



**Department North Carolina  
VFW Auxiliary  
2024-2025**



**National Theme:**

**“From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service To Our Veterans”**

**Department Theme:**

**“Serving Those Who Have Served With Love”**

Happy New Year Brothers & Sisters:

Thanks to everyone that continues to help with Hurricane relief. Our hurricane relief committee has been organized and we are meeting to start distributing our first set of payments for applicants that have requested financial assistance with their recovery efforts. Many states around the nation want to help and have sent in donations we just need for our auxiliary members to submit the applications back to my attention. We really want to help our members find some stability during these rough times.

Membership is looking great, and I am so thankful to our Membership Angels that sent in donations to help our members in WNC. Please make sure that you continue collecting dues for your unpaid members. As a reminder, please remember to introduce someone new to your Post and Auxiliary at every open opportunity. We want to make sure that everyone eligible is made aware of our great organization. We can't keep this secret to ourselves. Also, I am excited to announce that per the Southern Conference coach all states in the Southern Conference are currently over 90% this is wonderful new.

Auxiliary representatives please make sure that you are reporting all your activities. I see many activities on our Facebook pages, but the reporting is not being done on our website. Please try to make this a priority as we want to make sure that our program chairs are aware that you are receiving and appreciating the information that they are sharing with you each month in the Department mail.

**More reminders:**

- District meetings are coming up in January and we want great member attendance and excellent trainings.
- February Council Meeting will be held January 31-February 2, 2025, at the Embassy Suites in Greensboro, NC. The Military Order of the Cootie Grand will also be held in conjunction with the Council Meeting we will have great training and informative workshops. Please make sure to reserve your room and to pay for your banquet and hospitality ticket at the website [www.vfwnc.com](http://www.vfwnc.com).
- Back by popular demand, there will be another Special Project auction at the February council meeting. All donations are greatly appreciated. Also, there will be a Silent Auction of wreaths from all over NC. I am asking all Districts to provide a decorative wreath. All proceeds will benefit the Department of NC Ways & Means.
- The National Home 100 celebration is upcoming if you want to support you can always sign up for the centennial membership. Here is the Link [www.vfwnationalhome.com](http://www.vfwnationalhome.com)

In conclusion, we are entering 2025 and we are looking forward to working harder this year to continue helping our Veterans and their families. As auxiliary members we need to remember and understand that without a Post there is no Auxiliary. We are a united family, and this is the attitude we need to continue to exhibit. At any time, you feel that you no longer want to work with the VFW I suggest that you review your membership eligibility and our mission statement. National Commander Al and National President Brenda are setting the example of unity as Department Commander Annie, and I are also trying to do. Please learn to communicate with your counterpart and share ideas with your members.

Loyally Serving Our Veterans,



Sandra Jeffries, President 2024-2025



A Message from the Department Treasurer  
January 2025  
Vfwauxnc.org



Brothers and Sisters,

I hope each of you had a wonderful and peaceful holiday season.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:** It recently came to my attention that information was being shared with members that National was no longer sending out dues cards to annual members upon paying their dues for the current year. As Department treasurer, I was a little shocked, as I would have thought I would have heard this directly from National. I immediately contacted National regarding this and their response was "This is the first we are hearing about this". Please assure your members, if they have heard this, the information is incorrect. National does and will continue to send out dues card to every member upon receipt of the current dues. It generally takes approximately 5 weeks.

It is audit time once again. Your Auxiliary audits for the period ending 31 December 2024 will be due no later than 28 February 2025. Remember, the TRUSTEES are to review the books of the treasurer AND the secretary when completing the audit. Trustees should be making sure any expenditures were properly voted on by the Auxiliary prior to the money having been spent. Then the receipts must be presented to the trustees for final approval before the check was written. If the expenditure is pre-approved in the Auxiliary standing rules, the expense does not have to be voted on, but the receipts must still be presented to the trustees, signed and then the reimbursement may be made.

Additionally on your Audit form, there is a space that needs to be completed that indicates the date the audit was presented to the members of the Auxiliary, voted on and accepted. This is required according to the Bylaws. Sec 814-3 States A motion to accept the audit, signed and completed by the most senior trustee present at the audit is required, prior to forwarding to the Department treasurer. Section 814,7. States, the trustees shall submit and read the written audit during an Auxiliary meeting. Once this has been done, add the date to the audit and the forward the audit to the Department treasurer. This has been missing from many audits, requiring me to contact the Auxiliary to get the date and add it to the audit form.

Recently, the biggest issue with membership applications has been the life applications being paid by credit card. These applications have to be forwarded directly to National by me. In one week, I submitted 9 applications to National, only to have 6 of them declined and returned. The majority of these were for insufficient funds on the card. Please let the applicant know, it can take 30 days or more before the application is sent to National for processing. Consider the time from getting the application, waiting for the Auxiliary meeting to have the application reviewed, voted on and accepted by your Auxiliary and then sent to me. I then generally forward these directly to National within one or two days of receiving them. The applicant needs to make sure there are enough funds on the card to cover the fees when the application gets processed. If the card is declined, the application can only be processed with a different form of payment. It will not be re-sent with the same payment. One of the other problems is the credit card signature. If the card holders' name is not the same as the person who signs the credit card portion of the application, the application will be declined. So, if a spouse is paying for the membership, please make sure the spouse signs the application.

As a reminder the Auxiliary financial business is that of the Auxiliary only. You are not to share the information with others, including the VFW Post to which you are associated. Once a year, usually your 30 June audit, the Auxiliary is required to provide a financial report to the VFW Commander of their post. After this, the financial information of your Auxiliary does not get shared with the Post. If your Auxiliary is having difficulties with your audits, records, monies, etc., contact myself or the Department President. If needed, assistance will be sent to help remedy a solution.

