


PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – AUGUST 2025



The first round of District meetings starts this month and will continue into September. Your Auxiliary President, Senior Vice President, and Junior Vice President are strongly urged to attend. These meetings are training sessions, and all members are encouraged to participate.

Auxiliaries and Districts are required to be bonded by August 31, 2025. If you haven't already done so, please get it done as soon as possible. The bond must be voted on by the Auxiliary before payment. It is imperative that this information is reflected in your minutes. Whoever is doing the inspection will be looking for this information.



The Department Fall Council of Administration will be held October 3-5, 2025, at the Embassy Suites in Greensboro, NC. Please make sure to reserve your hotel room, hospitality room badge and your banquet ticket. Please use the link at www.vfwnc.org. The theme for the banquet on Saturday night is, “Back to the ‘80’s.” Think big shoulders, white jeans, underwear as outerwear, oversize jewelry, mini-skirts mullet, teased hair, Feathered waves (like Farrah Fawcett).

On Friday night at the Fall meeting, we will have a “quarter” auction for the VFW/VFWA Joint Special Project, “Veterans Mental Health Issues.” Please bring something to be auctioned off. I’m going to change it up a little. Some of the items brought to be auctioned will be put in brown bags, so you’ll be surprised with what you may get. We will also have a silent auction with wreaths and baskets. I’d like each District to bring either a basket or wreath to be auctioned off. Let’s make them unique and fun.



Forms on the Department website are being updated as they are reviewed. Please be sure to use the most recent revision.

Remember to assist the VFW with their Department Cash Raffle.

Serving Our Toto-ly Oz-Some Veterans



A Message from the Department Treasurer

August 2025

Vfwauxnc.org

Brothers and Sisters,

Happy August.

I have a few reminders for you this month. And one very important new piece of information I recently learned myself.

Let's start with the reminders.

- ❖ If your Auxiliary has a new treasurer this year, you are required to file IRS Form 8822-B with the IRS within 60 days of the new treasurer assuming their duties. You can search this form on the IRS website, or make it easier on yourself, and go to the Department website, look under Treasurer's information. It is readily available for you, listed as the IRS Change of Responsibility form.
- ❖ The Treasurer's Guide from MALTA can also be found on the Department website. It is 30 pages of helpful, important information. I suggest you print it out and keep it close at hand. Especially new treasurers.
- ❖ Also, under MALTA, you will find the Heading of Treasurer's resources. Please go there and look at the information provided. Helpful guides and instructions on just about every aspect of your responsibilities as treasurer are provided. Our Department website also has several documents that will be helpful to you.
- ❖ **CORRECTION:** In the July message, I mistakenly put the due date for your 30 June audit as 30 September. The due date is actually 31 AUGUST. My apologies for the error. And thanks to my current treasurer of the year, Jeff Pinte, for noticing the error and bringing it to my attention. At least I know he was reading it. Great job, Jeff.
- ❖ The dues reminders for your annual members should be sent out this month. You can go to MALTA to generate the letters and the address labels. The earlier you send these out, the faster you will get the annual dues collected. Remember, annual memberships expire on 31 December. After this date, unpaid members are still members, just not members in good standing. This means that they cannot vote on decisions or participate in Auxiliary meetings until their dues are paid.

Now, for the very IMPORTANT NEW INFORMATION- when a member transfers, you are required to see their current dues card and make sure you have their membership number on the application in the upper right-hand section of the application, where it asks for member ID (if already a member.) If they are transferring from another Auxiliary in North Carolina, please be sure to include the previous Auxiliary number. If transferring from out of state, please include the previous Auxiliary number AND State. The **NEW** information, and I was just recently informed of this from National, while a transferring member does not have to show and provide their proof of eligibility again, Section C or D, listing their eligibility should be completed on the application as well. National stated they have processed applications through their office without this information, **UNLESS** the member is transferring to a member at Large to National. Then this information is a requirement. Who knew? Certainly not me. As I told National when I learned this, I guess I have been doing it wrong for the 3 years I have been your Department treasurer. But we live, we learn, and we move forward.

While we are on transfers, recently, a memo came from National regarding the length of time it takes to receive a new membership card when transferring Auxiliaries. New cards for life member transfers are issued weekly to the Membership card processing vendor, following the same schedule as new, rejoining, and renewing members. Once processed, it is up to the US Postal Service to deliver the cards, and no one has any control over that. Annual members who transfer during the year will **NOT** receive a new membership card upon transferring, until they renew their membership the following year. Members may always go to MALTA and print a new card or download it to their phone. Or they may pay the \$5 charge and order a new card.

Sandra Johnson-Leu,

VFWA Department Treasurer 2025-2026 Department of NC 919-906-7592 ctrysun@embargmail.com
103 Covered Bridge Rd., Clayton, NC 27520



A GREAT ATTITUDE BECOMES A GREAT MOOD, WHICH BECOMES A GREAT DAY, WHICH BECOMES A GREAT YEAR WHICH BECOMES A GREAT LIFE.



VFW AUXILIARY
Department of North Carolina
Deborah Crowder, Secretary

910-622-6749
Sec4vfwauxnc@gmail.com
4717 Ilex Drive
Wilmington, NC 28412

AUGUST NOTES

As the Department Secretary, I'd like let you know that I have a new email address for items of VFW Auxiliary business. Please use the following email address sec4vfwauxnc@gmail.com for contacting me. I try to check both this account and my personal account, but I would really prefer for you to use this one for Auxiliary business. THANKS.

I am sad to report the deaths of three members of our Department:

June 29, 2025, **Betsy Fortenberry** a long time member of the Auxiliary. Betsy's daughter, Barbara Cartwright is also a member, and cards can be sent to her address at 113 Berkley Trailer Court Road, Elizabeth City, NC 27909.

July 7, 2025, **Wilma Iowana Price**. Wilma's daughter, Ivy Bluhner is a Past Department President and current member of the Auxiliary. Cards can be sent to Ivy at 2140 Hobson Road, Dunn, NC 28334. Memorials can be made in the form of a donation to the current Department President's Special Project.

