



**“Steadfastly Serving Our Veterans” & “Honoring Our Mission to Serve Veterans!”**

**Treasurer, Linda Evans**

**President, Martha Cothren**

**Secretary, Karlene Beams**

**revans123@windstream.net**

**mrcothren@yahoo.com**

**karbeam@aol.com**

**Issue 8 2020-2021**



**February 2021**

## **Arkansas Auxiliary View**

### **PRESIDENT SCOREBOARD**

**TO BE READ AT MEETING AND FILED!!!**

Happy Valentine's Day!!

I know it's a few days early for Valentines, but we all like to think of happy things! And speaking of Valentines.... how about getting some boxes of valentines and having them signed by friends, neighbors, kids, or whomever you can find to sign them. You can deliver them to any hospital or nursing home to be given to Veterans. Of course, don't forget the Veterans at your Post!! I know we can't get into all of these places, but we can get them ready and drop them off!!

I hope all of you were able to watch our VOD/Patriot's Pen Award Program Saturday, January 23, on Facebook Live. We are so proud of these young men and women for getting involved in our scholarship program!! They are going to be a great addition as they strive to become a portion of our future leaders!

I do want to congratulate the Batesville and Hot Springs Auxiliaries. They each added 8 new members in January!! They are the proof that even if we can't go out and do the things, we would normally be doing we can still work on the lifeblood of our organization---Membership!! Possibly you have some members who haven't been able to pay their dues because of the costs of this pandemic. Please use your relief fund. It is there to help our members, and we desperately need everyone on board to serve our heroes!!

National President Sandi Onstwedder did share with me that her special project to help provide food for our hungry troops and their families has been well supported by auxiliaries across the country. Arkansas stepped up and has had outstanding donations to this program! Thank you all so much for helping this great project!

I can't believe that my year as President is halfway over! I feel that I haven't been able to do enough to help all of you accomplish what we need to do for our heroes. I haven't been able to visit all the Posts yet. This virus needs to go away!!!

Let's look strongly ahead.... let's find eligible people to recruit to become a part of our work force! Share your passion about our ways to help our veterans with others and ask if they are eligible to join this great organization!! People are tired of being cooped up, and many just don't know about what we actually do for our heroes! Let's get fired up and start making our membership numbers grow by leaps and bounds!! Our work helping veterans helps make our world a better place!!

Love and please support our TV raffle by buying tickets,

Martha

# Membership

Linda Evans  
#5 Maple Lane  
Greenbrier, AR 72058  
501-269-0439

### **VFW Auxiliary Member Benefits**

Membership in the VFW Auxiliary grants you access to a wide selection of money-saving products and services in the insurance and benefits industry. VFW Auxiliary Insurance Program is for members only, though eligibility varies by product. **Learn more** about our member benefits.

A link to the insurance plans and benefits listed below can found on the home page of the National Organization's website under

### **"Member Benefits." Insurance Plans**

- [Auto and Homeowners Insurance](#)
- [Long-Term Care Insurance](#)
- [Medicare Supplement Insurance Plans](#)
- [Dental Plans](#)
- [Critical Cancer Plan](#)
- [Stars and Stripes Loyalty Accident Insurance Plan](#)
- [Pet Insurance](#)
- [Life Insurance](#)

### **Additional Benefits**

- [Cancer Grants](#)
- [Hearing Plans](#)
- [Credit Cards and Certain Financial Services through USAA](#)
- [Home Systems Protection Plan](#)
- [ID Theft Protection](#)
- [Office Supplies at Office Depot and OfficeMax](#)
- [Travel](#)
- [Cruise Holidays](#)
- [Veterans Holidays](#)



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## Arkansas Auxiliary View

# Veterans & Family Support

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Hello Brothers and Sisters,

It is already the second month of the year and we are still looking at COVID. Hopefully, folks are getting shots and staying healthy.

Thank you to all the auxiliaries that are sending in reports on a regular basis. I am so sorry I was not able to get into the Zoom meeting on Monday. I think I need a new phone.

This month is the Month of Love, so let's spread some love to our sisters and brothers. Get kids involved with making cards. Send veterans a card, bring a meal or treat to a veteran. Don't forget veterans in nursing homes. Senior centers are a good resource to find veterans and spouses.

Is there someone in need, remember Veterans Village has many items that could be given out to veterans in need. If you know a veteran having problems reach out to them and help. Sometimes we are too proud to ask for help but with a small conversation we can find out needs of our community and the people living in it.

