

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary

Department of North Carolina

2024 – 2025



Program Book

President Sandra Jeffries



Sandra Jeffries
President 2024-2035
Veteran of Foreign Wars
Department of NC

Dear Members:

Let me start off with personally thanking everyone for your genuine love and support during my climb to becoming Department President. The time is finally here and WE have worked hard the last few years in the Department of North Carolina to establish ourselves, become further educated, and find new methods and ways to love and take care of our Veterans and their families. I have heard it said that without a vision the people will perish but we are far from that. As your President I want to share with you the following information: Our 2024-2025 Theme is: "Serving Those Who Have Served with Love", Our Special Project is: Brain Injury Association of North Carolina, Our common Symbol is Bubbles (Which is my nickname) and Our 2024-2025 Department Goals: (1) To push for better morale of the members and their families-***Don't just survive but thrive***, (2) To develop genuine relationships with Auxiliary members-***Heal the hurt*** (3) To obtain a better understanding of the needs of Veterans and their families-***Push the National Programs***

This year I want us to work closer with The VFW as a unified family and to grow the organization both for the comrades and for Auxiliary. Membership is important and as we recruit we will also attempt to recruit for the VFW as well. Teamwork is removing of the "I" and to include the "WE". Together we can accomplish more. Recently, the Department of North Carolina experienced some vigorous training sessions and the sessions will continue this year. I just want us to use what we learn and spread it amongst our Auxiliary members and within our districts. A lot of administrative training will be done with our Districts. We have lost quite a lot of Auxiliaries and we want to find out what the reason is that we as members no longer want to be a part of this great organization.

You will recall over the years that as you passed me in meetings or at conference and convention I made it my business to always smile. I love this organization and I love you too. Our Veterans have worked hard to make our lives great and let's attempt to do all that we can to return the favor. No volunteer hour or dollar that you give is too small. Just remember that I am just one person but you are many and I need everyone of you to help make this year successful. We are "Serving Those Who Have Served With Love"

Loyally Serving,

Sandra A. Jeffries
Year 2024-2025



Sandra Jeffries
President 2024-2035
Veteran of Foreign Wars
Department of NC

Dear Sisters & Brothers:

This year is dedicated in memory of those that helped to establish me with this organization. First that would be my mother, Brenda Graves Gattis and my father Clem Thomas Allen (Army Vietnam Veteran). At the age of 2, my father made it home from Vietnam and was killed. As I grew and matured, my uncles nourished me as their own and continued to be exposed to life military style. My dad's brother, Lonnie Allen Sr, served and retired after 30 years in the US Air Force and my mother's brother-in-law, Herman Blackwell Sr, served and retired after 20+ years with the US Navy. During their service I was allowed to hear their stories and experiences they faced.

After joining the Auxiliary in 2006 under my friend and sister, Martha Collins my adventure began. Incoming President, Deborah Crowder (Asst-Chief of Staff) became a driving force that impressed me then and still does now. I owe so much to the following people that have mentored me: B. Mae Harris, Wanda Williams, Kay Simmons (Auxiliary 6018) in which I am considered an honorary member. Friends Betty Morris & Pearl White have just been jewels that saw me as a diamond in the rough and would call me and encourage me when I seemed lost. After my mom passed in 2015, I needed support so I became an adopted daughter for Ken & Dianne Sellers (Aux 1920) and another daughter for Graham & Rhonda Leaver (Aux 6060). There have been so many that have groomed me in so many ways-Lillie Crews (former PDP) was an ironing board for me and boy did she get out the wrinkles. Sometimes I would cry and say that I would never be back but friends like Sandra Johnson Leu & Clara & Elree Smith would encourage me to let me know that I could do it. I hate it because I know I have missed some of your names but I want to just say thank you so much for being in my life.

