

*Marietta Hill*  
VFW Auxiliary President  
Department of South Carolina  
2025-2026



# This 2025-2026 President's Book is Dedicated to My Loving Husband and Family



I joined the VFW Auxiliary under the eligibility of my husband Robert Hill, who is a Vietnam Army Veteran. We have been married for over 42 years, we two wonderful girls. My mother was an auxiliary member and she joined under my Father Joseph Andrews who was a World War 2 Army Veteran. I am proud to say that for most of my adult life I have been helping Veterans and their families. I retired from the VA hospital here in Charleston after 30 years of service as a nurse and I will continue my service to those that served our Great Country.

**God Bless the USA**



Past National President  
Jan Owens  
2009-2010

## Past Department Presidents

2024-2025  
Donna Marie King  
391 Jardinere Walk  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464  
843-343-8202  
donnamarieking1959@gmail.com



2023-2024  
Laura "Jo" Sweetsir  
600 Hunts Bridge Rd  
#420  
Greenville, SC 29617  
864-275-7264  
sweetsir.vfwaux@gmail.com



2022-2023  
Beth Tufts  
7985 Kittery Avenue  
N. Charleston, SC 29420  
843-569-3475  
btufts55@gmail.com



2021-2022  
Kate Brock  
44 Smokewood Drive  
Elgin, SC 29045  
803-420-1340  
patriot.vfwsca@gmail.com



2020-2021  
Cathay Farley  
180 River Park Dr.  
Unit 206  
Little River, SC 29566  
843-447-0340  
farleycwb@gmail.com



2019-2020  
Valarie Dayson  
P.O. Box 423  
St. Matthews, SC 29135  
803-707-0459  
daysonvalarie60@gmail.com



2018-2019  
Jody Sullivan  
413 Farmhouse loop  
Lexington, SC 29072  
704-798-5445  
jodyully@hotmail.com



2017-2018  
Theodora Montague  
1632 Malcom Drive  
Columbia, SC 29566  
803-463-3524  
ttmontague@att.net



2016-2017  
Laura Bowman  
4001 S. Ocean Blvd.  
N. Myrtle Beach, SC 29582  
843-241-1429



2013-2015  
Audrey Smith  
523 S Highland Forrest Dr.  
Columbia, SC 29203  
803-586-2662  
mykids.ask120@gmail.com



2012-2013  
Dana Fogner  
124 Mesa Ravin Dr.  
Longs, SC 29568  
843-399-0540  
fognerd@gmail.com



2011-2012  
Marianne L. Larson  
2259 Larry Jeffers Rd.  
Elgin, SC 29045  
803-438-5542  
larson29045@gmail.com



2006-2007  
Hattie Henderson  
1145 Pleasant Pines Road  
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464  
843-884-2500



2005-2006  
Cathy Dimery  
1763 Dick Pond Road  
Myrtle Beach, SC 29577  
843-650-9231



2004-2005  
Karen McClendon  
234 Miami Road, Lot 38  
Ladson, SC 29456  
843-863-1109



2003-2004  
Linda Gunter  
415 Millstream Road  
Lexington, SC 29072  
803-356-1434



2001-2002  
Linda Brown  
594 Silica Springs  
Gaffney, SC 29340  
864-489-7973



1999-2000  
Dorothy Johnson  
243 Weldwood Court  
Columbia, SC 29223  
803-754-7592



1998-1999  
Juanita Self  
P.O. Box 2775  
Greenville, SC 29602  
864-295-0337



1997-1998  
Shirley Houck  
934 Blue House Rd Apt. 410  
Ladson, SC 29456  
843-797-6906



1993-1994  
Jan Owens  
1539 Stilley Circle  
Conway, SC 29526  
904-655-9316  
jowens6666@gmail.com



1991-1992  
Sandi White  
1385 Kolb Road  
Sumter, SC 29154  
803-934-6263



1989-1991  
Kaye Mellert  
914 South Main Street  
Summerville, SC 29307  
843-871-2407



1985-1986  
Mary Snowden  
1309 Sewanee Ave.  
Florence, SC 29501  
843-667-1368



*Past National President*

*Deceased*

*Alice Hutto*

*1989-1990*

*Past Department Presidents*

*Deceased*

*Emily Mickle*  
*2009-2010*

*Betty Jo Phillips*  
*2010-2011*

*Elizabeth Hammett*  
*2015-2016*

*Donis Sager*  
*2008-2009*

*Corrine Morris*  
*2007-2008*

*Helen Bell*  
*2002-2003*

*Mary Barrow*  
*2000-2001*

*Marion Goodson*  
*1996-1997*

*Mary Kelly*  
*1995-1996*

*Dory Suckow*  
*1994-1995*

*Juanita Johnson*  
*1992-1993*

*Edna Bodie*  
*1989*

*Joyce Connors*  
*1988-1989*

*Margaret Peterson*  
*1987-1988*

*Emma Williamson*  
*1986-1987*

*Mable Wilder*  
*1984-1985*

*Carole Houser*  
*1983-1984*

*Joanne Green*  
*1982-1983*

*Jean Jeffers-Matzke*  
*1981-1982*

*Charlotte Dodd*  
*1980-1981*

*Virginia Clark*  
*1979-1980*

*Sarah Hartman*  
*1977-1978*

*Louise Morris*  
*1976-1977*

*Olga Gaines*  
*1975-1976*

*Alice Hutto*  
*1973-1975*

*Dorothy Firmanik*  
*1972-1973*

*Margie Tyner*  
*1971-1972*

*Lois Hight*  
*1967-1968*

*Kathleen Muir*  
*1965-1966*

*Bessie Zaglin*  
*1963-1964*

*Ethel Carima*  
*1961-1962*

*Mattie Kaspar*  
*1960-1961*

*Marguarite Gray*  
*1958-1959*

*Lucille Rodman*  
*1955-1957*

*Grace Barrenco*  
*1954-1955*

*Ruby Arnold*  
*1953-1954*

*Mary Fetner*  
*1945-1946*

*Sadie Barnett*  
*1942-1944*

*Elizabeth Harris*  
*1940-1941*





## VFW Auxiliary Department Officers 2025-2026



### Sr. Vice President



**Barbara Shuler**  
177 Yellow Bluff Rd.  
Cope, SC 29038  
803-662-0645  
scauxbshuler@yahoo.com

### President



**Marietta Hill**  
9142 Axle Lane  
Ladson, SC 29456  
269-420-5376  
margiebanana9@gmail.com

### Jr. Vice President



**Patrice Lamb**  
264 Airport Dr.  
Moncks Corner, SC 29461  
843-754-8975  
patricelamb843@gmail.com

### Chaplain



**Romona Brandon**  
212 Summit Townes Way  
Columbia, SC 29229  
803-466-3927  
romabrandon@yahoo.com

### Conductor



**Andrew Machemer**  
4247 Highway 378  
Leesville, SC 29070  
724-333-1388  
andy.vfwinfo@gmail.com

### Guard



**Raina K. Bryant**  
125 Windy Hollow Dr.  
Lexington, SC 29073  
803-422-0119  
bryantraykay@gmail.com

### Treasurer



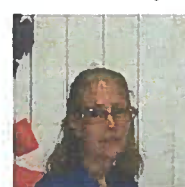
**Sharen Peterson**  
3253 Kendallock Cir.  
Ladson, SC 29456  
817-941-1099  
Sharen.peterson86@gmail.com

### Chief-of-Staff



**Donna Marie King**  
391 Jardinere Walk  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464  
Ph. 843-343-8202  
donnamarieking1959@gmail.com

### Secretary



**Lisa Levangie-Colon**  
123 Laurel Ct.  
Lugoff, SC 29078  
803-408-0080  
llevangiecolon@gmail.com

# Department President

## 2025-2026

### Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters of the Great Department of South Carolina



I am honored and privileged to serve as your 2025-2026 Dept. President.

