



Department of California

"Buddy"® Poppy & VFW National Home for Children

La Verne Wilson, Chairman

November 2020-2021 * Blog



Good Morning, afternoon, or evening whichever it may be. As you know I am your Buddy Poppy and National Home for Children, Chairman this year.

We are seven months into this wonderful program and the following information is a reminder of how to share information and upcoming activities.

Social Media: Social Media is a part of everyday life and the life of the VFW Auxiliaries and Post and that there are VFW rules and regulations that are in place for using it that meet our needs. Social media accounts include but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, Websites, and SnapChat. COVID-19 has introduced most of us to Zoom, which is a great way to have meetings and to promote our programs, etc. Such as: Feel free to share my promotions and blogs, Auxiliary and Post events, Zoom events, food drives, "Buddy"® Poppy Campaigns and National Home for Children, As our National Ambassador Fogner wrote: "This year as we are "Honoring Our Mission to Serve Veterans", we must continue to get the word out about how "Buddy"® Poppy donations benefit our relief funds and veterans in need".

The "Buddy"® Poppy Campaign: November 11th, 2020 Campaign have your plans in order and be enthusiastic. Make sure you and your volunteers wear your VFW and Auxiliary attire and caps.

Remember you are not "selling" Poppies, you are distributing them with the hopes of receiving donations in support of all veterans. You can purchase Buddy Poppy promotable items from the VFW Store to enhance your campaign.

When an Auxiliary host or co-host a drive, the money collected goes into the Auxiliary Relief Fund in support of aiding Auxiliary members in need, meeting obligations or sending monetary gifts to the National Home for Children and Hospital work for all veterans and their families. For more tips review my September Promotion.

The "Buddy Poppy Department Contest: The theme this year is the "Table Centerpieces" Category three. Remember, you must have at least one original Poppy with the label attached. Due to COVID-19, the January C of A will be a Zoom. Arrangements will be made as to how the judging will take place and where. The winning Auxiliary will receive an award and the Districts participating will receive a certificate.

National Home for Children is all year round: There are somethings we can do individually and together: Signing up for their National Homes Newsletter. Purchase a Memorial/Recognition Brick. Increase the donation to the Health & Happiness Funds. Donate to the Endowment Fund, the Home Seals, the Children's Activity fund and the National Sunshine Home.

Donations can be made online in MALTA or by mail. Select "Make a Gift. You can also purchase items from Amazonsmile, the Amazonsmile Foundation donates 0.5 percent of the order price from eligible purchases to the National Home. You must sign in under Charities – VFW National Home for Children. The funds go to support National Home Children and Families.

National Home for Children Life Membership: One of my goals this year, is promoting Post and Auxiliaries to become Life Members.

The one-time cost of \$50.00 includes a membership certificate helps to supports the National Home and includes a membership certificate, a wallet card, a Life Member pin and you can vote for the trustees who represent their National Home District and approve any proposed changes to our bylaws and articles of incorporation. All VFW and VFW Auxiliary members are eligible to become a Life member of the National Home.

The Post or Auxiliary that promotes and sells the most Life Memberships, will receive a special gift from me at the Zoom Convention or by mail...

Last but important, Auxiliary Reports: Report, Report, Report: Thank you for all of your dedicated service to the VFW, VFW Auxiliaries and our veterans.

As members, you deserve credit for all the service and work that you do for our Veterans, their families, and the community. In order to receive well deserve credits, I must receive your reports by mail or email. Include all your activities, photos, articles, and news clippings. Participate in as many events that you can and write everything down to assist you in your reporting.

In closing, I am looking forward to working with all of you throughout the 2020-2021 year and your VFW Auxiliaries detailed written reports, "**Honoring our Mission to Serve Veterans**". As we are "**Soaring with Service to our Veterans**" remember to email or mail all reports to me and your District Chairman as well, as all activities for "**Our Children, Families and Communities**". I will be looking forward to receiving them.

Loyally, La Verne Wilson, "Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving to you and your families"
Department of California

"Buddy Poppy & VFW National Home for Children 2020-2021

Dana Fogner
**2020-2021 National "Buddy"® Poppy & VFW National Home
for Children Ambassador**

This year as we are "*Honoring Our Mission to Serve Veterans,*" we must continue to get the word out about how "Buddy"® Poppy donations benefit our relief funds and veterans in need.

1. Social Media: Facebook, etc. share the promotions your Department Chairmen are posting so they will reach your Auxiliary members.
2. Have virtual fundraisers by sending letters (with pictures of Poppies) to your members reminding them that there are an increasing number of veterans needing assistance during this time.
3. If you host food drives, when accepting the food give a "Buddy"® Poppy as you say, "thank you."
4. With Thanksgiving coming, you can decorate with Poppies and wrap the silverware with Poppies.

Today, so many families are having hard times making ends meet. How sad is it to think that there is help for our military, veterans, and families of veterans but they may not be aware of it? Make sure other service organizations aware of the benefits of and programs at and by the [VFW National Home for Children](#).

1. Ask to come and speak at their meeting and be sure to take National Home helpline cards.
2. Put and share the National Home information on your Auxiliary Facebook pages.
3. Make sure that everyone knows the VFW National Home for Children gets NO federal, state, or local government funding. They subsist solely on donations from VFW, MOC and their Auxiliaries, and generous donations from their Community supporters.
4. Remember the VFW National Home at your holiday celebrations and give THANKS!

Happy Thanksgiving to each of you and your families; please be safe!