



Casting Hope for Veterans

Lin Moore
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July 2026

Auxiliary Members,

As we embark on another exciting program year, I want to extend a heartfelt welcome to each of you. This year's theme, Casting Hope for Veterans, reflects the spirit of our mission: to encourage, support, and inspire those who have bravely served our nation. Casting Hope for Veterans is a commitment to honor, to serve, and to uplift. It reminds us that every act of kindness, every moment of support, and every effort we make sends ripples of hope into the lives of those who have given so much.

I am thrilled to share that our special project this year is Take a Warrior Fishing. Through this initiative, we will offer free fishing adventures to veterans, providing them with a chance to enjoy the outdoors, find peace and camaraderie, and know that their sacrifices are deeply appreciated. These experiences are more than just a day on the water—they are opportunities to build connections, foster healing, and create treasured memories for our heroes. My goal is to raise \$20,000 to sponsor four events—a deep-sea adventure, a pier fishing event, a surf fishing event, and a freshwater event. Working together, I know we will accomplish this!

As we look forward to the months ahead, I am filled with excitement for all we can achieve together. Growing our membership remains a top priority, and I encourage you to continue reaching out to prospective members. Let's also engage our current members by inviting them to take an active part in our projects, meetings, and community efforts. Every voice, every hand, and every idea make a difference.

Let's strive to increase our reporting so we can track and celebrate the incredible impact we're making. By working together, supporting one another, and sharing our passion for service, we will amplify our efforts and bring hope to even more veterans and their families. Reporting strengthens our role as advocates for veterans. Accurate reports provide the numbers and stories that support our legislative efforts, demonstrate unmet needs, and help ensure veterans receive the recognition, services, and resources they deserve. Simply put- if we don't report it, it didn't happen in the eyes of those who make decisions!



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Your enthusiasm, kindness, and dedication are the heart of our auxiliary. Thank you for being part of this journey. I am confident that, together, we will make this new program year remarkable—one filled with joy, purpose, and the knowledge that we are truly making a difference.

TOGETHER, WE CAN *make waves.*

TOGETHER, WE CAN *cast hope.*

TOGETHER, WE CAN *change lives.*

The next cast begins now. . .

Serving Veterans, Casting Hope,
Lin

Lin Moore
President
VFW Auxiliary
Department of North Carolina



A Message from the Department Treasurer

July 2026

Vfwauxnc.org



Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome to a new program year. I am looking forward to working with all of you this year to help our Department be as successful as it can be.

NEW TREASURERS: First, thank you for accepting this very important and challenging position in your Auxiliary. I will be adding your name and email address to my contact list. You will receive memos and reminders from me throughout the month. Please make note of them and follow through.

I am going to start with some important reminders and a new change.

First, the Change. Per National: If your Auxiliary wishes to make a monetary donation to the VA Hospital you are assigned to, you **NO LONGER HAVE TO SEND THAT DONATION TO THE DEPARTMENT TREASURER.** Please send it directly to the VAVS/CDCE office at the VA, along with a donation form stating how you would like the donation directed, even if you would like for it to go to one of the clinics, such as Wilmington or Greenville. Keep a copy for your records, and **REPORT** the donation on the Department reporting system. I am enclosing a copy of the donation form for each of the four VA Hospitals.

CHECKS: All checks sent to the Department treasurer should be made payable to Dept of NC VFW Auxiliary. The exception is checks for donations to the Erline Mayberry Scholarship. Please make these checks payable to the Erline Mayberry Scholarship. All checks are mailed to 103 Covered Bridge Rd., Clayton, NC 27520.

AUDITS: The audits for the period ending 30 June are due to me no later than 31 August. If your Auxiliary has a new treasurer for the 2026-27 year, the previous treasurer should be present at this audit, as should the trustee who rolled off at the end of the year. So the President, secretary, previous treasurer, new treasurer, current 3 trustees, and the previous trustee should be present at the audit.

BOND: The bond for your Auxiliary should be purchased in MALTA once it reopens around 6 July. Only the treasurer has access to do this. However, before the bond can be purchased, there must be a vote of the Auxiliary, and the cost of the bond be purchased. The bond covers the office of the President and the Treasurer, as both names must be on all checks. The bond should be for at least 1.25 the amount of funds and property of the Auxiliary. The form for the bond to determine your amount can be found on the Department website and the National website under Treasurer responsibilities. (see pg. 89 of the Bylaws)

Dues reminders: July is the time when the first dues reminder letters should be sent to all of your annual members. Treasurers can go into MALTA and generate the letters and the mailing labels to send out. With the cost of postage, if you can create an email group of your members and send an email to them, it might be more helpful.

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

Sandra Johnson-Leu,

VFWA Department Treasurer, Department of NC

919-906-7592

ctrysun@embarqmail.com

103 Covered Bridge Rd., Clayton, NC 27520





VFW AUXILIARY
Department of North Carolina
Deborah Crowder, Secretary

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

JULY NOTES

This month's notes are going to start with a list of reminders. As we start wading into 2026 – 2027 I want us to do so with positive thinking, and the idea that we are casting a line of our best work and dedication to send lots of Veterans fishing. Let's make Lin's theme a reality! First of all we have to take care of our Auxiliary's business. Almost all of the Auxiliaries had their Installation reports entered days and even weeks before the deadline. I'm thankful for that. I want to encourage all Secretaries and other officers to be sure to keep an eye on deadlines. Most of the time, if you're late, you cause someone else to be late. Let's make sure that the only ripple effect we see the remainder of this year is the ripple of the water once a veteran has cast his line. That brings me to the following reminders:

- 1) Be sure to vote to pay your Auxiliary Bond ASAP! Do not wait until the August deadline for this important task. Your President and Treasurer should be covered according to the specifics set forth in our National Bylaws. Remember, the amount of the bond is based on the amount of money in your Auxiliary's bank account.
- 2) MALTA will reopen on **July 6, 2026 at 6:00 a.m. EST.**
- 3) Be sure to check MALTA after July 6 to update or verify your personal information. **ESPECIALLY** your email address. I will be updating my contact list for the 2026 – 2027 Department, District and Auxiliary Officers, and want to be sure I have the correct contact information.
- 4) It isn't too late to register for the National Convention or the Southern Conference. Be sure to check out these events. Just Google VFW National Convention and check out the exciting things to do in Reno. For the Southern Conference, Google VFW Southern Conference and look for the **Zeffy** connection.
- 5) Be sure to check your calendars for the first round of District meetings. Some of you have new District Presidents, so plan to welcome them. Some of you are new District Presidents, so be sure to reach out to your Department assigned Rep to let them know what to expect at your meeting.