My Theme this year is “Gnome Veteran Forgotten”.

I chose this theme because I believe all that served our country deserve the help, respect, and kindness we can offer. We have a lot of work to be done in just one short year, but I know if we all work together and treat each other with kindness, WE GET THE JOB DONE. I have faith in all of You and You need to know I am just one call, text, or email away.

Below I have listed a few goals I hope to achieve this year with your help.

1. Retain and increase our membership (shine SC)
2. Work all our programs with your help throughout the state SC
3. Build new and keep old relationships with all of you.
4. Help as many veterans as possible in our state and across the nation.

Finally, Have Fun with everything we do this year. And the word I want everyone to remember is “Kindness”.

*Thank You’ Marietta Hill*

**SR. VICE PRESIDENT  
BARBARA SHULER  
2025 – 2026**



I became a Life Member of O. B. Rosenger Post #2779 in Orangeburg, SC in 2012 under the eligibility of my Son Steven Shuler. Since joining, I've proudly served in various Officer roles at the Auxiliary, District, and Department levels – earning several awards along the way.

My commitment to the VFW Auxiliary is personal. I serve in honor and memory of my family members who have worn the uniform across different branches of the military. Their service inspires me every day to work hard, give back, and support our veterans and their families with purpose and pride.

As Sr. Vice President, my mission this year is simple: to fully support Madam President Marietta Hill and step in wherever I'm needed. Whether it's by call, text, or email, I'm always just a message away – and if I miss you, I promise to return your message as soon as I can.

Looking ahead, I'm truly excited to prepare for my upcoming year as President. I've always found joy in working with veterans – both young and old – and It's an honor to give back to those who gave so much.

**“Protecting Our Veterans”**

Barbara Shuler



803-662-0645



scauxbshuler@yahoo.com



Greetings,

My name is Patrice Lamb, and I am honored to introduce myself as a life member of VFW Post 9509 Auxiliary and a proud member of MOCA Pup Tent 10 in Summerville, SC. I joined under the eligibility of my eldest son in 2016. Since that time, I have had the privilege of serving in various capacities at the Auxiliary, District, and Department levels within the organization.

It is with great enthusiasm that I embrace the opportunity to work alongside you as your Department of South Carolina Junior Vice President. I am committed to fostering meaningful relationships within the Auxiliary and strengthening our organization by enhancing our connections and collaboration. As Junior Vice President, I will work closely with the District Presidents to ensure a productive and successful year for everyone.

While continuing to learn and benefit from the guidance of those who have served before me, my aim is to be a valuable, accessible, and approachable resource for all members. I want each of you to feel confident in reaching out to me and assured of my support. Together, I believe we can achieve great things and build upon the strong foundation of our mission.

I look forward to partnering with you in the upcoming year to advance our shared goals and values.

Warm regards,

Patrice Lamb

Department Jr. Vice President

Patrice.lamb843@gmail.com

843-754-8975



## Department Chief of Staff, Donna Marie King

donnamarieking1959@gmail.com

391 Jardinere Walk  
Mt. Pleasant, SC 29464  
843-343-8202



A Department Chief of Staff is an assistant to the Department President. They are the second set of eyes and ears to the President (don't we all wish that we had that all the time). The Chief of Staff will be a coach, counselor and mentor to all levels of leadership in the Department. Chief of Staff must be knowledgeable in all facets of the Auxiliary including Bylaws, Programs and Mentoring for Leadership. Chief of staff will serve as the Extension, Revitalization and Mentoring Chairman. This Chief of Staff will work closely with the District Presidents and the Auxiliary Presidents for the 25-26 year. We will be working to increase our membership but more so keeping the members already on our roles active.

We have developed an Advisory Council (Committee) this year and that will consist of the last four Department Presidents on Council. These Past Department Presidents have a ton of knowledge that we should utilize. These PDPs are listed in the Presidents book. Since there are 4 of them this will give you the opportunity to work with whom you feel the most comfortable with, but all of them are willing to help anyone.

I am honored to be asked to be Marietta's Chief of Staff and am looking forward to a very successful year. To have Marietta make the Circle of Excellence we all need to make sure that we are doing everything that needs to be done in the time frame given.

**Mother Teresa** "Kind words can be short and easy to speak, but their echoes are truly endless".

I am looking forward to working with each of you this year. Please don't hesitate to call me if I can help you in any way.

Donna Marie King, Chief of Staff

## Appointments

### Facebook Administrator

Vanessa Reynolds  
439 Rockbridge Rd.  
Ridgeway, SC 29130

[Sunshinereynolds0921@gmail.com](mailto:Sunshinereynolds0921@gmail.com)

### Webmistress/On-site Comp. Admin.

Kate Brock  
44 Smoke wood Drive  
Elgin, SC 29045

[patriot.vfwsca@gmail.com](mailto:patriot.vfwsca@gmail.com)

### Assistant Treasurer

Jane Fox

### Assistant Conductor

Robbin Evans

### Assistant Guard

Cliff Weaver

### Patriotic Instructor

Sally Machemer

### Credentials Chairman

Patty Williams

### Convention Rules Chairman

Cathy Farley

### Budget Committee

Donna Marie King

Barbara Schuler

Patrice Lamb

### Audit Committee

Laura Jo Sweetsir

Romana Brandon

Andy Machemer

### Bylaws/Standing Rule Comm.

Chairman-Beth Tufts

Audrey Smith

Patrice Lamb

### National President's Visit Co- Chairmen

Sandy Rowland

Judy Duncan

### Events Chair~~man~~

Judy Dodrer

VFW Auxiliary 3433

Advisory Committee- Donna Marie King, Beth Tufts, Laura Jo Sweetsir, and  
Kate Brock

\*\*\*\*\* Past National President Jan Owens available to help with Questions.

## Whitmore's Warriors Class of 2025-2026 Project



LET'S DO MORE  
STOCK THE STORE



V F W  
NATIONAL HOME



### Whitmore / Callihan 2025 / 2026

Store Equipment (Refrigerators, freezers, etc and Food)  
Consists of purchasing equipment for the retail section including coolers and freezers for fresh and frozen food, and beverages, dry goods and other sundries that are deemed most useful to residents. This fundraiser will also purchase an honor system point of sale program that allows residents to enter the store with a swipe card, pick out items and pay for them with a credit or debit card both during and after business hours.



SCAN ME







**National President  
Lois Callahan's  
2025-2026 Special Project**

**VFW National Auxiliary  
Continuing Education Scholarships**

Continuing Education Scholarships are offered to assist members and their immediate family members who wish to further their education by pursuing a college degree or career direction at a vocational/technical school.

[vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/continuing-education](http://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships/continuing-education)

Help our members and their immediate family members train  
for a career, learn new skills and improve their lives.  
Your contributions increase the amount of awards available.

Select the "Make a Gift" tab and then  
"National President's 2025-2026 Special Project in MALTA."  
Or mail a check to National Headquarters earmarked  
"National President's 2025-2026 Special Project."





## Department President

Marietta Hill

2025-2026

## Special Project



Helping all veteran families with  
everyday needs.

1. All products for children currently are expensive. Things like diapers, wipes, clothing, and much more are needed by our Male/Female veterans.
2. Both Charleston and Columbia VA hospitals sponsor Baby Showers for all veteran parents.
3. My special project is to raise money for these 4 events held at both hospitals this year.