July 7, 2025, **Beth Lott**, was Auxiliary 7794 Elkin's Chaplain. Cards can be sent to her husband: Meade Lott, 7012 US Hwy 601, Booneville, NC 27011.

I did not receive any news of other members who might be ill or just in need of a thinking of you card. Please let me know (see above email address) if you would like for other notices to be included in the next mail. Provide me with as much information as possible.

Veterans and Family Support

2025 August

This is the time of year to tell all Veterans and service members about the VFW's "Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship." There are Veterans in your community that are planning to complete their education and also further their education this up coming year. Every auxiliary can help by communicating the importance of an education, to Veterans and service members. Nothing should stand in the way of service members pursuing their education, especially worrying about financial burdens. The scholarship provides vital financial support ensuring they can achieve their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt. This scholarship is another way for us to express our gratitude to those who have fought for our freedoms. Like all scholarships, there is no repayment.

Eligibility Requirements

- Be a citizen of the United States.
- Be retired, honorably discharged, active duty, or a member of the National Guard or Reserve.
- Have completed Basic Training and follow-on training (Advanced Individual Training, technical school, etc.).
- Separated with or currently hold a military rank of E-5 or below.
- Demonstrate a need for financial assistance.
- Participate in, be accepted to, or currently enrolled in a VA-approved program or school at an accredited post-secondary institution.

Apply for a Scholarship



Loyally Serving
Joe Nelson
Veterans and Family Support Chairman
Jnelson_nc@yahoo.com

202.626.4888



Americanism

August 2025

“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

August Patriotic Days

Purple Heart Day Aug 7th & Armed Forces Day Aug 31st.

August will be the start of another school year for our youth and celebrating the flag and educating our youth about the proper way to retire or fold a flag is important. A way you can report Americanism is by having a flag retirement ceremony with local youth groups and your post comrades. Ask local schools if you can teach our younger children the right way to say the pledge and how to salute the flag and why honor the flag.

Americanism isn't just July 4th we need to celebrate all year long and get those reports in monthly. There is always a holiday or special day every month. For example, Purple Heart Day is on August 7th and Armed Forces Day is August 31st. We can show Veterans, and our Armed Forces support on these days. Team up with your VFW and plan a small thank you event. It doesn't have to be much.

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

The Auxiliaries that report doing an event or Activities for Americanism will be put into a drawing for a \$25 dollar gift card from me at the October COA. One for Each month July, August and September. That is Three Gift Cards up for grabs. But I will also be recognizing all Auxiliaries that report as well.

Jeanette (Jeannie) Platt
Americanism Program Chairman
1416 Greenock Ave
Fayetteville, NC 28304
j.m.platt83@gmail.com

Auxiliary Outreach August 2025

August is the eighth month of the year and is named after the first Roman Emperor, Augustus Caesar. It was originally called Sextilis, meaning "sixth month," in the Roman calendar



Auxiliary Outreach is for Projects **Not Affiliated** with **VFW** or **VFW AUXILIARY** Programs. Volunteer work that is performed for the **VFW Post** or the **VFW Auxiliary** is **NOT** considered **Outreach**.

Examples not considered Outreach:

- **Beautification of Post
- **Flying the flag
- **Conducting Flag retirement ceremony
- **Serving on a board for you community
- **Sending a VFW Auxiliary check to support a charity
- **Putting on patriotic program at a school
- **Schools of instruction



Examples of Outreach:

- **Serving food at soup kitchen
- **Helping at animal clinic
- **Working with fire department to teach safety
- **Working with police to do child ID kits
- **Working with parks to plant flowers

President Anna's theme is "Serving our Toto-Ly Oz-Some Veterans". Let's all help make this a great year. We should all help her on her journey down the yellow brick road.

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

The “Buddy”® Poppy has been an integral part of the VFW community for 100 years. The Poppy is the VFW's official memorial flower. This memorial flower has raised millions of dollars for the welfare of veterans and their dependents.

Contact your VFW Post to order Poppies.

Brochures, “Buddy”® Poppy distribution supplies and promotional items may be purchased from the VFW Store at vfwstore.org or by calling 1-833-VFW-VETS.

National Awards for Auxiliaries:

Most outstanding activity and/or event with their VFW Post to educate their community about the VFW “Buddy”® Poppy.

- Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most outstanding activity and/or event with their VFW Post to educate their community about the VFW “Buddy”® Poppy.

Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the Department “Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman by March 31, 2026 for judging.

The Department “Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National “Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home Ambassador by April 30, 2026 for judging.



Centennial Life Membership may be purchased for \$100.00 until December 31, 2025. Life memberships are currently \$50.00. After December 31, 2025 all new life membership will be \$100.00. More information regarding the National Home may be found at: <https://vfwnationalhome.org>

National Awards for Auxiliaries:

Most outstanding activity and/or event that creates awareness and education of eligibility and who qualifies for help from the VFW National Home and promoting it within their Department to help veterans and their families.

- Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most outstanding activity and/or event that creates awareness and education of eligibility and who qualifies for help from the VFW National Home and promoting it within their Department to help veterans and their families. Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the Department “Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman by March 31, 2026 for judging. The Department “Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National “Buddy”® Poppy & VFW National Home Ambassador by April 30, 2026 for judging.

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



AUGUST 2025

DISTRICT PRESIDENT DIRECTOR'S DESK NOTES

Dear NCVFW Auxiliary District Presidents:

*Summer is quickly coming to an end! All are preparing for Fall District Meetings! **A Big Shout Out** goes to NC VFW Aux **First Timer District Presidents:***

*District 1 President Mary Coatney
District 3 President Yvonne McCleod
District 4 President Jaymie Hayes
District 6 President Emily Ball
District 7 President Wanda McCall
District 13 President Lyndsey Bowlus
District 17 President Janice (Jan) Stough*

“We All Remember Our First District Meeting and that Flutter of Butterflies we felt in preparation.” I am but one person, ready, willing and able to assist all of you. Therefore, I am asking that the “Old Timer” more experienced District Presidents “Adopt” one of these “First Timer” District Presidents to mentor, guide, and or support throughout their first year. I feel like this will be beneficial for all of you as we learn from each other in the process.

