



## General Orders No 1

July 2026

Greetings Brothers and Sisters,

What an honor to have been installed as your Department President on Saturday, June 20 at the Department Convention. I am truly humbled by the opportunity to lead the Department of Pennsylvania VFW Auxiliary "Team."

We are in for a very exciting year! Our own Donna Mills will be installed as the National VFW Auxiliary President at the National Convention in Reno, Nevada. I know we are all looking forward to it. As a reminder, if you are going to the National Convention, Donna's Celebration will be held on Thursday, July 30<sup>th</sup>. The Celebration Registration form is available on the Department website.

As stated at the convention, I am hoping that the Department of Pennsylvania will work as a "Team" at each level of the Auxiliary, to do **"Simply the Best for Our Veterans."** As a "Team" we need to focus our efforts on our programs especially Membership so that we can sustain the work we are doing for our Veterans, their families and the community today and in the future.

Something new this year, we have added a 7<sup>th</sup> On The Road Training which will be held on Sunday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> at Butler O'Connor McCormick VFW Post 106, 837 Lincoln Ave, West Chester Pa 19380.

I am looking forward to working together with our Department Commander Jim Brown and his Line Officers this year, to continue our legacy of service to our Veterans and our Communities throughout the Department of Pennsylvania.

Thanks to all of you for allowing me the opportunity to work with each of you, to do **"Simply the Best for Our Veterans."**

### Important Dates:

July 3 – Department Headquarters closed – July 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday

July 10 – Barger Golf Scramble, The Bridges, Abbottstown

July 10 & 11 Program Conference, Ramada by Wyndham, State College

July 24 – 30, National VFW/Auxiliary Convention, Reno-Sparks Convention Center, Reno, Nevada

**\*\*Review the enclosed OTR trainings and sign-up today\*\*\***

Loyally yours,

*Cecelia*

Cecelia Cook  
Department President

*Jodie*

Jodie Hollinger  
Department Secretary/Treasurer

# TIPS

## General Orders #1

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**Effective July 1, 2026 – Membership cards** for Annual Members will no longer be **mailed out**. Annual members are encouraged to go on MALTA and print out their card or for convenience – they can download it on their smart phone. Having it on your phone assures you will always know where it is.

### **A reminder to all Treasurers:**

Early July after the start of our 2026-2027 year is the time for you to go into MALTA and pay your Auxiliary or District Bond. Do NOT wait until the end of August to get this completed. All bonds must be renewed before the August 31 expiration.

At the same time go to the IRS website and file your E990 postcard. Taking care of these items early saves us all time and less headaches. <https://sa.www4.irs.gov/epostcard/>

## **VFWA Scholarships Programs, July 2026**

### **Karen Mooney, Scholarships Program Chair**

\*Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen themes are out. Now is the time to get these out to students if you have not already started this process. The **2026-27 theme is for both Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen is :“What a Veteran Taught Me About America.”** Entry forms can be found at: [Youth Scholarships - VFW](#)

## **BUDDY POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST WINNERS DEPARTMENT CONVENTION 2026**

### **Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign**

First Place – Lt John C Roche Post 212-Frances Sherman Post & Auxiliary

Second Place – Ford City Post & Auxiliary 4843

### **Memorial or Inspirational Display**

First Place – LeRoy O Buck Auxiliary 7863

Second Place – Michael & Nicholas Peroski Auxiliary 8755

Third Place – Susquehanna Post & Auxiliary 2493

### **Artistic or Decorative use of Poppies**

First Place – Pvt Allen J Beck, Jr Post & Auxiliary 5265

Second Place – Cyrus R Peters Memorial Post 5965

Third Place – Austin Memorial Auxiliary 7810



## **PATRIOTIC INSTRUCTOR**

Kathy Arnold-Chairman

[Kathyarnold53@yahoo.com](mailto:Kathyarnold53@yahoo.com)

### **General Orders #1**

Hope everyone is planning a MEGA celebration this 4<sup>th</sup> of July to celebrate and recognize *our Nation's 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday!! Be sure to share photos of your events!*

***If you have been appointed as your Auxiliary's Patriotic Instructor, Congratulations!  
What a wonderful year to show your Patriotism!***

Here are some helpful tips for your responsibilities:

- **Flag Etiquette Education:** Instructs members and the community on the proper use, salute (palm over heart), and display of the U.S. Flag according to the Federal Flag Code.
- **Ritual & Floor Work:** Assists the President during meetings, ensuring ceremonies and floor work align with the VFW Auxiliary Ritual.
- **Education Programming:** Initiates programs for observing patriotic days, educating members on the Federal Flag Code, and fostering Americanism.
- **Community Outreach:** Promotes patriotic education in schools and communities, such as leading Wreaths Across America or Flag retirement ceremonies.
- **Membership Education:** Educates members on proper demeanor during meetings.
- **Recognition:** Encourage the display of the American Flag by presenting Certificates of Appreciation to community businesses and members.

Best wishes to a wonderful and exciting year to be

***“Serving America’s Heroes”*** by doing ***“Simply the Best for Our Veterans”!***



### **Branch of Service Birth Dates**

U.S. Army - June 14, 1775

U.S. Marine Corps - November 10, 1775

U.S. Navy - October 13, 1775

U.S. Air Force - September 18, 1947

U.S. Coast Guard - August 4, 1790

U.S. National Guard - December 13, 1636

U.S. Space Force - December 20, 2019

### **Military Flags Order of Precedence**

According to Department of Defense guidelines, military service flags, insignias, etc., should be displayed in the following order (left to right as you face the flags):

**Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force, Space Force and Coast Guard.**

**DEPT OF PENNSYLVANIA  
MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM  
GENERAL ORDERS #1 - JULY 2026**

**Tina Hinkle, Chairman**

tina@vfw5265.org

#simplythebestforourveterans

#servingamericasheroes

#vfwauxiliarypa #vfwauxiliary



**IT'S A MEMBERSHIP NIGHT IN**  
*Pennsylvania*

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

**Congratulations on a FANTASTIC 2025-2026 year!**

**"The Crowd is Electric!" KEEP THE MOMENTIUM GOING!** Get your game plan together and make your goal the "Stanley Cup" Award from Dept of PA! **"Holy mackerel! What a goal!"**

**The year goes by fast** – just like a hockey puck flying on the ice toward the net! Get started now!

**Assist Teammates** (annual members) in rejoining our Auxiliary team by getting dues notices in their hands now! Let members know they can pay their own dues in MALTA or by calling 866-299-1286. Print the Membership Renewal Letter from MALTA - include meeting dates, events and volunteer opportunities.

**Starting July 1, 2026!** Annual membership cards will no longer be mailed. Members are encouraged to access MALTA and print their card or download their card to their phone.

**Recruit New Members!** Order VFW Auxiliary Membership brochures with the membership application, from National Auxiliary – link is under Membership at [www.vfwauxpa.org](http://www.vfwauxpa.org)

**"He is a wizard with the puck!"** thanks to training! Looking forward to seeing you at **Program Conference** July 10-11 where you can learn about all of the VFW Auxiliary Programs! In August attend **"On the Road Training" (OTR)**. *Registration is required – don't miss out – sign up today!*

**New Award!** "Hat Trick" Award is for Auxiliary members attending trainings, events and meetings. To qualify, complete the "Hat Trick" Award form and submit by April 30, 2027.



**Pennsylvania All State Award** Presidents and Treasurer's print the 2026-2027 form, keep it handy and check off requirements as your Auxiliary meets them.

**"Look out Loretta!" to qualify for awards - STAY OUT OF THE PENALTY BOX!** Meet Auxiliary obligations and deadlines. Participate in trainings, conferences and meetings. Refer to the Bylaws, Ritual and Program Book. Utilize Member Resources in MALTA and the Dept of PA Auxiliary website.

## EXTENSION, REVITALIZATION & MENTORING

LINDA MANKEY, DEPT. CHIEF OF STAFF  
2026-2027  
GENERAL ORDERS #1



*A strong auxiliary is like a successful hockey team.*

*We need to recruit new talent, reignite the passion of our existing auxiliary members and develop our rookies into the next group of leaders.*

### **What does this mean for us?**

#### **EXTENSION:**

is recruiting and drafting new members.

#### **REVITALIZATION:**

is bringing the energy back to our existing auxiliary members and working to maintain that level.

#### **MENTORING:**

is when leadership and existing members take new members under their wing to share their knowledge and help them learn the ropes.