As always, I am just a phone call or email away if there is anything I can assist you with.

Sandra Johnson-Leu,  
VFWA Department Treasurer 2024-2025 Department of NC 919-906-7592 [ctrysun@embarqmail.com](mailto:ctrysun@embarqmail.com)  
103 Covered Bridge Rd., Clayton, NC 27520

*Sometimes the best thing you can do is not think, not wonder, not imagine, not obsess. Just breathe and have faith that everything will work out for the best.*

## *The Chaplain's Chat*

*January 2025*

Wendy Dorsey Rachels, Department Aux Chaplain

PO Box 635 Badin NC 28009

704-984-2259

[wdrachels@gmail.com](mailto:wdrachels@gmail.com)



Please text or call me at the number above or send me an email with information to send cards to members for any reason: Special birthdays, get well, sympathy or if anyone needs a simple pick me up card.

### **Winter in Our Lives**

There is a winter in all of our lives,  
a chill and darkness that makes us yearn  
for days that have gone  
or put our hope in days yet to be.  
Father God, you created seasons for a purpose.  
Spring is full of expectation  
buds breaking  
frosts abating and an awakening  
of creation before the first days of summer.  
Now the sun gives warmth  
and comfort to our lives  
reviving aching joints  
bringing color, new life  
and crops to fruiting.  
Autumn gives nature space  
to lean back, relax and enjoy the fruits of its labor  
mellow colors in sky and landscape  
as the earth prepares to rest.  
Then winter, cold and bare as nature takes stock  
rests, unwinds, sleeps until the time is right.  
An endless cycle  
and yet a perfect model.  
We need a winter in our lives  
a time of rest, a time to stand still  
a time to reacquaint ourselves  
with the faith in which we live.  
It is only then that we can draw strength  
from the one in whom we are rooted  
take time to grow and rise through the darkness  
into the warm glow of your springtime  
to blossom and flourish  
bring color and vitality into this world  
your garden.  
Thank you Father  
for the seasons of our lives.

- Author Unknown

# Veterans and Family Support

## January 2025



Happy New Year Sisters and Brothers, as we enter into the new year military members and Veterans are getting started with their new year resolutions. New goals such as joining a gym, returning to school or something as simple as monthly date nights. With those options there are few child care programs that may be available on the weekend for active duty, such as your adopted unit for child care. How may your auxiliary help you might ask?

Auxiliaries may help their adopted unit by organizing a weekend childcare for a few hours of each month with a vetted child care service. The Department of Defense and Child Care Aware® of America have launched the **Military Child Care in Your Neighborhood-PLUS** (MCCYN-PLUS) initiative in North Carolina. It provides financial assistance to help military families access and afford quality child care from community providers when on-base child care isn't available. Childcare can be expensive and time-consuming for anyone, but the American Heroes that are veterans may have some options to alleviate some of that stress.

Affordable Child Care Matters



Loyally Serving,  
Joe Nelson  
Veterans and Family Support Chairman  
(252)626-4888  
[Jnelson\\_nc@yahoo.com](mailto:Jnelson_nc@yahoo.com)  
#WE CAN AND WE WILL





**Americanism**

**January 2025**

**Americanism: an unflinching 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.**

**It's a Brand-New Year! New Beginnings! Fresh starts!  
Let's start from the beginning by all being Patriotic instructors.**

**Patriotic Instructors should instruct members in their Auxiliary about the Auxiliary Rituals, Traditions, and Patriotic Education. Teach your members the proper way to salute the flag and know the Pledge of Allegiance.**

**Where can you Promote:** Schools, Clubs, Church Groups, Scouts, Social media, Libraries...

**How to Promote:**

**Flag Education:**

- Flag Etiquette/Respect History
- U.S Flag Code
- Retirement Ceremonies
- Educating youth and community
- Military Flags Order of Precedence
- Star Family Recognition
- (meaning of blue, gold, silver stars/flags)



**Way to Present and Promote Patriotism:**

- Pass out Flags
- Patriotic Business/Citizen Citations
- R.A.P Cards and Coins

**Use #AuxiliaryPatriotism**

- Social Media like Facebook
- Make Educational Videos

**Celebrate Patriotic Holidays**

- 29 March** – National Vietnam War Veterans Day
- 1 May** – Loyalty Day
- 3<sup>rd</sup>- Saturday in May**-Armed Forces Day
- 26 May** Memorial Day
- 14 June**- Flag Day
- 4 July**- Independence Day
- 11 September**-Patriotic Day
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday September**- POW/MIA Recognition Day
- Last Sunday in September**- Goldstar Mother/Families Day
- 11 November**-Veterans Day
- 7 December**-Pearl Harbor Day
- Branch of Service Birth Days**

**Don't Forget to Educate and Promote and Celebrate the lesser-known Holidays.**

**Fly Your Flags High! Let your Patriotism be a Beacon of Light to All Our Countrymen!**

Theresa Billips  
Dept.NC Americanism Chairman  
1841 Mountain Creek Rd. Albemarle NC 28001  
[Sistertnc@aol.com](mailto:Sistertnc@aol.com)



# Auxiliary Outreach



January is named for the Roman god, Janus. He looks to the past and to the future – representing transitions and beginnings. The birth stone is garnet and stands for protection and trust. Carnation is the flower and represents love and admiration. January is the time when many people make resolutions for the new year. Make your Auxiliary resolution in 2025 to report in Auxiliary Outreach.