I am attaching an adoption form at the end of this promotion for you Old Timers to complete and return to me by email with your choice of a First Timer to adopt. Adoptions will be placed on a first come first serve basis so hurry and make your choice. Department President, Anna Holm is excited about the opportunities for personal growth this will provide.

THINGS THE BOOK DOESN'T TELL YOU!!!!

Focus on District Meetings:

- The Department Representative Assigned to your District Meeting will complete the Assessment for the District meeting.

- The Representative will need to meet with the Secretary, Treasurer and Trustees prior to the meeting time once the trustees have completed their audit of the books.
- Please ask them to arrive early with their books or have books available for the assessment. The Department Rep will sign off on the books: checkbook, treasurer's report, audit and secretary book as part of the assessment.
- Have the Department President's most recent Letter available for reading by the Secretary at the meeting.
- Prior to the meeting, have program chairmen ready to give a brief but concise report encouraging auxiliaries to participate and report activities.
- Keep your meeting moving, having an agenda printed keeps you on task.
- Most of all, have fun, enjoy and make this a time for learning and sharing ideas.

Remember that I am always available to answer questions or offer feedback and support. Call or email any time.
Continue to "Serve Our Toto-Ly Oz-Some Veterans" in all that you do.

Honorably,
Genevieve Price pricegenevieve961@gmail.com 704 524 4434

ADOPTION FORM

FIRST TIMER DISTRICT # _____ DIST PRES NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

OLD TIMER DISTRICT # _____ DIST PRES NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ PHONE _____

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____



**EXTENSION &
REVITALIZATION**
DEBORAH CROWDER
AUGUST 2025

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

A few years ago, National presented **CARE** for retaining members. I'm sure you've heard the phrase, don't reinvent the wheel, right? Well I think CARE is one idea that we can use over and over. I'll bet every member remembers when they were new, and wondered what in the world is going on the first time they attended an Auxiliary meeting. Did you experience **CARE**? With that in mind, I challenge you to adopt the **CARE** habits this year. If you propose someone for membership, be sure to **CARE** for them as they learn who we are and what we do.

C – Catch the member when they first join. If a new member attends a meeting and does not feel welcome, they probably will not return. They joined to be a part of the work we do for veterans. Be sure the **communication** lines are open, and they feel **comfortable** asking questions.

A – Ask them to participate. Ask if they have a particular talent they would like to share. If you are the Auxiliary President, ask the new person to serve on a committee. Make sure the new members are **active** early on!

R – Remember what it felt like to be new. Do you remember what it was that caused you to become active? Why did you come back the second or third time? Did someone **catch** you? Do the same for someone else. I like to use **R** for **recruit** as well. If you **recruit** a new member, take them under your wing, and be their mentor. Be the **reason** they **return**.

E - Engage them in a program that fits them. **Encourage** them to get involved by sharing their talent or **experiences**.

I learned a few weeks ago that someone who has been a member for a couple of years did not yet have a **MALTA** account. They do now. Please encourage every member to go to **vfwauxiliary.org** and establish their personal account. All it takes is access by phone or computer, a membership number, and a password. Once they establish the account, they have access to information about our programs, the responsibilities of each office, the National President's Program book, the Bylaws and Ritual book, and the Building on the Auxiliaries Foundation book. Every member in good standing can and should have a **MALTA** account.

I'm also including a couple of Healthy Auxiliary forms that can be found on **MALTA**. These and other bits of information to help promote a Healthy Auxiliary are available under the **Extension and Revitalization** tab.

VFW Auxiliary Dept of NC Historian / Media Relations



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



REEL TALK!!!

Create a Reel on Facebook

1. **Open the Facebook app and navigate to Reels:** Tap the "+" icon (usually in the top right corner) and then select "Reel".
2. **Create or upload your video:**
 - **Record a new video:** Tap the camera icon and then the record button. You can release the button to stop recording and tap again to continue recording multiple clips.
 - **Upload from your camera roll:** Tap the photo icon in the bottom left corner and select your video.
3. **Edit your Reel:**
 - **Add audio:** Tap the music icon and choose a song or sound.
 - **Add text:** Tap the text icon and type in your text, choosing the font and color.
 - **Add effects or stickers:** Tap the relevant icons to browse and add effects or stickers.
 - **Trim, reorder, or split clips:** If you have multiple clips, you can trim them, rearrange them, or split them for more precise editing.
4. **Add a description and choose your audience:** Write a caption for your Reel and select who can see it (e.g., public, friends, etc.).
5. **Share your Reel:** Tap "Share now" to publish your Reel.



Create a Reel on Instagram

1. Open Instagram and tap the plus (+) icon at the bottom of the screen to **create a new post**. To make that post a Reel, use the bar at the bottom to scroll over to the Reels tab. Choose one or multiple photos or videos from your device's camera roll, and use the sliders at the bottom of the screen to trim their length. Tap "Next." Alternatively, if you want to record your Reel in-app, hit the record button at the bottom center of the screen.
2. Tap **"Add clips"** to add additional clips to your Reel, and **"Edit"** to trim your individual clips.
3. **Enhance** your reel: Tap the music note icon on the top right to add music, sound effects, or original audio, the stars icon to add a photo filter, the smiling sticker icon to add animated graphic elements, and the "Aa" icon to apply text.
4. Add **transitions** by swiping up and tapping the bar in between each clip. You can also add the previously mentioned enhancements to individual clips here by tapping each clip.
5. When you're done editing, tap **"Next"** at the bottom right. Choose a **cover image** from your Reel to display on your Instagram profile feed, then add an engaging **caption** below, and scroll down to **tag** people or products in your Reel features. Tap **"Save draft"** to save your Reel and finish it later or tap **"Share"** to post.