I hope everyone is looking forward to a successful program year. I know that Lin has worked very hard to appoint Program Chairmen that will cause some excitement as we support their ideas and goals. It is common to hear that we do not work for Veterans in order to earn an award or a pat on the back. That is true, but reporting the work we do is instrumental in ways that we tend to forget. Our numbers are used to influence our elected officials to listen to us, and to the veterans we support. So, I encourage you early on to start reporting the work that your Auxiliary does.

One last reminder . . . pay attention to deadlines! THANK YOU for all that you do.



AMERICANISM

Sherry Brooks

704 578 5873

sbrooks1045@gmail.com

65 S Park Road

N Wilkesboro, NC 28659

The definition of Americanism originated in 1927 and is defined as “an unfailing love of country: loyalty to its institutions and ideals; eagerness to defend it against all enemies; undivided allegiance to the Flag; and a desire to secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and posterity.”

Our focus this year will be **POP** signs and displays. POP is **Point of Purchase** displays using our American symbols, the Flag, Eagle, Statue of Liberty, and other imagery that promote Americanism. This is a “new “old way of catching the attention of people in a few short seconds, Think UNCLE SAM and ROSIE the RIVETER. This is going to be somewhat technology driven using memes, Facebook and Instagram posts, posters, etc. National Program Awards will be looking for the most creative ways to showcase the VFW Auxiliary using the POP signs or memes.

For North Carolina, I would like for auxiliaries to focus on FLAG Education and also engage our communities in displaying more flags.

Our focus for 2026-27 should be the following:

1. More flag education in our schools
2. Recognizing our local businesses on outstanding flag displays. Create a certificate to present to them
3. Celebrate PATRIOTIC holidays with your post or in your community
4. Participate in flag retirement ceremonies with your post and local scout troops. Invite other groups to participate in order to make it a community event,

I CHALLENGE **each** auxiliary in this state to participate AND report in at least 1 or more Americanism programs this year.

THANKS and let's show 250 years of Americanism



“BUDDY” POPPY

Denise Zink
(336) 830-4575
Beachandbike1954@gmail.com
214 Ryder Ct.
Winston Salem, NC 27107

CASTING HOPE FOR VETERANS

The VFW “Buddy” ® Poppy is the official flower of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. It is a symbol for our remembrance of those sacrifices made by our veterans while protecting our freedoms. The program “Honors the Dead by Helping the Living”. At the 1923 encampment it was decided that the “Buddy” ® Poppy would be assembled by disabled and needy veterans who would be paid for their work to provide them with financial assistance. The “Buddy” ® Poppy program also provides financial assistance in maintaining state and national veterans’ rehabilitation and service programs and partially supports the VFW National Home.

The following information summarizes some of the awards for this program. Complete information for each, can be found in MALTA under member resources.

Auxiliaries can receive Awards for the “Buddy” ® Poppy program:

- A Citation and \$25.00 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Membership Divisions for the most outstanding activity and/or event to educate their community about the VFW “Buddy” ® Poppy.
Entry form is required and is available in MALTA Member Resources. The Entry form must be sent to the VFW Auxiliary Department “Buddy” ® Poppy Chairman (me) by March 31, 2027, for judging. The Department Chairman (me) will send a copy of the completed Department winning entry form to the VFW Auxiliary National “Buddy” ® Poppy Ambassador (Donna King) by April 30, 2027, for judging.
- “Buddy”® Poppy Display Contest-displays created by using “Buddy”® Poppies that must be purchased through the VFW Store, are submitted on the Department level each year for judging at the Department conventions held in the first quarter of the year. There are 3 categories, Category 1-Public promotion of Poppy campaign, 2-Memorial or Inspirational Displays, 3-Artistic or Decorative use of Poppies. The winners can choose to enter their winning display in the contest held at the National Convention in April 2027. The winning Department Adjutant will have to notify the National Programs

Director, in writing, by June 30, 2027, of the Posts that will represent the Department in each category.

Awards for Departments and Department Chairmen:

1. A Citation and \$25.00 to one VFW Auxiliary Department “Buddy”® Poppy Chairman in each of the 10 Membership Divisions for best promotion of activity and/or event to educate the community about the VFW “Buddy”® Poppy. Winners will be announced at the 2027 VFW National Convention.
2. The Outstanding Performance Awards and Second Place Outstanding Performance Award will be awarded to each of the 10 Membership Divisions based on the criteria listed on page 5 and for the promotion of the Ambassador’s Program goals. Winners will be announced and will be presented at the 2027 VFW National Convention.

For the year 2026-2027 it is my goal to educate and increase awareness in our communities on what the “Buddy”® Poppy represents - “Serving America’s Heroes”. This can be achieved through various events in addition to/and along with “Buddy” ® Poppy drives during Memorial and Veterans Day. Try reaching out to local schools, scout troops, JROTC, etc. to ask for assistance from the school youth groups to help with the drives. Figure out ways to hold “educational” events at local schools and various adult groups such as your local YMCA. Any social media site you belong to are great avenues to create awareness. We want to “cast that net of hope a little wider”. Via the monthly newsletter, I hope to inspire you through the use of MALTA resources and various creative ideas to increase awareness.

Please reach out to me anytime with any assistance/questions you may have.



EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION

Farres H.

Upton

(336) 889-4133

farreshupton@aol.
com

653 Haynes Road

High Point NC,

27262

Maintain and Strengthen Current Auxiliaries – Present to Unaffiliated Posts

Establish New Auxiliaries

As members of the VFW Auxiliary we must work together by helping our Auxiliaries that are weakening. We must also strengthen our organization by forming new Auxiliaries.

