

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WAR OF THE UNITED STATES
AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS**



2025-2026 PROGRAM KICKOFF



Saturday, August 23, 2025

Theresa Logue, Department President

**Patricia Folino, PDP
Chairman**

**Sheila Layton, PDP
Co-Chairman**



*VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE
UNITED STATES AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS*

WELCOME TO THE PROGRAM KICK OFF

On behalf of the Kick Off organizing committee, we extend a warm welcome to each of you. We are excited to have you join us for this annual event focusing on the Department Programs for 2025-2026.

This year's Kick Off promises to be a dynamic and insightful experience, featuring the Department Chairmen reviewing the goals for the year; our Department Secretary/Treasurer reviewing updates in MALTA, 990n reporting, and basic duties of the Secretary and Treasurer; as well as our Department Guard reviewing the use of QR Codes, and more. We encourage all to actively participate in the event, engage with the Chairmen and fellow attendees, and make the most of the valuable information you will be receiving.

We are aware not every auxiliary has internet and more and more information is being made available on-line and you will learn how to stay updated in the event you do not have this capability.

We sincerely hope that you enjoy the Kick Off. The Department Officers and Chairmen have worked extremely hard preparing to update you on the expectations of the National and Department programs for this year. Please be attentive and bring back to your Auxiliaries the information gathered today to your Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters to use in your programs to assure that you will have a successful 2025-2026 program year.

Loyally,

Patricia A. Folino, PDP
Chairman

Sheila J. Layton, PDP
Co-Chairman

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE U.S. AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS
STATE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Here we are at the start of a new year, but the reporting season began back in April, so we have already started our season, and I know you have been busy working hard for our Veterans and their families. At times, we hear that being an Auxiliary member is hard, and I wonder why that is said. When you ask someone about their reason for saying it, it has nothing to do with the reason that they joined – their “Why” as people have said. We have joined for that Veteran, that family member that means so much to us, but we stay because the work fulfills something in us and honors our Veteran and those that we meet along the way. The reason the work is hard sometimes is because we have reports, the floor work, the bylaws, the traditions that built our organization. These things come from time-honored military traditions that Veterans and families have done for decades and so we continue to do them, and we make improvements along the way.

This year, please keep an open mind while looking at this year's Kickoff Book(s) and you will notice a change with the programs. There are just as many however, they come with new technology involved and we will be doing a school of instruction at Kickoff on how to use this technology.

Our National President's Motto is From Sea to Shining Sea, Honoring our Veterans. Let's do that by working on the programs.

My theme is Bridge the Gap for our Veterans and Families. There is so much we can do to help fill the gaps, and we will work through Auxiliary Outreach, Veterans and Family Support and the other programs to do so.

Please take the time to read the book(s) and get to know your Program Chairman, District Presidents, and don't hesitate to reach out to any of us should you need assistance.

Let's Bridge the Gap for our Veterans and Families!

Loyally,



Department President

2025-2026

teeloquevfwauxma@gmail.com

978-973-0601

PROGRAM COORDINATOR
Juliette Mason, PDP
P O Box 1222
Southwick, MA 01077
413-569-1855
jules14beal42@gmail.com

Well, here we are again. It's the beginning of a new year; how time flies. New chairmen, new officers and new objectives. The one thing that doesn't change is why we exist – to help our Veterans & Families. Are you ready and up for the task?

All program chairmen have been given a road map from the National organization's Program Ambassadors on the goals for the 2025-2026 year, led by our new National President, Lois Callahan, and the rest of the National officers. Lois' theme this year is

Our Department President, Theresa Logue, has chosen her theme to be "BRIDGE THE GAP FOR OUR VETERANS AND FAMILIES."

The chairmen have been tasked to keep in touch with their Ambassadors and regularly keep our members informed about their programs through newsletters and presentations at our Council of Administration meetings. They will also have promotional materials available to all of you at the Program Kickoff and Mid-Winter Conference.

This message is not just for program chairmen but to all members. If you are confused about something or just not sure about something, there is always someone you can talk to. It doesn't stop at your Auxiliary, but to anyone – Department, District, Chairman or other members. We are all here for the same reason.

I know we will have a fantastic year.

Dept. Chairman Required Meeting/Reporting

July 1, 2025	Dept. Chairman's instructional meeting
July 31, 2025	Letter of introduction to National Ambassador (Auxiliary & personal resume)

Articles to Betty (copies to National Ambassador and Julie)

July 1, 2025	Kickoff book article
Aug 1, 2025	Dept. Newsletter #1
Oct 1, 2025	Dept. Newsletter #2
Dec 1, 2025	Dept. Newsletter #3
Feb 1, 2026	Dept. Newsletter #4
May 1, 2026	Convention book report

Presentations at meetings (copies to Nat Ambassador, Julie & Betty)

Jul 19, 2025	COA - Hampden Aux 9397
Aug 23, 2025	Program Kickoff - Rockland 1788
Oct 18, 2025	COA - Methuen 8349
Jan 24, 2026	COA - Natick 1274
Feb 21, 2026	Mid-Winter - Uxbridge 1385
Apr 25, 2026	COA - Freetown 6643
Jun 4-7, 2026	State Convention - Springfield

Other reporting

Dec 15, 2025	Block forms to Mid-Winter Chairman (Melissa Pratt)
Apr 15, 2026	Block forms to Aux of the Year Chair (Alice McGoven))
Apr 25, 2026	National Year End Report to State President
May 15, 2026	Names of Division winners and runners up to Betty

Throughout the year you are required to send a **articles minimum of 4 promotions, presentations, reports and letters to your NATIONAL AMBASSADOR**, so when submitting anything to Betty be sure to also cc copies to both your Ambassador and me.