August 2025
Sandra Johnson-Leu, Hospital Program Chairman
919-906-7592
ctrysun@embarqmail.com



Have you thought about volunteering at your local VA? There are so many different ways you can give just a little of your time and make a big difference in the lives of the Veterans being served and treated at not only the 4 major VA hospitals in North Carolina, but also the divisions of the hospitals. These include facilities in Wilmington, Greenville, Salisbury, and the brand-new facility in Garner. There are also the Veterans homes located around the State. These are in Salisbury, Black Mountain, Kinston, and Kenersville. They are planning to build one in Raleigh. The one that was in Fayetteville is currently closed, I believe, for renovations. One of these locations may be closer, more convenient for you to volunteer.

There are so many ways to volunteer. So many different areas. If you have regular days that you are free, you can be a regular scheduled volunteer. **Regularly Scheduled (RS)** volunteers: Comply with VAVS Guidelines, participate on a regularly scheduled basis, are supervised by a VA employee, and can be appointed by the Department President as VAVS Representative or Deputy Representative. Any member may become a regularly scheduled volunteer. **Occasional volunteers (OS)**, go out as their time permits, either as an individual or with a group, such as other members of your Auxiliary.

Watch the information provided by the VAVS Rep for the hospital your Auxiliary is assigned to, based on where you are located. From them, you will get ideas on the current needs of the Veterans. These can be anything from snacks to items for activities, such as sketch pads, color pencils, etc., personal care items, and clothing. Clothing is a great need in hospitals. Particularly items such as sweatpants and shirts in all sizes.

As you contact your local VA hospital, veterans hospital, nursing home, or other facility about their needs for their patients, remember, ask other individuals to join you. Ask your VFW members to assist you. If you have some youth in your family, take them. The patients enjoy being around young people. The opportunities are endless. But the benefits to our Veterans cannot be measured.

Here are some helpful resources in contacting the VA:

My HealthEVet Help Desk: 877-327-0022 or 800-877-8339 (TTY)

ID.me help center to submit a ticket go to help.id.me

ID.me phone support 1-855-904-3635

Login.gov help center at login.gov/help

Login.gov phone support 1-844-875-6446

Visit the main VA resources at va.gov

As always, your support of our veterans is appreciated. Be sure to report all of your activities and donations.

CHARLES GEORGE VA MEDICAL CENTER

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



Joyce B. Preston – VAVS Representative

706 Warrior Drive

Tryon, North Carolina 28782

Mobile: 828-817-0939

August 2025

Home: 828-859-5286

Bessie Bright – VAVS Deputy

Willie Glance – Honorary VAVS

Email: jbp Preston99@yahoo.com

God Bless America & Our Troops!

Western North Carolina VA Health Care System

Creative Arts Festival

Event Details

Date: Thursday, August 7, 2025

Time: 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Location: Atrium of the Charles George VA Medical Center, 1100 Tunnel Road, Asheville, NC

Drop Off Entries

July 28th- July 31st (12 p.m.-4 p.m.)
Charles George VA Medical Center
Community Living Center (CLC)
1100 Tunnel Road Asheville, NC

Submission Deadline

July 31st at 4:00 p.m.

Divisions

ART
CREATIVE WRITING
MUSIC
DANCE
DRAMA

Point of Contact

Recreation/Creative Arts Therapy Staff

Rebekah Wiggins: 828-450-1626

Sam Bauer: 828-630-2263

Cara Carlson: 828-450-5247

Randy Shaw: 828-298-7911, Ext. 15346

Sierra Walker: 828-298-7911, Ext. 13165



NATIONAL VETERANS
CREATIVE ARTS
FESTIVAL

All local 1st, 2nd and 3rd place will be
entered into the 2025
National Veterans Creative Arts
Competition!

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.CREATIVEARTSFESTIVAL.VA.GOV
OR SCAN THE QR CODE



PRESENTED BY



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

AMERICAN
LEGION
AUXILIARY

Needs List:

Soft drinks
Gatorade Juices
Belvita Cookies
Little Debbie snacks
Hot Chocolate
Spiced Cider
Powdered lemonade
Chips – Variety snack packs
Please watch expiration dates
Robotic Pets Specialty Meals: In
need of May – December
Sponsorship
Colored Pencils
Pop its (poppers)
Journal Books
Acrylic Paints and Paint brushes
Reading glasses – Variety of strengths
Ink pens with non removable caps

You can now request refills and track
your prescriptions using the VA Health
and Benefits app. Existing users will
need to download the latest version of
the app to gain access to these new
features. The app is free and available
for both [iOS and Android smartphones.](#)

THANKING ALL VETERANS FOR MY FREEDOM!



Durham VA Medical Center
508 Fulton St
Durham, NC 27705
919-286-0411 ext. 177810
August 2025



As you are reading this, we are celebrating the opening of the new 240,000 sq. feet Garner VA Outpatient Clinic located at 2700 Benson Rd, Garner, NC 27529. Any appointments scheduled at the Raleigh 1, 2, or 3 clinics for after July 29 have all been moved to the new facility. Letters were mailed to all of the patients being treated at these CBOCs (Community-Based Outpatient Clinics). Over 14,000 letters were sent to the patients. This has been a long time coming, and everyone is excited that the day has finally arrived.

Please keep in mind, there is a huge need for volunteers at the new facility. The greatest need right now is:

1. Red Coat Volunteers – Meet and Greet Veterans and assist them with finding their appointment/clinic.
2. Golf Cart Shuttle Drivers- Shuttle Veterans from their cars in the parking lot to the entrance of the facility in a golf cart.
3. Information Desk Volunteers- Volunteers who may need to be less mobile can assist Veterans with information at the desk.

So, if you have even one day a week where you could volunteer some of your time, please reach out to the Volunteer office to sign up at the number above or at vhavhadurvoluntaryservices@va.gov.

