
5. synonym of patriotism
8. one who preserves history
10. Auxiliary Dept President

Across:

4. Patriot Pen or Voice of Democracy
6. being a part of an organization
7. a licensed facility that provides medical care, including diagnosis, treatment, and rehabilitation.
9. to partner with another organization to provide service
11. priority goals
12. a person who has served in the military

REPORT, REPORT, REPORT!!!!

HOSPITAL

MARCH, 2026

Have you contacted the VA Medical Center you are assigned to, Veterans Homes, and other medical facilities in your community, to see what our Veterans need or what you can do for them?

REMEMBERING SPECIAL HOLIDAYS

CAN PUT A SMILE ON THE FACE OF A VETERAN.

March 4th, HUG A GI DAY, celebrate the men and women who served in the military with a HUG, recognizing their sacrifice and dedication.

March 17th, **St. Patrick's Day**. put on your green and plan a fun day with our hospitalized Veterans. Adult St., Patrick's day coloring books are available, which our Veterans would enjoy. They love receiving cards, visits and treats.

March 29th. National Vietnam War Veterans Day. A day that honors the hardships and mental health of American Vietnam Veterans that served in the Vietnam War. Plan a special event, **Honor our hospitalized Vietnam War Veterans.**

HONORS ESCORT

Have you participated in or educated VA/ and/or non-VA medical facilities, about the Honors Escort Program? Each of our Veterans deserve our respect and gratitude at the time of death. Some of our VA Medical Centers and non-VA Medical facilities honors each Veteran who has completed the journey of life.

To ensure that all Veterans receive a final salute at the time of death, we need to encourage and assist our VA Medical Centers, North Carolina Homes, and non-VA Medical facilities, to have an Honors Escort Program. No Veteran should leave alone.

REMINDER: COMPLETED "OUTSTANDING HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR", entry form should be mailed to me no later than MARCH 31, 2026.

PLEASE REPORT: If you need assistance with reporting, please contact me, I will be available to help.

Thank you for all you do for our Hospitalized Veterans.

Loyally,

Farres Upton, Hospital Chairman
336-889-4133 farreshupton@aol.com

CHARLES GEORGE VA MEDICAL CENTER

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

Joyce B. Preston – VAVS Representative

706 Warrior Drive

Tryon, North Carolina 28782

Mobile: 828-817-0939

March 2025

Home: 828-859-5286

Bessie Bright – VAVS Deputy

Email: jbp Preston99@yahoo.com

Willie Glance – Honorary VAVS

Needs List

- Soft drinks
- Gatorade
- Juices
- Belvita Cookies
- Little Debbie snacks
- Crackers – Individually wrapped
- Please watch expiration dates*
- Robotic Pets**
- Personal Care Items:
 - Hair brushes
 - Deodorant (Mens & Womens)
 - Toenail clippers
 - Bodywash
 - Mens XL Underwear
 - All strengths reader glasses
 - SHOES – Size 10s, 11s and 12s

Always in need of Coffee donations for our Coffee Service (43.5oz Classic Roast)



Specialty Meals: In need of August - October

Hospice Needs List

- Soda (Dr. Pepper, Coke, Sprite) Small Cans
- KIND – Healthy Grain Bars (Dark Chocolate Chunk & Oats and Honey with toasted Coconut)
- Natures Bakery Oatmeal Crumble Strawberry 10 count Snack Bars
- Slim Jim Original Smoked Snack Sticks
- Great Value Arabica French Dark Roast Coffee Pods
- Great Value Donut Shop Arabica Medium Roast Coffee Pods
- Fritos Lays Flavor Mix Variety Snack Pack 18 Count
- Kleenex – Pop-Up Box
- Fingernail/Toenails Clipper Sets
- Emory Boards
- Schick Xtreme 3 Blade Sensitive Men's Disposable Razors 8 Counts
- Hanes Men's Value Pack Assorted Pocket T-Shirts 6 pack (Large, XLarge and 2XL)
- Brown Bath Towels

God Bless Our Troops & God Bless America!!



Durham VA Medical Center
508 Fulton St
Durham, NC 27705
919-286-0411 ext. 177810
March 2026



Durham VA Supporters:

I would like to start by thanking Richelle Brown from Auxiliary 1920 for getting the donation of 100 donuts from Walmart for us to hand out for the Salute to Veterans week. And to Lindia LaFrance of Auxiliary 10607 for also being there to help and bringing Valentine's cards to hand out with the donuts. Auxiliary 1920 also sent bags and bags of Valentine's candy for us to share with the Veterans. Caregivers and employees. When we were finished, we had quite a bit leftover, so Lindia took the cards and candy to the VAVS office so those could be put on the patients' meal trays. Richelle and I took the donuts to the nurses on the 6th floor memory care unit and to the patients in the P.A.R.C. unit on the 9th floor. Everyone certainly appreciated being honored this way.

The Durham VA will be hosting 4 baby showers for maternity and Post-partum Veterans again this year. Morehead City and Greenville will be in the Spring. The Triangle area will host two, in the spring and fall. Since there are no funds in the VA to support these, only donations from organizations like the VFW Auxiliary can make these happen and be successful. Donations for each gift bag include:

Case of Huggies or Pampers diapers
3 large packs of Baby wipes
1 pacifier (0-12 months) 1 teether, 1 rattle
1 infant safety thermometer, 1 bottle of baby wash or shampoo, 1 tube of diaper ointment

All items should be new. Gift cards to Target, Walmart, or Amazon are also appreciated, as these can be used to purchase the missing items for the gift bags. Donations of items such as activity gyms, play mats, bath sets, stackers/sorters, babyproofing kits, and strollers are used as door prizes. Please avoid stuffed animals or anything that requires batteries, please. Handmade baby blankets (quilted, crocheted or knitted from soft materials) are a big hit with the new moms.