Do you have members that have lost interest in the VFW Auxiliary? Do you have members

that do not support our programs and projects? If you do, we need to help retain those inactive members who have lost interest in the work of our organization.

The Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit along with tools available in Malta Member Resources, have proven to be valuable tools in helping VFW Auxiliaries be more productive.

Members need to feel accepted, listen to their ideas, be responsive to their concerns, keep

them informed, support the unique talents of each and every member, so each member feels they are a part of the VFW Auxiliary.

The success of each Auxiliary is not the job of one, but each of us. One person cannot do it alone.....it takes TEAMWORK.

In order to be a Team player in any organization a member needs to know who we are, what we do. When you recruit a new member, present them a WELCOME BAG that tells them about our organization. Suggestions are, current Auxiliary roster, current Department Program book, current National Bylaws book, new member education folder, copy of Understanding Auxiliary Traditions.

Let us strive to honor those who made and are still making untold sacrifices to assure us of the freedoms we enjoy daily.



**VFW Auxiliary Department of North Carolina
Historian/ Media Relations**

Barbara Beard
(910) 624-4357
198 Oakridge Dr
Raeford, NC 28376
barbeard56@gmail.com

Let's use media to share our story. The Department of North Carolina has over 70 Auxiliaries committed to serving veterans, their families, and fostering patriotism. Every Auxiliary, regardless of size, can leverage media to highlight its impact and history.

The Historian & Media Relations Chairmen is a memory keeper and collector of the five W's: the who-what-where-when-and-why of your VFW Auxiliary. These individuals compile and chronicle memories and events in written and digital formats, including photographs, memorabilia, print news, audio and/or video clips and social media posts. The Historian & Media Relations Chairman captures the narrative of the Program Year.

New Technology

Our auxiliaries need to keep up with changing technology to remain relevant. Technology allows us to preserve our history and provides constant access to it. It's important to train all members, regardless of age, on how to use new technology. Younger members are often well-versed in these skills and are willing to share their knowledge.

Digital Platforms and Proper Storage

When an Auxiliary has been established for 20-plus years, displaying or storage becomes an issue. A digital platform such as a computer or tablet will condense materials and save space. It is always a smart idea to have more than one storage platform. Here are a few ideas:

- Storage platforms: iCloud, Google Drive, Dropbox, OneDrive | Flash Drives | External hard drives

Social Media

Social media plays a significant role in the younger generation today. Social media is used to communicate through feeds, profiles, groups and different forms of content such as photos, text and videos. By creating a Facebook account, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube channel or TikTok you can share your Auxiliary experiences, stories, events and programs. It even helps you to retain and gain members. Please continue to use traditional methods of communication to get information out. Email, monthly or quarterly newsletters, flyers, newspapers and magazines are time-tested ways to share Auxiliary news and events.

Monthly Tips

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

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

National Awards for Auxiliaries:

Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that creates the most unique digital record of their VFW Auxiliary history since being established and publishes it to a digital platform for future members of their VFW Auxiliary.

VFW National Year-End Report Historian/Media Relations 2026-207 (Include information in electronic reporting)

- Auxiliaries must communicate quarterly with their members by email, mail, text or phone.
- Auxiliaries must have Facebook page with or without Post
- Auxiliaries must conduct a Media Relations "how to" training to educate their members (Examples: how to log into MALTA, email, navigate Facebook and other social media.)



**VFW Auxiliary Department of North Carolina
Historian/ Media Relations**

Barbara Beard

(910) 624-4357

198 Oakridge Dr

Raeford, NC 28376

barbeard56@gmail.com

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- External hard drives

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HOSPITAL

Debra Smith

(336) 928-5159

dmsmith359@gmail.com

1065 S. Oakgrove Ext.

Millers Creek, NC 28651

The Hospital Program of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary plays a vital role in supporting veterans receiving medical care and rehabilitation. The Hospital program is one of the oldest in the VFW Auxiliary, dating back to 1914. There is so much we can do through this program to support our Veterans: fundraising, donations, visits, activities, and volunteering. The ways can be endless. Through compassion, dedication, and community involvement, the Hospital Chairperson coordinates volunteer activities, promotes outreach programs, and encourages Auxiliary members to provide comfort and assistance to hospitalized veterans.

The hospital program serves as a bridge between the Auxiliary, medical facilities, and the veterans we proudly serve. By organizing donations, visits, special events, and volunteer efforts, the Hospital program helps ensure that every veteran feels remembered, appreciated, and supported. It reflects the Auxiliary's continuing commitment to honoring those who have made sacrifices for our nation and improving the lives of veterans and their families.

Remember, recruitment is important. But recruiting someone with a servant's heart keeps this program alive.

North Carolina has the following VA Hospitals to serve:

Asheville Charles George VA Medical Center, Auxiliary Representative - Joyce Preston

Durham VA Medical Center, Auxiliary Representative – Sandra Johnson-Leu

Fayetteville VA Medical Center, Auxiliary Representative – Wanda McCall

Salisbury W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center, Auxiliary Representative – Farres Upton

Please remember to make your contribution to the Hospital Reserve fund. It is with this contribution that the Department can donate to each of the 4 VA medical centers on behalf of the members.

For the 2026-2027 term, I would like to see the Post Hospital Chairperson partner directly with the Post Chaplain to launch a unified care network. This initiative guarantees that

hospitalized and home-bound veterans and auxiliary members receive consistent support, personal connection, and recognition. Ensuring no member is forgotten.