Over the next few months, I will be sharing with you items from the wish lists of the different areas of the VA. It will also soon be time to start thinking about the holidays and the holiday programs sponsored by the VA for our veterans in need. Those, once again, will be the Thanksgiving Food bag program and the veteran holiday gifting program.

For this month, the recreation and Music therapy services had to reshape the services provided to Veterans in the:

- ❖ CLC
- ❖ CLC Hospice
- ❖ Acute Care
- ❖ Blind Rehab/Medical foster care
- ❖ Surgery unit/Outpatient services
- ❖ PARC

Their requests include:

- ❖ Netflix 2 Premium Accounts for multiple screens \$240 x2
- ❖ Apple Music -1 Family Plan \$200
- ❖ Spotify 1- \$180

Thank you for everything you do for our Veterans. Even the smallest donation means so much.

Sandra Johnson-Leu, Durham VAVS Representative

919-906-7592

ctrysun@embarqmail.com

SALISBURY VA MEDICAL CENTER

1601 Brenner Ave., Salisbury, NC

Salisbury VA Healthcare System is dedicated to improving the lives of our Veterans. They conduct research to discover knowledge and create innovations that advance health care for our Veterans.

Assist our 15 Women Veterans at Salisbury. Voluntary Service can advise you of their needs. We can also help them receive the benefits they deserve.

Our GREENHOUSE on campus at the Salisbury VA Medical Center is truly an asset. It provides therapy for many of our Veterans. To support the GREENHOUSE” project, checks go to our Treasurer Sandra Johnson-Leu, earmarked “GREENHOUSE FUND” Salisbury VA Medical Center. Sandra will send a letter and check to Salisbury Volunteer Service “CDCE”, earmarked “GREENHOUSE FUND”, stating the Auxiliary number and name of Auxiliary.

VOLUNTEER: It just takes one look, as a Veteran’s face lights up when a smiling volunteer, walks Into a room.

NEEDED ITEMS ARE:

Tennis Shoes: sizes 7-10

Underwear--(Boxer Shorts) sizes medium, large, X large, 2X, 3X

Regular Pants: 32-30 32-34 34-30 34 32 34 34 36 30

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

Thank you for supporting the needs of our Veterans, who bravely served our country.

Loyally,

**Farres Upton
Salisbury Representative**



LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM—AUGUST 2025

Lighting the way between veterans' families and legislators with a wave of gratitude. Let's turn our Gratitude into Action!



"This year, we are lighting the way between veterans, their families and legislators with a wave of gratitude. I call it the gratitude attitude! That means every letter, every phone call, every Action Corps response is more than just a task, it is a thank you to those who gave us our freedom."

--National Legislative Ambassador, Amy Jo Lett

CONGRESS: Planning a 5-week vacation? Well Congress has started their RECESS (campaigning time). Leaving way too much undone! When they return, they must finish appropriation bills and have a budget by the end of the fiscal year in September. Expect a threat to shut down the government and to go for a CR again! Now is the time to catch those "Congress Critters" in their home district. Call their district offices, look for events where you can meet and talk with them! You can continue to email their DC Offices as well.

PASSED THE HOUSE & SENATE GOES TO THE PRESIDENT NEXT

- **H.R. 1815: VA Home Loan Program Reform Act**--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.
- **S. 423: PRO Veterans Act of 2025**--A bill to protect regular order for budgeting for the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

PASSED THE HOUSE AND SITTING IN THE SENATE!

H.R. 1228 – Prioritizing Veterans' Survivors Act (Rep. Ciscomani)

H.R. 981 – VETT Act (Rep. Van Orden)

H.R. 983 – Montgomery GI Bill Selected Reserves Tuition Fairness Act of 2025 (Rep. Van Orden)

H.R. 586 – Vietnam Veterans Liver Fluke Cancer Study Act, as amended (Rep. LaLota)

H.R. 1039 – Clear Communication for Veterans Claims Act, as amended (Rep. Barrett)

H.R. 877 – Deliver for Veterans Act, as amended (Del. Moylan)

H.R. 970 – Fairness for Servicemembers and their Families Act of 2025 (Rep. Strickland)

NEWSWORTHY! House subcommittee passes Rep. Greg Murphy's bill to help veterans with PTSD, brain injuries, **H.R. 1336 Veterans National Traumatic Brain Injury Treatment Act**. If enacted, H.R. 1336 would establish a pilot program at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to furnish hyperbaric oxygen therapy (HBOT) for veterans suffering PTSD or TBI, according to a bill summary provided by Rep. Murphy's staff.

TAKE ACTION: **H.R. 2605 Service Dogs Assisting Veterans (SAVES) Act**--Too many veterans are left without the critical support they need to recover from the visible and invisible wounds of war. For those living with physical disabilities, PTSD, or other service-connected conditions, the lack of access to trained service dogs represents a major gap in care. It's time to close that gap.

CHECK LIST: Review the [VFW Priority Goals](#); Sign-up everyone and respond to [VFW Action Corps Weekly](#) & please keep track of all the new sign-ups; Review [VFW Key Bills in Congress](#) (*Want a spread sheet of those and where they stand? Just email me*); Communicate with your legislators and elected officials (via phone, email and personal visits). Have you Appointed a Legislative Chairman for your Auxiliary? Please have them email me for more tips and training! Get involved with Town Hall meetings and political forums.



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)



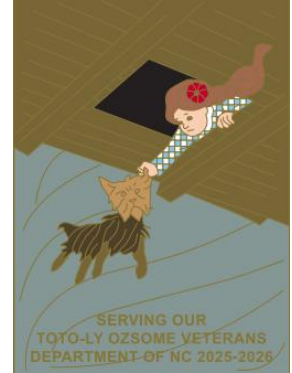
Membership 2025-2026

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 President Anna Holm's Theme: Serving Our Toto-ly Oz-Some
Veterans

As of June 20th, the Department is at 78.89%, we need 1462 members to reach 100%. It will take each and everyone of us to rise to the challenge.



