

**LADIES AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATE
4002 FENTON AVENUE
HARRISBURG, PA 17109-5943**



GENERAL ORDERS NO 5 – DECEMBER, 2011

**TO BE READ AT THE FIRST MEETING FOLLOWING RECEIPT BEFORE BEING
FILED FOR REFERENCE:**

1. **CONGRATULATIONS** to the following Auxiliaries who reached their 100% in Membership by the end of October, 2011: District 8, Aux. 7293, Aux. 8282; District 10, Aux. 6520; District 19, Aux. 464, Aux. 8803, Aux. 9044; District 20, Aux. 5635.
2. I call your attention to the Bylaws, Page 13, Section 110 – Members in Good Standing. “The Calendar year of the Auxiliary is from January 1 to December 31. A member who has paid her dues to December 31 is in good standing. She ceases to be in good standing on January 1 immediately following the year for which her dues have been paid. She shall not again be in good standing until her dues have been paid for the current year.” If a member does not have a 2012 membership card during the January Auxiliary meeting, she is not permitted to remain at the meeting. We are getting closer to the end of 2011. Please contact those members that have not paid their dues yet. See if they need help paying their dues because of illness, loss of job or a family emergency. You can pay their dues from your Relief Fund.
3. The Holidays can be a lonely time for Veterans and shut-ins. Any assistance given to Veterans, members of the Armed Forces, Auxiliary members and their families outside the hospital, falls under Veterans and Family Support. You can give moral support by sending get well and sympathy cards, providing meals, visitation, transportation, financial assistance and assisting and restoring better living conditions.
4. Our Junior Girls are one of our greatest assets. These are the members and leaders of our tomorrow. The purpose of the Junior Girls is ...“to instill in the hearts of our youth, a firm belief in the principles of our Republic and reverence for the Flag of the United States; to develop character, cooperation, leadership, self reliance and a willingness to assume responsibility; to assist the Auxiliary and the Veterans of Foreign Wars in their activities.” Our Junior Girls need the assistance of each Auxiliary in our Department. It does not matter if you have a Junior Girls unit or not. You can still donate. Please send your donations to Department of Pa. Ladies Auxiliary VFW, 4002 Fenton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17109. Earmark your check for Junior Girls. See Page 30, Booklet of Instructions, Youth Activities 1 – Junior Girls Units.
5. I was delighted to attend the 125th Birthday Celebration of the Statue of Liberty. The weather was brisk at times but tolerable. What a great program was presented. Thank you to my Chief of Staff Beth Bauer and to Junior Vice President Julia Dever for being flag bearers for me. Thank you to the other Auxiliary members that volunteered to carry flags for other Departments. That’s what it’s all about – VOLUNTEERING.
6. Just a reminder that no alcoholic beverages will be permitted during the Auxiliary meetings. There shall be no smoking in the Auxiliary room while the meeting is in progress. Page 36, Booklet of Instructions, numbers 9 and 10.
7. I would like to thank State Commander Larry N. Reece and his Chief of Staff Jack Snyder for providing transportation to my Chief of Staff Beth Bauer and me to the Statue of Liberty celebration.

Congratulations Commander Reece on a fun and beautiful testimonial. Your Steering Committee did a great job. I wish you good health, safe travels and good weather as you continue your duties throughout this year.

8. Since this is the last General Orders that will be mailed through the United States Postal Service, if you have not sent in your request to receive a copy of the General Orders because you do not have a computer, you must do so no later than December 15th. After that date the mailing list will be compiled and only those who have sent in written requests will be receiving copies through the mail. All others will need to access copies through the Department Web Page.
9. **PROMOTIONAL LETTERS FROM THE DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN ARE TO BE GIVEN TO THE APPROPRIATE AUXILIARY CHAIRMAN AND ARE TO BE PRESENTED ON THE FLOOR AT THE NEXT AUXILIARY MEETING.**

**“Step Up ~ Leave No Veteran Behind”
as we “Remember, Be Proud & Give Thanks.”**

**LEGISLATION, MEMBERSHIP, YOUTH ACTIVITIES, AUDIT FORM,
DEPARTMENT CHRISTMAS CARD**

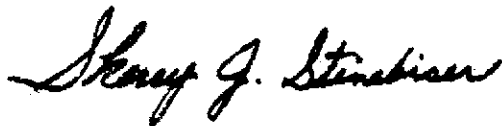
**HOSPITALS
HIGHLAND DRIVE V. A. MEDICAL CENTER
SOUTHEASTERN VETERANS CENTER**

IMPORTANT DATES: Dates marked with an * indicates the Department President’s Official Visit to that District.
2011

