Casting Hope for Veterans

Lin Moore
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November 2026

Auxiliary Members,

Thank you to everyone who attended the fall Council of Administration meeting. I appreciate your participation and your commitment to staying connected with our Auxiliary. A heartfelt thank-you also goes to everyone who helped raise over $3,200 for the Pretty in Pink Foundation, supported the Ways and Means fundraiser, and supported Take a Warrior Fishing. Your generosity, time, and willingness to help are deeply appreciated.

After reviewing Auxiliary assessments and reflecting on the areas where we can continue to grow and improve, it is important that we look at how we communicate, share our accomplishments, and represent the VFW Auxiliary Department of North Carolina both within our meetings and beyond them. Our VFW Auxiliary programs are the tools we use to turn our commitment into action. They allow us to serve veterans, support their families, strengthen our communities, educate our youth, and preserve the value we hold dear.

Discussing programs at meetings keeps members informed and gives everyone a chance to contribute. Program discussions help experienced members share their knowledge, encourage new members, and create a team where everyone feels needed and appreciated. A program discussion does not have to be lengthy. A few focused minutes can spark an idea, encourage a member, and help an Auxiliary move forward.

Presidents, please make programs are a regular part of your meeting agendas. Invite chairmen to share brief updates, highlight upcoming projects, and explain how members can help. Giving programs time on the agenda turns ideas into action and keeps our mission at the heart of every meeting. Remember to REPORT what you do!

In today's world, our service does not stop when we leave the meeting room. Social media has become one of the most powerful ways to share our accomplishments, promote our programs, recognize our volunteers, and show our communities what the VFW Auxiliary stands for. If we are doing good things in our communities, we need to share those good things with the world! Posting photos of our activities help others understand the value of our organization.

National VFW Auxiliary social media pages connect members from across the country. When we post on these pages, we are doing more than sharing an opinion. We are representing our Auxiliary, the Department of North Carolina, and the VFW Auxiliary as a whole.



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Our words should reflect the respect, kindness, and integrity we want others to see in us. The spirit of Casting Hope for Veterans should also guide our online conversations: offer encouragement, show respect, and build connections rather than division.

Please avoid negativity, including rumors, personal attacks, sarcastic remarks directed at others, and public arguments. Even a brief comment can be misunderstood or shared beyond its intended audience. Before posting or responding, pause and consider whether your message is accurate, respectful, and helpful. Official pages should represent the Auxiliary, not become a place for personal grievances.

Concerns about procedures, leadership, or disagreements should be addressed through the appropriate channels with respect and professionalism.

Just as positive social media posts help tell the story of the VFW Auxiliary, they can also play an important role in strengthening our membership. Our goal is to reach 95% membership by November 30. Membership is more than a number—it represents people who believe in our mission and help sustain our work. Thank you to everyone who has already renewed. If you have not yet paid your dues, please do so promptly.

Please reach out personally to those who have not paid their dues. A friendly phone call, text, email, or note can provide a timely reminder and let a member know they are valued. Do not assume a missed payment means a member no longer wishes to belong; take time to listen.

Along with a dues reminder, extend an invitation to an upcoming meeting or activity. Let's reach 95% by November 30 while strengthening the relationships that keep members connected to our Auxiliary. Casting Hope for Veterans includes reaching back to our own members, reminding them that they are valued and that their continued involvement matters.

I encourage members to attend upcoming Thinking Thursdays, District meetings, and the Council meeting in January. These gatherings offer opportunities to receive updates, ask questions, exchange ideas, and connect with fellow Auxiliary members. Please make plans to attend and encourage another member to join you. Your participation helps keep our Auxiliaries informed, connected, and ready to carry out our mission.

Casting Hope for Veterans

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November 2026

As Thanksgiving approaches, I want to express my sincere gratitude for each of you. The time, generosity, and care you share make our Auxiliary a welcoming place and help us serve others with purpose. Whether you help with a fundraiser, attend a meeting, reach out to a fellow member, or quietly lend a hand behind the scenes, your contribution is appreciated. This Thanksgiving, I am especially grateful for the everyday kindness through which you bring the spirit of Casting Hope for Veterans to life.

I wish you and your loved ones a peaceful and happy Thanksgiving, with time to rest, enjoy good company, and reflect on what brings meaning to your lives. Let's also remember those who may be spending the holiday alone or facing a difficult season. A thoughtful call or note can offer a welcome connection. Thank you for the kindness you share throughout the year and for being part of our Auxiliary family.

Together, let's continue Casting for Hope through service, kindness, and connection.

With appreciation,
Lin

Lin Moore
VFW Auxiliary
President
Department of North Carolina



Thursday, November 19, 2016
Reporting



VFW AUXILIARY
Department of North Carolina

Sandra Johnson-Leu, Treasurer

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Clayton, NC 27520

November 2026

Brothers and Sisters,

Happy Thanksgiving!

- ✓ First, an update from the Council of Administration meeting. Thanks to the generosity of the members of both the Auxiliary and the VFW and the creative activities held, such as the corn hole competition, the fish toss, and the raffle baskets, $ 4,163 was raised for the Special Project to Take a Warrior Fishing, and $5030.62 was raised for the National Home. Most of the National Home donations came from the Coin Challenge by chairman, Jaclyn Jones. This is a great job by our members.

- ✓ This month I want to talk about some of the other responsibilities of the trustees, besides doing the quarterly audit. Did you know this position has more responsibilities than performing an audit once a quarter? If you review the Bylaws and the booklet of instructions, you will see several trustee duties. (See pgs. 87-89 in the Bylaws book).
- If a bill is presented to be paid, the bill is given to the secretary to read, the purpose and amount. The bill is then given to the trustees to review and approve. The bill should be initialed and then the trustees should make a motion to pay (or reimburse) the bill. Remember, no request for reimbursement can be made unless the expense was voted on **PRIOR** to the money being spent or it is covered by the Auxiliary Standing rules. Otherwise, the money spent becomes a donation from the member who spent the money
- Any Auxiliary with a Debit card- if that debit card is used during the month, the trustees are required to review the receipt and the expense EVERY month (Sec. 813-A, number 8, pg 80 in the Bylaws). The expense on the debit card must have been approved by the Auxiliary prior to the card being used or covered by the Standing Rules, and only used by the treasurer. The Auxiliary may have only ONE debit card, and the treasurer must keep it in their possession at all times.
- The trustees are the ones responsible for making sure the Auxiliary or District bond is paid on time and in the proper amount of at least 1.25% of the total funds and valuable property of the Auxiliary.

- ✓ Treasurers are required to have their checkbooks complete with every entry, every transaction made. This includes every check written, every deposit made, every ACH withdrawal by National for dues, every debit card transaction. And there must be a total kept. This is the only way you are able to balance your checking transactions to your bank statement. The bank statement must balance to the checkbook book in order for the audit to properly be conducted by the trustees. If there is not a total in the checkbook, then the trustees have no idea what the total funds of the Auxiliary actually are. And, you as the treasurer, have no idea how much money your Auxiliary has on hand. Even if you have a ledger, your checkbook must be complete.

- ✓ Another reminder on applications: the names of the cities and street names **cannot** be abbreviated. The words street, Lane circle, etc. can be. But not the actual name of the street. Or the city. If an application comes to me with abbreviations, I will return it to the Auxiliary to be corrected. I should not have to try to determine what the abbreviation stands for. I appreciate your cooperation with this. And remember, only the current application will be accepted. All the previous applications

should have been destroyed by now. Also, if you have an applicant paying by credit card, it is the responsibility of the AUXILIARY treasurer to follow-up on these to make sure the applicant has paid for their application. Check the status under your duties in MALTA. We have had 8 applications voided since the new applications started because the applicant did not respond to the link sent to them from National to provide their credit card information.

