

# VFW Auxiliary Department of Ohio

## President's Message

HELLO #TEAMOHIO!!

Welcome to the VFW Auxiliary Department of Ohio's 8th newsletter! Sorry that the January newsletter never made it to the presses, but focusing on the December 31st deadlines and preparing for the Midwinter Conference, time just wasn't on my side. But here we are with our latest edition with lots of useful information and upcoming events.

Do you know when your District Testimonial celebration is? I am hoping that each District President/Commander's Testimonial celebration (however they choose to celebrate) is packed. They deserve to be celebrated for all the hard work and dedication they have put in this past year!! I will have a list of the dates for each district in this newsletter on page 9. Here's a thought, why don't we start trying to celebrate other District's than our own? If you are interested in attending another District's celebration, reach out to that district and ATTEND! Talk about supporting TEAMOHIO!

The State Commander & I decided to have our joint Testimonial celebration Saturday night during our June Convention at Kalahari. More details will come out for this as we get closer for June Convention.

I have an idea to raise more money for our joint special project Save-A-Warrior but I need to run it past State Commander but it involves lots of fun. Keep an eye out for more info on this and other June Convention goings-on. I see lots of fun and learning in our future!! Thank you for all that each of you do for our HEROES!

Kathy



## February 20-President's Day

Presidents Day is on Monday, Feb. 20 this year. Presidents Day is celebrated on the third Monday of February every year.

The date of Presidents Day changes every year in part because of the Uniform Holiday Bill [signed in 1968](#) by President Lyndon B. Johnson. The Uniform Holiday Bill mandated that three holidays, including Presidents Day, occur on Mondays to prevent midweek shutdowns and add long weekends to the federal calendar.

VFW Auxiliary  
Department of Ohio

February 2023

Volume 1 Issue 8

### February PATRIOTIC HOLIDAYS:

- February 2-Army Nurse Corps Est
- February 3-USO Incorporated, Four Chaplains Day
- February 13-Marine Corps Women's Reserve est 1943
- February 23-Iwo Jima Flag raising
- 3rd Monday-President's Day & Coast Guard Reserve birthday

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## February 23-Iwo Jima Flag Raising

Joe Rosenthal missed the moment when United States Marines first raised the American flag over Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima. The Associated Press photographer was still climbing up the mountain at the time.

But when Marines raised another flag, he was there to capture the image for the ages. And he would spend the rest of the war arguing over whether he'd staged the second raising.

Fighting on Iwo Jima lasted 36 days, but it took the Marines only five days to reach the top of the eight-square-mile island's highest point, Mount Suribachi. Almost from the get-go, the fighting was brutal. Japan had a year to reinforce the island with tunnels carved into the mountainside, hidden artillery positions and a network of reinforced bunkers.

Allied bombing and naval barrages could do nothing to soften the island's defenses for the attacking Marines. When they landed, they were facing the full force of its Japanese defenders, who were willing to fight to the death for every inch of volcanic rock.

So when the Marines topped Suribachi and planted the first flag on Feb. 23, 1945, it was a huge boon to the Marines fighting below and the sailors offshore. The ships blew their horns when they saw the flag. Gunfire and cheers erupted from the sailors, Marines and Coast Guardsmen fighting below.

Gunfire also erupted from the Japanese soldiers, who saw the flag as just a new target atop the island's highest peak. After the flag was raised, a hail of bullets came in around the Marines on Mount Suribachi.

Marine Staff Sgt. Louis Lowery of Leatherneck Magazine was there to capture the first raising, but had to dive for cover when the enemy started shooting. His camera was broken in the fall, and he had to go back down the mountain to get new gear. On his way to the rear, he passed Rosenthal and his Graflex 4x5 camera. The AP representative was about to get something few war photographers ever did: a second chance at capturing the moment.

By the time Rosenthal reached the top, the first flag was still there. Like any good photographer, he waited around to see what came next. He didn't have to wait long.