DECEMBER

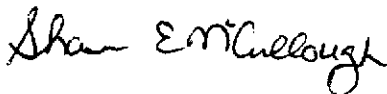
Dec. 4	District *21
Dec. 7	District 7
Dec. 11	District *23
Dec. 23-26	Christmas Holiday, Department Headquarters Closed – MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL

BY ORDER OF:



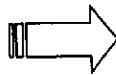
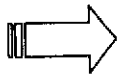
Sherry J. Stinebiser
Department President

ATTEST:



Sharon E. McCullough
Department Secretary/Treasurer

0%



Please give me a
much-needed boost!!



71.75%

100%

MEMBERSHIP, DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA
"Bon Appétit"

General Orders #5, December 2011

NOW is the time, LADIES!! It is very difficult for me to see us with 91% of our membership in by mid-December with the figures I see at the top of this page. I know we can do it, but it doesn't look like you care enough.

What have you done to this point? As I look at the individual statistics, I see some of you are making a stew to be proud of. But I see way too many of you that haven't tried anything to this point.

All of us – the Ladies Auxiliary, our Comrades, our Veterans, our active-duty personnel – need your support. Are you, and ultimately YOUR auxiliary, going to be the ones that bring this organization down this year?

I don't think you want this to happen – I know you don't want it to happen. I have talked to so many of you and know that you want what we all do. We want 100% by year-end. That takes a lot of hard work; and I know that you are not afraid of hard work.

What are you going to do this last month to get us where we need to be? Did you have a membership drive during November for National Recruiting Month? Tying this in with a Cancer drive can be one way of bringing notice to your efforts. Besides recruiting new members, this is an excellent opportunity to bring back some old members.

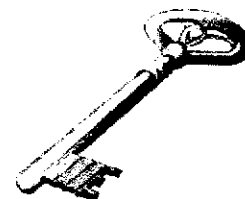
When you send out your last dues notices this year, put on that extra push for Life Members. They won't have to contend with raising membership fees after January 1 and won't have to remember to get their annual dues in. They will always maintain their eligibility for a cancer grant. We hope it is never needed, but it is there in case. Also note that the amount awarded will increase to \$550.00 maximum per time.

So, Ladies, you know what you have to do. We may have lost out on a lot of the monetary awards for our Department, but let us bring pride to our President and pride to the work we do for our veterans in their legislative concerns with sheer numbers.

"REMEMBER, BE PROUD & GIVE THANKS" and **"STEP UP ~ LEAVE NO VETERAN BEHIND"** because of failing membership. We owe that to our Comrades as we assist them with their programs and to our veterans and service personnel who have given us what we have today.

Loyally,

Debbie Mock



Department Membership Chairman / Sous Chef
724.479.3944; 724.422.0400; debmock@verizon.net

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Dear Sisters:

Before we all get wrapped up in the holidays, we need to take care of a few loose ends. By now, I am sure that your District President has told you about the change this year to the Community Service Program. As you know, the Ladies Auxiliary has eliminated the Community Service Program as an individual program as National President, Gwen Rankin believes that we do Community Service in all programs. However, the **VFW has not eliminated the Community Service Program**, and they are relying on you, the Ladies Auxiliaries, to continue to report your Community Service statistics. These numbers/statistics are important so that, the VFW may continue to have the "Non Profit" status which they currently hold.

Recently, I was speaking with Peter Walters, the Department VFW Community Service Chairman, and he has advised me that, reporting is greatly down. So, I am turning to you and asking all Auxiliaries, to look back on your projects, programs, and so forth, to see which ones can be reported as Community Service. For example: Did your Auxiliary hold a Veterans day Program in a School, Nursing Home, or other community setting? Or did you participate in your towns' Halloween parade? Did your Auxiliary assist another organization in the community such as the American Red Cross in a blood drive? Does your Auxiliary have a section of highway that you've adopted to keep clean? **Remember anything that you have done in the past and reported under Community Activities needs to still be reported.** For example:

Your Auxiliary held a Veterans Day program in your Grandchild's Pre-School. The Auxiliary purchased 20 small American flags at \$1.50 each, which totals \$30. The Americanism Chairman and Youth Activities Chairman, you and 3 other members do the program, so you have a total of 6 members participating. The program lasts 20 minutes, so you can claim 120 hours (20 minutes for each member). The two chairmen live 3 miles and 4 miles from the Pre-school, you live 5 miles away, and the other members live 1 mile, and the other two live 2 miles each from the school one way, so you can claim 32 miles.

