



VFW Auxiliary Department of Ohio

President's Message

HELLO #TEAMOHIO!!

Welcome to the VFW Auxiliary Department of Ohio's 7th newsletter! Can you believe we are almost halfway through our Program year? WOW, where did the time go?!

I would like to remind everyone of some of the upcoming events during the month of December's Patriotic Holidays and celebrations.

- December 7– National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- December 15– Bill of Rights Day
- December 17– Wreaths Across America
- December 18- Hanukkah begins
- December 20– Space Force Birthday
- December 24- Christmas Eve
- December 25- Christmas Day
- December 26- Kwanzaa begins

I would like to remind all Officers (that are Annual members) to have your dues paid BEFORE the December 31st deadline (if not paid, you will unfortunately be removed). You can pay your annual dues on MALTA. If you are not signed up in MALTA yet...DO IT NOW! It is soo very easy. Just need your membership number and a password you can remember.

I pray that everyone stays healthy, blessed and remember the true meaning of Christmas-the birth of our LORD, Jesus. Last but not least, please keep our Troops in your prayers not just for the holidays-but every day!

Kathy Matesic

Bill of Rights Day

December 15th is Bill of Rights Day, celebrating the addition of the Bill of Rights to the U.S. Constitution on that day in 1791. This holiday celebrates the freedoms and rights that the Bill of Rights preserve for Americans. In 1941, on the 150th anniversary of the ratification of the Bill of Rights, President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared the date a federal holiday.



VFW Auxiliary Department of Ohio

Volume 1 Issue 6

December 2022

December PATRIOTIC HOLIDAYS:

- December 7-National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- December 15-Bill of Rights Day
- December 24- Christmas Eve
- December 25-Christmas

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December 7-Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

On the morning of December 7, 1941, Japanese bombers staged a surprise attack on U.S. military and naval forces in Hawaii. In a devastating defeat, the United States suffered 3,435 casualties and loss of or severe damage to 188 planes, 8 battleships, 3 light cruisers, and 4 miscellaneous vessels. Japanese losses were less than 100 personnel, 29 planes, and 5 midget submarines.

The day after the attack, before a joint session of Congress, President Roosevelt asked Congress for a declaration of war against Japan. President Roosevelt's message conveyed the national outrage over the Pearl Harbor attack by pronouncing December 7, 1941 "a date which will live in infamy."

FDR expressed outrage at Japan and confidence in the "inevitable triumph" of the United States. On December 8, 1941, the United States declared war against Japan; on December 11 Germany and Italy declared war against the United States.



Membership & OFFICERS

All officers on all levels **MUST HAVE THEIR DUES PAID** no later than December 30th. If the dues are not paid, the member can no longer hold that office.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU LOSE IF YOU DON'T PAY YOUR VFW AUXILIARY DUES?

1. Cancer Grants.
2. Unable to attend meetings.
3. Unable to sign in at the canteen.
4. If you are an Officer, you will be removed.
5. Individual Auxiliary incentives (cheaper hall rental, etc).

Have you paid your dues? If so, thank you! If not, please pay your dues! Consider purchasing a Life Membership so you don't have to worry about paying your dues each year. Contact your Auxiliary Treasurer or login to MALTA to pay your dues online today!

Safety Tips for The Holidays

10 Ways to Stay Safe as You Deck the Halls this Holiday Season

The holiday season is here, and the American Red Cross wants everyone to stay safe from home fires as they decorate their homes for the upcoming festivities.

Decorations like trees, lights and candles increase the risk of home fires during the holidays—with Christmas, New Year's Eve and New Year's Day being the top three days for home candle fires, according to the National Fire Protection Association.

