

The Ladies Auxiliary V.F.W.  
Department of Texas



# Our Two Cents



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Sharon Helton

## “Going Above and Beyond to Call of Duty

What a busy month we have had. All of the training seminars have been completed. From the reports that I have received, the seminars were well attended and were a great success. Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to attend one of our seminars. You were listening to the trainers and asked all the right questions. I feel that Texas will have an outstanding year. To all the Past State Presidents and my Line Officers, Thank You for **“GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY”** to make the seminars a great success. You did an outstanding job and you should be proud. I know I am proud of you.

Membership is going well. The membership team is working hard and has been in touch with all of you. District Presidents; please keep up on your stat sheets. If one of your Auxiliaries is not transmitting members, find out why. Ask them if they have sent out a dues notice to their members. I know that if we continue to work together, Texas can and will achieve our goal of being 100%.

I want to thank the Auxiliaries for contacting our Congressmen and Senators this month. It has been a hard month not knowing if our Veterans and Seniors Citizens were getting a check. I know that it is not fair for our government to play this game. Be sure you report to the Legislative Chairman on all that you have done on this program.

In closing I want to say thank you for all the work that you do for our Organization and God Bless America. By **“ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY TO HELP OUR VETERANS”** we will show that we can **“STEP UP- NEVER LEAVE A VETERAN BEHIND”**.



### EXTENSION

#### BARBARA HOFFMAN – CHAIRMAN

Training is complete around the State and your individual District Training or School of Instructions should be complete. That means we are all ready to go to work. We are looking for new members around the State and your Auxiliary will be able to locate those new members I am confident. If for some reason you can't seem to locate that new member, guess what? You have ladies that can be reinstated.

Sometimes people do not want to belong to an Auxiliary, but that was yesterday. Today, after you contact them and let them know how much they are needed and how much we want them back, they will be more than willing to reinstate and be an active member of your Auxiliary. Sisters, we need all of our former, current and new members. We cannot operate alone, we are a Team!

District Presidents, be sure to do thorough inspects as we discussed at our workshop in July. If an Auxiliary is struggling, let us know we are here to help one and all. Attending an Auxiliary meeting and stating 'love you all and glad to be here' is not how to function as District President. Relay information you have received from National or the Department. If you've attended a Department Council of Administration meeting, share some of that with them, make them feel like they had been there. Now, I'm not saying talk all night. Be informative, be friendly and smile at your ladies. And above all, don't forget that pat on the back.

Working together Texas can't help but be outstanding as we enter our **“Going Above and Beyond the Call of Duty to Help Our Veterans”**. Always remembering if you need the Department President or me, we're here to help in any way as we all **“Step-Up—Never Leave a Veteran Behind”**.

Ladies Auxiliary to Veterans of Foreign Wars Dept. of Texas PO Box 15285 Austin Texas, 78761 ADDRESS SERVICES REQUESTED
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## AMERICANISM

### Kathy Stanley-Chairman

Sister, September is going to be a busy month, full of opportunities for Americanism, Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup> is Labor Day, Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup> is Patriots Day, Friday, September 16<sup>th</sup> is POW/MIA Day (State-wide Project), Sunday September 25<sup>th</sup> is Gold Star Mother's Day, and Thursday, September 29<sup>th</sup> is VFW Day. I am looking forward to receiving all your wonderful reports as each of you keep **"GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY TO HELP OUR VETERANS."**

The Americanism Director (Sandi Onstwedder) has an article in the July edition of the National magazine about the Military Suicide rate. September is Military Suicide Awareness month. There are teardrop stickers you can download and print to wear during the month of September to let everyone know what we are concerned with this growing problem. Please **"STEP UP-NEVER LEAVE A VETERAN BEHIND."**

## HOSPITAL/VAVS

### Janet Ratliff-Chairman

This is the month for our hospital pledge so get it in early if you can. The state wide project is taking things to the VA hospitals and clinics for our veterans. Check with the clinics to see if they need snacks for ones coming in to have blood drawn with-out eating, you can get crackers-some have peanut butter and others have cheese in them. The veterans really do appreciate getting this item along with a cup of coffee. Remember we will go **"ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY TO HELP OUR VETEANS"** and we will **"STEP UP-NEVER LEAVE A VETERAN BEHIND."**

## CANCER AID & RESEARCH

### Jayne McCormick – Chairman

"Our Windmill of Courage"

How can we find and prevent Colon Cancer?

