

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Auxiliary
Department of North Carolina



Connie Holt
President
2023-2024



**Connie Holt
President
Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Department of North Carolina**



Brothers and Sisters,

It is with deepest gratitude and warmest affection that I dedicate this year to my husband of 13 years SFC Joshua Holt. He is my reason for being a member of this great organization. He has been a constant source of knowledge and inspiration throughout my journey. My husband has served our great country for 20 years and is still active-duty Army. He has deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, and I am proud of his service and dedication to our country.

In addition to my husband, I would like to dedicate a portion of my year to my loved ones who have also served this great nation. My grandfather Scott Rohrer, Uncle Scott Rohrer, and cousins Hugh Urey IV, and Len Biernacki Jr. I have had many great uncles who served during Vietnam and Korea who also inspired me to assist in the need and care of veterans.

The VFW Auxiliary has granted me the opportunity to exhibit appreciation to all service members, not just my loved ones. I encourage everyone to take the opportunity and express gratitude to those who were willing to sign on the dotted line to protect our freedoms. Let our actions bring honor to all Military Service Members!

Part of my year will also be dedicated to my father, David Testerman Sr. Dad always encouraged us to donate and give back to the community. He started his children volunteering at a young age, and insisted that someone has it worse than you. He was always willing to lend a helping hand and rarely said no to aiding anyone in need. He will always be my hero, and my idol.

To my family: Mom, Grandparents, Brothers, Sister, Nieces, Nephews, Aunts, Uncles, and Cousins who have always been my loudest cheering section. Thank you for always supporting me in my endeavors, being there with a shoulder to lean on, or to lend a hand, means the world to me.

Finally, to our members who have inspired me on a daily basis. Your drive and determination for assisting veterans is unmeasurable and does not go unnoticed. I am asking that you continue cultivating a path or giving resources to brighten the future of our Veterans!

“When it comes to veterans, all that is left for we the living to do is: honor them, take care of them and rededicate ourselves to the cause in which they gave” – Tom Selleck.

Faithfully Serving Veterans

Connie Holt

“CultivETing The Future For Our Veterans”

**Connie Holt
President**

**Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Department of North Carolina**



Brothers and Sisters,

I am looking forward to the upcoming year and the excitement it will bring. I have faith that together we can accomplish an exuberant number of goals for our great organization. Personally, I want to thank each of you for supporting me throughout the years. I am humbled by you having such confidence in my abilities to lead you as your Department President. I assure you that I will continue to be accessible to the members and transparent in my duties. Learning and growing together will allow us to cultivate the goals of our organization.

Communication, respect and mentoring is vital in any organization. Please reach out if you or your auxiliary have any questions, suggestion, issues or concerns. Let's continue to strengthen our Department and allow for growth by embracing innovative ideas. Our organization cannot move forward and assure stability if we continue with the "we've always done it this way" approach. I am asking all of you to put in the extra grit. It takes a team to accomplish the missions outlined by our organization. We must be willing to hold ourselves and each other accountable. Step up, take on responsibility, and allow our actions to bring honor for those we serve.

We all have a reason we joined this organization. We must continue to honor our loved ones by appreciating their sacrifices. Make sure we are exhibiting gratitude for those who served, allow them to see our actions showing they are never forgotten. Remember the ambition and drive we all once had when joining? I am asking you to find it. Don't find it for me or for yourselves, find it so you can make a larger impact for our veterans, their families and our communities!

North Carolina, we got this! We have what it takes to be successful! Be sure to read and share the Department Mail and Motivational Monday links with our members. Follow directions as outlined in the Department Mail. Many of us miss the important deadlines because we just skim. Deadlines and directions are important! Remember most of our resources can be found on our department website (www.vfwauxnc.com). I am excited to lead you through another year. Mentoring and guidance is only a phone call or email away, reach out! I am here to assist!

Faithfully Serving Veterans

Connie Holt

"CultivETing the Future for Our Veterans"