The money raised by auxiliaries, Districts and Department will be dedicated to these veterans and their families through the VA (both Ralph H. Johnson and Dorn) Volunteer Services.

Please Support this worthy cause. Let's support our South Carolina Veteran Families with donations of love for them and their children.

\*\*\*\*\* Just remember this is a criteria for the Auxiliary of Excellence Program.

Thank You for your Support.

Marietta Hill     Gnome Veteran Forgotten



# END OF YEAR REPORT FOR AUXILIARY OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

## 2025-2026

Auxiliary must complete Qualifying Criteria and have 370 points to receive award.  
All information must be emailed to the Department Chief of Staff by June 5th, 2026

Auxiliary \_\_\_\_\_ District \_\_\_\_\_ Group \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

President \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

### Criteria to qualify: Section total 150 Points

	Points:	
1 . Installation report filed by May 30, 2026	<input type="text"/>	
2 . 100% in Membership by April 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2026	<input type="text"/>	
3 . 90% in Reporting by April 15 <sup>th</sup> , 2026	<input type="text"/>	
4 . Must Complete All Fiduciary Responsibilities:		
a Bond paid by July 31 <sup>st</sup>	<input type="text"/>	
b Health & Happiness paid by July 31 <sup>st</sup>	<input type="text"/>	
c Cancer Aid paid by July 31 <sup>st</sup>	<input type="text"/>	
d Department Delegate Fees paid by May 31 <sup>st</sup>	<input type="text"/>	
e Submit 990 by October 30 <sup>th</sup>	<input type="text"/>	
f All 4 Audits completed by due date	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
g 8822 B August 30 <sup>th</sup> (if applicable)	<input type="text"/>	
5 . Auxiliary Must complete at least 1 project/activity or donation that benefits Veterans by March 31 <sup>st</sup> 2026	<input type="text"/>	

**\*\*MUST COMPLETE ALL OF THE ABOVE TO QUALIFY FOR AWARD\*\***

5 . At Least One officer (President, Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice) must attend the Department or District School of Instruction: **15 points**

6 . All Auxiliary Officer Dues Paid by December 15<sup>th</sup>: **15 Points**

7 . Auxiliary must have at least 1 officer present at each Department Meeting  
(President, Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice): **10 Points each meeting**

a July 19th School of Instruction/C of A

b October 11th C of A

c January 24th (at mid winter conference)

d April 11th C of A

**5 additional Points** for having non officers present at meetings (20 possible points)

8 . Auxiliary Must have at least 1 officer at each District Meeting  
(President, Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice) :**10 Points** if all meetings attended

**5 additional Points** for having non officers present at District Meetings

9 . Meet Auxiliary Membership goals set by the Department. This information  
will be reported by the membership chair to the Department Chief  
of staff, and verified by the Department Treasurer.  
( Only the 1st goal met will be counted)

31-Aug-25 Reach 100% in Membership **25 Points**

31-Dec-25 Reach 100% in Membership **20 Points**

30-May-26 Reach 100% in Membership **10 Points**

10 .Program Participation: **10 points per program**

Americanism

Auxiliary Outreach

Buddy Poppy/National Home

Historian/Media

Hospital

Legislative

Membership

Revitalization/Mentoring

Scholarship

Veterans & Family Support

Youth Activities

**11 . 5 additional points** will be awarded for each of the following:

- a.        Make a Donation to the National Joint Special Project
- b.        Make a Donation to the VFW National Home (SC House)
- c.        Make a Donation to the National Presidents Special Project
- d.        Make a Donation to the Department Presidents Special Project
- e.        Make a Donation to the State Commanders Special Project

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Please Keep & use this Program Reporting sheet to track your progress throughout the year.

This report will also serve as your end of the year report and will be used to determine and verify your eligibility for the Department of South Carolina Auxiliary of Excellence Program.

Total Possible Points : 415

0

Auxiliary Points Achieved:

(To update the total points you must clear the previous entry and press enter.)

**email form to Donna Marie King**

[DonnaMarieKing1959@gmail.com](mailto:DonnaMarieKing1959@gmail.com)

843-343-8202

# Introducing Sandi White

I am writing to express my gratitude for the opportunity to take on the challenge of being the Program Coordinator for the year 2025-2026. It is with great anticipation that I embark on this important role.

Let me introduce myself. I joined under my stepfather Gary Martin in January 1982, with Auxiliary 3034. Over the years, I have served various capacities within my Auxiliary including:

- Auxiliary Treasurer for numerous years
- Auxiliary President many times
- Held other positions within my Auxiliary

I began my journey at the Department level as Department Conductress and served as South Carolina Department President for the term of 1991-1992. Subsequently, I took on the role of District 2 President.

Additionally, I have been the Awards Chairman from 1993-2023, except for two years.

The goal for the ensuing year is to take South Carolina and our incoming President Marietta Hill to the top. We hope to have OPEN communication between our members and our chairman, sharing ideas between chairman and auxiliaries. Everyone is already doing the work, so let's show how much we are doing by REPORTING all our great work. Reporting shows how GREAT South Carolina is.

Thank you once again for this opportunity. I look forward to contributing to the success of the programs and serving our community with dedication and passion.

## **Gnome Veteran Forgotten,**

Sandi White, Program Coordinator  
Department of South Carolina  
803-934-6263  
sc.aux-pc@outlook.com



## Americanism

Andrew Machemer, Chairman

Hello everyone.

I am the Americanism Program Chairman for the Dept. of S.C. for the 2025-2026 year, and I was the Americanism Chairman for the 2024-2025 year.

I have been the President of Lake Murray Auxiliary 6740 for the years 2022-2024 and now the President for the 2025-2026 year, and currently I am the Senior Vice President for District 2. and Guard for the Dept. of SC. I am a veteran of the Army National Guard, 1969-1975 and a member of MOCA Pup Tent 15 in Columbia.

If you are reading this letter then you have accepted the responsibility of providing a report so your Auxiliary can show the Dept of S.C, Americanism is alive and well in our country.

One definition of Americanism as defined in the Websters Dictionary is "devotion to or preference for the United States of America and its institutions".

This devotion can be seen everywhere, every day from a flag taped to a child's bike, to a flag strapped to the back of a pickup truck traveling down the highway. As well as participants walking in a parade waving a flag. These displays are reportable.

Ceremonies carrying out the disposal of our American flag, children reciting the Pledge of Allegiance at a public function, flags being placed on Veterans graves whether it is a holiday or not are all reportable. Our Buddy Poppy drive is one of the most recognized displays of Americanism the Auxiliary participates in. And the opportunity to explain Flanders Field

Promoting and rewarding student Americanism activities through their school and rewarding their efforts with ceremonies open to the public held at our auxiliary post. Even meeting with and talking to Veterans residing in retirement homes is Americanism because they are part of the reason this program exists.

The requirements are easy, report on something you saw but **"Please put the date of the event you are reporting about, on the report"**! I am not yelling, just emphasizing.

Also, I have a new email address for sending reports.

Please reach out to me if you have questions or concerns.

Ph. 724-333-1388

[andy.vfwinfo@gmail.com](mailto:andy.vfwinfo@gmail.com)

Sincerely

Andy







## Auxiliary Outreach "25-26"

### Working for the Community

My name is Catherine J. Smith, I have been asked to be your chairman for the Auxiliary Outreach for 2025-2026. I am a life member of VFW Post 4262 as well as the District 2 Chaplain in Columbia SC.

I am excited and passionate about my chairmanship as over the years, I have served and worked as the Auxiliary Outreach Chairperson for VFW POST 4262 for many years. I joined the auxiliary under my father, who served in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict, and I am proud and honor to be a life member for the organization.

