General Orders No 5 November 2026

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

The holiday season is just around the corner, and in the month of November we have so much to be Thankful for, family and friends and most especially our Veterans. I would like to extend my thanks to all of you for your dedication to our organization whether planning events, going to the VA Hospitals or Veterans Homes, attending meetings and ensuring that the young people in our communities realize what our veterans sacrificed to provide the freedoms that we all have today.

By now all Auxiliaries should have mailed out Dues Reminders to all of their annual members As of today, our paid membership is at 82.50% and increasing every day! Thank you to all the Membership chairmen and Treasurers across this great Department for working so hard getting membership in and processed! Given the current economy, take some time to review your membership list, and reach out to those that haven't paid maybe they need assistance paying their dues? Let's not just assume they don't want to be members any longer.

All Auxiliary's should be completing their 990N ePostcard by the filing deadline of November 15th. There are instructions on MALTA on how to complete it or reach out to the headquarters staff for questions. When sending a copy to Headquarters, please ensure that the status is Accepted, not Pending.

It's time to start planning your Auxiliary holiday activities for our Veterans at the VA Hospitals or Veterans homes, a local Homeless shelter or Nursing Homes. We have Veterans all around us some are not in a home or shelter, if you don't have a hospital or home near you consider a donation to a Food Bank. It's that time of year to think outside the box, and "***DO SIMPLY THE BEST FOR OUR VETERANS.***"

November has another day that should be near to our hearts; Veterans Day. Please take a moment on this day to Thank our Veterans for their service, most especially the Veterans who gave us our eligibility for our organization.

Our second Council of Administration meeting will be during the Department Commanders Testimonial weekend, November 13-15 in Erie PA. All the information will be on the Department Website.

On behalf of the Department Line officers and myself, we wish all of you a very Happy and Safe Thanksgiving.

IMPORTANT DATES:

November 1 – 9 Eastern Conference - Garmisch, Germany
November 1 District 30 Meeting @ Schellsburg #4440 - 2:00 P.M.
November 1 District 18 Meeting @ Mechanicsburg #6704 - 2:00 P.M.
November 8 District 9 Meeting @ Parkesburg #4480 – 2:00 P.M.
November 8 District 10 Meeting @ Throop #7251 – 1:00 P.M.
November 11 Veterans Day - Department Headquarters Closed
November 12 -15 Commanders Testimonial, Courtyard by Marriott, Erie
November 15 District 8 Meeting @ Donald S Reinert #7293, Whitehall - 1:30 P.M.
November 15 District 11 Meeting @ Exeter #6518 – 2:30 P.M.
November 15 District 12 Meeting @ Coaldale #6982 – 2:30 P.M.
November 15 District 13 Meeting @ Sinking Springs #6150 – 2:00 P.M.
November 15 District 14 Meeting @ Lenox #8488 – 2:00 P..M.
November 15 District 15 Meeting @ Knoxville #6752 – 2:00 P.M.
November 15 District 22 Meeting @ Martinsburg #43 – 2:30 P.M.
November 15 District 23 Meeting @ Somerset #554 – 2:00 P.M.
November 15 District 24 Meeting @ McMurray #764 – 2:00 P.M.
November 15 District 25 Meeting @ Hopewell #8805 – 2:00 P.M.
November 22 District 20 Meeting @ Milford #8612 – 2:00 P.M. *
November 22 District 27 Meeting @ Irwin #781 – 2:00 P.M. *
November 22 District 29 Meeting @ Keith Holmes #402 – 1:30 P.M.
November 26 & 27 Thanksgiving - Department Headquarters Closed
November 30 District 1 Meeting @ Parkway Memorial VFW 7650 - 2:00 P.M *

Loyally,

Ceil | *Jodie*

Cecelia Cook | Jodie Hollinger
Department President | Department Secretary/Treasurer

VETERANS DAY
Nov 11 Thank a Vet!
Honor Their Service

Happy Thanksgiving!

DEPT OF PENNSYLVANIA
MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM
GENERAL ORDERS #5 - NOV 2026

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

GO PENNSYLVANIA!

PAID Membership
as of 10/30/26
82.5%
36,043 / 43,686



"Great Balls of Fire"
100%+
as of 10/30/26

District	Auxiliary
8	7293
14	5642
18	7530
22	3
27	3414
28	470

"Breakaway" Award



The First District President reaching 100%+ paid membership scores 2 banquet tickets for Dept President's Testimonial Dinner!