Only the gift of time can be considered, and you must partner with an outside group. Examples would be working with the American Red Cross on a blood drive, assisting a Scout group in cemetery clean-up, working with law enforcement on gun safety in the community. The list is only limited by your imagination. Think outside the box to find different ways to reach out and serve your community



My National Ambassador, Bambi Johnson, would like to share the most outstanding projects at the Mid-Year Conference to be held February 1-5, 2025. Please be sure to have your outstanding project emailed to me no later than **January 20, 2025**. I will review them and pick the best to forward to Bambi for consideration at Mid-Year. I'm looking forward to seeing which projects everyone will pick.

**March 31, 2025**, is the deadline for when the collages of work this program year must be to me. Use your imagination when putting them together.

Reports have been received from the following Auxiliaries – December 7, 2024

Dist. 1	10950		Dist. 8	670, 6018		Dist. 14	1706, 5305
Dist. 4	7315, 7547, 9960		Dist. 9	4203, 10403		Dist. 15	1142, 7034
Dist. 5	7288, 9983, 10226, 12196		Dist. 11	5352, 7794, 9010, 9436		Dist. 16	5206
Dist. 6	10607		Dist. 12	2908, 8989, 9134		Dist. 17	5205, 6812, 7339
Dist. 7	7383, 10225		Dist. 13	1160, 2423			

**2025 is going to be a wonderful year.**

Anna Holm, 1850 Dunn Rd., Apt. 1409, Raleigh, NC 27614  
919-210-3268, aholmvfwncc@att.net



# “Buddy”® Poppy



V F W  
NATIONAL HOME

## “Buddy”® Poppy

The “Buddy”® Poppy King & Queen and the Prince and Princess Contest are due to either Department Chairman by Jan. 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025. All forms can be found on the Department website.



Angi Hardy-  
Chairman

[angihardy@yahoo.com](mailto:angihardy@yahoo.com)

910-322-6478

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

The Winter C of A is approaching, and that means the “Buddy”® Poppy Display Contest. The rules are listed on the Department Website. The three categories are  
Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign  
Memorial or Inspirational Displays  
Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies

## National Home-Celebrating 100 Years!!!

**Come help us kick-off a year of celebrations honoring  
100 Years of Service to Veterans and their Families.**

**VFW National Home**

**100th Birthday Party Celebration**

**Tuesday, January 7, 2025**

**4:00 – 7:00 p.m.**

- **VFW National Home Auditorium**

3573 S. Waverly Road • Eaton Rapids, Michigan

## **JUNE 28, 2025**

Join us for the VFW National Home Community Celebration, a special event honoring our 100th anniversary of dedicated service to military and veteran families.

- Check the website for more details

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

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

[www.VFWNationalHome.org](http://www.VFWNationalHome.org)

[www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org)

Reporting Website  
<http://vfwauxnc.org>

# VFW Auxiliary Dept of NC President Historian/ Media Relations



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

HAPPY NEW YEAR  
**2025!**



## What is the E-Newsletter?

- A biweekly newsletter emailed to members who have email addresses in MALTA.

## How does it differ from the magazine?

- Comes out more frequently (every other week except in July & December)
- More short articles about time-sensitive issues with greater flexibility re: when to share
- More room for regular personalized content like #BrendaLostAndFound or #CarlaCoast2Coast
- Less in-depth articles/overviews about trips that will be better covered by magazine

- No letters to or from the editor or letter from the National President
- Does not include magazine features like “My Veteran,” “Member Spotlight” or scholarship winners’ artwork or speeches.

## Is this the same content we get on social media?:

- Sometimes, though typically Facebook will have shortened versions of articles with a note to “see the next E-Newsletter...”
- Social media has more focus on pictures & videos, while the focus in the E-Newsletter is the written word & information.

## Report, Report, Report!!!

It is so important to complete your reports in the electronic system. Don't wait until April. You are likely to forget what you've done throughout the year. If you need assistance with completing your report, please contact me.

**If you don't report it.  
It didn't happen!**

## Some reminders:

- Make sure you are posting to your Facebook group. Contact me if you have questions or need help.
- Make sure to check out the Dept of NC Historian Facebook Page. You can share your stories on that page as well.
- Share your ideas with me so I can pass them on to everyone else.
- Encourage your Auxiliary to share their story (5 W's) & photographs. Send them to me.

Everyone is doing an amazing job! Keep up the great work that you are doing.

The 2024-2025 Historian & Media Relations Award for Auxiliaries Entry Form has been posted to the Dept of NC Historian Facebook Page. This form is due to me by April 15, 2025. I must compile the forms and return to Headquarters by April 30, 2025



## **Hospital Program – January 2025**

Dianne Sellers, Chairman

3853 Wesley Court, Burlington, NC 27215, 336-253-5867, [taikijorsel@gmail.com](mailto:taikijorsel@gmail.com)

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The fourth focus, **Honors Escort**, as stated for the Hospital Program, “is an opportunity to honor each veteran in a respectful and open manner and provides an opportunity for a veteran’s family and friends, other veterans and medical facility staff to participate in a display of high regard and reverence for the individual at the time of death.”

### **? *What is the Honors Escort ?***

Unfortunately, many of our Auxiliary members do not understand or have never witnessed this brief ceremony. To enable your members to be enlightened on this meaningful event, use one of your meetings to see the following on

**You Tube** and **Search: Honors Escort Veterans.**

The following ceremonies are good examples:

- \* Dublin VA
- \* VA Atlanta Healthcare System
- \* St. Bernardine Medical Center Southern California

### **? *What does our Auxiliary do next after we understand Honors Escort ?***

1. Ask your VA CDCE Dept. (volunteer dept.) what the hospital does for Honors Escort? Some hospitals, nursing homes and hospice refer to the ceremony as Honors Walk. This may be in a non-VA medical facility.
2. You can also speak with the Hospital Chaplain.
3. If you volunteer at a non-VA medical facility, speak with the director or person in charge of volunteers.
4. Maybe your Auxiliary would like to make this a volunteer project!

