



*The Ladies Auxiliary V.F.W.*

**Department of Texas**

# **OUR TWO CENTS**

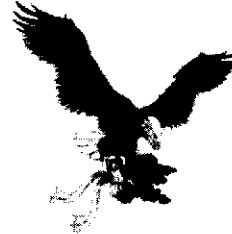
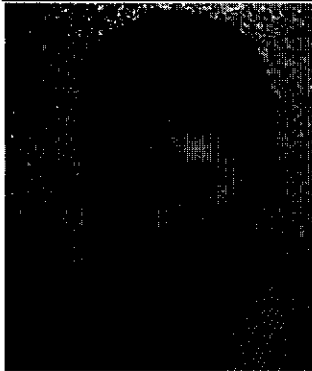


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**VOLUME 21**

**DECEMBER 2009**

**NUMBER 5**



**CLEO HORNSBY  
State President**

## ***“CONTINUE TO CARE FOR OUR VETERANS”***

Ladies of Districts 28 and 17-- thank you for all the great courtesies extended to me on my visit to your District. Had a great time! The deadline for the 90% Dinner Celebration for your District Presidents is coming up fast. I know none of you want your District President to miss out on her 'Celebration Night', so we have to work really hard on membership.

Stories are coming to me about some Auxiliaries holding their membership until they have collected all of them or they are waiting until the end of December. If you do this, it can hurt your members because if something happens and that membership doesn't get in on time in order for Department Treasurer Jo Ella to get it into National before the end of December, the member will lose her continuous status and will have to wait a year before she is eligible for a cancer grant. So Treasurers, please get that membership in as soon as possible.

Thank you, Sisters, for supporting all our programs. Cancer Aid & Research still needs donations and continue your education programs on cancer. Knowledge is the secret to all successes. Ways & Means is in need of our help. So please sell your tickets and buy the shirts. I had a great time on my trip to the State of Liberty. The program was very nice. The only complaint was about the weather windy, rainy and cold, but that did not stop the celebration. 'Happy Birthday Miss Liberty'. Ladies remember "It's Time for America's Military Heroes" and "Continue To Care For Our Veterans".

## **Mid-Winter Round-Up - Austin Texas - January 28 - 31, 2010**

### **National President - Jan Tittle**

Jan Tittle was elected National President of the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States at it's 96th National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona. Her theme for the 2009-2010 year is It's Time For America's Military Heroes. Jan plans to focus attention on the Auxiliary's core programs for veterans and their families.

A Life Member of TSgt Walter C. Fulda Auxiliary #3433 in Ladson, S.C., she is eligible through her father, Arlen Owens, WWII Purple Heart recipient. She has served as Auxiliary, District and Department President.

At National Level, she has served as Publicity Director, Patriotic Instructor and as National Chairman for Southern Conference on the Americanism and Hospital programs. She is a Life Member of the VFW National Home for Children, a Charter member of the Dixie Dogs Pup Tent 11 of the Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary and a member of the Highland Park Baptist Church. She is recently retired as Office Manager for Kia Country of Savannah and Kia Country of Charleston Car Dealerships and is also a licensed Realtor. She and her husband, Daniel, have two children and one grandchild.

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. Postage PAID  
Permit # 1006  
AUSTIN, TX

Ladies Auxiliary to  
Veterans of Foreign Wars Dept  
P.O. Box 15285  
Austin, Texas 78761

**Membership**

Melanie McConaghy-Chairman  
 Mary Alice Owens - Co-Chairman

**Cancer Aid & Research**

Jayne McCormick - Chairman  
 Pat Murphree - Co-Chairman

Sisters, what a great start to this year in membership. I want to say "THANK YOU" from the bottom of my heart. Membership chairmen thank you for the great job you are doing. I appreciate all you do. I am very proud of the Auxiliaries on the membership transmitted so far this year. Sisters, in the past this is the time membership starts to slow down. We cannot let that happen. We need to continue to work as hard the second half of the year as we have the first half of the year. Call members that have not paid their dues yet.

Remind them if dues are not paid by December 31, 2009 they are no longer a member in good standing. They will lose their eligibility for the cancer grant from National.

When the member is reinstated after December 31, 2009 they will have to wait a year to be eligible for the grant.

