



General Orders No. 3

September 2026

Greetings Brothers and Sisters;

Well Summer is coming to an end and its now time for all of us to put the information we received at Program Conference and the On the Road Trainings to work. My sincere Thanks to all the Posts and Auxiliaries that helped make our On the Road Trainings a success. We deeply appreciate your hospitality.

This month should be a reminder to all, of the service and sacrifice our Veterans have given to protect our Country and our freedom. This year marks 25 years since the attacks on September 11, 2021 I'm sure that most of us remember that day vividly; not knowing what else was going to happen and the uncertainty of the days ahead. Patriotism was apparent in the days following the attacks and we as Americans banded together to support one another. There will be a ceremony at 10:00 on September 11, 2026 at the State Capitol, Harrisburg commemorating that day. If you are not able to attend the commemoration at the Capitol, or commemorations at your Post or in your Community please take a moment to think of those that lost their lives on that day; and to Thank our service men and women for continuing to protect our country.

Congratulations and a warm welcome to Willow Grove VFW Auxiliary #3612, District 16. They were instituted in August and hit the ground running with projects and programs. Welcome to the Brothers and Sisters of Auxiliary #3612!

Reminder to all Auxiliaries of an upcoming deadline: 990N postcards need to be filed by November 15. Please don't wait until the last minute to file! <https://sa.www4.irs.gov/> After filing remember to log back in (two weeks later) to receive your confirmation of acceptance. Then email it to Jodie: jodie@vfwauxpa.org

Another very important deadline – Christmas Canteen Fund donations must be in Headquarters by Oct. 31.

Please remember, all donations received after October 31 will **NOT** be used for the Christmas Canteen Fund, this mainly impacts the number of Veterans that receive a monetary gift from us at Christmas; it also impacts an Auxiliary' chance to receive the All-State Award.

Changes to our By-Laws and our Booklet of instructions are on Malta, please take a few minutes to review the changes that were passed at the National Convention. One important change that impacts our members, Annual Member cards will no longer be mailed from National. This is an opportunity to have members learn how logon to MALTA to get their cards. Information on how to obtain an Annual membership card is included in this issue of General Orders.

Thanks to all of you for what you do for our Veterans, their families and the community and continuing to do **"Simply the Best for Our Veterans."**

IMPORTANT DATES:

September 7 Labor Day – Department Headquarters closed
September 13 District 10 Meeting @ Throop #7251 – 1:00 P.M.
September 13 District 9 Meeting @ West Chester #106 – 2:00 P.M. *
September 13 District 23 Meeting @ Normalville #12019 – 2:00 P.M.
September 13 District 26 Meeting @ Ashville #4315 – 2:00 P.M.
September 13 District 28 Meeting @ Edinboro/McKean #740 – 2:00 P.M.
September 13 District 29 Meeting @ Sharpsburg #709 – 1:30 P.M.
September 20 District 11 Meeting @ Benton #8317 – 2:30 P.M. *
September 20 District 12 Meeting @ Danville American Legion – 2:30 P.M. *
September 20 District 15 Meeting @ Duboistown #7863 – 2:00 P.M.
September 20 District 20 Meeting @ Nesquehoning #8008 – 2:00 P.M.
September 20 District 22 Meeting @ Bellefonte #1600 – 2:30 P.M.
September 20 District 25 Meeting @ New Castle #315 – 2:00 P.M.
September 27 District 1 Meeting @ Parkway Memorial #7650 – 2:00 P.M. *

Loyally yours,

Cecelia Cook

Cecelia Cook
Department President

Jodie Hollinger

Jodie Hollinger
Department Secretary/Treasurer

DEPT OF PENNSYLVANIA MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM GENERAL ORDERS #3 - SEPT 2026

Tina Hinkle, Chairman
tina@vfw5265.org
#simplythebestforourveterans
#servingamericasheroes
#vfwauxiliarypa #vfwauxiliary

GO PENNS LYVANIA!

PAID Membership
as of 8/31/26

76.22%
33,299 / 43,686



IT'S A MEMBERSHIP NIGHT IN *Pennsylvania*

"Simply the Best for our Veterans", their families, and our communities!
Serving America's Heroes

THANK YOU! to everyone that attended On the Road Training! Sessions were well attended and lots of valuable information was shared. If YOUR Auxiliary attended one or more OTR – THIS is another "SLAP SHOT!" on your All-State Award! Congrats!! And Auxiliary members that attended can check off OTR in Category 1 of the HAT TRICK Award!!! (Award forms are in the Dept Program Book & on Dept website)



"Great Balls of Fire"
as of 8/31/26

100%+ D19: 8755

101%+ D28: 3374

103%+ D15: 1630

105%+ D27: 3368

BUST OUT the ZAMBONI and smooth the ice!