If the facility does not have a ceremony, suggest they begin honoring their Veterans as you provide them with the **following page that will help them better understand Honors Escort.**

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and other non-VA health care facilities caring for veterans find meaning and take pride in providing a *final salute to veterans* who spend their last days of life at their facilities. The *final salute* aligns with the mission of the VA and to fulfill Pres. Lincoln’s promise, “*To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan*” by serving and honoring those who are America’s veterans.

# HONORS ESCORT



This program offers a ceremonial escort to veteran patients who pass away while at a Medical Center, Community Living Center (CLC), Nursing Home, or Hospice.

The ceremony allows staff, residents, patients, and visitors to pay their final respects to the Veteran, and reminds family members of the high regard and reverence that is held for their loved one, even after they have passed on.

The ceremony is normally conducted by trained volunteer employees, and ensures that the veterans' service, accomplishments, and sacrifices are not forgotten as they are laid to rest.

**VFW Auxiliaries are encouraged to talk with facilities in their area to encourage and assist them in establishing an HONORS ESCORT program or to volunteer to be part of the Honor Escort team.**

Paying final respects to a Veteran is a difficult, yet honorable, task. Ceremonies will differ depending on the facility. In most VA facilities who have already implemented this program, when a veteran passes, a bell is rung throughout the campus.

The bell rings to honor the service and sacrifice of a Veteran who has died in the facility. It is a call for an honor escort and an opportunity for all to show respect for that person and his or her family and friends as they are escorted, on a special flag draped gurney, to the morgue or awaiting hearse.

Each Honors Escort unit performs their own individualized bedside service for the Veteran along with the Veteran's family. Next, the Veteran is transported to the appointed destination as the Honors Escort line the hallway and salute or place their hands on their heart out of respect.

Once at the appointed destination a flag folding ceremony takes place. Some units provide family members with a "token of appreciation" — a miniature American flags encased in a wooden triangle.

The Honors Escort program provides the veterans family a dignified procession that, hopefully, gives some measure of comfort from brothers and sisters in arms and a grateful nation.



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

Thanks to each of you and your generosity, every Veteran with a name on the Veteran Christmas tree wish list had a very Merry Christmas. Each name was selected and the items on the wish lists were purchased for these well-deserving veterans. (Keep in mind it wasn't just the VFW Auxiliary that assisted with this, but we did play a big part in the success of this program.)

Our donation requests for this month come from The PARC (Psychiatric Acute Rehabilitation Center) unit:

**ART Supplies:** Different sizes and types of paint brushes, acrylic paint, watercolor paint, different size canvases, paint by number sets (more to come next month)

**Crafts:** Easy wood craft kits, easy models and model glue, rock art, string art kits

**Games:** Playing cards, Chess (plastic pieces), Trouble, Connect 4, Battleship, Risk

**Gift Cards:** Krispy Kreme and Dunkin Donuts for special coffee and donut weekend events, Amazon

**Special Events:** Host a pizza party, a BBQ lunch or Bingo

**Snacks:** individual bags of chips, chex mix, cookies, etc., nabs, granola bars, Little Debbie snacks

For information on making these donations, please contact: Christina Allison, email

[christina.allison@va.gov](mailto:christina.allison@va.gov)

The CLC (Community Living Center) has an ongoing need for items such as personal care items (lotion, deodorant, body spray/cologne, body wash, toothpaste, toothbrushes, 5 blade razors.) Reading glasses (assorted prescriptions, which can be purchased at the Dollar Tree) , electric razors/nose trimmers. And always, clothes of all sizes, t-shirts, sweatshirts, sweatpants, underwear/boxers (larger sizes are of the greatest need) These donations may be sent directly to the CLC Unit at the Durham VA.

Please start planning now for the Salute to Veterans week which is held every year during Valentine's week. There will be opportunities for volunteering for events. Also, the Veterans love getting little Valentine cards on their meal trays. Contact a local school to see if maybe a classroom or two would be willing to sign Valentine cards to the Veterans. There will be more information as it becomes available.

As always, thank you for everything you do to support our Veterans through the Durham VA. Every donation, no matter how small, makes a difference.

*Sandra Johnson-Leu*

919-906-7592

[ctrysun@embarqmail.com](mailto:ctrysun@embarqmail.com)

## **SALISBURY VA MEDICAL CENTER**

**1601 BRENNER AVENUE, SALISBURY, NC 28144**

**HAPPY NEW YEAR and BEST WISHES for a wonderful 2025.**

**Week of February 14<sup>th</sup>. every year is "SALUTE TO HOSPITALIZED VETERANS" week. This special week is set aside every year to honor and pay tribute to the brave military Veterans who receive medical care at VA Medical Centers and other medical facilities.**

**From February 9<sup>th</sup>. thru February 15<sup>th</sup>., we may show our appreciation by:**

- Taking time to visit.**
- Make Valentine treats.**
- Valentine cards are appreciated.**
- Supply Decorations.**
- Donate Funds.**
- Volunteer your time to help with planned events.**

