Casting Hope for Veterans

Lin Moore
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October 2026

Auxiliary Members,

I hope this message finds you encouraged as we continue Casting Hope for Veterans. Thank you for the work you do to support our veterans, families, youth, and communities as we carry out the mission of our organization.

District meetings have now been completed, and I appreciate those who made the effort to attend and represent their Auxiliaries. Our District Presidents put time and thought into planning effective meetings that provide important information, encourage communication, and give members an opportunity to share ideas and resources. When an Auxiliary is not represented, it misses valuable updates that could benefit its members and strengthen its work. I kindly ask each Auxiliary to make representation at future District meetings a priority so we can stay connected, informed, and better prepared to serve our veterans together.

After reviewing assessments, I encourage each Auxiliary to take time during meetings to discuss our programs and the many ways they support veterans, families, youth, and communities. Please read Department mail carefully, as it often provides helpful guidance, updates, and ideas that can strengthen our program work. Our chairmen do an excellent job promoting the programs and providing information to help Auxiliaries succeed, but their efforts are most effective when members listen, share the information, and put those programs into action. By keeping programs part of our regular conversations, we remain focused on our mission and continue Casting Hope for Veterans in meaningful ways.

Program reporting remains very important. Accurate and timely reporting helps document the service hours, donations, projects, and outreach completed by our members. These reports show the true impact of our Auxiliary and help ensure that our efforts to cast hope for veterans, families, youth, and communities are recognized at the District, Department, and National levels. Please submit program information as soon as possible after each activity.

Thank you to everyone who contributed monetary donations, prizes, and support for our Breast Cancer Awareness efforts and the Pretty in Pink Foundation. Your generosity helps bring attention to an important cause and demonstrates the compassion and commitment of our membership. Acts of kindness like these reflect the spirit of hope we strive to share in all areas of service.

Casting Hope for Veterans

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October 2026

As we continue our work, we must make a clear commitment to working together as one Auxiliary. Personality conflicts, personal differences, and negative words or actions have no place in the work we are called to do. Our mission is too important to be overshadowed by division. I encourage every member to choose respect, communicate with kindness, and support one another so we can remain focused on serving veterans, strengthening our Auxiliaries, and Casting Hope for Veterans together.

Working together also means respecting and using the chain of command. This process is in place to help concerns be handled fairly, respectfully, and effectively. Officers are here to help, answer questions, and provide guidance, but we cannot address concerns or problems if they are not brought forward through the proper channels. I encourage every member to communicate clearly and responsibly so issues can be resolved, trust can be strengthened, and we can continue moving forward together in service to our veterans.

Membership is the lifeblood of our Auxiliary, and each of us has a role in helping it grow. I encourage every Auxiliary to consider holding a membership drive and to actively invite eligible individuals to learn more about who we are and what we do. This is also a wonderful opportunity to welcome the community by hosting an event at the Post or holding an open house. Inviting neighbors, families, schools, civic groups, and community partners gives us a chance to share our mission, highlight our programs, and show how we are Casting Hope for Veterans through service, fellowship, and community connection.

Thank you for your continued dedication, service, and support. Our Auxiliary is strongest when we communicate, participate, and work together toward shared goals. I look forward to all that we will accomplish in the coming months as we continue Casting Hope for Veterans and strengthening the communities we serve.

Loyally,
Lin

Lin Moore
VFW Auxiliary
President
Department of North Carolina

A Message from the Department Treasurer
October 2026
Vfwauxnc.org



Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome to Fall. There is a lot going on. Many of you will be having fall festivals in your community. This is a great time to have a membership drive and not only gather new members but also gather the dues of your current members.

From this point forward, any application received that is incomplete, missing information, or has incorrect information, the application will be mailed back to the Auxiliary to be corrected. Please make sure the investigating committee is thoroughly reviewing the applications before recommending the application be accepted. If an application has to be returned, it delays the applicant's membership joining date and eligibility for benefits.

This also goes for your quarterly audits. Too many are being submitted that are out of balance. Missing information, especially the date the audit was presented to the members to be voted on and accepted as presented. This information is required. If the date is not provided, then the audit is not complete and will be returned. I am going to be preparing a step by step audit instruction for all trustees and treasurers.

Recently I reminded you to review your membership rosters for deceased members and to report those members in MALTA. It is important to do this as once National begins this process, they will withdraw from your bank account any life member dues payout your Auxiliary received on a deceased member. This could create a bookkeeping nightmare if you don't stay on top of it.

Now, as you start to research your elderly members, you will probably notice a number of your members have a date of birth of 01/01/????. So, you might think it isn't a match. Chances are it is. When MALTA was created many birthdates were unknown and a birthdate of 01/01 was entered for the member. Now, in addition to checking for deceased members, you should print out your membership roster and contact your members to verify their dates of birth. When you have the correct dates of birth, create a list with the member's name, membership number and correct date of birth. Send it to me and I will submit it to National to make corrections. This was recently done for an Auxiliary for 33 members. National corrected this in a matter of minutes. It is important to have accurate information on the members in MALTA. And this responsibility falls on you, the treasurer.

REQUEST: If you change your contact information, email, phone number. Etc.- not only should you update this in MALTA, but please let me know as well. I cannot send information if I do not have the correct information. Thank you.

I hope to see you at Council of Administration meeting in Greensboro. We hope to beholding some training classes on Friday.

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



Strength is what we gain from the struggles we overcome.

VFW AUXILIARY
Department of North Carolina

Deborah Crowder, Secretary

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

October 2026

Happy Halloween! My notes this month are not meant to trick – just treat. Treat you to some helpful hints. I will tie my subject matter to the Department Treasurer's helpful hints on how to prepare an audit. So, Presidents, Treasurers, Secretaries, Trustees, and anyone who may be called on to fulfill the duties of any of these offices, please read!

MINUTES! If you are the Secretary of your Auxiliary or your District, please be sure to read this message. Shoot! Even if you're not the Secretary, please read. Who knows, you might be asked to take the minutes if the Secretary is not present. You might ask, what is the big deal? I'll just say the meeting was called to order by the President, the roll was called, we said the prayer and the pledge, talked about a fundraiser, said the closing prayer and closed the meeting. What's missing? **A LOT!**

- ♦ The name and number of the Auxiliary/District
- ♦ Meeting date and location
- ♦ The time the meeting was called to order
- ♦ Number of members present
- ♦ The name of the person calling the meeting to order

For example: President Mary Jones *Or*, Senior Vice President Susan Wilson

- ♦ Was it a Regular or Called meeting?