IT'S A MEMBERSHIP NIGHT IN *Pennsylvania*

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

Keep her "Smiling Like a Butcher's Dog"!

Dept President Ceil Cook loves when we score goals! Don't hold dues!



Treasurers: Process Annual Membership Dues Promptly!
Annual Members: Paying dues now helps your team!
Every renewal is another win for your Auxiliary!

One Call can make a difference! Check in on members that have not renewed yet, renewing may have slipped their mind. They may be having a hard time; a friendly voice could make their day.

Be a Dues Angel! Your Auxiliary can make a motion at your meeting to pay a member's dues from the Relief Fund.

Reach out to Former Members to invite them to rejoin the Auxiliary.

Are you sharing the VFW and VFW Auxiliary Membership Opportunity with others and encouraging them to join if eligible?

Check out the "Recruiting Must Haves!" on page 44 in the Program Book

Score #2 on the Hat Trick Award *page 46 in Program Book*

☑ **See you at the Commander's Testimonial! Nov 13-14**

ALL STATE DRILLS! *Refer to All State Award Form for details*

- President, Treasurer & Secretary dues must be paid by November 15.
- Donation to all 16 VA Hospitals & the Department Hospital Fund (Use form on page 33 in Program Book)
- Attend District Meetings - Auxiliary Presidents must attend at least one District meeting. *If President is unable to attend, they must ensure that at least one member will attend to represent their Auxiliary.*

USE RESOURCES!

- Program Books: Dept and National
- Dept of PA website vfwauxpa.org
- MALTA on National website vfwauxiliary.org
- **2027 Podium Edition - Bylaws & Rituals** (order at vfwstore.org)



"Look Out, Loretta!" Stay Out of the Penalty Box!
Always use the current Podium Edition - Bylaws and Rituals! Order 2027 edition today!



GENERAL ORDERS # 5
NOVEMBER 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

ADVOCATE~ ~BE INFORMED~~BE ENGAGED

Did we do it PA? Did our Auxiliary membership of 43, 686 voters in Pennsylvania turn out on November 3rd to carry our mission forward for our Veterans? Hopefully, we have elected politicians who support Veterans receiving their benefits 100%! If not, we will have to work even harder taking care of them.

An update of our Auxiliary Legislative Days is still a work in progress and has definitely been challenging to say the least. Western Area has a super group of individuals or VIP's who are working on getting this done before the Holidays. If not, we will shoot for a March deadline to get our Priority Goals and issues to those who make the final decisions. **PROMOTE THE VFW PRIORITY GOALS** and use them with each Event held. Do your own Town Hall meetings too. Still looking for Legislative Chairmen in the other Areas. District Presidents, please send me information on them. Check the email sent in late September. We need participation to make this happen. I know we can get this done in each area!

Update **Keep the Pressure On!**
Although the House pulled its planned vote on **TCAVA (H.R.9237 / S.4744),** the bill remains active and we must stay on top of this and we cannot let up. Complete the Action Corp Alert, call and email your local Congress Representatives. **Be sure to tell Congress to oppose Section 108!** We want a clean bill for all Veterans!

ACTION CORPS CONTEST is going well. Keep sending the forms once entered into the Action Corps sign-up site. This 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 key chain at Department Convention.** Continue to sign 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/**.

Thank you for your support and interest in the Legislative Program! Advocate everyday and stay informed using the Resources in the Program Books. "Simply the Best For Our Veterans" by "Serving America's Heroes."
Loylly,

Kathy Jo Reinsmith
Department of PA Legislative Chairman



It's About The Warrior Foundation

Department President's Special Project

2026-2027

The **Mission** of **It's All About The Warrior Foundation** is to assist and empower **ALL** post 9/11 Veterans and their families with financial, educational, recreational and therapeutic needs from the Tri-State Area (Western PA, Eastern OH and Northern West Virginia), regardless if they have been wounded or have been deployed with our various programs thus, leading them to a successful and enriched life.

History

It's All About The Warrior Foundation was created in 2012 by Founder and Executive Director Steve Monteleone a seven year U S Air Force Veteran. What began with just a simple golf tournament fundraising event turned into something special in the Tri-State Area for all Veterans and their families.