Ensure that your Auxiliary is not maintaining deceased members on your roster. It is important to report deceased members immediately to remove them from your roster.



Your Auxiliary may not always be notified when an Auxiliary member passes away and there may not be an obituary published. Deceased members may be located by searching google.com, legacy.com, findagrave.com and your local funeral home websites.

Note: Deceasing members on your roster affects your Current Membership not Paid Membership. Dept Membership Awards are based on Paid Membership except the "Stanley Cup" Award. This award is based on Auxiliaries reaching 102% Plus Current Membership by May 31, 2027.

**"Breakaway"
Award**



1st District President
reaching 100%+ paid membership scores **2** banquet tickets for Dept President's Testimonial Dinner!

ALL STATE DRILLS!

- Christmas Canteen Donation must be received by Dept by Oct. 31

USE RESOURCES!

- Dept of PA website vfwauxpa.org
- MALTA on National website vfwauxiliary.org

DUES NOTICES Get dues notices to your Annual Members! Let them know they can pay their own dues in MALTA or by calling 866-299-1286. **REMINDER** Annual Membership cards will not be mailed. Members are encouraged to access MALTA to print their card and/or download their card to their phone. Refer to the TIP Sheet to download membership cards



"Look Out, Loretta!" Stay Out of the Penalty Box!

Auxiliary dues to their District need to be sent to the District Treasurer by September 30.



AMERICANISM
General Orders #3
September 2026
Kathy Arnold Chairman
Kathyarnold53@yahoo.com 551-216-5857



September stands as one of the most significant months to Serve America's Heroes by doing Simply the Best for our Veterans!!

The month begins with **V-J Day** on September 2, commemorating the Allied victory over Japan and the conclusion of World War II. This observance serves as a reminder of the courage, dedication, and unity that shaped a pivotal moment in American and world history.

On **Patriot Day**, September 11, we honor the memory of those who lost their lives during the 2001 terrorist attacks and recognize the extraordinary bravery of first responders and citizens who acted with selfless resolve. Members are encouraged to fly the United States flag at half-staff and observe a moment of silence at 8:46 AM. This day also represents a National Day of Service, offering Auxiliaries a meaningful opportunity to support their communities through acts of volunteerism.



September 18, marks the **U.S. Air Force Birthday**, a time to recognize the service and dedication of Air Force veterans and active-duty personnel.

One of the most solemn observances of the month is **POW/MIA Recognition Day**, held on the third Friday of September. Auxiliaries are encouraged to display the POW/MIA flag, set up a Missing Man Table, and remind the community of our nation's enduring commitment to accounting for those who have not returned home.



As September concludes, we honor the families who have endured profound loss on **Gold Star Mother's & Family Day**. Recognizing these families through letters, ceremonies, or personal outreach reinforces our gratitude for their sacrifice. On September 29, we observe **VFW Day**, celebrating the founding of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and acknowledging the Auxiliary's steadfast support of its mission.



CHRISTMAS CANTEEN FUND

The goal of the Christmas Canteen Fund is to see that every patient in each of our VA facilities receives at least a \$1.00 canteen book. For some patients this may be the only gift they will receive. We ask that your Auxiliary be generous with your donations to the Christmas Canteen Fund. Our deadline for receiving this gift is **October 31, 2026**. This gives us time to process your gift and send out to our VFW Auxiliary Hospital Representatives.

Make checks payable to: Dept of PA VFW Auxiliary
4002 Fenton Avenue
Harrisburg, PA 17109-5943

Pennsylvania All State Award requires gift of a minimum of \$10.00 to the Christmas Canteen Fund.

Buddy Poppy Program

General Orders-September 2026

Presented by Deanne Mannella, 2026-2027 Chairman

For more than 100 years, the VFW Buddy Poppy has been the official memorial flower of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, serving as a powerful symbol of remembrance for the brave men and women who have served and sacrificed in defense of our nation. Inspired by the poppies that bloomed across the battlefields of Flanders during World War I, the Buddy Poppy honors the fallen, supports living veterans, and reminds us of the cost of our freedoms. Each Buddy Poppy is hand-assembled  providing meaningful employment while promoting dignity, purpose, and pride. Every donation made through the Buddy Poppy Program helps the VFW continue its mission of serving veterans, active-duty military members, and their families while ensuring that the sacrifices of America's heroes are never forgotten.