NC VFW Auxiliary Calendar of Events **2023-2024 Year**

Dates	Event and Location
June 8 - 11, 2023	2023 Department Convention - Greensboro, NC
July 22 - 27, 2023	2023 National Convention – Phoenix, AZ
July 28, 2023	National President's Celebration, Phoenix AZ
August - September	Fall District Meetings
August 5, 2023	School of Instruction – Post 9960 – 246 VFW Rd., Swansboro
August 6, 2023	School of Instruction – Post 6018 – 116 Chance St., Fayetteville
August 12, 2023	School of Instruction – Post 9949 – 1012 N Church St., Mt. Olive
Sept 9, 2023	School of Instruction (Auxiliary ONLY) – Post 1142 – 802 Beech St., N Wilkesboro
Sept 16, 2023	School of Instruction (Auxiliary ONLY) – Post 5253 – 618 Edgewood St., Kernersville
Sept 17, 2023	School of Instruction – Post 9337 – 3250 W. Franklin Blvd, Gastonia
Sept 11-14, 2023	Fall Legislative Conference – Washington DC
Sept 28 – Oct 1, 2023	Fall Council of Administration – Greensboro, NC
Nov 1 – Nov 5, 2023	Southern Conference – Tulsa, OK
December - January	Winter District Meetings
Feb, 2024	Winter Council of Administration (Date TBD)
March 2 - 7, 2024	National Legislative & Youth Scholarship Conf - Washington, DC
March 10-13, 2024	National Sr. Vice President's Conference – Kansas City, MO
March 15-17, 2024	National President's Visit – Fayetteville, NC

May 27, 2023



**WELCOME TO SOUTHERN CONFERENCE 2023
AT RIVER SPIRIT CASINO IN TULSA, OKLAHOMA
NOVEMBER 2ND – NOVEMBER 5TH 2023**

**RIVER SPIRIT CASINO RESORT
8330 RIVERSIDE PKWY
TULSA, OK 74137**

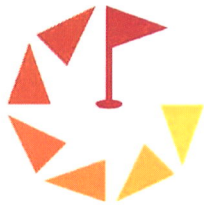
LOCAL ATTRACTIONS



J.M.
**Davis Arms
& Historical**
M U S E U M

CLAREMORE, OKLAHOMA

[HTTPS://WWW.THEGUNMUSEUM.COM/](https://www.thegunmuseum.com/)



GolfSuites

[HTTPS://WWW.GOLFSUITES.COM/OK/TULSA/](https://www.golfsuites.com/ok/tulsa/)



[HTTPS://WWW.GATHERINGPLACE.ORG/](https://www.gatheringplace.org/)



[HTTPS://WWW.WOOLAROC.ORG/](https://www.woolaroc.org/)

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE 2023
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AND AUXILIARY

NOVEMBER 2ND – NOVEMBER 5TH 2023

RIVER SPIRIT CASINO RESORT

8330 RIVERSIDE PKWY

TULSA, OK 74137

ROOM RATE: \$149 + TAX (KING/QUEEN)

SIGNATURE SUITE: \$199 + TAX

DEADLINE TO REGISTER SEPTEMBER 25TH, 2023

REGISTRATION FORM:

NAME: _____ **TITLE:** _____
DEPT: _____ **POST/AUX:** _____
PHONE#: _____ **EMAIL:** _____

PRE-REGISTRATION FEE IS \$85.00 PER PERSON

REGISTRATION FEE COVERS:

**BANQUET, HOSPITALITY ROOM, ENTERTAINMENT, \$10 FREE PLAY IN THE
CASINO AND ONE (1) EXCURSION PER PERSON***

(*EXCURSIONS ARE LIMITED IN SIZE AND RESERVED ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVED BASIS.)

REGISTRATION AT THE CONFERENCE WILL BE \$95.00 PER PERSON.

**FOR HOTEL RESERVATIONS, PLEASE VISIT THE VFW DEPT. OF OKLAHOMA WEBSITE AT:
WWW.VFWOKLAHOMA.ORG OR CONTACT THE HOTEL AT 888-748-3731**

****ROOMS MUST BE RESERVED BY SEPTEMBER 25TH, 2023 TO ENSURE THE BLOCK RATE ROOMS.***

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: OKLAHOMA VFW FOUNDATION

FOR DEPT USE ONLY:

DATE RECEIVED: _____ **CK#:** _____ **AMOUNT:** _____

MAIL FORMS TO: DEPARTMENT OF OKLAHOMA VFW P.O. BOX 1126 OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73101

EMAIL: VFWSouthernConference2023@gmail.com (CHECK WILL STILL NEED TO BE MAILED)

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE 2023
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS & AUXILIARY
NOVEMBER 2ND – NOVEMBER 5TH 2023
RIVER SPIRIT CASINO RESORT
8330 RIVERSIDE PKWY
TULSA, OK 74137
TRANSPORTATION REQUEST FORM
DEADLINE SEPTEMBER 25TH, 2023

NAME:_____

AIRLINE:_____

ARRIVAL DATE:_____

TIME:_____

FLIGHT:_____

DEPARTURE DATE:_____

TIME:_____

FLIGHT:_____

MAIL FORMS TO:
VFW DEPT. OF OKLAHOMA
P.O. BOX 1126
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73101

OR

SOUTHERNCONFERENCE2023@GMAIL.COM

SOUTHERN CONFERENCE 2023
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS & AUXILIARY
NOVEMBER 2ND – NOVEMBER 5TH 2023
RIVER SPIRIT CASINO RESORT
8330 RIVERSIDE PKWY
TULSA, OK 74137

EXCURSION REQUEST FORM

(1 PER PERSON. FIRST COME FIRST SERVED. ALL EXCURSIONS AFTERNOON OF FRIDAY THE 3RD.)