Something is just not right with my body. A little blood which I ignored and ignored – A tender spot right in my lower stomach. Nah- nothing is wrong. I just ate too much spicy stuff - but again maybe I should call Dr. "Jones". I am so scared. So I made my appointment and the test began with a colonoscopy. I really didn't like the preliminary stuff but I did it anyway. A large polyp was found and my heart sank, and rose again when the test came back non-cancerous. My next test is scheduled in three years and will do it.

Colon Cancer is a killer. It is a stage driven cancer and the third most diagnosed cancer in the United States. One out of every nineteen will be diagnosed with colon cancer – about a 5% frequency. But the **Cure** is fantastic- 90%. Colon Cancer is ugly and if not detected early could be terminal. Dear Sisters, please be constantly aware of any changes in your body. You are the keeper of taking care of yourself. Get your colonoscopy. Did you know that most people that get colon cancer have no family history of the disease?

### Our Challenge for this Year

Cancer Pins 100%

\$2.00 per Member 100%

Fund Raisers (as many as possible)

All of these monies will help to find a **Cure**. WE all know **RESEARCH** is the answer. Sisters "WE CAN" make a difference. God Bless each and every one of my Sisters and may God walk with you always.

**"Step Up Leave No Veteran Behind"**

**"Going Above and Beyond the Call of Duty to Help Our Veterans"**

## LEGISLATIVE

### Callie Lupkin-Chairman

By now you should have received your packets on Legislative work. I encourage you to follow the instructions for writing your on Congressional and Senate members. Remember to be direct, factual and calm in your demands for action.

This month of September is National POW/MIA month and one of our Priority goals is to encourage continued funding of the national program to find our lost men. I think this would make a good topic for each of us to work on this month. Although this may not be your District designated Priority goal you may write to representatives on all topics. While writing and calling this month you could all so mention the fact that you as a member of the best volunteer organization in America that you are upset about the proposed military cuts for our Veterans and their entitlements. **STEP UP- NEVER LEAVE A VETERAN BEHIND AND GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL TO DUTY TO HELP OUR VETERANS.** This is our cause and mission this year like every year. Do what you can our Veterans are counting on you

V.O.T.E our statewide project only requires that you register voters whether they are Veterans or not. Keep track of the number of voter registration cards you pass out and report. Reporting to me is the only way our National organization knows how hard we are working to help our Veterans.

## MEMBERSHIP

### Cheryl Owen-Chairman

Congratulations to the auxiliaries who achieved award #3 by reaching 60% by 8/31/11. Now we are working towards award #4 of reaching 75% by 9/30/11.

Corrections to Department Program: Auxiliary Award #6 and District President Awards #3 & #4 – need to achieve 91% instead of 90%.

Recruiting Exercise – take a few minutes at your next meeting to conduct this simple exercise. Have your members list the Veteran they are eligible under, then begin to fill out the form based on other members of his/her family that are eligible to join the LAVFW. This is also an exercise that the VFW & Men's Auxiliaries can participate in.

Membership Raffle - To enter the drawing for the American Flag Throw, you must have a membership application on you. Your District President or your District Membership Chairman will ask to see it sometime at your district functions. Everyone should be carrying a membership application with them at all times so no one should be caught without one. Drawing will be at the State Convention in June 2012.

The Membership Workshop at the National Convention in San Antonio will be on Monday August 29 from 3-5pm in HBGC Ballroom C-123. Look forward to seeing you there. LOTS of information!

Repeat after me "We will be 100% - we will settle for nothing less." So put a smile on your face and a pep in your step while "**Going Above and Beyond the Call of Duty to Help Our Veterans**" as we "**Step Up—Never Leave a Veteran Behind**".

### STATE NURSING SCHORLARSHIP

**Andrea King-Chairman**

The Student Nursing Scholarship program is really very simple. One thing your Auxiliary should do is find some way to "Honor" your local nurses. You don't necessarily have to have an event with awards or trophies, but you can if you want to do something like that. Some of the Auxiliaries fix up little themed "Goodie Bags" on different special days (4th of July, Patriot Day, Halloween, Thanksgiving, etc. etc.) and take them to their local hospitals, nursing homes, emergency rooms or their own doctors' office and present them to the staff. Some may take a picnic lunch to these same places or maybe order pizza for the night shift at a hospital. Whatever you decide to do, be sure to document it with pictures and turn it in on the new Report form.