At My Display

I featured **three Buddy Poppy options** to help supporters honor our veterans in a meaningful way:

 **Traditional Buddy Poppy** – A timeless symbol of remembrance and appreciation for all who have served.

 **Buddy Poppy Donation Pin** – Wear your Buddy Poppy with pride while supporting programs that benefit veterans, service members, and their families.

 **Memorial Buddy Poppy Tribute** – A special way to honor the memory of a loved one or veteran while helping continue the VFW's mission of service.

Why Your Support Matters

Donations received through the Buddy Poppy Program help support:

- Veterans in need
- Hospital and nursing home programs
- Veterans and military families
- Community service projects
- Patriotic education and youth programs

Every Buddy Poppy distributed is a reminder that the sacrifices made by our veterans will never be forgotten.

How to Order

Official Buddy Poppy order forms are available through your local **VFW Post** or **VFW Auxiliary**. Please use the official order form available on the VFW website or contact your local Post for assistance.

"Honor the Sacrifice. Remember the Service. Wear a Buddy Poppy."



#vfwbuddypoppy





GENERAL ORDERS # 3 SEPTEMBER 2026



LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

Kathy Jo Reinsmith, Department of PA Chairman
117 Pugh Drive
Shippensburg, PA 17257-9297
Phone 717.530.8110

vfwa.pa.dept.aux.legislativechair@gmail.com



BE AN ADVOCATE~ ~BE INFORMED~~BE ENGAGED

First, I would like to say to those who missed the Program Conference at State College, we missed you! Those of you who are Auxiliary and District Legislative Chairman, please send me your contact information as we will be holding three Legislative Meetings in the Western, Central, and Eastern Areas. You are a **VIP** and a part of this fabulous Meet & Greet with Legislators in your areas with veterans participating in what help and assistance they need from our local politicians, Representatives and Congress Members! We may need to change our month from September to October since I have heard from only District 24 in the Western Area as of this writing. We need everyone's participation and help getting this Event completed to help our Veterans. Contact me using the information above as soon as possible please. Central Area I have District 17 & 18 who have begun working with their area. Eastern Area, I still need information from you as well. Thank you to each Area for getting this done as soon as possible. **PROMOTE THE VFW PRIORITY GOALS** and use this with each Event. **ALSO, REMEMBER TO VOTE AT THE POLLS FOR THOSE WHO SUPPORT OUR VETERANS, PRIORITY GOALS AND LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM!**

Second, **ACTION CORPS CONTEST** is open to individual Auxiliary Members and District Legislative Chairman. I am looking for what you are doing in your areas promoting the Legislative Program in its entirety for **"Simply the BEST for our Veterans and Serving our Heroes!"** that you can do. **The top three individuals and District Chairman with the highest number of entries (form required) will receive a \$25 Gift Card and a hockey puck keychain.** How do you do this you may ask. Simply by signing up new Auxiliary members, Post Members and Community Members using the form in General Orders and located on our website at <https://www.vfwauxpa.org/>. Also, I ask that you please report to me each month so I may share the wonderful work that is being done in the Department of Pennsylvania with the National Legislative Ambassador, Kim McWilliams. Thank you for your support and interest in the Legislative Program! **"Simply the Best For Our Veterans."**

Loyally,

Kathy Jo Reinsmith
Department of PA Legislative Chairman



Action Center

Enter Your Information

Community Member _____

District # _____

Auxiliary # _____

Post # _____

First Name *

Last Name *

Email *

Yes, sign me up to receive text alerts.

By providing your mobile number, you agree to receive periodic call to action text messages from Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Message and data rates may apply. Reply HELP for help. Reply STOP to unsubscribe. Message frequency varies. Privacy Policy

Mobile Number

Home Information

United States

Street Address *

ZIP Code *

Yes, sign me up to receive email updates and action alerts from Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States

Remember me

Recruited by : _____ Auxiliary # _____ District # _____

(Your Name)



EXTENSION, REVITALIZATION & MENTORING

LINDA MANKEY, DEPT. CHIEF OF STAFF
2026-2027
Linda81956@yahoo.com



GENERAL ORDERS #3



Being kind to your members means showing simple respect, offering members help, and being mindful of how your actions affect your teammates.