Loyally Serving,

Sandra A. Jeffries
Year 2024-2025

NC VFW Auxiliary Calendar of Events
2024-2025 Year

| <u>Dates</u> | <u>Events & Locations</u> |
|------------------------|---|
| June 6-9, 2024 | 2024 Department Convention-Greensboro, NC |
| July 27-Aug 1, 2024 | 2024 National Convention-Louisville, KY |
| August 1, 2024 | National President's Celebration-Louisville, KY |
| August 22-25, 2024 | Commander-In-Chief's Homecoming, Savannah, GA |
| September 7, 2024 | Celebrating America's Freedom Event, Eaton Rapids, MI |
| August-September-(TBD) | Fall District Meetings |
| September 6-7, 2024 | National Council of Administration, Kansas City, MO |
| September 9-12, 2024 | Fall Legislative Conference-Washington, DC |
| Sept-Oct-TBD | Fall Department Council of Administrative |
| Nov 7-9, 2024 | Southern Conference, Nashville, TN |
| Dec-January 2025 | Winter District Meetings (Date TBD) |
| February 1-6, 2025 | National President's Visit-Cancun, Mexico |
| Feb 2025 | Winter Department Council of Administrative |
| March 1-8, 2025 | Voice of Democracy/ Spring Legislative Conference-Washington, DC |
| March 13-16, 2025 | National Sr Vice Conference-Kansas City, MO |
| June 28, 2025 | National Home Birthday Celebration, Eaton Rapids, MI |
| TBD | National Commander's Trip-Alaska |
| August 9-14, 2025 | National Convention-Columbus, OH |

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NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S VISIT



VFW Auxiliary National President

Brenda Bryant

Will be visiting North Carolina on
April 8, 2025 – April 10, 2025
Greensboro NC



“From Our Roots to Our Branch”

Is President Brenda Bryant's Theme

We need to prepare, she's almost here! Remember, Brenda is just as excited to be meeting us, our President, and the members of our Department as we are to meet her.

We will be working on the schedule of events to create memories for her and for our members. We hope to be leaving lasting impressions and stories to retell for years to come. We will enjoy every bit of this precious time making the moments count.

As soon as our itinerary is made, everyone will be informed. We do not know at this time at what hour she will arrive at the Greensboro Airport. After that is determined we can start with some plans for arrival day and fun filled hours until her departing time.

*** UPDATE: \$129/NIGHT DOUBLETREE BY HILTON LANSING HOTEL FULL *
SEE OVERFLOW HOTEL INFORMATION BELOW**



VFW AUXILIARY'S 12th
CELEBRATING AMERICA'S FREEDOM EVENT



Come Celebrate 100 Years
SEPTEMBER 7, 2024

When: 9/07/24

9/06: Arrivals

9/07: VFW National Home

9/08: Departures

Where:

VFW National Home
Eaton Rapids, Michigan

CAFE Registration Costs:

\$40 per person includes lunch and
transportation to VFW National Home.

\$20 per person includes lunch only.

Register in MALTA from 6/1/24 to 8/07/24.
Bring spending money for VFWNH Store.

Find more information about the location, visit the
VFW National Home website: vfnationalhome.org



Overflow Hotel is:

AC Hotel Lansing University Area
3160 E. Michigan Avenue
Lansing, Michigan 48912

Accommodations:

1 King Bed - \$139.00/night including Breakfast

2 Queen Beds - \$139.00/night including Breakfast

Reserve by 8/07/24

Call: 1-517-337-7771 & Identify as being with the
VFW Auxiliary.

AC Hotel Lansing University Area Booking Online:
marriott.com/en-us/hotels/lanac-ac-hotel-lansing-university-area

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE 2024
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS & AUXILIARY
November 7th to November 9th, 2024

Sheraton Music City, 777 McGavock Pike
Nashville, TN 37214-3140

For Reservations call Sheraton Music City 615-885-2200

Or use this **Booking Website Link:** <https://book.passkey.com/e/50495528>

Room Block listed as Veterans of Foreign Wars Southern Conference

Room Rate: \$189.00 plus state and local tax currently 15.25% + \$ 2.50

Cut-Off Date for Room Registration October 7, 2024

Pre-Registration fee is **\$ 90.00** per person.

Registration Fee Covers: Banquet, Hospitality Room, and Entertainment

Registration at the Conference will be **\$ 95.00.**

REGISTRATION

NAME: _____ TITLE: _____

DEPARTMENT: _____ POST/AUX: _____

PHONE #: _____ E-MAIL: _____

Select one meal for your dinner at the Banquet.

Roasted Breast of Chicken with wild mushroom compote, pancetta shallot jus _____

Roasted Cod with Chardonnay Tarragon butter _____ *Each includes chefs seasonal.*

Vegetable and starch. Seasonal Green salad. Rotating of Chocolate Cake, Cheesecake

Mail this form and check for Registration To:

VFW Department of TN, G-21 War Memorial Building

301 6th Ave. N

Nashville, TN 37243-0100

E-Mail Form to tnvfw@att.net

Credit Card information

Name on Card _____ Card # _____

Expiration Date _____ Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Security Code _____

OR Call Department of TN Office 615-242-5851 with Credit Card information

Cancun

Feb 1 -6, 2025

Hideaway at Royalton Adults only All-inclusive Resort

Please join Brenda for a wonderful 2025 Mid-Year event.