TULSA AIR AND SPACE MUSEUM

[HTTPS://WWW.TULSAMUSEUM.ORG/](https://www.tulsamuseum.org/)



PHILBROOK MUSEUM OF ART

[HTTPS://PHILBROOK.ORG/](https://philbrook.org/)



OKLAHOMA AQUARIUM

[HTTPS://WWW.OKAQUARIUM.ORG/](https://www.okaquarium.org/)



GREENWOOD RISING - BLACK WALL STREET

[HTTPS://WWW.GREENWOODRISING.ORG/](https://www.greenwoodrising.org/)

MAIL FORMS TO:
VFW DEPT. OF OKLAHOMA
P.O. BOX 1126
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK 73101
OR
SOUTHERNCONFERENCE2023@GMAIL.COM

VFW Auxiliary Mid-Year 2024
February 12-17, 2024
5-night cruise round trip from
Port Canaveral:
Royal Caribbean's Mariner of the Seas



Reserve your spot today for \$150.00 per person
Contact Veterans Travel Service (VTS) at 800-325-9377
Feb 12-17, 2024

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



ITINERARY

Day	Port	Arrive	Depart
1	Port Canaveral		4:00 PM
2	AT SEA		
3	Cozumel, Mexico	7:00 AM	6:00 PM
4	AT SEA		
5	Perfect Day Cococay, Bahamas	7:00 AM	5:00 PM
6	Port Canaveral	7:00 AM	

Prices are per person.

What's included:

- Deluxe Beverage package/ per person
- Taxes and port fees
- Gratuities
- Cocktail party for the group/may have to be split into two conferences.
- 530p dining for the entire group.
- Airport transfers if airline tickets are purchased through VTS.

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

Department Treasurer
2023-2024

As we begin a new year, I would like to give everyone a few reminders to get off to a good start.

When completing membership applications, be sure you are using only the most current application form, which can be found on both the Department and National websites. (vfwauxnc.org and vfwauxiliary.org) Application forms older than 2021/22 cannot be accepted. Next make sure the application is completely filled out, including date of birth, the relationship of the applicant to the veteran and the location of the foreign service of the veteran, as well as the campaign medals and ribbons. Incomplete applications will be sent back to the Auxiliary, and this will cause a delay in the processing of the application.

Do not hold applications. The Bylaws state you are not to hold dues or monies. Applications that are dated more than 3 months will be returned to the Auxiliary to be updated by the applicant. National considers and signature 3 months or older to be a "dead" signature and will not accept it. If the life membership is being paid by credit card, make sure the name listed as the credit card holder is also the same person that signs the application in the credit card section. (If the card holder is the spouse of the applicant, then the spouse must sign this part of the application.)

Please use the current contribution form, which can be found on the Department website when making your contributions, not only to the Department but to the other organizations. Any contributions to the Earlene Mayberry Scholarship should be sent in a separate check from other contributions, as these get deposited into a separate checking account. District dues are sent to your DISTRICT TREASURER, as indicated on the form, not to the Department treasurer. We have reached our goal for the Fund the Future Art Scholarship, so please do not send any additional contributions for this scholarship. We appreciate all of the contributions received to help North Carolina achieve the goal of creating the perpetual scholarship in our name. We are accepting donations to the Department disaster fund. The monies in this account are used to assist our members in the event of a disaster such as a hurricane, flood or fire. It is a nice way to be able to reach out to your fellow brothers and sisters in their time of need.

Make sure your audits are sent in by the due date. All audits are due by the end of the 2nd month following the end of the quarter (March 31 audits are due by May 31, June 30 audits are due by August 31, September 30 audits are due by November 30 and December 31 audits are due by February 28.) District Audits are due 30 days after the date of your District meeting. (Districts do not have quarterly audits.) Per the Bylaws, all Auxiliaries are required to have a relief fund.

Pay your Auxiliary and District Bonds no later than 31 August.

Refer to your Bylaws for reference as to the use of the Relief fund.