The Red Cross wants people to stay safe from home fires—the nation's most frequent disaster—by testing their smoke alarms and practicing their home fire escape plan with free resources at [redcross.org/homefires](https://www.redcross.org/homefires). In addition, you can follow these 10 simple safety tips as you put up lights and ornaments:

1. Check all holiday light cords to make sure they aren't frayed or broken. Don't string too many strands of lights together—no more than three per extension cord.
2. If are buying an artificial tree, look for the fire-resistant label. When putting it up, keep it away from fireplaces, radiators and other sources of heat.
3. If getting a live tree, make sure it's fresh and water it to keep it fresh. Bend the needles up and down to make sure no needles fall off.
4. If using older decorations, check their labels. Some older tinsel is lead-based. If using angel hair, wear gloves to avoid irritation. Avoid breathing in artificial snow.
5. When decorating outside, make sure decorations are for outdoor use and fasten lights securely to your home or trees. If using hooks or nails outside, make sure they are insulated to avoid an electrocution or fire hazard.
6. If using a ladder, be extra careful. Make sure to have good, stable placement and wear shoes that allow for good traction.
7. Don't use electric lights on metallic trees.
8. Don't forget to turn off all holiday lights when going to bed or leaving the house.
9. Keep children, pets and decorations away from candles.
10. If hanging stockings on the fireplace mantel, don't light the fireplace.

December 17, 2022 National Wreaths Across America Day

One man's annual tribute to our veterans inspired a legion of volunteers and gave rise to the Wreaths Across America of today

Morrill Worcester, owner of **Worcester Wreath Company** of Harrington, Maine, was a 12 year old paper boy for the Bangor Daily News when he won a trip to Washington D.C. His first trip to our nation's capital was one he would never forget, and Arlington National Cemetery made an especially indelible impression on him. This experience followed him throughout his life and successful career, reminding him that his good fortune was due, in large part, to the values of this nation and the veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

In 1992, Worcester Wreath found themselves with a surplus of wreaths nearing the end of the holiday season. Remembering his boyhood experience at Arlington, Worcester realized he had an opportunity to honor our country's veterans. With the aid of Maine Senator Olympia Snowe, arrangements were made for the wreaths to be placed at Arlington in one of the older sections of the cemetery that had been receiving fewer visitors with each passing year.

As plans were underway, a number of other individuals and organizations stepped up to help. James Prout, owner of local trucking company Blue Bird Ranch, Inc., generously provided transportation all the way to Virginia. Volunteers from the local American Legion and VFW Posts gathered with members of the community to decorate each wreath with traditional red, hand-tied bows. Members of the Maine State Society of Washington, D.C. helped to organize the wreath-laying, which included a special ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The annual tribute went on quietly for several years, until 2005, when a photo of the stones at Arlington, adorned with wreaths and covered in snow, circulated around the internet. Suddenly, the project received national attention. Thousands of requests poured in from all over the country from people wanting to help with Arlington, to emulate the Arlington project at their National and State cemeteries, or to simply share their stories and thank Morrill Worcester for honoring our nation's heroes.

"The annual tribute went on quietly for several years, until 2005, when a photo of the stones at Arlington, adorned with wreaths and covered in snow, circulated around the internet."



December 17, 2022 National Wreaths Across America Day Continued

Unable to donate thousands of wreaths to each state, Worcester began sending seven wreaths to every state, one for each branch of the military, and for POW/MIAs. In 2006, with the help of the Civil Air Patrol and other civic organizations, simultaneous wreath-laying ceremonies were held at over 150 locations around the country. The Patriot Guard Riders volunteered as escort for the wreaths going to Arlington. This began the annual "Veterans Honor Parade" that travels the east coast in early December.

The annual trip to Arlington and the groups of volunteers eager to participate in Worcester's simple wreath-laying event grew each year until it became clear the desire to remember and honor our country's fallen heroes was bigger than Arlington, and bigger than this one company.

In 2007, the Worcester family, along with veterans, and other groups and individuals who had helped with their annual veteran's wreath ceremony in Arlington, formed Wreaths Across America, a non-profit 501-(c)(3) organization, to continue and expand this effort, and support other groups around the country who wanted to do the same. The mission of the group is simple: "The annual trip to Arlington and the groups of volunteers eager to participate in Worcester's simple wreath-laying event grew each year until it became clear the desire to remember and honor our country's fallen heroes was bigger than Arlington, and bigger than this one company."

Remember. Honor. Teach.

In 2008, over 300 locations held wreath-laying ceremonies in every state, Puerto Rico and 24 overseas cemeteries. Over 100,000 wreaths were placed on veterans' graves. Over 60,000 volunteers participated. And that year, December 13, 2008 was unanimously voted by the US Congress as "Wreaths Across America Day".

