

KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING

2025-2026

Greetings, my fellow VFW Auxiliary members of Washington State! I am excited to kick-off the ensuing year with you! The National Convention is later than normal this year, August 9-14. Unfortunately, that means a later School of Instruction for us here in Washington. It will be held September 6th in Yakima, and more details should be out shortly.

I wanted to touch base and give you some information. Karen Flynn is our Chief of Staff and our Chairmanship Coordinator. Cindy Burkey is our Secretary/Treasurer, and our guiding force. Cindy works daily to keep our Department in good running order, and she is only a phone call away.

I would like to welcome Margie Lindberg to the Department Officers' Line. Margie was elected and installed as our Department Guard for the ensuing year. Margie is a great asset to our team and a valued member of this Department.

Auxiliary President and Treasurers, your BONDS ARE NOW DUE!!!! If you have questions, please give Cindy a call.

Our incoming National President's (Lois Callahan) theme is, "Be The Lighthouse In Someone's Storm." Lois will visit Washington March 25-27, 2026, here in the Deer Park-Spokane area.

"Keep the Home Fires Burning", *Auxiliaries you are kindling*. Most importantly, you are the first to encounter a potential new member. Membership is our lively hood to keep our organization alive and thriving so we can complete our mission of helping our Veterans, Active Military and their Families.

Districts and Department, we are the builders. We help the Auxiliary's keep their kindling alive. We communicate, mentor, encourage, and offer our help when needed. It's "TEAMWORK" and there are no "I's" in that word! We work together helping each other, supporting each other, and building each other up as a TEAM.

Auxiliary Presidents, please communicate with your auxiliary members. Reach out to those who don't attend meetings. Offer them transportation if they need it. Touch base with your life members and encourage them to participate in Auxiliary events.

District Presidents you are the next chain of command. Check on each of your Auxiliaries and maintain an open line of communication with each of them.

Department Line is here as a backup if you feel you need it. Please feel free to contact any one of us as you feel comfortable.

Since our SOI is later this year, so will our Department Roster. I will share a few important numbers and emails.

President Robyn Sterrett, robynsterrett@gmail.com, 509-714-0475

Sr. Vice President Tracie Tomsen, golfin75@gmail.com, 916-384-7448

Jr. Vice President Adrienne Halvorsen, ahalvorsen.vfwwa@yahooh.com, 206-883-0664

Secretary/Treasurer Cindy Burkey, cmurkey52@gmail.com, 509-327-1802

Chaplain Rebecca Pellechi, rmpellechi7@yahoo.com, 916-270-0587

Conductor Emily Arnold, mle0555@aol.com, 925-984-6511

Guard Margie Lindberg, margiesvfwaux@yahoo.com, 206-669-2344

Chief of Staff Karen Flynn, ksf10@hotmail.com, 509-669-8144

Presidents Pin Chairman Laura Bondurant, sammi.luci.987@gmail.com, 509-979-7316

I am excited to attend the National Convention next month and am looking forward to seeing you all at SOI in September!

Keep working together and ***"KEEP THE HOME FIRES BURNING."***

Robyn Sterrett, Department of Washington President