Membership is the backbone of our great organization. I ask you to keep working on getting members' dues. Make sure you have a membership application with you at all times. You never know when you will come across a new or reinstate member. Sisters, keep up the fantastic job you are doing. We want Texas to be on top this year. Together we will reach our goal of 100%. Our membership will "CONTINUE TO CARE FOR OUR VETERANS" to make sure "IT'S TIME FOR AMERICA'S MILITARY HEROES". I would like to thank District 28 and 5 for the hospitality when I visited their district meetings. I really enjoyed visiting the members of the district.

I also wish all the sisters of this great state a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Let's finish up 2009 with a bang and start 2010 like a Texas tornado.

**DIVISION LEADERS - OCTOBER**

Division 1	District 29	Joyce Griffin	86.77%
Division 2	District 6	Natalie Copeland	88.63%
Division 3	District 5	Stacey Foley	84.97%
Division 4	District 14	Rose Marie Sweet	83.70%
Division 5	District 16	Eileen Latimer	86.92%

**Recruit, Reinstate and Retain all members and work to make the Department of Texas 100% and support the wonderful job that Department Membership is doing.**

**Sell Cancer tickets, pins - be a part of the magic in helping find a cure through fundraisers and the "Arc Of Light"**

**Ways and Means Tickets - wonderful drawings scheduled for the year.**

Knowledge is Hope                      Research is Survival  
**"Continue To Care For Our Veterans"**  
**"It's Time For America's Military Heroes"**

December is a wonderful month. It is undoubtedly the busiest time of the year. We could say it is the most stressful month of the year if we allow it to be.

As the blessings of Christmas come into our busy days let your heart and mind sing those familiar carols we all love. Let us remember why we celebrate Christmas. Let us come as a child with wonderment and purest love for this is the season of joy that brings us closer to our God. Remember one little thing - Remember what stress can do to you. Take the time to take care of yourself. Pay attention to changes. Cancer will not take a holiday.

**Pin sales have gone well, but now is not the time to slow down. Our goal is still to be met and we must sell, sell, sell our lovely Cancer Pins. Remember the Quilt Drawing that will be held at Mid-Winter. Only Fund raiser for Cancer Aid & Research.**

May God bless you and your families on this blessed Holiday. May he keep you and yours wrapped in his loving care. "Blessed is the Nation whose God is the Lord"

Psalms 33:12

**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All  
 The McCormick Family**

**\*\*MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE  
 DEPARTMENT OFFICE\*\***

**Christmas Office Hours**

December 23, 2009 - Close at Noon  
 December 28, 2009 - Open at Regular Time

**\*\*\*\*Roster Changes\*\*\*\***

Auxiliary 8780                      Regina Gilbreath  
 PO Box 512  
 Quitman, Texas 75783  
 903-967-2319

**\*\*\*\*NOTICE\*\*\*\***

All AUDITS MUST be sent on time or your Auxiliary risks being put on suspension. These Audits are very, very important and must be done in the time frame stated in the Bylaws.

**Extension/Chief of Staff**  
Bennie Knapp

**Veterans and Family Support**  
Kathy Wewe-Chairman

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AND A VERY HAPPY PRODUCTIVE NEW YEAR!** By now most of your inspections should be done - we want to have them done by the end of December so you will have time to do a second visit to each of your Auxiliaries. I am very pleased with all the reports and especially those of you that have found problems and corrected them in a timely manner. Congratulations to those that have finished.

**TO ALL MEMBERS** - Remember this is a team effort! If one of your members is struggling with a problem - step up to the plate and see if you can help. We are all sisters and sometime just to show you care is important. If you are an Officer, you do not have to be asked, just step in and help carry the load. **Leave personalities outside the meeting room!** Help keep harmony in the meeting. **If you are a District President you need to be neutral at all times and set an example for all.**

**DISTRICT PRESIDENTS** - Usually at this time of year we remind you of Mid-Winter Reports. This year our State President has chosen to give everyone a break. However, it is important that you make sure everyone is working their programs so we will be 100% by the end of the year. Encourage all your Auxiliaries to keep good records so their reports will reflect all the good work they do.