For more information or to arrange drop-off, contact Katie Berrien at 919-336-1952 in the Raleigh/Durham area, Brenda Roberson at 252-417-6512 in the Greenville/Morehead City area, or Kendra Mondren, Chief CDCE at 919-286-0411. Ext 17-7810.

Your support of our Veterans is greatly appreciated.

Sandra Johnson-Leu,
Durham VAVS Representative
919-906-7592
ctrysun@embarqmail.com

Fayetteville NC VA Coastal Health Care System

Center for Development and Civic Engagement

Address: 2300 Ramsey St.

Fayetteville NC 28301

Hi everyone. February certainly has been a wonderful month with many more amazing events to come. Veterans were honored at all VA Centers in North Carolina. The Fayetteville VA Center honored our Veterans with gifts, candies, games, cards, visits, and other events. Everyone seemed very pleased with the show of love and appreciation they received. Thank you to all of you that gave of your time and participation in various areas.

We still have areas in which there are still “Needs”:

GIFT CARDS:

Walmart gift cards in increments of \$25.00. Gift cards enable CDCE to support various departments in assisting veterans in need of housing supplies, food, or gas.

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS:

Cans need to be pop top (ability to open without can opener)

Any type of non-perishable food (such as:)

Beanee Weenee (all brands) Jerky (all brands)

Vienna Sausages (all brands) Chef Boyardee (all brands)

Spam spread (all brands) Crackers (all brands) & cookies (all brands)

Pudding and Jello cups Chips (all brands)

Potted Meat (all brands) Pop Tarts, Protein Bars (all brands)

Deviled Ham (all brands) Bottles of water (all brands)

Fruit cups (all brands) Fruit Snacks (all brands)

Tuna in can or packets (all brands) Flavored water packets

Slim Jims and Ensure (can be generic)

*****CDCE has the authority to decline donations that do not meet the needs of our Veterans or operations.**

Items that they “NO LONGER NEED” are:

Used Clothing

Magazines past 6 months (unless National Geographic)

Nothing on Religion (Chaplain Services receives the materials needed for Veterans)

Nothing on Weapons

Used or New medical equipment

Used furniture

Hotel toiletries

Used cooking devices

Bars of soap

Feminine Hygiene products

Q-Tips

Baby Oil

Dental Floss

VHS Tapes

Expired Food

CDCE REQUESTS DONORS TO CALL CDCE AND SCHEDULE A DROP OFF DATE AND TIME

PHONE NUMBER: (910) 822-7027 or EMAIL: VHAFNCCDCEVOLSVCS@va.gov

Building 48 room 127

Fayetteville NC VA Coastal Health Care System

Center for Development and Civic Engagement

Address: 2300 Ramsey St.

Fayetteville NC 28301

*****Please do not forget to fill out and submit the “Donation Form(s)” to the CDCE Representative who accepts your donations.**

***** You can request a copy for your records. Please make sure the CDCE Representative signs your donation form, also.**

It is an honor to serve our Veterans and to represent such a wonderful organization as the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Loyally Serving Our Veterans,

Wanda Locklear-McCall

VAVS Representative-Fayetteville

**SALISBURY VA MEDICAL CENTER
1601 Brenner Avenue, Salisbury, NC28144
1-800-469-8262 or 704-638-9000**

March

Spring and warm weather will arrive soon. Many of our Veterans have been confined to staying in all winter. They would enjoy sitting on a patio or other areas talking and visiting with someone. Plan a visit and put a smile on a Veterans face.

Our Veterans attending the National Wheelchair and Golden Age games are currently preparing by getting their physicals, training, and etc. Many of you support these games, which is great recreational therapy for our Veterans.

VETERANS NEEDS LIST

**Washcloths and Bar Soap
Men and Women's Deodorant
Men and Women's Shampoo
Men and Women's Body Wash
Toothbrushes and toothpaste
Vaseline/Lip Balm/Chapstick
Dr. Teal Body Wash (Hospice)
Dr. Teal Foot Cream (Hospice)
Tissue (Box and Pocket Sizes)
Fixodent and Denture Cleaners
Men and Women's Shaving Cream**

We must remember the Veterans that are in the North Carolina Veterans Home, that is on the Salisbury VA Medical Center campus. This home is a full-service skilled nursing facility for Veterans. Our Veterans in this home also need our love and support.

Before taking items for our Veterans at Salisbury VA, please contact VOLUNTARY SERVICE to make an appointment for delivery. Phone number: 704-638-3409.

Thank you for supporting the needs of our Hospitalized Veterans.

Loyally,

**Farres Upton
VAVS Representative
Salisbury VA Medical Center**

Happy St. Patrick's Day
March 17



LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM—MARCH 2026

Legislative News and Updates

*Help us find the "Gold at the end of the Rainbow" for our Veterans!
Honor our Vietnam Veterans on March 29th and Every day!*



**Legislative Program Awards for Auxiliaries--Entry Form required and available in MALTA member Resources. I must receive your entry by March 31, 2026, for Judging!
(Don't forget, deadline for reporting in Malta is April 15th.)**

Most outstanding activity and/or event to create thank-you notes and cards to veterans that include links to VFW Action Corps Weekly and/or the VFW Priority Goals.

Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event to create thank-you notes and cards to veterans that include links to VFW Action Corps Weekly and/or the VFW Priority Goals. Citations will be mailed directly to winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary account after the 2026 Auxiliary National Convention.

We must continue to TAKE ACTION on the Major Richard Star Act and DEMAND Congress do right by severely injured veterans. Let's help move this bill forward!

Our own Virginia Foxx is stalling Major Richard Star Act in the Rules Committee!

PH: (202) 225-2071 [U.S. Congresswoman Virginia Foxx](#)

54,000 Combat Injured Veterans are NOT receiving pensions until bill leaves Rules Committee! (54KVeterans.org).

Check out and join the official group of [PassTheAct.org](#) on Facebook!

VFW Demands VA Rescind Disability Rating Rule Change

"The VA's response to the well-articulated concerns raised by so many has been dismissive and unacceptable. Disabled veterans should never be forced to choose between following their doctor's orders and protecting their earned benefits. This interim rule puts that stability at risk, and it must be withdrawn." - VFW National Commander Carol Whitmore

[VFW Demands VA Rescind Disability Rating Rule Change - VFW](#)

LATE BREAKING NEWS ON 2/19/2026

Effective immediately, VA is halting enforcement of the interim final rule, Evaluative Rating: Impact of Medication.

"Effective immediately, VA is halting enforcement of the interim final rule, Evaluative Rating: Impact of Medication.

VA issued the rule to clarify existing policy and protect Veterans' benefits in the wake of an ongoing court action. But many interpreted the rule as something that could result in adverse consequences.

While VA does not agree with the way this rule has been characterized, the department always takes Veterans' concerns seriously. To alleviate these concerns, VA will continue to collect public comments regarding the rule, but it will not be enforced at any time in the future.

Under my leadership, VA is ensuring that everyone applying for benefits receives everything they have earned as quickly and conveniently as possible. This includes reducing the backlog of Veterans waiting for benefits by more than 60 percent. We will continue these improvements on behalf of America's Veterans, families, caregivers and survivors."

DOUG COLLINS
Secretary of Veterans Affairs

VA Disability Advisory Panel Created: Bill Sponsor: Rick Scott (Republican-FL); Full Bill Text Version: Reported to Senate →

The bill establishes a new advisory committee within the Department of Veterans Affairs to assess and improve accessibility for veterans and employees with disabilities—a housekeeping move that indirectly touches defense personnel policy.

THE BREAKDOWN

- Creates a 15-member Veterans Advisory Committee on Equal Access within VA, appointed by the Secretary
- Requires four members to be veterans with mobility, hearing, visual, or cognitive disabilities
- Committee must assess disability access needs across VA facilities, information systems, and benefits delivery
- Mandates compliance reviews with federal disability and accessibility laws
- Provides recommendations on improving accessibility for communications, physical infrastructure, and services
- Must be established within 180 days of enactment

Veterans service organizations, disability rights advocates, and bipartisan moderates favor improved access, viewing it as fulfilling obligations to those who served. With the House passing an amended version 218-213, the bill now returns to the Senate, where members must decide whether to accept House changes or push for a conference committee to reconcile differences.

=====

CONGRESS:

H.R. 658: To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish qualifications for the appointment of a person as a marriage and family therapist, qualified to provide clinical supervision, in the Veterans Health Administration. ***This bill passed in the House on February 2, 2026, and goes to the Senate next for consideration.***

H.R. 659: Veterans Law Judge Experience Act of 2025--This bill passed in the House on January 20, 2026, and goes to the Senate next for consideration.

H.R. 1458: VETS Opportunity Act of 2025--To amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to take certain actions in the case of a default on a home loan guaranteed by the Secretary, and for other purposes. ***This bill passed in the House on February 2, 2026, and goes to the Senate next for consideration.***

H.R. 1663: VSAFE Act of 2025--To amend title 38, United States Code, to establish in the Department of Veterans Affairs a Veterans Scam and Fraud Evasion Officer, and for other purposes. ***This bill passed in the House on January 20, 2026 and goes to the Senate next for consideration.***

2026 Mid-Term Elections: Aas of this writing, In-Person Early Voting Continues and ends Sat., Feb 28 at 3:00 pm for the March 2026 Primary. The Primary Election Day is March 3rd.

The 2026 Mid-Term General Election is November 3, 2025. To get info and your ballot go to: <https://www.ncsbe.gov/> and click Voter Search, enter your name and info. Click on your name. ***Remember!! Report your Election activities in MALTA! That includes voting, working the polls, working as a greeter, attending Candidate Forums and Candidate events.***



Visit our Facebook Page, Dept of NC VFW Auxiliary Legislative Program to keep up with Legislative News and Action Alerts!

Contact info: Lynn Childs, 252-528-0500. Email:

lynn.ccta@gmail.com,

1476A Northside Rd, Elizabeth City, NC 27909

“Facts are stubborn things; and whatever may be our wishes, our inclination, or the dictates of our passions, they cannot alter the state of facts and evidence.”

