

Dept Sr. Vice Cmdr.

First, I would like to congratulate the current commander Ed Stefanak and the Auxiliary President Beth Tufts on having an outstanding year. I and incoming Auxiliary President Laura Jo Sweetsir will be continuing to keep South Carolina one of the top Departments in the Nation. District One is the largest in the state and sets the example every year as to what the VFW and Auxiliary are all about. I and our incoming Auxiliary President are very excited to serve all of you this corning year.

Jim Fox

Dept Sr Vice Cmdr. 2022-2023

VFW Auxiliary Department President

As my year as Department President draws to a close, I must admit I am sad to see my year end. It has been a pleasure to be with each and every one of you. Your love and support have made my life's dream of being a Department of South Carolina President come true! I have enjoyed going around and meeting so many of you. I loved being at your meetings and getting to know you. I have made many, many friends. Please consider yourself one of them. Your hard work is appreciated. Your work for membership has your District at nearly 111%! Thank you from the bottom of my heart for what you have done for the Department of South Carolina! The Department is over 105%! We have consistently been second in the Nation in current membership. Thank you, District 1. We could not have done it without the work put in by all of you. You have truly helped make the 2022-2023 year a success for all of us.

Hugs 🚱 ,

Beth

VFW Auxiliary President Department of South Carolina 2022-2023

We $\mathbf{\Phi}$ lieve in our Veterans!

From the Commander: Commanders, Comrades and Auxiliary

Our Convention was great and sorry for being a little long, but information was very helpful for the members. Congratulations to all New and Incoming District 1 Officers and looking forward to working with you. This year we will be having almost same programs and membership will be 102% so start your plans on recruiting events. The District will be making plans on having several recruiting events for you to help.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks for your hard work in me achieving the National Commanders Spree. If you have not been to Kansas City, you need to make plans. National treated all the winners very well. We got to tour your National Headquarters. Everywhere we went in the building it was stated that this is your Headquarters, and they were vessels to keep it moving. I even got the chance to seat in National Adjutant General Dan West Desk and he has a history in his office. We were also treated to other tours in the city. World War 1 museum and that is a must see. Buffalo Soldier history is a must visit. The men and women gave a narrative of the events about the development and history that was very genuine. They even have a monument of Gen Collin Powell. So, start your plans to visit Kansas City.

Congratulations to National VFW for going over 100% but still a way to reach 102% so Post Commanders and Comrades continue recruiting. Post that hasn't reached the 100% mark, you still have time to work your membership and I would love to see all Post at the 100% mark.

Department Convention is Jun 22-24 at Embassy Suites in Columbia we will be working our Hospitality room so volunteers will be needed to help serve and man the kitty. Our Auxiliary will be providing food and snacks and they will be needing some love to help offset the cost.

I want to thank Nation Counsel Member/PSC Ted Tufts for working so hard on our newsletters.

District 1 webpage is now up and running it is <u>http://vfwscd1.org/</u> Here you can order your District shirts and I love to see everyone wearing them at the Convention. We will update information on the site as needed. We now have a banner to hang around for every District events including at the Department Convention.

In Your Comradeship *Curtis Peterson* District 1 Commander Outgoing Auxiliary President's Message

The Auxiliaries for District 1 have always set the bar high and this year was no different.

We began this year having an extensive training School of Instruction (SOI). Whereas we created specialized training and learning the jobs and responsibilities and also allowed cross training so everyone could learn about another positions.

The instructors and teachers who provided the information about the positions the members were Department Officers, Auxiliary Officers and Presidents that had an extensive background and knowledge about the information they are teaching. The materials were handed to everyone who wanted to be trained. Besides the Auxiliary Officer Stations (i.e.: President & Secretary; SVP & JVP, Treasurer and Trustee) we also had programs stations. This was set up so all members could learn how to complete a program report, how to build and stack programs for each event, and most importantly, calm their fears about writing a report. This new way of training and mentoring was beneficial not only for the trainers but more importantly, it was beneficial for our members. In attendance that day were auxiliary members and officers from other districts learning and engaging in activities.

It is and always will be my firm belief, if you take the time to help and mentor our auxiliary members, then you will see a confident and most importantly; a member that will stay and possibly in the future, become a mentor themselves or an officer. Everyone working together will always help and grow our organization.

As for membership, yes District 1 has the best paid membership @ 112.44% paid percentage. We are #1 for the Department of SC = Go District 1

Congratulations District 1, and may I add, it has been with great pride and pleasure that I have had being your District 1 President for the past 3 years. I know that we will continue to work together and thrive to be the best in South Carolina. Please know I will miss being your president, but I will still be around and if you ever have question or need anything, please feel free to contact me and I will be glad to help.

Cordially, Sharen Peterson District 1 President

2023-2024 Incoming Auxiliary President

Greetings brothers and sisters,

It is almost time that we start our 2023-2024 year. I am honored to be your district one president for the upcoming year. I want to say I really appreciate your confidence in me and allowing me to lead district 1 for the upcoming year.