After seeing how the American troops responded to the first flag being raised, [Marine Corps](#) Lt. Col. Chandler Johnson [ordered a new, larger flag](#) to be raised over the battlefield. This 96 x 56-inch flag would be one that could be seen across the island.



## Continued

Rosenthal was present for this flag raising, but he almost missed the second moment, too.

Marine Sgt. William Genaust was filming the moment and asked Rosenthal whether he was in his way. The AP photographer turned to look at Genaust and realized the Marines were raising the flag.

He had to snap the now-iconic photo without looking into the viewfinder. His next shot was a group photo of 16 Marines and two [Navy](#) corpsmen around the raised flag.

"Out of the corner of my eye, I had seen the men start the flag up," he later [told Colliers Magazine](#). "I swung my camera and shot the scene. That is how the picture was taken, and when you take a picture like that, you don't come away saying you got a great shot. You don't know."

Rosenthal sent the photo to be processed on Guam, where it was quickly sent out to The Associated Press in New York. Within 17 hours of the flag raising, the photo was on the newswires -- and on the desk of President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

It won a Pulitzer Prize for photography in 1945 and became a symbol of the enduring spirit of United States Marines.

In 1951, a former petty officer and sculptor named Felix de Weldon was commissioned to design a national memorial for the Marine Corps to be built in the Washington, D.C., area. He chose a sculpture of the image of the Marines on Mount Suribachi. It took three years to build the 78-foot-tall United States Marine Corps War Memorial, which was dedicated in 1954.



## Program Spotlight #1

### Buddy Poppy/National Home

Department Program Chairman: Leigh Ann Zigler

The “Buddy” Poppy and National Home program works together to support veterans and veteran families. As you will notice I have separated the report forms. I hope that it will be easier to report what you do.

As the VFW’s official memorial flower, the Poppy represents the blood shed by American service members. It reiterates that we will not forget their sacrifices. The VFW conducted its first Poppy distribution before Memorial Day in 1922, becoming the first veterans organization to organize a nationwide distribution. The VFW “Buddy” Poppies are assembled by disabled, hospitalized, aging and needy American veterans who would be paid for their work. To order “Buddy” Poppies is done through the VFW National Headquarters. Order your Auxiliary some Poppies and plan to have a Poppy Drive. When having a Poppy Drive, anyone can help with this function. Ask a youth group to help your auxiliary out. There are so many ways to promote the “Buddy” Poppy at your post and Auxiliary functions, sporting events, and other community activities that your Auxiliary does. Promote the National Home help line at the same time. When your Auxiliary has a Poppy Drive, remind your volunteers they are NOT SELLING the Poppies, BUT DISTRIBUTING THEM FOR DONATIONS. Never refuse someone a Poppy because they are unable to donate money. Remember that we distribute “Buddy” Poppies to remind everyone of the sacrifices of our veterans. When you receive any monies from Poppies remember that it is to go into your relief fund. Your relief fund can be used to provide financial, social and emotional support to Veterans and their families and to support the VFW National Home for Children. Other ways to promote the “Buddy” Poppy and the National Home include:

- Social Media
- At Fundraising events
- Become or Buy a National Home Life Membership for someone.
- Collect donations for the VFW National Home for Children
- Purchase from Amazon National Home Wish List and don’t forget to sign up for Amazon Smile to benefit the VFW National Home.
- Have a get together for a youth group and have them make a poppy display to honor Veterans.

Don’t forget to give them awards for their participation and give them pamphlets on the history of the “Buddy” Poppy.

## Program Spotlight #1 continued

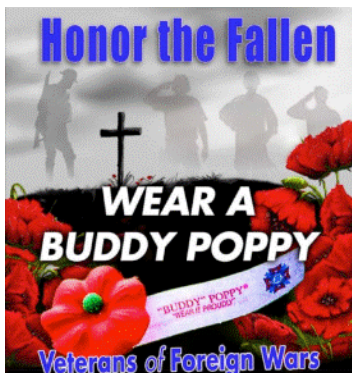
The VFW National Home for Children was founded in 1925 and is for Military and veterans who need a fresh start. Families can live at the National Home rent free for up to four years. At the National Home there are 42 single family homes. There is a gym, library, computer and science labs, a day care center, playgrounds, fishing pond, hiking trails and they even have their own Fire Department and Chapel. There is also a Helpline that is available to military families not living on campus. If you know of someone who needs assistance, encourage them to call the helpline at 1-800-313-4200.