—John Adams (1770)



Membership 2025-2026

Angi Hardy 52 Monarch Ct. Cameron, NC 28326 910-322-6478

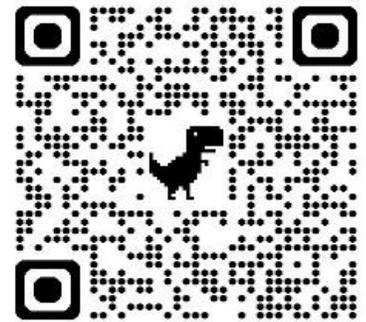
National President Lois Callahan's Theme: From Sea to Shining Sea-Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free

Department Theme: Serving Our Toto-ly Oz-Some Veterans

As of February 19, 2026, the Department is at 98.42%, we need 110 members to reach 100%. I have faith that we will reach 100% very soon!



How can your Auxiliary ensure that its membership development plan is great each year? One way is for your Auxiliary President to assemble a top-notch membership committee. The Auxiliary President shall appoint a committee of not less than five (5) members, including the Treasurer, to contact all members during the year for payment of dues. The role of your Auxiliary's membership committee is to develop and implement an action plan for membership recruitment and retention. To be effective, an Auxiliary needs members. Your Auxiliary's ability to serve the



community is directly related to the size and strength of its membership base. Here are some suggested responsibilities for your Auxiliary's membership committee:

- Develop committee goals to achieve Auxiliary membership goals for the coming year.
- Educate and train Auxiliary members about the importance of recruitment and retention of members;
- Develop a plan to improve member satisfaction that involves surveying members and initiating changes in response to their feedback to ensure that the Auxiliary remains relevant to its members.
- Work with the members to create a positive Auxiliary image that is attractive to prospective and current members. When selecting members for the membership committee, please consider the following characteristics:
- Thorough knowledge of the VFW Auxiliary, its programs, benefits, and services.
- Outgoing and sociable personality.
- Great follow-through skills, and a commitment to the position.

Membership resources can be found on:

National Website (<https://vfwauxiliary.org>)

Department of NC Auxiliary (<https://vfwauxnc.org>)

Malta Webpage (<https://malta.vfwauxiliary.org/MemberResources>)

National Membership Ambassador Mike Maruszak

Michael-j-maruszak@outlook.com

"I Am The Ocean"

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS 2025 - 2026

National Auxiliary President Lois Callahan's theme: "From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Our Veterans Who Keep Us Free"

Department theme: "Serving Our Toto-ly Oz-Some Veterans"



Scholarship Chairperson: Frances Perini

106 White Cedar Ln

Hendersonville, NC 28791

feperini@prodigy.net - 401-652-0315

MARCH 2026

Wow, our scholarship programs are now winding down as the end of this year approaches. I hope that by this time all Auxiliaries who had VOD and Patriots Pen contestants have thanked them for their participation. We now have two Auxiliary programs and one VFW program left for this year. Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest, 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest and the VFW's Sports Clips Help A Hero Scholarship. I hope by this time your Auxiliaries have made sure that all program information has been distributed. The deadline for the Continuing Education applications submission was February 15, 2026 and the deadline for artwork to Auxiliaries is March 31, 2026. The artwork must be judged and then sent to the District which judging is optional and then onto Auxiliary Department by April 15, 2026. One winner will be sent to Auxiliary National Headquarters by May 5, 2026.

I thought that to make it helpful for your Auxiliaries I would include information and applications for the art contests in this mailing. Please make sure that the application is filled out properly and please send a name of a contact person incase there are any questions about the artwork or application when sending in the winning artwork to Department.

Remember that there is a National award for Auxiliaries which is a citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about scholarship opportunities in the VFW and VFW Auxiliary. Entry form is required which I have included in this mailing. Auxiliaries must send there completed entry form to Department Scholarships Chairman by March 31, 2026 for judging.

Please remember to report, the deadline for reporting is April 15, 2026.



Scholarships

National Program Awards

2025-2026 Entry Form

Awards for Auxiliaries

1. Most creative/unique activity and/or event educating their community about the scholarship opportunities in the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most creative/unique activity and/or event educating their community about scholarship opportunities in the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

VFW Auxiliaries must send this completed entry form to the Department Scholarships Chairman by March 31, 2026 for judging.

VFW Auxiliary Name: _____

VFW Auxiliary No: _____ Department of: _____

Describe the creative/unique activity and/or event that educated the community about scholarship opportunities in the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary. (e.g., flyers, brochures, social media posts, newsletters, e-newsletters, handouts, photos, links to videos, etc.)

The Department Scholarships Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to National Scholarships Ambassador Philip Reinbold by April 30, 2026 for judging.

Department Scholarships Chairman: _____
Signature

Date: _____

Forms sent to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters will not be processed or forwarded.



VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest 2025-2026

VFW Auxiliary National is pleased to present this National Scholarship to assist students who wish to further their education. This scholarship contest recognizes young artists and encourages patriotism in youth. Entries will be judged on the originality of concept, presentation and patriotism expressed, content of how it relates to patriotism and clarity of ideas, design technique and total impact of work.

VFW Auxiliary National Scholarships

First place - \$2,500
Second place - \$1,500
Third place - \$1,000
Fourth place \$500

Contest Eligibility

- Students do not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate.
- Students in grades 9-12 by March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial or home school program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.
- Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent resident (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen.
- Foreign exchange students, students aged 20 or older, GED and adult education students are **not** eligible.
- Previous winners of VFW Auxiliary National 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contests are **not** eligible.

Contest Rules

- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be three dimensional.
- Entry may **not** be larger than 18" in any direction.
- Entry may **not** weigh more than 5 pounds.
- Stone, clay, metal, wood, fabric, papier mâché, pottery, mixed and other media may be used.
- Digital art, photography, weapons, art generated by a 3-D printer and jewelry are **not** accepted.
- If the American Flag is used, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, numbers of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code.
- Completed typed or printed legible entry form including student and parent and/or guardian signatures.
- Typed or printed legible explanation of the steps taken to create the 3-Dimensional art entry and artist statement (250 words or less).
- Submit at least 2 photos of completed art entry.