We realize Auxiliaries also participate with other community organizations, you can now report and be recognized for such community work.

All of our volunteer hours need to be counted to effectively show the importance of the local VFW and VFW Auxiliary to the community. Be visible, wear your Auxiliary attire when you volunteer. A nametag, shirt, or hat can start a conversation about who we are and what we do.

When an Auxiliary partners with an organization outside our own, it should be considered Auxiliary Outreach. **If the project was approved by the Auxiliary and recorded in the meeting minutes prior to the project.**

#### Examples Include

Partnering with a local Soup Kitchen

Partnering with local School

Partnering with an animal shelter

#### What's NOT Considered Auxiliary Outreach.

Volunteer work that benefits the Post or Auxiliary      Church activities for one specific congregation

Serving on a board in your community

I look forward to working with each of you this year.

**Catherine J. Smith**

**4621 James Street**

**Columbia SC 29203**

**Phone #: 803-800-7880**

**Email: Cat56jackson@gmail.com**

## VFW Auxiliary Outreach

**2025-2026**

1. Did you PARTNER with another organization **Not** affiliated with the VFW or VFW Auxiliary?

Yes: ☐ No: ☐

1-a Name of the organization: \_\_\_\_\_

1-b Date auxiliary voted on Participation: \_\_\_\_\_

Please provide a brief description of your activities:

Use the backside for additional space as needed.

- 2- Does this activity qualify for any of our other Auxiliary Programs? Yes: ☐ No: ☐

**\*\*If you answer yes to #2, this activity does NOT qualify as outreach\*\***

Auxiliary # \_\_\_\_\_ District # \_\_\_\_\_ Group # \_\_\_\_\_

Hours: \_\_\_\_\_ Number Of Members \_\_\_\_\_ MILES \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman or Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

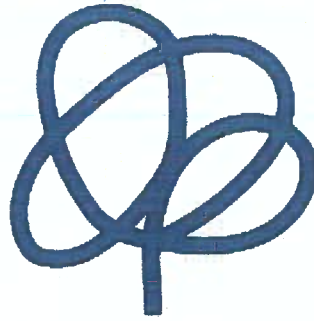
Auxiliary President: \_\_\_\_\_

**Catherine J. Smith**

**4621 James Street Columbia SC 29203**

**Phone #: 803-800-7880**

**Email: Cat56jackson@gmail.com**



## Buddy" Poppy & VFW National Home.

My name is Theodora "Theresa" Montague, I joined the VFW Auxiliary in 1982 under my father, Thomas E. Cayruth Sr., who was a WWII Veteran and a Life Member of Post 4242. I am now a Life member of Auxiliary 4262 and the National Home.

I have served as Auxiliary President for six (6) terms over the years. District 2 President for two (2) years in the 80's and Department President for 2017-2018. I also served as Department President for the American Legion. I have served several chairmanship's on all levels.

I have two daughters who are also Auxiliary members . Five (5) grandchildren and five(5) great grandchildren. Two of my granddaughters are Veterans.

My hobbies are fishing and gardening.

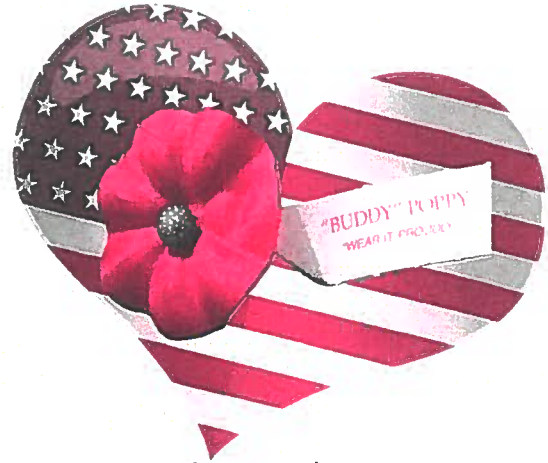
My goal for this program this year is to make the public aware of The National Home and our Buddy Poppy Program. I really look forward to working with you this year and welcome all your suggestions.

# VFW "Buddy" Poppy

2025-2026

Department of South Carolina

## Reporting Form



1. Did your Auxiliary hold a VFW "Buddy" Poppy Drive With or without your VFW Post? With ☐ Without ☐ Date: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Number of "Buddy" Poppys Distributed \_\_\_\_\_
3. Did Your Auxiliary Participate in the VFW "Buddy" Poppy display contest?  
Conference ☐ Convention ☐
4. Briefly describe a "Buddy" Poppy activity or event that you participated or completed that is not covered in the questions above.

Auxiliary # \_\_\_\_\_ District # \_\_\_\_\_ Group # \_\_\_\_\_

Members # \_\_\_\_\_ Hours \_\_\_\_\_ Milage \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information: Chairman Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Auxiliary President \_\_\_\_\_

Theodora Montague  
1632 Malcolm Drive,  
Columbia, SC 292504

803-463-3524  
ttmontague@att.net





V F W  
N A T I O N A L H O M E

## VFW National Home

2025-2026

Department of South Carolina

### Reporting form

Did your Auxiliary Promote the VFW National Home? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

How many Auxiliary Members supported and/or educated on the VFW National Home Helpline? Supported \_\_\_\_\_ Educated \_\_\_\_\_

How Many Auxiliary Members purchased a Life Membership for the current Year? \_\_\_\_\_

How many of your members purchased a VFW National Home Tribute Brick? \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe below an activity/event that you participated in or completed that was not covered by the questions above.

Auxiliary # \_\_\_\_\_ District # \_\_\_\_\_ Group # \_\_\_\_\_

Members # \_\_\_\_\_ Hours # \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars \$ \_\_\_\_\_

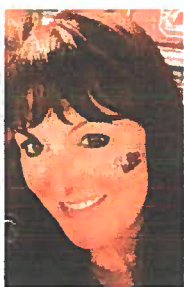
Chairman Contact Information: Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Auxiliary President \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman: Theodora Montague  
1632 Malcolm Drive  
Columbia, SC 29204

803-463-3524  
ttmontague@att.net



## Historian & Media Relations 25-26 Program

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### About Me:

My name is Vanessa Reynolds and I am the Auxiliary President of Lake Wateree VFW Post 8346. I am a Life member, joining originally to honor my brother (and HERO) MSG Anthony J Burleson who went into the military at the tender age of 18 and retired in 2022. Tony served 2 tours in Afghanistan and 1 tour in Iraq.

The Historian & Media Relations Program generally encompasses memory keeping and collecting the five Ws of an Auxiliary:

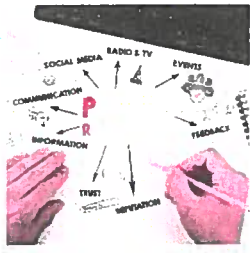
Who  
What  
Where  
When  
Why

Our objective is to compile and chronicle memories and events in written format, photographs, memorabilia and print news/video clips. By capturing and preserving the story of events you are providing a way for others to look back on these events, bringing back visual and editorial elements of what the members experienced at that time.

We are also tasked with spreading the word about our valuable National Programs and share how we are making a positive impact in the lives of veterans, service members and their families. Connect your community members to your Auxiliary by reaching out to Auxiliary members, local media within the community and utilizing social media platforms where you can share the events & happenings of your Auxiliary.

These same 5 W's are integral no matter what platform you choose in order to get the stories out about what the Auxiliary is doing!