Yes, there is more, lots more! Everything you need to know can be found in publications presented by National either in the Bylaws and Ritual book or Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation – you can access both in MALTA under Member Resources. Note: EVERY member has access to these sections in MALTA. The yellow section of the Bylaws and Ritual book is a very valuable to tool for more than just how to record the minutes of your meeting. More WHYs? Why do we need so much detail? Why do I need to record the name of the person making a motion and the name of the person seconding a motion? What was the motion? Did it specify how much money we would spend and what fund it would come from? If it was to raise money, did it specify what fund would receive the proceeds? Why are those details important? One reason is to be sure the members actually approve of fundraising activities and the expenditure of funds. Say you are a Trustee who was out of town during the last meeting, but now find yourself meeting with the other Trustees to audit the Treasurer's books. You are looking at a deposit slip for $560.00 that went into the General Fund and a note on the slip says proceeds from the chili cookoff. The Secretary's minutes reflect that a motion was made,

seconded, and carried, to deposit the chili cookoff proceeds into the Relief Fund. It isn't fraud. It is just a simple mistake in posting to the Treasurer's ledger. The money is accounted for, just recorded in the wrong fund. This is an example of why it is important for the Secretary to have detailed minutes. It is also an example of why it is important for the Trustees to be sure to inspect both the Treasurer's and the Secretary's book when performing the audit. Another reason is to document the good and wonderful things the Auxiliary does in support of veterans. Hopefully, someone in the Auxiliary is reporting all of these events.

The Secretary's minutes do NOT have to reflect every word. For example, when someone makes a motion to sent $100.00 to the assigned VAMC, the Secretary records the name of the person making the motion, the name of the person who seconds the motion, and then states that after a brief discussion, the motion carried or was approved. OR, it might be that there was no discussion so the minutes would reflect that there was no discussion and the motion carried OR failed. The same holds true for recording program promotions. When the program chairman gives a report, the Secretary records the major facts - What, Where, When, Who participated, etc.

The minutes should end with "Closing ceremonies were conducted in accordance with the Ritual, and the meeting was adjourned." Information regarding the next meeting can be added at this point, followed by the Secretary's signature, and typed name. See pages 11 - 15 in the yellow section of the Bylaws and Ritual book for more details on formatting of the minutes.

Common Questions:

1) Can the Secretary tape record the meeting? The answer is yes **IF** the members vote to allow it. Some Auxiliaries include this in their Standing Rules. Keep in mind that Standing Rules can be revised at any meeting with a quorum.

2) What happens to the taped minutes? After the minutes are approved at a subsequent meeting, the recording can be destroyed.

3) Can the Secretary email the minutes to the members to avoid having to read them at the next meeting. The answer is the same as question 1 above.

4) What happens if there needs to be a correction to the minutes? Does the Secretary have to write them over? The correction should be written on the printed copy in the Secretary's books. The minutes should not be recreated.

If you have questions, be sure to check MALTA!

Americanism

★ October 2026 ★



★ Contact ★

Sherry Brooks

Phone: 704 578 5873

Email: sbrooks1045@gmail.com

65 S Park Road
N Wilkesboro, NC 28659

"If you want something you've never had, you must be willing to do something you've never done."
– Thomas Jefferson



As we enter the month of October, let us reflect on the heroes of our country.

★ **PLEASE USE THE RESOURCES IN MALTA FOR AMERICANISM**
And remember to REPORT, REPORT, REPORT. ★



★ ★ **$25 gift card drawn at random at C of A in October.** ★ ★

★ Patriotic Days in October ★

First Sunday in October	National Firefighters Memorial Day (flags at half-staff)
October 7	Global War on Terrorism & Desert Storm Veterans Day
2nd Monday in October	Columbus Day
October 13	Navy Birthday
October 26	National Day of the Deployed
October 27	Navy Day (honors birthday of Theodore Roosevelt, avid supporter of Navy)



★ ACTIVITIES for October ★











1. Please remember to continue **FLAG EDUCATION** in our schools.
2. **America's White Table** by Margot Theis Raven is a wonderful book to read in elementary schools and then present at the Missing Man Table Ceremony. This is also good for scouts and teaches them to perform the ceremony to members of their community. This can be found on Google, Pinterest, etc.
3. Use Malta resources to print the bookmarks for National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance (there are 2 versions).
4. Play **Patriotic Bingo** — available on Amazon. amazon
5. Using Card Stock, draw flag and let nursing home, class, scout troop, youth group, glue craft pom poms onto paper to create their own American flag.

Remember... Honor ★ Educate ★ Inspire



Denise Zink
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214 Ryder Ct.
Winston Salem, NC 27107

“BUDDY” ® POPPY
October 2026

We celebrate Columbus Day in the month of October. If you can set up teaching time with adults and/or children, you can highlight this historical event along with how the red poppy symbolizes remembrance of war and sacrifices that were made for our freedom. Think about reading to your group the poem “In Flanders Fields” by John McCrae, written in 1915. If they are old enough, ask if anyone would like to read the poem. Explain the history of the poem; that John McCrae was inspired by the death (service) of his friend Lieutenant Alexis Helmer after the second battle of Ypres. John McCrae was a medical officer, and he presided over Helmer’s funeral, which prompted him the write the poem. Depending on the age group, you may want to choose your words by saying “sacrificed in service” instead of “died in service”.

Here is a fun and easy craft for children:

- **Cupcake Liner Poppies:**
  Material needed: Red cupcake liners, black construction paper, glue stick, scissors
  Directions: Flatten several red cupcake liners. Children can gently crinkle and layer two or three liners, gluing them together at the center for a fuller “poppy”. Cut a small black circle from the construction paper and glue it to the center of the cupcake liner.