- ✓ Your audit for the period ending September 30 is due no later than November 30. The audit must be presented to the members at a regular meeting by reading all of the balances, a motion to accept the audit, a second to the motion, and then a vote by the members. This date MUST be included on the audit form in the space provided or the audit cannot be accepted.

- ✓ Please read the contribution sheet carefully when sending contributions/donations to the various locations. And make sure your check is made payable exactly as you are instructed to. By sending the donations to the wrong place or person, or not having the check made out correctly, you not only delay the contribution being applied, but create extra unnecessary work for the person or persons who received the check. All checks to the Auxiliary are made payable to the **Dept of NC VFW Auxiliary,** with the exception of the donations to **the Erline Mayberry Scholarship. Personal checks from Auxiliary members cannot be accepted, and checks should never be made payable to me directly.**

- ✓ I recently sent out the updated member change/update form. If your member wishes to convert to a Life member and pay by credit card, they must do this themselves in their MALTA account or call the 866 number on the phone. If they pay by cash or check to the Auxiliary, Auxiliary treasurers can make this change. Or as before, you can complete the form and send it to me with an Auxiliary check.

- ✓ Please remember to include your Auxiliary number and/or District number when you send information to me or any requests. As much as I would love to say I can remember every treasurer and which Auxiliary they are in, I am not that good. And never will be. Providing this information saves time in getting your response.

- ✓ And don't forget about filing your 990 on the IRS.gov website.

Here is a money-saving suggestion for you. When your District or Auxiliary needs to order more checks, do not order them directly from your bank. The fees charged by the bank are outrageous and unnecessary. Use a printing company such as Vistaprint, Walmart printing, etc. I recently ordered 100 checks from Vistaprint and the total fee, including shipping, was $17. A couple of Auxiliaries have taken this advice and saved over $125 vs. the bank fee.

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
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'You have a choice each and every single day. Choose to feel blessed. Choose to feel grateful. Choose to be excited. Choose to be thankful. Choose to be happy. '

VFW AUXILIARY
Department of North Carolina

Deborah Crowder, Secretary

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November 2026

Happy anniversary to the following Auxiliaries! I thought I would post the next three months in order to give you an opportunity to plan a celebration.

NOVEMBER

No.	Auxiliary Name	Date	Location
4203	Henry C Rancke Jr Auxiliary	11/24/1947	Rockingham
7318	The John Boyd Auxiliary	11/08/1948	Southern Pines
7315	Leslie C Lewis Auxiliary	11/09/1955	Havelock
1119	Cooleemee-Mocksville Memorial Aux.	11/08/1987	Cooleemee
12196	Leland Auxiliary	11/14/2023	Leland
5362	Table Rock Auxiliary	11/10/2025	Morganton

DECEMBER

No.	Auxiliary Name	Date	Location
670	Corporal Rodolfo P. Hernandez Auxiliary	12/12/1947	Fayetteville
4309	Lewis E Jackson Auxiliary	12/12/1970	Brevard
10403	The James D Henderson Auxiliary	12/01/1986	Wadesboro
10630	Bryce H. Swindle Auxiliary	12/13/1991	Hope Mills
6812	Allison-Bristol Auxiliary	12/08/2011	Hayesville
6722	Ernest Simmons Auxiliary	12/01/2014	Lillington
10950	Outer Banks Auxiliary	12/04/2017	Kill Devil Hills

JANUARY

No.	Auxiliary Name	Date	Location
2771	Lenoir Auxiliary	01/31/1947	Lenoir
9983	New Topsail Island Auxiliary	01/10/2005	Holly Ridge
7775	Sgt William E Robinson Auxiliary	01/23/2008	Charlotte
10607	Robert Lee Pate III Auxiliary	01/08/2015	Burlington

Some Auxiliaries have been around for a very long time, some are fairly new, and some are starting over. ALL Auxiliary members are to be commended for the work they do to assist veterans and their families. I hope you will celebrate your Auxiliary's history, and continue to do the kind of work that will encourage others to join and continue the work

into the future. Don't forget the Historian and Media Relations Chairman's request for your Auxiliary's first President. Barbara Beard is waiting for information from your Auxiliary. I've travelled around this Department over the years so I'm pretty sure there is a picture of that person hanging on the wall at a few Posts across the state. I also know that some Auxiliaries keep pretty comprehensive History Books, so I'm anxious to see the submissions sent to Barbara. If you aren't one of those Auxiliaries that has your history preserved, this would be a good time to start. We used to ask Auxiliaries that submitted pictures for the Department President's History Book to be sure to label the pictures – date taken, where, why, and names of those in the picture. My smart phone has helped me more than once when I could not remember when a photo was taken. Unfortunately, it does not know names! Be sure to label the photographs of your Presidents when displaying them on the wall or in a book. You will notice below that we have a few Auxiliaries that will soon be celebrating 80 years! I've already heard from some of those celebrating 50 years or less remark that they do not have a current member who remembers their first President. I hope Barbara's request for this information has caused you to think about the history of your Auxiliary, and that you will do some research on the days gone by. Most of all, I hope you will begin to more carefully document the things you do now because someday, someone will ask, "How long has this Auxiliary been serving veterans and their families?" and they might even want to know the names of those veterans and their families who worked tirelessly for the good of the organization.

I'm sure you are wondering what in the world does this have to do with the office of Secretary. Minutes! One of the first statements in the Secretary's minutes is that ***President Lin opened the meeting at*** whatever the time was at the opening. In addition, the minutes from the meeting when the election of officers takes place should reflect the names of each elected and appointed officer. Of course, I know that the designated amount of time to keep those records does not date back to 1947! Whatever minutes your Auxiliary does happen to have on file will get your Historian off to a good start in preserving your history. In addition, the current Secretary has access to information in MALTA, and can trace some of the offices back several years. If your Auxiliary starts looking for information in MALTA, and needs help, send me an email with contact information and I will try to assist. MALTA offers some detailed information for each program, as well as guidance for each office. Be sure to have each member establish an account in MALTA. Once you have signed into MALTA, click on Member Resources, from that screen you can check out all of the program information, or click on Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation for information about the responsibilities for each office. You can also open the current edition of the Bylaws and Ritual book for free! If you prefer a hard copy of the book, you may purchase one by going to the VFW Store .



Americanism November 2026

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"The true soldier fights not because he hates what is in front of him, but because he loves what is behind him." GK Chesterson (British Author 1874-1936)

NOVEMBER is the month we honor all veterans. The 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month refers to the exact moment the armistice came into effect to end the fighting of World War I.

Veterans Day in the United States was first proclaimed by President Woodrow Wilson on November 11, 1919 and was called **ARMISTICE DAY.** In 1954, President Dwight D Eisenhower and Congress changed the name to **VETERANS DAY** to honor any living American veterans who served our military either in war or peace time.

Notable Dates for November

11-01-26 Daylight Savings ends & All Saints Day

11-03-26 Election Day (be sure to VOTE)

11-11-26 VETERANS DAY

11-26-26 Thanksgiving DayNovember is also National Diabetes Month and National Family Caregivers Month

ACTIVITIES for November

1. VOTE in your local election
2. Go to schools and speak about Veterans Day. Do FLAG EDUCATION, create Poppies and explain why they are important to Veterans
3. Read "In Flanders Field" by John McCrae
4. Go to Veterans Day services at your post or in your town/city
5. The Patriotic Instructor should always remind the membership of our duty to the flag and teach others.

REPORT REPORT REPORT REPORT



“BUDDY” POPPY
November 2026

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Winston Salem, NC 27107

As you are all aware, the Department of NC VFW is no longer supporting the “Buddy” Poppy King/Queen and Prince/Princess programs. The Auxiliary reviewed ways in which we can still provide such programs for the youth and decided the best way to move forward would be for the Auxiliary Posts to offer their own specially designed program. On the post level, you can offer the programs as they exist or design new programs as you like, but the winners would be for your post only, not moving forward for District or Department awards.

