



**Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary**  
**MICHIGAN CONNECTION #4**  
**December, 2024/January, 2025**

[www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org)

Facebook Page: Auxiliary VFW – Michigan

517-487-3715 (Office)

517-420-9342 (Department Treasurer)

517-485-6432 (FAX)

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*National Theme: From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans*

*Department Theme: Aspire to Inspire*

***New Member Applications, dues, vouchers, audits and 990 information can now be sent to:***

***Cathy Sasse, Treasurer***

***1117 Michigan Street***

***Midland, MI 48640***

### **Jane's Corner**

Thank you to all our hospital volunteers! Their work is nothing short of amazing. Our veterans are well cared for and want for nothing when these volunteers are around. Each facility in the state has a wish list. These are the items that are most needed. We are attempting to get the lists displayed on our web page. If your auxiliary is able, please consider donating some of these items. Please recognize our hospital volunteers. They are some of our "unsung heroes" that deserve to be recognized and thanked.

### **IMPORTANT INFORMATION**

**On Friday, January 31, 2025, at 8:30 am, there will be representatives from Michigan Charitable Gaming and the State of Michigan Liquor Control Commission providing important training. We strongly encourage members, especially Treasurers, to attend this joint training.**

### **DUES**

Due **MUST** be paid by December 31, 2024, to remain a member in good standing. Officers who have not paid their dues by December 31, their office will be declared vacant per our National Bylaws. In addition, members are encouraged to make sure that their information in MALTA is current. If you need assistance with changes, you can contact the Department Secretary Cindy and she will make the changes for you.

### **Chief of Staff (Extension and Revitalization) and Healthy Auxiliary Due Dates/Reminders** **– Department Chief of Staff Jan Passmore**

December is the end of the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter. Therefore, your Auxiliary audit needs to be conducted in the month of January. Once completed then read on your Auxiliary floor and have approved before submitting to the Department Treasurer. If your Auxiliary needs assistance please contact the Department Treasurer or the Department President.

**Mentoring** – As an organization we need to remember we are ALL here for a common goal and that is to assist our Veterans, their families, and our community. We need to remember that it's ok to disagree with someone, but we do need to remember to be respectful of that person's opinion. Face to face communication is a much better option when approaching a difficult issue versus texting or emailing.

## **Special Orders**

Special Order No. 079: Upon recommendation of the Department President and by order of the National President and in accordance with the National Bylaws, Article II, Section 209, the Charter of VFW Auxiliary to St. Helen Post No. 5680, St. Helen, Michigan, the suspension is now lifted as the Auxiliary has corrected the deficiencies

## **Upcoming Events**

The Department Mid-Winter Conference will be held January 29 – February 2, 2025. All pertinent information such as hotel, ad book, and agenda can be found on our website under Announcements. We are excited to announce that our National Representative will be National District Council Member Area B, Carrie Turner.

If your post or auxiliary has an event, such as dinners, fundraisers, etc., you may send the information to [misec@asiserve.net](mailto:misec@asiserve.net) and our web committee chairman, Deb Hanes, will enter the event on our website under News.

The Department Headquarters office will be closed on December 20 through January 1, 2025. However, Auxiliary staff will be working remotely and answering emails and phone calls.

From all of us at Department, we wish all a blessed, safe, and healthy Holiday Season and an amazing New Year.

### **By Order of:**

*Jane Dady*

Jane Dady  
Department President

*Cindy Peto*

Cindy Peto  
Department Secretary

## **ATTENTION AUXILIARY TREASURERS**

Effective December 1 the Department Treasurer will be working remotely. Dues and membership are to be sent to:

Cathy Sasse, Treasurer

1117 Michigan St.

Midland, MI 48640

Hard copies of audits and proof of 990's are to be sent to the same address listed above or may be sent electronically to [mitreas@asiserve.net](mailto:mitreas@asiserve.net).

Any questions, contact Cathy at 517-420-9342.

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT VFW AUXILIARY  
MID-WINTER CONFERENCE  
Radisson Hotel, Kalamazoo  
January 30 – February 2, 2025  
AUXILIARY AGENDA  
\*\*TENTATIVE 10/31/24\*\***



**Thursday, January 30 (casual dress)**

4:00 pm – 6:00 pm	Pre-Council of Administration Meeting including Budget and Audit (Council Members Only)	Suite 813
6:00 pm	Department Officers Dinner with National Representative	
6:30 pm – 10:00 pm	Department Hospitality Room	

**Friday, January 31 (morning is casual; afternoon is official look blouse/shirt)**

8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Registration (closes for lunch Noon-1:30)	Fields
8:00 am – 5:00 pm	Hospital Booth & Camp Trotter Table Buddy Poppy Contest	Kalamazoo 1 Oaks
8:30 am – 11:00 am	Joint Michigan Charitable Gaming Training and State of Michigan Liquor Control	Glens
11:00 am – 12:00 pm	Understanding Delegates and Voting Process Stump the Chief	Glens
Noon – 1:30 pm	Lunch on your own	
12:15 pm – 1:15 pm	District Sr. Vice President Meeting With Sr. Vice President Debbie Scheetz	Stone Theatre
12:15 pm – 1:15 pm	District Jr. Vice President Meeting With Jr. Vice President Jason Manke	Meadows
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm	Council of Administration Meeting	Glens
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	<b>2025-26</b> Program Chairmen Training	Glens
3:30 pm – 4:30 pm	Department Color Bearer Floor Practice Training	TBA
5:00 pm	District President's Reception	Suite 813
5:45 pm	District President's Night on the Town	
6:00 pm - 10:00 pm	Department Hospitality Room	