The Americanism Chairman and Youth Activities Chairman need to **report to the Department Americanism Chairman** and Youth Activities Chairmen the following:

Auxiliary 1234 District 00 held a Veterans Day Program at Little Angels Pre-School on November 11, 2011. 3 Members participated, Cost \$15, mileage incurred 16.

The Department Americanism Chairman and Youth Activities Chairmen will in turn report this information to the VFW Department Community Activities Chairman.

Please ladies remember we are the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, they need our continued reporting of the Community Service that we do in our Auxiliaries. So, please go back over your activities, programs, donations, and see what you can send in and please report this to the Department Chairmen. I know that some activities may be confusing as to where to report them, so please contact me and I will help you in determining which Department Chairmen you should sent this information to.

Thank you for your help in this. Wishing you a Blessed and Safe Holiday Season,

Loyally,
Stephanie Cavanaugh
Program Coordinator

Legislative Program

General Orders #5

Ladies—Have you been out to see your Legislators on the issues of our Veterans? Let them know how you feel about what is happening with our Military and their Families! They deserve to have their issues recognized and fought for, for they have and are fighting for our right and freedoms.
Step UP ~ Leave No Veteran Behind!

What's going on in the Legislative program?

Veterans Unemployment Issue—The Hiring Heroes Act (S.951) was passed last spring. Last month the Veterans Opportunity to Work Act (H.R.2433) was passed by House Committee on Veterans Affairs.

Preserving Military Retirement Benefits—VFW is adamantly opposes the changes to increase TRICARE premiums. Calls proposal the "Breach of Faith"; Please our Commander-in-Chief Noyer has asked ALL to contact their Congressmen to show they oppose the changes.

Improving Educational Outcome for Veterans—VFW Deputy Legislative Director Ryan Galluci testified about the persistent problems with accountability of G.I. Bill and military Tuition Assistant funds. Predatory schools are exploiting veterans to receive federal G.I. bill dollars. Veterans are not receiving degrees or certificates which would help them find jobs.

POW/MIA Mission Funding—It is imperative that we urge the President to restore the funding to the POW/MIA Mission. Recently the Defense POW/MIA Missing Personnel Office has been able to identify the remains of four soldiers who were lost during the Korean and Vietnam Wars.

These are some of the issues that our VFW have been working on. Use the tools and resources available to find the issues the VFW are working on and their position on these issues; making contact with your elected officials.

The newest tool is the vfwonthehill.org website and other tools and resources like the Washington Weekly; Action Corps website; www.thomas.gov; 2011 Priority Goals brochure.

Stay in touch with your Congressmen/women; **You can make a difference! Remember, Be Proud & Give Thanks!**

Remember the Legislative awards and citations criteria and mail a copy of your legislative contacts to your Department Chairman so you can get credit for your actions.

Loyally,

Donna Harvath

Department of PA. Legislative Chairman

Youth Activities General Orders

March 31st, 2012. What's important about this date? It's the date that the Young American Creative Patriotic Art entries are to be to the Auxiliary Chairman. You have contacted your local school's Art Teacher, haven't you? Well, if not it's not too late. Remember this program is open to students' grades 9-12. Brochures detailing the requirements are available on the National Ladies Auxiliary web site: www.ladiesauxvfw.org. **Remember** to point out that if the entry contains the American Flag it must follow the flag code. March is just around the corner, so if you haven't contacted your schools yet, please do so now. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to **be** able to win scholarships at the National level, to further their education. On the Department level 1st place award is \$150, 2nd place award is \$100 and 3rd place award is \$75. This is also a wonderful way for students to express how they are **Proud** of their country & **Give Thanks** to those who serve and served.

Ho, Ho, Ho, Merry Christmas. Yes, it will be here before you know it. I know many Ladies Auxiliaries sponsor or co-sponsor with their VFW Post Christmas Parties for the children and grandchildren of Post and Ladies Auxiliary members. Remember to keep track of all of your hours, mileage, expenses, the number of members involved. Does your area have a Reserve Unit? Why not send out an invitation through their Family Readiness Group to join your Christmas Party as a way for you to **STEP UP ~ LEAVE NO VETERAN BEHIND** or their family. This could also provide an opportunity to invite a wife or even a female Reservist to join your Ladies Auxiliary.