In 2014, Wreaths Across America and its national network of volunteers laid over 700,000 memorial wreaths at 1,000 locations in the United States and beyond, including ceremonies at the Pearl Harbor Memorial, as well as Bunker Hill, Valley Forge and the sites of the September 11 tragedies. This was accomplished with help from 2,047 sponsorship groups, corporate contributions, and donations of trucking, shipping, and thousands of helping hands. The organization's goal of covering Arlington National Cemetery was met in 2014 with the placement of 226,525 wreaths. The wreath-laying is still held annually on the second or third Saturday of December. WAA's annual pilgrimage from Harrington, Maine to Arlington National Cemetery has become known as the world's largest veterans' parade, stopping at schools, monuments, veterans' homes and communities all along the way to remind people how important it is to **remember, honor and teach**.

Wreaths Across America also conducts several programs to honor our veterans, including the popular "Thanks a Million" campaign which distributes cards to people all over the country to give veterans a simple "thank you" for their service. WAA participates in veterans' events throughout the year and has a veteran liaison on staff to work with local veterans' organizations.

Program Spotlight #1

Chief of Staff

Department Program Chairman: Diana Moore-Morris

Revitalize and Rejuvenate

Extension and Revitalization is a two-part Program:

Instituting new Auxiliaries and revitalizing struggling new auxiliaries. Most of my emphasis this year will be on revitalizing troubled Auxiliaries. It doesn't do any good, on any level, to bring a new Auxiliary in the front door, only to have one go out the back. We need to save what we have and grow new, well-functioning Auxiliaries.

Since District Presidents have first-hand knowledge of their Auxiliaries, it is important that you communicate with your Deputy Chief of Staff, Department President Kathy and myself, as Department Chief of Staff, to identify areas of concern. When identifying a problem, the District President, with the assistance of the

Department President and/or Chief of Staff, can work with that Auxiliary to rectify the situation. Be sure to recognize any achievements the Auxiliary or an Auxiliary member has attained when visiting an Auxiliary. We need to recognize and encourage every member for their involvement. This will assure their continued volunteering, which, in turn, results in the success of their Auxiliary.

Maintaining Current Auxiliaries

The National Organization has developed a lot of resources for our auxiliaries and members to use, including tools available on the Online Auxiliary Academy and the Program & Publicity Resources page of the National website: vfwauxiliary.org/resources. Two of these resources have proven to be valuable tools in helping Auxiliaries become more productive. These tools also help all members to come forward and take on a position of leadership, mentoring, and being a member who advocates for their Auxiliary and the veterans we serve. It is our duty to make certain our auxiliaries are educated in where to find these resources.

Official Visit Communication

District Presidents will look to the Department President and myself for guidance as they perform their auxiliary visits. You, as Deputy Chiefs of Staff, need to educate yourselves about how to recognize red flags that may lead to a problem in an Auxiliary. Remember, our struggling auxiliaries need timely advice, not criticism.

It is my duty to assist you, as Deputy Chiefs of Staff, in encouraging your District Presidents as they make their official visits to your Auxiliaries. Each District President or representative making the Official Visit to the auxiliaries in your District should complete their report giving an honest assessment of the auxiliary and affirm that the auxiliary is in good working order or that it has areas in need of improvement. Doing so, will allow Department President Kathy to discuss with myself any concerns that your District President and you may feel need to be addressed and corrected before they become major problems.

Program Spotlight #1 continued

5 Essentials of an Auxiliary

The National Organization requires only five (5) things of an Auxiliary. So, please familiarize yourself with these 5 essentials. Too many stringent requirements leave an auxiliary to feel overwhelmed.:

1. Auxiliaries should have at least ten (10) business meetings per year. (Sec. 210) Five (5) members in good standing (of that Auxiliary) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. (Sec. 212)
2. Dues should be paid by at least ten (10) members on or before February 1 of the current year. (Sec. 207)
3. Quarterly Audits by Trustees must be submitted to the Department Office on time. (Sec. 814)
4. Officers elected, installed and reported to the Department Office and National Headquarters no later than June 30. This generates the bond application via email. (Sec. 804A and 806A)
5. The offices of President and Treasurer MUST be bonded by August 31.