Some ideas to help you on your projects.

Decorate brown bags for your food pantries.

Make backpacks to fill with food and clothing.

Collect socks, coats, shoes, and hats for homeless.

Organize an effort that has veterans and students involved.

Do care packages for deployed soldiers.

Make placemats, decorations or crafts for nursing homes or VA homes.

Make care packages to include personal hygiene items, toilet paper, paper towels, wash clothes for disaster victims.

Help a veteran with yard work, grocery shopping or anything else needed.

The meaning of love

“affection based on admiration, or common interests unselfish loyal and benevolent concern for the good of another: brotherly concern for others such as to hold dear.”

I wish you many blessings and good health, remember the love we show for one another is a reflection of our organization.

Much love Mary

### Chaplains Corner



1 Peter 5-7 Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you. Amen

## Americanism

Rhonda Lawrence

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Midway, AR, 72651

870-421-9822

[rlawprogram@gmail.com](mailto:rlawprogram@gmail.com)

Hello Everyone,

If the schools allow this would be a great time to go and teach them the Pledge of Allegiance, Flag Etiquette, or the meaning of the 13 folds of the Flag and what the colors and number of stars and stripes signifies, this would also be a good time to ask Scouts or the ROTC to involve the youth with Americanism. Then, with permission, spread the word on social media, radio, or newspaper. Keep patriotism alive in everyone's heart and mind. This country could use this positivity and patriotism right now. Please be sure to thank the youth, schools, and teachers and present them with certificates.

I know that things are a little difficult to do right now but I know we can and will help our Veterans. We got thru the first round of reports, but we still are not done. So please you can start sending in reports for the second half of the year, it is never too early to send them in. Thank you all for working so hard.

Rhonda



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## Arkansas Auxiliary View

### Auxiliary Community Outreach



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I have received some wonderful from Auxiliaries detailing what they have been able to do in their communities even with the COVID19 restrictions. I have counted each of these Auxiliaries as having reported; however, some of the reports showed activities that I cannot count as participation in the Outreach program because another organization was not involved in the event.

Remember one of the requirements is that you must be volunteer for or with another organization. There are still nine Auxiliaries who have not sent in a report. I will not list them, but if you are not sure if your Auxiliary is one of them, please contact me.

I now have a second email listed above that I am using because I have been unable to get problems with my old provider worked out.

Here are a few more ideas of things you can do under the Outreach program:

1. Work with Senior and or Disability Resource Center to identify elderly or disabled persons in need of rides to doctor's appointments, banks, pharmacy, grocery store, etc. Then volunteer to provide transportation when needed.
2. Work with faith-based organizations and Senior Centers to befriend people who are homebound and volunteer to visit them and read, play music, play card/games, or just talk and share some laugh with them.
3. Volunteer to organize donations, arrange merchandiser, or work as a cashier at a thrift shop.
4. Work with homeless and/or women's shelters to help collect items such as clothing, books, toys, food, and cleaning supplies.
5. Work with neighborhood associations, local senior center, or disability resource centers helping those in need of basic handyman services by providing household chores, winterizing house, and installing ramps or handrails.

Thank you for all you do for others!

Loyalty, Donna

\*\*\*\*\*

### Buddy Poppy® & National Home



Becky Lamb  
526 Valley Loop  
Heber Springs, AR, 72543  
206-8158 - ljbb40721@gmail.com

Hello Members,

It's the month of Love. February is here so show your Love to our Veterans. Make Valentines cards and include a Buddy® Poppy. Make corsages, a flower arrangement, just add a Buddy® Poppy. Show our Veterans they are respected and appreciated for their service to our country.

It's time to fill out and send the National awards form for Buddy® Poppy/VFW National Home for Children. They want to know how you educate your community on these subjects. Also, if you have purchased a life membership or brick to the VFW National Home let me know. Get the reports to me by March 1st please for me to sign (a must) and send off to National Ambassador, Dana Fogner. Your Auxiliary will receive a citation from the National Auxiliary. One winner from each conference will receive a citation and \$25.

Get out in the community, be enthusiastic and smile. Be safe and wear VFW/Auxiliary hats or clothing when having Buddy® Poppy drives. Go to [vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://vfwauxiliary.org/resources) for more information. Share the National Home Helpline-1-800-313-4300. For military and their families who are in need.