- Care Packages: Assemble seasonal comfort kits containing toiletries, non-perishable snacks, and Post newsletters.
- Thinking-Of-You Cards: Coordinate with Auxiliary members to mail handwritten cards monthly to home-bound individuals.
- Holiday Commemorations: Deliver specialized tokens, flags, or certificates on Veterans Day, Memorial Day, and birthdays.
- Privacy-Compliant Intake: Build a secure roster of hospitalized and home-bound individuals requiring outreach.
- Referral Pipeline: Establish a direct line where Post members can report new hospitalizations immediately.
- Status Dashboard: Maintain a shared digital log to track visit dates, completed tasks, and follow-ups.
- Joint Scheduling: Align the schedules of the Auxiliary Hospital Chairperson and the Chaplain for home-bound and/or facility visits.
- Geographic Mapping: Group home-bound veterans and auxiliary members by ZIP code (if multiple zip codes) to optimize travel time.
- Dual-Role Impact: Provide both administrative support (Chairperson tracking needs) and spiritual/emotional care (Chaplain) during one visit.

FAYETTEVILLE VA MEDICAL CENTER
2300 RAMSEY STREET
FAYETTEVILLE, N.C. 28301
VAVS Newsletter for July 2026

Good day, everyone! There is a lot happening at Fayetteville VA, and I have some important updates to share.

Our newest CDCE member, Mr. Ronald Moore, and Ms. Cynthia Gillians will continue overseeing operations at the FVAMC Ramsey facility and remain committed to providing exceptional care and services across all sites.

I also want to share an important update about monetary donations. CDCE can accept monetary donations **only** at the Fayetteville VA Medical Center because the Agent Cashier, who processes and deposits these contributions into CDCE accounts, is located there.

If your VFW Post or VFW Auxiliary plans to present a monetary donation, please coordinate directly with CDCE staff at the Fayetteville VA Medical Center. The team will assist with arrangements and ensure your generous gift is properly received and directed to support our Veterans.

We are continuing to raise funds to build a gazebo for CDCE residents behind Building 70.

This space will offer residents a safe, comfortable outdoor area to enjoy fresh air and relax. The gazebo will include large ceiling fans and lighting. Donations are welcome and should be made payable to:

FVAMC

Memo section: GPF 8019 Gazebo

All donations should be mailed to:

Fayetteville VA Medical Center

Center for Development & Civic Engagement (CDCE)
2300 Ramsey Street
Fayetteville, NC 28301

BELOW PLEASE FIND ITEMS THAT ARE STILL NEEDED:

COMFORT ITEMS

ACTIVITY ITEMS

FINGERNAIL CLIPPERS

BOOKS (GOOD CONDITION)

TWEEZERS
MAGAZINES (ONLY ACCEPT 6 MONTHS FROM TODAY'S DATE)
COMBS
COLORING BOOKS
RAZORS
COLORING PENCILS
BRUSHES
WORD SEARCH BOOKS
TOENAIL CLIPPERS
CROSSWORD PUZZLE BOOKS

The Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) extends its sincere gratitude for your continued dedication and unwavering support of our Nation's Heroes.

Our first VAVS Committee meeting for the 2026–2027 year will be:

Date: July 15, 2026

Time: 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Location: Fayetteville HCC (Raeford Rd), Conference Room 1728.

Thank you for all you do for our Veterans. Your commitment to those who have served is a constant source of inspiration, and it is an honor to represent you and our outstanding VFW organization.

Serving loyally,
Wanda Locklear-McCall
VAVS Representative
Fayetteville
2025-2026
2026-2027



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



Durham VA Supporters:

As we begin another year of giving support to the Durham VA and the hundreds of Veterans who receive care at the various facilities of Durham, including Garner, Greenville, Havelock, I want to remind you how important your donations are. The needs of our veterans cannot be fully supported and provided with the support of the various service organizations that care for our Veterans.

Of the 13 Auxiliaries assigned to support the Durham VA, only 7, actually made donations to assist the VA in caring for our Veterans. We need to do better. We need to help our veterans. They have been there for us. We need to be there for them.

When you donate to the VA hospital, be sure to include a copy of the donation form, which is included in this month's mail. Send a copy with the donation and keep a copy for your records. Then be sure to REPORT the donation on the reporting system. These are the numbers we provide to National to show how our members are taking care of our hospitalized veterans and those being treated as outpatients.

This month, I am providing a list of the toiletries currently needed. Each month, I will provide additional items. And as we get closer to the holidays, there will be special requests. Please be on the lookout for emails in between the monthly mailings.

Toiletries needs (full size only, please. No travel sizes)

*Body soap Tooth paste
Individually wrapped toothbrush Shampoo
Body lotion and body wash
Deodorant Women's hygiene products
Combs nail clippers*

These items can be purchased on Amazon and delivered directly to the VA, or you can purchase gift cards and send them to the VA with directions as to how you would like the gift cards used.

Also, remember, you no longer have to send monetary donations to the Department treasurer to be forwarded to the VA. You can send these directly, made payable to the Durham VA with the donation form, indicating how you would like the donation used.

Your support of our Veterans is greatly appreciated.

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



Department of Veterans Affairs

Charles George
VA Medical Center
Asheville, North Carolina
28805

Donations

Date: _____

Donor

Name: _____

Organization: _____

Address: _____

Written acknowledgement requested?	Yes	No	(circle one)
------------------------------------	-----	----	--------------

May we send acknowledgement via email?	YES	No	(circle one)
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Email address: _____

Donation Description

Check Number: _____

Check Date: _____

Amount: _____

Designation: _____

Donations (List Items)

Occasional Hours for this donation: _____

I give my permission to have my name/my organization listed as a donor in the CDCE bi-monthly newsletter.

Signature of donor



Department of Veterans Affairs
Durham VA Health Care System (135)
Center for Development & Civic Engagement
508 Fulton Street Durham, NC 27705

DONATION FORM

One (1) Form per Organization or Group (including Auxiliaries)

Date: _____

Select if Donation if from an **Organization/Group/Company** OR **Individual**

☐ ORGANIZATION Name: _____

or ☐ INDIVIDUAL Name: _____

Point of Contact: _____

If you are affiliated with a Veterans Service Organization or group, list it below (as an individual, you are making the donation, but the Organization will also receive "credit"):

Local Chapter/Unit/Team: _____

All Donors:

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

ITEM(S) / ACTIVITIES

Check the appropriate box below and/or give a brief description:

☐ Toiletries

☐ Clothing Items

☐ Seasonal Cards

☐ Crafts/Games

☐ Rideshare Gift Cards

☐ Entertainment

☐ Food/Refreshments

☐ Other: _____

ESTIMATED TOTAL VALUE of ITEMS & ACTIVITIES: \$ _____

MONETARY DONATIONS

will be used as authorized by law or in ways that benefit VA patients while receiving care from the VA (VHA Directive 4721). If you wish to restrict your donation for a specific program or service, please indicate so below. The CDCE office may contact you if additional information is required or if the specific restriction cannot be honored.