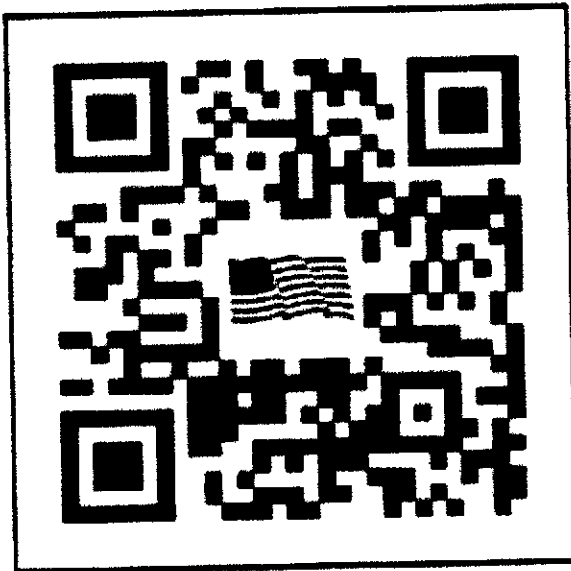
Carrie Joseph Americanism

I am honored to be this year's Americanism Chairperson! I know that by working together we will help to bridge the gap and help more veterans and their families. Our National Ambassador is Diana Russell-Milton. I am looking forward to keeping her updated with all of the amazing things we are doing in MA!

This Year's Programs

QR Code

This year every program has a QR Code. Please help promote this code to all of the Auxiliaries. By scanning the QR Code, it will bring you to the Americanism page in Malta where you will find all the important information for this year's program.



Promote Patriotism

The year is filled with opportunities to promote and teach patriotism, especially to our youth! I have included a list of all of the patriotic days we can celebrate or honor our country. Please see the attached list of important patriotic dates. In Malta there are also materials you can use to give to schools or the youth for learning the National Anthem and the Pledge of Allegiance. In the Program Kick Off you will also find Patriotic Appreciation Citations that can be filled out and printed to give to people in the community you see that are helping to promote patriotism.



Flag Etiquette

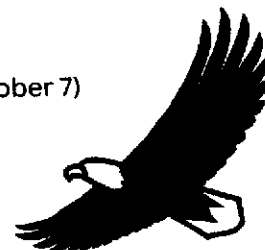
Our flag is so precious to our country, and our veterans continue to fight to defend it. We need to make sure we are educating others about the proper way to display, care for, and dispose of our nation's flag. In Malta you will find different resources you can use to help do this, such as bookmarks for children. Also, in Malta you will find Respect the Flag citations for sports and for schools. These are great ways to encourage the community to continue to show respect for our flag.

For more details and program details, you can contact me at [REDACTED] or my cellphone is 413-246-3606. Or visit MALTA - Member Resources - Americanism. I am looking forward to an amazing year working with you and our Veterans!

★ ★ ★
PATRIOTIC HOLIDAYS & RECOGNITION DAYS



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
Presidents' Day (third Monday of February)
Star-Spangled Banner Day (March 3)
K-9 Veterans Day (March 13)
Rosie the Riveter Day (March 21)
Medal of Honor Day (March 25)
National Vietnam War Veterans Day (March 29)
Gold Star Spouses Day (April 5)
Anniversary of the day the Gulf War ended (April 11)
Purple Up! Day, part of Month of the Military Child (April 15)
Loyalty Day (May 1)
Silver Star Service Banner Day (May 1)
V-E/Victory in Europe Day (May 8)
Home Front Heroes Day (May 9)
Military Spouse Appreciation Day (Friday before Mother's Day)
Children of Fallen Patriots Day (May 13)
Armed Forces Day (third Saturday in May)
Memorial Day (last Monday of May)
Anniversary of D-Day (June 6)
National Women Veterans Recognition Day (June 12)
Flag Day (June 14)
Juneteenth (June 19)
PTSD Awareness Day (June 27)
Made in America Day (July 2)
Independence Day/Fourth of July (July 4)
National "Hire a Veteran" Day (July 27)
National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day (July 27)
National Buffalo Soldiers Day (July 28)
Purple Heart Day (August 7)
Agent Orange Awareness Day (August 10)
Navajo Code Talkers Day (August 14)
V-J Day (September 2)
Patriot Day/National Day of Service & Remembrance (September 11)
Uncle Sam Day (September 13)
VFW Auxiliary Birthday (September 14)
Constitution Day & Citizenship Day (September 17)
POW/MIA Recognition Day (third Friday in September)
Gold Star Mother's & Family Day (last Sunday in September)
Johnny Appleseed Day (September 21 OR March 11)
VFW Day (September 29)
Global War on Terrorism & Desert Storm Veterans Day (October 7)
Day of the Deployed (October 26)
Statue of Liberty's Birthday (October 28)
Veterans Day (November 11)
Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (December 7)
Bill of Rights Day (December 7)



AUXILIARY OF THE YEAR
Alice McGovern, Chairman
28 Pheasant Lane
Templeton, MA 01468
978-855-7954
rlamcgovern@yahoo.com

Committee: Ardith Hayden, PDP / Donna LeBlanc

The Department's Auxiliary of the Year program assists auxiliaries in fulfilling our National Programs goals by offering points for your achievements, with awards given for those who have successfully earned them. Earn 150 points and your auxiliary will receive a \$10 check at Convention. Earn a minimum of 175 points and your auxiliary will be in the running for prizes of \$25, \$15 or \$10 and bragging rights as an Auxiliary of the Year. Complete listing of points available are on the following pages.