### **Let's Focus on Revitalization....**



If you feel like your Auxiliary is in a slump; meeting attendance drops, morale fades and your Auxiliary is losing its spark, it's time to change strategies and come up with some new plays.



Recognition is a great way to boost the spirit of your members by making them feel valued and appreciated. Leaving a few minutes at the end of your meeting is a great place to hand out these awards.



Check out Malta for many different template cards you can print and hand out.

- <https://malta.vfwauxiliary.org/MemberResources>
  - Then look for the Extension & Revitalization tab on the left-hand side.

# Historian & Media Relations

General Orders #1

July 2026

## ***It's a Great Year for History!***

Our mission this year is simple: preserve our past for every future generation of Auxiliary members. Over the years, our Auxiliary teams have built an incredible legacy—but a team's culture is only as strong as its continuity.

This program year, we are strengthening that continuity. The goal is to build your Auxiliary's digital archive: a permanent, online Hall of Fame. Upload photographs, scan documents, and log stories before they are lost to time. If we don't record our victories digitally today, the next generation won't know how we left everything on the ice to score our goals. Every story we protect ensures that future generations will see how we did **Simply the Best for Our Veterans!**

Let's lace up our skates, power up the scanners, and secure our history!

Your Game Plan: Explore using a centralized, user-friendly storage hub to save your documents and photos. For free and easy storage, look at platforms like Google Drive or Microsoft OneDrive. These tools allow multiple committee members to seamlessly upload, access, and organize files in one shared space.

I'm looking forward to a championship year, and I am ready to jump onto the ice to assist our team in any way I can. Consider me your coach and teammate—please feel free to reach out to me anytime you need a hand or have any questions!

From the blue line to the net,

Michele Fallet

Historian & Media Relations Chairman

michfallet@gmail.com | 412-915-1622



## **General Orders #1**

**July 2026**

### **Sharing and Caring, Inc.**

Every September for over 40 years, the non-profit organization, **Sharing & Caring, Inc** has sponsored 400 to 600 Veterans for a day aboard the Gateway Clipper Fleet, for a full day boat ride on Pittsburgh's three-rivers. During these outings medically approved hospital patients enjoy a day that includes: a memorial ceremony, hot buffet lunch, contests and prizes, special recognition gifts and music and dancing. At the close of each day every Veteran is given a gift bag as they depart and are transported back to their respective Hospital or Home.

This 501.C.3 Organization is supported by members of numerous organizations including the PA Veterans of Foreign Wars and PA VFW Auxiliary, who work untiringly to make these excursions memorable each year.

Make checks payable to PA VFW Auxiliary and earmark: **Sharing and Caring, Inc.** Send your donation to Department Headquarters, 4002 Fenton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17109-5943.

# 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](http://www.iatw.us)

**IT'S ABOUT THE WARRIOR**



UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

# ON THE ROAD TRAINING

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

## Simply the Best for our Veterans

### TOPICS

- Officers' responsibilities
- Trustees' responsibilities
- Deadlines - audits, bonds, etc.
- Discipline - what is and what is not discipline
- Chain of command
- Achieving a balance between traditions and technology
- Program questions
- Importance of setting your Auxiliary up for the future
- And more...

### DATES

**AUGUST 2, 2026**  
VFW 106 West Chester, PA  
*RSVP by July 22*

**AUGUST 15, 2026**  
VFW 3448 Mt. Pocono, PA  
*RSVP by August 5*

**AUGUST 16, 2026**  
VFW 6150 Sinking Springs, PA  
*RSVP by August 5*

**AUGUST 22, 2026**  
VFW 7527 Bedford, PA  
*RSVP by August 12*

**AUGUST 23, 2026**  
VFW 1630 Lockhaven, PA  
*RSVP by August 12*

**AUGUST 29, 2026**  
VFW 92 Lower Burrell, PA  
*RSVP by August 19*

**AUGUST 30, 2026**  
VFW 2006 Meadville, PA  
*RSVP by August 19*

**COST: \$15.00**  
(per person, includes lunch)

**MAIL TO:**  
PA VFW Auxiliary Headquarters  
4002 Fenton Avenue  
Harrisburg, PA 17109

### REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED

Auxiliary No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 District: \_\_\_\_\_  
 No. of Members Attending: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Primary Contact: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 OTR Date: \_\_\_\_\_