If you know someone who will be a senior nursing student in the Fall of 2012 give them an application, this applies to students in the RN program as well as LVNs. If there is a nursing school in your area, you may want to take some applications and ask that they be posted. I will be contacting the nursing schools in Texas and providing them with applications, if I should get an application from someone that didn't go through an Auxiliary, I will see if I can place them with an Auxiliary.

This year, we are asking all Auxiliaries to hold some sort of a fund-raiser in an effort to make our Student Nursing Scholarship perpetual. An award will be given to the Auxiliary in each membership division that has the most unique fund-raiser. In the case of a small district, all the Auxiliaries can band together and hold one big fund-raiser and each Auxiliary can take credit for participating. Again, document with pictures & turn in the form. At the end of the year, I would welcome a "scrapbook" you have kept all year about your activities. If you have questions, I'm only a telephone call or email away.

We are **GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY TO HELP OUR VETERANS** as we **STEP UP...NEVER LEAVE A VETERAN BEHIND!**

### VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

**Debbie Gregory-Chairman**

**GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY TO HELP OUR VETERANS** as we **STEP UP...NEVER LEAVE A VETERAN BEHIND!**

**Presidents Special Project:** At Council Of Administration *our Dept.* Treasurer presented a one-of-a-kind quilt made with love and given to a Wounded Warrior. Two have been donated specifically to raise funds for TEXAS VETERANS. Make payable to LAVFW, Memo: **TEXAS Veterans QUILT**. If you need more tickets call. Drawing will be held at Mid-Winter for this QUILT.

**NEW!** A Ladies Auxiliary Commemorative Coin available through VFW Store. Give to any active duty military or veteran you encounter. Emblazoned with **Aux emblem** on one side; flip over, reads, "**Thank you for your service – You are in our prayers**". Use at farewell & homecoming events.

### **Ladies Aux Continuing Education Scholarship-**

A \$1,000. scholarship will be awarded to one member in each conference. This must be a TEXAS applicant. Don't you agree? Email a copy of the application to all members. Post it on your Facebook. Applications must be completed and sent in by February 15, 2012. TEXANS show up early!!

**Buddy Poppy** – Many church groups want to help Veterans; ask to place your events in their bulletins or newsletters. Bring your Ladies Aux emblem or collage of VFW emblems [made of Buddy Poppies in a minimum size of 8" x 8"] to Mid-Winter. Raise funds using this emblem to support all our National Military Services. Take your Ladies Aux emblem & ask to display it in a local restaurant or business as a way to accept additional donations. Rotate throughout the community. Many owners of businesses or even the restaurants want the community to know they support our Veterans. Distribute at events held at your local colleges or arenas. Ask for help. Ladies we can move mountains if we ask.

**VFW NATIONAL HOME For Children** – Obtain one NEW Life Member at a cost of \$35. Or an Associate Life Member, Mail to: VFW National Home for Children, 3573 S Waverly Rd, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827. Call for assist: 800-424-8360 info@vfnationalhome.org

**National Military Services** – All 3 of these programs require our assistance; use your Buddy Poppy Project.

**MAP** – Provides for farewell & homecoming events and Family Readiness activities. Involve the community in all your events; Participate in Adopt-A-Unit. The children in the local school will help you accomplish this program with great enthusiasm.

**UnMet Needs** – Provides grants (paid directly to creditors) to active duty military, for hardship needs. A one-time grant of \$2,500. may be paid to a creditor of a veteran administered by the VFW Foundation. "**Step UP ~ Leave NO Veteran Behind**" in desperate need because we turned a blinded eye or were too busy.

Can you Help? Place MAP in the memo.

**Operation Uplink** –offers 2 FREE days each month of troops in Iraq, Afghanistan & Kuwait. If a unit has access to a DSN line, they can use a virtual pin. Give the gift of a voice from home.

1. Compete in your Aux. & District for highest ticket sales to aid NMS & the Texas Veterans Quilt drawing.
2. Ask a local or county celebrity to endorse your VFW Buddy Poppy drive.
3. Purchase Ladies Auxiliary Commemorative Coin; pass out at your local VA Hospital.
4. Purchase a Life Membership to VFW National Home as a thank you to a past Aux. or District president or other multi-year Officer.