Presentations to Bachelor Posts

An Auxiliary cannot be established without a 2/3 vote of a Post, but let's make it unanimous by sharing our virtues with the Post. Inform your Bachelor Posts in your District about the benefits of having an Auxiliary. Choose a positive, knowledgeable Auxiliary member to speak to the Post Commander and ask for permission to address the Post membership about the benefits of having an Auxiliary. It is a win for both Post and Auxiliary, and especially for the veterans we serve. Be certain to contact Department President Kathy and myself if your District is looking to institute a new auxiliary so that all National requirements and the necessary paperwork is completed correctly.

Suspensions, Cancellations and Consolidations

An Auxiliary is in danger of losing its Charter when they are unable to meet the 5 Essentials of an Auxiliary. Suspensions are used in certain cases to give Auxiliary members a chance to fulfill their duties and continue with their mission of serving veterans, service members and their families. Please remember to advise your auxiliaries that being placed on suspension is not negative. It is not labeling your Auxiliary as a "bad Auxiliary." It simply means there is some mentoring needs to be done to get that Auxiliary where it needs to be. A team will be appointed by Department President Kathy to mentor, educate and listen to help bring an auxiliary back to health. Cancellations can only be done by the National President, with or without the recommendation of the Department President.

If a VFW Post closes or consolidates, Auxiliary National Headquarters will be notified. ONLY AFTER THIS NOTIFICATION can the process for closing or consolidating begin.

- Far too often, an Auxiliary will start the cancellation or consolidation process because they heard through the grapevine the Post was shutting down or consolidating with another Post. Rumors can be harmful and actions should not - and must not - be taken due to rumors.
- The notification from National Headquarters will allow ample time to close, move members to a desired working Auxiliary or consolidate where the Post goes. Be sure to take NO ACTION until you receive direction from Department President Kathy, as she will receive notification from the National Headquarters.

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!

Mid-Winter Conference Tentative Itinerary

January 13-14, 2023

Friday, January 13, 2023

DRESS: RED SHIRT, BLACK PANTS & BLACK JACKET

8:00 am	Department Line Officers Meeting-TBA
8:00 am	REGISTRATION & POPPY DISPLAY Room open
9:00 am	Department Chairmen Meeting–Conference Room TBD
9:30 am	District Presidents Meeting-Conference Room TBD
10:00-11:30 am	Council of Administration
11:30-1:00 pm	Past President Luncheon
1:00-2:00 pm	Council of Administration (if Needed)
2:00-4:00 pm	School of Instruction, MALTA Sign-ups-more topics TBD
5:00-6:00 pm	Meet & Greet with National Officer Tracy Fife
7:00 pm	Auxiliary Auction baskets dropped off
7:30 pm-?	Auxiliary Auction & PIE IN Dept President's Face

Saturday, January 14, 2023

DRESS: DISTRICT/AUXILIARY SHIRTS & CASUAL PANTS (NO HOLES/TEARS)

7:30 am	Chapel Service – Save A Warrior
8:00-9:30 am	Department Chairmen to distribute awards
9:30-11:00 am	Team Building Scavenger Hunt
11:00-11:15 am	TEAMOHIO picture and Scavenger Hunt wrap up
11:15-11:45 am	Poppy Display Awards
11:45-1:00 pm	Voice of Democracy Luncheon- invitation only (law enforcement/Firefighter/EMT/ P Pen) BUCKEYE ROOM

OPTIONAL

1:30 pm	Voice of Democracy Speech Presentations/ Law Enforcement/Firefighter/EMT/ P Pen Presentation- BALLROOM 3-4
5:45-6:45 pm	Past State Commander & Past State President's reception- Cardinal Room
6:00-6:30 pm	Honorees Reception BUCKEYE ROOM
6:00-6:30 pm	General Reception (cash bar) FOYER 1 & 2
7:00 pm	Mid-Winter Voice of Democracy Banquet-TICKETS REQUIRED
MIDNIGHT	VFW District 9 POW/MIA Vigil FOYER 2 (outside)

Sunday, January 15, 2023

SAFE TRAVELS HOME



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 grand-children 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.