Vanessa Reynolds  
439 Rockbridge Rd  
Ridgeway, SC 29130  
(803) 397-8899  
[sunshinereynolds0921@gmail.com](mailto:sunshinereynolds0921@gmail.com)



## Historian & Media Relations 2025-2026



Please make sure there is an entry or check mark in every spot. If it does not apply, simply input "N/A". All information at the bottom should be filled out. :-)

Did you utilize any of the resources in Malta? Yes ☐ No ☐  
Please list what resources were used:

Did you communicate to each of your members quarterly via email, mail, text or phone call?  
Yes ☐ No ☐

Please list which source you communicated and the date:

Does your Auxiliary have a Facebook page with or without the post? Yes ☐ No ☐

Does your Auxiliary have a website with or without the post? Yes ☐ No ☐

Are you working on, or have you completed, a Historian's Book? Yes ☐ No ☐

Date of report:

District #:

Report #

Group #:

Aux #

President:

Chairman:

Chairman Contact:

Please **email** your report to Vanessa Reynolds- [Sunshinereynolds0921@gmail.com](mailto:Sunshinereynolds0921@gmail.com)

If you would like to mail your report, please do not email AND send via USPS

(choose one way or the other!)

Mailing address: 439 Rockbridge Rd Ridgeway, SC 29130

Hi, I am Sandra (Sandy) Rowland, and I am pleased to serve as your chairperson for the Hospital and VAVS program for the year 2025-2026. I am a life member of VFW Auxiliary Post 3433. I joined under the eligibility of my husband, Jay, who served with the US Submarine Service for 26 years. We have 3 children, 4 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

I am looking forward to working with you and getting to know you as we work to bring the bright "smiles of sunshine" to our veterans faces when we visit them in the VA Hospitals and nursing homes.

Listed below are a few ideas on how we can accomplish our goal of putting smiles on our veteran's faces:

1. Making cards for our veterans, i.e. for Veterans Day, Christmas, Valentine's Day, or a card just to say hello.
2. Volunteer at a VA or Veterans Home to help with a project or just visit with a veteran because they just want to talk to someone. Always remember to follow the rules of the facility that you are volunteering at.
3. How about a sock hop at a nursing home? Buy little scarves or something to indicate the era. Play music of the times. Work with the facility on possible snacks.
4. Volunteer to host a movie night, bingo night or other projects or events at a nursing home.

Remember to check with the VA Hospital, nursing home and non-VA medical facility to see what is needed for the veterans. Communicate with the VAVS Representative about the needs of VA facilities.

Thank your volunteers and remember to keep up with their hours, mileage and how much money your auxiliary spends. Remember also that all volunteers do not have to be auxiliary members.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me anytime.

Sandy Rowland  
208 Seminole Dr  
Summerville, SC 29486  
843-870-3048  
sandyrowl@gmail.com



Department of South Carolina VAVS 2025-2026	
	Name
<b>Florence Outpatient Clinic</b>	
Deputy Representative	Lucille Smith
<b>Greenville Outpatient Clinic</b>	
Deputy Representative	Laura Jo Sweetsir
<b>Myrtle Beach Outpatient Clinic</b>	
Deputy Representative	Maureen Sedelow
<b>Ralph H Johnson VA Medical Center</b>	
Representative	Cathy Barna
Deputy Representative	Beth Tufts
<b>Spartanburg Outpatient Clinic</b>	
Deputy Representative	Angelica Oakley
<b>WM. Jennings Bryan Dorn VAMC</b>	
Representative	Janice Negas
Deputy Representative	Audrey Smith



## HOSPITAL REPORT FORM

1. Number of auxiliary members that volunteered at any VA and/non-VA medical facility:  
(VFW Auxiliary members to be counted once each year.) #\_\_\_\_\_
2. Number of hours that non-members/students/youth volunteered under the VFW Auxiliary  
supervision at any VA/non-VA medical facility: #\_\_\_\_\_
3. Total number of hours: #\_\_\_\_\_
4. Total Milage: #\_\_\_\_\_
5. Did you promote, participate in, host, or co-host any hospital activities in any VA/non-VA  
medical facility? Describe:
6. Total amount spent on all Hospital Program related items and/or projects: \$\_\_\_\_\_
7. If a hospital activity or event is not covered by the above questions, give a brief description:

Auxiliary #:\_\_\_\_\_ District #:\_\_\_\_\_ Group #:\_\_\_\_\_

Chair:\_\_\_\_\_ Email:\_\_\_\_\_

Phone #:\_\_\_\_\_ President:\_\_\_\_\_

Sandy Rowland  
208 Seminole Dr  
Summerville, SC 29486

Phone No: 843-870-3048  
Email: [sandyrowl@gmail.com](mailto:sandyrowl@gmail.com)



## Department of S. C. Legislative Chairman

My name is Sally Machemer. I am the Legislative Chairperson for South Carolina for the year 2025-2026. This is my first year as a Chairperson for the Department. I will also be the Chaplain for VFW Post 6740 Auxiliary for 2025-2026 along with Dept. Patriotic Instructor. I was also Dept. Patriotic Instructor for 2024-2025. I have been a life member since I joined in 2020.

I will celebrate 43 years of marriage to Andy Machemer in August. We have 3 children, 6 grandchildren, and 3 Great Grandchildren.

Andy and I have been very active in the VFW auxiliary. I have participated in many of the events our post has done such as Buddy Poppy drive, Memorial Day ceremonies, Food drives, and many more. I have participated in numerous Department events such as Dept. Conventions, Southern Conference, National Convention, Freedom Festivals, and Darlington recruiting.

Although this is not an election year, we still need to be aware of what is going on in our state and at the National level. Join the VFW Action Corps and see how your votes count and see your elected officials in action. Learn who your representatives are. Do not be afraid to reach out to them.

You are welcome to call, email, or text me with questions. If I do not know the answer, I will try to find it for you.

Sally Machemer 4247  
Highway 378  
Leesville, SC 29070  
Ph. 724-825-7898  
Email – [Sallyvfwaux@gmail.com](mailto:Sallyvfwaux@gmail.com)



## Brothers and Sisters

We need to spend less time with our beach balls, bathing suits, sunglasses, beach, time, and swimming. It's time to transition to new business. It is time to promote our Membership Program. The new year begins on July 1<sup>st</sup>. We must show support for our Veterans by retaining our current members and recruiting new members. We will have a greater chance of our Veterans' needs being met in Congress by showing them our strength in numbers.

My goal is to retain our current members but also recruit new members with new ideas and fresh energy. My **dream** is to have all Auxiliaries at 100% in membership. We can achieve this, but it will take all members to work together. Remember you are promoting Patriotism in your community. You can be the voice of the Veterans who sacrifice for us, so we can live in Democracy.

## **Plan**

Ask someone to join

Create a Membership Committee

Divide the roster and have members call the annual members and ask them to pay their dues

- Mail or email annual dues notice
- Have a Recruiting Event
- Invite perspective members to an event at your Post
- Reach out to former members
- Carry a member application with you and a membership brochure

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT FORM

Auxiliary\_\_\_\_\_ District\_\_\_\_\_ Group #\_\_\_\_\_

Chairman or Person Submitting\_\_\_\_\_

No. of Volunteers\_\_\_\_\_ Total Hours\_\_\_\_\_ Mileage\_\_\_\_\_

Total Money Spent\_\_\_\_\_

Were the VFW Priority Goals Promoted? \_\_\_\_Yes \_\_\_\_No

If yes, how were they promoted?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

How many members contacted Legislators on Veterans' Issues

Personal\_\_\_\_\_ Email\_\_\_\_\_ Social Media\_\_\_\_\_ Letters\_\_\_\_\_

Number of members who attended events such as Town Hall Meetings,  
Meet and Greet, Rally or Legislative Conferences. \_\_\_\_\_

How many new members joined Action Corp Weekly? \_\_\_\_\_

### EXPLANATIONS, DESCRIPTIONS AND DATE ARE NECESSARY

Sally Machemer, Legislative Chair

4247 Highway 378

Leesville, SC 29070

Ph. 724-825-7898 Email: sallyvfwaux@gmail.com

### **Kick Off**

The new membership year starts on July 1<sup>st</sup>. A new members dues will include the remainder of 2025 and will expire on December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026. Encourage members to become Life members. Offer a plan to pay the dues amount divided into 2 or 3 payments if that helps. Must be paid in 3 consecutive payments.