### **VETERANS NEEDS LIST:**

- Body Wash (Regular)**
- Dr. Teal Body Wash (Hospice)**
- Dr. Teal oatmeal/lavender lotion (Hospice)**
- Dr. Teal foot cream (Hospice)**
- Thermal Under Garments (long john's-top and bottoms. (all sizes)**

**VOLUNTEERS are the Veterans life line to the community. Volunteer opportunities are available to show our Veterans we care. Regular scheduled volunteers are needed, as well as volunteers that have a few hours per week. For more information, call (704)638-9000x13409.**

**Thank you for all you do for our hospitalized Veterans.**

**Loyally,**

**Farres Upton  
Salisbury Representative**

WELCOME 119<sup>th</sup>  
CONGRESS

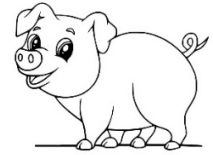


## LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM—JANUARY 2025

*From Our Roots to Our Branches,  
**Extend Service to Our Veterans.***

**HAPPY NEW YEAR! IT'S TIME TO GET BACK TO WORK AND ENSURE  
THAT OUR ELECTED OFFICIALS DO THE RIGHT THING FOR OUR  
VETERANS AND MILITARY!**

DIET TIME PIGGY!



*As I write this, Congress is again trying to avoid a **government shutdown panic** before leaving for Christmas! Just do the simple thing and quit loading up the pork! We the People aren't buying it. When there is a "government shutdown", only about 17% of the government actually shuts down. Only discretionary services stop, not the indispensable services. Everyone gets paid. Life goes on.*

**THE 119th CONGRESS MEETS JANUARY 3, 2025, AT NOON.** *Republicans will control the Senate, with a 53-47 majority, and the House by a slim margin. Senator John Thune (R-SD) will be the new majority leader in the Senate and Speaker Mike Johnson (R-LA) "plans to run again for his post", which will be the first order of business when the House meets in January. **BE ON THE LOOKOUT**, that might change. Two big legislative priorities for the Republican conference – secure the border and unleash American energy. Senator Chuck Schumer (D-NY) and Rep. Hakeem Jeffries (D-NY) will serve as minority leaders in their respective chambers.*

### **SIGNED BY THE PRESIDENT AND ENACTED!**

**H.R. 807: Working Dog Commemorative Coin Act**--To require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the invaluable service that working dogs provide to society.

**H.R. 4190: Restoring Benefits to Defrauded Veterans Act**: To amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to repay the estates of deceased beneficiaries for certain benefits paid by the Secretary and misused by fiduciaries of such beneficiaries.

### **PASSED BY CONGRESS AND SENT TO THE PRESIDENT TO SIGN!**

**S. 2513: Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2024**--A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

**H.R. 8371: Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act**-- To make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

**S. 141: Elizabeth Dole Home Care Act**--A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve certain programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for home and community-based services for veterans, and for other purposes.

**S. 2513: Veterans Benefits Improvement Act of 2024**: A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

### **THE NC HOUSE AND SENATE OVERRIDE GOV. COOPER'S VETO TO MAKE SB3832 LAW!**

*The SB382 provides money for Western North Carolina hurricane victims. It transfers authority of our elections from the governor to the NC Auditor. Most significantly, the composition of county BOEs changes. There will still be five Board of Elections members. But the State chair of the two political parties having the highest number of registered affiliates as reflected by the latest registration statistics published by the State Board shall have the right to recommend to the State Board three registered voters in each county for appointment to the county board for that county. Specifically, SB 382 pushes up the deadline to process provisional and absentee ballots.*

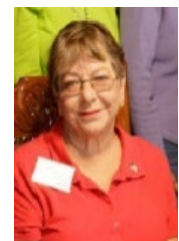
HAPPY  
NEW  
YEAR

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](mailto:lynn.ccta@gmail.com), 1476A  
Northside Rd, Elizabeth City, NC 27909

*"National defense is one of the cardinal duties of a statesman."*

*—John Adams (1815)*



# Department of North Carolina - Membership

From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to Our Veterans  
Serving those who have served with love.

**We are shooting for the stars and going to 103% in membership!**



**HAPPY NEW YEAR!**



**Membership Angels – THANK YOU!!**



Thank you to everyone that donated memberships for the Western NC Districts.

We were able to take care of **110** membership dues for those who just didn't need another thing to think about. The drawing for a \$250 Amazon Gift Card will take place at the February C of A!

Do your members know about the VFW NC Aux website? Don't leave them in the dark – they can find all kinds of resources on this page: this monthly newsletter posted, programs information, Duties of Officers/Committees, Department Program book, Forms, MOCA information, and much more! Tell them to go visit the website [vfwauxnc.org](http://vfwauxnc.org) to dig around and find information to report back to your post.

## Did you get a new member, and you didn't know what to send to our Treasurer?

Here's a checklist for you:

- Signed, Completed Application
- Do not send the proof of eligibility with the application.
- Dues (Send either total Lifetime amount or if annual \$18)

**Be Aware:** Any application that was signed more than 3 months prior to the application being submitted to the Department for processing, will be returned. (National considers these a "dead signature" and an updated application with a new signature is required.

The Department Treasurer is not permitted to alter an application in any way. Applications missing information will be returned to the Auxiliary to complete. If multiple applications are sent with one check and there is an error on one application, all the applications will be returned.