**Saturday, February 1 (Department Pink Shirt; Banquet is dressy, except for head table which is formal)**

8:00 am – 10:00 am	Registration	
8:00 am – 12:30 pm	Hospital Booth & Camp Trotter Table Buddy Poppy will be judged at 10:00 am	Fields Oaks
8:30 am – 9:00 am	<b>2024 -25</b> Program Chairman Meeting with Marilyn Malick	Glens
9:00 am – 12:30 pm	Programs, Buddy Poppy Awards and Membership Awards	Glens
12:30 pm – 2:15 pm	Lunch on your own	
2:15 pm – 2:45 pm	Auxiliary VOD/PP Reception	Glens

4:30 pm – 5:00 pm

VOD/PP Students, District Commanders/  
Presidents & Head Table

Kalamazoo 2

5:00 pm

Escort of Head Table and VOD/PP Students

5:00 pm

Banquet

Arcadia Ballroom

**Sunday, February 2**

Safe Travels

**TIMES ARE APPROXIMATE AND MAY CHANGE – REVISIONS WILL BE POSTED ON DEPARTMENT WEBSITE @ [www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org)**

**Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars  
46th Mid – Winter Conference  
Wednesday January 29, 2025 – Sunday February 2, 2025**

**Make Your Reservation by January 6, 2025  
To Make Reservations Call  
Radisson Plaza Hotel  
100 W. Michigan Avenue, Kalamazoo MI 49007  
Phone 269-343-3333**

- Cutoff date is January 6, 2025 or until block fills, whichever occurs first.
- Please make your reservations as soon as you receive this information.

**To reserve your room, please call 269-343-3333 Reservation must be guaranteed with a major credit card.**

**When calling to make your reservation to receive the group rate, you must identify yourself as a Department of Michigan VFW Mid-Winter Conference Attendee.**

**A credit card and valid photo identification will be required upon check-in.**

**Rates are subject to 6% State Tax And 5% Occupancy Tax**

**Room rates:                      Standard Rooms: \$119.00  
   Suites: \$169.00**

**Group: Department of Michigan Veterans of Foreign Wars Mid -Winter Conference**

**Wednesday January 29, 2025 – Sunday February 2, 2025**

VFW AND AUXILIARY  
46th MID – WINTER CONFERENCE  
Radisson Hotel, Kalamazoo Michigan

**BANQUET TICKETS**  
**FEBRUARY 1, 2025 at 5:00 pm**

**Price \$52.00 per person /All seats are reserved**  
**No tickets sold at the door**  
**ALL TICKETS must be picked up at the Conference**

**DEADLINE DATE FOR ORDERING TICKETS IS JANUARY 21, 2025**  
**All tickets ordered after Deadline of January 21, 2025 will be at the Rate of \$60.00**  
**BANQUET TICKET ORDERS WILL BE HELD ACCOUNTABLE, INCLUDING NO**  
**SHOWS UNLESS AUTHORIZED BY STATE COMMANDER FOR REFUND**

**IF TICKETS ARE FOR SOMEONE OTHER THAN WHO IS ORDERING, PLEASE**  
**ATTACH A LIST OF THEIR NAME AND/OR TITLE**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

District: \_\_\_\_\_ Post: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Payment can be made by check or credit card.

Make check payable to VFW Department of Michigan and mail with form to:  
VFW Department of Michigan  
924 N. Washington  
Lansing, MI 48906

To pay with credit card complete information below and fax to 517-485-6432 or email to  
Jan: [bookkeeper@vfwmi.vet](mailto:bookkeeper@vfwmi.vet) or Amanda: [amanda@vfwmi.vet](mailto:amanda@vfwmi.vet)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Credit Card #

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_\_  
Expiration Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
3 Digit Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email for Receipt







## Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Americanism Bulletin – December 2024/January 2025

[www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org)

Facebook Page: Americanism-Michigan

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National Theme: *From our Roots to our Branches Extending Service to our Veterans*  
Department Theme: *Aspire to Inspire*

**December** brings many different thoughts to mind...warm cozy friendly gatherings, noisy family game nights, overeating, bright lights and colored packages. However, I believe that for many of our Veterans December can also bring a lot of sadness and loneliness. Especially to our WWII veterans, who lost their brothers/sisters at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7th or they feel guilty because they survived. I think we should pay extra attention to all our Veterans during this time because there were other events that ended or started in December and many of our Veterans have been isolated by choice or circumstances and they are out there in the cold feeling lost and alone when the rest of us are enjoying those things already mentioned. So, if your Auxiliary is hosting a holiday dinner or event like a kid's party try to invite those elderly post or Auxiliary members you don't see too often or better yet, go get them and bring them to the party for a couple hours. Just making a connection and changing their surroundings could do so much for them mentally. After all it is the season for giving and what is an extra plate of cookies or a few extra dinner plates? As Auxiliary members it is OUR DUTY to help take care and honor them for THEIR past/current service and duty. You could also make an effort to visit a V.A. hospital or nursing home as well.

This would also be a great time to work on those Citations that you should be passing out and awarding community members/businesses for showing patriotism. This is one area that needs a little help in reporting.

December 7th National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day  
8th War Declared on Japan 1941  
11th Germany and Italy Declared war on U.S. 1941  
13th National Guard birthday 1636  
15th Iraq War Ended 2011  
20th Panama Campaign Began 1989 / U.S. Space Force Est. 2019  
31st Official end of WWII 1946 / Kosovo Campaign Ends 2013



*Happy  
Holidays*



**January** is a time of renewal and fresh beginnings for many so I would hope that you all will take a "fresh look" at your guide sheets and look back at what you have done and reported and what you yet need to accomplish for this business year. Yes, you still have time but we all know it will quickly tick by and then some of us will be scrambling to try to rush to get things done when if we take a little time and look toward the future (of the next few months) we can put more meaning into what we need or want to accomplish.

My family likes to get together especially at this time of year and play games so we are going to play a trivia game....