Checks must be completely filled out, with an address written or printed on the top.

Restrictions or

Earmarks: _____

(optional)

In Memory /

Honor of: _____

(optional)

(e.g., cash, check) TOTAL MONETARY DONATION: \$ _____

Also make monetary donations online using: https://www.cdceportal.va.gov/donate_online/

For more information visit www.volunteer.va.gov or scan this code:





Department of Veterans Affairs

VA Center for Development & Civic Engagement (Formerly Voluntry Service)

VA Fayetteville Coastal Health Care

vhafnccdcevolsv@va.gov

DONATION FORM

One (1) Form per Organization or Group (including Auxiliaries)

Date:

Select if Donation if from an **Organization/Group/Company OR Individual**

☐ ORGANIZATION Name:

or ☐ INDIVIDUAL Name:

Point of Contact:

If you are affiliated with a Veterans Service Organization or group, list it below (as an individual, you are making the donation, but the Organization will also receive "credit"):

Local Chapter/Unit/Team:

All Donors:

Address:

City/State/Zip:

Phone:

E-mail:

ITEM(S) / ACTIVITIES

Check the appropriate box below and/or give a brief description:

☐ Toiletries

☐ Clothing Items

☐ Seasonal Cards

☐ Crafts/Games

☐ Rideshare Gift Cards

☐ Entertainment

☐ Food/Refreshments

☐ Other:

ESTIMATED TOTAL VALUE of ITEMS & ACTIVITIES: \$

MONETARY DONATIONS

will be used as authorized by law or in ways that benefit VA patients while receiving care from the VA (VHA Directive 4721). If you wish to restrict your donation for a specific program or service, please indicate so below. The CDCE office may contact you if additional information is required or if the specific restriction cannot be honored.

Checks must be completely filled out, with an address written or printed on the top.

Restrictions or

Earmarks:

(optional)

In Memory /

Honor of:

(optional)

(e.g., cash, check) **TOTAL MONETARY DONATION: \$**

Also make monetary donations online using: https://www.cdceportal.va.gov/donate_online/

For more information visit www.volunteer.va.gov or scan this code:





Department of Veterans Affairs

LOCAL FORM 001V-A

W.G. (Bill) Hefner VA Medical Center
1601 Brenner Avenue; Salisbury, NC 28144
(704) 638-9000 x13409

DONATION

DATE: _____

DONOR INFORMATION

Please print clearly

PLEASE SELECT ONLY ONE OPTION

☐ **INDIVIDUAL DONATION:**

Name: _____

Address: _____
Street City and State Zip

Phone: _____ EMail: _____

☐ **ORGANIZATIONAL DONATION:** (RECORD ACTIVITY/OCCASIONAL HOURS ON BACK OF FORM)

Organization: _____ Representative: _____

Unit Name: _____ Unit Number: _____

Unit Address: _____ Unit Phone: _____
Street City and State Zip

DONATION DESCRIPTION

Please check all that apply

☐ Cash \$ _____ ☐ Gift Card \$ _____ #: _____

☐ Check \$ _____ #: _____ Store: _____

☐ Activity: _____ ☐ Money Order \$ _____
#: _____

☐ **Brief Description of Item(s) Donated:**

Quantity:

Estimated Value:

_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____
_____	_____	\$ _____

Total Value (estimated) \$ _____

Special Designation of Funds/Items (i.e. Hospice, FCP#, etc., if applicable):

I give my permission to have my name listed as a donor in the Voluntary Service newsletter.

Signature of donor

VOLUNTARY SERVICE OFFICE USE

Received By: _____ Date: _____



LEGISLATIVE

Emily Ball

(919) 749-9223

crackedm1974@yahoo.co

m

4245 Chippenham Court

Graham, NC 27253

VFW Auxiliary Legislative Goals for 2026–2027: How North Carolina Auxiliaries Can Lead the Way

As we enter the 2026–2027 program year, the VFW Auxiliary remains firmly committed to advocating for veterans, service members, and their families through meaningful legislative action. In North Carolina, our auxiliaries play an essential role in elevating these priorities—educating our communities, engaging elected officials, and amplifying the voices of those who served. This year brings renewed focus, clear priorities, and exciting opportunities for auxiliaries to shine in statewide legislative contests.

Priority Legislative Goals for 2026–2027

The VFW National Legislative Agenda continues to champion issues that directly impact veterans' quality of life. Key priorities for this program year include:

- Strengthening access to timely, high-quality VA healthcare, including expansion of mental health resources and improved rural care delivery.
- Protecting earned benefits—disability compensation, pensions, survivor benefits, and educational opportunities—while ensuring processing systems remain fair and efficient.
- Advancing policies that support military families, including spouse employment initiatives and improvements in transition assistance programs.
- Safeguarding national defense programs that maintain military readiness and support service members at home and abroad.
- Promoting accountability, transparency, and budget stability across all VA and DoD agencies.

By understanding and communicating these goals, auxiliaries help build momentum for legislation that improves the lives of veterans across North Carolina and beyond.

The Power of Action Corps

The VFW Action Corps is one of the most effective grassroots advocacy tools available to our membership. Each week, subscribers receive timely legislative updates along with “Action Alerts” that make it easy to contact federal lawmakers in just a few clicks.

Encouraging your members—and even non-members within your community—to join Action Corps is one of the simplest and most impactful steps an auxiliary can take. Every new subscriber strengthens our collective voice.