Important Dates to Remember at the Local Auxiliary Levels!

March 31st – Each Aux that reaches 98%+ in membership will receive \$25
Can you calculate how many members you need to reach this goal?

June 10th each Veterans of Foreign Wars member who recruits five (5) new members to the VFW Auxiliary from July 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026*. Due to VFW Auxiliary Department Treasurer (Sandra Johnson Leu) by **June 10, 2026**. The pin will be mailed directly to the VFW member from National Headquarters. Find the form on MALTA.
Can you find the form on MALTA?

June 10th - National Membership Achievement Award to each VFW and VFW Auxiliary member who recruits twenty (20) new members to the VFW Auxiliary from July 1, 2025, through May 31, 2026. Department Treasurer must enter membership in MALTA with credit given to the recruiter by June 10, 2026. NMA Award to be presented at the 2026 National Convention. If a member is not in attendance, the award to be mailed directly to the member from National Headquarters after National Convention.

June 30th – Each Aux that reached 100%+ will receive \$25
Can you calculate how many members you need to reach this goal?

June 30th - Each VFW Auxiliary that reaches 101% + by June 30, 2026* will be entered into a onetime drawing to receive \$500 (*Based on the June 30, 2023 year-end membership numbers)

Membership resources can be found on:

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

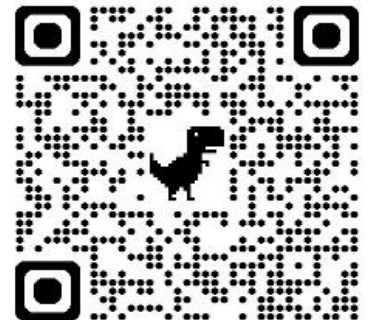
Department of NC Auxiliary (<https://vfwauxnc.org>)

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

Angi Hardy

National Membership Ambassador Mike Maruszak

Michael-j-maruszak@outlook.com



SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS 2025 - 2026

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

Hi everyone,

Wow, here we are in the month of August already, I hope all Presidents have been able to read the mailing's and have been able to download the scholarship information and share it with your members and your chairman. Please remember to report anything that you have done so far.

This month is very important since schools will soon be opening and everyone needs to try to get as much information to our school students introducing them to all scholarships that the VFW offers. Teachers are very busy doing lesson planning and identifying with their students. If you are taking information to the schools, it might be best to give it to the guidance counselor to be distributed to the teachers.

Last month I talked about the Continuing Education Scholarship. This scholarship is the VFW Auxiliary National Presidents special project this year and we need to help her with promoting this program. **The Continuing Education Scholarship is a well-kept secret that shouldn't be a secret at all!** It is vital that we get the word out to our members who, along with their family members, are the individuals who qualify for this opportunity. In addition to getting more members, their spouses and children to apply, we also need to grow the escrow fund so that more monies can be available to students per Conference, per year. I am sure that our National President would be very happy to hear that Auxiliaries are planning to hold a fund raiser for this program.

Who is eligible to apply?

- Open to any Auxiliary member (who has been a member for at least one year), their spouses and children. This is the only scholarship limited by membership.
- The scholarship is \$1,250 and is awarded to one winner in each of the four conferences.
- Entrant must be at least 21 years of age, complete the application and submit an essay of 300. Words or less.
- Deadline for application is February 15, 2026, to National headquarters. For the application and more information go to: <https://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/continuing-education/>

VFW NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS (For these two programs the Auxiliaries should try to work together with their Post members to promote the programs).

- **PATRIOT'S PEN:** A youth essay contest open to students in grades 6-8 who are enrolled in public, private, parochial school or home school programs. The grand prize is \$5,000. For all information and entry forms go to <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>
- **VOICE OF DEMOCRACY:** An audio-essay program for students in grades 9-12 who are enrolled in public, private, parochial school or home school programs. The grand prize is a \$35,000 scholarship. For information and entry forms go to <https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships>

Both the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy themes are **"HOW ARE YOU SHOWING PATRIOTISM AND SUPPORT FOR OUR COUNTRY?"**, the student entry deadline for both programs are due to Posts by **October 31, 2025.**

AUXILIARY NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS:

- **YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST:** Open to any student in grades 9-12. Students submit an original two-dimensional piece of artwork. Entry must be completed during the current school year and submitted to the Auxiliary by March 31, 2026. The first-place winner will receive a \$15,000 scholarship. To download an entry form, visit <https://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/young-american-creative-patriotic-art-contest/>
- **3-DIMENSIONAL PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST:** Open to any students in grades 9-12. Students submit an original three-dimensional piece of artwork. Entry must be completed during current school year and submitted to the Auxiliary by March 31, 2026. The first-place winner will receive a \$2,500 scholarship. To download an entry form, visit <https://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/young-american-creative-patriotic-art-contest/>

Department President Anna Holm's Special Project

August 2025



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



Somewhere Over the Rainbow...

A Veteran is hurting...

A Veteran is confused...

A Veteran needs help...

Department President Anna Holm's Special Project will help those Veterans.

Veterans Mental Health

Department President Anna Holm's and Department Commander Edward Beard
is a joint special project.

Close-up of: Mental health care we provide at the Durham VA Health Care System Durham VA Medical Center, 508 Fulton Street, Durham, NC 27705
919-286-0411 Or 919-286-0411

We provide consultation, evaluation, and treatment for a variety of issues impacting emotional well-being. are available in person or via telehealth. Our services include:

- Medication treatment for a wide range of psychiatric disorders such as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, Depression, Anxiety and PTSD
- Wellness Management strategies when living with a Psychotic Disorder
- Individual and group therapy for Depression, anxiety, anger and difficulties with emotion regulation including self-harm.
- Treatment for conditions related to Military Sexual Trauma
- Psychotherapy PTSD and trauma related conditions
- Individual and group psychotherapy for chronic pain
- Sleep treatment for insomnia, difficulties using a CPAP or recurring nightmares
- Mental health support for Veterans receiving palliative care or oncology services
- Peer support services
- LGBTQ+ support and mental health services
- Couples therapy
- Intimate Partner Violence assistance
- Transition and care management for returning Veterans (OIF/OEF/OND)
- Treatment to address the Effects of TBI
- Treatment for Substance Use disorders
- Tobacco use treatment

"Serving our TOTO-ly OZsome Veterans"

Follow the Yellow Brick Road to the Goal!