Are you thinking about creating a “BUDDY” ® POPPY Display for entry in the “BUDDY” ® POPPY display contest at the mid-winter Council of Administration? It’s not too early to start planning. Be sure to read all the rules on this contest as judging will follow the set rules exactly. You can find the rules by going to MALTA, click on Member Resources, click on Buddy Poppy, then click on Buddy Poppy Display Contest Rules. Please note, the deadline dates on the rules have not been updated since the 2026 National Contest deadlines. The dates showing pertain to the National entries for the Department winners etc. and will be updated at a later date.



Farres H. Upton
(336) 889-4133

Extension & Revitalization

The word Extension means to add. We can strengthen our organization by forming new Auxiliaries. We need to look for areas where an Auxiliary could be an asset.

Does your District have a bachelor Post? Have you noticed that VFW Post that has an Auxiliary, has greater participation in the programs, and events.

TO CREATE AN AUXILIARY

In accordance with the VFW Bylaws, a notice is to be mailed or emailed to each Post member, advising them that members will be voting on having an Auxiliary and that the vote will take place at a specific meeting.

1: Two-thirds (2/3 majority vote of the Post members present is required to set in action the formation of a new Auxiliary to that Post

2: The Department President appoints the official organizer of that VFW Auxiliary, and the organizer must be a member of the VFW Auxiliary.

3: A minimum of 15 eligible applicants must be on the Charter application. Eight (8) new applicants, plus seven (7) at large members are acceptable.

New members are an asset to our organization, as well as a member who has belonged for many years. Each individual is a valuable resource for our organization and we need to continue to nurture them.

As we are “SERVING AMERICA’S HEROES”, and “CASTING HOPE FOR VETERANS”, let us strive to honor those who made and are still making untold sacrifices to assure us of the freedoms we enjoy daily, and to lead the citizens of this Country in remembering them. Only through strong and active Auxiliaries will we be able to accomplish this goal.



Fundraising

October 2026

Jaclyn Jones
(772) 302-6099
jaclynjones06@gmail.com
219 Chastain Drive
Jacksonville, NC 28546

REEL IN THE FUN

Department of North Carolina VFW Auxiliary
Ways &Means
On Team. One Mission. Endless Impact.

COME TOSS A FISH & TAKE A CHANCE!

October is here, and we're kicking things off with a splash at the Council of Administration!

Join us on **Friday, October 2, from 6–8 p.m.** during the Comrades' Cornhole Tournament for Fish Tossin' fun! Test your tossing skills, win some awesome prizes and purchase raffle tickets for a chance to win our raffle basket!

FISH TOSSIN'

$2	**$10**
1 Fish Toss	6 Fish Tosses

Don't forget to purchase your raffle basket tickets!

Raffle ticket prices and drawing details to be announced.

KEEP THE FUNDRAISING FUN GOING!

The fun doesn't end at the Council of Administration! This October, let's challenge our Auxiliaries to get creative with fall fundraising. Whether it's a themed dinner, bake sale, raffle or something entirely new, every fundraiser helps strengthen our programs and support our mission.

Share your fundraising photos, ideas and successes. Let's inspire one another and see what we can accomplish together!

Every Toss Counts. Every Ticket Matters.

One Team. One Mission. Endless Impact.



Barbara Beard
VFW Auxiliary
Department of North Carolina
Historian/Media Relations
October 2026
198 Oakridge Dr
Raeford, NC 28376
(910) 634-4357
barbeard56@gmail.com

Preserve Today... Inspire Tomorrow!

OUR HISTORY SHINES BRIGHTER TOGETHER

VFW AUXILIARIES

LIGHTS ★ CAMERA ★ OUR HISTORY!

CAPTURE
PRESERVE
SHARE
EDUCATE
INSPIRE

Create a Movie or Reel Recording the History of Your Auxiliary in Chronological Order

1. CHARTERED BEGINNINGS
- Share pictures and stories of when the Auxiliary was chartered and its chartered members.

2. HOSPITAL VISITS
- Show members participating in hospital visits.

3. PATRIOTIC HOLIDAYS
- Show how members participate in patriotic holidays.

4. MILESTONES
- Show how members celebrate milestones (birthdays, anniversaries, etc.).

5. PROGRAM PROMOTION
- Show how members promote our programs (newsletters, radio, television, and social media).

6. YOUTH & SCHOLARSHIPS
- Show how you work with youth groups and promote scholarship.

7. BUDDY POPPY & VFW NATIONAL HOME
- Show the importance of the Buddy Poppy and the support for the VFW National Home.

8. SUPPORTING VETERANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS
- Show how we support our veterans and their family members.

9. MEMBERSHIP DRIVES
- Show your membership drives and how you welcome new members.

Publish your movie or reel to a digital platform for future members of your auxiliary by

March 31, 2027.

Make sure you save a copy to place in your archives.

VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the VFW Auxiliary Department Historian & Media Relations Chairman by **March 31, 2027** for judging.

Our Past ~ Our Stories ~ A Stronger Tomorrow!

SAIL INTO HISTORY

VFW AUXILIARY HOSPITAL PROGRAM

Making a Difference in the Lives of Our Veterans

NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT

★ CHAIRPERSON ★

Debra Smith

Phone: (336) 928-5159 | Email: dmsmith359@gmail.com

Address: 1065 S. Oakgrove Ext. • Millers Creek, NC 28651

Support Our Veterans Through Service, Compassion & Community!



★ THE AUXILIARY HOSPITAL CHAIR

The Auxiliary Hospital Chair is appointed by the Auxiliary President.

DUTIES OF THE AUXILIARY HOSPITAL CHAIR:

- ★ Assure support for the hospital program by communicating to VFW Auxiliary members the importance of hospital work.
- ★ Recruit hospital volunteers.
- ★ Raise funds for hospital needs and programs.
- ★ Report needed items for the hospital and work with members in making those items.
- ★ Plan activities/projects for the VA and non-VA facilities to be approved by the VFW Auxiliary.
- ★ Work closely with the VAVS Representative or other Facility Representative and report any pertinent information to them.
- ★ Order service pins for ALL VFW Auxiliary volunteers in both VA and non-VA facilities (the form can be found in MALTA Member Resources).
- ★ Request the number of members working, the number of hours, the number of miles, and the monetary amount from the VAVS Representative to complete a monthly/annual report to reflect information required on the Department Report form.
- ★ Request the number of members and hours worked from the Supervisor of Volunteers at non-VA medical facilities.