Something else that is very important to remember- all checks are to be made payable to VFWANC or Dept of NC Auxiliary, not to me personally (not to Sandra Johnson-Leu, or any treasurer's name). Banks will not let those checks be deposited in the Department bank account. If you make the check payable to an individual, that person has the legal right to do whatever they want with that check.

Let's have a great year. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Sandra Johnson-Leu, Department Treasurer ctrysun@embarqmail.com 919-906-7592

Veterans and Family Support

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Joe Nelson
Veteran and Family Support Chairman
435 Greentree Drive
Raeford, NC 28676
(252) 626.4888
Jnelson_nc@yahoo.com

AMERICANISM

Chairman : Karen Rae Larkin
212 Shore Drive, Havelock NC 28532
phone: 252.503.1472 email: kskipper2@ec.rr.com

I was so happy to be asked to help kick off the '23-'24 program year as NC Departments Americanism Chairman. I am looking forward to assisting our Department President, Connie Holt in "CultiVETing The Future For Our Veterans" ensuring a successful year. There are just a few things I'll note here as there are a lot of plans we are going to make so let's get ready and "full seed" ahead!



American Flag

To me, the American Flag means to love the place you live and to honor the ones who fought for it. Stand up and be proud when instructed to give pledge to the flag. Honor the ones who fought for it, the next time you are placing flags at the cemetery, replace the worn and tattered one's as well. We can all learn to leave it better than we found it. Just remember, to make sure you are flying "Old Glory" everyday, not just on the holidays.

Patriotism

...is showing strong devotion and support of one's country. It can be expressed in a number of ways. When we participate in volunteering with our VFW'S, we are showing great patriotism. So this year remember, whether you donate your time to lessen economic stress, promote healthy futures, educate others, provide resources for underserved communities, or contribute to any other noble cause, you are helping someone in need. This is why nonprofit organizations exist—to help your fellow human. To support one's country is to support the people who reside there.... "Full seed" ahead to "CultiVETing" GREAT Patriotism within our NC Dept!

Patriotic Holidays

To SEE them, is to KNOW them, is to LEARN about them, is to REMEMBER, these very special days. This, we can do. Get your daily calendar and write these dates in. It is never too early to start planning a fundraiser or special event relating to these special days. Let's get to planning!!



Washington's Birthday
Third Monday/February



MARCH 29TH
VIETNAM VETERANS DAY





“Buddy”® Poppy



V F W
N A T I O N A L H O M E



**Angi Hardy-
Chairman**

angihardy@yahoo.com

910-322-6478

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

www.VFWNationalHome.org

www.vfwauxiliary.org

Reporting Website
<http://vfwauxnc.org>

The “Buddy”® Poppy Program was started about a hundred years ago and it continues to help our disabled veterans, service members and their families around the world. This program provides continuously from the flower fabrication through the distribution.

We use the “Buddy”® Poppy to distribute among our communities to decorating wreaths and many ways in between.

The VFW National Home was founded in 1952 and, located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. It has evolved over time to meet the changing needs of America’s military and veteran families.

The first strategic goal of the VFW National Home is to be the first name that comes to mind for all our veteran service organizations. The VFW National Home has resources to help our veterans even if they do not want to move to Michigan.

Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care” National Presidents Theme 2023/2024

“CultVETing the Future for our Veterans” NC Department Presidents Theme 2023/2024

Theresa Billips, Auxiliary Outreach Program Department Chairperson
1841 Mountain Creek Road Albemarle, NC 28001
sistertnc@aol.com Phone: 704-322-8345

VFW AUXILIARY OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Auxiliary Community Outreach is your auxiliary volunteering to help another non-profit organization or local group with needs in your community. The Auxiliary works to help by being under the direction of the organization/ group that you are helping. They will present what they need from you to help them make their project a success. There are no monetary or in-kind donations. Your time and help are all that is required. You are volunteering. As an Auxiliary we know what volunteering is. We do it all the time. You can never have enough volunteers.

Why is this program important?

- *You get to know the people of your community and their needs. It lets them know that the VFW cares about them.
- * You have a chance to find and reach out to veterans and their families. Which, in turn, can lead them to the VFW and to the Auxiliary where they can become active members.
- * Most of all we are helping others.

How to have successful Outreach Program

- *Find an organization that needs your help
- *Vote on the activity at your meeting
- *one or more Auxiliary members must participate
- *Wear your VFW Auxiliary attire
- *Make sure you report the hours volunteered, the number of members that helped and what you did.

My Goal is to see each Auxiliary gets a citation for partnering with another organization within their community. I would like your help in getting our Dept of NC recognition for our outstanding outreach work. I will provide challenges to help keep you motivated during the year. I will be sending information out through the Dept. Auxiliary Newsletter each month. I want you to reach out to me if you have questions.

