



VFW Auxiliary

Auxiliary President



Samantha Schmidgall

Commander Stout, Sr. Vice-Commander Hastings, and Jr Vice Commander Boyer, Auxiliary Past Department Presidents, Delegates and Members,

I want to state what an honor it has been for me to be a part of this organization and I cannot believe that I have been allowed to visit with so many members and still do work for our veterans. I thank you all for that privilege and thank my VFW Veterans (Mom, Dad, Grandpa, and Brother) for the honor.

This past year, I have met many members and it has been a joy to travel around the state to meet each of you. I truly mean that. Okay, Okay I do feel we need a helicopter to shorten the driving time! I guess Commander Stout never really got excited about that idea! However, it is never too late in case you are reading this Commander!

An Amazing Year!

The amazing part of our year are the incredible Department Chairman.

Chief of Staff, Joyce Cavins worked well with instructing on healthy auxiliaries and worked with instituting 4 new Auxiliaries, most important, six of the programs were 100% reported by DECEMBER 31st with the remaining two 96% and 98% reported respectfully! OUTSTANDING!!!! Needless to say, dang near perfect today at 100% for all.

Of course, I can't thank them enough; however, I will say repeatedly Thank You, Thank you, Thank you for your extra hard work fantastic job! Thank you to all who purchased the President's pin (r/w/b eagle) where we are raising funds for veterans with PTSD. You did well (but we still have some left!) And to everyone who supported my special project! Wow I was in tears when I think of the many hours of planning and preparing. Thank you isn't enough but know in your heart when a veteran receives their call that they have been chosen for the program! You had a part in that very special time in their life—could be literally saving a life.

So what about Membership? OH MY GOSH! HIT IT OUTTA THE PARK!

Welcome to the 100% + State in Membership! This is better than winning the World Series!

Thank you Diane Pencak and John Watters for the year in

working at raising funds to offer great program awards, for all the membership dues reminders, assisting our members with membership questions. Thank you to the members for working in your Auxiliaries at achieving your goals of 100%+.

Thank you to the District Presidents for working so hard during the year in reaching each of the goals set by National: Installation reports, auxiliary bonds, and membership dues paid on the President, Secretary, and Treasurers and our Membership goal of 100%+ in membership in your Districts!

Thank you to Mary Spindler, Susan Parrish, Billie Guthals, Linda Armstrong, and Rhonda Borkgren! What a year I have had with you--the best line officers in the nation. Add your own sparkle and special qualities during the next few years and never lose site of our Veterans. Thank you for your assistance and support this last year.

I didn't forget Terry Ann and Ruth Smit. Thank you Ruth for the last six years of service to our Department as Treasurer. I am sure there have been many times when you and Patti tired of seeing membership dues or new applications!!! Thank you Terry Ann for your mentorship, support, expertise, and friendship over the last six years and to years ahead of us.

Where do I see us going?

This is the part of my article where I usually start tearing up, I reflect on the year, the many new friends I have met and visiting again with the ones I have already formed friendships. My time as a line officer is almost up but it has been a humbling journey and one that I will not soon forget.

I have a wish that we could all learn to respect each other; I hope you didn't just think to yourself, "that doesn't apply to me". To not enforce our opinions so hard that we cannot accept opinions differs from our own. It has never been about who owns the kitchen, the forks, or whose idea it was to do that fundraiser. It is about how we helped to improve the lives of veterans. Our organization is not made of the same culture it was 100 years, 50 years or even 20 years ago. Let's remember that we can loosen our belts and become more flexible—while maintaining the principal Bylaws. We are an organization that helps veterans but we can't accomplish that if we continue to live in the days where we constantly complain about another but don't see fault in our own actions. Or where we feel we have to hurt another person with words and actions to prove we are more powerful or knowledgeable. Where we can't accept change because we are holding on so tight to what used to be. We must evolve or we will be stagnant and wither away. I fear members will tire of hearing what they are doing wrong rather than what they did right. Believe

it or not, but there are no perfect members in this organization. Continue to offer our members jobs within our auxiliaries—we just might find new talent. Just because someone has done a job a few years, doesn't always make them an expert. It can make for complacency and inflated egos—none of which serves Veterans. It is silly to expect different results if we continue to do the same things.