Auxiliary Posts can design a program other than the King/Queen or Prince/Princess program. This is a great opportunity to put your creative juices to work. Just anything to get the youth in your area involved with ideas that educate them with honoring our Veterans. One idea that I have seen put to use is having a Bookmark Design Challenge. See the attached photos of the winning bookmark designs that were from Celebrating America’s 250th. These winning designs were printed and distributed during the 4th of July events in Washington DC.

As one idea, your post can come up with a theme for the bookmarks and then judge the entries for awards as determined by your post. If budgets will allow, think about having the winning bookmark design printed for giveaways or sell for fundraising. I have found a few ways to accomplish this:

- You can design and print custom bookmarks easily using tools like Canva or Mary’s Printables, which offer free templates, customization options, and home-printing guides. Canva provides thousands of templates and professional printing services, while Mary’s Printables lets you create personalized bookmarks and print four per sheet at home.
- You can work with a print shop in your area, or you may have someone in your Auxiliary that has a print shop and can help.

Remember whatever you do, report it.

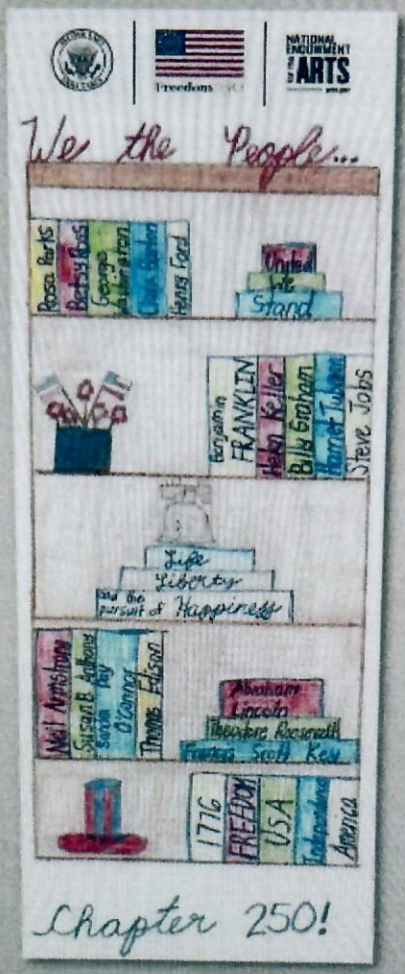
Let’s all get involved with Veterans Day coming up on November 11. Be sure and schedule a “Buddy” Poppy drive around this important military day of remembrance. Get your youth involved with helping to distribute “Buddy” Poppies at your event.

Bookmark Design Challenge: Celebrating America's 250th

Winning Designs



Iris Z., 1st Grade
California



Margaret M., 3rd Grade
Florida



Eden P., 8th Grade
Georgia



Extension & Revitalization

Farres H. Upton
(336) 889-4133
farreshupton@aol.com
653 Haynes Road
High Point NC, 27262

When Brothers and Sisters share a common direction and sense of community, they can accomplish their goals. They have learned teamwork is the key to success.

Members are important to our organization, new and the ones that are members and have been for years.

There are women eligible for VFW Auxiliary membership. Reach out to them, set up recruiting stations, have open house at your Post, ask a friend or neighbor to join.

Most Auxiliaries have members of all ages, which creates a generation gap. If you are struggling with blending ideas from a generation gap of your members, work as a TEAM to make each member feel accepted and needed.

Listen to all members ideas.
Be responsive to their concerns.
Keep members informed.
Support the unique talents of each and every member
Always be respectful and understanding.
Harmony is what makes a TEAM
Leave personally conflicts at home.

Members are not always going to agree on everything, we need to find ways to compromise and work with each other.

It is important each member be included in all activities, to contribute in making programs and projects a success. You will strengthen your Auxiliary by making each member feel they are a vital member of the VFW Auxiliary.

Thank you for "SERVING AMERICA'S HEROES", and "CASTING HOPE FOR VETERANS".



Historian & Media relations

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

As we continue to move forward, my hope is that each of you take the time to seriously find ways to share your stories to let everyone know what's going on in your Auxiliary. If you want your pictures in this year's Department PowerPoint presentation, you must share them with me.

A Facebook Group Page was created for the sole purpose of sharing your pictures and stories. If you are on Facebook, please join the VFW Auxiliary Dept of NC Historian Group. This is a perfect opportunity to share your stories. It is easy to upload your story or your newsletters to this page. By sharing your stories, other Auxiliaries draw inspiration and may implement some of your activities.

REPORT!
Goal is 100% participation by Feb 28, 2027. We can do this!!!
We need all Auxiliaries onboard with this

+

SHARE PHOTOS!
To be used in PowerPoint
Upload Photos to FB page
VFW Auxiliary Dept of NC Historian Group

+

IDENTIFY!
Be sure to include the 5 W's (Who, What, When, Where, and Why)
Don't forget the Auxiliary Name and District

+

SUBMIT NATIONAL AWARD FORMS
National Award Forms are to be sent to me by March 31, 2027 for
"Your Auxiliary History Reel"

Use the Hashtags below when posting your stories to Facebook

Content from/about the VFW and/or VFW Auxiliary: **#VFW, #VFWaux & #vfwauxiliary**
Auxiliaries in Action: **#auxinaction or #auxiliariesinaction.**
Throwback Thursday pictures from our past: **#vfwauxtbt**
Program-specific: **#vfwauxyouth, #vfwauxmembership, #vfwauxmentoring, etc.**

See list of all Program focus & frequently used hashtags under Member Resources behind MALTA login

See the attached Historian & Media Relations Chair Challenge. I challenge Auxiliary Historians to share a photo & biography of your very first auxiliary president to the VFW Auxiliary Dept of NC Historian Group by January 15, 2027. Historian/Media Relations Chairmen will be entered to win a $25 gift

Department of North Carolina Historian Group Page

Like us on Facebook

"Casting Hope for Veterans"

VFW AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA

HISTORIAN & MEDIA RELATIONS Challenge



Encourage each Auxiliary Historian/Media Relations Chairmen to post a photo and short biography of their very first Auxiliary President on the Dept of NC Historian Facebook page by **January 15, 2027.**

AI generated flyers are welcomed, but the photo used has to be real.





All participating Historian Chairmen will be entered into a drawing to win a **$25 gift card!**

Let's preserve our history today for tomorrow!



HOSPITAL

Debra Smith
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Millers Creek, NC 28651

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Veterans Day is November 11th! What has your Auxiliary planned for our Veterans in hospitals? Let them know the Auxiliary hasn't forgotten about them. Let us not forget why we are members of the VFW Auxiliary and show our Veterans how much we appreciate them. Visiting a Veteran in a hospital can be rewarding for both you and the Veteran.

Reporting:

Reporting is essential; if you do the work and don't report it, it didn't happen.

Here's a list of posts that **have not submitted reports** for their **hospital** program:

District 1
6060-Elizabth City
7312-Sunbury
10950-Outer Banks

District 2
2771-Kinston
9959-Mount Olive

District 3
2057-Rocky Mount

District 4
2514-New Bern
7315-Havelock
8986-Newport
9133-Jacksonville
9819-Warsaw
9960-Swansboro

District 5
7288-Calabash
8866-Holden Beach
9983-Holly Ridge
10226-Oak Island

District 7
6722-Lillington

District 9
5631-Sanford
7318-Southern Pines
10403-Wadesboro

District 10
2087-Greensboro
2972-Gibsonville
3074-Lexington
8297-Mway/Monton

District 11
1119-Cooleemee
9010-Clemmons

District 12
3006-Salisbury
6365-Locust
8989-Kannapolis
9134-Rockwell

District 13
2423-Indian Trail
5464-Monroe
6724-Paw Creek
7775-Charlotte
9337-Gastonia
9736-Croft

District 14
1706-Lincolnton
2031-Statesville
4066-Shelby

District 15
4286-Newland
7031-Boone

District 16
891-Asheville
5286-Hendersonville
9116-Columbus

District 17
4309-Brevard
5202-Waynesville
6812-Hayesvill

Report, Report, Report!