### **Awards for Members**

A 5-member pin will be given to each VFW or VFW Auxiliary member who recruits 5 new or rejoined members between July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 and June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

### **5 Member Drawing**

Each member who recruits 5 new or 5 rejoined members will have their name placed in a drawing for a \$100 Visa card.

Audrey Smith  
Membership Chairperson  
523 South Highland Forest Drive  
Columbia, South Carolina 29203  
[mykids.ask120@gmail.com](mailto:mykids.ask120@gmail.com)  
(803) 586-2662





# VFW Auxiliary Membership Moment

## *How to Ensure a Membership Application is Complete*

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One of the most critical steps in considering a new member for the VFW Auxiliary is the careful review of the prospective member's application details by a three-member Investigating Committee appointed by the Auxiliary President (as outlined in Section 102 of the 2017 VFW Auxiliary Bylaws and Ritual).

As an exclusive veterans' service organization, the VFW Auxiliary must ensure that every prospective member's eligibility has been thoroughly vetted by an Investigating Committee before any action can be taken on the application. According to Page 1 of the VFW Auxiliary Booklet of Instructions, "it is the duty of the Investigating Committee to see that the applications are filled out completely before they are presented to the body for consideration." The following fields are to be completed on each application:

- Recruited by
- Auxiliary Name and Number
- Kind of Membership (annual, life, etc.)
- State
- Name (spelled correctly)
- Date of Birth
- Address
- Gender
- City, State, Zip
- Phone
- E-mail
- Post Affiliated or Non Affiliated
- Relationship
- Veteran (name)
- Post Number (if applicable)
- Name of campaign ribbons or medals
- Foreign Service dates
- Location
- Applicant's signature and date
- Signatures of the Investigating Committee (at least 2)
- Signature line following the Obligation

In addition to the prospective member's application, it is the responsibility of the Investigating Committee to review proof of honorable service of the eligible veteran, unless he/she is a member of the VFW Post to which the applicant is applying for membership.

Proof of the veteran's honorable service in any foreign war, insurrection or expedition (as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces) may be determined through careful examination of a Separation Document (DD214) with a VFW-authorized campaign or service medal of the United States; receipt of Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay, as verified by a copy of a Leave and Earning Statement (LES) issued by the U.S. Armed Forces; or service in Korea for 30 consecutive/60 non-consecutive days after June 30, 1949.

Performance reports, travel orders, medical orders, medals reports, morning reports, assignment listings, buddy affidavits, and letters from a foreign war zone may also be reviewed if a DD214 is not available. For veterans pre-1946, a report of their discharge listing the medals and decorations that were earned is acceptable proof.

For soldiers currently on active duty, they will not have a DD214. In those cases, the appropriate orders showing overseas deployment to a qualifying area, or awarding of an authorized campaign medal, or a LES showing Hostile Fire/Imminent Danger pay will suffice to prove eligibility.

# VFW Auxiliary Membership Moment

## *How to Engage Your New Members from the Start*



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

The key to retaining new members is to ensure that they are receiving value from their VFW Auxiliary membership and that they are aware of the value they are receiving. Engaging with your members on a regular basis to communicate this value to them helps keep it fresh in their mind, and reminds them of why they became members in the first place. Studies on new members of any organization show that the first three months are critical to engaging that member and therefore keeping that member.

Here is a timeline to help you and your Auxiliary engage its new members during the first three months:

**Within the first week:** Call or e-mail the new member introducing yourself. Offer your contact information should that new member have any questions. If your Auxiliary has a website or Facebook page, tell them about it so they can see what's going on.

**Within the first month:** Invite the new member as soon as possible to whatever event is coming up next, whether it be a meeting or something else. Offer to pick him or her up. Or if it's a family event, be sure to say that anyone can come. They might feel more comfortable coming with their family or friend.

Because people are very busy these days, be sure to send a reminder at least three days out from the event.

At the event or if they come to the Post home for a social event, there is **ONE THING** you can do when they step through that door. If the new member says "How can I help?" stop right then and there and find a way for them to help. **DO NOT** tell them, "Oh, don't worry, I've got it." Even if you are peeling potatoes and you're almost done, let them peel the potatoes!

Immediately following the event, send an e-mail or handwritten note saying you're glad they came.

**Within the first two months:** Your Auxiliary will most likely have a meeting within this time period. Specifically invite a new member and save them a seat. Have a copy of "Understanding VFW Auxiliary Traditions" printed out and explain each of the items on it. Much of it will be entirely new to them.

**Within the first three months:** Scheduling is difficult, but try to meet up for coffee or drinks, and see if the new member has any questions about what they have been involved with so far. If they have a family, consider having them over for dinner. Have a copy of the Bylaws available in case a question comes up that you can't answer.

The goal with each of these steps is to maintain contact with a new member in order to engage him or her. Once you have engaged that member and extended that hand of friendship, continue to nurture that relationship. There is so much to learn, and learning it from a friend is the best way to develop future Auxiliary leaders.

# VFW Auxiliary Membership Moment

## *Orienting New Members*

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The moment a person becomes a VFW Auxiliary member is special for both the member and the local Auxiliary. Whether you choose to mark this meaningful event with a special ceremony or induct new members at a monthly Auxiliary meeting, make sure you acknowledge and celebrate their involvement in the VFW Auxiliary. Encourage all local Auxiliary members to participate in welcoming this new member of your Auxiliary family.

During the induction ceremony, ask new Auxiliary members to talk briefly about themselves, their work, and their families. Ensure that all Auxiliary members personally introduce themselves to each new member. It is important that your local Auxiliary recognize the new member by name and photo (if available) in your next newsletter, on your website or Facebook page, or in other communications.

Give new members an understanding of the benefits of membership in your Auxiliary and the opportunities for service and involvement in the local community. Consider organizing a formal orientation program shortly after the new member's induction. Topics for the formal orientation program (that could extend over several sessions) may include:

- Your Auxiliary's history and impact on the community
- Auxiliary administrative details (meeting dates and times, etc.)
- Your Auxiliary's recent accomplishments
- Upcoming Auxiliary projects and activities
- How the new member would like to be involved

By following these steps, it is likely that a new Auxiliary member will feel appreciated and welcome, and lead to a lifelong interest in the VFW Auxiliary.

# VFW Auxiliary Membership Moment

## *Matching Member Talents to Leadership Success*

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FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

In the past, how often have our invitations to members to join a volunteer committee or take on a leadership role sounded like this?

*"You're invited! Join one of our committees that have been around forever and even though you don't really understand how it works or what it requires when you agree to serve, it's the only way we ask you to share your talents, so you feel like you had better say yes if you want to get involved at all."*

*"And we'll likely sign you up for whatever you select even though we don't really know if it is a good fit for you (or us) but we need people to help and this is the only way we've ever done it, so we're going to just keep on doing so even though it rarely works as well as we hope it will."*

For too long, we've been first telling members about available committee positions or leadership roles and then asking if they are interested. Instead, we should be learning about our members' interests first and then suggesting possible volunteer opportunities that match.