Arrangements by:
Veterans Travel Service
800-325-9377
406 W 34th Street, Suite 106
Kansas City MO 64111
val@vtstvl.com



343 Suites

Room choices (see reservation sheet). Space not guaranteed in all categories until booked.

11 Restaurants at both resorts, one seafood adult-only restaurant

16 Bars

Swimming pools

Jacuzzi soaker tubs

The Royal Spa (\$) and Royalton Fit

Casino del Mar

Reservation-free dining

Group cocktail party

Keyless entry rooms



Full access to dining and amenities at Royalton Riviera Cancun

Exclusive adults-only beach, pool, and bar with waiter service

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Department of North Carolina
In Accordance to Department Standing Rules (revised June 2024)

2023-2024 Contributions being sent to different locations require a separate check and contribution sheet. All contributions require a vote of the Auxiliary. Use this form when paying all contributions. Contributions **Due by December 31 2024.** Please keep a copy of this form for your records.

Auxiliary Name and Number: _____

Number of Members: _____

Address: _____

(as of June 30th of previous year)

Contributions to VFW Auxiliary Department of North Carolina

Make Checks payable to: Dept of NC VFW Auxiliary Mail to: Sandra Johnson-Leu, 103 Covered Bridge Road Clayton, NC 27520 (Required to be considered for Department Awards)

| | | |
|-----------------------|----|-------------------|
| Disaster Relief Fund | \$ | _____ |
| Hospital Reserve Fund | \$ | _____ 20.00 _____ |

Check Number: _____ Date Sent: _____ Total: _____

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OPTIONAL DONATIONS

Department President Appreciation Gift /Special Project
Auxiliary Number _____

Make Checks payable to: VFWA Dept. of NC Mail to: Sandra Johnson-Leu, 103 Covered Bridge Road Clayton, NC 27520

| | | |
|---|----|-------|
| Department Presidents Special Project | \$ | _____ |
| Department Presidents Appreciation Gift | \$ | _____ |

Check Number: _____ Date Sent: _____ Total: \$ _____

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Contributions to ERLINE MAYBERRY SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Make Checks Payable to: EMSF Mail to: Sandra Johnson-Leu, 103 Covered Bridge Road Clayton, NC 27520
Auxiliary Number _____ (must be a separate check)

Erline Mayberry Scholarship \$ _____

Check Number: _____ Date Sent: _____ Total: \$ _____

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Contributions to VFW Department of NC

Make Checks Payable to: **VFW Dept. of NC** Mail to: VFW Department Headquarters, PO Box 25337, Raleigh NC 27611-5337

Billy Ray Cameron/Otis Brown Scholarship \$ _____

Check Number: _____ Date Sent: _____ Total: \$ _____

Contributions to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters

Make Checks Payable to: **VFW Auxiliary** Mail to: VFW Auxiliary, 406 West 34th Street, 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111

Cancer Aid and Research Fund: \$ _____

National Home Fund (formally Health & Happiness) suggested 50 cents per member: \$ _____

Check Number: _____ Date Sent: _____ Total: \$ _____

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Make Checks payable to VFW National Headquarters Mail to: VFW, 406 West 34th Street, Kansas City, MO 64111

National Veterans & Family Support Program \$ _____

Veterans Service Program \$ _____

Check Number _____ Date Sent _____ Total: \$ _____

District Dues

Auxiliary Number _____ Number of Members _____

Make Checks Payable to: VFWA District _____ and **send to the District** _____ Treasurer.

Amount of dues per member as set by District \$ _____ \$ _____

Additional contributions as required by the District Standing Rules \$ _____

Check Number _____ Date Sent _____ Total \$ _____

VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT



JOE NELSON

435 Greentree Drive

Raeford, NC 28376

Jnelson_nc@yahoo.com

(252)626-4888

The Veteran and Family Support Program is a program designed to provide educational topics to assist the Auxiliaries in providing assistance and support to veterans and their families. We offered various topics including mental health support, suicide prevention, and awareness programs. The program is aimed to assist the Auxiliaries with valuable information in providing support to veterans who may be struggling with various veteran associated issues like mental health issues, financial and food instabilities and support to their families who may also be impacted.

Monthly topics for this program year included caregiver support, veteran suicide, food banks, and USO (United Service Organizations) support. These topics are chosen to address the specific needs and challenges faced by veterans and their families. The program provides resources and support to help address these issues and improve the overall well-being of veterans and their families.

One of the key topics of focus for the Veteran and family Support program this year is suicide prevention. The program provides resources and support to help prevent suicide among veterans, including education and training programs. It also offers mental health services to veterans who may be at risk of suicide.