## VOICE OF DEMOCRACY/PATRIOTS PEN

**Chris Bishop-Chairman**

As we **“STEP-UP NEVER LEAVE A VETERAN BEHIND”** We are **“GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY TO HELP A VETERAN”** and to help these children who want to further their education. With our Help, they can do this. Think back on when your child was going to college, how hard it was to pay the expenses every semester. I remember this well, and without the help of these programs I never could have afforded to send my daughter to college. You are a wonderful group of women who have joined in this program to do just this. I hope by now each Auxiliary in the great state of Texas has reached out to at least one school in their area. Talk to the Principal and give him/her the literature I gave each of you. Don't hesitate to call me if you need me. I am always here for each of you. Please report anything you do to me so I can Tell OUR National director Bernadette Botbyl, She Loves to hear all that you are accomplishing, just as I do. I am looking forward to hearing from each of you soon.

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

**Joyce Dalton-Chairman**

September has arrived and a new school year has started. There are many opportunities in the next few months that provide programs for our youth. Include them in your Patriot's Day and POW/MIA programs. Remember we can **“STEP UP (with our youth) LEAVE NO VETERAN BEHIND”**

Now is the time to promote and publicize the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Competition, don't wait until the last minute to make contact with high schools and art teachers. It takes time for the students to come up with an idea and more time to complete their artwork. The student deadline to Auxiliary is March 31, 2012; Auxiliary to Department Chairman is April 15, 2012. Application for Patriotic Art criteria and helpful hints are available on the Ladies Auxiliary website: ladiesauxvfw.org.

JUMP (Junior Unit Merit Program) is new, exciting and an excellent way to get Junior Girls more involved with our programs, learn more about our county and why our military fights for our freedom. IF you have a Junior Girls Unit in your District, help them earn as many as 44 badges that are available. Try to make a donation to the Junior Girls Scholarship Fund.

Contact local Boy Scout, Girl Scouts, schools, church groups and other youth organizations to help with “Youth Supporting Our Troops”. There is a special citation from National President to the group or individual who helps “Support our Troops. Deadline to request a citation is April 1, 2012.

All projects must have approval from the Auxiliary and should be completed between July 1, 2011 and April 1, 2012. These important things to remember; PROMOTION, PUBLICITY, and REPORTING!

Let's continue **“GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY TO HELP OUR VETERANS”** and our youth, the leader of tomorrow.

## OUTSTANDING AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

**Dorthy L. Bennett - Chairman**

Auxiliary Presidents I hope that you have planned a great Auxiliary year by **“Going Above and Beyond the Call of Duty to Help Our Veterans”**. Please review the requirements for the Outstanding President program. By this time you should be well on your way in making quota, bonds for the president and treasurer should have been renewed, the July audit for April through June should have been completed correctly and sent to Department, and schools of instruction should have been completed.

Number seven asks about the activities of the programs required by both Department and National. Remember you need to report at least one activity for each listed program. Pictures, copies of checks and publicity will go a long way in telling the story of your Auxiliary year. Scrapbooks are welcomed. Don't forget the extra points. Madame President's special project is Cancer Aid and Research. How did your Auxiliary help the Department reach our goal?

Sometimes we do not like to “toot our own horns” but this report tells the story of your Auxiliary and how you lead them in 2011-2012. Please note that my email address should be TexasVeterans@att.net should you have questions.

## DEPT. PRESIDENT HOMECOMING

Dept. President Sharon Helton Homecoming is October 8, 2011 in Amarillo. When making the reservations tell them you are with VFWAUX. September 11<sup>th</sup> is the deadline for room reservations.

Fifth Season Inn & Suites  
6801 I-40 West  
Amarillo 79106  
806.358.7881

877-246-1850 reservations 806-358-1726 fax  
Price is \$59.99 a night plus tax

## Roster Corrections

District 10 Ka Davis Email Kdavis002@elp.rr.com

District 13 Trudy Alger Email wagler38@hotmail.com

District 15 Carol Hudack Email chudak@comcell.net

District 18 Chris Calders Email calderasix@aol.com

**Remember Per Capita Is \$8 Per Annual Member**