Information on a veteran's service record can be obtained by contacting the National Archives and Records Administration. Phone: 1-866-272-6272 or online [www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/)

## **Auxiliaries at 100%+!! / District in GREEN is at 100%**

*If your Post Aux hasn't received President Sandra's special pins, please let me know!*

District 1 7312 & 10950	District 2 2615	District 4 7547, 8986, 9133, & 9810	District 5 8866, 9983, & 10226	District 6 1920 & 10607
District 7 6722, 9103, 10225 & 10999	District 8 670 & 10630	District 9 7318	District 10 2087	District 11 1119 & 9010
District 12 6365 & 9134	District 13 2423, 6724, 7775 & 9736	District 15 1142, 4286, 7031, 7034	District 16 5206 & 9116	District 17 4309, 6812, 7339

January 2025



**NC Membership**

**95.01%**

We need 531 renewals or new members to hit 100%,  
738 more to hit 103%  
\*As of 12/16/2024

*Award for the Department:*

*Silver Award: \$250 for reaching 98% Plus by 3/31/2025*

*Gold Award: \$300 for reaching 100% Plus by 6/30/2025*

*Platinum Award: \$400 for reaching 101% Plus by 6/30/2025*

Have a new prospect scan this QR Code!



### **Reporting!**

All Auxiliaries should have 2 or more reported submitted for the 24-25 year. Report when you sent renewal letters, a recruiting event, any posts made about membership on social media or phone calls made.

#### **NC Membership Chairman:**

Lyndsey Bowlus [Nikh96@aol.com](mailto:Nikh96@aol.com)  
443.655.4570

#### **National Membership Ambassador:**

Linda Roloff  
[Roloff3@outlook.com](mailto:Roloff3@outlook.com) 205.637.0612

#### **Southern States Chairman:**

Beth West  
[bethvfwaux@gmail.com](mailto:bethvfwaux@gmail.com) 512.848.0093

## Scholarship Programs January 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

PO Box 635 Badin NC 28009

704-984-2259

[wdrachels@gmail.com](mailto:wdrachels@gmail.com)



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

### Report! Report! Report!

- I know Auxiliaries are doing the work, but has your Auxiliary reported your work on National Scholarships?
- By now, all winners for Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy have been submitted for Department judging. Did your Auxiliary help promote the scholarship programs? Don't forget to report it!
- **District Presidents...please reach out to your Auxiliaries who have not entered reports!**
- Great job to the following Auxiliaries who have entered reports for National Scholarships:

**District 1: 6060, 10950**

**District 2: None**

**District 3: None**

**District 4: 9960**

**District 5: None**

**District 6: 1920, 10607**

**District 7: 7383, 10225**

**District 8: 6018**

**District 9: None**

**District 10: 8297**

**District 11: 5352, 7794, 9436**

**District 12: 2908, 6365, 9134**

**District 13: 1160**

**District 14: None**

**District 15: 1142**

**District 16: 5206**

**District 17: 5202, 7339**

### Continuing Education Scholarship Information

- Applicants must be 21 years old or older by 2/15/2025
- Current VFW Auxiliary member, spouse of a current Auxiliary member, son/daughter of a current Auxiliary member
- Four **\$1250** scholarships will be awarded annually, one in each of the four VFW Conferences

- Applicants must complete the application form answering all questions and write a brief essay (no more than 300 words) describing their commitment to their goals and how this scholarship will help them attain these goals.
- Application deadline: Submitted to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters (required deadline) by 2/15/2025!

### [Patriotic Art – Start Planning Now How to Encourage Participation](#)

#### Young American Creative Art Patriotic Art Contest (2-Dimensional)

- 2 – Dimensional unframed art on paper or canvas.
- This year there are 19 National Awards with the National first-place winner receiving a **\$15,000** scholarship. The first-place winner from each Department competes for national awards from **\$500 to \$15,000**.
- Auxiliary Deadline is 3/31/2025. Department Deadline is 4/15/2025.

#### 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

- 3- Dimensional art less than 18 inches in any direction and no more than 5 lbs. in weight made of paper, paper mâché, pottery, clay, metal work, fabric, etc.
- This year there are 4 National Awards with the National first place winner receiving a **\$2500** scholarship.
- Auxiliary Deadline is 3/31/2025. Department Deadline is 4/15/2025.

Read the criteria here and download applications for all 3 contests using the QR code below or [www.vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships)



#### Awards for Auxiliaries

- National Award: Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about the scholarship opportunities in the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary.
- Department Chairman Drawing: For each Auxiliary that submits a completed award form according to the deadline detailing an activity and/or event educating the community about the scholarship opportunities will be entered into a drawing to win \$20 cash to be given at the Department Convention in June 2025. Use the QR code below to view the award form:







## *Erline Mayberry Scholarship*

January 2025

Please remind high school seniors to apply for the Erline Mayberry Scholarship!

The Erline Mayberry Scholarship was established June 1, 1977, to honor Erline Mayberry who served as the 1969-1970 VFW Auxiliary National President. Erline was an active member of VFW Auxiliary 7794 Elkin.

The deadline for the completed application is April 15, 2025. Everything the student needs to know about the Mayberry Scholarship may be found on the Department website: [vfwauxnc.org](http://vfwauxnc.org). **The information is found under "Resources."** (You will need to scroll down the drop-down menu.)

Please report what your Auxiliary does to promote the Mayberry Scholarship under NC Scholarship on the reporting website: [vfwauxnc.org](http://vfwauxnc.org). You can also report any contributions made to the Mayberry Scholarship.



Lin Moore  
6165 Glen Way Drive  
Winston-Salem, NC 27107  
336-971-0559  
[Lmoore51@yahoo.com](mailto:Lmoore51@yahoo.com)



## Youth Activities Program Promotion January 2025

### Illustrating America

It is time to begin getting ready for the Illustrating America Art Competition as the New Year Begins. This contest is open to any students in grades k-8 who is enrolled in a public, parochial, private or home school. Entries are judged on a patriotic theme and technique. The contest consists of three grade divisions K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. The Department 1<sup>st</sup> place winners are forwarded to Auxiliary National Headquarters. Please print the latest version of the information sheet and entry form found in Malta Member Resources or on [www.vfwauxnc.org](http://www.vfwauxnc.org) for more information on requirements and contest Rules.