By Veterans, For Veterans.  
Becky Lamb ☺



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## Arkansas Auxiliary View

# Chief of Staff

Laurie Herman  
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Hot Springs Village AR 71909  
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laurhb@aol.com



Dear Brothers and Sisters:

February is the month we celebrate love. We love our Veterans, and we love our Auxiliaries! R U a Healthy Auxiliary? Everyone probably thinks they are. Here is a checklist for you to make sure you can expect a Healthy Auxiliary Certificate from me.

Did you elect and forward your installation reports to National and Department?

Is the Treasurer and President Bonded?

Did you pay your District Dues?

Did you give your commander your last quarterly audit and membership status within 30 days of assuming office?

Have your audits been sent to Linda Evans on time – or extensions were requested?

Will you have held at least 10 business meetings? (We are flexible on this one due to COVID)

Are you participating in the National Programs and/or making donations to them? (C A R, H & H,

VFW- NVS or MAP or National Home)

If you can answer yes to all the above, you ARE a Healthy Auxiliary! The good news is if you can't say yes to everything you still have time to get it done! Call me and I will help you!

Have a great Valentine's Day – Hug a Veteran (Virtual counts too!) Smile or Wave from afar – Your joy and theirs will be tenfold!

Loyally, Laurie

# HOSPITAL

Terri Gothard  
14 Irvin Lane  
Van Buren, AR 72127  
479-831-5864 or terri72257@yahoo.com

Hey Y'all!

Hope everyone is doing great and finding ways to work our programs. February is here, otherwise known as the Month of Love, not only for our sweeties but our Veterans. Remember the week of Valentine's Day, is known as Salute Our Veterans Week, and what is your auxiliary doing? I hope they are making Valentines to hand out to every Veteran they know, take them to your local CBOC and hand them out, not only to the ones in the waiting room, but to the staff that are Veterans. Call your local nursing homes, find out how many veterans they have and drop them off, take them to the homebound veterans, drop them off at schools for the teachers that are veterans, and don't forget your local shops that are veteran owned. There are so many ways to get those valentines out, and don't forget to report how many you done.

Did you know that if a veteran goes to an ER or Urgent Care that is not VA, they have a 72-hour window to contact the VA? That's it, 72 hours and after that, the VA may not pay. There are so many ways to contact them, they are:

- Email Notification: [VHAEmergencyNotification@va.gov](mailto:VHAEmergencyNotification@va.gov)
- Phone Notification: 844-72HRVHA (844-724-7842)
- Printable Information for Veterans: [VA Community Emergency Care Fact Sheet](#)
- [Non-VA Hospital Emergency Notification Form](#) (fillable PDF)

I know COVID-19 has made us all couch potatoes, but alas, while sitting on that couch or in that chair, did you know you can be working for our hospitalized veterans? I am taking these suggestions from my National Ambassador, but they would be so easy to accomplish.





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## Arkansas Auxiliary View

- Making lap blankets and quilts
- Writing cards and letters
- Sewing and knitting walker bags
- Assembling blessing bags
- Learning about women veterans’ healthcare
- Electronically connecting with in-patient veterans
- Making “thank-you’s” for the awesome staff who care for our veterans.
- Encouraging one another to stay in the fight for our veteran patients.

Let’s keep working for veterans, because “It’s not about us, it’s about them”.

God bless, Terri

### Upcoming District Meetings

THESE ARE ALL SUBJECT TO CHANGE				
Dist.	Date.	Location	Eat/Meet	Rep
5	Feb 6	Batesville	1 - 2	Kim
2	Feb 21	Marshall	1 - 2	Cheri
4	Feb 21	Pocahontas	1 - 2	Amanda
9	Feb 21	Benton by HSV	1 - 2	Rhonda
13	Mar 1	ZOOM	7 PM	Martha
10	Mar 6	Pine Bluff	12 -1	TBA
<b>Dept Council of Admin Mar 6, 10 AM ZOOM</b>				

\*\*\*\*\*

# Legislation

Cheri Wood  
 245 Swinging Bridge Rd.  
 Beebe, AR 72956  
 501-658-5531  
[shadowdreamin@hughes.net](mailto:shadowdreamin@hughes.net)

We as a country are starting a new chapter. We have a new President, and no one is sure at this point where he will stand on Veteran issues. Now is the time to stay ever vigilant watching how our Veterans are taken care of. We must be their voice. We together are stronger and can make a difference.