If you have a problem please do not hesitate to call. Your President, the office staff and the Line Officers are ready to help in any way they can. The sooner we know about a problem the sooner we can get you some help.

**This Month is family time as we "CONTINUE TO SERVE OUR VETERANS" because "IT'S TIME FOR AMERICA'S MILITARY HEROES" - Do not forget our Veterans that are a long way from home for Christmas.**

**HISTORIAN**  
Judy Suggs

As time for Mid-Winter approaches, I encourage each of you to bring a camera and notebook. Get snapshots of your Auxiliary, your district members, your presidents at all levels and then share with them. If you get any good ones of our President or our National Representative, please share those with me.

As I review the wonderful pictures and stories I've received, I need your help. I need information (newspaper and newsletter stories). If any of the items include information about the Department President, I will need a copy for her book. This can be a copy of the article or the actual newspaper, but I really do want to have the Newspaper Name and date it appears in your local newspaper.

During the time of Department President's visit to your District, be sure and record funny things as well as the serious. Many of the fun times occur between scheduled events.

I want to thank all the people in Del Rio for all the hard work they did regarding the "Hands Across The Border" parade. I need pictures of that event as well.

Ron and I would like to wish you and your family a Merry Christmas. Thank you for what you and your Auxiliary have done for the needy this season. "Continue To Care For Our Veterans" as we record these events in time forever.

Madam President gave us a gift. There are no Mid-Year Reports due. That doesn't mean we don't have to do the work or report it. There are several Districts that I have not heard a peep from. **"It's Time For America's Military Heroes"** as **"We Continue To Care For Our Veterans"** should keep you excited. **LADIES AUXILIARY CONTINUING EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP** - Keep it simple but let others know it is available. Then let me know what you did. Read the qualifications with the application. It is in the National Program Book or online at [www.ladiesauxvfw.org](http://www.ladiesauxvfw.org). **BUDDY POPPY** - This is a year long use in the VFW. I know there have been orders for them. I know there are planned drives to promote them. Just let me know how your Auxiliary is using them and if you are planning a special function. **NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN** - What a special time of the year for this program. Do you have a little something you can share with these special kids and families? They have given so much. Isn't it time we gave a little to them. **MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM** - It's hard enough for families to be separated during the year - but at the holiday season. This program helps fill that void. Make something special happen for someone. Look for ways to help. Your devotion to the organization can really shine here. **BASIC ELEMENT** - This time of year everyone could use a little help. If you have it share lovingly, if you need it ask truthfully. Don't let an Auxiliary sister, Post Comrade, or other Veterans and/or their family need something if it is within your reach. A smile never hurts. Have a great holiday season. Remember to take care of yourself because you are important and we can't take care of each other and our Veterans if we don't take care of ourselves. Make your plans to join us at Mid-Winter - it's going to be exciting.

**Community Service**  
Joyce Dalton - Chairman

Sisters, I am truly amazed by the wonderful reports I have received. You are showing "It's Time For America's Military Heroes". In the first 16 weeks of our year as we "Continue To Care For Our Veterans" there have been 6,616 Community Service activities, 101,971 hours and \$1,195,346 in donations from the VFW and Auxiliaries.

Ladies, when you report your activities, it is VERY important you designate if the event is only for the Auxiliary or a joint project with your Post. A personal donation to an individual or group is not considered a Community Service Project. Remember, each and every project or event must be brought before the floor and voted on by the Membership at a regular business meeting and recorded in the minutes. Report the number of hours and dollars spent (from Auxiliary Treasury) for each project on the new Texas VFW & Auxiliary Community Service Activity Report Form. Reporting must be submitted 30 days of project/event to receive credit.

For Mid-Winter Convention in January, I am requesting that each Auxiliary send me two or three 4 x 6 photos of your "**Make A Difference Day**" event or an outstanding Community Service project. I will be designing a display of what you have been doing in your community. The deadline for the pictures is January 10, 2010. Please write in pencil on the back of the picture your Auxiliary and District number. If you have any questions please give me a call.

**Program Participation**

Take holiday baskets to needy Veterans and families. Hold Christmas parties for Senior Citizens and/or Youth in your community. Contribute or sponsor "Snowball Express". Sponsor the "Wreaths Across America: Program.