You can find more information about the Auxiliary Outreach Program at - vfwauxiliary.org website

By Banding Together for Our Veterans we will be Cultivating the Future for Our Veterans. What better way is there to do this, than doing it through Community OUTREACH! When we band together and Cultivate our community through service, we will make a better future for veterans and their families.

Chief of Staff Extension and Revitalization

910-622-6749
crowder84hd@gmail.com

4717 Ilex Drive
Wilmington, NC 28412

As the Department Chief of Staff, it is my duty to provide assistance to the Department President as she requests. It is also my responsibility to promote the institution of new Auxiliaries, and to identify and support those Auxiliaries that may need assistance. Those duties also describe the tasks assigned to the Extension and Revitalization program. This year, our Department President, Connie has asked me to merge the Extension and Revitalization program with the duties of Chief of Staff following suit with National. I would like for all Auxiliary District Presidents to let me know if there a Post in your District that does not have an Auxiliary. I want to partner with you to encourage those Posts without an Auxiliary to consider the benefits of having an Auxiliary to assist them in their endeavors. Creating new Auxiliaries is an important way to grow our organization; however, it is equally important (if not more so) to promote the viability of existing Auxiliaries. The dictionary says viability is the ability to live, grow, and develop. Please focus on the word **viability** this year. Every Auxiliary is alive, and each new members allows it to grow. Development occurs when current members welcome the new members and they all work together to promote our programs. This is a good example of **CultiVETing The Future For Our Veterans**. As we strive to keep every Auxiliary in our Department alive, growing, and developing, it will require all of us to follow the theme of our National President, Carla, and band together.

Another responsibility of the Chief of Staff that goes hand in hand with Extension and Revitalization is to provide guidance and/or training when necessary. Every member in good standing has access to a wealth of information at their fingertips just by creating a MALTA account. If you haven't created your MALTA account, please go to **vfwauxiliary.org** and do so. It is simple! You will need your membership number to start the process. Once you've created your account, you can access all of the information made available to members in MALTA by National. This information includes almost anything you need to know! It may even include EVERYTHING you need to know! You will have access to the current edition of the Bylaws and Ritual, and the National Program Book as well as information on each National Ambassador's promotional material. Once you've created your account, tab to Member Resources and you're on your way to lots of information. Be sure to check out "Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation" while you're in MALTA. In addition, our Department has an equally informative website available to all members, and it is easy to access. Just type **vfwauxnc.org** and start learning! The Department's page will provide you with another level of information. For example, the Department President's Program book. This book will not be printed or provided on flash drives or CDs as it has been in the past, so be sure you learn how to use the virtual tools. Information provided by the appointed Department Program Chairmen are included in the President's Program book as well as in the Department's monthly mail . . . and YES, each month's Department mail is posted on the website.

Also available are the many forms your Auxiliary will be required to use throughout the year. Some of the forms will be made available as deadlines dictate, so be sure to follow the monthly mail.

I have presented two valuable tools for being a successful Auxiliary member, and for building a successful, viable, and healthy Auxiliary. I encourage each member to learn how to use both websites to research their questions, and to share that information with those who may not be quite as computer savvy. Remember the oath you took upon becoming a member, “. . . we shall expect you to do your share, for ours is a great work . . .” and do your part to learn as much as you can about the organization and how it works. If you have a question or concern that still bothers you after using the tools noted above, give me a call. I’m sure your District President, any of the Department officers, or Program Chairmen would be happy to help as well. Remember, this is the year we are **CultivETing the Future and Banding Together For Our Veterans**.

VFW Auxiliary Dept of NC President Historian/ Media Relations



Barbara Beard

198 Oakridge Dr
Raeford, NC 28376

barbeard@roadrunner.com

(910) 565-2351 hm
(910) 624-4357 cell

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Include newsletters, newspaper and magazine articles, flyers, thank-you notes, letters and other mementos. Use flash drives and/or cloud storage systems (e.g., Google Drive) to store photos and videos. Make sure all documents, photos and videos list the date of the event and/or activity (e.g., Veterans Day 2023 or Family Freedom Festival, April 29, 2023). Be creative and use your imagination!

Department President's Official Visit

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

What's newsworthy?