Does your community have a Reserve Unit that's currently deployed? Why not have the children at your Christmas party make Christmas cards for the soldiers, that you can include in that care package, I know you will be sending. Or if you don't have an actively deployed Reserve Unit, have the children prepare cards and send them to one of the VA Hospitals. Or mail them to Post and Ladies Auxiliary members who may be home bound or in Nursing Homes, I'm sure these cards will brighten their days.

You say you don't have a Children's Christmas Party. Well, why not help brighten a child's Christmas by bringing toys to your Ladies Auxiliary Christmas Party instead of doing a gift exchange. These toys can be donated to the Marine Corps Toys for Tots campaign.

Remember, your Auxiliary can participate in Youth Activities even if you don't have a Junior Girls Unit. Include your local 4-H Clubs, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Jr. ROTC, Civil Air Patrol, Young Marines, or even your Church's Sunday school classes in your activities. Remember that our youth is our future, and we need to teach them the proper respect for the American flag, and teach them patriotism.

Have a Safe, and Happy Holiday Season!

Highland Drive Medical Center
Pittsburgh, Pa.

Dear Sisters

We have a sincere thank you to our Department President, Sherry Stinebiser, for the appointment of Representative and Deputies at Highland Drive Medical Center.

Many of our veterans have now been transferred over to Heinz Hospital in Aspinwall. We no longer can hold our \$50.00 ward parties, that were held by my Deputies in your Auxiliary name. The Adult Daycare is now being held at Heinz Hospital.

“REMEMBER, BE PROUD, AND GIVE THANKS.” Your generous donations will continue Bingo, Ice Cream/Yogurt and Pizza parties to all our veterans who are still on the wards in the hospital.

To receive credit from Department all checks must be sent to LADIES AUXILIARY, DEPT OF PA. 4002 FENTON AVE. HARRISBURG, PA. 17109-5943. Notation on check should have hospital name and reason for the check.

“STEP UP - LEAVE NO VETERAN BEHIND” Never stop volunteering and donating to our Veterans Hospitals. PLEASE HELP US AGAIN!

Loyally

Ida Fowler
Representative

Deputies
Joan Banze Anne Meinert Betty Jane Wittmer Lorraine Pirozzi

SOUTHEASTERN VETERANS CENTER

Thank you to our Department President Sherry Stinebiser for again appointing me as the representative at Southeastern Veterans Center. It has been wonderful working with all the sisters that help at our Veterans Center as we “Step Up – Leave No Veteran Behind.”

All the volunteers delight in finding a new and exciting way to share good times with the veterans. The original idea of an ice cream social will never be replaced so we enhance this activity with the fresh fruits in the summer and are preparing for an apple pie and ice cream party. Every year we have a Fall Festival of food and games, the prizes are canteen certificates that are redeemable in the canteen. The chance to visit with the veterans in the canteen is always the high light of our day.

I want to thank you for your past support that has made it possible to have frequent bingo parties that are the high light of the week for our veterans, and the prizes fund more trips to the canteen.

Volunteering is a very special reward and sharing with our veterans inspires us to “Remember Be Proud & Give Thanks,

Loyally,

Eleanor Myers
Representative

CHANGES FOR THE ROSTER BOOK

LADIES AUXILIARY SIDE OF THE ROSTER BOOK:

PAGE 2, Julia Dever email should be as follows: juliam@svol.net.

PAGE 9: District 14 Auxiliary President is changed as follows:

**Wendi Henneman, Aux. 8488
45 Granger Road
Kingsley, PA 18826
570-434-2121**

PAGE 17: Central Area Americanism Chairman is changed as follows:

**Mary Jane Hollis, Aux. 5020
910 Alton Street
Phillipsburg, PA 16866
814-342-2994**

PAGE 27: Central Area Membership Chairman is changed as follows:

**Wendi Henneman, Aux. 8488
45 Granger Road
Kingsley, PA 18826
570-434-2121**

PAGE 30: Youth Activities Chairman is changed as follows:

**Margie Reeger, Aux. 813
1119 Brink Road
Irvona, PA 16656
814-672-3095**

Also, if any of these changes affect the Year End Report Forms which are in the back of the Program Book, please make the appropriate changes since reports must be mailed to the correct Chairman, etc.

THANK YOU

DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS STAFF