For reporting purposes, auxiliaries can highlight:

- The number of new Action Corps sign-ups generated this year
- Creative strategies used to promote Action Alerts
- Community involvement in completing calls-to-action
- Outreach conducted at events, meetings, and through social media

How Your Auxiliary Can Stand Out in Reporting

North Carolina auxiliaries have a long history of excellence, and legislative work is no exception. Here are ways your auxiliary can build a strong program, demonstrate impact, and stand out in competition:

- **Host a Legislative Education Night:** Offer a simple presentation on the year’s priority goals. Invite elected officials, community leaders, and fellow VFW members.
- **Create a Legislative Resource Table** at post events with Action Corps QR codes, brochures, and information sheets.
- **Write Letters or Emails** to lawmakers as a group. Document participation and include photos for reporting.
- **Partner with Local Schools or Colleges** to teach civic engagement while raising awareness of veterans’ issues.
- **Submit Articles to Local Newspapers** summarizing important legislation or reporting on your auxiliary’s advocacy activities.
- **Share Legislative Updates** at each meeting to promote ongoing member awareness and involvement.

The key is consistency, creativity, and community connection. Every action—big or small—moves the mission forward.

Working Together for a Stronger Future

Advocacy has always been a cornerstone of the VFW Auxiliary’s mission. By embracing this year’s legislative priorities and actively engaging with the Action Corps, North Carolina auxiliaries can ensure veterans’ needs remain front and center.

Legislative Program Awards for Auxiliaries

2026 Mid-Term elections are happening this fall and your potential Senators and Representatives, both national and state will be campaigning in your district. Invite them to an Auxiliary/VFW event to “meet

the candidates” and let them know the Priority goals for this year.

The most outstanding events to meet candidates and convey the goals and priorities will receive citations!

Let’s make 2026–2027 a year of strong voices, informed members, and meaningful change.



Membershi p

Lyndsey Bowlus
443.655.4570
nikh96@aol.com
1012 Garden Oak Dr.
Indian Trail, NC 28079

At our NC Department, we're more than just a group — we're a team of dedicated anglers casting lines together for a greater purpose. Every Auxiliary member brings their own unique "bait," talents, and experiences to help us reel in support for veterans, military families, and communities across NC. Whether we're organizing events, lending a helping hand to those in need, or building stronger connections within our VFW Auxiliary family, it takes all of us working together to keep the waters strong and our mission moving forward. The friendships, service, and camaraderie we share are the true "big catch" that make our Department so special.

I'm excited and honored to serve you again as your Membership Chairman for 2026–2027! Keep your tackle boxes ready and remember to read the monthly mail — you won't want to miss the opportunities to help your Auxiliaries and Districts "hook" additional funding and support throughout the year!

Thank you for all you do to keep our mission afloat.

Awards for Members!

1. **5 Member Recruiter Pin** to each VFW Auxiliary member who recruits five (5) new and/or rejoined members to the Auxiliary. The pin will be mailed directly to you from National HQ about every 2 months.
2. **5 Member Recruiter Drawing!** Each VFW and VEF Aux member who recruits 5 new and or rejoined members to the Auxiliary will be entered into the 5 Member Recruiter drawing to receive a \$100 Visa Gift Card!
3. **National Membership Achievement Recruiter Award** to each VFW Auxiliary member who recruits twenty (20) new and/or rejoining members to the VFW Auxiliary will receive a National Membership Achievement Recruiter Award. VFW Auxiliary Treasurers on all levels are not eligible for this award.
4. **National Membership Achievement Recruiter Drawing:** Recruit 20 or more new and or rejoining members to the Auxiliary and you'll be entered into the National Membership Achievement Recruiter Drawing to receive a \$400 Visa Gift Card. VFW Recruiters and VFW Auxiliary Treasurers on all levels are not eligible for this award.

New and/or rejoined members must be recruited to the VFW Auxiliary from July 1, 2026 thru May 31, 2027. The Department Treasurer must enter memberships into MALTA with credit given to the recruiter by June 10, 2027.

Awards 2, 3, and 4 will be announced and the awards will be presented at the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

Awards for Auxiliaries

1. \$50 to each Auxiliary that reaches 100% PLUS in membership June 30, 2027*.

Money will be deposited into the VFW Auxiliary account after the 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.



VFW NATIONAL HOME

Jaclyn Jones

Phone: (772) 302-6099

jaclynjones06@gmail.com

Address: 219 Chastain
Drive

Jacksonville, NC 28546

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Let's make 2026–2027 a year of strong voices, informed members, and meaningful change.



SCHOLARSHIP

Leslie Chew

Phone: (516) 635-4996

tiggerr722@gmail.com

384 Rayland Street

Monroe, NC 28118

As your first-time North Carolina Department Scholarships Chairperson, I am truly honored and excited to help promote the incredible scholarship opportunities offered through the VFW Auxiliary. These programs give us the chance to recognize students who demonstrate patriotism, creativity, leadership, and dedication within their schools and communities. I look forward to working together to increase awareness and participation across our Department this year.

Scholarships and youth contests are more than awards—they are opportunities to encourage students to use their voices, share their talents, and connect with the values of citizenship and service. Whether students are writers, artists, musicians, or leaders in their schools, there is a place for them within our programs.

One of my goals this year is to celebrate every student who participates at the local, district, and department levels. Our young people put tremendous effort into their entries, and they deserve to be recognized for their hard work and achievements. I encourage Auxiliaries to find creative ways to honor participants and winners. Consider hosting recognition events, featuring students on social media, or highlighting their accomplishments within your communities. A little recognition can make a lasting impact on a student's confidence and future success.

Please continue sharing photos and success stories throughout the year so we can showcase the amazing work happening across North Carolina. By promoting these programs together, we strengthen our communities and help inspire the next generation.

Continuing Education Scholarship

The Continuing Education Scholarship is a wonderful opportunity that supports members of the VFW Auxiliary, their spouses, and children who wish to further their education. This scholarship is not only a valuable member benefit, but also a meaningful way to encourage personal and professional growth.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

For more than 45 years, the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest has celebrated the talents of young artists across our nation. Students use their creativity to express patriotism through original artwork, and the results are always inspiring.