Starting your journey to see the Wizard, make sure to order your **Auxiliary's Special Project Pin**.

I have attached a copy of the **order form**. Or you can find it on the NC Department website: **vfwauxnc.org** (Please follow the directions.)

Make sure your Auxiliary takes orders from all your members, not just your officers.

If your Auxiliary is using Auxiliary funds to purchase special project pins make sure, it is voted on and is noted in your minutes. Also, don't forget to vote on purchasing your **Bond**. The Auxiliary Treasurer needs to purchase the Bond before **August 31, 2025**.

After you have received your special project pins, make sure to report the purchase in the online reporting section on the NC Department website: **vfwauxnc.org**

Thanks for helping our "Toto-ly Oz-Some Veterans" with Mental Health services through the VA Hospitals in North Carolina.

We are planning a fun fundraiser for the Friday of the October C of A. It is going to be a "Quarter Auction" with a little "twist-er". Please have your Auxiliary/District bring newly purchased items to be donated for the Auction. Plan now to attend the:

VFWA C of A October 3-5, Embassy Suites, 204 Centrepont Dr, Greensboro, NC 27409

There will also be a "Silent Auction" consisting of baskets and wreaths. Encourage your Auxiliary and District to donate to "Quarter Auction" and to the "Silent Auction." Let's all enjoy ourselves.

Becky Rowe

NC Special Project Chairman 2025-26

VFW Auxiliary Dept. of NC Membership Report
President Anna Holm 2025-26 Chairman- Angi Hardy

Chairman

Date: 7.27.25

East-

District 1 Pres Mary Coatney					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
6060	Elizabeth City	255	183	183	71.76%
7312	Sunbury	23	17	17	73.91%
10950	Outer Banks	38	36	36	97.44%
TOTALS		316	236	236	74.86%

District 4 Pre.Jaymie Hayes					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
2514	New Bern	22	8	8	36.36%
7315	Havelock	205	183	169	89.27%
7547	Clinton	54	53	53	98.15%
8986	Newport	70	54	50	112.90%
9133	Jacksonville	198	162	155	103.13%
9810	Warsaw	29	29	29	100.00%
9960	Swansboro	287	236	229	82.23%
11119	West Craven	29	27	28	93.10%
TOTALS		894	752	750	84.12%

District 2 Pres. Violet Saviak					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
2615	Goldsboro	46	30	30	65.22%
2771	Kinston	18	9	9	50.00%
7032	Greenville	39	29	25	74.36%
9959	Mount Olive	51	32	32	62.75%
TOTALS		154	100	96	64.94%

District 5 Pres Deborah Crowder					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
7288	Calabash	328	239	239	72.87%
8866	Holden Beach	111	110	110	99.10%
9983	Holly Ridge	184	157	157	85.33%
10226	Oak Island	99	96	95	96.97%
10400	B Spring Lakes	81	50	48	61.73%
121966	Leland	18	10	10	55.56%
TOTALS		821	662	659	80.63%

District 3 Pres Yvonne McLeod					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
2057	Rocky Mount	70	53	52	75.71%
TOTALS		70	53	52	75.71%

District 7 Pres Wanda McCall					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
6722	Lillington	27	21	21	77.78%
7383	Cary	151	135	133	89.40%
9103	Spring Lake	106	96	96	90.57%
10225	Garner	112	34	93	85.71%
10999	Raleigh	37	37	31	100.00%
TOTALS		433	385	374	88.91%

EASTERN	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
TOTALS	2688	2188	2167	81.39%

President: Anna Holm

Chairman: Angi Hardy

Date: 7.27.25

Central - Johnnie Cox

District 6 Pres Emily Ball					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
1920	Mebane	50	33	27	66.00%
10607	Burlington	39	29	28	74.36%
TOTALS		89	62	55	69.66%

District 10 Pres Carsonia Whitmore					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
2087	Greensboro	20	6	6	30.00%
2972	Gibsonville	36	32	32	100.00%
3074	Lexington	39	17	14	95.12%
8297	Mway Monroeton	55	48	48	87.27%
TOTALS		150	103	100	96.77%

District 8 Pres Mary Zanders					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
670	Fayetteville	198	148	144	74.75%
6,018	Fayetteville	201	168	168	83.58%
10,630	Hope Mills	34	28	28	82.35%
TOTALS		433	344	340	79.45%

District 12 Pres Theresa Billips					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
3006	Salisbury	98	60	59	61.22%
6365	Locust	22	7	7	31.82%
8989	Kannapolis	120	62	62	51.67%
9134	Rockwell	22	14	14	63.64%
TOTALS		262	143	142	70.34%

District 9 Pres Angi Hardy					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
4203	Rockingham	56	40	38	71.43%
5631	Sanford	123	109	108	88.62%
7318	Southern Pines	365	343	341	93.97%
10,403	Wadesboro	43	26	26	60.47%
TOTALS		587	519	513	88.25%

CENTRAL	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
TOTALS	1521	1171	1150	76.98%

VFW Auxiliary Dept. of NC Membership Report
2025-26

President: Anna Holm

Chairman: Angi Hardy

Date: 7.27.25

Western Becky Rowe

District 11 Pres Farres Upton					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
1119	Cooleemee	30	26	11	76.67%
5352	Kernersville	141	86	80	60.99%
7794	Elkin	34	15	14	44.12%
9010	Clemmons	57	47	47	82.46%
9436	Pilot Mountain	62	26	26	41.94%
TOTALS		324	197	178	60.80%