★ REPORTING HOSPITAL WORK

VFW Auxiliary Hospital Chair may be required to complete the hospital report forms as directed by the Department Hospital Chair.

HOSPITAL SERVICE PINS & RECOGNITION AWARDS



- ★ The local VFW Auxiliary Hospital Chair orders pins for ALL Members.
- ★ Pins bearing the VFW Auxiliary emblem and designating the number of hours a volunteer has devoted to hospital work will be awarded to members meeting the eligibility requirements noted below.
- ★ Pins earned in all non-VA facilities must be ordered by the local VFW Auxiliary Hospital Chair.
- ★ Forms for ordering pins and recognition awards are available on the VFW Auxiliary website www.vfwauxiliary.org or by contacting the VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters, ATTN: Program Awards Administrator.
- ★ Volunteer hours at VA and non-VA facilities may be combined for awards purposes.

★ VA & NON-VA VOLUNTEER INFORMATION ★

1. **VA MEDICAL CENTERS:**
   Obtain from the VAVS Representative the information concerning the number of members and total hours volunteered. Credit for members volunteering at a VA Medical Center located in another state shall be given to the VFW Auxiliary and Department where the volunteer holds membership.
2. **NON-VA FACILITIES:**
   Obtain from the Hospital Representative the information concerning the number of members and total hours volunteered at local non-VA facilities.

NOTE:

- ★ An individual who volunteers is counted as one volunteer for reporting purposes, no matter how many times he/she volunteers.
- ★ Members may only represent one organization at a time per facility and must be wearing something that identifies them as a member of the VFW Auxiliary.



VOLUNTEERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

★ **EXAMPLE:** Member Linda is a regularly scheduled volunteer in a VA facility, where she volunteers 75 hours. She then volunteers at a non-VA hospital with another 75 hours. She may combine those hours for the 150-hour VFW Auxiliary Pin in addition to any awards offered by the VAVS program.

★ THE VA'S STOCK IS SUPER LOW!! ★

They once again need snacks for Day Surgery, outpatient clinics, CLC, Oncology, Hospice, and Mental Health programming.

If you can donate snacks or drinks, please remember they have expiration dates; check the dates before delivering.

THEY NEED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

- ★ Snacks – packaged individually
- ★ Crackers (peanut butter, cheese, etc.)
- ★ Trail Mix
- ★ Chips
- ★ Little Debbie snacks
- ★ Individual cookies – Fig Newtons, Oreos, Chips Ahoy, etc.
- ★ Chewy Granola Bars
- ★ Drinks: canned soda - ginger ale
- ★ Juice (small bottles or cans – any flavors)
- ★ Sweatpants: large, xl, 3xl, 4xl & 5 xl (no sweatshirts)
- ★ Individual packets of hot chocolate and spiced cider
- ★ Women's items- hairbrushes
- ★ Fingernail & toenail clippers & cuticle files
- ★ Colored pencils (10-12 pk), adult coloring books and composition books & pencil sharpeners
- ★ 2027 calendars
- ★ Readers – all magnifications

★ This list is a general list of needs. Please check with your assigned VA Medical Center for specific needs before donating. ★

Every donation, every volunteer hour, and every act of kindness helps us show our veterans that they are remembered, appreciated and supported.



Thank you for supporting our veterans with your time and donations!

CHARLES GEORGE VA MEDICAL CENTER

Joyce B. Preston – VAVS Representative
706 Warrior Drive
Tryon, North Carolina 28782
Home: 828-859-5286 **Email: jbpreston99@yahoo.com** **Mobile: 828-817-0939**
Debra Smith – VAVS Deputy **Bessie Bright – Assistant VAVS Deputy** **Willie Glance – Honorary VAVS**

October 2026

The Western North Carolina VA Health Care System is honored to host its 2nd annual Pink Platoon 5K Run/Walk at the Charles George VA Medical Center on **Saturday, October 10th, starting at 9:00 a.m**. In commitment to the countless people impacted by breast cancer, this event is dedicated to fostering health, solidarity, and hope for our community. **Participants are encouraged to show their support by *pinking-out* in their brightest pink attire — tutus especially welcome!**

Can find all the information to participate on the Charles George VA Medical Center Website

The VA is still in need of the following:

DRINKS: CANNED SODA - GINGER ALE JUICE (SMALL BOTTLES OR CANS - ANY FLAVORS)
SNACKS (CRACKERS, CHIPS, COOKIES, MOON PIES, BUDDY BARS, CAKE ROLLS, ETC)
SWEATPANTS: LARGE, XL, 3XL, 4XL & 5 XL (NO SWEATSHIRTS)
INDIVIDUAL PACKETS OF HOT CHOCOLATE AND SPICED CIDER
WOMEN'S ITEMS- HAIRBRUSHES FINGERNAIL & TOENAIL CLIPPERS & CUTICLE FILES
COLORED PENCILS (10-12 PK), ADULT COLORING BOOKS AND COMPOSITION BOOKS & PENCIL SHARPENERS
2027 CALENDARS
READERS- ALL MAGNIFICATIONS

The patients ready do need the twiddle muffs, and robotic pets.



God Bless America & Our Troops!

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



Durham VA Supporters:



On August 18, Dept. President Lin presented the Special Project check from 2025-26 to the Durham VA to support mental health awareness and treatment programs for veterans being treated there. Pictured with President Lin on the left is Kendra Mondren, VAVS/CDCE Chief at the Durham VA, and on the right is Peter Tillman, Acting Director of the Durham VA Healthcare System.

The Silent Auction Fall Festival is Friday, October 16. The information for this was sent out a few weeks ago. If you are donating a basket or items, please be sure to have them there by October 14.

The holiday season will be here before we know it. And our Veterans will need our support and donations to help them have a happy and healthy holiday.

The Thanksgiving Food Bag Drive is underway. Donations are accepted November 1-21. The drop-off location is at the Durham VA, 508 Fulton St, Durham, Monday-Friday, between 8:30 -3:30. If you call ahead, you can make arrangements for someone to meet you outside to collect your donations. Please help by donating the following items in a paper bag to make it easier for transport by the Social Worker team.

