



President's Message February 2024

Brothers and Sisters,

Wow! Mid -Winter has come and gone. We would like to give a special thank you to District # 7 Auxiliaries for such a successful Mid-Winter. We had so many compliments on the courtesies you showed all of us. Here are some names of those who made your Mid-Winter so successful, Shirley Lance, Paulette Rivera, Carol Trunzo, Char Lauer, Dorene Bendickson, Bicky LaRoque, Jo Cadwallader, Angela Fillion, Barbara Miller - plus a few others behind the scenes people.

Thank you to Michelle Thompson for substituting for Margie Lindberg our Legislative Chairman, who was hurt and undergoing medical treatment. Thank you to Elaine Taylor who substituted for Doreen Dale our Americanism Chairman, Thank you to Cindy Burkey who substituted for Lori Nettles our Department Hospital Chairman who had emergency shoulder surgery, Sylvia Strohm for watching the raffle baskets, Annie Sullivan for VMS,MVS table ,Kirsten Moylan for 50/50 sales, Candice for Department Pin Sales and Shirley Brown who substituted for our Department Guard. If I missed someone I apologize in advance, as there was so much going on. I thank you for your willingness to help wherever and whenever possible.

To all of the Line Officers, Department Chairmen, District Presidents, and members who braved the weather to get to Mid-Winter, I thank you for your dedication to our organization. This was one of the most difficult Mid-Winters we have ever been to; that is, what would have been a 3-hour journey for many of you turned into an all-day event.

Thank you to Robbin Seeberger and Cindy Burkey for their training classes. There were lots of questions asked and we hope you got the answer you were looking for.

The centerpieces turned out better than I imagined. There were 11-Poppies, 11 Tear drops and 11 Pictures of our veterans. 11-11-11 we remember them. Thank you for the photos, and for bringing your veterans to dinner.

We would like to let the 85 People who were not able to attend Mid-Winter that you were missed.

On March 4, 2024, I will be at the Legislative Conference in DC and at the Parade of Winners. I look forward to walking with our Voice Of Democracy Winner from District #6 Benjamin Offutt . This will be live streamed.

The CHALLENGE is over. The Auxiliary lost, but it was a close race. VFW #7392 won the chance to dress me up like a Superhero at the June Convention. Please continue to send your contributions in to VMS and NVS.

As of February 10, 2024, we are 97.37 % in membership. We are only 225 people away from being 100%, and I know that we will get to 100% soon. Please get your membership in. There are lots of benefits to being a member of the VFW Auxiliary. If you follow this link

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/member-benefits/> you will find discounts on Insurance programs to include Auto, Home, Accidental Death and Dismemberment, Long Term Care, Cancer Grants, Hearing Plan, and travel benefits.

The end of March will find you thinking about Delegates. These Delegates are good for a year. When registering Delegates and Alternates think about who will be at District, Department and National Conventions. Make sure they know what you think about upcoming issues, so they can be your voice.

My journey took me to District #6. Thank you to the District President Tom Huffman for the handmade Poppy Ornament and lovely Patriotic Glass Ornament along with the Love Gift. My journey these last couple of months took me to several awards functions, and to VFW Auxiliary #5564 McCleary Auxiliary to present them with their charter. It was presented 2 years after their institution; may the presentation of the Charter bring you good luck.

There will be a "Salute to Veterans WEEK" at the Seattle VA February 13, 2024 and several auxiliaries have donated items for the booth. Thank you for your generous donations of note pads, pens, snack packs of crackers, granola bars, water and so much more. Thank you to Pam and Connie Vitiritti for manning the booth.

There are some additional awards - look at Veterans and Family support and see Department Chairman Annie Sullivan's Bulletin. There is another Award for Extension & Revitalization, please see the Chief of Staff Report. Use Historian and Media Relations Award NO. 1 when sending in Legacy Video - see Historian and Media Relations. There is an award for National Auxiliary Member of the Year and a copy of it will be in this Bulletin.

We hope you will join us for the VFW National Auxiliary President's Visit March 27-29, 2024, in the Port Orchard area. There was a flyer sent to every auxiliary president to announce at their meeting. All members are welcome not just the Presidents. This is your opportunity to meet the National President Carla Martinez. Sister Carla is a veteran. She loves ornaments. Please bring a postcard representing your area to give to her to show her what your hometown looks like. If you have any donations for her Special Project please bring them, as there will be a gift presentation at the dinner.

Those of you who are coming please bring your floor flags for the "Aisles of Honor". If you are attending the dinner, please bring your Auxiliary or District banners with a stand. We would like to see how many Auxiliaries and/or Districts are attending the dinner.

Please start looking at your Year End Reports, time is slipping away from us, but there is still time for more projects. Thank you for your continued support of our veterans.

This Department has time and time again stepped up and is "Doing it for those who can't" and are "Banding together for Our Veterans."

Loyally,

Rose Green, President