Let's get out there and show our veterans in hospitals we care! Please put together care packages and visit, then report!

The VA's Stock is SUPER LOW!!

They 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.
If you are looking for a way to help our Veterans, please consider these needs.

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
- 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 really do need the twiddle muffs and robotic pets

Drinks – Cans (Regular or mini size). No liters

- Diet Sodas
- Regular Sodas – Ginger Ale, Colas, Sprite, Mountain Dew, etc
- Juice (small bottles or cans - any flavors)

Underwear, Socks, and Sweatpants

- Medium, Large, and XL Men's underwear
- Sweatpants: medium, large, xl, 3xl, 4xl & 5 xl (no sweatshirts)

This list is a general list of needs. Please check with your assigned VA Medical facility for their specific needs.

Ashville VA
Volunteer Services
1100 Tunnel Road
Ashville, NC 28805

Durham VA
Volunteer Services
508 Fulton Street
Durham, NC 27705

Salisbury VA
Volunteer Services
1601 Brenner Avenue
Salisbury, NC 28144

Fayetteville VA
Volunteer Services
2300 Ramsey Street
Fayetteville, NC 28301

Thank you for supporting our hospitalized veterans with your time and donations. You are truly appreciated!

Debra Smith

UNWAVERING SUPPORT
FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

CHARLES GEORGE
VAMC
ASHEVILLE

Joyce B. Preston
Mobile: 828-817-0939
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706 Warrior Drive
Tryon, North Carolina 28782

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Bessie Bright – Assistant VAVS Deputy Willie Glance – Honorary VAVS

November 2026

The VA needs beverages for Day Surgery, outpatient clinics, CLC, Oncology, Hospice and Mental Health programming. If your organization is looking for a way to assist our Veterans, please consider these needs

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The Drink supply is SUPER LOW!

- Drinks – Cans (Regular or mini size) No liters
- Diet Sodas, Regular Sodas – Ginger ale, Colas, Sprite, Mountain Dew, etc.
- Juice Drinks

- Underwear
- Medium, Large and XL Men's underwear, Small & Medium Sweatpants

- Snacks – individually packaged
  *****Crackers (peanut butter, cheese, etc.)
  Trail Mix, Chips, Little Debbie snacks
  Individual cookies – fig newton's, Oreos, chips ahoy, etc.
  Chewy Granola Bars

If you can assist, just remember they are bound to expiration dates, just check the dates before delivering.

How You Can Help - Non-Monetary Support

- Organize Sewing or Knitting/Crochet Drives to create Activity Blankets & Twiddle Muffs - Not too juvenile – adult themed
- OrganiZation Cards are encouraged to accompany items
- Your hands make a HUGE difference

I wanted to send this out again – several people have requested it!

I wanted to reach out regarding a special need we have for our hospitalized Veterans who experience memory loss. Twiddle Muffs have proven to be incredibly beneficial for our Veterans, providing both comfort and distraction. These muffs help keep busy hands away from medical devices and also reduce stress, making a real difference in their daily lives.

A Twiddle Muff is roughly a 10-inch tube designed with various items attached both inside and outside, encouraging our Veterans to fiddle and stay engaged. I've included some pictures below to give you a better idea of what these look like.

If you're wondering how you can help, here are a couple of suggestions: consider organizing sewing, knitting, or crochet drives to create Twiddle Muffs through churches, communities, and organizations. It's important to ensure the designs are adult-themed rather than juvenile, as that will be most appropriate and meaningful for our Veterans.

Your hands and creativity can make a HUGE difference, and we truly appreciate any effort you can put toward this need. Thank you so much for considering how you can help support our Veterans—your involvement means a lot to us.

Activity Blankets/Twiddle Muffs
Hands–On Comfort



Activity Blankets:

These lap-sized blankets are thoughtfully designed with zippers, pockets, and buttons to soothe anxiety, encourage engagement, and support fine motor skills.

Each blanket is a gift of comfort, made possible by caring hands and hearts.

Twiddle Muffs:

Soft, hand-crafted tubes filled with textures and objects, twiddle muffs offer sensory comfort and warmth. They help restless hands find peace and reduce agitation, making a meaningful difference for Veterans with dementia.





Thank you for the support you've shown toward our "**A Christmas to Remember"** campaign for the Western North Carolina VA Health Care System. Your generosity is helping bring music and memories to the Veterans in our Community Living Center.

They are thrilled to share that **we have currently raised $3,000 toward the purchase of our classic jukebox!**

As we continue moving toward our goal, I want to emphasize that **every donation—regardless of size—truly makes a difference**. Each contribution brings us *one step closer* to purchasing our jukebox. Together, we can create a meaningful holiday season filled with music and joy.

With your help, we can continue building momentum and reach our goal together.

Thank you for being a part of something so impactful during this holiday season. Your support means more than you know.



VAVS
Representative

DURHAM VAMC

508 Fulton St
Durham, NC 27705
919-286-0411 ext. 177810

Sandra Johnson-Leu
919-906-7592
ctrysun@embarqmail.com
103 Covered Bridge Rd.,
Clayton, NC 27520

November, 2026

Durham VA Supporters:

Our Veterans are always so thankful for the donations and contributions you make towards making their lives a little better. A little easier.

The Fall Festival on October 16 was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who made a basket donation to help raise funds for the Recreational therapy unit needs. Approximately $4000 was raised thanks to the generous donations of all of the service organizations.

Don't forget 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	Ready-made gravy	Instant Mashed Potatoes/Stuffing
Canned Yams	Cranberry Sauce	Canned veggies	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. Let's work to make Thanksgiving special for all of our veterans.

The Veteran Holiday gifting program is also underway. If you or your organization is willing to sponsor a Veteran, please advise the CDCE staff at vhavhadurvoluntaryservices@va.gov via email or call 919-286-0411 ext 17-7810 as to how many individuals you will sponsor, **no later than December 1, 2016. You are asked that your purchases be a minimum of $25 per person.** The VA requests that gifts be wrapped, labeled and delivered to the CDCE office NO LATER THAN FRIDAY DECEMBER 11. Sponsors will receive the gender, age and wish list of the individual or family. Veteran names are not provided to protect their privacy.

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.

Your support of our Veterans is greatly appreciated.

UNWAVERING SUPPORT
FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

FAYETTEVILLE VAMC

Wanda Locklear-McCall
Mobile: 910-401-8693
Wandalmccall401@gamil.com

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November 2026

HAPPY FALL YALL! I hope everyone is enjoying this beautiful fall weather we are having.

We certainly have a lot of wonderful activities coming up for our VA-Fayetteville Campus. Please see three different flyers attached for various events that will be happening in November. As you all know, Veteran's Day is November 10th. Please don't forget to celebrate our Veterans on their special day. If you are a Veteran, thank you for your love, commitment, and service to our Country. There are two other events going on in Fayetteville. Please print them off and share them with the members of your various posts.
Thank you in advance for your time and attention to these matters/events. We look forward to seeing you come out and participate with our Veterans.

Loyall Serving our Veterans,
Wanda Locklear-McCall
VAVS Representative-Fayetteville
2026-2027

CDCE
ANNUAL
Holiday
DISTRIBUTION

Spreading holiday cheer to our Veterans
with appreciation, support and gratitude
for their service.