- |   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Q. Is your Auxiliary promoting Patriotism?  | A. Yes          |
| Q. How do I know your Auxiliary showing Patriotism?                                 | A. By reporting |
| Q. Is your Auxiliary acknowledging Patriotic Holidays?                              | A. Yes          |
| Q. How do I know your Aux. is promoting Patriotic Holidays?                         | A. By reporting |
| Q. Is your Auxiliary passing out/distributing American Flags?                       | A. Yes          |
| Q. How many flags did you distribute and how/where                                  | A. By Reporting |
| Q. Is your Auxiliary "awarding" Patriotic citations?                                | A. Yes          |
| Q. Is your Auxiliary being represented at Dist. and Dept meetings when they happen? | A. Yes          |
| Q. Are you sharing bulletins and other info with your Aux.?                         | A. Yes          |



If you can "play" this game and get the answers I have indicated are the right ones, then not only will your Auxiliary win but our communities and most importantly our Veterans will win and that is a game none of us can afford to lose.

January: 17th Persian Gulf War began 1991  
27th Signing of Vietnam Peace Accord 1973  
31st Panama Campaign Ended 1990

*"I therefore believe it is my duty to my Country to love it; to support its Constitution; to obey its laws; to respect its flag and to defend against all enemies."*

-William Tyler Page

Wendi Hall  
4849 Williams Street  
Montague, MI 49437  
917-295-3531  
wendihall65@gmail.com





## Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Bulletin – December 2024/January 2025

[www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org)

Facebook Page: Auxiliary Outreach-Michigan

National Theme: *From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to our Veterans*  
Department Theme: *Aspire to Inspire*

Auxiliary Outreach is members of the Auxiliary assisting in the community and working with other organizations. We can achieve this on an individual or group basis. Working with our community benefits everyone. We are able as Auxiliary members to reach out in our community outside our Post and assist with our knowledge and skills.

### *ASPIRE TO INSPIRE YOUR COMMUNITY*



We have so many ways to reach out to our community this holiday season, here are some ideas to help your Auxiliary reach some goals:

- Participation in local holiday events – volunteering at places where they serve meals, parades or assist the community.
- Participating at local schools, libraries, nursing homes or senior centers by volunteering and assisting where needed.
- Partnering with local police on child ID kits.
- Partnering with firefighters on fire safety and prevention.
- Partnering with EMTs to host CPR training.
- Partnering with an animal shelter or mobile neutering clinic.
- Partnering with a soup kitchen to stock shelves to serve food.

When working with these organizations for the Auxiliary Outreach program be sure that the member(s) volunteering is *wearing* a VFW Auxiliary item. It can be a shirt, hat, jacket or name tag. Smile and be proud to wear them with pride, we may never know who we will run into. Also take *pictures* of your events. I would love to share them on our Facebook page, and remember the National Award wants a photo collage of all of your great community events throughout the 24-25 year. Finally, it is considered Auxiliary Outreach if the project was *approved* by the Auxiliary and must be *recorded* in the meeting minutes prior to the project. On rare occasions such as a natural Disaster or emergency community need, the project may be voted on after the fact. All it takes is one Auxiliary member volunteering to count. When reporting please report the number of members, hours and miles used to assist the event. Please include in the report that the event was voted on, approved and documented in meeting minutes. I look forward to

working with everyone and excited to read all the fantastic reports on your community events. Please send me pictures so we can share them on the Auxiliary Outreach Facebook page and share with the other Auxiliaries this year. I will be working on submitting some national awards of photo collages over the holiday season. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any additional questions. Good Luck to everyone for the 2024-2025 year let's make it awesome!!! Wishing everyone happy and safe holidays!

Cathy Sasse  
1117 Michigan Street  
Midland, MI 48640  
(989)513-8555  
[cathrinesasse@gmail.com](mailto:cathrinesasse@gmail.com)





**Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary**  
**“Buddy”® Poppy/National Home Bulletin –**  
**December 2024-January 2025**

[www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org)

Facebook Page: “Buddy”® Poppy/VFW National Home-Michigan

December is here and along with it comes the season of giving. Thank you all for giving your time, resources, ideas, support, and so much more to our veterans, families, and communities this past month. I have seen how hard you have worked and this month I know you will work just as hard, if not harder!

With the holidays fast approaching there are some easy ways to support the National Home. Ideas to include gifting a Life Membership or a Tribute Brick, purchasing a much-needed item from their Amazon Wishlist, or supporting their 2024 Santa Shop! This program offers the children an opportunity to shop for the special person(s) in their life. Purchases come from “credit” they earned by spending time during the year volunteering in their community. Please consider making a purchase to donate.



### **Creativity is Contagious**

To help support your Home Front Hero commitment and add funds to your relief fund this December – your Auxiliary can purchase fillable ornaments. You can fill the ornaments with a little bit of “snow” and a “Buddy”® Poppy. Once you create your masterpieces, you can then put them on a Christmas tree in your Post home. The ornaments can then be purchased off the tree and the funds put into your relief fund. Be sure to read blog #2 from our National Ambassador (located in Malta) as she has other festive ideas to support your commitment!

### **Reporting**

How does your Auxiliary earn a Department Award that is listed on the Guide Sheet? The short answer. Report! Quite a few awards are up for grabs concerning promotions. How can I pick your Auxiliary to win if I don't know what you are doing by not reporting? And when an Auxiliary reports, they only indicated “promoted the National Home” with no more clarification. Please tell me how! What did your Auxiliary do? In what ways did you promote? Did something stand out during the experience of promoting or did you see a result from your promoting experience. By reporting and giving me details, I can put your Auxiliary up for consideration!



### **VFW National Home Helpline**

This time of year, can be very challenging for families. Be sure to share the VFW National Home Helpline. Remember, it is a HELPLINE not a HOTLINE!

**REMINDER: Please don't forget to send in a 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday card from your Auxiliary to the National Home by January 1<sup>st</sup>!**

## Mid-Winter “Buddy”® Poppy Display Contest

Now is the time to start thinking about Mid-Winter “Buddy”® Poppy Contest. Here is the flyer to help guide you in your thought process along with guidelines you will need to follow. I can’t wait to see what ideas you bring! Don’t forget, we have a Youth category. Perhaps host a craft night for your youth at your Post home. Consider offering some hot chocolate, cookies and maybe a 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place award. This is an excellent opportunity for the youth to learn about the “mighty flower,” fellowship and create some inspiring work.

