

## **Auxiliary Outreach Program Turkessa “Kessie” (KEE-zee) Lewis**

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424/229-4609 (please do not disturb during work hours)

### **Program Goals: Building Partnerships • Auxiliary Participating in Outreach**

Auxiliary members are not ‘one-dimensional’ in our desire to help people -- we are not focused solely on veterans’ issues. We take part in many types of volunteer activities to benefit our communities. This Program acknowledges the generous sharing spirits our Auxiliary members have. It provides a means for members to fully report on those activities as we volunteer our time and talents by partnering with local groups and organizations to improve the lives of the people and institutions in our communities.

When you do volunteer work for another organization while representing the Auxiliary, you shine a positive light on our organization and keep us relevant and visible in the community. There are many ‘up sides’ to volunteering in your community, including helping others, learning new skills or mentoring others, meeting new people, developing a stronger sense of purpose. Auxiliary Outreach projects can be performed by people of any age, skill set, or ability level, benefit any group of people such as children, senior citizens, and those with disabilities, benefit animals, the environment, and public spaces, and be done in communities of all types and sizes. These projects can include the VFW. The possibilities are almost endless.

### **Membership Approval Action Needed First:**

Auxiliaries must get a motion approved on the floor of the Auxiliary in their meetings for their members to volunteer for a specific community event or partner with an organization *as a representative of the VFW Auxiliary, prior to doing that volunteer work*. Furthermore, the approval must be recorded in the meeting minutes by the Auxiliary Secretary before those volunteer hours can be reported and counted. That will constitute establishing an Auxiliary Outreach Program for that Auxiliary. Then, individual members or whole groups of members can represent the Auxiliary and take part in volunteering for that event or program. No compensation may be received.

When doing the projects, you should be dressed in Auxiliary-branded attire such as a shirt, jacket, hat or even a nametag. By wearing these items, it shows who we are and a conversation can start up on what our organization is all about and also shows other volunteers the amazing work we do for veterans.

The Auxiliary Outreach Program is restricted to participation in other community services that are **not affiliated with VFW or Auxiliary Programs already**. Auxiliaries are encouraged to approve as comprehensive a list of activities, projects and events as they can, early in the reporting year, in order to ensure that only approved events or programs are included in reports. Photos and flyers should also be included. On rare occasions such as a natural disaster or an emergency community need, the project may be voted on after the fact. (When the entire Auxiliary volunteers and only one member shows up it still counts as Auxiliary Outreach).

**What’s Considered Auxiliary Outreach**

When an entire Auxiliary volunteers for an organization outside our own, it should be considered Auxiliary Outreach, **if the project was approved by the Auxiliary and recorded in the meeting minutes prior to the project.**

<b>Qualifies:</b>	<b>Does Not Qualify:</b>
Spending time in a local homeless shelter kitchen serving meals, bussing tables or cleaning up	Sending an Auxiliary check to support a charity that organized a walk-a-thon or run
Partnering with a local animal shelter to support a cat/dog adoption campaign event, or a spay/neuter clinic	Collecting clothing and comfort items for homeless veterans at the Post Home (report this under Veterans & Family Support)
Partnering with the police or fire department on bicycle or home safety training class	Donating trophies to a youth sports group (this would be reported under Youth Activities)
Partnering with a garden club to clean up local parks	Taking food or comfort items to the local USO or your Auxiliary’s adopted military unit
Partnering with EMTs or the Red Cross to host a blood drive or CPR training	Church activities for one specific congregation and not the entire community (e.g., usher, elder, deacon, minister, etc.)
Participation in walks that benefit other organizations as an event spotter, water station volunteer, timekeeper, etc.	Cooking or servicing a meal for a Post or Auxiliary fundraiser / repairs, maintenance or cleaning in the Post Home
Partnering with civic parks and recreation departments to plant trees, develop community art	“Buddy”® Poppy Distribution (this would be reported under “Buddy”® Poppy/National Home)
Spending time in a local food pantry or food bank sorting goods into individual ‘to go’ bags or boxes for distribution to the needy	Working on a voter registration drive (this would be reported under Legislative

**NATIONAL AWARDS - For Auxiliaries**

1. Most outstanding photo collage created by the VFW Auxiliary of their VFW Auxiliary Outreach partnerships during the current Program Year.

- Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that creates the most outstanding photo collage of their VFW Auxiliary partnerships during the current Program Year.

Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to their Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman by March 31, 2025 for judging. The Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National Auxiliary Outreach Ambassador by April 30, 2025 for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

### **Awards for Departments and Department Chairmen**

1. \$25 VFW Store gift certificate to one Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the best promotion of how to build partnerships outside of the VFW Auxiliary organization.
2. The Outstanding Performance Award and Second-Place Outstanding Performance Award will be awarded in each of the 10 Program Divisions based on the criteria listed on Page 5 of the National Program Book and for the promotion of the Program goals listed at the top of Page 13 of the National Program Book.

Winners will be announced and awards presented at the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

### **Department of California Awards:**

1. Citations will be awarded to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> place winner for Best Overall Promotion within each division.
2. A certificate and a \$25 VFW Store Gift Card to the most Outstanding Auxiliary Chairman for the best promotion of the Auxiliary Outreach Program in the state.

### **Department Legacy Awards**

A Legacy Award will be awarded to one Outstanding Auxiliary Chairman for best Performance in the Auxiliary Outreach Program.

These are the questions you should try to answer when you make your reports about your Auxiliary's Auxiliary Outreach projects online. Include sufficient details in your description to help your Department Chairman recognize your accomplishments. Select the appropriate "Activity" when completing your report.

## VFW Auxiliary National Year-End Report Worksheet Auxiliary Outreach 2024-2025

This form is for statistical purposes only.

The Department Chairman must submit this report form to their Department President by May 1.  
This report to be processed in MALTA by the Department President by May 10.

Department: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of participating Auxiliaries: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Number of Auxiliaries as a group that partnered with another organization not affiliated with the VFW or VFW Auxiliary. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Number of organizations that Auxiliaries partnered with during the year. \_\_\_\_\_
3. Number of combined member and/or Auxiliary hours volunteered with another organization not affiliated with the VFW or VFW Auxiliary. \_\_\_\_\_

Department Chairman signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Conference: \_\_\_\_\_