I encourage Auxiliaries to actively promote this contest within local schools, art programs, and community organizations. Display posters, connect with art teachers, and share information on social media so students have every opportunity to participate. Once permission is granted, place information in areas where students and families are likely to see it.

The Scholarships section of the [VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters website](#) provides complete information regarding eligibility, deadlines, applications, and submission requirements.

3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest

The 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest gives students in grades 9–12 another exciting opportunity to showcase their artistic talents. Entries should reflect patriotism while demonstrating originality and craftsmanship.

Please remember that submissions must include a photograph of the artwork along with the mailed entry. While every effort is made to package artwork carefully, items can occasionally be damaged during shipping. The photograph helps judges evaluate the student's original design and presentation.

VFW Patriot's Pen

The VFW Patriot's Pen program encourages students in grades 6–8 to express their thoughts and ideas through writing. This essay contest continues to inspire middle school students to reflect on patriotism, leadership, and their role within our country and communities.

Our Auxiliaries play an important role in supporting and promoting this program. Through encouragement and outreach, we can help students discover the power of their voices and build confidence in their writing abilities.

VFW Voice of Democracy

The VFW Voice of Democracy Scholarship Program gives high school students in grades 9–12 the opportunity to record and present original essays on patriotic themes. Year after year, students share thoughtful, inspiring messages that remind us why these programs matter so much.

I encourage every Auxiliary to continue growing participation through creative outreach and strong community partnerships. Together, we can make this another successful year for our scholarship programs and continue investing in the future of our students across North Carolina.

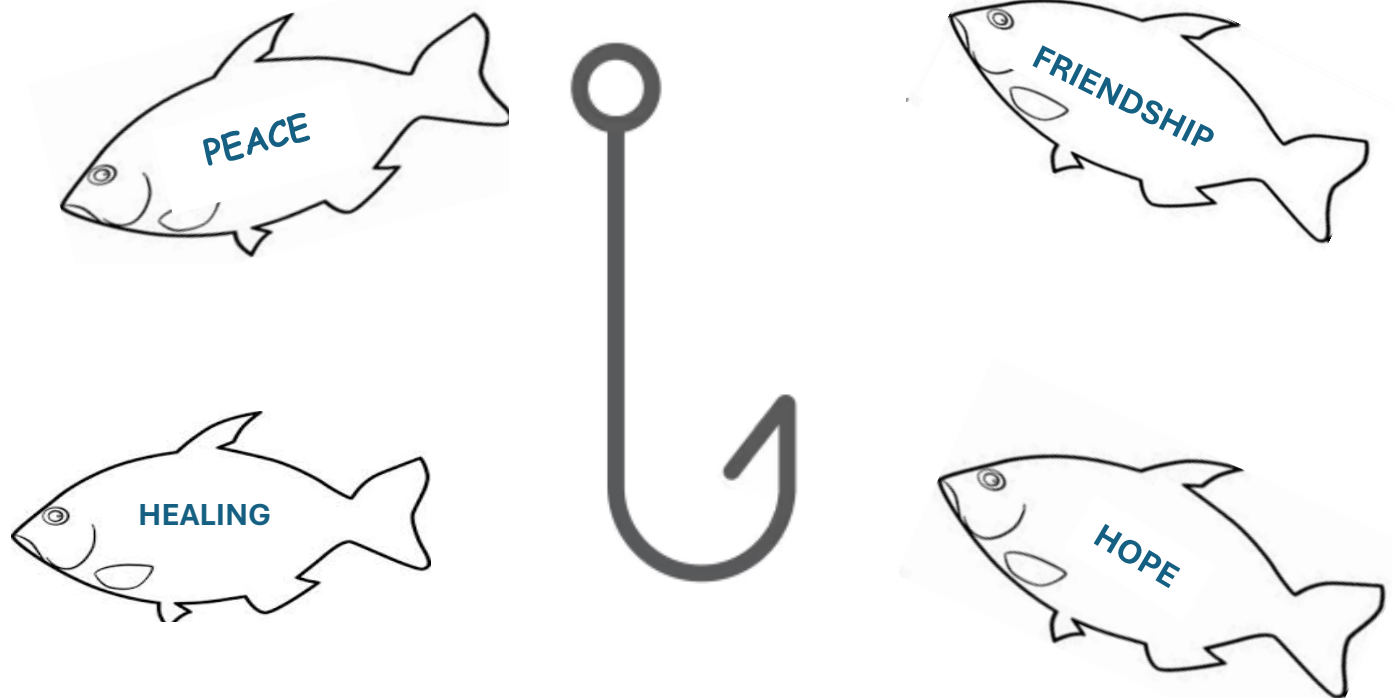
I cannot wait to see what our students come up with this year!

Leslie Chew



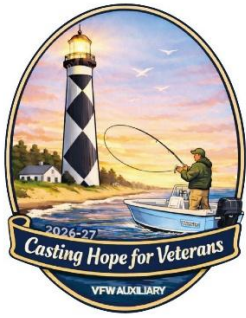
President's Special Project

MARGE GRAY
ml.gray@hotmail.com
PO Box 56
Sparta, NC 28675
704-902-8720



Every cast begins with hope. By supporting the special project- Take a Warrior Fishing, we are giving veterans more than a day on the water- we are providing friendship, peace, healing, and a chance to reconnect with others who understand their journey. Each dollar raised helps create memories, restore spirits, and remind our veterans that they are appreciated and never forgotten. Together, we can cast hope, one fishing trip at a time.

Every donation is another cast of hope for a veteran waiting for a chance to fish, heal, and smile again!



CASTING HOPE FOR VETERANS

SPECIAL PROJECT

Fishing Adventures for Military Heroes



At Take A Warrior Fishing, Inc. we're not just about fishing — we're about creating memories, fostering connections, and showing appreciation for our military community.