In addition to suicide prevention, the monthly program topics also focuses on raising awareness about mental health issues and the importance of seeking help. It offers educational programs and resources to help veterans and their families better understand mental health issues and the treatment options available.

The program also provides support to veterans and their families through various veteran support programs. These programs offer assistance with employment, housing, and other needs. The program also works closely with national veteran service organizations to provide additional support and resources to veterans.

The Military Assistance Programs provide various types of assistance to active-duty service members, veterans, and their families. The program offers financial assistance, educational resources, and other forms of support to help military families thrive.

Awards and citations are given to auxiliaries for most outstanding activity and/or event to increase awareness of military suicide and mental health.



AMERICANISM



“ Americanism is an unfailing love of country; loyalty to its institutions and ideals; eagerness to defend it against all enemies; undivided allegiance to the Flag; and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and posterity.”

As VFW Auxiliary Members we are all Patriotic Instructors.

We should teaching our members and the community about the proper way to salute and the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Demonstrate Americanism and Patriotic spirit in respecting and properly caring for the U.S. Flag.

Educating our children and young adults about patriotism is an important step to good citizenship. We should promote a good relationship with our schools and youth groups. Teach them about the flag and the proper way to fold and take care of our flag. Teach them about the way the flag is folded, and why it is folded certain way. Let them participate in the retirement of the flag ceremony. Children will maintain and learn by being part of these events.

Celebrating Patriotic Holidays All Year Long. Everyone wants to have a good time on the fourth of July. Educate the real reason why we celebrate the fourth of July.

There are so many other holidays and events that we as a VFW member should never let go by. Star Families, POW/MIA Recognition day. National Vietnam War Veterans Day, Arm Forces Day, these are just a few. Don't forget to educate your community about the lesser known patriotic holidays.

**Make sure you look at your Auxiliary Monthly Newsletter.
I look forward seeing all of your reports!**

Respectfully,

**Theresa Billips
Americanism Program Chairman
1841 Mountain Creek Rd. Albemarle NC 28001
704-322-8345 Email Sistertnc@aol.com**

Department
President
Sandra Jeffries





“Buddy”® Poppy



V F W
NATIONAL HOME



Angi Hardy-
Chairman

angihardy@yahoo.com

910-322-6478

**Military & Veteran
Family
Help Line
800-313-4200**

www.VFWNationalHome.org

www.vfwauxiliary.org

Reporting Website
<http://vfwauxnc.org>

Let's promote our “Buddy”® Poppy, remember our veterans around the world, and continue to purchase, use, and distribute our “Buddy”® Poppy. Remember that Buddy”® Poppies may **ONLY** be purchased through your VFW Post/from VFW National Headquarters. Poppies **MAY NOT** be purchased from **ANY** other retailer, online or otherwise.

2025

A Year to Remember



V F W
NATIONAL HOME

100th Anniversary Events

January 7, 2025

Original Birthday Party Celebration
VFW National Home

February 8, 2025

Black Tie Event
VFW National Home

March 9, 2025

Pollet House Dedication / Ribbon Cutting
VFW National Home

June 28, 2025

100th Birthday Party
VFW National Home

August 9-14, 2025

VFW National Convention
Columbus, Ohio

We hope to see you there!

“From Our Roots to Our Branches” National Presidents Theme 2024/2025

“Serving Those Who Have Served With Love” NC Department Presidents Theme 2024/2025

AUXILIARY OUTREACH 2024-2025

What is Auxiliary Outreach? It is volunteering with community, civic organizations, and other groups not affiliated with the VFW or reportable under any other program for the VFWA. The possibilities are endless.

Looking for a place to start? Contact your local rescue, fire, police departments. Churches are a great place to volunteer. Work with local charities.

Start making a difference in your community. Find out just how much one person can contribute to assist others in their daily lives.



dreamstime.com

ID 39883374 © Mhrtzaps



Activities must be voted on and approved by the Auxiliary and listed in the minutes. This should generally be done prior to the event. However, sometimes something comes up and you don't have the time to get it pre-approved. No problem, just be sure to include the information at your next meeting.



Examples of Auxiliary Outreach are partnering with a fire department to educate people on fire prevention, assisting police departments with child ID kits, delivering Meals on Wheels, volunteering in homeless shelters, serving meals to the homeless, assisting the Red Cross in Blood Drives, volunteering at animal shelters, assisting your



community with planting trees or beautifying parks.

Auxiliary Outreach may be done at your Post home, but only if the event is planned by another organization. No money may be spent on the project. It is all volunteer.