Action Corp Weekly put out a Call to Action to send a message to tell congress to "Keep your promises to take care of Veterans". Did you answer it?

The January 25<sup>th</sup> issue of Action Corp has a link to the 2021 VFW priority goals. They focus on Budget; Health Care; Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs; Education,

Employment, and Transition Assistance; Military Quality of Life; and National Security Foreign Affairs, and POW/MIA. The VFW will be working with the 217th Congress to improve care and benefits for veterans, service members and their families. You can download the goals at [www.VFW.org](http://www.VFW.org). We must as avid Veteran supporters stay informed on the issues. Please sign up for Action Corp Weekly. Your voice is needed to Stand Strong for our Veterans.

Cheri

## Mentoring for Leadership

Vicki McGahhey  
 108 Lavender Ln.  
 Pine Bluff, AR 71601  
 870-718-3803  
[vmcgahhey@gmail.com](mailto:vmcgahhey@gmail.com)

Brothers and Sisters,

Welcome to a brand- Brothers and Sisters,

Blending generations starts with leadership and us as mentors. By blending generation gaps, we can learn from each other. We need to have an understanding of how our members think, where they come from and how that works with a nation and organization that are always evolving. Having multi generations working together can both promote creativity and innovation but can also cause conflict and misunderstanding. Here are some tips to avoid conflict and blend ideas as an Auxiliary for our veterans:

- Be respectful, flexible, and understanding.
- Avoid stereotyping generations.
- Be open to learning and others learning from you.
- Adapt to different communication styles.
- Focus more on similarities, and less differences between generations.

We are all learners and teachers working for one common mission. By “Honoring Our Mission to Serve Veterans” we make this organization great!



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This program has two National Awards this year. There is a Mentoring for Leadership Award for Members No. 1. Do you have someone or know someone that has become a mentor to your members this year? One way to say “Thank You” is to nominate them for this award. You may have more than one to nominate. Also, there is Mentoring for Leadership Award for Auxiliaries No. 1. This is for the outstanding use of a Mentoring for Leadership activity during an Auxiliary meeting. This could be showing videos, going over Bylaws and Understanding the Auxiliary Traditions, reading Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation, the Online Academy, brochures, etc. Every Auxiliary should be able to fill one of these forms out, it’s very simple. These forms are available at [www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources) and I have asked that they be attached to this View sent by email only. The forms **MUST** be returned to me by March 31, 2021.

Everyone stay safe and BE KIND! Vicki

\*\*\*\*\*

## Scholarship

Tom Hughes  
 95 Reddell Lane  
 Dover, AR, 72837  
 479-857-3592



southernmountainman@gmail.com

Hello Auxiliary Arkansas! Well, here we are 2 months into 2021 and Covid is still causing us problems. Things do seem to be getting better though, let's all Pray that they continue in a positive direction.

The **VOD** and **Patriots Pen** have come and gone. Thank You so much to all who participated during these trying times, and Congratulations to all the winners! Now is the time to start concentrating on the **Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest**.

The **Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest** ends

on **March 31<sup>st</sup> of 2021**. Please, if you haven't already, contact the schools and youth organizations about this wonderful opportunity! It needs to be done now so that participants have time to get creative! **Open to grades 9-12, U.S. Citizen, or U.S. National.** 2- and 3-dimensional art is **ALLOWED**. Digital art, photography and jewelry are **NOT ALLOWED**. Art must weigh 5 pounds or less.

Please if you can, **donate** to the **Young American Creative Patriotic Art Escrow Fund**, and help us **grow** this **Scholarship!** Camden Post 4554 just made a donation to this Fund. Yay!!! Camden!!!

**Please do not forget to promote the Continuing Education Scholarship!**

Open to any Auxiliary member (who has been a member for at least a year), their spouse, son, or daughter with a financial need. Entrant must be at least 18 years old, complete the application and submit an essay of 300 words or less. The application must be received at National Headquarters by February 15:

Program Awards Administrator  
 VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters  
 406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor  
 Kansas City, MO 64111

Or email it to [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org)  
 \$1,000 will be awarded to an applicant in each of the four Conferences. Applications are available from Department Scholarships Chairmen or at [vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships](http://vfwauxiliary.org/scholarships).

Thank You for **“Steadfastly serving our Veterans”!**

Best wishes for the coming year, Tom.