Canned Hams	Boxed Cornbread
Canned veggies	Ready-made gravy
Canned Yams	Instant Mashed Potatoes/Stuffing
Cranberry Sauce	Easy boxed desserts



Gift cards to Food Lion, Walmart or Harris Teeter are also accepted, but these must be received no later than November 13, 2026, so the shopping can be done on behalf of the veterans.



Before we know it, this warm weather we are enjoying will soon turn to cold. And coats will be needed to keep warm, dry, and comfortable. Operation Cold Front is now accepting NEW WINTER COATS to provide to veterans who are in need of assistance in the upcoming winter season. Offices in all 3 of the locations (Durham, 508 Fulton St, Durham; Garner VA Clinic, 2700 Benson Rd, Garner; and Greenville VA HCC, 401 Moye Blvd, Greenville) will be accepting donations. Please email vhavhadurvoluntaryservices@va.gov to schedule a drop-off. Coats may be of all colors, but recommended colors are neutral, such as black, blue, beige, or brown. Both men's and women's coats in sizes ranging from Medium to 4XLL are needed. Our veterans deserve the best. And they deserve to be warm.

Next month, I will be providing information for the Veteran Gifting Tree for the Christmas wishes for the Veterans.

Your support of our Veterans is greatly appreciated.

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

FAYETTEVILLE VA MEDICAL CENTER
2300 Ramsey Street
Fayetteville, NC 28301
October 2026 Newsletter

Hey! Hey! Hey! Fall is finally on the Way!!! I know it's not going to last, but one can wish!

Fayetteville VA is in full Fall Array! Most of our Veterans are happy to have some cool days and many are ready for the changing of the leaves.

Yesterday "The Senior Queens" were on campus. That's right!! Some of the Senior Queens of the Lumbee Tribe of North Carolina made their way to the Fayetteville VA Medical Center. Once there, the Queens did a one-hour music program for the CLC Residents and Guests. They were dressed in their Ribbon Skirts and Native attire. They were also joined by the reigning 2026 Senior Miss Lumbee, Ms. Lottie Locklear.



Pictured left to right are:

Ms. Wanda Locklear-McCall (2016-2017)

Ms. Carolyn McNeill-Emanuel (2024-2025)

Ms. Lottie Locklear (2026-2027)

Ms. Linda Revels-Lowery (2011-2012)

Ms. Wanda Hammonds (2018-2019)

They must have liked the program, because they have already booked them for a Christmas Concert in December 2026. The date is TBD. However, we know food, presents, Mrs. Claus, the big man himself, and beautiful Music are all on the program.

Our needs list for this month is as follows:

Gift Cards ($10) Gas Stations

Gift Cards ($20) Food Lion / Walmart

Gift Cards ($20, $50, $100)

20 Veteran Canteen Service (VCS) Gift Cards

Welcome Home Kit Items (Kitchen): Pots & Pans, Plates, Bowls, Cups, Glasses, Silverware, Dish Cloths, Pot Holders, Paper Towels, Dish Washing Liquid

Welcome Home Kit Items (Linens/Household): Shower Curtains, Shower Curtain Rings, Blankets, Sheets (Twin & Full), Pillows, Wash Cloths, Bath Towels, Toilet Tissue, Cleaning Supplies, Hygiene Supplies, Comforters, Air Mattresses (built in air pump)

Welcome Home Kit Items (Cleaning Supplies): floor cleaner, toilet cleaner, laundry detergent, spray cleaner, general cleaning supplies, etc.

Personal Care Items: Full Size 3 In 1 Body Wash / Shampoo / Conditioner

Personal Care Items: Reading Glasses +3.00

Thank you for all that you do for our Veterans.

Loyally Serving,

Wanda Locklear-McCall

VAVS Representative

Fayetteville

2026-2027

CDCE Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive

Help us provide Veterans with a Thanksgiving meal in a bag.



Please donate a pre-filled Thanksgiving Meal Bag containing all of the items listed below.

Be mindful of expiration dates.

Each bag should include:

- Canned Yams
- Canned Ham
- Cranberry Sauce
- Canned Vegetables
- Canned/Jarred Gravy
- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Mac and Cheese
- Boxed Stuffing
- Corn Bread
- Rolls/Biscuits

Please drop off donations by: November 9, 2026 11am

Drop off location:

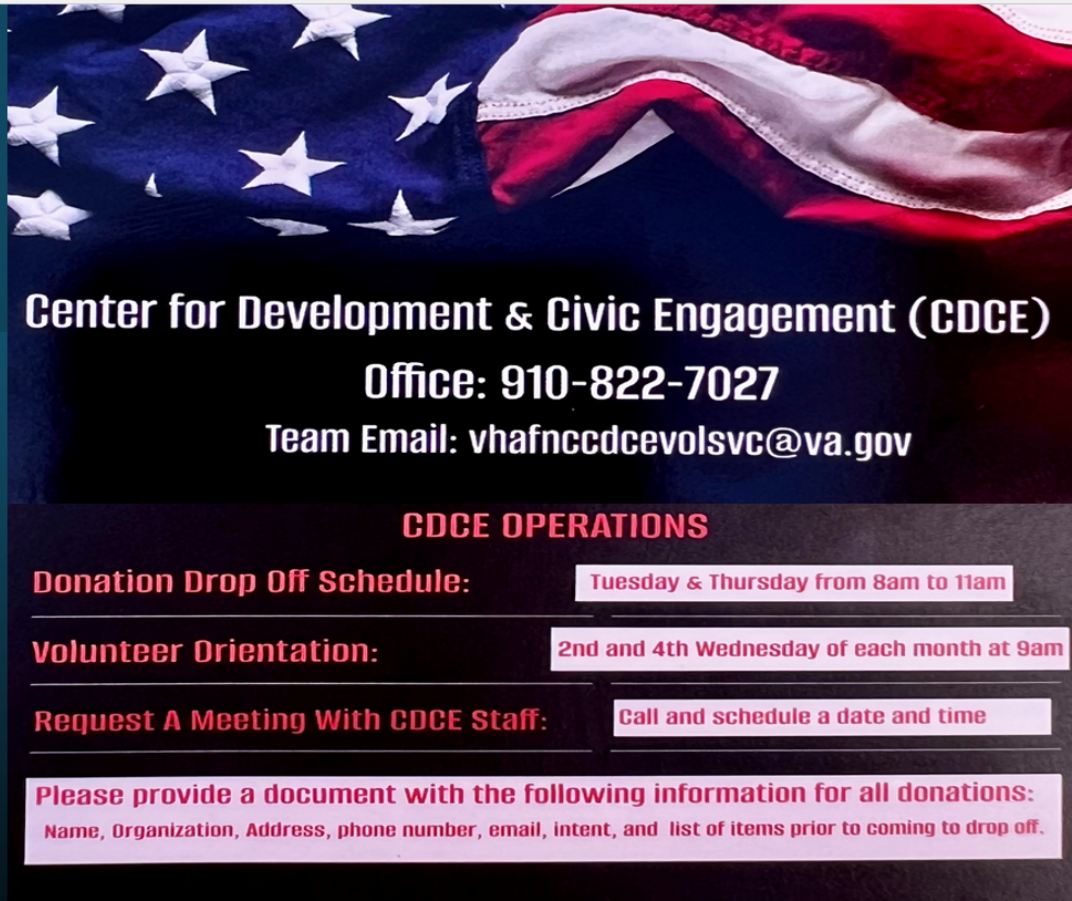
2300 Ramsey Street
Fayetteville, NC 28301
Building 48, Room 127
(910) 822-7027
vhafnccdeevolsvc@va.gov