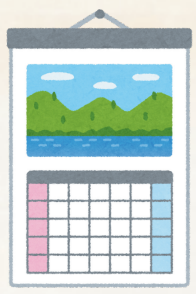
$25 GIFT CARDS

CDCE is requesting 56 Walmart gift cards and 41 Veteran Canteen Service (VCS) Gift Cards to distribute to the inpatients



2027 WALL CALENDARS

CDCE is in need of 150 wall calendars for 2027 to be distributed to Veterans participating in our rehabilitative programs. We would greatly appreciate any support in fulfilling this request





ITEMS NEEDED BY

DECEMBER 7, 2026

Your generosity helps us make the holidays brighter
for our Veterans.

CDCE
VA Center for Development & Civic Engagement

Drop off location:

2300 Ramsey Street
Fayetteville, NC 28301
Building 48 Room 127

vhafncddeevolsvc@va.gov

VA Fayetteville NC
VA Coastal Health
Care System

CDCE Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive

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

Small Donations Make a Big Difference



A STRONGER COMMUNITY TOGETHER

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

Drop off location:

2300 Ramsey Street
Fayetteville, NC 28301
Building 48 Room 127

vhafncddeevolsvc@va.gov

CDCE
VA Center for Development & Civic Engagement

VA Fayetteville NC VA Coastal Health Care System

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Give Today

BRIGHTER TOMORROWS FOR OUR VETERANS

2026 GIVING TUESDAY

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2026

A DAY TO COME TOGETHER IN SUPPORT OF OUR VETERANS

GIVING TUESDAY NEEDS

$25 GIFT CARDS

CDCE is requesting **56 Walmart gift cards** and **41 Veteran Canteen Service (VCS) gift cards** to distribute to the inpatients.

2027 WALL CALENDARS

CDCE is in need of **150** wall calendars for 2027 to be distributed to Veterans participating in our rehabilitative programs. We would greatly appreciate any support in fulfilling this request.

See Page 2 for additional Giving Tuesday needs.

Drop off location:

Fayetteville VA Health Care Center
7300 S Raeford Road
Fayetteville, NC 28304
vhafncddeevolsvc@va.gov

CDCE
VA Center for Development & Civic Engagement

Fayetteville NC VA Coastal Health Care System

Give Today

BRIGHTER TOMORROWS FOR OUR VETERANS

2026 ADDITIONAL GIVING TUESDAY NEEDS

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2026

Support Veterans by helping us meet these essential kit needs.

PERSONAL HYGIENE KIT CONTENTS

- Shampoo/Conditioner
- Body Wash
- Lotion
- Shaving Cream
- Razor
- Comb
- Alcohol-Free Mouthwash
- Body Wipes
- Nail Clippers
- Nail File
- Wash Cloth
- Toothbrush
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrush Cap
- Hand Sanitizer
- Chapstick
- Deodorant

CLOTHING KIT CONTENTS

(Men and Women, all sizes)

- Short Sleeve Shirts
- Sweaters
- Sweatpants
- Socks
- Underwear - dark colors
- Jogging bra dark colors

SNACK KIT CONTENTS

Non-Perishable food items

Canned Goods (pop-top) so items can be opened without a can opener.

Thank you for supporting our Veterans.

CDCE
VA Center for Development & Civic Engagement

Drop off location:

2300 Ramsey Street
Fayetteville, NC 28301
Building 48 Room 127
vhafncddeevolsvc@va.gov

VA Fayetteville NC VA Coastal Health Care System



LEGISLATIVE

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

November 3rd
IT'S ELECTION DAY!

Election Day is an important reminder that the freedoms we enjoy as Americans come with both rights and responsibilities. The right to vote is one of the most powerful ways we can honor the sacrifices of our veterans and help shape the future of our communities, our state, and our nation. Whether you vote early, by absentee ballot, or at the polls on Election Day, make your voice heard!

Every eligible voter deserves the opportunity to participate in our democratic process, regardless of political party or personal beliefs.



North Carolina offers the "The Vote in Honor of a Veteran" Program. It provides residents an opportunity to pay tribute to those who have served this country in the Armed Forces. Any voter can honor a veteran on any Election Day by requesting a pin. Pins are provided for free by the State Board of Elections. Who are you honoring?

What can you report this month?

Did you vote? Doesn't matter if it was absentee, early or election day.
Did you drive a veteran to the poll, so they can vote?
Did you work/volunteer at a polling site?
Are you on the Election Board for your county?

Remember, reporting that you voted does not mean sharing *how* you voted. Our goal is to encourage civic engagement, raise awareness, and demonstrate our commitment to the democratic freedoms our veterans have defended.

This Election Day, let's stand together, exercise our rights, and proudly say, **"I Voted!"**

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

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

. **CAST THE NET!**
30-Day Membership Challenge | Oct. 25 – Nov. 28
North Carolina — it's time to cast our lines!

Our first National goal is 95% membership by the end of November, but why stop there? We're going for 103%! To get moving, we need at least 285 members to renew, rejoin or join.

EVERY CONVERSATION COUNTS!

REEL THEM BACK	Call or text members who haven't renewed.
CAST AGAIN	Resend renewal letters, emails or reminders.
GO FOR THE NO!	Ask eligible people to join! Don't worry about hearing NO—you earn points for it! Every NO means you made the ask and introduced someone to the VFW Auxiliary.
HOOK A YES!	Recruit a new member or bring back an outstanding member and earn even more points!

There are also mini-challenges, Mystery Fish opportunities and "NO" Bingo to keep things fun! Go find the email from out Secretary for all the details!

🏆 CASH PRIZES ARE ON THE LINE!
1st Place: $100 Auxiliary & $100 District
2nd Place: $50 Auxiliary & $50 District

YOU CAN'T CATCH ONE IF YOU DON'T CAST!
So, let's get fishing, North Carolina!

Congrats to the Auxiliaries at 100% already!

District 1 10950	District 4 9810 & 11119	District 5 8866 & 10226	District 6 10607	District 7 10999	District 8 10630
District 11 1119	District 12 6365 & 9134	District 13 2423	District 14 4066 & 5362	District 15 7031 & 7946	District 17 6812


NC VFW AUXILIARY
Road to 103%
REEL IN MORE MEMBERS!
103%
7,160
100%
6,951
CURRENT
6,312
90.81%
103% GOAL
7,160
848 MORE MEMBERS
OUR STRETCH GOAL!
100% GOAL
6,951
639 MORE MEMBERS
OUR TARGET!
CURRENT
6,312
90.81% COMPLETE
KEEP REELING THEM IN!
Small Steps Make Big Waves!
VFW
AUXILIARY
Good Members Make a Great Catch!
RECRUIT
RENEW
RETAIN
Let's Take North Carolina to 103%!