VFW Auxiliary National reserves the right to modify these rules and eligibility without notice.



VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest Contest Entry Form 2025-2026

Please print or type, incomplete and/or illegible entry forms will disqualify the entrant.

Student Name: _____ Age: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____
School Name: _____ Grade: _____
Title of entry: _____ Date completed: _____
Media used: _____
Source: _____

State the source of your idea for entry: person, website, magazine, newspaper, TV, etc. To comply with copyright laws, all artworks must be original to the entrant. Artwork may be inspired by another artist's/photographer's work, but not to the degree that the new piece of artwork is easily recognized as being derivative of another artist's work. If another artist's/photographer's work is used as a source of inspiration or reference, a copy of the artist's/photographer's work must be provided along with the name and date of publication in which it was found. Any artwork that is recognized as being in violation of these rules will be disqualified.

*Student Signature: _____ Date: _____
*Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

*I hereby grant permission for my artwork to be published in the VFW Auxiliary National E-magazine, website and social media and to be used for any and all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary National organization.

VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for entries which are lost, late, illegible, damaged, incomplete, misdirected, stolen, or reproduced. All scores are final as received from the judges. All contestants must agree to abide by the contest rules. Falsifying information on the entry form or any violation of these rules shall cause immediate disqualification and forfeiture of scholarship.

Participating/Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary contact information

Contact Name: _____ Contact Phone: _____
Contact Email: _____ Auxiliary No. _____

To avoid entrant disqualification, this section is to be filled out completely by VFW Auxiliary at each judging level. VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters only accepts Department level first-place winning entries.

Participating/Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary Name & No.: _____ **Dept. of:** _____

March 31: Student entries due to participating/sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for judging.

Authorized VFW Auxiliary verification signature: _____ Date: _____
Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

April: (Optional) First place winner from each participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary VFW Auxiliary due to VFW Auxiliary District for judging.

Authorized VFW Auxiliary District verification signature: _____ Date: _____
Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

April 15: First place winner from each participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary or optional VFW Auxiliary District judging due to the VFW Auxiliary Department for judging.

Authorized VFW Auxiliary Department verification signature: _____ Date: _____
Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

May 5: First place winner from each VFW Auxiliary Department must be received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters for judging.

July/August: All students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form. Selected winning entries may be announced on VFW Auxiliary National social media pages and an image may be shown at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

August/September: All art entries received at VFW Auxiliary National will be returned to students to the address provided on the entry form.

VFW Auxiliary National reserves the right to modify these rules and eligibility without notice.



VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest 2025-2026

VFW Auxiliary National is pleased to present this National Scholarship to assist students who wish to further their education. This scholarship contest recognizes young artists and encourages patriotism in youth. Entries will be judged on the originality of concept, presentation and patriotism expressed, content of how it relates to patriotism and clarity of ideas, design technique and total impact of work.

[VFW Auxiliary National Scholarships](#)

First place - \$15,000

Second place - \$7,500

Third place - \$3,500

Fourth place and Fifth place - \$1,500

Sixth place and Seventh place - \$1,000

Eighth place through Nineteenth place - \$500

Contest Eligibility

- Students do not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate.
- Students in grades 9-12 by March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial or home school program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.
- Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent resident (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen.
- Foreign exchange students, students aged 20 or older, GED and adult education students are **not** eligible.
- Previous winners of VFW Auxiliary National Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contests are **not** eligible.

Contest Rules

- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be two dimensional.
- Entry must be on canvas or paper.
- Canvas entries must be submitted on a stretcher frame or canvas board.
- Paper entries must be reinforced with heavy paper.
- Do **not** frame art with wood, metal, plastic or glass.
- Mats may be used, including mounted and floating mats.
- Entries may **not** be smaller than 8"x10" and **not** larger than 18"x24" **including** mat.
- Acrylic, watercolor, oil, chalk, charcoal, ink, marker, pencil, mixed or other media may be used.
- If the American Flag is used, it must conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, numbers of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code.
- Digital art and photography are **not** accepted.
- Completed typed or printed legible entry form including student and parent and/or guardian signatures.
- Typed or printed legible artist statement (250 words or less).
- Student name on back of art entry.

[VFW Auxiliary National reserves the right to modify these rules and eligibility without notice.](#)



VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest Contest Entry Form 2025-2026

Please print or type, incomplete and/or illegible entry forms will disqualify the entrant.

Student Name: _____ Age: _____
Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Email: _____ Phone: _____
School Name: _____ Grade: _____
Title of entry: _____ Date completed: _____
Media used: _____
Source: _____

State the source of your idea for entry: person, website, magazine, newspaper, TV, etc. To comply with copyright laws, all artworks must be original to the entrant. Artwork may be inspired by another artist's/photographer's work, but not to the degree that the new piece of artwork is easily recognized as being derivative of another artist's work. If another artist's/photographer's work is used as a source of inspiration or reference, a copy of the artist's/photographer's work must be provided along with the name and date of publication in which it was found. Any artwork that is recognized as being in violation of these rules will be disqualified.

*Student Signature: _____ Date: _____
*Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

*I hereby grant permission for my artwork to be published in the VFW Auxiliary National E-magazine, website and social media and to be used for any and all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary National organization.

VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for entries which are lost, late, illegible, damaged, incomplete, misdirected, stolen, or reproduced. All scores are final as received from the judges. All contestants must agree to abide by the contest rules. Falsifying information on the entry form or any violation of these rules shall cause immediate disqualification and forfeiture of scholarship.

Participating/Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary contact information

Contact Name: _____ Contact Phone: _____
Contact Email: _____ Auxiliary No. _____

To avoid entrant disqualification, this section is to be filled out completely by VFW Auxiliary at each judging level. VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters only accepts Department level first-place winning entries.

Participating/Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary Name & No.: _____ **Dept. of:** _____

March 31: Student entries due to participating/sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for judging.

Authorized VFW Auxiliary verification signature: _____ Date: _____
Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

April: (Optional) First place winner from each participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary VFW Auxiliary due to VFW Auxiliary District judging.

Authorized VFW Auxiliary District verification signature: _____ Date: _____
Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

April 15: First place winner from each participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary or optional VFW Auxiliary District judging due to the VFW Auxiliary Department judging.

Authorized VFW Auxiliary Department verification signature: _____ Date: _____
Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

May 5: First place winner from each VFW Auxiliary Department must be received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters for judging.

July/August: All students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form. Selected winning entries may be announced on VFW Auxiliary National social media pages and an image may be shown at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

August/September: All art entries received at VFW Auxiliary National will be returned to students to the address provided on the entry form.

VFW Auxiliary National reserves the right to modify these rules and eligibility without notice.



NC Dept. Special Project Chairman Becky Rowe
 4869 Pennington Meadows Circle, Rock Hill, SC 29732
ba.rowe@sbcglobal.net 314-393-5377

The Boot Scootin' Benefit was a BIG success!

Thank You to all Auxiliaries and Districts that provided donations and hosted fundraisers.

Dept. of NC Special Project: **Veterans Mental Health**

All the proceeds will be donated between all 4 VA Hospitals in North Carolina



Follow the Yellow Brick Road to the Goal.

Make sure to report all your hard work: vfwauxnc.org

If your Auxiliary is planning a Special Project Fundraiser, please invite Dept. Pres. Lin Moore and myself.

We would love to come and support you.

Becky Rowe, Special Project Chairman.

ba.rowe@sbcglobal.net

Wanted: Ideas for a fundraiser for Convention

Veterans and Family Support

March 2026

Hello sister and brothers of the Auxiliary. As prices in the grocery store continue to rise a lot of military families continue to struggle with every day needs. The VFW Unmet Needs program is an active, ongoing initiative that provides grants for service members and military families facing financial hardships. The program provides up to \$2,500-\$5,000 in assistance (depending on the specific grant type and criteria) for basic needs, such as housing, utilities, and food, with no repayment required. If a veteran or service member facing unexpected financial difficulties due to deployment or other military-related activity, they may apply for assistance.

What makes the program especially meaningful is its dignity-first approach: funds are paid directly to the creditor, reducing stress and preventing families from falling further behind. By stepping in during moments of crisis, Unmet Needs helps keep military families stable, secure, and focused on what matters most—supporting their loved one in uniform.

VFW Financial Assistance for Service Members Eligibility Criteria



How the Auxiliary Can Help

- Spread awareness so families know help is available
- Assist with the application process
- Partner with local businesses to expand support

Loyally Serving

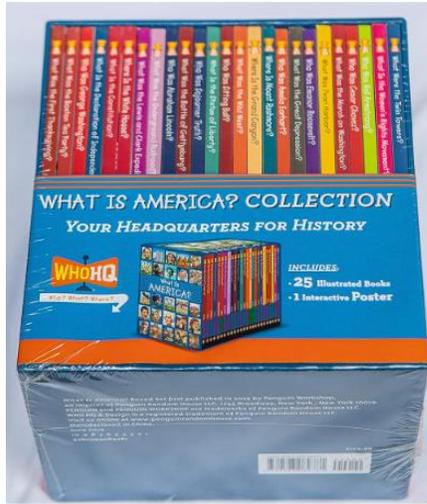
Joe Nelson

Veterans and Family Support

Jnelson_nc@yahoo.com

(252)626.4888

[#WE CAN AND WE WILL](#)



I found this *WhoHQ What is America? Collection* at Cost Co in Winston Salem. For ages 8-12. Looks like a great series for

Patriotism through Literacy

Check your local Cost Co and see if you might be able to pick one up and get those youth and Veterans together!!!

REMINDER,
Our first deadline is approaching!!!

Click here [Illustrating America Art Contest](#) and print out a copy of the Contest Eligibility, Rules and Entry Form. Before you print, enter your Participating/Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary contact information, then print.

MAKE SURE YOU ARE USING THE 2025-2026 FORM!!!

The deadlines are as follows:

March 31: Student entries due to the **participating/sponsoring VFW Auxiliary** for judging.

April 15: First place winner from each participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary due to the **VFW Auxiliary Department** for judging. Winning entries shall be sent to:

Marge Gray - Youth Activities

419 Scenic Mountain Dr.

Sparta, NC 28675

704.902.8720

May 5: First place winner from each VFW Auxiliary Department must be received at **VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters** for judging.

REMEMBER – The artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately if not advancing to the next level.

There are three grade divisions: K-2, 3-5 and 6-8, and National awards for first, second and third place in each grade division.