**Deadlines:** Entries must be received at Local Auxiliary by March 31; **Note:** Winners moving on to Department Must be sent to Genevieve Price at 803 N Weldon Street Gastonia, NC 28052. I will get them to Department by April 15 for judging and National Headquarters by May 5<sup>th</sup>.

### R.A.P. Cards

Use these as rewards that can be collected and turned into treats or surprises. (contact places of business for gift cards or coupons you can give as incentives for Youth showing Patriotism)

**Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups** --Children can help and assist at events. The **Youth Groups supporting our Veterans**

**Citation** is one way for Auxiliaries to recognize various groups for volunteering and assisting Veterans in their communities. You can find this citation in Member resources under Youth Activities.

REPORT> REPORT>REPORT

Genevieve "Genny" Price: **Youth Activities Program Chairman, Dept NC** 803 N Weldon Street Gastonia, NC 28052 [pricegenevieve961@gmail.com](mailto:pricegenevieve961@gmail.com) 7045244434 Dominique Garcia: **Youth Activities Ambassador** 8308 Waverly Drive NW Albuquerque, NM 871208 [dcgarcia.1121@gmail.com](mailto:dcgarcia.1121@gmail.com) 505 974 0008

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



January 2025

We have brought in 12,081.80 as of December 18, 2024.

Thank you to the Districts who have passed the hat during the joint sessions. Every little bit helps for this great cause.

Thank you to all the Auxiliaries that have sent in donations in the month of November & December.

Also, if you send in any funds for the Special Project, please send me an email (tinabrade@gmail.com) or text (910) 500-2655 and let me know the amount so I can keep track what we have collected.

I still have pins available. Please send any orders to Sandra Johnson-Leu. Also, I will be taking orders for truffles and delivering them during the February COA. Attached you will find the order form along with pricing at the top.



**Dept President Special Project Chairman**  
**Tina Szafarski**  
**1265 Griffin Rd Lillington 27546.**  
**(910) 500-2655**

BOX OF TWO \$2.89		ALL ORDERS WILL BE TAXED	
BOX OF FOUR \$5.75			
BOX OF SIX \$8.59			
BOX OF 8 \$11.29			
BOX OF 10 \$14.19			
BOX OF 12 \$16.99			
	QUANTITY		QUANTITY
DARK CHOCOLATE		MILK CHOCOLATE	
American Style		Cappucino	
Blueberry Port Wine		Caramel	
Cappuccino		Cherry Cordial	
Caramel		Chocolate	
Champagne		Coffee	
Cherry Cordial		Hazelnut	
Chocolate		Maple	
Cranberry		Peanut Butter	
Irish Cream		Raspberry Jelly	
Key Lime		Sea Salt Caramel	
Mint		Vanilla Cream	
Orange		WHITE CHOCOLATE	
Peanut Butter		Amaretto	
Pomegranate		Black Forest	
Raspberry		Butter Pecan	
Raspberry Jelly		Lemon	
Rum		Raspberry Cheesecake	
Sea Salt Caramel		SUGAR FREE	
Strawberry Cream		DC Chocolate	
Toasted Coconut		MC Black Rasp Sherbet Cream	
		MC Cherry Cordial	
		MC Espresso	
		MC Peppermint Patty	
		MC Vanilla Caramel	

ALL ORDERS MUST BE MAILED TO THESWEETFIX23@GMAIL.COM BY JANUARY 25TH				
AUX #			NAME:	

VFW Auxiliary Dept. of NC Membership Report  
2024-2025

President Sandra Jefferies

Chairman Lyndsey Bowlus

Date: 12.20.24

East-- Wendy Doubles

District 1 Pres Brittney Phillips					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2024 Mbrs.	2025 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
6060	Elizabeth City	243	216	170	88.89%
7312	Sunbury	24	24	19	100.00%
10950	Outer Banks	39	39	37	100.00%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>306</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>91.18%</b>

District 4 Pre.Eileen Lazenvick					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2024 Mbrs.	2025 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
2514	New Bern		18	5	
7315	Havelock	192	184	168	95.83%
7547	Clinton	56	55	54	98.21%
8986	Newport	62	64	52	103.23%
9133	Jacksonville	192	190	159	98.96%
9810	Warsaw	29	29	29	100.00%
9960	Swansboro	276	267	232	96.74%
11119	West Craven	34	29	28	85.29%
		0			
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>841</b>	<b>836</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>99.41%</b>

District 2 Pres. Violet Saviak					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2024 Mbrs.	2025 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
2615	Goldsboro	44	44	30	100.00%
2771	Kinston	18	14	9	77.78%
7032	Greenville	44	39	26	88.64%
9959	Mount Olive	50	46	32	92.00%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>156</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>91.67%</b>

District 5 Pres Deborah Crowder					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2024 Mbrs.	2025 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
7288	Calabash	298	272	208	91.28%
8866	Holden Beach	104	106	103	101.92%
9983	Holly Ridge	158	159	132	89.24%
10226	Oak Island	90	94	86	104.44%
10400	B Spring Lakes	84	73	46	86.90%
121966	Leland	17	11	6	64.71%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>751</b>	<b>715</b>	<b>581</b>	<b>95.21%</b>