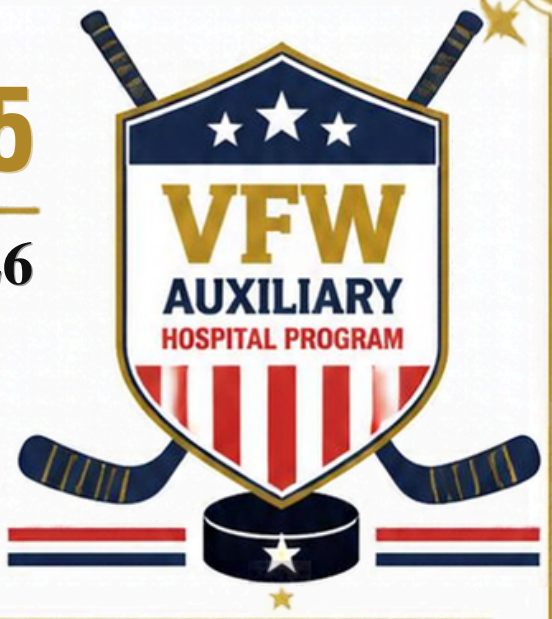
This is a certified Tax Exempt non-profit organization that includes Therapeutic, Outreach, and Outdoor Adventure Programs.

All donations for the Department President's Special Project are made payable to: Dept of PA VFW Auxiliary – earmarked President's Special Project.

To learn more about this 100% Volunteer Organization you can go to: www.iatw.us

GENERAL ORDERS #5

Hospital Program | November 2026



November is here already! Now is the time for us to focus on the upcoming Holidays and our Veterans! It can be a very depressing time for them during busy months. NO VETERAN SHOULD FEEL FORGOTTEN, especially during this season.

VETERANS DAY — NOVEMBER 11, 2026

Try and plan an event or service that includes the Veterans in the Hospitals or Homes. Make them feel appreciated and loved. Maybe take a treat for those that can have them. Have cards made for them. Show them our love!

THANKSGIVING — LAST THURSDAY IN NOVEMBER

Please plan to spend a little bit of time with the Veterans.

- **Make cards**
- **Give treat bags**
- **Sponsor a dessert or ice cream social**
- **Make crafts**
- **Spend some time just talking**

CHRISTMAS — DECEMBER 25

Being on a Friday, this creates a long weekend for those hospitalized or in a home. Visit with the Auxiliary and don't forget Santa and Mrs. Claus! Bring happiness to them! Take a small gift that they may be able to use in their everyday life.

NATIONAL POPCORN DAY — JANUARY 19

Have a little fun! A little kindness can brighten a Veteran's day. Let them know we are always thinking of them and they are not forgotten. Show gratitude and support. Care and compassion go a long way!

"Simply the Best for Our Veterans"

as we continue

"Serving America's Heroes"

Brenda Johnson
Department VFW Auxiliary
Hospital Chairman

PITTSBURGH VA HEALTHACARE SYSTEM

H.J. HEINZ PROGESSIVE CARE CENTER, ASPINWALL, PA

UNIVERSITY DRIVE, OAKLAND, PA

November General Orders #5

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

To our Department President Cecelia Cook, we would like to express our sincerest thanks for the appointments as Representative and Deputies at the Pittsburgh VA Healthcare system, which includes both HJ Heinz and University Drive.

To all the Auxiliaries that have sponsored parties and especially delivered or sent donations, we would like to say a big "Thank You" We have been able to go into the facilities and provide more interaction with our veterans each week. With your ongoing support we continue to show that we continue to do ***"SIMPLY THE BEST FOR OUR VETERANS."*** Each time a volunteer goes to the facility they show that we are "***SERVING AMERICA'S HEROS."***

Through your continued support, we have been able to have Bingo parties, sponsor Bowling trips, Ward functions, provide comfort items, provide items needed for the library and support all the requests from the facilities.

In the past, you have been very generous, and it is greatly appreciated. This year we are again asking for your continued support of patients at H.J. Heinz Progressive Care and Oakland (University Drive) Medical Center**. Donations should be sent to: Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Department of Pennsylvania, 4002 Fenton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17109-5943.**

Parties for the remainder of 2026 and all of 2027 can still be booked. Please contact myself or one of the deputies to book a party. Also, please take a few minutes to thank your volunteers that go to your parties at your next meeting, you may just be able to pick up a new volunteer.

Loyally,

Donna	*Bill*	*Cecelia*
Donna Melnick	Bill Melnick	Cecelia Cook
Representative	Deputy	Deputy

VA MEDICAL CENTER – WILKES BARRE - General Orders #5 November

Beverly Kemmerer – Representative Angela Getz - Deputy

At Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center, we are deeply committed to providing Pennsylvania's veterans with the exceptional care, dignity, and respect they have earned.