Anna Holm, Auxiliary Outreach Program Chairman
1850 Dunn Rd., Unit 1409
Raleigh, NC 27614
aholmvfwanc@att.net
919-210-3268





Julia Stancil-Warren
309 Beaconfield Drive
Fayetteville, N.C 28311
(910) 822-4188 / (910) 824-1921
People4many@yahoo.com

Chief of Staff, Extension & Revitalization and Mentoring for Leadership

Chief of Staff & Extension & Revitalization Program

Chief of staff work with the District and Department Presidents to maintain current Auxiliaries as well as any Auxiliaries that might have folded over the years and wish to reengage with the Auxiliary. We encourage members to promote teamwork and provide guidance during challenging times such as suspension or consolidation or even the loss of a Charter. The Chief of staff also work closely with the Department President and organizers to establish new Auxiliaries and all necessary training to continue the mission.

Mentoring for Leadership

Mentoring helps broaden leadership skills and leadership provides guidance for mentoring members; they work hand in hand. Throughout this program you will be encouraged to embrace and promote the CARE concept.

- Catch the members when they first join.
- Ask them to participate.
- Remember what it felt like to be a new member.
- Engage them in programs that fit their needs and experience.

Julia Stancil-Warren
Department of North Carolina
Auxiliary Chief of Staff
Fayetteville, North Carolina
910-822-4188/910-824-1921
People4many@yahoo.com

“Teamwork Makes the Dream Work”

VFW AUXILIARY DEPT OF NC PRESIDENT HISTORIAN/ MEDIA RELATIONS



Barbara Beard

198 Oakridge Dr

Raeford, NC 28376

barbeard@roadrunner.com

(910) 565-2351 hm

(910) 624-4357 cell

It's time to inspire our members and communities by telling our story through media. Department of North Carolina has over 90 Auxiliaries united by the call to serve veterans and their families and promote patriotism in our communities. Whether your Auxiliary is large or small, you can use media to share your story and record its history.

Media allows us an opportunity to share and brag about what Auxiliaries at all levels (local and District) are doing for our veterans, their families, and our communities.

- Reach out to your members and friends using social media. Create an Auxiliary Facebook page, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube, or Pinterest.
- Use video! Videos are a great way to communicate; they are more visually engaging than written content and a great way to deliver information.
- Many of us have smart phones and it's easy to record, upload and share videos on social media.

Please continue to use traditional methods of communication to get information out. Email, newsletters, flyers, newspapers, and magazines are time-tested ways to share Auxiliary news and events. Remember to include the 5 W's (who, what, when, where and why) when recording a video, writing a post for social media or an article for a newsletter. Details matter!

Good records help retain history at every level of the Organization. The Historian & Media Relations Chairman is an important position, compiling all forms of media for the Program Year. There are many ways to keep records. Choose what works for you and be sure to place all records in chronological order.

- Digital scrapbook/Digital photo book
- The following websites provide an online service to make and purchase photo books:
- Shutterfly, Snapfish, Walgreens, Walmart

- Traditional scrapbook
- Traditional photo album
- Three-ring binder

Include newsletters, newspaper and magazine articles, flyers, thank-you notes, letters and other mementos. Use flash drives and/or cloud storage systems (e.g., Google Drive) to store photos and videos. Make sure all documents, photos and videos list the date of the event and/or activity (e.g., Veterans Day 2024 or Family Freedom Festival, 2024). Be creative and use your imagination!

Department President's Official Visit

The Auxiliaries will be capturing photos and videos of the Department President's visit as well as events that take place in the Auxiliaries throughout the year. I am requesting that each Auxiliary Historian submit a minimum of five (5) photos of the Department President during her visit to your District. Also submit photos of events, fundraisers, meetings, and ceremonies that take place in your District. Clear (not blurry!) photos that tell the story. This is your opportunity to brag about your District/Auxiliary to the Department President. It is also recommended to send your photos to Historian & Media Relations Chairman Barbara Beard, 198 Oakridge Dr, Raeford, NC 28376. Make sure it's something you are proud of!

What's newsworthy?

Consider these questions: Does it involve local people? Does it interest non-members? Is it timely? Does it help the community? Is it unique and new? If the answer is yes, this is a chance for you to pitch a story with an "angle" that will showcase your Auxiliary's hard work and accomplishments. Let's show our communities, and our nation, everything we do to improve the lives of veterans, service members and their families.

Monthly Tips

Each month I will provide valuable tips and information on to use different types of media to better communicate with your auxiliary and the public. Be on the lookout for information about the following:

- Types of Media
- Do's and Don'ts of Social Media
- Examples of how National Uses Social Media

Let's make this a Great Year!!!!