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

Photography tips

Photos should be clear and sharp, at least 1 MB (megabyte) in size and taken with attention to detail. Avoid the following photo faux pas:

- Closed eyes
- Mouths open or full of food
- Distracting objects in the frame or awkward placement of people or things (e.g., trees popping out of someone's head, bunny ears, etc.)
- Offensive language on articles of clothing

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

HOSPITAL PROGRAM

Farres Upton, Chairman

653 Haynes Road, High Point, NC 27262, 336-889-4133, farreshupton@aol.com

OUR GOALS

***VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT:**

The Hospital Program allows us to give personal support to those who may be feeling isolated in a medical facility. We have to be aware of how important it is to our Veterans, to have someone to take time to visit. Volunteers help with sponsoring activities in medical facilities, which brings a smile to those who sometimes feel forgotten.

***WHO CAN SERVE, AND WHERE CAN WE SERVE:**

Members, Non-Members Youth, and Families can serve in Veterans homes, VA and non-VA medical facilities, Hospitals, Nursing and Domicile homes.

***WHAT CAN WE DO:**

Contact the Medical facilities in your area, to see what volunteer opportunities are available for you to assist with.

***VALENTINES FOR VETERANS:**

February 14th, Valentines Day, a day to show our love for our Veterans and service members. Valentine cards are appreciated, as well as Valentine goody bags, wreaths for their doors, or perhaps host a social event in their honor at their medical facility.

***WOMEN HEALTH CARE:**

Assist Women Veterans in our medical facilities with their needs. The medical facility can advise what you can do for them. Learn about resources available to help them receive the benefits they deserve.

***HONORS ESCORT:**

Assist our medical facilities establish an 'HONORS ESCORT' Program. The family, friends, and Medical facility staff of our departed Veterans, appreciate the opportunity to participate in the ceremony. The "HONORS ESCORT" Program honors each Veteran in a respectful manner, and shows high regard for the Veteran at the time of death.

As we are "**BANDING TOGETHER FOR OUR VETERANS**", remember RECRUIT AND RETAIN are key words In this program. It just takes one look, as that Veteran's face lights up when a smiling volunteer walks into a room, you then know, we are "**CULTI-VETING THE FUTURE FOR OUR VETERANS**".

Loyally,
Farres



LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

2023-2024

VFW Auxiliary members are instrumental in assisting the VFW to pass or block legislation that impacts veterans and their families. Each year, members contact legislators to share our views regarding such legislation with them and invite them to share their positions on veterans' issues; we hold legislators accountable for honoring America's promises to our nation's veterans.

Priority Goals: The *Priority Goals* reflect the resolutions passed by the VFW to strengthen and ensure an adequate VA system for millions of current and future veterans. They call for much-needed attention to crises and are grouped under six areas of concern: Budget, Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, Education, Employment and Transition Assistance, Health Care, Military Quality of Life and National Security, Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA. The 2023 Priority Goals Brochure can be found at <https://www.vfw.org/-/media/vfwsite/files/advocacy/prioritygoalsbrochure>.

For more information: vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/legislative.

VFW's Action Corps Weekly: is an e-newsletter delivered to your inbox each week. It's brief, informative and ***provides ways that we, as Auxiliary members, can advocate on behalf of our veterans!***

If you have not yet subscribed, visit vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts, **click on the Action Corps button** and enter your email and ZIP Code to receive a weekly email. Encourage your auxiliary members to sign-up and for reporting, keep track of how many are signed up and all new sign-ups for program reporting. **Ask your members to record how many times they respond to Action Alerts, by emails, calls or letters to your legislators!**

Communicate with your legislators and elected officials (via phone, email and personal visits). Be brief and to the point. Stick to one issue per phone call or email. Appoint a Legislative Chairman for your Auxiliary that will stay on top of the issues. Use your voice. Make it heard!

Legislative Program Awards for Auxiliaries

Most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community on veteran Legislative Issues.

- Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that educates their community on veteran Legislative Issues. Entry form required and available in MALTA member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Legislative Chairman by March 31, 2024 for judging. Citations will be mailed directly to participation Auxiliaries from Nation Headquarters.

- Citation and \$25.00 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community on Legislative issues. Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after National Convention.



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

Contact info: Lynn Childs, 252-528-0500. Email: lynn.ccta@gmail.com, 1476A Northside Rd, Elizabeth City, NC 27909








MEMBERSHIP

Lights, Camera, ACTION! ~

Lyndsey Bowlus ♦ 1012 Garden Oak Drive Indian Trail, NC 28079 ♦ 443-655-4570 ♦ Nikh96@aol.com

Members are the lifeline of our organization. Be sure to talk with everyone and find out if they are eligible for membership. Inform everyone on what it is like to be a member of your Auxiliary, the requirements of membership, and why you enjoy what you do!