Our first reporting period is from April 1, 2025, through November 30, 2025. Reports on these programs must be RECEIVED by the Department Chairmen by December 31, 2025, to be considered for our Mid-Winter Conference contest. Blank reports will not be awarded points. Note some items in bold print must be completed by November 30, 2025. These include the annual auxiliary finance donation, attendance at Program Kickoff and Hospital Workshop, quarterly audit reports in to the Department Treasurer on time.

Even if you are familiar with this program, please take the time to review each item as some things have been changed, added, deleted or re-worded. Total available points is still 235 points, PLUS AN EXTRA 15 POINTS for submitting a brief report of any ONE auxiliary project assisting a veteran, their families, or your community.

To be eligible for any awards at Convention, your auxiliary must have met the following criteria, also:

- Held at least 10 meetings this year
- Not be on suspension
- Not be in arrears with National or Department
- Be up to date with audit reports
- Have officers elected, installed and recorded in MALTA for the coming year
- Have Department Convention registration fees paid in full

Good Luck to all!

AUXILIARY OF THE YEAR

2025-2026

HIGHLIGHTED ITEMS MUST BE COMPLETED BY NOVEMBER 30, 2025
Monetary Donations to any project must be a minimum of \$10.00 to earn credit.

NOTE: Two reports (one per period) shall be required covering the following periods:

4/01/25 – 11/30/25 This report must be received by the Department Chairmen by December 31, 2025, to be considered for the Mid-Winter Conference Contest.

12/01/25 – 3/31/2026 This report must be received by the Department Chairmen by April 15, 2026, to be considered for the Convention contests.

BLANK REPORTS WILL NOT BE AWARDED POINTS

OPERATIONS / ADMINISTRATION

CONVENTION FUND

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Donation of prize to the Pre-Convention Jamboree | 2 Points |
| 2. Purchase of Pre-Convention Jamboree raffle tickets | 3 Points |
| 3. Participation in additional Convention Fund special fundraiser | <u>3 Points</u> |
| | 8 Points |

FINANCE

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Annual Auxiliary Finance Donation by November 30, 2025 | 5 Points |
| (Donations received after November 30, 2025 – 2 Points) | |
| 2. Annual Auxiliary Finance Donation of \$50.00 or more | 5 Points |
| 3. Financial participation in finance projects throughout the year (to be prorated) | <u>25 Points</u> |
| | 35 Points |

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Member(s) attendance at the Program Kickoff | 3 Points |
| 2. Member(s) attendance at majority of District meetings | 2 Points |
| 3. Member(s) attendance at Department Mid-Winter Conference | 2 Points |
| 4. Donation to State President's Special Project | 3 Points |
| 5. Four (4) quarterly audits to Dept. Treasurer ON TIME (end of Aug., Nov., Feb. and May) | 2 Points |
| 6. Purchase of State President's pins | 2 Points |
| 7. Purchase of 25 or more State President's pins | <u>5 Points</u> |
| | 21 Points |

NATIONAL PROGRAMS

AMERICANISM

1. Utilize Americanism material/resources in MALTA Member Resources & instruct usage of Americanism QR code 1 Point
 2. Promote, participate in, recognize any patriotic day or branch of service birthdays 2 Points
 3. American and/or POW/MIA flag presentation (must be at least 2" x 3") 2 Points
 4. Issue Patriotic Appreciation Citations, Certificate of Appreciation or Respect for the Flag Citations to businesses/citizens displaying U.S. or POW/MIA flag or other displays of American pride 1 Point
 5. Conduct patriotic instruction in your Auxiliary and/or community 1 Point
 6. Participated in a Loyalty Day program between 4/1/25 to 5/31/25 1 Point
 - 7a. Submit required ½ year report by 12/31/25 1 Point
 - b. Submit required year-end report by 4/15/26 1 Point
- 10 Points*

AUXILIARY OUTREACH

1. Utilize Auxiliary Outreach material/resources in MALTA Member Resources & instruct usage of Auxiliary Outreach QR code 1 Point
 2. Participate as a group to volunteer/partner with another organization not affiliated with the VFW or VFW Auxiliary 2 Points
 3. Create and submit to Dept. Chairman a photo collage of your Outreach program 2 Points
 - 4a. Submit required ½ year report by 12/31/25 1 Point
 - b. Submit required year-end report by 4/15/26 1 Point
- 7 Points*

BUDDY POPPY / VFW NATIONAL HOME

Buddy Poppy:

1. Utilize the Buddy Poppy material/resources in MALTA Member Resources & instruct usage of Buddy Poppy/National Home QR code 1 Point
2. Hold a Buddy Poppy drive with or without your Post 2 Points
3. Participate in the Department Program Kickoff display contest 1 Point
4. Participate in the Mid-Winter Conference display contest 1 Point

VFW National Home:

5. Utilize the National Home material/resources from MALTA Member Resources 1 Point
 6. Promote the VFW National Home 1 Point
 7. Promote the VFW National Home's Helpline 1 Point
 8. Purchase at least one National Home Life Membership or Tribute Brick 1 Point
 9. Donate to Health & Happiness/Christmas Cheer Fund through National 2 Points
 10. Donate to Massachusetts House through Department 2 Points
 - 11a. Submit required ½ year report by 12/31/25 1 Point
 - b. Submit year-end report by 4/15/26 1 Point
- 15 Points*

CHIEF OF STAFF/EXTENSION/REVITALIZATION

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Utilize the Extension/Revitalization/Mentoring materials in MALTA Resources & instruct usage of Extension/Revitalization QR code | 1 Point |
| 2. Present "Good Job" awards to mentors in your Auxiliary | 2 Points |
| 3. Have no need for a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) Committee visit | 2 Points |
| 4. Hold a special recognition for mentors in your auxiliary | 2 Points |
| 5a. Submit required ½ year report by 12/31/25 | 1 Point |
| b. Submit required year-end report by 4/15/26 | 1 Point |
| | <u>9 Points</u> |

HISTORIAN / MEDIA RELATIONS

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Utilize Historian & Media Relations material/resources in MALTA Member Resources & instruct usage of Historian/Media Relations QR code | 1 Point |
| 2. Communicate quarterly to all members by email, text or phone call | 2 Points |
| 3. Have and use a Facebook page and/or Website (alone or with Post) | 1 Point |
| 4. Hold a "how to" training to educate members on use of media | 1 Point |
| 5a. Submit required ½ year report by 12/31/25 | 1 Point |
| b. Submit required year-end report by 4/15/26 | 1 Point |
| | <u>7 Points</u> |

HOSPITAL

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Member(s) attendance at the Hospital Workshop | 3 Points |
| 2. Utilize the Hospital material/resources in MALTA Member Resources & instruct usage of Hospital QR code | 1 Point |
| 3. Donation to Department Hospital Fund (Hospital Pledge) | 2 Points |
| 4. Donation of \$50.00 or more to Department Hospital Fund (Hospital Pledge) | 5 Points |
| 5. Sponsor a party/function for any facility, both VA and non-VA | 2 Points |
| 6. Donate items to a medical center/soldiers home/community hospital or nursing home | 2 Points |
| 7. Volunteer at any VA and/or non-VA medical facility | 2 Points |
| 8a. Submit required ½ year report by 12/31/25 | 1 Point |
| b. Submit required year-end report by 4/15/26 | 1 Point |
| | <u>19 Points</u> |

LEGISLATIVE

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
| 1. Utilize the Legislative material/resources in MALTA Member Resources & instruct usage of Legislative QR code | 1 Point |
| 2. Subscribe to VFW's <i>Action Corps Weekly</i> | 1 Point |
| 3. Promote, participate or host activities regarding VFW Priority Goals | 1 Point |
| 4. Contact legislators on veterans issues by any means (emails, phone, letters, etc.) | 1 Point |
| 5a. Submit required ½ year report by 12/31/25 | 1 Point |
| b. Submit required year-end report by 4/15/26 | 1 Point |
| | <u>6 Points</u> |

MEMBERSHIP (recorded at National Headquarters by dates listed)

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1. 80% plus by September 30, 2025 | 12 Points |
| 2. 95%+ by November 30, 2025 | 12 Points |
| 3. 98%+ by February 28, 2026 | 12 Points |
| 4. 100%+ by April 30, 2026 | 7 Points |
| 5. 102%+ by May 31, 2026 | 5 Points |
| 6. Utilize Membership material/resources in MALTA Member Resources & instruct usage of Membership QR code | 1 Point |
| 7. Promote, participate or host activities on Auxiliary education and recruitment or educate members on National Membership Program Awards | 1 Point |
| 8. Participate in recruiting event on any level | 1 Point |
| 9. Recruit at least one new member | 3 Points |
| 10a. Submit required ½ year report by 12/31/25 | 1 Point |
| b. Submit required year-end report by 4/15/26 | <u>1 Point</u> |
| | 56 Points |

SCHOLARSHIPS

- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Promote the National Continuing Education Scholarship Contest | 1 Point |
| 2. Donate to the Continuing Education Scholarship Fund through National | 1 Point |
| 3. Promote / Participate in the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest | 2 Points |
| 4. Promote / Participate in the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest | 2 Points |
| 5. Donate to the Patriotic Art Scholarship Fund (for both art contests) through National | 2 Points |
| 6. Assist Post by Promoting or Conducting the Patriot's Pen Essay Contest | 2 Points |
| 7. Assist Post by Promoting or Conducting the Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Contest | 2 Points |
| 8. Donate to the Bessie Hanken Youth Awards Fund (through Department office) | 2 Points |
| <i>Note: This fund covers the prize money for <u>all youth contests</u>.</i> | |
| 9. Donation of \$50.00 or more to Bessie Hanken Youth Awards Fund | 5 Points |
| 10a. Submit required ½ year report by 12/31/25 | 1 Point |
| b. Submit required year-end report by 4/15/26 | <u>1 Point</u> |
| | 21 Points |

VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1. Utilize Veterans & Family Support material/resources in MALTA Member Resources & instruct usage of Veterans & Family Support QR code | 1 Point |
| 2. Promote, participate or host any VFW Program listed: | |
| a. Disaster Relief | b. Military Assistance (MAP) |
| c. National Veterans Service (NVS) | d. Unmet Needs |
| e. Veterans & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness | 2 Points |
| 3. Provide direct aid to veterans, service members and/or their families | 2 Points |
| 4. Participate in Wreaths Across America project | 2 Points |
| 5. Sponsor/donate to Veterans Voices Writing Project | 1 Point |
| 6a. Submit required ½ year report by 12/31/25 | 1 Point |
| b. Submit required year-end report by 4/15/26 | <u>1 Point</u> |
| | 10 Points |

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

- | | |
|---|------------------|
| 1. Utilize the Youth Activities material/resources in MALTA Member Resources & instruct usage of Youth Activities QR code | 1 Point |
| 2. Work with youth/youth groups during program year | 1 Point |
| 3. Award Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations | 2 Points |
| 4. Participate in Patriotism through Literacy | 2 Points |
| 5. Host an Awards Ceremony recognizing your Illustrating America contest winners | 1 Point |
| 6. Promote the Illustrating America art contest | 2 Points |
| 7a. Submit required ½ year report by 12/31/25 | 1 Point |
| b. Submit required year-end report by 4/15/26 | 1 Point |
| | <u>11 Points</u> |

TOTAL POINTS AVAILABLE FOR PROGRAM PARTICIPATION **235 Points**

EXTRA CREDIT: *Each VFW Auxiliary shall earn 15 additional points in the Awards Program by submitting the Auxiliary of the Year Report Form outlining only ONE PROJECT (big or small) ASSISTING VETERAN(S), THEIR FAMILIES OR YOUR COMMUNITY during this Administration. All your projects are worthwhile, but please just choose ONE to report here.* **15 POINTS**

TOTAL AUXILIARY OF THE YEAR AWARDS POINTS AVAILABLE **250 POINTS**

NOTE: As you have the potential of 250 points, you will need at least 150 points to qualify for the \$10.00 awards and 175 points to qualify for the Auxiliary of the Year awards.

In addition for all awards (individual programs or Auxiliary of the Year), the Auxiliary must:

- have held at least 10 meetings this year**
- not be on suspension**
- not be in arrears with National or Department**
- be up to date with audit reports**
- have officers elected, installed and recorded in MALTA for the coming year**
- have Department Convention registration fees paid in full**

BY MAY 20, 2026 DEADLINE

AUXILIARY OUTREACH
Bonnie Folino, Chairman
3 Iroquois Drive
North Adams, MA 01247
whitneychick33@gmail.com
413-603-8404

I am excited and very honored to be this year's Auxiliary Outreach Chairman. Together, we can "Bridge the Gap" with our communities by partnering with other organizations. Remember, this is a volunteer of your time, NOT monetary or item donations.

Many of you may already belong to other organizations. See if you can partner up. Show your pride and wear VFW Auxiliary apparel, name tags, etc. This will help engage questions; it can lead to new members. The wonderful thing is it can be any group of people, kids, animals, seniors, environmental and public spaces. Please remember Auxiliary Outreach is NOT AFFILIATED with the VFW or VFW Auxiliary programs.

Social media is our friend. Please take pictures of your Outreach volunteering. Post pictures on social media with #Auxiliary Outreach so all across the country people can see what you are doing. Sharing is caring.

You can also use the QR code and/or MALTA for more information or inspiration. Can't wait to see what you all are doing. To get started, please be sure to use MALTA and/or QR code. This is vital information about the chairmanship.

Sara Hanke, Auxiliary Outreach Ambassador says, "When an Auxiliary partners with an organization outside of our own, it should be considered Auxiliary Outreach if the projects are approved by the Auxiliary and recorded in the meetings' minutes prior to the project." So, let's get out there and Bridge that Gap by building partnerships.

There are seven (7) points up for grabs. (Read your points page.) You can call me, text me, send smoke signals and email. Let's get out there and remember to report all your good works.

DAYS OF SERVICE

August 5, 2025	National Night Out Day
September 11, 2025	National Day of Service and Remembrance
October 4, 2025	Be the Change Day
October 25, 2025	National Make a Difference Day
November 13, 2025	World Kindness Day
November 22, 2025	National Family Volunteer Day
December 5, 2025	International Volunteer Day
January 28, 2026	Global Community Engagement Day
February 9-13, 2026	Student Volunteer Week
March 9-13, 2026	AmeriCorps Week
April 12, 2026	Good Deeds Day
April 19-25, 2026	National Volunteer Week
April 24, 2026	Global Youth Service Day
May 2, 2026	VFW Day of Service
June 21, 2026	United Way Day of Action



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Auxiliary Outreach Program

BUDDY POPPY/VFW NATIONAL HOME
Anna Bumpus, Chairman
25 Standish Court
Plymouth, MA 02360
508-608-9572
annabumpus08@gmail.com

Co-Chairman: Helen Bumpus
helenpg2016bumpus@gmail.com

This year, I was appointed Buddy Poppy / VFW National Home Chairman. My Co-Chairman is my daughter, Helen Bumpus.

Buddy Poppy: We will be looking for pictures and reports or anything your auxiliary is doing with Buddy Poppies, whether it be a Poppy Drive, decorations, or whatever. On the next page is the latest Buddy Poppy order form. Remember Poppies must be ordered through our Department VFW. Cans are to be ordered from the VFW Store. Make sure you have enough on hand for all your needs.