District 3 Pres Mary Lewis					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2024 Mbrs.	2025 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
2057	Rocky Mount	68	67	50	98.53%
4147	Bailey	0	0	0	0.00%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>68</b>	<b>67</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>75.28%</b>

District 7 Pres Tina Szafarski					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2024 Mbrs.	2025 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
6983	Angier	0	0	0	0.00%
6722	Lillington	20	21	19	105.00%
7383	Cary	155	147	129	94.84%
9103	Spring Lake	100	102	94	102.00%
10225	Garner	108	110	91	101.85%
10999	Raleigh	41	41	32	100.00%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>424</b>	<b>421</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>95.68%</b>

EASTERN	2024 Mbrs.	2025 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>2546</b>	<b>2450</b>	<b>2046</b>	<b>96.22%</b>

VFW Auxiliary Dept. of NC Membership Report  
2024 - 2025

President: Sandra Jefferies

Chairman: Lyndsey Bowlus

Date: 12.20.24

Central - Mary Zanders

District 6 Pres Emily Ball					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2024 Mbrs.	2025 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
1920	Mebane	47	47	26	100.00%
10607	Burlington	33	35	26	106.06%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>80</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>102.50%</b>

District 10 Pres Carsonia Whitmore					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2024 Mbrs.	2025 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
2087	Greensboro	20	20	6	100.00%
2972	Gibsonville	36	35	32	94.44%
3074	Lexington	41	39	15	95.12%
8297	Mway Monroeton	58	56	49	96.55%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>155</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>96.77%</b>

District 8 Pres Mary Zanders					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2024 Mbrs.	2025 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
670	Fayetteville	157	167	109	106.37%
6018	Fayetteville	195	183	159	93.85%
10,630	Hope Mills	34	34	27	100.00%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>386</b>	<b>384</b>	<b>295</b>	<b>99.48%</b>

District 12 Pres Theresa Billips					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2024 Mbrs.	2025 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
2908	Albemarle	92	59	38	64.13%
3006	Salisbury	95	82	53	86.32%
6365	Locust	18	19	4	105.56%
8989	Kannapolis	135	101	60	74.81%
9134	Rockwell	32	32	22	100.00%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>372</b>	<b>276</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>78.76%</b>

District 9 Pres Angi Hardy					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2024 Mbrs.	2025 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
4203	Rockingham	60	46	34	76.67%
5631	Sanford	121	113	104	93.39%
7318	Southern Pines	349	352	318	100.86%
10,403	Wadesboro	44	34	25	77.27%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>574</b>	<b>545</b>	<b>481</b>	<b>94.95%</b>

CENTRAL	2023 Mbrs.	2024 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1567</b>	<b>1437</b>	<b>1107</b>	<b>91.70%</b>

VFW Auxiliary Dept. of NC Membership Report  
2024 - 2025

President: Sandra Jefferies

Chairman: Lyndsey Bowlus

Date: 12.20.24

Western -- Bessie Bright

District 11 Pres Nancy Raborn					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2024 Mbrs.	2025 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
1119	Cooleemee	28	29	10	103.57%
5352	Kernersville	151	122	74	80.79%
7794	Elkin	37	34	14	91.89%
9010	Clemmons	54	58	48	107.41%
9436	Pilot Mountain	67	64	26	95.52%
11173	Walnut Cove	0	0	0	0.00%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>337</b>	<b>307</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>85.75%</b>

District 15 Pres Sherry Brooks					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2024 Mbrs.	2025 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
1142	N. Wilkesboro	84	87	71	103.57%
4286	Newland	35	36	23	102.86%
7031	Boone	45	45	21	100.00%
7034	Sparta	61	62	48	101.64%
7946	Jefferson	30	29	10	96.67%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>255</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>101.96%</b>

District 13 Pres Becky Rowe					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2024 Mbrs.	2025 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
1160	Charlotte	139	135	127	97.12%
2423	Indian Trail	104	104	93	100.00%
5464	Monroe	46	43	32	93.48%
6724	Paw Creek	37	39	29	105.41%
7775	Charlotte	20	21	18	105.00%
9337	Gastonia	68	59	27	86.76%
9736	Croft	16	16	5	100.00%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>430</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>331</b>	<b>96.98%</b>

District 16 Pres Joyce Preston					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2024 Mbrs.	2025 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
891	Asheville	82	80	68	97.56%
5206	Hendersonville	73	73	59	100.00%
9116	Columbus	25	26	18	104.00%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>180</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>145</b>	<b>99.44%</b>

District 14 Pres Linda Owens					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2024 Mbrs.	2025 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
1706	Lincolnton	73	60	48	82.19%
2031	Statesville	71	64	59	90.14%
4066	Shelby	19	16	16	84.21%
5305	Newton	40	25	14	62.50%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>203</b>	<b>165</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>81.28%</b>

District 17 Pres Niki Paganelli					
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2024 Mbrs.	2025 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
4309	Brevard	165	169	122	102.42%
5202	Waynesville	221	188	121	85.07%
6812	Hayesville	52	53	41	101.92%
7339	Franklin	68	72	39	105.88%
<b>TOTALS</b>		<b>506</b>	<b>482</b>	<b>323</b>	<b>95.26%</b>

WESTERN	2024 Mbrs.	2025 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1911</b>	<b>1739</b>	<b>1281</b>	<b>90.09%</b>

DEPT	2024 Mbrs.	2025 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>6891</b>	<b>6547</b>	<b>5204</b>	<b>95.01%</b>

NC At-Large	2024 Mbrs.	2025 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	Percent
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>809</b>	<b>806</b>	<b>772</b>	<b>99.63%</b>

Needed to reach 100% 0  
344