*One way we as an auxiliary supports the National Home is through our Health and Happiness donations of at least 10 cents per member. You can also support the National Home by becoming a life member for a one-time membership fee of \$50.*

**As my special project for the National Home this year, is to take collections at your auxiliary meetings or at your District meetings or even at functions that your auxiliary has supporting the VFW National Home Library Fund. I will also be posting videos of the “Cat in the Hat” reading some Dr. Seuss books through out the year. I will also post activity pages that you can do with your youth or share with a class at a local school. This year we will also be having a .1k walk at the National Home on Ohio Day on August 6<sup>th</sup>. All proceeds will be donated to the VFW National Home.**

### Department Awards for “Buddy” Poppy and National Home:

- A Citation for each auxiliary that is 100% in “Buddy” Poppy and National Home Program by April 15, 2023.
- A Citation and an award for Best Promotion of “Buddy” Poppy and National Home at the June 2023 Convention
- A Citation and an award for the best participation in my National Home Library Fund special project to an auxiliary and also to a district chairman.





# Support the National Home

By Donating to the Health & Education Building's Veterans Resource Center

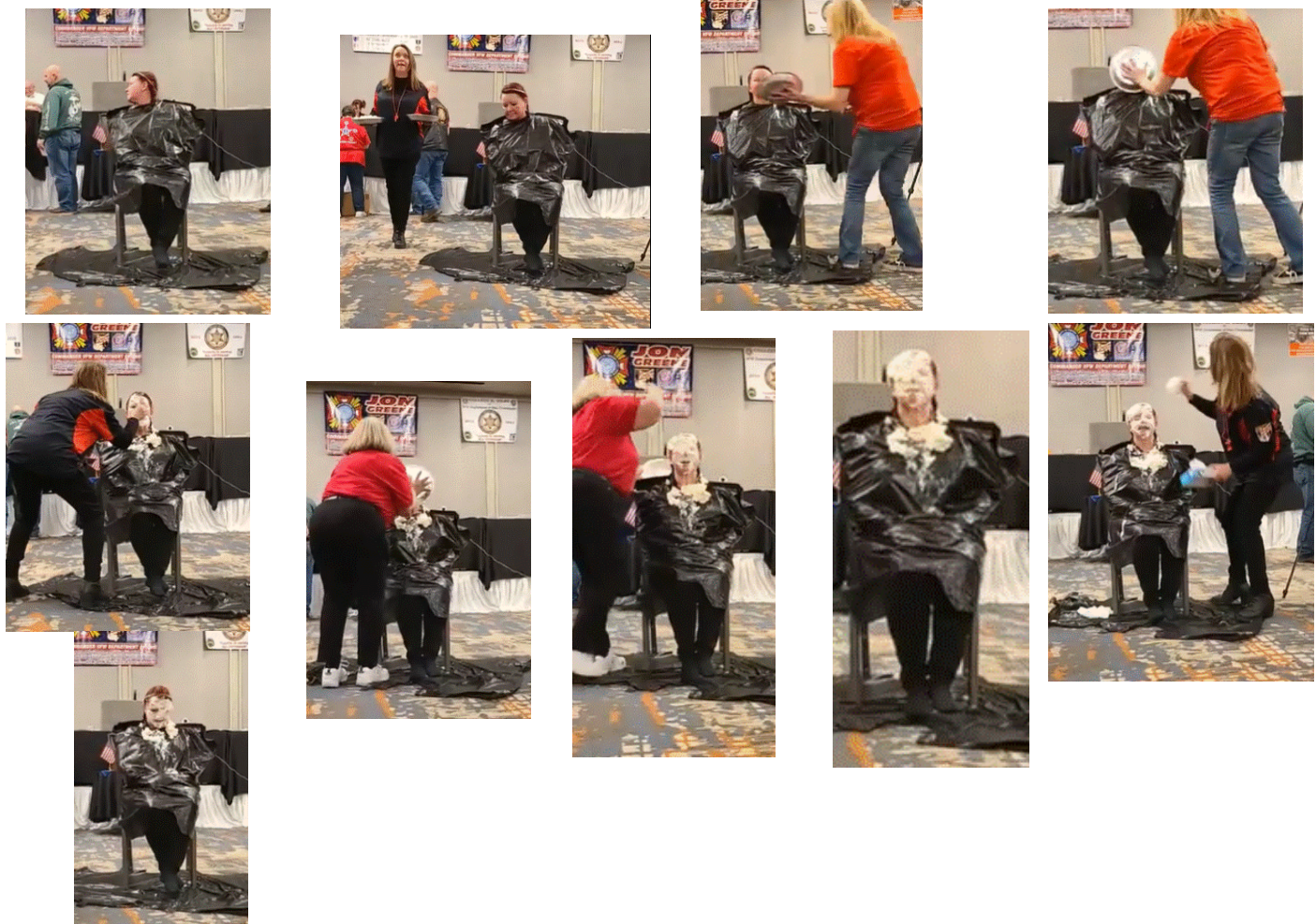
**What Is It?** The VFW National Home is currently in the process of renovating the Health & Education Building, with focus on the offices downstairs where the Veterans Resource Center opened in October, 2022. The Veterans Resource Center helps veterans and their families access resources and support they otherwise may not be able to find or afford. Note: When this Auxiliary-sponsored building opened nearly a century ago, it was the campus hospital. For a while, it even housed quarantined children with tuberculosis.