VFW National Home: Our VFW National Home is located in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, and is celebrating its 100th year of service to our veterans, military and their families in need. There are 42 single-family homes, plus a gym, library, computer and science labs, day care center, playgrounds, fishing pond, hiking trails and more throughout its campus. The VFW and Auxiliary support the VFW National Home through their sponsorships and donations. You can help by donating to the Health & Happiness/Christmas Cheer Fund in MALTA. All they ask is 10 cents per member, but all donations are gratefully appreciated.

In addition, you can purchase a Life Membership in the National Home, purchase a Tribute Brick or Centennial Garden Brick. Visit the Amazon Wish List for articles you can purchase for the Home.

Of course, we are once again seeking contributions to our own Massachusetts House at the National Home. Donations may be sent to our Department Treasurer to be available whenever the need arises.

For more information, visit the National Home's website at www.vfwnationalhome.org

Let's have 100% participation this year. If anyone has questions, please email me and CC my daughter, Helen, and one of us will get back to you.

BUDDY POPPY ORDER FORM

NEW PRICE EFFECTIVE 06/01/2025

ORDER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF MASS ONLY

ITEM	COST	AMOUNT	TOTAL
500 BUDDY POPPIES	\$165.00		
1000 BUDDY POPPIES	\$320.00		
500 POPPY TIN TABS	\$100.00		
1000 POPPY TIN TABS	\$190.00		
TOTAL DUE			

PRICES INCLUDE SHIPPING

COIN CANS MUST BE PURCHASED FROM THE VFW STORE IN KANSAS CITY

MAIL ORDERS TO:

**DEPT. OF MASS VFW
STATEHOUSE SUITE 546-1
24 BEACON ST.
BOSTON, MA 02133**

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO
DEPARTMENT OF MASS VFW**

POST/AUXILIARY # _____

NAME (MUST BE A PERSON, NOT A POST NAME)

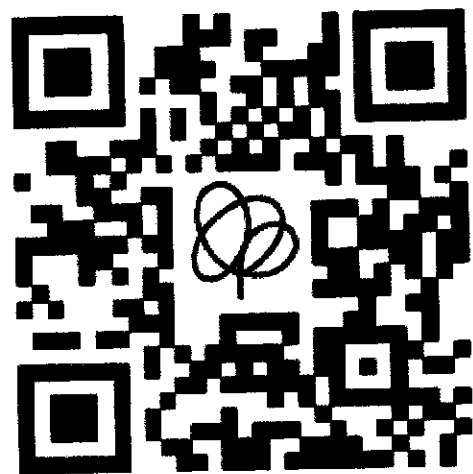
ADDRESS (CANNOT MAIL TO A PO BOX)

CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE

ALLOW 6 TO 8 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
"Buddy"® Poppy & VFW National Home
Programs



**CHIEF OF STAFF
EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION
Lisa Jackson, PDP
51 Edward Road
Townsend, MA 01469
978-400-1658
hakjackson66@gmail.com**

Greetings,

I am Lisa Jackson, PDP, serving as your Department Extension & Revitalization Chairman and Chief of Staff. I look forward to collaborating with President Theresa Logue, her team, and all auxiliaries and posts in our shared goal of departmental growth. Should your auxiliary encounter any challenges, no matter how small, please do not hesitate to reach out for support.

This year, we are implementing a new program plan introduced by our National Ambassador. Kindly review her submission in the National handbook, which is included for your reference.

Please also take the time to familiarize yourself with the National Awards available to you. Recognize members who demonstrate dedication and mentorship within your group by presenting them with a Good Job Award. Acknowledging their efforts not only fosters positive morale but also encourages continued excellence.

If you have any concerns or questions, you can reach me at hakjackson66@gmail.com and my phone number is listed above.

Best wishes to all.

EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION NATIONAL CHIEF



KARLENE BEAMS
National Chief of Staff

201 Maplewood Court
Hot Springs, AR 71913-5628
501-762-2001
chief25_26@aol.com

You can't stop the waves, but you can learn to surf!

The Chief of Staff may serve as the Extension, Revitalization and Mentoring Chairman. So, what is a Department Chief of Staff and how important is this appointment to the success of the Department?

As Chief of Staff, you are the important assistant to the Department President. You should be that extra set of eyes and ears we wish we all had. The Chief of Staff will be a coach, counselor and mentor to all levels of leadership in the Department. They must be knowledgeable in all facets of the Auxiliary including Bylaws, Programs and Mentoring for Leadership.

The Chief of Staff works with the Department President to identify the warning signs of an Auxiliary in trouble before situations occur. The Chief of Staff should be informed of all issues, good and bad, in the Department. The Chief of Staff should train the District Presidents or Official Representatives to recognize Yellow or Red Flag issues early in the Program Year. When they know what a healthy and functioning Auxiliary should be, they can report immediately any concerns to the Department President.

The Chief of Staff has tools available to aid in maintaining strong and healthy Auxiliaries in MALTA. Promote the usage of these resources, such as Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation. Promoting the use of MALTA will lead to more informed members.

The Chief of Staff is instrumental in the success of each Department. Their support assures that goals are attained, Auxiliaries are instituted, members are trained and problems are solved. Healthy Auxiliaries provided better service to our veterans, their families and communities. With the permission of the Department President, the Chief of Staff can assist where needed for the good of the Department.