## Mid-Winter “Buddy”® Poppy Contest 2025

- **Theme: “Aspire to Inspire”**

- **Specifications:**

- Entry dimensions must be NO larger than 16” wide, 16” deep, 20” tall.
- Post, Auxiliary, Name, Number or City can **NOT** be visible on your entry. It **MUST** be posted on the bottom only where not visible. Please **DO NOT** include any members picture that a judge might recognize.
- Each entry **MUST** have at least **ONE** “Buddy”® Poppy in original form (that means a poppy with the white tag still attached).

- **Awards:**

- \$20, \$15, \$10 to Auxiliaries for the 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner.
- Youth Category: Plaque for 1<sup>st</sup> place winner and Citation to all youth who participate.

Mid-Winter Conference will be held at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Kalamazoo, MI from Thursday, January 30, 2025 – Sunday, February 1, 2025. The drop off for displays will begin Friday morning from 8:00- 5:00 and will end Saturday morning at 9:00. More details to follow.



Find us on:  
**facebook**®

**Reminder:** Every Department Program has a designated Facebook page! You can find them by typing in the name of the program in the search box at the top of your Facebook page. The name of your program is located at the top of every program’s specific bulletin. If you have not joined ours, please find us at: **“Buddy”® Poppy/VFW National Home-Michigan**

I just want to say a quick “Thank you!” for all you have done this year! Have a blessed holiday season!

Christine LeBrun, “Buddy”® Poppy/VFW National Home Chairman

205 E Jolly Rd A10

Lansing, MI 48910

803-406-9088

bpnhmi24.25@gmail.com



## Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Historian/Media Relations Bulletin December 2024/January 2025

[www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org)

Facebook Page: [Historian/Media Relations-Michigan](https://www.facebook.com/Historian/Media-Relations-Michigan)

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National Theme: *From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans*  
Department Theme: *Aspire to Inspire*

Historian / Media Relations Chairman, we are now halfway through the 2024-2025 year. At this time, you should have awards, certificates, articles, photos and/or activity information collected for your Auxiliary 2024-2025 Auxiliary/President's Scrapbook. Remember one of the Goals under the Historian/Media Relations Program is making a Scrapbook for your Auxiliary President's Year. Now is the time to be reviewing the Historian Goals and checking off those that you have accomplished and planning on how to complete those not yet accomplished.

You should have by now reported attending a District Meeting and a District, Fall Conference, or Convention Historian School of Instruction in Quarter 1 and/or Quarter 2. Remember, every Auxiliary is required to attend every District Meeting, it is in the Bylaws. I understand many members are not savvy when it comes to technology. If you are not able to report for your program, remember anyone can report for your Auxiliary. You can even mail or email me a monthly or quarterly report. Location of the form to use can be found here: [vfwauxmi.org](http://vfwauxmi.org) > Resources > Downloadable Info > Misc. Forms > Quarterly Report Form. You need to report, to keep your Auxiliary's "Non-Profit" status.

Remember to brag about your Auxiliary's great deeds and promote your Auxiliary's work for our Veterans and their needs. Get the message out there by social media, Newsletters, Radio, TV, Community Activities, VFW Post and Auxiliary Activities, Flyers and distributed information. Remember to have Adult and Youth Photo Release Forms available for those in your Social Media Photos. You can find these forms at this location: [vfwauxmi.org](http://vfwauxmi.org) > Programs > Historian > Sample Photo Release Forms. Also, you do not use the last name of Youth in your articles. When putting the word out make sure you remember the 5-W's.

### THE 5 – W's

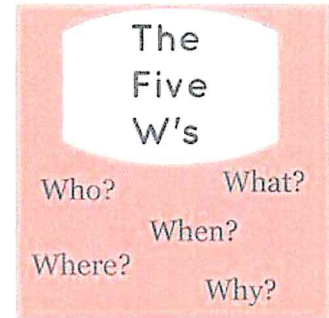
#### 1. Who Do You Contact:

- **Contact Local Newspaper, have a reporter at the event or write an Event Press Release Article they can use with photos.**
- **Contact Local Radio Station, ask them to add it to their Community Calendar of Events. Write an Event Press Release Article they can use as a Community Activity.**
- **Contact Local TV Stations, see if they are willing to cover your event.**

- **Contact your Historian or someone to be at your event to record what happens and take photos.**

## **2. What is the Event:**

- **VFW National Auxiliary President Visit.**
- **Events hosted by the Auxiliary.**
- **Participating in “Wreaths Across America”.**
- **Decorating or cleaning veteran gravesites.**
- **POW/MIA Remembrance Ceremony.**
- **Assisting deployed troop’s families.**
- **Scholarship events and honoring your winners.**
- **Buddy Poppy and Membership Drives.**
- **Flag Presentations to Community Groups.**
- **Working with Youth and Community Groups.**



## **3. When is the Event:**

- **When will the event take place or when it took place. Give early enough notification.**

## **4. Where is the Event:**

- **Location of event and all pertinent information.**

## **5. Why is the Event Taking Place:**

- **Describe the reasons for the event.**

Thank you to all of you for getting your reports in. You are doing a great job showing what your Auxiliary is doing. I do have some of you that mail me your photos and reports. I do report those and send you copies. I appreciate everyone’s photos of activities that include Department President Jane Dady, Gunnar (Jane’s Bear) and Auxiliary Events. Join our Facebook page Historian/Media Relations-Michigan to see your photos when I use them. If anyone has any questions please contact me using the information below.