**How Much?** The National Home needs an estimated \$10,000 to complete this project. (Any excess will go toward additional Veterans Resource Center necessities.)

**How Can We Help?** There are nearly 3,500 Auxiliaries. If each Auxiliary were to donate \$3 in December, the National Home could finish 2022 having already met their goal!

Please mail donations directly to the National Home (3573 S Waverly Rd, Eaton Rapids, MI, 48827) with checks earmarked "Veterans Resource Center." Thank you!

## Whipped Cream Pie In Department President's Face & Drawing



## Dept of Ohio Aux Legislative Chairman Renell Noack Recognized by Legislative Program National Ambassador Bobbi Goldman in the January 2023 Program Blog

I want to give a round of applause to Rennell Noak, the Legislative Chairman of Ohio. She recently visited a local high school to talk about veterans' issues and the importance of voting.

I really enjoy it when you send me pictures with your reports. Keep 'em coming.



# CHAIN OF COMMAND

## AUXILIARY PRESIDENTS

Report to the District President with problems



## DISTRICT PRESIDENTS

Assists ***Auxiliary Presidents*** in finding solutions to problems. If you are not sure of the answer or action to be taken, contact the ***Department President***



## DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

Will work along with the **Chief of Staff** to help find solutions to the problems the **District Presidents** have reported. Will contact the **National Office** with any problems or actions that cannot be taken care of on the Department level

PLEASE **DO NOT** deviate from this  
CHAIN OF COMMAND  
Following this will make it easier  
for ALL of us!



## Eligibility Requirements for VFW Auxiliary Membership:

Members must be at least 16 years old.

Those eligible are:

- Husband/Wife
- Widower/Widow
- Father/Mother
- Grandfathers/Grandmothers
- Sons/Daughters
- Grandsons/Granddaughters
- Brothers/Sisters

Of persons who were or are eligible for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.

Those eligible for membership in the VFW are those that have received a campaign medal for overseas service; have served 30 consecutive or 60 non-consecutive days in Korea; or have ever received hostile fire or imminent danger pay.