*From Sea to Shining Sea - Honoring Veterans
Who Keep Us Free*

The VFW Auxiliary was built on a strong foundation based on the traditions established in 1914. With those traditions comes a sincere promise to safeguard the future of the Auxiliary. Each Department President has appointed a Department Chief of Staff to serve with them closely to ensure that Auxiliaries remain strong, enthused and loyal to our organization. These traits allow for the Auxiliary to remain proud, patriotic and energetic, creating members who honor and protect our veterans and their families. Our men and women in uniform have made a similar promise to our nation when they took their oath and promised to safeguard the future of our nation. They remain strong, patriotic and proud, so that we may enjoy freedom. Our foundation is solid – now it is up to us to remain strong.

The Extension & Revitalization Program can benefit every member of the Auxiliary through education. Keeping informed and becoming knowledgeable of our traditions and subsequent Programs will help us to mentor our members and prepare them for leadership roles. This is the heart of what we do in this Program.

Healthy Auxiliaries vs Struggling Auxiliaries

Green Flag - Healthy Auxiliaries

Auxiliaries that are healthy "are good to go." They have utilized or referred to the Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit found in MALTA. They have met the five (5)

essential requirements for an Auxiliary to be healthy. There are seven resources to assist Auxiliaries in identifying and solving issues within the kit. A Green Flag Auxiliary would be an excellent choice to mentor struggling Auxiliaries.

Yellow Flag - Struggling Auxiliaries

Auxiliaries that are struggling will need mentoring. It is up to the Department Chief of Staff, when requested by the President, to look to assist the Auxiliary. The District President or Auxiliary Representative must be honest in the assessment when completing the visit form after a visit to an Auxiliary. They have firsthand knowledge of the Auxiliary and must communicate any concerns to the Department President and/or Chief of Staff. This situation could be failure to meet any one or more of the five (5) essentials of an Auxiliary, but also a subtle sign such as not attracting new members, failure to complete Programs reports, not assisting veterans and families, no new Officers, or failure to attend District and Department meetings or trainings events.

The completed Official Visit forms should be shared with the Chief of Staff to peruse and perhaps pick up a "Yellow Flag" signal. As soon as struggle is reported, the Department Chief of Staff needs to work closely with the Department President and observe what is happening on the Auxiliary level and be ready to act.

Performance Improvement Plan

The process of arriving at a resolution would be that a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) is put in place. A PIP Committee (not a suspension committee) is assigned to meet with the Auxiliary President, Secretary and Treasurer and under certain circumstances an individual member or members with the issues to discuss and develop a Performance Improvement Plan. This is the time to **OBSERVE** the Auxiliary and offer **MENTORING**. The President will pick the member or team that fits the Auxiliary – there is no one size fits all. The PIP Committee takes the lead and gradually gets the Auxiliary involved in correcting the issue; thus, the Auxiliary would not have to be put on suspension and the PIP Committee would advise the Department President that the Auxiliary could now be considered healthy. The PIP Committee should be able to attend their meetings and get them back on track. This is a critical time for an Auxiliary and

the spirit of kindness is an absolute must. This is **REVITALIZATION** at its peak.

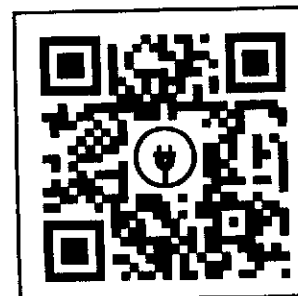
Red Flag – the Auxiliary will be put on suspension as a time to step back and regroup. Suspension simply means there is some work to do to get the Auxiliary where it needs to be. The hope is that the Auxiliary will recover and come back stronger and better than before.

Extension

We need to make certain that the current Auxiliaries are in good working order. It is also important to make presentations to unaffiliated Posts and when possible, to institute new Auxiliaries. An Auxiliary cannot exist without a Post and there must be a 2/3 vote of the Post to get started. Positive and knowledgeable Auxiliary presenters are important when addressing a Post. The Chief of Staff should be aware of any unaffiliated Post presentations and attend if possible. Always ask the Post Commander for permission to describe the benefits of an Auxiliary to the VFW Post. Extension tools and presentations are available in MALTA Member Resources. Once the Post has approval to establish an Auxiliary, the Department President will appoint an organizer to work with the Post.

Mentoring

Training and educating members to be future leaders is why we mentor. We must ensure that the legacy of the VFW Auxiliary continues through strong and healthy Auxiliaries comprising members who are prepared to take on leadership roles to continue to move the VFW Auxiliary forward. Do not allow Auxiliaries to stay "anchored to the past" – technology is a wonderful tool that gives us the ability to reach so many members, which then allows us to continue the tradition and promise to take care of our veterans and their families. Blend the past with the present to guarantee our future. Mentors are counselors and cheerleaders. Focus on positive attributes and encourage those while offering guidance and training.





EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

Maintain and Strengthen Current Auxiliaries • Present to Unaffiliated Posts **Establish New Auxiliaries • Recognize Red-Flag Auxiliaries**

The Chief of Staff has a critical leadership role in our organization. One of the responsibilities of the Chief of Staff is to provide guidance and resources to VFW Auxiliaries so they can ensure that Auxiliaries are healthy and successful.