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Donations & Volunteering

CDCE

Ramsey Street,
BLDG 48, Room 127



SALISBURY VA MEDICAL CENTER

1601 Brenner Ave., Salisbury, NC

OCTOBER

Autumn will arrive soon, we will have cooler weather, leaves begin to fall, and we start thinking about Halloween. Plan to make Halloween special for our Veterans at the Salisbury VA.

Decorations are welcome, as well as Halloween treat bags. Take your youth volunteers with you to distribute your Halloween treats. Encourage them to wear their Halloween costumes, you will see many smiles.

ADOPT A WARD PROGRAM

PURPOSE: Support inpatient units with celebrations, activities and supplies. You are only required to visit the unit once a month. Remembering birthdays and holidays are important, as many Veterans in these wards have no family.

The need for volunteers grows daily. It is amazing how quickly a Veteran's face lights up when a smiling volunteer walks into a room. Time, patience, support, and love are some of the "SPECIAL CARE" needs our volunteers so willingly fulfill.

VOLUNTARY SERVICES NEEDS

Body Wash
Lotion
Vaseline (brand preferred)
Toothpaste
Alcohol free aftershave and mouthwash
Plastic frame reading glasses (1.O—3.75

IMPORTANT NOTES
No alcohol containing products
No wire frame glasses
Donations should be made to Voluntary Services /CDCE with proper paperwork.

Thank you for supporting the needs of our Veterans at the Salisbury VA Medical Center.

Farres Upton
VAVS Representative



Legislative

Emily Ball
(919) 749-9223
crackedm1974@yahoo.com
4245 Chippenham Court
Graham, NC 27253

"Happiness isn't a destination; it is a way of life." – Author Unknown

One Step Closer…

The VFW Fall Legislative Conference just occurred in September. The VFW Legislative Committee and the VFW Auxiliary joined forces on Capitol Hill to advocate and advance legislation for veterans and their families.

Among the issues that were discussed:

→Protect veterans' disability compensation from legislative offsets and remove Section 108 from the Take Car of America's Veterans Act

→Pass the clean and complete Major Richard Star Act to end an unjust offset for combat-injured veterans

→Pass the TAP Promotion Act to better connect transitioning service members with accredited claims representatives and the benefits they've earned

→Pass the Written Informed Consent Act to ensure veterans receive clear information about the benefits, risks and alternatives associated with long-term psychiatric medications

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you to Congresswoman **Nancy Mace** (SC) for providing the critical 218th signature needed to advance the Major Richard Star Act!



IT'S OCTOBER, HAVE YOU HOSTED YOUR "MEETS THE CANDIDATES" FORUM TO BE ENTERED INTO THE DRAWING???

Every conversation matters. Every relationship matters. Every voice matters.

Review the VFW Priority Goals

Sign-up and respond to VFW Action Corp

Review current VFW Key Bills in Congress

Find your Legislators here; Communicate (via phone or email) with them



Membership

October 2026

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

We're not scary – Join us!

October is here, and while ghosts, goblins, and things that go bump in the night may be scary, joining the VFW Auxiliary certainly shouldn't be!

Let's make it our mission to invite someone new to experience what our Auxiliary is all about. Whether it's supporting veterans, helping military families, participating in community events, or simply enjoying the camaraderie of fellow members, there's a place for everyone!

Don't let potential members be spooked by the unknown. A friendly invitation could be all it takes to turn a prospective member into a lifelong Auxiliary friend!

Membership Tip: No Tricks, Just Treats!

Host a "We Aren't Scary… Join Us!" membership event this October!
Invite prospective members to a casual gathering where they can meet current members, enjoy refreshments, and learn about the Auxiliary in a relaxed, welcoming environment.
Here are a few fun ways to encourage participation:

- **Bring a Boo!** Challenge every member to bring a friend, family member, or eligible prospective member to your next event.
- **Treat Them to Membership!** Host a coffee social, Halloween-themed gathering, or fall open house where guests can learn about your Auxiliary.
- **Take the Mystery Out of Joining!** Share information about eligibility, membership benefits, volunteer opportunities, and how easy it is to get involved.
- **Don't Ghost Your Guests!** Follow up with everyone who attends, thank them for coming, and personally invite them to your next activity.

Remember, you don't have to wait for someone to ask about joining. Sometimes, all it takes is a simple invitation: "We'd love to have you join us! Come see what our Auxiliary is all about. There's no pressure, just great people doing great things for our veterans."

Congrats to the Auxiliaries at 100% already!

