

## VETEANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT 2025-2026

Hello Auxiliary Members,

I would like to thank you for what you are doing for veterans, and their families. Many of you helped at Standdowns, had food drives to support government workers that were affected by the government shutdown, had Halloween Parties, Thanksgiving and Christmas basket giveaways supporting veterans and their families. You showed us your Santas, there lots of pictures with Santa, but our mission is not over. I want to promote the” VFW DAY OF SERVICE” The kickoff of this event will be May 2,2026. This day marks the start of a month-long initiative where VFW members along with auxiliary members continue to serve finding or creating events that highlight their continued commitment to their communities. The focus is on veteran led community service projects .Work with your post on events they are doing.

How do you get involved ? Host an event , organize an event in your local community, some previous events were roadside cleanups, cleaning gravestones, helping a local school paint the parking lot stripes, volunteering at a foodbank, volunteering at library for” Reading Hour “ . Register your event to be part of the national movement to find out more information and resources, check the official VFW website at <https://todaysvfw.org/> Here you can share your event and please let us know what you are doing. I encourage you to send me a letter, text me or email me about events you have done or are going to do .Who knows, I may even show up.

Recently I was asked about resources. Some of the best resources are at your fingertips on our department website. They come from your department chairmen. Those department chairmen work hard to promote programs that benefit our veterans their families and our community. This Mid-Winter my VFS Table has information from quite a few chairmen. There you will find Illustrating America ( YOUTH ACTIVITIES), Young American Patriotic Art, 3D Art ( SCHOLARSHIP), the QR Code for LEGISLATIVE, Book marks ( AMERICANISM) a card with hashtags ( HISTORIAN) swag for Mental Health Awareness, and swag from the program 988, as well as information from Washington State Department of Veterans affairs on programs to benefit our veterans and families. I encourage you to stop by. We also have raffles to support our Department President’s Special Project, Heroes Homestead, and coins to support VMS and MVS.

Thank you, Robbin Seeberger, for putting together Santa Reel. I looked up every auxiliary I could find through Google search. This took 5 hours, and the reel she put together took only a matter of minutes. This is where hash tags can really help us look up what you are doing,

so it is easier for us to share. If you are in a private group, then texting information or emailing information is better, as group settings are different and not always shareable.

Don't forget to post photos on your social media. When posting photos of your event please add the following hashtags #VFSRisingtide #vfwauxwa # auxiliary Patriotism #auxiliaryoutreach #auxiliarylegislative

For June Convention I will be offering raffle tickets on a booze wagon as well as a mystery box, tickets will be \$1.00 each. Proceeds will go to VMS/ MVS. John Kaiser has graciously donated a fishing trip for 4 people. It is valued at \$1,000.00 the auxiliary council agreed the tickets will be \$5.00 each and only sold at Department Convention. I suggest auxiliaries discuss this and consider purchasing tickets through their auxiliary. What auxiliary wouldn't like to win a \$1,000.00 fishing trip to raffle. We would like to see a strong showing of John's generous donation.

Rose Green

Department of Washington Auxiliary VFS Chairman

Resources

VFW Department of Washington Auxiliary Website

<https://vfwauxwa.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp>

VFW Department of Washington Auxiliary Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/vfwauxwa>

988 <https://988lifeline.org/>

Washington State Department of Veterans Affairs <https://dva.wa.gov/>