Chiefs of Staff work with District Presidents and the Department President to maintain current Auxiliaries. They encourage members, promote teamwork and provide guidance during challenging times such as suspension, consolidation or even the loss of a Charter. Chiefs of Staff also work closely with their Department President and organizers to establish new Auxiliaries.

5 Essentials of an Auxiliary

The National Organization requires only five (5) things of an Auxiliary:

1. Auxiliaries should have at least ten (10) business meetings per year. Five (5) members in good standing (of that Auxiliary) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
2. Dues should be paid by at least ten (10) members on or before February 1 of the current year.
3. Quarterly audits by Trustees must be submitted.
4. Officers elected, installed and reported to National Headquarters no later than June 30. This generates the bond application via email.
5. The offices of President and Treasurer **MUST** be bonded by August 31.

Establishing New Auxiliaries

Whether a VFW Post decides on its own it wants an Auxiliary or whether an Auxiliary member or non-member sees the potential for a new one, the steps for creating an Auxiliary are the same.

1. A VFW Post must vote by 2/3 majority to have an Auxiliary. (An Auxiliary can never exist on its own without a Post and can never be started without that Post's permission.)
 2. The Department President appoints the official organizer of that Auxiliary, and the organizer must be a member of the Auxiliary.
 - It would help to allow two others who are knowledgeable with Auxiliary business and work well with others to be on an organizing team. They can answer questions and assist with training, educating and mentoring the new Auxiliary once it is instituted. It is recommended that the organizer and the organizing team work with the Auxiliary and its members for at least a year, or until they are ready to proceed as an Auxiliary in good standing.
 3. A minimum of 15 eligible applicants must be on the Charter application. Transfers are accepted at the closure of the institution and just prior to the installation of the newly-formed Auxiliary.
- The Department Chief of Staff could assist by providing the following tools for the organizer and organizing team:
- Talking points for the first meeting.
 - A procedure for membership applications.
 - When and how to collect dues.

- Assist in securing and filling out official and proper paperwork.
- See that deadlines and filings are met in a timely manner.

Recognize new VFW Auxiliaries

Recognize new VFW Auxiliaries at District and Department functions to help them feel welcome and important.

Maintaining Current Auxiliaries

The National Organization has developed many resources for members to use, including tools available in MALTA Member Resources. These resources have proven to be valuable tools in helping Auxiliaries be more productive.

1. The Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit includes seven (7) resources to assist Auxiliaries in identifying and solving issues including the Healthy Auxiliary Checklist, Auxiliary Meeting Clinic and more.
2. *Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation* makes every effort to educate members on all aspects of the duties of Officers at all levels, how to be a Chairman, the why of reporting and more.
3. Saving an Auxiliary may be achieved by recruiting new members. Work with your Membership Chairman to help an Auxiliary become Healthy. (No new members = a true Red Flag)

Remember to use our additional Member Resources:

- "Understanding Auxiliary Traditions" video
- PowerPoint and PDF entitled "Why Having an Auxiliary Can Boost your Post"
- Top 10 Reasons for your Post to Have an Auxiliary Handout
- Good Job Certificates

Mentoring and Encouraging Members

- Mentoring helps broaden leadership skills and leadership provides guidance for mentoring members; they work hand in hand.
- A stronger membership on every level of our organization will be accomplished through mentoring.
- Through the mentoring process, extending the hand of friendship to a new member or even a tenured member who has been inactive for a while can create a strong and vibrant organization. Providing a positive and organized meeting experience will leave members wanting to come back, especially when effective communication and respect for each other is demonstrated.
- Over time, a member may express interest in holding an office or chairmanship. Work with them to help them succeed. This will only make the Auxiliary and the organization better. Choose the mentor carefully.
- The real goal here is to train your replacement and give them the tools they need to succeed.

EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION AWARDS

Awards for Members:

1. Citation and a \$25 VFW Store gift certificate to one member in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the best assistance to the Chief of Staff in establishing a new VFW Auxiliary with the approval of the Department President.

Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

The Department Chief of Staff must sign and send a copy of the completed Department nomination form to the National Chief of Staff by April 30, 2026 for judging.

Winners will be announced and awards will be presented at the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Reno, Nevada.

Awards for District Presidents:

1. Citation and a \$25 VFW Store gift certificate to one District President or Official Representative in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the best assistance to the Chief of Staff with a struggling VFW Auxiliary by mentoring and maintaining a close relationship until the VFW Auxiliary becomes healthy, with the approval of the Department President. Use of MALTA Healthy Auxiliary tools and mentor training is required.

Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

The Department Chief of Staff must sign and send a copy of the completed Department nomination form to the National Chief of Staff by April 30, 2026 for judging.

Winners will be announced and awards will be presented at the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Reno, Nevada.

Awards for Departments and Department Chairmen:

1. \$25 VFW Store gift certificate to one Department Chief of Staff in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most unique promotion educating members to maintain healthy VFW Auxiliaries and to promote Extension while utilizing MALTA Member Resources.

Winners will be announced and awards will be presented at the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Reno, Nevada.

2. The Outstanding Performance Award and Second-Place Outstanding Performance Award will be awarded in each of the 10 Program Divisions based on the criteria listed on page 5 and for the promotion of the Program goals listed at the top of page 27.

Winners will be announced and awards will be presented at the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Reno, Nevada.



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Extension & Revitalization Program