Blanche Brown  
10975 Irish Rd  
Vermontville, MI 49096  
517-896-7752  
[bbrownvfw@gmail.com](mailto:bbrownvfw@gmail.com)





## Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Hospital Bulletin – December 2024/January 2025

[www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org)

Facebook Page: Hospital-Michigan



Reading your hospital reports, you have all been busy as bees wrapping tubes for making favors for our veterans and lots of other wonderful ideas. Also, in the reports it was great to see everyone recruiting young people and other volunteers to make and distribute these little gifts to our veterans. You are amazing! I know there are more amazing reports to be coming in for the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter and I am looking forward to the Mid-

Winter Conference. You did so well on the crossword puzzle, so I have another challenge to earn MASH points.

We are entering the winter months and probably running low on energy from the holidays. Well, January has a whole range of new holidays we can use to bring more smiles to our veterans' faces. Here are a few ideas to get you started.

- National Cream Puff Day – January 2<sup>nd</sup>
- National Birds Day – January 5<sup>th</sup>
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day – January 15<sup>th</sup>
- National Coffee Break Day – January 20<sup>th</sup>
- National Cheese Lovers Day – January 20<sup>th</sup>
- Penguin Awareness Day – January 20<sup>th</sup>
- National Tulip Day – January 20<sup>th</sup>

We still have weeks until February, however, during the winter meeting months might be a good time to think about Valentines for Veterans. Share the love we have for our veterans and service members this coming Valentines Day by sending store-bought or handmade valentines. Host a Valentine-themed **Bingo** at your local VA or nursing home. If you have any leftover tubes, wrap them in Valentine's paper.

The last bulletin had information on recruiting volunteers. Since we are starting to wind down on this administrative year, we need to think about recognizing our hospital volunteers. It is important to recognize the time our volunteers have been helping wrap & assemble favors, writing cards to shut-ins, going to the VA and non-VA hospitals spending time with our veterans, and supporting the hospital program. Recognize these wonderful volunteers with Hospital Appreciation Certificates, and order VFW Auxiliary Hospital pins for total hours earned from all facilities (VA and non-VA).

Have you read this far? Are you looking for the code word to put in your hospital report? Well, you have already read it at your meeting if you read this bulletin! Reminder that it is in bold letters.

Ann Backhurst  
1106 N. McClellan Ave, Marquette, MI 49855  
251-604-5998.  
[vfwaux.annbackhurst@gmail.com](mailto:vfwaux.annbackhurst@gmail.com)



## Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Legislative Bulletin – December 2024/January 2025

[www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org)

Facebook Page: Legislative-Michigan

**National Theme: *From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans***  
**Department Theme: *Aspire to Inspire***

### Program Goals

**Be an Advocate - Be Informed - Be Engaged**

Do you believe it is the holiday season & so very close to a New Year? Neither can I!!

As I am writing this bulletin, we do not have the results of one of the most consequential general elections in our country's history. Regardless of the eventual outcome, we will have many new faces in Congress and it is our mission and duty to educate them on our VFW Priority Goals and the approximately 150 VFW supported bills currently pending. We are still pushing for The Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act as well as the Major Richard Star Act. Back on the forefront is S.2888 / H.R.3933, *TAP Promotion Act*. The House and Senate Committees on Armed Services are negotiating their versions of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2025. This provision would require that accredited claims representatives such as service officers from VSOs such as the VFW and others, along with state and county service officers, are present in Transition Assistance Program (TAP) classes to support transitioning service members with filing pre-discharge claims. This would facilitate a warm hand-off from the Department of Defense to the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for the benefits that veterans have earned and deserve. Ensuring veterans receive their VA benefits and health care as soon as they leave the military facilitates a smooth transition and can also reduce the risk of homelessness, food insecurity, and suicide.

Due to the VFW's advocacy efforts, VA started incorporating accredited service officers into its TAP classes in early 2024. This is a great first step, but passing the TAP Promotion Act would establish this as a permanent program. Fortunately, since this is a current VA practice, codifying it into law would require no additional funding from taxpayers. So, get those letters and emails out to your U.S. Senators and Congressmen ASAP!

You can go to this link to actually see the VFW supported bills and where they currently sit in the process. You can visit <https://votervoicenet/VFW/bills>. This link is on the VFW website under the Advocacy tab.



Keep up the good work on promoting our **VFW Priority Goals**, responding to the **Action Alerts** and signing up members for the **VFW Action Corps Weekly**. Visit [www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots](http://www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots) to read and sign up. Please let me know if you need any assistance in the sign-up process. And don't forget to report the number of members who are actually signed up for the Action Corps Weekly. Based on your reporting, you are all doing an exceptional job!

I wanted to share some background on the **VFW National Legislative Service**. They establish the VFW's legislative priorities and advocates on veterans' behalf. By testifying at congressional committee hearings and interacting with congressional members, the VFW has played an instrumental role in nearly every piece of veterans' legislation passed since the beginning of the 20th century. Everything we do on Capitol Hill is with the VFW's Priority Goals and veterans' well-being in mind. With the strength of the more than 1.4 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary, our voice on Capitol Hill cannot be ignored! Among the VFW's most recent and important legislative victories was expanding college education benefits for military service members with the signing of the Forever GI Bill and ensuring America's service members and veterans receive the care they deserve - whenever and wherever they need it - by passing the VA MISSION Act.

In closing, please review and keep in mind your Achievement Goals when reporting. Keep in mind the National and Department Awards for collaborating with the VFW Post connecting members with local lawmakers. The entry form is in Malta/Member Resources and due to me by March 31. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued efforts on behalf of our Veterans and their families.

Have a Happy Holiday Season, Merry Christmas and hoping we all have a Happy, Healthy & Prosperous New Year!!



Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Marshall  
622 Neier Rd  
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858  
Phone: (989) 621-4476  
Email: [qubitmom@yahoo.com](mailto:qubitmom@yahoo.com)



## Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Membership Bulletin–Dec 2024/Jan2025

[www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org)

Facebook Page:Membership - Michigan

**National Theme: From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans**

**Department Theme: Aspire to Inspire**

**Membership Theme: America's Greatest Treasure**

### PROGRAM GOALS

**Invite New Members – Include Current Members – Invest in the Future of the Organization**



It's hard to believe it, but the holiday season is upon us! They sure seem to have snuck-up quickly, that's for sure. I hope you aren't too far behind with your shopping and preparations for the holidays? Speaking of shopping and preparation, have you been "shopping" for new members? Have you been "preparing" your approach, your elevator pitch to those you're trying to recruit? Have you asked eligible family members to join this amazing and wonderful organization? Have you considered purchasing the gift of a membership for those family members? What a way to honor their "why", whether they are honoring the memory of that special Veteran in their family who has passed, or a Veteran that they see throughout the year.

### A REMINDER, KEEP USING THAT QR CODE!



We've lasered over 300 dog tags (which I've distributed at our conventions and several district meetings across this great state) with the VFW Auxiliary Membership QR Code on them and I'm down to around 50 remaining. If you'd like one of the few remaining, next time you see me, ask to see if I have any left (1<sup>st</sup> come, 1<sup>st</sup> served).

### ANOTHER REMINDER, FINDING A VETERAN'S ELIGIBILITY

Three Ways and Two Resources

- DD214
- Receipt of *Hostile Pay/Imminent Danger Pay*
- Served in Korea for 30 consecutive days, or 60 non-consecutive days

If you need a DD214:

- [www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs) or...
- Call the National Personnel Records Center at 314.801.0800

### SERVICE BENEFITS

- Automobile insurance is available to Auxiliary Members
- Homeowners insurance is available to Auxiliary Members
- Dental, hearing, and vision plans are available to Auxiliary Members
- Financial Services credit services are available thru USAA or call 1.866.575.2859

### PERSONAL BENEFITS

- Cancer grants
- Friendships
- Networking
- Veteran and military support
  - Stand with Veterans on Capital Hill and in local legislative battles which affect Veterans
- Personal fulfillment

Wishing you and yours a very Merry Christmas with family and friends.

Have a safe and Happy New Year.



I can't thank you enough for all that you have done in 2024, and will continue to do in the New Year, for our Nation's heroes. God Bless the Veterans who answered the call, and God bless the United States of America.

All the best.

*Marian Belaire*

Marian Belaire  
17384 Doris St.  
Livonia, MI 48152  
248.345.2442  
MBelaireMVF@yahoo.com

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

## Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Scholarship Bulletin – December 2024/January 2025

[www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org)

Facebook Page: Scholarships-Michigan

**National Theme: From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans**  
**Department Theme: Aspire to Inspire**

### Student Participation – Recipient Recognition – Community Awareness – Increasing the Fund

Happy Holidays! The district judging has been completed for the VOD, PP and TOY. We will be doing the state level judging on December 21 at the Department office. Department winners will be announced at the Mid-Winter Conference Awards Banquet in Kalamazoo, February 1, 2025.

If you have not reserved your room for the Mid-Winter Conference please do so as soon as possible. Also please reserve your banquet tickets.

Has your Auxiliary made your suggested donations for the Scholarship program? Please do so, as this is our way to help with funding this great program for our students.

If your Auxiliary and/or Post would like to donate to the gift bags we give each student and Teacher of the Year, please contact me. Items such as gum, candy, Chapstick, chips, water, snack bars, Capri suns, gift cards, etc. are all appreciated. This is just another little something to make them feel special. (24 students and 3 teachers)

There were many red blanks for scholarship reporting this quarter. If you promoted these programs in any way please report. If you are the chairman and attended the Fall Conference, District meeting or School of Instruction, please report this. Let's help your President, the District President and President Jane shine for Michigan.

It is now time to be promoting the Patriotic Art program more with our high schoolers. Reach Out to your schools, youth groups, and art centers for help.

Wishing you and your family a healthy, happy and safe holiday season.

Denise Arnold  
9525 E River Rd  
Mt Pleasant, MI 48858  
989-621-0327  
[scholarshipsMI2425@gmail.com](mailto:scholarshipsMI2425@gmail.com)





## Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Veterans & Family Support Bulletin December 2024/January 2025

[www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org)

Facebook Page: Veterans and Family Support-Michigan

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National Theme: *From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans*  
Department Theme: *Aspire to Inspire*

<b>December 7</b>	<b>Pearl Harbor Day</b>
<b>December 13</b>	<b>National Guard Birthday</b>
<b>December 14</b>	<b>National Wreaths Across America Day</b>
<b>December 20</b>	<b>Space Force Birthday</b>

### Operation Bottom Cover

I am starting to receive reports from Auxiliaries that are helping with the National VFW Auxiliary President's special project, **Operation Bottom Cover; great job!** If you or your Auxiliary has not contributed to this important project yet, here are a couple of easy ways that you can help:

1. Donate directly on MALTA under gifts or mail a check to National Headquarters earmarked "NP special project".
2. Your Auxiliary can donate directly (with diapers, wipes, or a check earmarked O.B.C.) to a veteran or military family with this need in your area.

### Report what you do!

### Fisher House of Michigan

Our own Department of Michigan VFW Auxiliary President Jane Dady, needs our help with her special project, **Fisher House**. Fisher House is a home away from home for veterans and their families who have a long distance to travel when receiving care at a VA Hospital. There is never a charge for the veteran or family member(s) to stay. Michigan has a Fisher House in Ann Arbor and in the near future, another Fisher House will be opening in Detroit. **Please visit** <http://www.fisherhousemichigan.org> to learn more or send a donation directly to:

**Fisher House Michigan**  
**PO Box 130**  
**Ann Arbor, Michigan 48113**

### Charity Starts at Home

Please remember your own Post veterans and Auxiliary family this holiday season. Some of your members may need help paying their membership dues; be a **Dues Angel**. If you know of anyone who could use help with food, snow removal, a ride to the store, financial assistance for any reason, or just another person to talk to, please try to help. Also, our members who are hospitalized or in a care facility, always appreciate outside contact.