*Step- and adopted parents, children, siblings (and half-siblings), grandparents and grandchildren are considered the same as biological parents, children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren and may join the VFW Auxiliary under their VFW-eligible veteran.*

**Proof of service is required for eligibility and must be obtained by the applicant.**

Information on a veteran's service record can be obtained by contacting:

**National Archives and Records Administration**

Phone: 1-866-272-6272

Online:

**Veterans Service Records:** <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

**4-Step Veteran Request Process:** <https://vetrecs.archives.gov/VeteranRequest/home.html>

**Military Records Request Using Standard Form 180 (SF-**

**180):** <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html>

If you have membership questions or need more information, please contact us at [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org).

## Program Spotlight #2

### Membership

Department Chairman: Jess Gardner

#### Local Auxiliary Member:

- Annual dues vary by Auxiliary.
- Completed membership application, proof of eligibility (only if veteran is not a member of the same Post), and payment is sent to local Auxiliary.
- The local Auxiliary will investigate your eligibility and vote to accept or reject your application.
- May attend Auxiliary, County Council, District, Department (state) or National meetings, and is allowed to enter the business session of these meetings.
- May hold an office at the Auxiliary, County Council, District or Department (state) level.
- May be a Delegate to the National Convention.
- May participate in any of the National Programs and earn Auxiliary, District, Department (state) and National Awards.
- May qualify for Cancer Care Plus Insurance Program (Cancer Insurance).
- May receive a Cancer Grant, if eligible.
- May purchase self-pay insurances and burial benefits.

May participate in member benefits received through the mail, e-mail or listed on the National website. May receive *VFW Auxiliary Magazine* and e-newsletter.

Adding younger members is essential to the future of the VFW Auxiliary. However, younger people often have hectic schedules, family obligations, and financial constraints that make it difficult to commit to local Auxiliaries. We need to make VFW Auxiliary membership more attractive and more feasible for younger members. Here are several ideas that Auxiliaries can consider to attract younger members to the organization:

- ▮ Reach out to current or past Scholarship winners/applicants to join.
- ▮ Create social and networking activities that are interesting and convenient for younger people. Encourage younger members to be involved in the planning of these events.
- ▮ Invite groups of younger people to join at the same time to make them feel more comfortable. Help them encourage their peers to get involved as well.
- ▮ Foster an Auxiliary environment that is accepting of occasional absences. Perfect attendance is typically not attainable for today's younger members.
- ▮ Highlight monthly opportunities to get involved in local service projects.
- ▮ Assign a current Auxiliary member to serve as a mentor for the first six months to make a new younger member feel welcome.
- ▮ Get younger members involved from the start. Younger members are creative and eager to generate new ideas for solving persistent Auxiliary problems. Ensure that the fresh ideas and knowledge of younger members have a voice and a space to grow.
- ▮ Offer variety. Be open to the various ways that younger members can participate in your Auxiliary. Find out about their abilities and interests, and find ways to put them to good use in your Auxiliary's work.
- ▮ Incorporate youth-welcoming messages in all Auxiliary communications that begin with the assumption that younger members are important to the organization because they make valuable contributions, and they are needed at all levels of Auxiliary leadership.



## Midwinter Auction

I am so excited to report to all of you that at our annual Friday night Auxiliary Auction at Midwinter Conference raised over \$14,000.00! A BIG shout out to our State Commander Jon Greene who was nice enough to allow me to auction off to the highest bidder: a chance to toss a whipped cream pie in his face! The winning bidder, State Inspector John Wiley who had the winning bid of \$5,000.00!!! John, Colleen (Sr Vice Commander) and Kari Pfeifer together as a team smooshed the whip cream pie in the State Commander's face! GREAT JOB !

The monies made from the auction will be split into 3 donations to the following:

- Save-A-Warrior (our special project)
- Ride With Valor
- Splash of Love from Home

The check for Save-A-Warrior will be mailed to them, while the checks for Ride With Valor and Splash of Love from Home will be delivered in person once everything has been scheduled to meet.

I tried something new this year for the auction to help get it more organized for the bidders and the ones keeping track of who won what item and the correct winning bid price. Lots of people said having the bidding paddles helped keep down all the shouting out and not know who was bidding.