District 1 10950	District 4 9810 & 11119	District 5 8866 & 10226	District 7 10999	District 8 10630
District 11 1119	District 12 6365 & 9134	District 14 4066	District 15 7031 & 7946	District 17 6812



Membership

October 2026

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



VFW Auxiliary Dept. of NC Membership Report

President: Lin Moore | 2026-27 | Chairman: Lyndsey Bowlus

Date: 09.23-2026 | Western · Courtney Brown

District 11 Pres Denise Zink

Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 Mbrs.	Percent
1119	Cooleemee	30	11	31	103.33%
5352	Kernersville	142	82	99	69.72%
7794	Elkin	31	16	19	61.29%
9010	Clemmons	53	46	46	86.79%
9436	Pilot Mountain	61	25	46	75.41%
	TOTALS	**317**	**180**	**241**	**76.03%**

District 15 Pres Marge Gray

Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 Mbrs.	Percent
1142	N. Wilkesboro	83	71	76	91.57%
4286	Newland	37	24	33	89.19%
7031	Boone	53	24	53	100.00%
7034	Sparta	65	50	52	80.00%
7946	Jefferson	31	13	31	100.00%
	TOTALS	**269**	**182**	**245**	**91.08%**

District 13 Pres Lyndsey Bowlus

Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 Mbrs.	Percent
1160	Charlotte	134	127	130	97.01%
2423	Indian Trail	102	98	100	98.04%
5464	Monroe	41	31	32	78.05%
6724	Paw Creek	45	36	42	93.33%
7775	Charlotte	21	20	20	95.24%
9337	Gastonia	63	30	31	49.21%
9736	Croft	15	11	11	73.33%
	TOTALS	**421**	**353**	**366**	**86.94%**

District 16 Pres Joyce Preston

Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 Mbrs.	Percent
891	Asheville	78	66	71	91.03%
5206	Hendersonville	74	60	60	81.08%
9116	Columbus	26	21	21	80.77%
	TOTALS	**178**	**147**	**152**	**85.39%**

1332

District 14 Pres Heather Shell

Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 Mbrs.	Percent
1706	Lincolnton	73	48	53	72.60%
2031	Statesville	70	58	64	91.43%
4066	Shelby	16	16	16	100.00%
5305	Newton	29	16	16	75.00%
5362	Morganton	24	13	18	66.67%
	TOTALS	**212**	**151**	**167**	**78.77%**

District 17 Pres Jan Strough

Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 Mbrs.	Percent
4309	Brevard	166	118	137	82.53%
5202	Waynesville	175	119	134	76.57%
6812	Hayesville	56	45	56	100.00%
7339	Franklin	72	38	51	70.83%
	TOTALS	**469**	**320**	**378**	**80.60%**

WESTERN	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 Mbrs.	Percent
TOTALS	**1926**	**1333**	**1539**	**79.90%**

DEPT	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs	2027 Mbrs	Percent
TOTALS	**6951**	**5623**	**6056**	**87.12%**

inc. deaths

NC At-Large	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 Mbrs.	Percent
TOTALS	**796**	**811**	**831**	**104.40%**

Aux 7547 members became members at large

Needed to Reach 100 % **895** **w/o deaths** **0**

VFW Auxiliary Dept. of NC Membership Report

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VFW Auxiliary Dept. of NC Membership Report
President Lin Moore 2026-27 Chairman- Lyndsey Bowlus

Date: 9.23.26 East-Donna Marie West

District 1	Pres Mary Coatney				
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 Mbrs.	Percent
6060	Elizabeth City	241	187	191	79.25%
7312	Sunbury	20	15	15	75.00%
10950	Outer Banks	39	39	39	100.00%
	TOTALS	**308**	**241**	**245**	**81.67%**

District 2	Pres. Violet Saviak				
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 Mbrs.	Percent
2615	Goldsboro	46	30	30	65.22%
2771	Kinston	18	10	11	61.11%
7032	Greenville	38	25	26	68.42%
9959	Mount Olive	47	33	42	89.36%
	TOTALS	**149**	**98**	**109**	**73.15%**

District 3	Pres Yvonne McLeod				
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 Mbrs.	Percent
2057	Rocky Mount	65	53	60	92.31%
	TOTALS	**65**	**53**	**60**	**92.31%**

EASTERN	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 Mbrs.	Percent
TOTALS	**2778**	**2240**	**2331**	**83.90%**

District 4	Pre.Jaymie Hayes				
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 Mbrs.	Percent
2514	New Bern	28	15	28	67.86%
7315	Havelock	214	200	214	94.86%
7547	Clinton	0	0	0	0.00%
8986	Newport	74	54	74	72.97%
9133	Jacksonville	200	164	165	82.50%
9810	Warsaw	25	23	25	92.00%
9960	Swansboro	288	242	244	84.72%
11119	West Craven	28	28	28	100.00%
	TOTALS	**910**	**726**	**739**	**80.88%**

Aux 7547 officially closed

District 5	Pres Jaclyn Jones				
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 Mbrs.	Percent
7288	Calabash	337	258	274	81.31%
8866	Holden Beach	111	111	113	101.80%
9983	Holly Ridge	206	181	186	91.75%
10226	Oak Island	119	115	119	100.00%
10400	B Spring Lakes	87	62	66	75.86%
121966	Leland	19	15	18	94.74%
	TOTALS	**879**	**742**	**776**	**88.62%**

District 7	Pres Donna Wright				
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 Mbrs.	
6722	Lillington	31	29	30	97.66%
7383	Cary	146	125	136	93.15%
9103	Spring Lake	105	94	95	90.48%
10225	Garner	112	101	103	91.96%
10999	Raleigh	36	31	38	105.56%
	TOTALS	**430**	**380**	**402**	**93.49%**



National Home

October 2026

Jaclyn Jones
(772) 302-6099
jaclynjones06@gmail.com
219 Chastain Drive
Jacksonville, NC 28546

🎣 CASTING HOPE AT THE VFW NATIONAL HOME

💡 DID YOU KNOW?

There is a fishing lake on the grounds of the VFW National Home! Lake Romanis gives families a place to fish, enjoy the outdoors and spend time together. The lake area even includes wheelchair-accessible fishing platforms. Fishing has been a part of the fun at the National Home for years. In July 2025, families and visitors kicked of Michigan Day with a fishing contest at Lake Romanis.

🐟 BUT WAIT… THERE'S MORE!

The National Home campus also offers hiking trails, playgrounds, a gymnasium, a library and spaces for families to learn, play and grow together. The National Home is more than a house—it's a home, a community and a place to make memories.