**Auxiliary members have been doing an awesome job at reporting this type of direct aid, thank you!**

**January 20 Martin Luther King Jr. Day**

**January 20 Inauguration Day**

## **VFW Veterans and Military Support Programs**

Do you or someone you know, have a family member who is currently serving in the military, reserves, has recently or will in the near future, be discharged? If so, there are so many resources that can help our military and veterans.

One resource is called the **Military Assistance Program or MAP**. MAP provides financial assistance for Posts, Districts, and Departments to sponsor morale-boosting send offs, homecomings and casual get togethers. Posts or Auxiliaries that participate in Adopt-a-Unit can also receive assistance. MAP keeps care packages circulating by covering the postage costs. **To apply for MAP funds, contact VFW Veterans & Military Support office at 816-756-3390.**

**Department of Defense Military One Source-** Military One Source is a 24/7 resource for military members to reach their goals, overcome challenges, and thrive. For much more information go to [www.militaryonesource.mil](http://www.militaryonesource.mil)

**Unmet Needs-** This special VFW program for Military, Veterans and their Families comes in handy for helping with those necessary bills that are sometimes hard to cover with grants for up to \$1,500 for things like:

- **Mortgage or Rent**
- **Car repairs**
- **Insurance**
- **Utilities**
- **Food**
- **Clothing**

## **Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness**

*Promoting Veteran and Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health* is one of our Veteran & Family Support goals this year. Auxiliary members have been doing a good job at promoting this by posting on social media the **988 press 1, text message to 838255**, and other resources. Here are a few more resources that you can promote by sharing and reporting:

- [vfw.org/assistance/mental-wellness](http://vfw.org/assistance/mental-wellness)
- [changedirection.org](http://changedirection.org)
- [giveanhour.org](http://giveanhour.org)
- [healvets.org](http://healvets.org)
- [onemind.org](http://onemind.org)

Keep up the great job of reporting. Everything we do for our veterans and families is reportable. Please contact me if you haven't reported yet, so I can help.

Scott Collins

127 E. Case Street

Negaunee, MI 49866

cell/text 906-236-2419 Home Phone 906-401-0453

[scott.collins@negauneeschools.org](mailto:scott.collins@negauneeschools.org)





## Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Youth/Camp Trotter Bulletin – December 2024/January 2025

[www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org)

Facebook Page: Youth Activities/Camp Trotter - Michigan

**National Theme: *From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans***  
**Department Theme: *Aspire to Inspire***

### Youth:

Now that Thanksgiving has passed it is time to start thinking about Christmas and a New Year! This is a great time of year for our kids and families.... sometimes. Think about how you can support kids in your community through one of the potentially more difficult

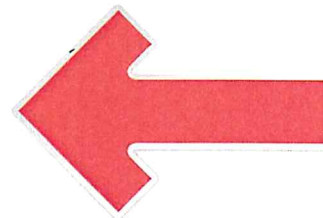


times of the year for them. Your Auxiliary could adopt a family to help with gifts and necessities to get them through. You might host a donation box for Toys for Tots (they're often looking for books – Patriotism through Literacy!), Soldiers Angels, Operation We Are Here, etc. You could volunteer for the Salvation Army or your local soup kitchen. This may connect youth programming to Auxiliary Outreach (don't forget to vote on the hours at your meeting!).

With 2025 around the corner, begin planning what events you can involve youth in. Many older kids will be looking for volunteer hours for the National Jr. Honor Society and National Honor Society. Bring them in to assist with events and when they do, hand out those RAP cards, Youth Groups Supporting our Veterans Awards and Patriotic Youth Awards!

### ***Illustrating America:***

Remember this is a contest and not a scholarship! It is for kids K-2, 3-5, and 6-8. There are Department Awards for first place in each grade group and National Awards for first place, second place, and third place. As mentioned at Fall Conference, new requirements are that the child's name and grade are to be written on the back of every submission. Submissions without this information will be disqualified. Also, a **CORRECTION**, at Fall Conference I said submissions should go to the District level first and I was incorrect. Please submit your winning submission for each grade range directly to me.



### **Camp Trotter:**

I have received many questions about where to send donations for Camp Trotter. You can go to [campsprotter.org](http://campsprotter.org), click the donate button and submit there OR you can mail a check to Dept of VFW MI, Attn: Camp Trotter, 924 N Washington Ave, Lansing, MI 48906. Be sure to note what your donation is for in the memo line of the check. Acceptable memos are "Scholarship Fund", "Life Membership", "Camp Trotter", or "Camper Name." If the

memo line is not used it will go directly to the general fund and be used for general operating expenses.

I have heard some Auxiliaries note that camping fees are getting too expensive for them to sponsor a camper. Remember the guide sheet states to donate to the scholarship fund, but does not say how much. Every little bit helps and you are not being asked to send \$375 if your Auxiliary cannot afford that amount. Other ways to donate include stopping by the Camp Trotter table and purchasing tickets for the raffles at Midwinter Conference and at Convention, helping to find staff for camp next summer, showing up for clean up days, and participating in the annual golf outing next summer!

Another way to donate is to participate when it's your District's turn for "Stuff Your District." Remember we are looking for as many donations as possible, not just one per District. Every Auxiliary could bring something! If you have any questions about what to bring, when to bring it, etc. please don't hesitate to reach out! I am happy to help!