District 15 Pres Sherry Brooks					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
1142	N. Wilkesboro	86	72	72	83.72%
4286	Newland	37	24	24	64.86%
7031	Boone	50	23	23	46.00%
7034	Sparta	66	49	49	74.24%
7946	Jefferson	31	31	13	100.00%
TOTALS		270	199	181	73.70%

District 13 Pres Lyndsey Bowlus					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
1160	Charlotte	139	128	126	92.09%
2423	Indian Trail	111	102	102	91.89%
5464	Monroe	47	31	31	65.96%
6724	Paw Creek	40	31	31	77.50%
7775	Charlotte	21	20	20	95.24%
9337	Gastonia	68	27	27	39.71%
9736	Croft	16	5	5	31.25%
TOTALS		442	344	344	77.83%

District 16 Pres Joyce Preston					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
891	Asheville	79	68	68	86.08%
5206	Hendersonville	75	61	61	81.33%
9116	Columbus	26	19	19	73.08%
TOTALS		180	148	148	82.22%

District 14 Pres Linda Owens					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
1706	Lincolnton	86	49	49	56.98%
2031	Statesville	62	58	58	89.23%
4066	Shelby	16	16	16	100.00%
5305	Newton	32	14	14	43.75%
TOTALS		196	137	137	68.84%

District 17 Pres Jan Strough					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
4309	Brevard	175	146	122	83.43%
5202	Waynesville	221	127	126	57.47%
6812	Hayesville	56	55	43	98.21%
7339	Franklin	72	43	39	59.72%
TOTALS		524	371	330	70.87%

WESTERN	2024 Mbrs.	2025 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
TOTALS	1936	1396	1318	72.10%

DEPT	2025 Mbrs.	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
TOTALS	6964	5534	5399	79.47%

NC At-Large	2024 Mbrs.	2025 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
TOTALS	816	780	763	95.59%

Needed to Reach 100% -1430

DISTRICT ASSIGNMENTS

FALL 2025

DISTRICT	DATE	POST #	TIME	CITY	AUX. REPRESENTATIVE	VFW REPRESENTATIVE
1	9/20/2025	6060	11:00 AM	Elizabeth City	Angi Harrdy, Conductor	Greg Stafford
2	8/24/2025	9959	1:00 PM	Mt. Olive	Tracy Armstrong, Jr. Vice	Edward Beard
3	9/20/2025	2057	11:00 AM	Rocky Mount	Sandra Johnson-Leu	Edward Beard
4	9/21/2025	9960	12:00 PM	Cedar Point	Tracy Armstrong, Jr. Vice	Chris Brown
5	8/30/2025	7228	10:00 AM	Calabash	Theresa Billips, Chaplain	Mickey Biggs
6	9/13/2025	2740	9:00 AM	Durham	Sherry Brooks, Guard	Edward Beard
7	8/23/2025	10999	11:00 AM	Raleigh	Theresa Billips, Chaplain	Thomas Person
8	8/2/2025	670	11:00 AM	Fayetteville	Sherry Brooks, Guard	Edward Beard
9	9/13/2025	4203	9:30 AM	Rockingham	Lin Moore, Sr. Vice	Thomas Person
10	8/16/2025	2087	10:00 AM	Greensboro	Farres Upton, PDP	Thomas Person
11	9/20/2025	5352	10:00 AM	Kernersville	Sherry Brooks, Guard	Chris Brown
12	8/3/2025	2908	1:00 PM	Albermarle	Lin Moore, Sr. Vice	Edward Beard
13	8/17/2025	6724	2:00 PM	Charlotte	Angi Harrdy, Conductor	Chris Brown
14	8/23/2025	2031	11:00 AM	Statesville	Anna Holm, Dept. Pres	Chris Brown
15	9/21/2025	7034	2:30 PM	Sparta	Anna Holm, Dept. Pres	Mickey Biggs
16	9/20/2025	9116	12:00 PM	Columbus	Deborah Crowder, CofS	Josh Holt
17	9/20/2025	6812	11:00 AM	Hayesville	Anna Holm, Dept. Pres	Mickey Biggs

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Department Website and Reporting is being administered by

Heather Woods

This year. Please direct all questions and concerns to her.

The contact information is mediawilkes1187@gmail.com

1-336-452-7014

Thank you.



Barbara Beard

Candidate for Department Guard

2026-2027

Brothers and sister, after much soul-searching, contemplating, and prayer, I enthusiastically announce my candidacy for 2026-2027 Department Guard.

Eligibility I joined the auxiliary in 2015 under the eligibility of my husband Edward Beard, a Desert Storm Veteran.

Auxiliary Experience

Auxiliary - Guard, JVP, SVP, President, Historian Chair, Veterans and Family Support Chair, Membership Chair, Auxiliary Outreach Chair

District – Historian/ Media Relations Chair

Department - Historian/ Media Relations Chair (5yrs), Budget Committee, Audit Committee, Program Director

Awards Auxiliary President of the Year (2023-24 & 2024-25)
(30) Department Awards, (8) National Historian/Media Relations Awards

Education BS-Sociology, Magna Cum Laude
Master of Business Administration, w/Government Contracting Certificate

Employment Retired 2020 after 35 years of Federal Government Service. The Last 25 years of my career, I was employed at Womack Army Medical Center as Supervisor Logistics Specialist, Budget Analyst and Health Systems Specialist. Having worked with veterans by entire career, I have gained a mutual understanding and respect for their sacrifice and service.

My Why I joined the auxiliary to support veterans and their family members. I truly enjoy visiting veterans at the VA Medical Centers & Nursing Homes. You can also find me in the community volunteering at Fort Bragg, local schools and partnering with other civic organizations. Although, I've enjoyed being the Department Historian/Media Relations Chair for the past 5 years, it is time to move forward and use my talents to build on an already awesome Department.

Hobbies Enjoy gardening, traveling, DIY projects and event planning

Thank you for your support and consideration. I pledge to bring the same energy and commitment to the Department as I did at the Auxiliary level.

Sincerely,
Barbara Beard