🎣 OCTOBER CHALLENGE: CAST A LINE OF KNOWLEDGE!

Challenge your members to learn one new fact about the VFW National Home and share it with someone else. Post a fact on social media, share one at your Auxiliary meeting, put information on your Post resource board/table, or tell a veteran or military family about the National Home.

How many members/community members can your Auxiliary reach this month?

KNOW IT 🐟 SHARE IT 🐟 SUPPORT IT

Every time we educate someone about the VFW National Home, we cast another line of hope to veterans and military families.

Let's keep CASTING HOPE—one family at a time!

To get more information about the VFW National Home, visit the website:
www.vfwnationalhome.org



SCHOLARSHIPS CHAIRPERSON

Contact
Leslie Chew
Phone: (516) 635-4996
Email: tiggerr722@gmail.com
Address: 384 Rayland Street
Monroe, NC 28118

This is the **FINAL** push for Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy scholarships. Please make sure your middle and high schools know about this wonderful opportunity and that the deadline is quickly approaching. The winners of both Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy of each District will be invited to the Banquet at the Winter CofA. At the Banquet, we will find out the State winners of both scholarships and who will be representing North Carolina at the National level.

- **Patriot's Pen** – Open to students in **grades 6–8**. Students compete by writing a patriotic essay. **National First Prize: $5,000.**
- **Voice of Democracy** – Open to students in **grades 9–12**. Students submit a patriotic audio essay. **National First Prize Scholarship: $35,000.**

The 2026-27 theme is: "What a Veteran Taught Me About America."
Student Entry Deadline: October 31, 2026 (submitted to the local VFW Post).

For rules and entry forms, visit: https://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/youth-scholarships

National would like to have more participation in the **VFW Auxiliary Continuing Education Scholarship**. This is a scholarship for students that are 21 and older. This scholarship will assist members and their immediate family members who wish to further their education by pursuing a college degree or career direction at a vocational/technical school. The award amount is $2250.00

To access the Continuing Education Scholarship application go to **MALTA** Member Resources – Scholarships. Deadline – February 15th to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.

The **Patriotic Art Scholarship** will be the next scholarship we will be promoting. If you have not had the chance to look at all of the National winners from last year, I suggest you check out the National Auxiliary Facebook page or website. The artwork is incredible!

A reminder - MALTA also has a great overview of all the scholarship programs. Check it out!

Please do not forget to **REPORT**!! I would love to know what you are doing to promote our scholarships in your area!

Leslie Chew



VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

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

OCTOBER 2026 DEPARTMENT MAIL

CASTING HOPE FOR VETERANS

Veterans and Family Support

- Veterans and Family Support focused on providing resources, assistance, and meaningful support to veterans, service members, and their families. Outreach efforts centered on connecting individuals with available community resources, benefits, housing and financial assistance, healthcare services, and other programs designed to promote stability and overall well-being.
- Throughout the month, support that is provided to veterans and families facing a variety of needs. Staff and volunteers worked to identify concerns, provide information and referrals, and help individuals navigate available services.
- Continued communication and follow-up helped ensure that veterans and their families are connected with appropriate resources.

REPORTING

- Easy ways to report and get credit for VFS, taking them grocery shopping or do the grocery shopping for them, collect winter items, taking them to vote, pick them up for meetings such as PTSD group support, take them a meal. Yard work or house work. Or even any vehicle maintenance.

- Please report what we are providing assistance to VFS under program entries. **WHO, WHAT, WHERE, WHY!** As a volunteer and a none profit organization, let's get credit for the assistance we do and help with. Also make sure we are inputting under the correct program. If in doubt reach out to the district presidents. Entries are submitted on the Department website. That site is www.vfwauxnc.org then click on the 3 horizontal lines, then click on **PROGRAMS**, then **program reporting entry, then click on the Auxiliary Program Information.** Then it will send you to the LOGIN AND PASSWORD. There you will find all programs to report in.
- Provide mileage, cost of travel and any monies spent directly or not direct, times and what help/assistance provided.

CONFERENCE

- October 2-4 2026
  Hope to see you there and let us grow and learn.

FALL IS AROUND THE CORNER

- During weather changes, Please check on elder Veterans and Their Families.



Youth Activities



Elizabeth Caudill
(706)831-7853
Email: beth.caudill88@gmail.com

It's Spooky Season! 👻. And there are tons of opportunities this month to educate and involve our youth!

Let me start with a quick reminder that ***Illustrating America*** art contest entries are due **December 15, 2026**. The deadline is fast approaching, make sure you are sharing the entry forms and contest rules with your community! These forms can be found at this link: Illustrating America Art Contest

Did your Auxiliary have a youth group participate in any activities last month, such as a recognition ceremony or Patriot Day ceremony? If so, be sure to recognize and thank them for their participation by presenting them with a R.A.P. Card. Take every opportunity to recognize our youth and youth groups for their efforts, volunteerism, and service projects supporting veterans, service members, and their families. These bright young citizens are making a difference in their communities, and by encouraging their involvement, we can help inspire a lifelong commitment to service and patriotism.

Fall is one of my favorite times of the year! With so many opportunities to bring families and communities together, it is the perfect time to involve youth in meaningful and fun activities.Consider hosting a **Trunk-or-Treat** for the youth in your community. Add a patriotic touch by handing out patriotic pencils, coloring books, poppies, and candy. Include games, activities, and even a costume contest to make the event fun and memorable for everyone involved.If your Post or Auxiliary is able, consider hosting a **Fall Festival**. This can be another wonderful opportunity to engage local families while introducing youth to the mission and values of the VFW and VFW Auxiliary.Fall also reminds us that colder weather is just around the corner. Consider organizing a **Fall Warmth Drive** in coordination with local churches, schools, and youth groups. Collect coats, mittens, hats, scarves, and other cold-weather essentials to support those in need within your community. This is a meaningful service project that allows young people to get involved while making a direct impact on the lives of others.

Finally, **October marks an important deadline for VFW scholarship programs.** Work with your Post to distribute scholarship information to local schools, students, and families. By helping spread the word, we can ensure that more eligible students have the opportunity to participate in these valuable programs

When we volunteer, we don't just strengthen our communities—we inspire the next generation to serve.