Program Spotlight #2

Spirit

Department Chairman: Shannon Stanley

"In a World Full of Grinches, be Cindy Lou Who"

"Guess what's back?
Back Again
Spirit's Back
Tell your friends"



This year our Madam President Kathy has honored me with being your 2022-2023 spirit chairman, and without hesitation I said YES!!! I AM PROUD TO BE A MEMBER OF ONE OF THE LARGEST STATES IN THE VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY and more importantly PROUD and HONORED to serve with every one of you!!

This year I would like to see all of us in the crowd with noise makers, signs, and a willingness to have fun and learn. I want to see each and every one of you cheering on our brothers and sisters as they earn awards for their auxiliaries and themselves.

We are ONE TEAM WITH ONE FIGHT, and we need to show everyone within our organization and in our communities how much we believe in what we do for our Veterans and their families, because spirit doesn't only belong inside our organization, it belongs in everything we do. It's a smile, excitement, passion, and a love that shines through for volunteering for our heroes.

This year I will be asking you to do challenges to show me your auxiliary and district spirit. Each activity will have a winner with a citation and a small gift from me, so with that being said your first challenge is below:

CHALLENGE ONE IF YOU CHOOSE TO ACCEPT:

(District)

Write a rhyme in the spirit of Dr. Seuss about your District. Have your District Spirit chairman dress up as their favorite Dr. Seuss book character (please do not do anything expensive just be creative) to present in front of the membership at the July C of A. I will have judges ready and there will be a prize for the best rhyme and runner up!!!

Let's BE LOUD AND PROUD TEAM OHIO!!

Midwinter Auction

I am so excited to see each of you in January! Friday night I am so excited to get those pies in my face and for the annual Auxiliary Auction!!!

The proceeds for the auction on Friday night will be split into 3 different non-profit organizations: Save-A-Warrior (Our Joint Project), Ride with Valor and Splash of Love.

Bring your wallets & money clips and get your arms ready to raise those bidding paddles (supplied by dept) on some AMAZING items donated by the District President/Commanders, the Department Line Officers for the Auxiliary/VFW.

If any Auxiliary/Posts/individuals would like to donate a basket or Raffle item, PLEASE have them to the Auction room no later than 7pm (with description of items/value).



Oh The Places We Can Go

Every Sunday 11am-1pm
VFW Post 2898
3925 W Alexis Rd. Toledo, OH 43623

Brunch

Egg Bombs \$3.50
2 eggs w/ Toast 3.50
2 eggs w/ Biscuits + gravy 7.00
Biscuits + gravy 4.00
2 eggs, meat, Potato ^{cake} + Toast 6.50