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## Arkansas Auxiliary View

# Historian/Media

Patti Leitner  
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dandplit@artelco.com

Brothers and Sisters,

I hope you all are staying safe and doing well. I am sending you some ideas and ways to achieve goals in our program from home, during social distancing and closures. Just because we can't go to the VFW, hold events, or gather in large numbers does not mean we can't keep working for our programs!!!

- Prepare a monthly or quarterly newsletter for your members – give them ideas of how to help with programs while they are staying home.
- Maintain an Auxiliary/Post Facebook page to share information.
- Use the VFW Auxiliary Publicity Guide
- Use a fillable Press/Media release form for activities/events (on National Auxiliary website)
- Send Communications Award to local media.

Don't lose the fight now, we still have lots of time left for the current year!!! Stay safe and wear your mask.

“Honoring Our Mission to Serve Veterans” while we are “Steadfastly Serving our Veterans”.

Respectfully, Patti

# Department President's Project

Mary Jo Eubanks  
2823 College #12  
Conway, AR 72034  
501-328-5373  
maryeub@att.net

Hello, Hello, Hello

Have you donated yet to the President's Project which is the Arkansas Veterans Village? Time is running away from us....

We have an RCA 58" Smart 4K TV that is being raffled, see the information below.

**AND DON'T FORGET TO Support the President's Project with purchase of raffle ticket, and you just might win this TV:  
RCA 58" Smart 4K TV**



- Proceeds for Arkansas Veterans Village
- Tickets One (1) for \$5.00 or Three (3) for \$10.00
- Drawing: State Convention 2021
- Make out Check to VFW Auxiliary
- Earmark check: Department Pres Project (TV)
- Send check to Linda Evans, 5 Maple Lane, Greenbrier, AR 72058 & report to Mary Jo.
- You will receive tickets in the mail.



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## Arkansas Auxiliary View

# YOUTH

Amanda Pipkin  
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Youth Program Chairman for 2020-2021

Time flies when you are having fun with our youth. Already one month gone in the new year!! OK so I am having a birthday this month and I want to make it fun. **My Birthday is the 23<sup>rd</sup> of February and for my birthday I want to hear at least one of our Youth Get Excited for The Red White and Blue, and I want to see one Youth get excited for Illustrating America. I will have a Gift for the First 3 people who send me one or the other before my Birthday.**

I am so excited to hear our youth sing that I may have to turn 2 years older on the 23<sup>rd</sup> just to hear this again!! Please make my Birthday Special and let me hear the youth sing their hearts out for our country!!

As always if you need any help please don't hesitate to call or text me. I am always available!!!!!! IF I DON'T ANSWER LEAVE ME A MESSAGE!! Stay Safe!!

Youth Chairman, Amanda Pipkin

### HELP THE SECRETARY

Karlene Beams  
501-762-2001 [karbeam@aol.com](mailto:karbeam@aol.com)

Do any of these three email addresses look familiar to you? They have been bouncing around on the internet. Please let me know who these addresses belong to and how to correct them.

kaitlynr@centurylink.net  
beccahum8@ad.com  
angeleyes79-69@yahoo.com

## VAVS LITTLE ROCK

Karlene Beams  
201 Maplewood Ct  
Hot Springs, AR 71913  
501-762-2001  
[karbeam@aol.com](mailto:karbeam@aol.com)

**New policy** for Little Rock and North Little Rock Volunteers and donations. It has been requested that all of the Auxiliaries and individuals send any request through the VAVS Representative. We cannot enter the hospital and coordinating donations is the primary reason. If you have donations, special request or any other issues please contact me directly. I will work with you and the hospital to ensure that you are connected to the appropriate resource for your needs. The number of volunteers and organizations has grown, and this is an effort to make sure that everyone is acknowledged in a timely manner. Always call me first and we can work together.

The National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans is going to be limited and not face to face this year. As the VAVS representative I have arranged to have the VFW Department of Arkansas host a Pizza Party for the patients at Ft Roots on Thursday of that week. Approximately 150 Veterans will enjoy the evening thanks to your generous donation to the hospital fund. The hospital staff will do it all since volunteers are currently not allowed. But we are funding it.

Say Thank You.

If your Auxiliary would like to make a short video and can send it to me before **February 8th** I will forward to Voluntary services. They will share these through the hospital technology Department. An idea for a short video is:

“On behalf of *State the name Your Organization*, we salute you during the National Salute to Veterans 2021.

Karlene