Durham VA Medical Center
508 Fulton St
Durham, NC 27705
919-286-0411 ext. 177810
March 2026



Durham VA Supporters:

I would like to start by thanking Richelle Brown from Auxiliary 1920 for getting the donation of 100 donuts from Walmart for us to hand out for the Salute to Veterans week. And to Lindia LaFrance of Auxiliary 10607 for also being there to help and bringing Valentine's cards to hand out with the donuts. Auxiliary 1920 also sent bags and bags of Valentine's candy for us to share with the Veterans. Caregivers and employees. When we were finished, we had quite a bit leftover, so Lindia took the cards and candy to the VAVS office so those could be put on the patients' meal trays. Richelle and I took the donuts to the nurses on the 6th floor memory care unit and to the patients in the P.A.R.C. unit on the 9th floor. Everyone certainly appreciated being honored this way.

The Durham VA will be hosting 4 baby showers for maternity and Post-partum Veterans again this year. Morehead City and Greenville will be in the Spring. The Triangle area will host two, in the spring and fall. Since there are no funds in the VA to support these, only donations from organizations like the VFW Auxiliary can make these happen and be successful. Donations for each gift bag include:

Case of Huggies or Pampers diapers
3 large packs of Baby wipes
1 pacifier (0-12 months) 1 teether, 1 rattle
1 infant safety thermometer, 1 bottle of baby wash or shampoo, 1 tube of diaper ointment

All items should be new. Gift cards to Target, Walmart, or Amazon are also appreciated, as these can be used to purchase the missing items for the gift bags. Donations of items such as activity gyms, play mats, bath sets, stackers/sorters, babyproofing kits, and strollers are used as door prizes. Please avoid stuffed animals or anything that requires batteries, please. Handmade baby blankets (quilted, crocheted or knitted from soft materials) are a big hit with the new moms.

For more information or to arrange drop-off, contact Katie Berrien at 919-336-1952 in the Raleigh/Durham area, Brenda Roberson at 252-417-6512 in the Greenville/Morehead City area, or Kendra Mondren, Chief CDCE at 919-286-0411. Ext 17-7810.

Your support of our Veterans is greatly appreciated.

Sandra Johnson-Leu,
Durham VAVS Representative
919-906-7592
ctrysun@embarqmail.com

DISTRICT CONVENTION – DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

Auxiliary # _____ District # _____ Membership at time of Election: _____

To be completed and returned to the District Secretary after election of delegates.

Auxiliary Secretary: Please complete this form and return to the District Secretary IMMEDIATELY after the election of District Delegates and Alternates and before the District Convention. (A copy of this form should also be brought to the District Convention.)

Reference is made to Article II Section 1 of the Department Bylaws, which reads, "*Delegates and Alternates to **the District Convention** shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Auxiliary, held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the annual District Convention: one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate for each ten (10) member or a fraction thereof, in good standing in the Auxiliary at the time of election. Auxiliaries instituted less than thirty (30) days prior to the District Convention shall elect Delegates and Alternates immediately.*"

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT ALL NAMES CLEARLY

Delegates

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Alternates

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

I certify that the above Delegates and Alternate have been duly elected to represent our Auxiliary at the District Convention to be held at the call of the District Commander.

Signed: _____ Title: _____



NOT ACCEPTED BEFORE APRIL 1, NOR AFTER MAY

31

of the Current Calendar Year

**NATIONAL CONVENTION
OFFICIAL DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES**



TO: National Secretary
VFW Auxiliary
406 West 34th Street, 10th Floor Kansas
City, Missouri 64111

FROM: AUXILIARY NO. _____ DEPARTMENT OF _____ AUXILIARY
NAME _____
CITY AND STATE _____

Per Section 305 of the National Bylaws, "Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention shall be elected at the last regular meeting in April; one for each **Thirty-five (35)** or fraction thereof in good standing on **March 31**. The VFW Auxiliary Secretary shall provide the names of the Delegates and Alternates to the National Secretary, along with their membership ID number, within thirty (30) calendar days of the day of election" and no later than MAY 31. The **Auxiliary Secretary** is asked to input his or her Auxiliary's Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) **online in MALTA** via use of their respective membership ID number(s) and to print out a copy of the Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for his or her records.

This is to certify that the Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) listed below were duly elected to represent our VFW Auxiliary at the upcoming National Convention on _____ based on the total VFW Auxiliary membership as of MARCH 31 in the MALTA System.

ID Number and Name ARE REQUIRED to complete this form.
TYPE or PRINT NEATLY each Delegate's or Alternate's ID NUMBER and NAME.

~DELEGATE CREDENTIALS WILL BE ISSUED AT CONVENTION SITE UPON CHECK-IN.~

DELEGATES		ALTERNATES	
ID NUMBER	MEMBER'S FIRST AND LAST NAME	ID NUMBER	MEMBER'S FIRST AND LAST NAME
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

(Auxiliary Secretary)

(Address)

(City, State & Zip Code)

NOTE: This is a listing only. (NO CHECKS ARE TO BE INCLUDED WITH THIS FORM.)