Community and Support

- Inclusive indoor and outdoor wellness activities
- Social gatherings and peer support
- On-site assistance to help veterans access the state and federal benefits to which they are entitled, in alignment with Pennsylvania's latest veteran support initiatives

Activities and Support We Provide

Bingo: We sponsor bingo games and award the winner at least five canteen sheets.
Entertainment: Veterans especially enjoy performances by Ricky Lee, who visits twice a year—in June and December. During the December event, Santa also joins us to distribute gifts to our veterans.
Veterans Carnival: Many auxiliaries host booths where veterans can play games and choose a prize, whether they win or lose. Prizes may include T-shirts, puzzles, coloring books, sweatpants, stuffed animals, and other items.
Responding to Facility Needs: When the Wilkes-Barre VA Medical Center needed two crockpots and a replacement microwave after its unit burned out, we worked to provide them. Whenever needs arise, we do our best to help. **Thank you for helping us provide these needs with your donations.**





PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR
GENERAL ORDERS NO. 5 NOVEMBER
KATHY ARNOLD CHARMAN
Kathyarnold53@yahoo.com 551-216-5857



November is a month filled with opportunities to **show our Patriotism, honor our Veterans, and support our Military Families.** As Patriotic Instructors, we are part of the team—and every Auxiliary member has an important position to play!

Our military families are an important part of our team. Behind every service member and Veteran is a family that has made sacrifices and provided support.

This month, recognize military families in your community. Consider hosting a special appreciation event, sending cards, providing meals, or simply saying **"Thank You"** for their service and sacrifice.

🏒 **NOVEMBER 10 — MARINE CORPS BIRTHDAY**

OORAH! November 10 marks the birthday of the United States Marine Corps, established on November 10, 1775. Take this opportunity to recognize our Marines—past and present—and thank them for their service to our Nation.

🏒 **NOVEMBER 11 — VETERANS DAY**

This is our BIGGEST HOME GAME of the month!

Veterans Day is November 11, a day set aside to honor and thank **all who have served in the United States Armed Forces.** The 2026 National Veterans Day Ceremony will take place at Arlington National Cemetery on November 11. Let's fill the stands with Patriotism!

Every Veteran deserves a standing ovation!

One small assist can make a BIG difference!

As Patriotic Instructors, let's make every month count—but especially November!

Let's **lace up our skates, get on the ice, pass the puck, make the assists, and score some goals for our Veterans! We can have a winning season!**

We need to be **"SERVING AMERICA'S HEROES“ by doing "SIMPLY THE BEST FOR OUR VETERANS!"**

GO TEAM! 🏒

Youth Activities

Amy Clark-Chairman

amieandsteve@comcast.net

General Orders #5

For our second "goal" of the season Let's beat Mental Health Stigma "Like a rented mule"!

Introducing the Combat Stigma Poster Contest:

- **64% of Veterans agree Mental Health is a real illness but 38% still view it as a sign of weakness.**
- **28% do not disclose Mental Health struggles to family or loved ones.**
- **51% believe employer stigma negatively affects job opportunities.**

Let's work as a team to let our veterans and active-duty service members know that:

It's OK to Not Be OK! It's OK to Ask for Help!

- **Contest is open to Youth in grades 6-12.**
- **Not a traditional "art" contest, use of AI and/or digital art is permitted.**
- **Entries will be judged on representation of theme and creativity (bonus points for including the Veterans helpline phone number (988 then press 1).**
- **Prizes will be awarded to the top three entries.**
- Winners will be determined by popular vote at the President's testimonial.
- **Email entries to amieandsteve@comcast.net by March 30,2027.**

It's hard to believe that it's almost "holiday season" and it will be looking like a hockey rink outside soon. Here are some ways to engage and partner with youth during the holidays.

- **Partner with a local sports team or other youth group and start a "Snow Angels" program.**
- **Have older youth assist with your Kid's Holiday Parties. They can help the younger kids with crafts and games, or they can be Santa's helpers.**
- **Ask youth groups to participate in holiday parades and ceremonies.**
- **Ask youth groups to assist with holiday food or toy drives.**
- **Have youth groups make cards for hospitalized veterans or active-duty service members.**
- **Don't forget to acknowledge the youth groups you partner with. Recognize them with a "Youth Group Supporting Our Veterans" citation.**