Best Wishes for a Joyful Christmas and Happy New Year

**Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen**  
Patricia Kemp - Chairman

The air is finally getting cooler and our thoughts are of Christmas and New Years. Santa is coming – have you been naughty or nice? Those that have been really nice have risen to meet all of the challenges and obligations set before them. They have shown the wonderful spirit of Team Work and Commitment that spell-bounds the rest of the nation. We will be 100% nice in reporting – want we? What better way to show we "**Continue to Care For Our Veterans**".

The local and District deadlines for the Voice of Democracy, "**Does America Still Have Heroes**", and the Patriot's Pen, "**When Is the Right Time to Honor Our Military Heroes**" contests have come and gone. But, there is still work to be done. Such as: Thank - You letters, to teachers, judges, and students; award programs and making sure that all reports are sent in. **REMEMBER** – there is a Mid-Year Report that is due to me,

Patricia Kemp  
4700 London Circle,  
Orange, TX 77632

by December 31<sup>st</sup> and to report on the Texas Report Form. Reporting insures credit for this most wonderful program.

I am excited about meeting the Top 10 VOD winners and the No. 1 Patriot's Pen winner at Mid-Winter. It is such an honor to be able to spend almost three days with such outstanding students. A special thank you to each Post, Auxiliary and individual that provides scholarships and funds that helps bring the winners to Austin. "**It's Time For America's Military Heroes**" to hear the great things our young people have to say about them.

Remember the State Project – Promoting Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Programs. What creative ways of spreading the word and what new and initiative ways did you use to inform teachers and parents? Now is the time to review your records.

Have a wonderful Blessed Christmas  
and very Happy New Year.

**Youth Activities**

Callie Lumpkin - Chairman

I have received very few reports from you Auxiliary sisters who are Youth Activity Chairmen and I need to know what you have been doing since July. We have been given the opportunity of no Mid-Year Reports this year but that does not mean I don't need to know or don't want to know how you are educating, supporting and encouraging our Youth through all your hard work and many projects. Just a short note to say who you are and how many youth projects you have done to date will be satisfactory. These need to be put in the mail ASAP.

Jr. ROTC speaker will be at Mid-Winter to give you information on the unit needs and how they will be able to help you and your Posts.

Texas Outstanding Youth Volunteer applications have now been mailed to your District Presidents and are ready for your nominations. Remember deadline dates on all scholarship contest. This is a great time of the year for your Auxiliary to work with schools, church and youth groups to Support our Troops. Cards, letters and care packages are in order. Knowing that we care means a lot to our Troops who are serving to preserve our Freedom.

Follow-up visits or calls should be made on behalf of our Patriotic Art Contest. Remember only one entry per Auxiliary and is not mandatory to have a District judging.

Happy Holidays and remember to continue to "Care For Our Veterans" because It's Time For America's Military Heroes.

**Legislative/VFW-PAC**

Dorothy Bennett-Chairman

Merry Christmas, I am praying that it is Blessed time for you and your family. Please keep in mind that "It Is Time For America's Military Heroes." Congress will be leaving on the break soon. But don't think that you can't contact them during this time. We can never rest while our Veterans and active military have needs. Our legislators should know that we care about Entitlements earned by our Heroes 24/7, 365 days a year.

National Director Kathy Jo McMillion Reinsmith shared with us a victory for veterans in her last Newsletter, which I passed on to District Presidents. President Obama signed into law legislation that will enable the Department of Veterans Affairs to know its health care budget a full year in advance. This is a huge victory for veterans.

Remember the VA is the only federal agency that is tasked to care for our American heroes. This accomplishment came about with your help in writing to Congress about our Veterans needs.

We are now asked to keep contacting our legislators about bill **S.252** that includes major changes for the Health Care of Our Female Veterans and homeless veterans.

**This is a VFW Priority Goal.** Please contact our Texas Senators, Hutchinson and Cornyn, about backing this bill and to encourage them to pass the legislation as quickly as possible. As you "Continue To Serve Our Veterans" please be mindful that time is growing short for fund raisers for VFW-PAC. Some fund raising ideas are pass the hat at a meeting, hold a bake sale, or save your pennies for PAC. Review your state program and national program book for awards.