* Extra meat \$2.00

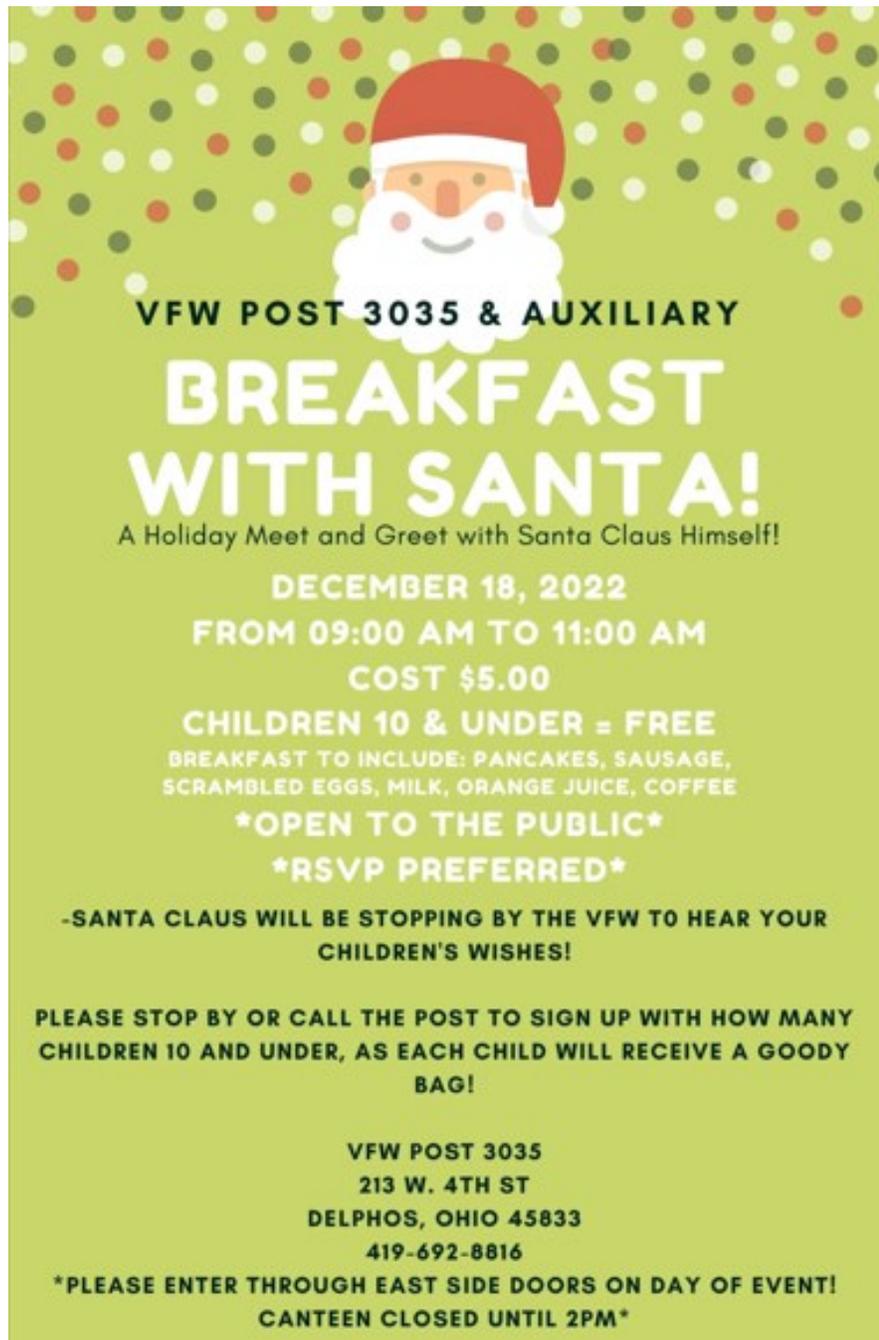
* Ea. egg \$1.25

* all sandwiches come w/ chips + spicy Pickle

Egg salad Bagel sandwich \$3.50
BLT 4.00
grilled cheese 3.00
Bagel w/ Cream cheese 1.50

Cup of chilli \$2.00
Baked Potato w/ chilli \$3.00

Loaded Bloody Mary \$6.00



It is truly sad that I had only received events from 2 auxiliaries out of the 221 that are a part of TEAMOHIO!!!

I am trying to help each Post & Auxiliary...but I cannot without your HELP!

INSPIRATIONAL THOUGHTS

“And once the storm is over, you won’t remember how you made it through, how you managed to survive. You won’t even be sure, whether the storm is really over. But one thing is certain. When you come out of the storm, you won’t be the same person who walked in. That’s what this storm’s all about.”

— Haruki Murakami

“Attitude is a choice. Happiness is a choice. Optimism is a choice. Kindness is a choice. Giving is a choice. Respect is a choice. Whatever choice you make makes you. Choose wisely.”

— Roy T. Bennett

- “What is Christmas? It is the tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace.” — Agnes M. Pharo
- “Christmas will always be as long as we stand heart to heart and hand in hand.” — Dr. Seuss

Midwinter Hotel Information

Department Mid-Winter Conference on January 13-15, 2023

Crowne Plaza North Worthington,

6500 Doubletree Avenue Columbus, OH.

Please call (614) 885-1885 and select OPTION #2.

When making reservations, please ask for the **VFW Midwinter Conference** or reference the three-letter group code **VMM** to receive the group rate of **\$105.00 plus tax**.

THE CUTOFF DATE IS JANUARY 5, 2023.

No MULTIPLE room reservations under one (1) name.

Everyone needs to make their own reservation

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 during this holiday season

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!!