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

Date: 10.26.26 East-Donna Marie West

District 1	Pres Mary Coatney				
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 Mbrs.	Percent
6060	Elizabeth City	241	188	196	81.33%
7312	Sunbury	20	15	15	75.00%
10950	Outer Banks	39	39	39	100.00%
	TOTALS	**300**	**252**	**250**	**83.33%**

District 2	Pres. Violet Saviak				
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 Mbrs.	Percent
2615	Goldsboro	46	30	36	78.26%
2771	Kinston	18	9	12	66.67%
7032	Greenville	38	25	35	92.11%
9959	Mount Olive	47	33	44	93.62%
	TOTALS	**149**	**97**	**127**	**85.23%**

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	**2733**	**2246**	**2360**	**86.35%**

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	191	214	92.06%
7547	Clinton	0	0	0	0.00%
8986	Newport	74	54	74	74.32%
9133	Jacksonville	200	165	165	83.00%
9810	Warsaw	25	23	25	92.00%
9960	Swansboro	288	241	244	89.93%
11119	West Craven	28	28	28	100.00%
	TOTALS	**910**	**717**	**739**	**82.09%**

Aux 7547 officially closed

District 5	Pres Jaclyn Jones				
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 Mbrs.	Percent
7288	Calabash	337	259	313	92.88%
8866	Holden Beach	111	111	113	101.80%
9983	Holly Ridge	206	183	197	95.63%
10226	Oak Island	119	115	119	105.04%
10400	B Spring Lakes	87	64	66	85.06%
121966	Leland	19	15	18	94.74%
	TOTALS	**879**	**747**	**776**	**95.50%**

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	139	95.21%
9103	Spring Lake	105	94	95	90.48%
10225	Garner	112	101	105	93.75%
10999	Raleigh	36	31	39	108.33%
	TOTALS	**430**	**380**	**408**	**94.88%**

2026-27

President: Lin Moore

Chairman: Lyndsey Bowlus

Date: 10.26.26

Central - Johnnie Cox

District 6	Pres Emily Ball				
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 Mbrs.	Percent
1920	Mebane	49	39	43	100.00%
10607	Burlington	47	33	47	78.82%
	TOTALS	**96**	**72**	**90**	**93.75%**

District 10	Pres Carsonia Whitmore				
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 Mbrs.	Percent
2087	Greensboro	20	6	18	90.00%
2972	Gibsonville	38	32	35	92.11%
3074	Lexington	39	15	30	76.92%
8297	Mway Monroeton	56	49	55	89.29%
	TOTALS	**153**	**102**	**138**	**90.20%**

District 8	Pres Joe Nelson				
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 Mbrs.	Percent
670	Fayetteville	229	187	210	91.70%
6,018	Fayetteville	205	173	189	92.20%
10,630	Hope Mills	34	28	35	102.94%
7					
	TOTALS	**468**	**388**	**434**	**92.74%**

District 12	Pres Theresa Billips				
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2026 Mbrs.	Life 60	2027 Mbrs.	Percent
3006	Salisbury	91			
6365	Locust	20	5	20	100.00%
8989	Kannapolis	112	61	85	75.89%
9134	Rockwell	23	18	23	100.00%
	TOTALS	**246**	**85**	**128**	**52.03%**

Aux 3006 Officially closed

District 9	Pres Penny Cacoulidis				
Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 Mbrs.	Percent
4203	Rockingham	57	38	51	89.47%
5631	Sanford	132	118	121	91.67%
7318	Southern Pines	363	351	362	99.72%
10,403	Wadesboro	41	27	33	80.49%
	TOTALS	**593**	**534**	**567**	**95.62%**

CENTRAL	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 Mbrs.	Percent
TOTALS	**1591**	**1181**	**1357**	**85.29%**

VFW Auxiliary Dept. of NC Membership Report

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

Date: 10.26.26 | Western · Courtney Brown

District 11 Pres Denise Zink

Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 Mbrs.	Percent
1119	Cooleemee	30	11	36	120.00%
5352	Kernersville	142	82	104	73.24%
7794	Elkin	31	16	21	67.74%
9010	Clemmons	53	46	49	92.45%
9436	Pilot Mountain	61	25	52	85.25%
	TOTALS	**317**	**180**	**262**	**82.65%**

District 15 Pres Marge Gray

Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 77	Percent
1142	N. Wilkesboro	83	72	76	92.77%
4286	Newland	37	24	33	89.19%
7031	Boone	53	24	53	100.00%
7034	Sparta	65	54	58	89.23%
7946	Jefferson	31	13	31	103.23%
	TOTALS	**269**	**187**	**269**	**94.05%**

District 13 Pres Lyndsey Bowlus

Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 Mbrs.	Percent
1160	Charlotte	134	126	130	97.01%
2423	Indian Trail	102	99	103	100.98%
5464	Monroe	41	31	40	94.56%
6724	Paw Creek	45	36	43	95.56%
7775	Charlotte	21	20	20	95.24%
9337	Gastonia	63	30	43	68.25%
9736	Croft	15	11	11	73.33%
	TOTALS	**421**	**353**	**390**	**92.64%**

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	22	84.62%
	TOTALS	**178**	**147**	**153**	**85.96%**

1332

District 14 Pres Heather Shell

Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 Mbrs.	Percent
1706	Lincolnton	73	48	57	78.08%
2031	Statesville	70	58	64	91.43%
4066	Shelby	16	16	16	100.00%
5305	Newton	29	16	19	63.52%
5362	Morganton	24	16	26	108.33%
	TOTALS	**212**	**151**	**182**	**85.85%**

District 17 Pres Jan Strough

Aux. No.	Aux. Name	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 Mbrs.	Percent
4309	Brevard	166	118	143	86.14%
5202	Waynesville	175	119	142	81.14%
6812	Hayesville	56	44	55	98.20%
7339	Franklin	72	38	57	79.17%
	TOTALS	**469**	**319**	**378**	**84.65%**

WESTERN	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 Mbrs.	Percent
TOTALS	**1926**	**1337**	**1634**	**84.83%**

DEPT	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs	2027 Mbrs	Percent
TOTALS	**6951**	**5624**	**6315**	**90.85%**

inc. deaths

NC At-Large	2026 Mbrs.	Life Mbrs.	2027 Mbrs.	Percent
TOTALS	**796**	**867**	**889**	**111.60%**

Needed to Reach 100 % **636** **w/o deaths** **0**

Aux 7547 members became members at large

Aux 3006 members became members at large



VFW NATIONAL HOME

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

VFW National Home Program
CHANGE CHALLENGE
Thank You!

A heartfelt **THANK YOU** to all of our VFW Auxiliaries who participated in the VFW National Home Program Change Challenge!

Together, you have helped raise over $5,394!

That's not just change — that's a lifeline you've helped cast for the North Carolina Home at the VFW National Home to continue supporting our veterans and their families.

Post with a Canteen Winner



Kernersville VFW Post 5352 Auxiliary
$2,009.56 Raised!

Post without a Canteen Winner



Mebane VFW Post 1920 Auxiliary
$190 Raised!

Every penny collected represents compassion, generosity, and a commitment to those who have served.

Together, we're casting hope, changing lives, and proving that even the smallest change can make the biggest difference!

LET'S MAKE A REEL!

We want to highlight OUR Auxiliaries and show everyone the amazing work and history behind the VFW National Home!

Share ONE small fact about the VFW National Home, take a photo using the attached sign, and send it to me so we can create a Social Media reel to post!

It's Easy!

Choose one small fact about the VFW National Home.

Hold the attached sign with your fact, auxiliary name & number written on it.

Take a photo of you or your group.

Text me the photo at 772.302.6099 by 15 November



EXAMPLE:

"The VFW National Home has provided a safe and supportive community for veterans' and military families since 1925."

Be creative, keep it short, and have fun!