If we match people quickly to an opportunity they find attractive, we can more rapidly convert them from a passive joiner to an active member. We can move a member from someone who simply pays dues...to a member who is doing things that make a difference in the community.

Here are six questions that members should be asked prior to being informed about available leadership opportunities within your Auxiliary.

1. What do you care about?
2. What type of contribution would you like to make?
3. What constraints should we know about?
4. What support would help you fulfill your commitment?
5. How can we best communicate/connect with you?
6. Who else do you know who might be interested in our cause?

By flipping the way we invite members to get involved, we increase the likelihood of those members saying "yes" and joining our community of contributors "getting things done" for the VFW Auxiliary and for veterans.

# VFW Auxiliary Membership Moment

## *Understanding the Basics of Membership Eligibility*

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One of the fundamental differences between the VFW Auxiliary and other veterans service organizations (VSOs) is our eligibility requirements. In order for an individual (as outlined on the VFW Auxiliary Eligibility Wheel) to be considered for membership, his/her eligible veteran:

- Must be a U.S. citizen or U.S. national;
- Must have honorable service in the U.S. Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, or Coast Guard)
- Must have served in any foreign war, insurrection, or expedition as reflected by **one** of the following:
  1. A VFW-authorized campaign or service medal of the United States.
  2. Receipt of Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay, as verified by a copy of a Leave and Earning Statement (LES) issued by the U.S. Armed Forces.
  3. Service in Korea for 30 consecutive/60 non-consecutive days after June 30, 1949.

The eligible veteran and the prospective VFW Auxiliary member must have a familial relationship within two generations; step, half and adopted family members meet the “two generations” standard set forth by the IRS. However, aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews of the eligible veteran do not meet the “two generations” standard and are therefore not permitted to join the VFW Auxiliary.

Proof of the veteran’s service to establish eligibility for membership rests with the applicant. The local VFW Auxiliary’s Investigating Committee is responsible for assuring the eligibility of every person accepted for membership. A careful check of eligibility (as outlined in Section 102 of the 2017 VFW Auxiliary Bylaws) at the time a person joins will help to avoid any future concerns.

Information on a veteran’s service record can be obtained by contacting the National Archives and Records Administration at:

- Phone: 1.866.272.6272
- Online: [www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/](http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/)

If you have membership questions or need more information, please contact the VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters at 816.561.8655 or [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org).



## Membership Reporting Form 2025 - 2026

1. What method did your Auxiliary use to collect Annual Dues; {#'s}

Phone Calls: \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mails: \_\_\_\_\_ Letters/Postcards: \_\_\_\_\_

Face to Face Conversations: \_\_\_\_\_ Social Media: \_\_\_\_\_ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Number of dues reminder notices generated by MALTA: \_\_\_\_\_

# Mailed \_\_\_\_\_ # Emailed \_\_\_\_\_

3. # of Members Recruited: New: \_\_\_\_\_ Rejoin: \_\_\_\_\_

Life \_\_\_\_\_ Transfer \_\_\_\_\_

Chairman Name (Print)	Auxiliary#	District#	Group#
Address: _____			
Chairman (Print)	City	State	Zip Code
E Mail: _____		Phone# _____	
Chairman (Print)			
Auxiliary President (Print)		Phone# _____	
		Auxiliary President	

Chairman: Audrey Smith  
523 South Highland Forest Drive  
Columbia South Carolina 29203

(C) 803-586-2662  
(H) 803-786-1630  
E Mail: [mykids.ask120@gmail.com](mailto:mykids.ask120@gmail.com)

# 2025 – 2026 SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM



Patricia A. Williams  
Scholarship Chairman  
Department of South Carolina  
303 Keithwood Drive, Anderson, SC 29621  
937.272.9639  
[Hrwebe142@yahoo.com](mailto:Hrwebe142@yahoo.com)



The excitement and creativity that you show all year long in this Program is the key to making it work!

**The GOALS are PROMOTING:**

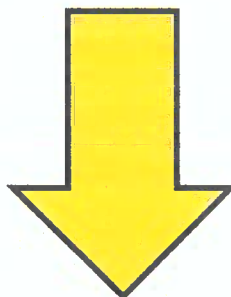
- ✓ Continuing Education Scholarship
- ✓ Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest
- ✓ 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest
- ✓ VFW Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy

**Continuing Education Scholarship**

Apparently, this is a well-kept secret and Department has had fewer applicants than they hoped for. It is vital that we get the word out to your members who, along with their family members, are the individuals who qualify for this opportunity. It is additionally important that our members, their spouses, and children apply for this scholarship. Also, we want the Continuing Education Scholarship escrow fund to grow so we can award more money to students, per year. This is VFW Auxiliary President Lois Callahan's special project as at one time she benefited from such a scholarship. This Scholarships link is on the VFW Auxiliary National Website which contains how to apply, where to submit the entry, etc. That link is <https://fwwauxiliary.org>. Or the official forms and contest rules can be found in MALTA. To make a gift to the Continuing Education Fund through MALTA or mailing a check to: VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters, ATTN: Continuing Education Fund, 406 W. 34<sup>th</sup> Street, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111.

**Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest**

The VFW Auxiliary has been recognizing talented young artists for more than 45 years. We need to spread the word about this scholarship to schools, churches, skate parks, local parks, restaurants, etc. Use your imagination or get some ideas from you kids and grandkids! Talk to your leaders, teachers and counselors for other ideas and suggestions. Be sure to get permission from schools and businesses before posting information. As with the Continuing Education Scholarship, all information can be found at <https://fwwauxiliary.org> or in MALTA.



### **3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest**

I am so very excited for this newest contest for the VFW Auxiliary. This contest is available to students Grades 9-12. The requirements are that students submit a photo of their art prior to mailing. Sadly, when sent to National, they receive broken art and in order to judge student's work, they need to see what the art was truly meant to look like. Entries will be judges on patriotic theme and technique. Again, rules and entry forms are location in MALTA or at <https://vfwauxiliary.org>.

The Patriotic Art Contest and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest Scholarships are paid directly to the American College, vocational, technical or trade school of the winner's choice. The Young American Creative Patriotic Art scholarships range from 1<sup>st</sup> place awarding \$15,00 down to 19<sup>th</sup> Place at \$500. The 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Scholarships range from 1<sup>st</sup> place at \$2,500 to 4<sup>th</sup> Place at \$500. It is very important that scholarship winners receive recognition at every level. Ways to recognize:

1. Host an awards ceremony.
2. Present a certificate and/or gift.
3. Present awards at a school assembly.
4. Don't forget to recognize the parents and teachers!

### **VFW Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy**

The VFW Auxiliary has long been a supporter of these worthy scholarships for students in grades 6-12. The VFW Patriot's Pen is a short-written essay for students in Grades 6-8 address a theme determined by the VFW. The VFW Voice of Democracy is a Grades 9-12 vocal recording of a written essay. Please consult the VFW National website for addition information and aids. sure to have your VFW Auxiliary President forward to you the monthly newsletters that they will receive to learn more about each goal. If you have any questions or suggestions to assist other Auxiliaries, please feel free to call or email me.