To the members of the Department of Illinois, thank you for the many courtesies throughout my visits this year. It didn't go unnoticed and is very much appreciated by my family and myself. I love every one of you and hope to visit with you again in the coming years! I will admit I am the worst at doing Thank you cards and birthday greetings. Therefore, if I have forgotten one or the other, I apologize but I am

Thankful for you and your auxiliaries and; of course, "Happy Birthday"!

I thank my sisters and now my Auxiliary brothers in the 14th district (and throughout the state) who have gone beyond to

support these last 6 years, I could not have done any of this without you. Thank you to my Post and Auxiliary for your continued support and encouragement. God Bless. Thank you for a phenomenal year!



Diane Pencak

Auxiliary Membership



John Watters

Illinois VFW Auxiliary reached for the stars and is 100 percent plus in membership. We welcome all men and women that are eligible to come join in taking care of our Veterans and their families along with promoting our programs.

Jump up and down or yell out loud the joy of accomplishing this goal. Be proud and know that working together anything that we believe in can be accomplished. Continue to ask just one more person to join!

Thank you for allowing us to be a part of this goal.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE 93RD ANNUAL DEPARTMENT CONVENTION DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT SAMANTHA SCHMIDGALL ALL VFW AUXILIARY MEETINGS AT PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN / DOUBLE TREE HILTON



Thursday June 15, 2017

8:00-8:45am District President meeting with Department President in Department President's Suite
9:00am Council of Administration Meeting
12:00/3:00pm Registration of Delegates
2:00/3:00pm Retirement Party for Ruth Smit
3:00pm Council Cocktail Party (invitation only) for Schmidgall/Michel
6:00pm Joint Memorial Service
7:00pm Presentation of Past Department Presidents and Circle of Excellence Celebration
7:00pm Reception honoring Terry Vance
29th Floor Wyndham

Friday June 16, 2017

8:00am/3:00pm Registration of Delegates
8:00am VFW & VFW Aux Joint Opening
12:30pm VFW Aux Opening Session
Cross of Malta Opening
Escort of National VFW Aux Representative
Recognition of National Officers and Chairman
Report of Convention Rules Committee
Report of the Resolutions Committee
Presentation of Department Hospital Chairman and Co-Chairman
VAVS Representatives/Deputies
Hospital Awards
Presentation of District President
Awarding of District President of the Year
Greetings from Patriotic Organizations
Graves Registration Report
Presentation of Gold Star Families
Memorial Service
Registration & Credential Reports
3:15pm MALTA TRAINING
7:00pm Patriotic Rally

Saturday June 17, 2017

7:00am/Noon Registration of Delegates
7:30am Presentation of Flags and Banners
*8:00am Department President visit IL VFW
8:30am Re-open Meeting
Presentation of Department Floor Officers
Report of the Officers Reports
Report of Chairmen's Reports
Presentation of Department Chairmen
Veterans & Family Support Awards
Americanism Awards
Historian Awards
Legislative Awards
Scholarship Awards
Youth Activities Awards
Presentation of Aide-D-Camps
2017 Membership Awards
Presentation of 45 Year + Members
*11:00am Welcome Illinois VFW Commander
11:15am Lunch Break
12:30pm Presentation of 2018 Membership Skit and Program
1:00pm Welcome Back Department President
1:30pm Presentation of Chief of Staff, Deputy Chiefs and Pages, Chief of Staff Awards
Presentation of NEW President in 2016-2017
Final Registration & Credential Reports
Nomination and Election of Officers
2:00pm Installation of 2017-2018 Officers
3:00pm 2017-2018 Council of Administration
6:30pm Commander's and President's Reception
Wyndham Grand Ballroom
*Subject to change

Reminders

- Members should stand when flags are in motion.
- Whenever the Chaplain is opening and closing Bible, everyone should stop all movement and talking.