 LIGHTS	Make sure you shine the light on the path to becoming a member of the Auxiliary! INVITE them to become a part of the Auxiliary!
 CAMERA	Everyone plays a part on INCLUDING each other for any, and all activities of your Auxiliary!
 ACTION!	Take ACTION! Follow up with new and existing members. Encourage participation. INVEST in the success of your Auxiliary. Utilize resources readily available on the National website (vfwauxiliary.org)!

The goal this year is to cast all members new and seasoned, grow membership and to cultivate new ideas for membership activities. I'm looking forwards to serving you as the Membership Chairman for 2023-2024.

– Lyndsey

Awards for Members!

1. **Lights, Camera, Action! Pin** to each VFW Auxiliary member who recruits five (5) new members to the Auxiliary from July 1, 2023, through May 31, 2024. Department Treasurer must enter membership in MALTA with credit given to the recruiter by June 10, 2024. The pin will be mailed directly to the member from National Headquarters.
2. **National Membership Achievement Award** to each VFW Auxiliary member who recruits twenty (20) new members to the VFW Auxiliary from July 1, 2023 through May 31, 2024. Department Treasurer must enter membership in MALTA with credit given to the recruiter by June 10, 2024. NMA Award to be presented at the 2024 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. If a member is not in attendance, the award will be mailed directly to the member from National after the convention.
3. **Lights, Camera, Action! VFW Auxiliary Recruiter Drawing.** Each VFW Auxiliary National Membership Achievement Award recipient will be entered into a drawing to receive a \$500 Visa Gift Card. (VFW Recruiters are not eligible)

Awards for Auxiliaries

1. \$25 to each Auxiliary that reaches 98% PLUS in membership by March 31, 2024*.
2. \$25 to each Auxiliary that reaches 100% PLUS in membership by June 30, 2024*.
3. Lights, Camera, Action! VFW Drawing. Each VFW Auxiliary that reaches 101% PLUS by June 20, 2024* will be entered into a onetime drawing to receive \$500.

(*Based on the June 30, 2023 year-end membership numbers.)

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

Mentoring For Leadership

910-622-6749
crowder84hd@gmail.com

4717 Ilex Drive
Wilmington, NC 28412

Don't let the title fool you. Don't stop reading just because you are thinking to yourself, I don't need to read this. I'm not going to be a leader or an officer. Every member has the potential to be a mentor. A mentor is a trusted counselor; someone who teaches or gives advise to a person with less experience. In the work force, we might think of that person as a supervisor, or a field training officer. In education, we might call that person a tutor. In an organization, such as ours, we look to our officers to be mentors. This year, think of it as **CultiVETing The Future For Our Veterans**. I would like to encourage each member to think of themselves as a potential mentor. Someone who is brand new to the Auxiliary can bring valuable knowledge to the group. You, as a long-time member, could offer to help the new member better understand our protocols, while the new person might be able to offer advise on how to organize a monthly fundraising project. Don't be surprised when you find yourself in mentoring mode. You may not realize it, but when you talk about the work of our organization, you are actually mentoring to someone who may know nothing, or very little, about us. You are teaching, and that person may decide to join because they were impressed with your comments and they want to be a part of what we do.

Think about your first Auxiliary meeting. Even though my first meeting was many (MANY!) years ago, I still remember thinking to myself, I don't have a clue what they are doing! I wondered if I would attend another meeting. Three women (we were the Ladies Auxiliary back then) came up to me after the meeting and welcomed me and talked to me about some of the things they did routinely and invited me to help them. I was hooked! They gave me a copy of the Ritual and Bylaws book and told me to read it from cover to cover. Needless to say, THAT took some time. The point here, is that they welcomed me and included me in the work of the organization. That reminds me of our CARE concept.

- C - Catch the member when they first join.
- A - Ask them to participate.
- R - Remember what it felt like to be new.
- E – Engage them in a Program that fits them.

Even before CARE became a concept and was presented in our program book, those who came before me knew and understood how important it was to “catch” a new member. Reach out to a new member and make them feel invited and appreciated. Get to know that person and learn what strengths they can bring to the organization. Share your knowledge of our organization and the things that your Auxiliary does to support our programs. Inviting the new member to participate encourages them to keep attending. And, believe it or not, it broadens your pathway to becoming a trusted advisor – a mentor!

The Extension and Revitalization program shares many of the same concepts as Mentoring for Leadership, so please check that program page for more information on how to utilize all of the tools available to members through MALTA and the Department website.