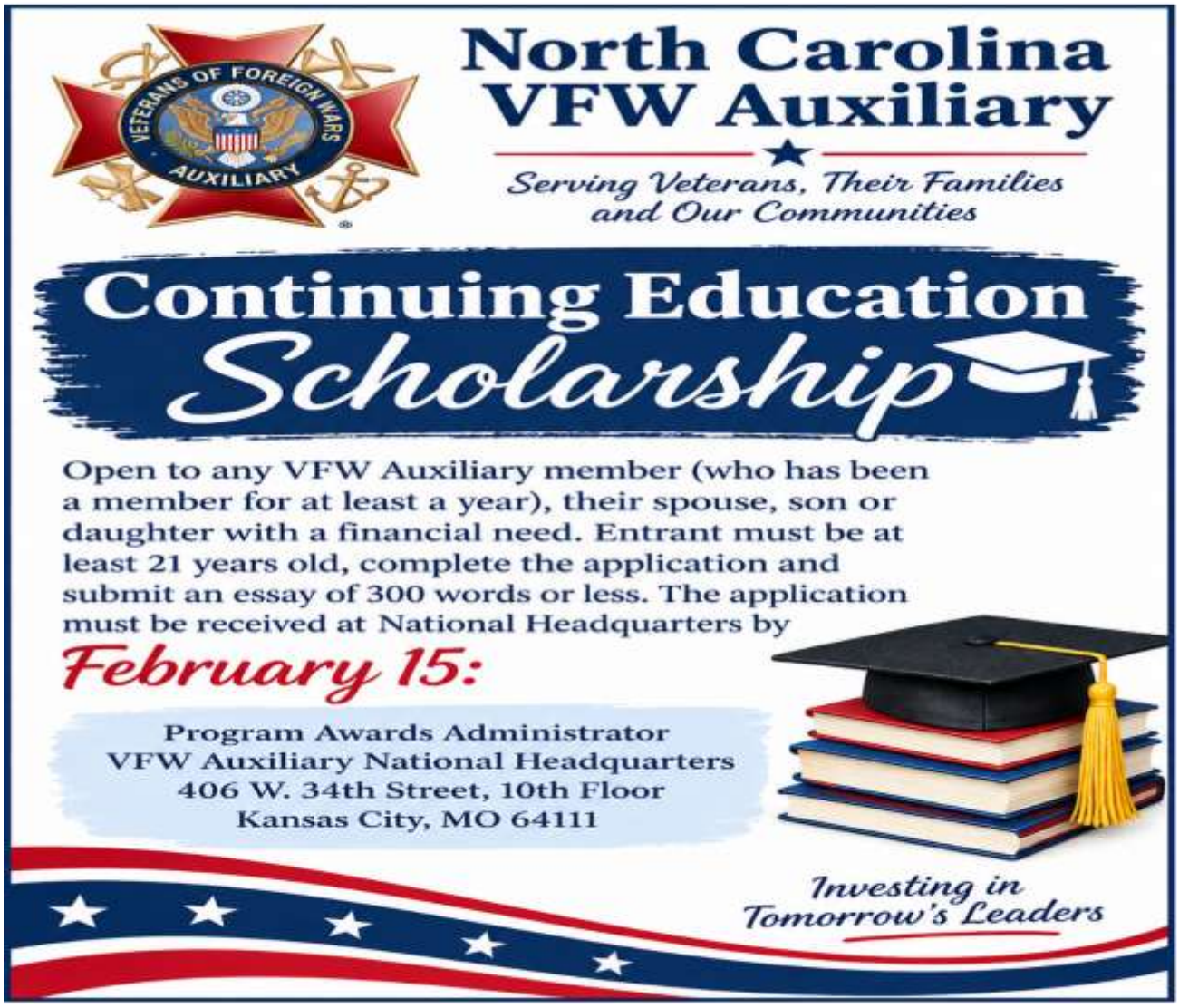


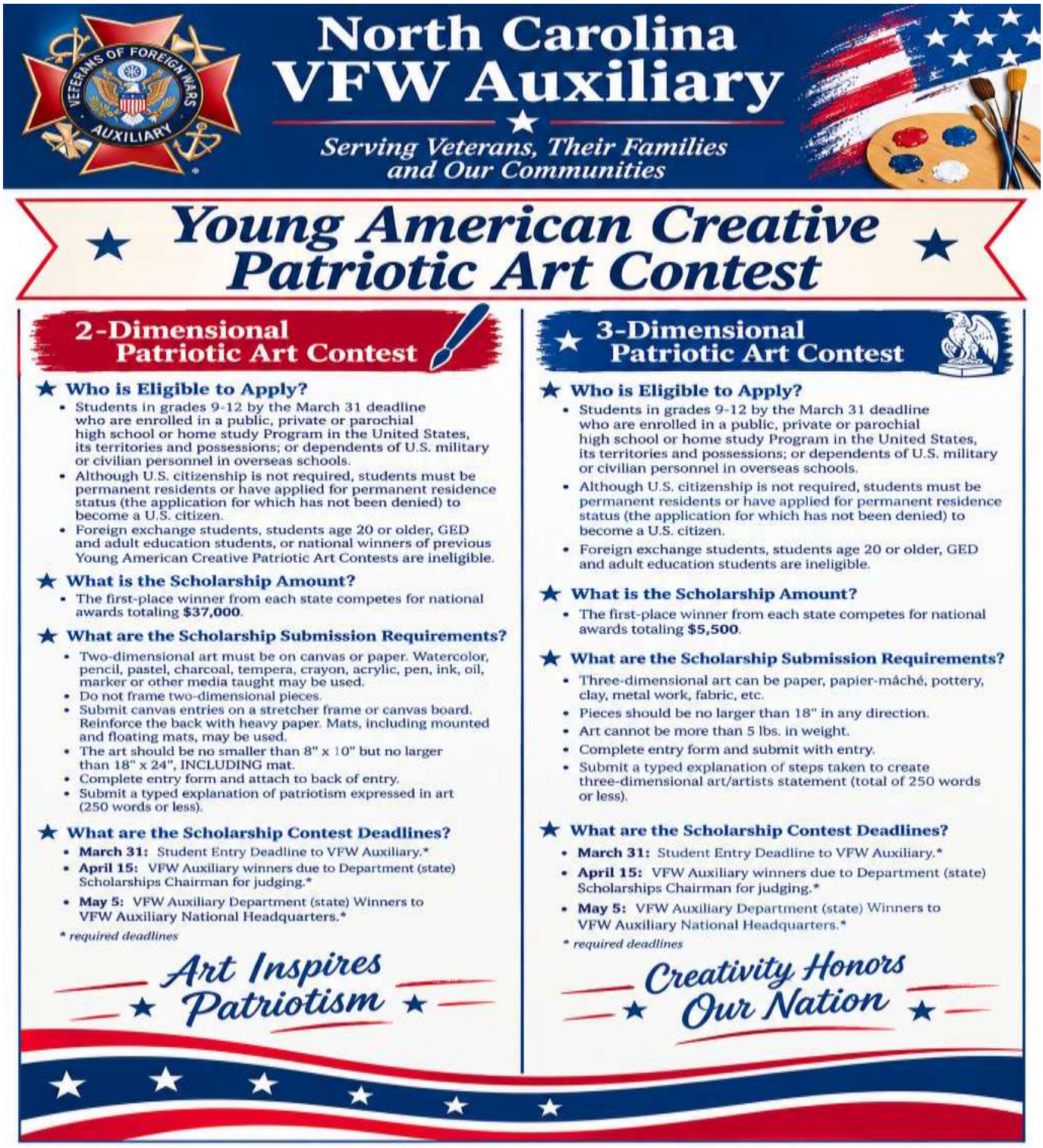
SCHOLARSHIPS CHAIRPERSON

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

Happy Fall!

I challenge all Auxiliary's to get at least one entry for EACH scholarship opportunity!! You can do it!