Starting as a humble initiative in North Carolina, our vision has always been clear: to offer solace, joy, and camaraderie to those who've worn the nation's uniform because we know that "Fishing Heals." From organizing fishing events on Lakes of North Carolina and to extending our reach towards the Coast of North Carolina and beyond, we're constantly expanding our horizons to ensure every warrior gets a chance to cast their line.

Our commitment is unique and unwavering. We cater to not just Veterans, but the entire spectrum of the military community, be it Active Duty, Reserve, or Retired personnel. With the unwavering support of our boat owner/operators and volunteers, we've carved a niche in offering unparalleled, zero-cost fishing experiences.

Grab your tackle, cast your line, and help us create something bigger than a day on the water- help us cast hope in the lives of our veterans.

Fishing is more than catching fish. It is quiet conversations, laughter shared at sunrise, friendships built at the water's edge, and moments of peace that many veterans seek after service. For some, it becomes a place to heal, reconnect, and simply breathe.

We need your support. Every dollar raised helps create opportunities for veterans to step away from stress, enjoy fellowship, and experience the healing and hope that can be found with a fishing rod in hand and friends by their side. Together we can ensure that no veteran stands alone and that hope keeps flowing, one cast at a time!



Cast a line of hope



Reel in support for our veterans



Help us turn compassion into action

TAKE A WARRIOR FISHING- because sometimes hope begins at the end of a fishing line!

My goal is to raise enough funds to sponsor four events: deep-sea adventure, a pier fishing event, a surf fishing event, and a freshwater event. (Estimated cost: \$20,000)



VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

Johnnie T. Cox Jr.
PO Box 53051
Fayetteville, NC 28305
910-391-4899
J269NFAYNC@ICLOUD.COM

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to be your VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT CHAIR for the 2026-2027 membership year.

The goal of the VFS program is to enhance the wellbeing of veterans and their families, assist veterans with financial aid, and mental health resources, while also helping veterans to navigate benefits. A specific goal of the VFS program that is important to me is that the veteran's caregivers should be able to access the support that is available. We will accomplish these goals by promoting and working VFW-Based Veterans Assistance Programs.

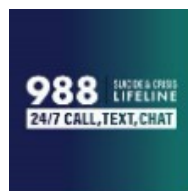
We will focus on Veterans' Mental Health Awareness, Veteran and Veteran Spouse Support and Military member and Spouse Support Programs and Veterans National Services.

The Auxiliary must always focus on suicide and mental health awareness, promoting the education of warning signs and the fact that help is always a text or phone call away -988 (press 1).

The VFW has a Veteran Service Officer in every Department, dedicated to helping our veterans obtain the benefits they earned and sacrificed so much for. The Auxiliary members can be instrumental in directing Veterans to this resource.

The Military Assistance Programs provide financial aid, educational resources, and other forms of support to active-duty service members, veterans, and their families.

I encourage you to follow the monthly mail. There is so much to be learned about the programs in the mail and reminders about important deadlines as well. I look forward to serving with each of you this year as we CAST our HOPE far and wide.





YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Elizabeth Caudill
(706) 831-7853
beth.caudill88@gmail.com
436 Uppergate Ln.
Kernersville, NC 27284

I'm truly excited to step into the role of Youth Activities Ambassador for the NC VFW Auxiliary. For me, this isn't just a position—it's an opportunity to invest in the next generation of members and leaders who will carry our mission forward. There are countless ways to involve our youth—each one an opportunity to instill patriotism, strengthen community ties, and ensure the continued legacy of the VFW. I look forward to seeing everyone's ideas and seeing more youth helping out with our Auxiliaries. Let's strive to teach the next generation about patriotism and service!

VFW Auxiliary Lending Library

The National Ambassador Debbie Little's goal this year is to place Lending libraries in our community to make reading easily accessible for everyone. You can get help with this by contacting a youth group, scout group, or high school shop club to help build a **Lending Library**, or you can easily purchase one on Amazon.

Fill your library with books for our youth and place it in the community where they are easily accessible. And use the #auxlendinglibrary to promote what you are doing for the VFW Auxiliary Lending Library.

Patriotism through literacy.

For me, this is one of my favorite youth activities. As a mother to a school age student I simply choose a book from the suggested book list to read to my child's class. If you have a child or grandchild this is a simple way to introduce our youth to historical figures and teach them about events in our nation's history while fostering a love of reading that can lead to a lifetime of learning. You can find the suggested book list at:

<https://vfwauxca.org/uploads/Documents/25-26%20Programs/PatriotismThroughLiteracyUpdatedList001.pdf>

I would love for our department to strive to make it their mission to spread patriotism through literacy. You can do this by hosting a reading event, supporting your local libraries, reading at schools, or donating books.

Youth Groups

Invite youth to join in Auxiliary activities under the supervision of their adult group(s) leader and/or parents and guardians.

They can help with:

- Serving and bussing tables for fundraising dinners or events.
- Participating in holidays and activities at nursing homes or VA homes.
- Organizing a military night during a local school sporting event.
- Building your lending library.

Illustrating America

DEADLINES: There have been changes to this year's due dates so please take note.

Entries need to be received by:

- VFW Auxiliary – December 15, 2026
- District (optional)- January 2027
- Department – January 15, 2027
- National Headquarters – January 31, 2027

Illustrating America is open to any student in grades K-8. The official form, details on requirements and contest rules can be found in MALTA Member Resources or on the VFW Auxiliary website.

Patriotic Youth Award

The Patriotic Youth Award is designated to recognize individual youth for their patriotism and/or support of our veterans, service members, and their families. A fillable, printable version of The Patriotic Youth Award is available in MALTA Member Resources under Youth Activities.

Youth Group Supporting our Veterans Citation

The youth groups Supporting Our Veterans Citation is one way for VFW Auxiliaries to recognize youth groups for their efforts and service projects honoring our veterans and assisting service members and their families. The Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citation is available in MALTA Member Resources under Youth Activities.

VFW Scout of the Year Program

The VFW Scout of the Year program recognizes members of Scouting of America and Girls Scouts of the United States of America for their standout citizenship, patriotism, and love of country.

The official form, details and rules are located at:

<https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/scout-of-the-year>