District 6 Pres Emily Ball					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
1920	Mebane	50	49	31	98.00%
10607	Burlington	39	42	28	107.69%
TOTALS		89	91	59	102.25%

District 10 Pres Carsonia Whitmore					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
2087	Greensboro	20	20	6	100.00%
2972	Gibsonville	36	36	32	100.00%
3074	Lexington	39	39	14	100.00%
8297	Mway Monroeton	55	56	48	101.82%
TOTALS		150	151	100	100.67%

District 8 Pres Mary Zanders					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
670	Fayetteville	198	207	151	104.55%
6,018	Fayetteville	201	196	167	97.51%
10,630	Hope Mills	34	32	28	94.12%
TOTALS		433	435	346	100.46%

District 12 Pres Theresa Billips					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
3006	Salisbury	98	94	62	95.92%
6365	Locust	22	20	5	90.91%
8989	Kannapolis	120	110	62	91.67%
9134	Rockwell	22	17	14	77.27%
TOTALS		262	241	143	91.98%

District 9 Pres Angi Hardy					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
4203	Rockingham	56	60	38	107.14%
5631	Sanford	123	121	112	103.25%
7318	Southern Pines	365	359	339	98.90%
10,403	Wadesboro	43	41	27	95.35%
TOTALS		587	581	516	98.98%

CENTRAL	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
TOTALS	1521	1499	1164	98.55%

VFW Auxiliary Dept. of NC Membership Report
 President Lin Moore 2025-26 Chairman- Angi Hardy

Date: 2.19.26

East-Wendy Doubles

District 1 Pres Mary Coatney					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
6060	Elizabeth City	255	233	175	91.37%
7312	Sunbury	23	22	17	95.65%
10950	Outer Banks	38	40	38	105.26%
TOTALS		316	295	230	93.35%

District 4 Pre.Jaymie Hayes					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
2514	New Bern	22	17	10	77.27%
7315	Havelock	205	207	184	100.98%
7547	Clinton	54	54	53	100.00%
8986	Newport	70	69	54	98.57%
9133	Jacksonville	198	191	160	96.46%
9810	Warsaw	29	25	25	86.21%
9960	Swansboro	287	286	236	99.56%
11119	West Craven	29	29	28	100.00%
TOTALS		894	878	750	98.21%

District 2 Pres. Violet Saviak					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
2615	Goldsboro	46	46	30	100.00%
2771	Kinston	18	16	10	88.89%
7032	Greenville	39	35	23	89.74%
9959	Mount Olive	51	46	33	90.20%
TOTALS		154	143	96	92.86%

District 5 Pres Deborah Crowder					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
7288	Calabash	328	326	239	99.36%
8866	Holden Beach	111	111	110	100.00%
9983	Holly Ridge	184	194	160	105.43%
10226	Oak Island	99	107	96	108.08%
10400	B Spring Lakes	81	78	49	96.30%
121966	Leland	18	19	13	105.56%
TOTALS		821	835	667	101.71%

District 3 Pres Yvonne McLeod					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
2057	Rocky Mount	70	66	54	94.29%
TOTALS		70	66	54	94.29%

District 7 Pres Wanda McCall					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
6722	Lillington	27	26	24	96.30%
7383	Cary	151	147	132	97.35%
9103	Spring Lake	106	102	94	96.23%
10225	Garner	112	109	92	97.32%
10999	Raleigh	37	37	32	100.00%
TOTALS		433	421	374	97.23%

EASTERN	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
TOTALS	2688	2638	2171	99.81%

VFW Auxiliary Dept. of NC Membership Report
2025-26

President: Lin Moore

Chairman: Angi Hardy

Date: 2.19.26

Western: Becky Rowe

District 11 Pres Farres Upton					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
1119	Cooleemee	30	32	11	106.67%
5352	Kernersville	141	138	79	97.87%
7794	Elkin	34	31	15	91.18%
9010	Clemmons	57	52	46	91.23%
9436	Pilot Mountain	62	61	26	98.39%
TOTALS		324	314	177	96.91%

District 15 Pres Sherry Brooks					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
1142	N. Wilkesboro	86	84	75	97.67%
4286	Newland	37	37	24	100.00%
7031	Boone	50	43	23	86.00%
7034	Sparta	66	64	50	96.97%
7946	Jefferson	31	31	13	100.00%
TOTALS		270	259	185	95.93%

District 13 Pres Lyndsey Bowlus					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
1160	Charlotte	139	131	123	94.24%
2423	Indian Trail	111	104	99	93.69%
5464	Monroe	47	39	31	82.98%
6724	Paw Creek	40	41	31	102.50%
7775	Charlotte	21	21	20	100.00%
9337	Gastonia	68	63	29	92.65%
9736	Croft	16	13	5	81.25%
TOTALS		442	412	338	93.21%

District 16 Pres Joyce Preston					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
891	Asheville	79	77	68	97.47%
5206	Hendersonville	75	66	60	88.00%
9116	Columbus	26	26	19	100.00%
TOTALS		180	169	147	93.89%

District 14 Pres Linda Owens					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
1706	Lincolnton	86	70	48	81.40%
2031	Statesville	62	68	58	104.62%
4066	Shelby	16	16	16	100.00%
5305	Newton	32	28	16	87.50%
5362	Morganton	0	20	2	
TOTALS		196	202	140	101.51%

District 17 Pres Jan Strough					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
4309	Brevard	175	161	118	92.00%
5202	Waynesville	221	162	116	73.30%
6812	Hayesville	56	55	43	98.21%
7339	Franklin	72	70	33	97.22%
TOTALS		524	448	310	85.50%

WESTERN	2024 Mbrs.	2025 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
TOTALS	1936	1781	1299	91.99%

DEPT	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
TOTALS	6964	6745	5392	96.27%

NC At-Large	2024 Mbrs.	2025 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
TOTALS	816	796	760	97.55%

Needed to Reach 100 %

219 w/o deaths
109 inc. deaths