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



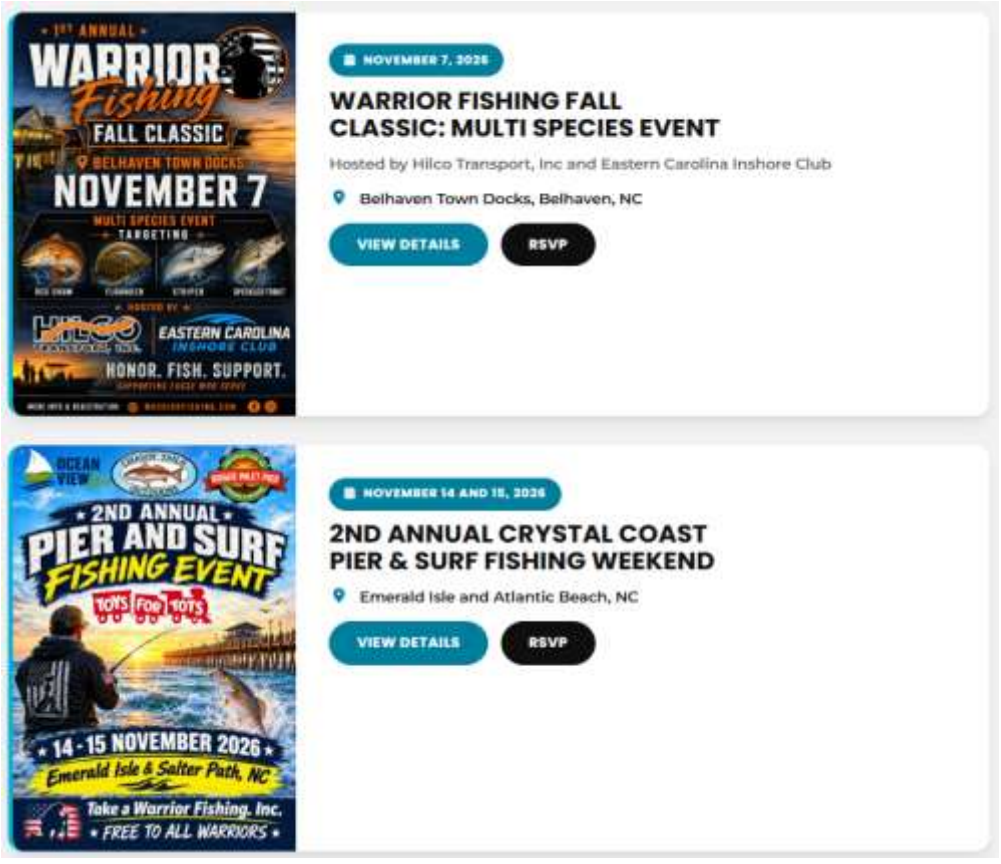
Special Project

Marge Gray
ml.gray@hotmail.com
P.O. Box 56
Sparta, NC 28675
704-902-8720

How awesome was it to have Dwayne Eury, founder of "Take A Warrior Fishing, Inc," come to the C of A last month and share with us about his amazing program for Veterans. After he spoke at the Joint Meeting, he hung around in the foyer and spoke with everyone who approached him.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

RSVP FOR THESE EVENTS AT warriorfishing.org



THESE EVENTS ARE FREE FOR MILITARY MEMBERS

Don't forget the "CAST A NET CHALLENGE"

FYI we are out of pins and coins for the President's Special Project

Cast a Net CHALLENGE

for the President's Special Project

Take a Warrior Fishing!

"Pass the net"

at your post meetings and bring them to your District meetings and

send a check from the District to:

Marge Gray
PO Box 56
Sparta, NC 28675

District raising the most money by Spring COA will receive a

$50 GIFT CERTIFICATE

for the VFW store.

Together We Can Make a Bigger Catch!



VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

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

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Intimate partner violence is an issue that affects both civilian and military populations. An estimated one in three women, and one in four men, have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime, according to the National Domestic Violence Hotline. It affects all sorts of people in the United States and abroad, in suburbs, cities and rural areas, regardless of culture, economic class, gender, sexuality, location, education level, race, religion, etc. This is why it is important to know the signs of domestic abuse and where to turn for help because it doesn't typically start with physical violence.

Last October, Joyce Bilyeu, CEO of the Sacramento Regional Family Justice Center in California, was interviewed about this topic. Her name may be familiar to you - in addition to her work as an advocate and author, she is an active VFW Auxiliary member who has served as National Patriotic Instructor, National Americanism Ambassador, National Historian and Department of California President (2011-2012), among other positions. Bilyeu is an expert in domestic violence education, prevention and assistance. She is also a survivor.

"Domestic violence isn't a private issue," according to Bilyeu. "It's a community issue."
You can read the article in its entirety by clicking the link in the VFW Auxiliary National E-Newsletter. It is important to remember that we, as VFW Auxiliary members, are not counselors, experts or law enforcement, but we can help by sharing information and resources at our meetings or in our communities, and also by posting fliers and phone numbers in our own Post bathrooms or bulletin boards (with permission), by knowing the red flags and by believing victims when they share their stories.

"When we don't say anything, it continues and people get hurt," says Bilyeu. "I always (say), 'I believe your story.' Listen without judgment, connect them to resources."
Spreading a message of hope is key. It can get better. You are not alone.

Domestic violence is not just physical abuse. Many victims of domestic violence suffer from mental abuse with no bruises or scars to show for their treatment.



Are you experiencing any of the following?
Domestic Violence
Intimate Partner Violence
Human Trafficking
Physical Abuse
Emotional Abuse
Sexual Abuse
Financial Abuse
Psychological Abuse



The National Domestic Abuse Hotline:
1-800-799-SAFE (7233)
Or text START to 88788.
https://www.thehotline.org

The National Human Trafficking Hotline:
1-888-373-7888

The Veterans Crisis Line:
988 (Press 1)

The VA's Intimate Partner Violence Assistant Program:
https://socialwork.va.gov/IPV/

988 LIFELINE
24/7 CALL, TEXT, CHAT

Youth Activities



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🍂November 🍂 is the month when we reflect on the many reasons we have to be thankful. It is also a wonderful opportunity to involve our youth in showing appreciation for our veterans and our country.

If you caught the VFW's Fall Council of Administration "whose on the line" skit, you know that I am encouraging you all to **INVITE** youth into your posts! You would be surprised at how eager our youth are to be included in so many of the things we do as an organization. I would love to see each post have its own Youth Group but for this year I am encouraging at least one post to form a youth group. The first post to accomplish this will be awarded and recognized at the next C of A.

Use the upcoming holidays as an opportunity to invite youth to help with your Post's **Veterans Day** events. Consider inviting a local youth group, school organization, or young members of your own families to participate alongside your Post members in your community's parade. If your Post is hosting a Veterans Day ceremony, luncheon, or another event honoring veterans, invite local youth to participate by helping with setup, serving meals, greeting veterans, or simply spending time with those who have served. These experiences provide meaningful opportunities for young people to learn about service, sacrifice, and patriotism firsthand.

Lastly, this is a reminder that **Illustrating America** art contest entries are due ***December 15, 2026***. The deadline is fast approaching, so make sure you are sharing the entry forms and contest rules with your community!

The forms can be found here: **Illustrating America Art Contest**

Please make sure you are **REPORTING your efforts!** And don't forget to recognize the efforts of the youth and youth groups that help your Auxiliary with a **R.A.P. Card**.

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

Youth Activities

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY

I have partnered with the VFW and their **Combat Tested Gaming** program to start a **Junior iRacing Series**. After encouraging a few youth to join the Comrades iRacing Series, we decided, *"Why not give them their own place?* A lot of these kids are our future members. They are affiliated with a servicemember who is eligible for the VFW, giving us an opportunity to build relationships with them now.

In this series, the kids will get to race each other, but they will also be asked to recognize our flag and National Anthem. During special holidays and observances, they will participate in special races. For example, the youth who have been racing with the Comrades this season have participated in a VFW birthday celebration race as well as a 9/11 Patriot Day race.

While it may seem like they are "just playing video games," we are also facilitating connections with our comrades, giving these young people opportunities to learn about patriotism, recognize the sacrifices of our veterans, and become involved in our organization in a way that is meaningful to them. If you know anyone under 16 that loves to race this is an open invitation to get them involved in the VFW and its Auxiliary.





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