## **STUFF YOUR DISTRICT ASSIGNMENTS**

### **MID-WINTER CONFERENCE**

Districts 5, 8, 11, 14

### **CONVENTION**

Districts 6, 9, 12, 15

April Lowery  
7820 Heritage Drive, Apt 4  
Lansing 48917  
(707) 495-2195  
asmith0725@gmail.com

# 40<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL POOL TOURNAMENT-WOMEN'S DIVISION

TOURNAMENT DATES: March 13, 14, and 15, 2025

HOST AUXILIARY: VFW Walsh Post 4499  
1211 28<sup>th</sup> Street  
Manistee, MI 49660  
231-723-9220



ENTRY FEES: SINGLES-\$15.00 Per Entry  
DOUBLES-\$30.00 Per Team  
TEAMS-\$100.00 Per Team

You may send up to 5 Teams, 5 Singles and 5 sets of Doubles for the first team entered and an additional Single and one set of Doubles for each additional team entered. All entry fee checks must be issued by your Auxiliary or if you have District playoffs the check must be issued from your District, as all money must go through Auxiliary or District books. Make the checks payable to **Wanda Bunting**. Entry fees, rosters, and suggestions for rule changes are due by February 15, 2025. Please designate team captains, co-captains, and your available referee (according to a motion made on the floor at the 2017 meeting) on your roster sheet. District Chairmen please also indicate your e-mail address.

Please bring pictures, no larger than 5 x 7 for the memory board.

Please remember to raise money for Fisher House Foundation. Checks should be made out to Department of Michigan VFW Auxiliary and earmarked Jane's Project.

Please bring an item or items for the raffle.

Late entry fees, incorrect information, or incorrect checks may disqualify you from the tournament.

Wanda Bunting, Department Pool Chairman  
7800 River Rd.  
Belding, MI 48809  
(231)349-8214  
wandabrowder@hotmail.com

# Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Women's Division

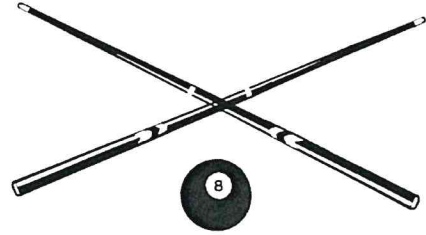
## 2025 Pool Program

1. Districts that have Auxiliaries with pool teams should appoint a Chairman.
2. Permission must be given by the Auxiliary floor to use the Auxiliary number.
3. We will follow the rules set in the State VFW Auxiliary Women's Division Pool Rulebook.
4. The tournament is held once a year, usually the third weekend in March.
5. Participants must present current membership card and be a member of that Auxiliary or VFW by January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year the tournament is being held.
6. The host Auxiliary will furnish  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the cost of the pool tables, the facilities, and the cost to hold the tournament and banquet.
7. Districts with 9 teams or less are allowed up to 5 teams. You may send 5 Singles and 5 Doubles for the first team entered and 1 of each for each additional team entered.
8. Two Auxiliaries may join together to form a team. You must decide which Auxiliary number you will use. A minimum of six ladies are needed to form a team.
9. You may enter just the Singles and Doubles if you do not have enough ladies to form a team.
10. The Singles and Doubles Champions from the previous year are automatically invited back to defend their title, at no charge.
11. The State Referees will play in the Singles event for no charge. They must referee all three days. One other person who is not already a referee must be designated as a substitute referee if we need them (according to a motion made on the floor at the 2017 meeting).
12. The tournament is self-supported by the entry fees. The fees go to purchase trophies, prizes, and staff expenses.
13. We make a donation every year to a project. This year it will be President Jane's Project which is Fisher House Foundation.
14. Any money raised by an individual Auxiliary Pool League will report it and have the books audited, just like any other chairmanship. You may request your money from your Auxiliary or District at any time.
15. We plan to promote sportsmanship, renew old friendships, and make new ones.

Wanda Bunting  
Department Pool Chairman  
7800 River Rd  
Belding, MI 48809  
231-349-8214  
wandabrowder@hotmail.com



# 2025 Woman's Division Schedule



## THURSDAY, MARCH 13<sup>TH</sup>

Referee's Meeting	11:30 am
Registration for Singles	12:00 pm
Start Shooting Singles	1:00 pm
Singles Awards Presentation	Following Singles Tournament

## FRIDAY, MARCH 14<sup>TH</sup>

Registration for Doubles	10:00-10:30 am
Business Meeting	10:30 am
Start Shooting Doubles	Following Meeting
Doubles Awards Presentation	Following Doubles Tournament

## SATURDAY, MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup>

Registration for Teams	8:30-9:00 am
Start Shooting Teams	9:00 am
Team Awards Presentation	Following Team Tournament

If the host Auxiliary is selling food, please do not bring food from outside. If you have special needs for eating, please inform pool staff but do not bring into the post. Try to eat elsewhere. You may be asked to remove the food and leave the building. This is only common courtesy.









**14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL VFW AUXILIARY MEN'S DIVISION POOL  
TOURNAMENT  
FEBRUARY 20 - 22, 2025  
Newaygo Post 4249  
45 Gene Furgason Ln.  
Newaygo, MI 49337  
231.652.6159**

Hello everyone! It's getting to be that time of the year again where we get to stay inside and play some VFW pool!!

You must be in good standing and have a current VFW Auxiliary or Post card to play in this tournament. Men and women are welcome. We will be checking cards before the tournament starts. This will be enforced!

It was voted in 2018 that the doubles and team event will be alternating shots this year. Remember if we had less than 7 teams, we would have a Round Robin, if more than 7 teams we will have double elimination (Team event only). Also, please notice the change in prices that was voted on in 2023.

Enclosed with this letter will be your rosters for Singles, Doubles, and Team events. Please have them filled out (legibly) along with your entry fees by January 15, 2025. Please make checks payable to:

**Wanda Bunting  
7800 River Rd  
Belding, MI 48809 (231) 349-8214**

There will be a 9-Ball tournament on Thursday evening.

Please be courteous to our Veterans, Host Post, volunteers and to your opponents, this is a fun tournament. If you are out of line, you will be given a warning, if you persist you will be disqualified and escorted out of the building. Disrespect will not be tolerated.

**FEES:  
SINGLES: \$25.00  
DOUBLES: \$50.00  
TEAM: \$150.00**

Looking forward to seeing old friends and making new ones!!  
Wanda Bunting, Tournament Director