A big thank you to our District Presidents, VFW & Auxiliary Department Line officers, Tracy Fife, Diana Moore-Morris, Erv Yoder and especially our Auctioneer Past District 10 Commander Andy Leidigh. Our success that night wouldn't be possible to all that helped donate baskets, show the items and engaged the crowd.



## District Testimonial Dates

### MARCH TESTIMONIALS

#### March 12, 2023

District 3

President Chad Hoke

Commander Harry Poling

Huber Heights Post 3283

5074 Nebraska Ave. Huber Heights, OH 45424 5

TIME: Immediately following District Meeting

#### March 25, 2023 TIME: 6pm

District 7

President Dave Sargent

Commander Luther Sawicki

Fairport Harbor Post 7754

40 New St Fairport Harbor, OH 44077

### APRIL TESTIMONIALS

#### April 1, 2023 TIME: 5pm

District 2

President Robin Hagaman

Commander Scott Dues

Wapakoneta Post 8445

712 N Dixie Hwy Wapakoneta, OH 45895

#### April 8, 2023 TIME: 5pm

District 9

President Brenda Cunning

Commander Terry Stanforth

Fremont Post 2947

711 Fisher Dr Fremont, OH 43420

#### April 29, 2023 TIME: 6pm cocktails Dinner 7pm

District 1 President Lisa Rashley Commander Ron Poland

Wauseon Post 7424 1133 N Ottokee St , Wauseon OH 43567

### MAY TESTIMONIALS

#### May 7, 2023 TIME: 5pm

District 8

President Dominique Graves-Robinson

Commander Mark Ross

Ravenna Post 1055

6000 New Milford Rd Ravenna, OH 44266

#### May 13, 2023 TIME: 5pm

District 6

President Billie Melott

Commander Douglas Brannon

Carrollton Post 3301

2291 Chase Rd., SE Carrollton, OH 44615

#### May 20, 2023 TIME: 5pm

District 5

President Pam Tracey

Commander Kenneth Blume

Malta Post 4713

235 Front Street Malta, OH 43758

#### May 20, 2023 TIME: 5pm

District 10

President Brooke Leidigh

Commander Rodger Brodman

Crestline Post 2920

100 S Crestline St Crestline, OH 44827



<b>District Testimonial Dates Continued</b>
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**DATE: TBA TIME: TBA**

District 11

President Marie Leister

Commander Iris Foster-DeNieuwe

**TBA**

**DATE: TBA**

**TIME: TBA**

District 12

President Christina Spencer

Commander Nicholette Bolte

**TBA**

<b>National President Jane Reape NEEDS TEAMOHIO's HELP</b>
--

HELP!!! We need to help National President Jane raise money for the Voice of Democracy Scholarship— Let's help save her from getting a pie in her face by National Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland

Message from Jane:

Tim and I have challenge. Whoever raises the most money for the Voice of Democracy Scholarship in the name of our class gets to pie the other in the face. I need your help!! Tim has raised twice as much money as the Auxiliary has. I need your help!!! If every Dept and/or Auxiliary donated \$150 we could move ahead of Tim.

Thank you in advance. Either way it for a good cause.

Jane Reape  
National President

"Friendship is the source of the greatest pleasures, and without friends even the most agreeable pursuits become tedious." *St Thomas Aquinas*

## INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS

"It's often the small steps, not the giant leaps, that bring about the most lasting change."

— HRM Queen Elizabeth

"We will fail when we fail to try."

— Rosa Parks

"We can't help everyone, but everyone can help someone"

— Ronald Reagan

"Act as if what you do makes a difference. IT DOES." — William James

## Blessings Sent

To all having birthdays & anniversaries, enjoy!

To those struggling with illness-I send healing thoughts & prayers

To those that have lost a loved one, my thoughts & prayers are with you and your families

From my family to yours, I wish you blessings, joy, health, love & prosperity

Remember to keep our Troops, both home and deployed around the world in your thoughts and prayers-remember FREEDOM isn't FREE!

**GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA!!**