**LET OUR VETERANS VOICES BE HEARD AND HEARD LOUD AND CLEAR**

**Americanism/Patriotic Instructor**

Eppie Lackey

**It's Time For America's Heroes**

As members of the Ladies Auxiliary, it is our job to teach the people of our country the importance of supporting our troops and to "**Continue to Care For Our Veterans**".

As we all know Freedom is not Free, and our Military heroes are the keepers of this freedom.

Christmas will soon be here--- remember our men and women in harms way. Many of them will not be able to be with families. Do take the time to send them cards and care packages.

Have a Christmas Dinner, this would be a special time to honor a Gold Star and/or a Blue Star Mother.

By now you should have had your entries and judging for Teacher of the Year, but continue to visit your schools and distribute Americanism material.

Patriotic Instructors - many items can be ordered from the supply catalog which is now combined for the VFW and Auxiliary which has many items that can be ordered and given to students.

I would like to wish everyone a  
Very Merry Christmas and a  
Prosperous New Year

**MID-WINTER ROUND-UP  
LUNCHEON**

Past Department Presidents and current District Presidents will have special seating for the luncheon. Please indicate if this reservation includes either a Past Department President or current District President.

**THERE WILL BE NO LUNCHEON RESERVATIONS AVAILABLE AT THE HOTEL.  
MID-WINTER LUNCHEON JANUARY 29, 2010**

**SEND RESERVATIONS TO:  
MARJORIE MENZEL  
P.O. BOX 231  
THORNDALE, TX 76577  
PHONE: 512/898.2830**

Enclose check or money order for \$21 for each luncheon  
**DEADLINE DATE: JANUARY 20, 2010**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City & Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
District: \_\_\_\_\_ Auxiliary: \_\_\_\_\_  
Past Department President: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)  
District Number & President: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Name)

Your ticket will have your table number on it and may be picked up at Auxiliary Registration. Please make your reservation early.

The National President Jan Tittle will be at our luncheon and know she would enjoy meeting each of you so come join the friendship luncheon

**Mary Alice Owens  
Candidate for Department Guard  
2010-2011  
Endorsed by District 13, Auxiliary 8134**

**Linda J. Henry  
National Council Member Area "H"  
Dedicated and willing to work for the  
Department of Texas Ladies**

**LADIES AUXILIARY MID-WINTER ROUNDUP  
TENTATIVE SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**Thursday-January 28, 2010**

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Registration & Booths
9:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Presentation of Programs (Membership, Extension)
12:00 Noon-1:00 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM	District Presidents & Programs Uniform
3:00 PM - 4:30 PM	Council of Administration
6:30 PM	Cleo's Wildflower 90% Dinner for Winning District Presidents

**FRIDAY-JANUARY 29, 2010**

8:00 AM - 4:00 PM	Registration & Booths
8:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Joint Opening Session - Doubletree
12:00 Noon - 1:00 PM	Luncheon (Crowne Plaza)
1:00 PM - 4:00 PM	Presentation Past Dept. Presidents - Presentation District Presidents Motivational Speaker Yellow Ribbon-Deborah Evans Introductions by President Remarks by National President
6:30 PM - 8:00 PM	Cleo's Party (Crowne Plaza)
8:00 PM - 12:00 AM	Dance with Cash Bar - Crowne Plaza

**SATURDAY-JANUARY 30, 2010**

8:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Registration & Booths
9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Chairmen's Booths
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM	Gene Koci-Financial Advisor Department Officers Further Presentation of Programs (Trustees/Audit - Treasurer/Membership Forms)
11:30 AM - 1:00 PM	Lunch Break
12:00 PM - 1:00 PM	Dist. Sr. Vice & Jr. Vice Will be in meeting room
1:00 PM - 3:00 PM	Further Presentation of Programs Questions & Answer Session National President Jan Tittle Ways & Means Drawing, Cancer Aid & Research Department President Presentation
5:30 PM - 6:30 PM	Reception Cash Bar
6:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Voice of Democracy Banquet Doubletree

**SUNDAY-JANUARY 31, 2010**

8:15 AM - 8:30 AM	Music-Doubletree
8:30 AM - 9:30 AM	Memorial Service

**All Auxiliary Events are at the Crowne Plaza Unless Stated Otherwise!**