Hospital Program – 2024-2025

Dianne Sellers, Chairman

3853 Wesley Court, Burlington, NC 27215, 336-253-5867, taikijorsel@gmail.com

Of all the Auxiliary Programs, the Hospital Program is the oldest and has been very close to Auxiliary members since 1914. We provide for the needs, both personal and physical, that the VA facilities cannot. What a meaningful opportunity we have to bring compassion and empathy to Veterans and their families.

OUR GOALS

~ Volunteer Recruitment, Recognition and Support

New volunteers are needed at all VA facilities. Volunteers offset millions of dollars in expenses in health care. No matter where you volunteer, you create a friendly and caring atmosphere for those you serve in hospitals, clinics and nursing homes.

~ Valentines for Veterans

Send store bought or handmade valentines, recognition event/dinner or hosting a party for Veterans and service members. Encourage the community, such as school and church groups to participate in this remembrance.

~ Women Veterans Health Care

Provide information about the benefits available to these deserving Veterans. The VA has comprehensive health care services to meet the unique needs of women Veterans.

~ Honors Escort

This Program is an opportunity to honor Veterans in a respectful manner. It's a time when the family, friends, other Veterans and medical facility staff can participate in reverence for the individual at the time of death.

North Carolina has the following VA Hospitals to serve:

Asheville VA Medical Center – Joyce Preston, VAVS Rep

Durham VA Medical Center – Sandra Johnson-Leu, VAVS Rep

Fayetteville VA Medical Center – Rhonda Bright, VAVS Rep

Salisbury – W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center – Farres Upton, VAVS Rep

| Department of North Carolina VAVS 2024-2025 | |
|--|--------------------|
| | Name |
| Charles George VA Medical Center | |
| Representative | Joyce Preston |
| Deputy Representative | Bessie Bright |
| | |
| Durham VA Health Care | |
| Representative | Sandra Johnson-Leu |
| Deputy Representative | Betty Bradsher |
| Deputy Representative | Dianne Sellers |
| Fayetteville VA Medical Center | |
| Representative | Rhonda Bright |
| Deputy Representative | Linda Shelander |
| Deputy Representative | |
| | |
| W. G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center | |
| Representative | Farres Upton |
| Deputy Representative | Betty Morris |
| | |
| Kernersville VA Medical Center | |
| Representative | Farres Upton |
| Deputy Representative | Beth (Lin) Moore |

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM 2024-2025 *Be an Advocate! Be Informed! Be Engaged!*

One of the main objectives of the Legislative Program is to improve the lives of our veterans, service members and their families through advocacy. Your efforts, combined with the nearly 1.5 million other VFW and Auxiliary members, can influence lawmakers whose decisions affect veterans and their families every day. Join the chorus of voices that will ring out in legislator's offices this year! To follow the progress of a bill through the stages of the legislative process, visit congress.gov or [Govtrack.us](https://govtrack.us).

When uniformed soldiers began fighting for our country long ago, they did so without any guaranteed benefits. Later, veterans tried to help each other by forming local organizations to secure medical and pension benefits. Now, as the VFW and VFW Auxiliary we have been advocating through the government legislative system. Legislative rights are the reason the VFW and VFW Auxiliary were formed.

Priority Goals: The *Priority Goals* reflect the resolutions passed by the VFW to strengthen and ensure an adequate VA system for millions of current and future veterans. They call for much-needed attention to crises and are grouped under six areas of concern: 1) Budget, 2) Health Care, 3) Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, 4) Education, Employment and Transition Assistance, 5) Military Quality of Life and 6) National Security, Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA. **The Priority Goals Brochure** can be found at <https://www.vfw.org/-/media/vfwsite/files/advocacy/prioritygoalsbrochure>. For more information: vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/legislative.

VFW's Action Corps Weekly: is an e-newsletter delivered to your inbox each week. It's brief, informative and ***provides ways that we, as Auxiliary members, can advocate on behalf of our veterans!*** If you have not yet subscribed, visit vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts, click on the **Action Corps** button and enter your email and ZIP Code to receive a weekly email.

As the saying goes, "All politics is local": We must continue to monitor pending legislation in Congress, we must not forget that local government and laws impact quality of life for our veterans. The two go hand and hand together!

Advocates in Action: We need to ***"Speak the language"*** and navigate the legislative process effectively. Be familiar with the Priority Goals and the VFW Key Bills in Congress. Sign-up for Action Corp Weekly AND respond to them! Communicate with your legislators and elected officials (via phone, email and personal visits). Be brief and to the point. Stick to one issue per phone call or email. **Appoint a Legislative Chairman for your Auxiliary** that will stay on top of the issues. Get involved with Town Hall meetings. Be sure to **VOTE** in ALL elections and assist others in doing so. Use MALTA Member Resources under Legislative and teach others to. DO NOT endorse any candidate on behalf of the VFW or VFWA—remain neutral. Do not wear any VFWA attire when campaigning for a candidate.