Scholarship Programs 2023-2024

National Auxiliary President Carla Martinez's theme: "Banding Together For Our Veterans"

Department Auxiliary President Connie Holt's theme: "CultivETing the Future For Our Veterans"

Wendy Dorsey Rachels, Scholarship Chairperson

PO Box 635 Badin NC 28009

704-984-2259

wdrachels@gmail.com



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

I am proud to serve the Auxiliaries of the Department of North Carolina as the Scholarships Chairperson for 2023-2024. I hope the Auxiliaries will take the information shared and embrace the goals listed above while increasing participation in the programs. I will share more information, ideas, and helpful tips throughout the year. Use the information to help your Auxiliary have a successful Scholarship Program year!

Auxiliary National Scholarship Programs

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

VFW National Scholarship Programs

- **Patriot's Pen** is a youth essay contest for middle grade students in grades 6-8. The 2022-2023 theme is ***"How Are You Inspired by America?"***
- **Voice of Democracy** is an audio-essay program for high school students in grades 9-12. The 2023-2024 theme is ***"What are the Greatest Attributes of our Democracy?"***
- Find the criteria, detailed instructions and download application forms for each scholarship online at www.vfw.org under the tab Community.

Let us band together and plant information regarding scholarship opportunities.

and harvest the best crop of entries ever!



Youth Activities Program 2023 – 24

Small Hands Helping, in Big Ways

Becky Rowe, NC Dept. Chairman
4869 Pennington Meadows Circle
Rock Hill, SC 29732

Joyce Caldwell, National Ambassador*
1708 W Vail St.,
Broken Arrow, OK 74012-0202

Our National Ambassador, Joyce Caldwell, asks us “When was the first time you were introduced to our Flag?” I bet it involved ...being a **CHILD** saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag at school or in the Boy/Girl Scouts or even at a VFW Ceremony. Remember the feeling of pride and honor you felt?

*Focusing attention on our youth beginning at a young age is vital in order for them to appreciate our history and our veterans’ sacrifices who have fought and died to keep our freedoms. We, as members of the VFW Auxiliary, can start by reaching out to them as young as 5 years old. Our youth today are our leaders of tomorrow, our soldiers of tomorrow, our teachers and doctors, and yes, even our Auxiliary members of tomorrow. Education is key to helping our youth become who they will be tomorrow.

Working the Youth Activities Program is the way that we as the VFW Auxiliary can support our Veterans. The focus points for this Program are as followed: **Creating, Sponsoring and Working with Youth Groups • Supporting Our Veterans Citations • Patriotic Youth Award • Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue! • Patriotism through Literacy • Illustrating America.**

When doing your online reporting for Youth Activities, keep these reporting points in mind.

1. Number of Auxiliaries that utilized any of the Americanism material/resources available in MALTA Member Resources.
2. Number of Auxiliaries that promoted, participated, recognized, any patriotic day and/or branch of service birthdays.
3. Number of Auxiliaries that distributed and/or presented American Flags and/or POW/MIA flags.
4. Number of American Flags and/or POW/MIA flags distributed and/or presented by Auxiliaries.
5. Number of Patriotic Appreciation Citations, Certificate of Appreciation or Respect for the Flag Citations presented to citizens and/or businesses in recognition of their displaying the American Flag, POW/MIA flag and/or other displays of American pride.

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



Department President Connie Holt
“Culti**VET**ing the Future for Our Veterans”



National President Carla Martinez
“Banding Together for Our Veterans”

President's Special Project



Department President's Theme: Cultivating The Future For Our Veterans



Giving Veterans a New Mission, and America, a New Farmer

Description:

The Veteran's Farm of NC, Inc (VFNC) focuses on three primary needs within the agricultural and veteran community. First, we focus on education of beginning farmer veterans by offering two programs (three and six months) that teach the fundamentals of agricultural production, offers mentoring to beginning farmers, and assistance in development of their business plans. Our second focus is to help beginning farmers with access to equipment needed for their operations by offering equipment we take donations to farmer veterans in need. Lastly, is the NC Farmer Veteran network that we've built of over 1,000 veterans involved in farms and agricultural industries. All of our programs are free to active-duty, veterans, and spouses.

Mission:

VFNC helps Veterans of all eras to become self-sufficient farmers and to further expand their operations. We do this by operating the only full-scale production farm for training Veterans in NC. Our innovative organization has worked with over 1,000 beginning Farmer Veterans over the past seven years and we've built a community of actively-farming Farmer Veterans larger than any other state in the U.S.

THE VETERAN'S FARM OF NC, INC.

160 Brookstone Dr.
Cameron, NC 28326
(252)725-4875

www.VFNC.org

[@vetfarmofnc](https://twitter.com/vetfarmofnc)

Chairman Contact Information:



Sandra Jeffries

2058 Paisley Drive, Haw River, NC 27258

Phone#: 336-686-0456, Sajeffries2001@yahoo.com