Let's make our Auxiliaries NEW again. Bring back team players you haven't seen at meetings. Reach out to them – they are only a phone call away.



Bring back the **ENERGY** and score a goal!

We need to keep our current Auxiliaries healthy and recognize our new ones. Maintaining membership is vital so we can serve our veterans!



MALTA has a variety of great resources to help you!!



September 2026

Jackie Edmiston, Department of PA Chairman

jle082549@gmail.com

#VFWNATIONALHOME

#SIMPLYTHEBESTFOROURVETERANS

#SERVINGAMERICASHEROES



Simply the Best
FOR OUR VETERANS

VFW National Home: Help Is Just a Call Away!

Do you know a military or veteran family that needs help? The VFW National Home is here to remind families that they do not have to face life's challenges alone.

Through its nationwide support services, the VFW National Home provides **guidance, referrals, emotional support, and connections to valuable resources** for veterans, service members, and their families. Whether the need involves VA benefits, financial hardship, mental health resources, family concerns, or finding local assistance, the National Home's Veteran services team is ready to listen and help families take the next step.

Reach Out — Help Is Available

VFW National Home Veteran Services

 800-424-8360

Monday–Friday, 8 a.m.–4 p.m. Eastern

New Home Coming Soon!
Thanks to the generous
Support of VFW Auxiliaries!

Families can call or text to speak with a veteran services expert. The team listens, connects families with appropriate resources, and follows up to help them move forward.

Please share this information with a veteran or military family who may need a helping hand. Sometimes, one phone call can be the first step toward a brighter future.

Get Help! <https://vfwnationalhome.org/>

Tribute Bricks

Honor a Veteran, loved one, or
organization
with a personalized brick!



SUPPORT

Amazon Wish List

Shop with purpose. Support veterans' families today.



Department Of PA Youth Activities

Combat Stigma Poster Contest

- Open To Grades 6-12.
- Not a traditional “art” contest.
- Use of digital art/AI is accepted along with traditional forms of art.
- Entries will be judged on creativity and representation of theme.
- Theme is: “It’s OK to not be OK” and/or “It’s OK to ask for help”. Bonus points for including the Veteran’s Crisis Line phone number: 988 then dial 1
- The top 3 entries will be judged at The Department VFW Auxiliary President’s testimonial.
- Gift cards to the top 3 entries (1st place \$50, 2nd place \$30, 3rd place \$20).
- To submit an entry, email a copy of the poster to Amy Clark-Department of PA Youth Activities Chairman at amieandsteve@comcast.net. Include your VFW Auxiliary Post and District number and the name/grade level of the youth who designed the poster.





Youth Activities

Amy Clark – Chairman
Amieandsteve@comcast.net
General Orders #3



Look Out Loretta! It's the 2026-27 Youth Activities Program!

Our first “goal” of the season is to create a VFW Auxiliary Lending Library.

- Think “**outside the box**”! Make your library interesting and engaging.
- **Location, Location, Location.** Place your library where youth will access it.
- Fill your library with books from the **Patriotism through Literacy Booklist** (found in MALTA Member Resources, Youth Activities).
- **Engage Youth** (scouts, high school clubs or sports teams) to help design and build your library.
- Use **#auxlendinglibrary** to promote the project.



Tell Arnold Slick from Turtle Creek that deadlines for the Illustrating America Contest have changed!



New Schedule for the 2026-2027 Illustrating America Art Contest:

December 15, 2026: Entries are due to VFW Auxiliaries for judging.

January 15, 2027: 1st Place winners in each grade division from participating VFW Auxiliaries or VFW Districts are due to the VFW Auxiliary Department for judging.

January 31, 2027: 1st Place winners in each grade division from each VFW Auxiliary Department **MUST** be received at VFW National Headquarters for judging.

Official entry form, details on requirements and contest rules can be found in MALTA's member resources.

Get the information out early! Send the information to school counselors, art teachers, local art studios, boys and girls clubs, scout troops and youth groups. Reaching more adults means reaching more youth (and hopefully more entries).

Working with our youth and engaging them in all our programs will have us all “**Smiling like Butcher's Dogs**” while we are doing “**Simply the Best for Our Veterans**” and “**Serving America's Heros**”.