Legislative Program Awards for Auxiliaries

Most outstanding activity and/or event collaborating with the VFW Post connecting members with local lawmakers. Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions with most outstanding activity and/or event that collaborated with the VFW Post connecting members with local lawmakers. **Entry form required and available in MALTA member Resources.** VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to their Department Legislative Chairman by March 31, 2025 for Judging. Citations will be mailed directly to winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2025 Auxiliary National Convention.



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





MEMBERSHIP 2024 – 2025

Lyndsey Bowlus 1012 Garden Oak Dr. Indian Trail, NC 28079 cell
443-655-4570



National President Brenda Bryant's slogan: From our roots to our branches, extending our service to veterans.

Department President Sandra Jeffries slogan: Serving those who have served with love.

"It has been said that to know where you are going, you must know where you have been. When thinking about membership, it's helpful to revisit WHO we are. You will never get someone to join until you know who you are and what you stand for." – Linda Roloff, National Membership Ambassador for 2024-2025

Recruiting VFW Auxiliary members to join our NC Department is not just about extending an invitation; it's about painting a vibrant picture of community, camaraderie, and service.

At our NC Department, we're not just a group; we're a family united by a common purpose. Whether it's organizing events to uplift veterans, supporting families in need, or fostering connections within our community, every member brings unique strengths and experiences to enrich our collective journey. Together, let's continue the legacy of service and camaraderie that defines our NC Department Auxiliary. I'm looking forward to serving you again this year as the Membership Chairman for 2024-2025. **Please remember to read the monthly mail as it will contain opportunities to earn money for your Auxiliaries and Districts!**

– Lyndsey

Awards for Members!

1. **Recruiter Pin** to each VFW Auxiliary member who recruits five (5) new and/or rejoined members to the Auxiliary from July 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025. Department Treasurer must enter membership in MALTA with credit given to the recruiter by June 10, 2025. VFW Auxiliary Treasurers on all levels are not eligible for this award. The pin will be mailed directly to the members from National Headquarters.
2. **National Membership Achievement Award** to each VFW Auxiliary member who recruits twenty (20) new and/or rejoining members to the VFW Auxiliary from July 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025. Department Treasurer must enter membership in MALTA with credit given to the recruiter by June 10, 2025. VFW Auxiliary Treasurers on all levels are not eligible for this award. NMA Award to be presented at the 2025 National Convention in Columbus, Ohio. If a member is not in attendance, the award will be mailed directly to the members from National after the convention.
3. **Top Recruiter Award!** – Awarded to one recruiter in each of the 4 conferences who recruited the most; new and/or rejoined in their conference. VFW Recruiters and VFW Auxiliary Treasurers on all levels are not eligible for this award. The winner will be announced, and award presented at the 2025 National Convention.

*At the National Level, Recruiter Award Forms are no longer needed for VFW Auxiliary members. Reports are compiled by VFW Auxiliary National HQ from information entered in MALTA.

Awards for Auxiliaries

1. \$50 to each Auxiliary that reaches 100% PLUS in membership June 30, 2025*.
2. VFW Auxiliary Drawing: Each VFW Auxiliary that reaches 101% PLUS by June 30, 2025* will be entered into a onetime drawing to receive \$500.

(*Based on the June 30, 2024 year-end membership numbers.)

What could your Auxiliary do with \$500!?!

Scholarship Programs 2024-2025

National Auxiliary President Brenda Bryant's theme: "From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans."

Department Auxiliary President Sandra Jeffries's theme:

"Serving Those Who Have Served With Love"

Wendy Dorsey Rachels, Scholarship Chairperson

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

I am proud to serve the Auxiliaries of the Department of North Carolina as the Scholarships Chairperson for 2024-2025. I hope the Auxiliaries will take the information shared and embrace the goals listed above while increasing participation in the programs. I will share more information, ideas, and helpful tips throughout the year. Use the information to help your Auxiliary have a successful Scholarship Program year!

