

OCTOBER 2022

Hello brothers and sisters of the Department of Oregon VFW Auxiliary. I pray all of you are well and taking care of yourself. I meant to put something on the website in September, however...

I have really enjoyed my visits with Districts 6, 8, 14, 15 and 16. I will be in Bandon in October to visit with District 4 and I am looking forward to that meeting. Fall meetings the District Presidents are to hold some type of School of Instruction and it has been interesting to see who does the training and how it is accomplished.

There are a number of programs that need volunteers so that the community and others are made aware of just what a working auxiliary is doing for them.

Americanism is important because we can teach and promote patriotism by celebrating patriotic holidays; it teaches respect and proper care for the United States Flag; it also can bring attention to Prisoners of War and those still Missing in Action by hosting POW/MIA ceremonies to both educate the public and honor these special veterans.

Auxiliary Outreach encourages members and Auxiliaries to volunteer their time under the direction of another organization for the benefit of the community.

National Home and Buddy Poppy is my special program this year. Help your Auxiliary come up with ways to promote National Home so that veterans and family members are guided in the process of being able to seek help and to live on the grounds of our National Home in Eaton Rapids, Michigan where there will receive help in budgeting, child care, training, etc to help them get back on their feet. And of course help distribute Poppies which in the end will help veterans.

Historian and Media Relations is a way to help promote what the Auxiliary is doing in the community so that more people who are eligible can join and increase Auxiliary volunteer forces. Remember to take pictures, create a scrapbook of what is accomplished during any given year so others can carry on the wonderful projects.

Hospital program promotes volunteerism of members, non-members, youth and families in local hospitals, veterans' homes, nursing homes, domiciliary and both VA and non-VA medical centers and clinics. Opportunities vary

based on the facility and age and abilities of the volunteer. Oregon has the Portland VA Hospital, Southern Oregon Rehabilitation Center in Roseburg, Veterans Home.

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Legislative is important. We can promote the VFW Priority Goals which reflect the resolutions passed by the VFW to strengthen and ensure an adequate VA system for millions of current and future veterans. Check out Action Corp. You will receive weekly information. This program also encourages all citizens to exercise their right to vote and contact legislators regarding issues impacting veterans and their families.

Membership is key to survival of the VFW Auxiliary. Don't forget to ask others if they are eligible to join this fine organization. There is information on the computer. Your president should have any information you will need.

Mentoring for Leadership: National and Depart has so much information at your disposal to assist and teach the new members that you will be bringing in. This program incorporates respecting the Auxiliary's past, embracing the present and planning for our organizations's future by pairing experienced Auxiliary leaders with members who wish to expand their knowledge of our organization. I believe if members get informed on what we have to offer, they will feel more confident when asking others to help.

It is important to always keep up-to-date and learn what is happening at this time and have an open mind to accept new programs. By being informed it can improve attitudes, help others want to belong and also promote unity and love among members.

There are a number of **Scholarships** available. You can learn about the VFW Auxiliary Continuing Education Scholarship available for members and their family. Oregon has a \$1,000 Continuing Education Scholarship available. We have the VFW Auxiliary Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. As an Auxiliary we help the VFW with two of their contest: Voice of Democracy is for high school age students and VFW Patriot's Pen Contest if for middle school age students. More information is available.

The main program is **Veterans and Family Support** which offers support for veterans, service members and their families. The joint VFW and Auxiliary project this year is promoting *veteran and military suicide awareness and*

prevention. We are losing too many loved ones due to suicide and we all need to be aware of the signs and help.

We can help promote the VFW's National Veterans Service (NVS), and promote the VFW Veterans & Military Support Programs which are VFW's Sport Clips Help-A-Hero Scholarship, Unmet needs and Military Assistance Program (MAP).

As Auxiliaries we need to work **Youth Activity** programs. Within this program we can sponsor and work with youth groups such as youth sports teams; faith-based youth

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groups; after-school programs; youth-focused organizations; school clubs; home-school associations; youth community service groups; etc.

We can help promote and conduct *Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue!*, a national anthem singing contest for youth in grades K-12. We can promote and conduct *Illustrating America*, an art contest for elementary and middle/junior high school students. We can promote *Patriotism through Literacy*. More information on any of these program are on the National website under resources.

We can recognize *Random Acts of Patriotism* by handing out R.A.P. Cards or coins when you see this in action and we can recognize youth and youth groups with Patriotic Youth Awards and Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations for their efforts and service projects honoring veterans, active-duty service members and their families.

All of the above information is available, just ask. As members you do not have to do all of them however I believe if you belong to this organization you could do your best by being informed of what can be done, pick something and put out some effort.

If you are unable to attend meetings, perhaps you could call members, send thinking of you cards, birthday cards, etc and help make someone's day better.

Thank you for what you have done for veterans and their families. Remember that we are to work together and put our petty differences behind us. It

doesn't do any one any good to continue bickering and holding grudges against others. NO ONE IS PERFECT!!
SOFTEN YOUR APPROACH. Know the difference between mentoring and "putting one over on another person", or taking over.

God is our mentor. He didn't say Do to others before they can do it to you. He said "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you". Why in the world would you on purpose do harm to yourself verbally or physically. Something to think about.

My theme this year is Bee All You Can Be For Veterans And Their Families. Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care is our National President Jane Reape's theme and our VFW Commander's theme is Serve Those Who Serve.

I appreciate all of you and look forward to hearing from you. Reach out to me with questions, concerns, etc. Debby Fawver, PO Box 435, Siletz, Or 97380, dfawver@gmail.com or 541-270-8260.

Debby Fawver, President