## Scholarship Program Reporting Form 2025-2026

DATE \_\_\_\_\_ AUXILIARY # \_\_\_\_\_ GROUP \_\_\_\_\_

### CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP CONTEST:

1. Did your Auxiliary promote the Continuing Education Scholarship Program?  
How? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes ☐ No ☐

2. Did your Auxiliary receive an application for the Continuing Education Scholarship Program?  
Number of applications received? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes ☐ No ☐

3. Did your Auxiliary donate to the Continuing Education Scholarship Program?  
Amount Donated? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes ☐ No ☐

### YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST:

1. Did your Auxiliary promote the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest?  
How? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes ☐ No ☐

2. Did your Auxiliary judge the art and congratulate the winners at your meetings?  
Number of art entries received? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes ☐ No ☐  
Number of art entries submitted to Department for Judging? \_\_\_\_\_

### 3-DIMENSIONAL PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST:

1. Did your Auxiliary promote the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest?  
How? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes ☐ No ☐

2. Did your Auxiliary order brochures from National Headquarters and/or download them from  
MALTA for distribution? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes ☐ No ☐

3. Did your Auxiliary judge the art and congratulate the winners at your meetings?  
Number of art entries received? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes ☐ No ☐  
Number of art entries submitted to Department for Judging? \_\_\_\_\_

### VFW PATRIOT'S PEN AND VOICE OF DEMOCRACY:

1. Did your Auxiliary assist the VFW in promoting the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy?  
How? \_\_\_\_\_ Yes ☐ No ☐

TOTAL VOLUNTEERS \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL HOURS \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL MILEAGE \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL MONEY \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail or email to: **Patty Williams, 303 Keithwood Dr. Anderson, SC 29621**  
Email: [hrwebe142@yahoo.com](mailto:hrwebe142@yahoo.com) Questions call: 937-272-9639

# ***Veterans and Family Support 2025-2026 Program Year***

My Name is Raina K Bryant. I have been asked to be the Veterans and Family Support Chairman for South Carolina for the year 2025-2026. This will be my second year as Chairman for the Department as I was last year's Legislative Chairman. I am currently the Canteen Manager for VFW Post 8738 in Lexington, SC. I have been a Life member for 7 years. I joined under the eligibility of my Husband who is a Retired Army Veteran. We have been together for 25 years and married for 23. We have 3 beautiful girls and a grandson on the way.

I am very active in my Auxiliary and love to serve Veterans. I am VFW 8738 President for the year 2025-2026. I am currently the Jr. Vice President for District 2. I am the State Guard for South Carolina for the year 2025-2026. I love to plan events for the Veterans and the community to come and enjoy their time. I love the socialization this organization provides. It is always the best time when you get to talk to veterans and their families. It always puts a smile on my face.

The Veterans and Family Support Programs Main Focus is:

- VFW-Based Veterans Assistance Programs
- Veterans' Mental Health Awareness
- Veteran and Veteran Spouses Employment

We will have a chance to go more into detail with this. This Program is one that we ALL need to focus on. Our Veterans and Families need all the resources we can provide them, to ensure that they can keep going in an ever changing world. This Program alone is why we are here to help. Whether it's big or small, everything we do is to help and give back to those that sacrificed so much for us.

This Year is going to be Great. I look forward to getting all your reports and seeing what a difference you are going to make. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me. Please feel free to Call/Email or Text me anytime.



**Raina K Bryant**  
125 Windy Hollow Dr  
Lexington, SC 29073  
803-422-0119  
Bryantraykay@gmail.com



# Veterans & Family Support

1) Has your Auxiliary promoted, participated, hosted (or co-hosted with your VFW Post) any of the below activities? Yes ☐ No ☐

\* Disaster Relief \* Military Assistance Program (MAP) \* National Veterans Service \* Unmet Needs  
\* Veterans & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness

Please list which one and how below:

2) Has your Auxiliary provided direct aid to veterans, service members and/or families (Examples meals, transportation, cards, packages, etc.) Yes ☐ No ☐ Please provide some detail below:

3) Approximate # of veterans, service members and/or the families assisted for this report: \_\_\_\_\_

4) Total monetary donations and/or value of donations and goods/services provided to veterans, service members and/or their families: \_\_\_\_\_

5) Please list any other activity your Aux. completed that pertains to Veterans & Family Support not listed above:

Auxiliary # \_\_\_\_\_ District # \_\_\_\_\_ Group # \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Report # 1

# Members Participating \_\_\_\_\_ Hours \_\_\_\_\_ Millage \_\_\_\_\_ Dollars \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Program Chair: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Auxiliary President: \_\_\_\_\_

Raina K Bryant 803-422-0119 [Bryantraykay@gmail.com](mailto:Bryantraykay@gmail.com)  
125 Windy Hollow Dr, Lexington, SC 29073

**My name is Mary "Angela" Gaskins, and I am honored to serve as the Department of South Carolina Auxiliary Youth Chairman for 2025–2026. I am a proud Life Member of Post 9509 in Moncks Corner, South Carolina, where I joined under my husband, Shannon Gaskins. Shannon completed multiple tours in Iraq and was medically discharged in 2011. His service and sacrifice are a big part of why I'm so committed to supporting veterans and their families through the VFW Auxiliary.**

**When I'm not at the post volunteering or participating in events to support our veterans, I'm at home enjoying time with our three dogs, Cletus (5), a boxer mix, and Dory and Dex (2), our playful Boykin Spaniels. Whether I'm helping organize a fundraiser, attending a meeting, or just lending a hand where needed, I truly love being part of a community that honors those who have served.**

**One thing I've noticed over the years is that the VFW is often viewed by the public as a place only for older veterans. While we absolutely honor and support our older members, it's just as important to recognize that the VFW represents veterans of all ages and experiences. That's where our youth come in. If we want the mission of the VFW and its Auxiliary to thrive for generations to come, we need to start with educating and involving young people.**

**That's why serving as Youth Chairmen is so meaningful to me. I want to help our auxiliaries across the state connect more with youth—through events, outreach, and education—and show them what the VFW is about. It's not just about the past; it's about the future. It's about service, sacrifice, community, and pride. My hope is to inspire the next generation to get involved, give back, and carry forward the legacy of honoring and supporting our nation's heroes.**



**Angela Gaskins**

**1441 Witherbee Rd**

**Moncks Corner 29461**

**843-343-2409**

**angelagaskins843@gmail.com**

**VFW Auxiliary  
Youth Program Report  
2025-2026**

1. Did your Auxiliary work with a youth group? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

1a. Name of youth group \_\_\_\_\_

2. Did your Auxiliary give any youth Veterans Support Citations? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

3. Did your Auxiliary participate in Patriotism through Literacy? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

3a. Number of books donated in participation of Patriotism through Literacy? \_\_\_\_\_

**Illustrating America Art Contest:**

4. Did your Auxiliary promote Illustrating America Art Contest? Yes\_\_\_\_\_ No\_\_\_\_\_

5. Number of students that presented entries to your Auxiliary? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Did your Auxiliary have an award ceremony to recognize participants in this contest? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What was the total \$ amount or value of awards presented? \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Activity: \_\_\_\_\_ District #: \_\_\_\_\_ Auxiliary #: \_\_\_\_\_ Group #: \_\_\_\_\_

Chairperson: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

President: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

#members/youth: \_\_\_\_\_ # Hours: \_\_\_\_\_ #miles: \_\_\_\_\_ Money spent: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please send to:**

Angela Gaskins

Angelagaskins843@gmail.com

843-343-2409

1441 Witherbee Rd. , Moncks Corner, SC 29461

VFW AUXILIARY 2025-2026 NEW QRC CODES FOR ALL PROGRAMS  
TOOL — JPEGs/IMAGES DOWNLOADABLE

**Americanism**



**Auxiliary Outreach**



**Buddy Poppy & VFW National Home**



**VFW National Home**



**Extension & Revitalization**



**Historian/Media Relations**



1 Scan these QR codes specific to the program and it will take you to the Program information on the Auxiliary website.