Auxiliary National Scholarship Programs

- **Continuing Education Scholarship:** Winners are awarded a **\$1250** scholarship in each of the 4 Auxiliary Conferences. Applications are available to Auxiliary members, their spouses, and children.
- **Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest:** Traditional 2-dimensional art on stretched canvas or paper. The contest is open to artists in grades 9-12. This year there are 19 National Awards with the National first-place winner receiving a **\$15,000** scholarship.
- **3-Dimensional Creative Patriotic Art Contest:** 3-dimensional art can be paper, paper mâché, pottery, sculpture, fabric, wood, or metalwork. The contest is open to artists in grades 9-12. The National first-place winner receives a **\$2,500** scholarship.
- **Award for Auxiliaries** One auxiliary in the Southern Conference will be awarded for the Most Outstanding Activity and/or event educating their community about scholarship opportunities in the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary.
- Find the criteria, detailed instructions and download application forms for each scholarship/contest online at www.vfwauxiliary.org under the tab Scholarships and Contests.

VFW National Scholarship Programs

- **Patriot's Pen** is a youth essay contest for middle grade students in grades 6-8. The 2024-2025 theme is **"My Voice in America's Democracy."** The National first-place winner received a **\$5,000** scholarship.
- **Voice of Democracy** is an audio-essay program for high school students in grades 9-12. The 2024-2025 theme is **"Is America today our forefather's Vision?"** The National first-place winner receives a **\$35,000** scholarship.
- Find the criteria, detailed instructions and download application forms for each scholarship online at www.vfw.org under the tab Community.

"Our Children are the future leaders of this organization; if we get them involved now, it won't be as hard to get them to join when they are 16 years old." National Youth Activities Ambassador, DOMINIQUE GARCIA



Hello again to all of you! I am honored to be serving this coming year as **NC Department Youth Activities Program Chairman**. I have served this organization in many capacities since I first joined in 2014. Yes, it has only been 10 years. I am a retired schoolteacher as of 8 years ago, but I have worked as a substitute for the last 2 years. I have experience with all age groups and was an assistant girl scout leader, and band parent for 8 years. My husband is a Vietnam Navy Veteran. We have 2 adult children that we are very proud of. We have a 16 yr. old grandson and an 11 yr. old granddaughter.

Youth Reading to our Veterans & Veterans Reading to Youth

*Reading is an important part of growing up. Taking Children on a patriotic journey through a book can be inspiring to them as they learn about our country.

*If you go to MALTA Member Resources, under Youth Activities you can find the Patriotism through Literacy list divided up by grade levels. Pick Some books from this list.

1. Host a day of reading. Veterans can come in and read to children or children can read to Veterans. Older children can read to younger children.
2. Create a read-a-thon, use R.A.P. Cards as the point system.

Youth Groups

*Educating our youth about our organization, patriotism, and citizenship is very important and is a side bar in our schools. Teaching them about our Veterans and volunteering is an easy way to involve youth by working with various youth groups of all ages in your community.

*High School students can use volunteer hours for college applications.

Illustrating America

*I was amazed at the excitement 3rd graders had this Spring in participating in this contest.

The entries we received were so varied in scope. The ideas that were illustrated were much appreciated. Find more information under Youth resources in Malta Members. It is a spring project with a March deadline.

R.A.P. Cards (Random Acts of Patriotism)

*Children thrive on recognition for a job well done. Also found under Youth resources in Malta Members is a business card template for R.A.P. cards.

1. When a child shows an act of patriotism issue them a R.A.P. card and explain to them why they are receiving it.
2. Create a reward system for the cards, with each card worth so many points. The points can help them win books, a soda etc.

Remember to use opportunities available so that youth can be : "Serving Those Who Have Served With Love" Motto of NC VFW Aux Dept President, Sandra Jeffries.

Keep in mind the Motto of Our National VFW Aux President, Brenda Bryant: "From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service To Our Veterans."

Looking forward to an awesome year as we invite and involve youth working along side us to fulfill these two goals.

NC Department Youth Activities Program Chairman

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DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT SANDRA JEFFRIES'
SPECIAL PROJECT
BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF NORTH CAROLINA (BIANC)



The Brain Injury Association of North Carolina is a statewide, non-profit organization, providing resources, outreach, advocacy, and training to persons living with brain injury, their families, caregivers, and professionals.

78,775

North Carolinians were reported to sustain a traumatic brain injury (or TBI) in one year's time; however, the actual estimates of those living with long-term disability related to TBI is more around 200,000 people in North Carolina

40,000

Connections are made by the Brain Injury Association of North Carolina each year, including 2,500 resource calls, emails, and/or face-to-face visits. We strive to reach as many individuals living with brain injury, families, and professionals as possible.

4,000

Individuals participate in trainings provided by the Brain Injury Association of North Carolina each year available online, by webinar, in-person, or at annual conferences. Our trainings help to expand awareness around brain injury and appropriate strategies.

There's Five Resource Centers located throughout North Carolina – Raleigh, Asheville, Charlotte, Winston-Salem, and Greenville.

Dept President Special Project Chairman – Tina Szafarski
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