For those of you that don't know me I would like to tell you a little bit about myself. I'm a life member of VFW Post 9509 auxiliary. I joined under the eligibility of my son who completed three tours in Iraq. I come from a long line of veterans, as you can imagine this has given me a great passion for our veterans and this organization. Outside of the VFW, I enjoy family, the outdoors, and quilting.

I am here in support of you, our district, department, and our organization as we, together support our veterans. I know we are going to have a great year and do wonderful things for our veterans.

I look forward to seeing you all at our school of instruction in August. As soon as I get a confirmed calendar, I will be forwarding it to all Auxiliary presidents.

Again, Thank you for your support and confidence.

Patrice Lamb District 1 Auxiliary President 2023-2024

District 1 Post Officers – Thank You!!!

It has been a great year and I want to thank ALL our District and Post officers especially the Post Commanders and Quartermasters for the efforts to make your Post and District 1 successful in 2022-2023. I am honored to work with so many of you and appreciate the support everyone has demonstrated through the year. As we head into 2023-2024, I look forward to continuing to serve the VFW as District Quartermaster and with your support and other districts and posts around SC, your next State Quartermaster.

Post Quartermasters, I am <u>always</u> available to assist you in your job duties whether you have questions, need assistance or simply to brainstorm ideas to improve processes. Improvement is what I will be striving for into the next year to make all our jobs easier and more efficient. "Working Smarter, Not Harder"

Dennis Hamilton District 1 Quartermaster dennis@hamiltoninnovative.com 843-327-3858

News from National

Member Services

Please note that on Friday, June 30, the Member Service Center will process all membership mail that it has received (physically in house) for that day, this includes membership that has been called/faxed in by close of business, 6:00 p.m. CDT.

The Online Membership System (OMS) will remain open for membership submissions until June 30 at 6:30 p.m. CDT. Please be sure to advise all Posts to submit their final membership information by then. Shortly after 6:30 p.m., all membership processing will shut down so we can begin the year-end processing reports.

As in the past, IT will require a short period of time to reconcile our final year-end processing and will keep you posted as to when the systems will be returned online in early July.

Contact: VFW Member Services Director David Prohaska, DProhaska@vfw.org.

<u>Membership</u>

We would like to recognize and thank the 9,433 members who have recruited at least one new member this year. Of those members, 37 are Century recruiters!

Reminder for new officers taking their Chairs: Contact the National Membership Department for updated recruiting materials via the Membership material order form, located behind the member login on the <u>National website</u>.

Contact: VFW Membership Director Rick Butler, <u>RButler@vfw.org</u>.

National Legislative Service

The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs held a hearing on improving veterans' access to longterm care. Witnesses from VA answered questions on its policies and procedures regarding longterm health care services and on expansion of the Veteran Directed Care program. Chairman Tester explained, "The Veteran Directed Care [VDC] program provides veterans the opportunity to receive long-term care services in their homes by providing them with the budget to hire workers to assist them with certain activities." He then asked for an update on the expansion of VDC to all VA medical centers by the end of next year. <u>Watch the hearing</u>, which begins at the 27:01 mark.

Contact: VFW National Legislative Service Director Patrick Murray, <u>PMurray@vfw.org</u>.

Membership

Comrades,

Our membership year is coming to a fast close and as a district we did a pretty good job. Our District Commander was awarded a trip to the Kansas City Spree for being in the top of the District division. Currently District 1 is #2 in our division which is a pat on the back to all our posts. This year, eight out of eleven posts made 100% or over which is great. We still have two weeks to go until the end of the membership year and we are looking for these three posts to hit the 100% mark for this year. As we all know because it has been talked about for over a year the membership requirements for next year will be 102% for everyone. Looking at our membership this year District 1 post routinely go over 102% so this will not be a hard goal to reach. The 2023-2024 Department and National membership goals and programs have been posted on the Department website for sometime now and everyone should be aware of what those goals are. If you have not read them yet here is the link—<u>https://vfwsc.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?</u> <u>pid=131999</u> . Congratulations to our Department and President Beth Tufts for making the Auxiliary Circle of Excellence. The auxiliary really worked hard and true to her motto "We B…lieve in our Veterans!".

Keep up the good work District 1 and Auxiliary. Keep working hard and hitting all the required goals and looking forward to another great membership year for 2023-2024.

National Headquarters July Membership Challenge

Starting Strong – this challenge will be for Posts, with the Post in each membership Division that increases their membership the most during the month of July being issued a \$500 gift certificate to the VFW Store.

This will count all New, Renewed, and Reinstated Annual members, since Life members will not count until September. This will emphasize the need to start with good momentum at the beginning of

the membership year.

Jed Jufts Membership Chairman

Voice of Democracy - 2023-2024



Established in 1947, our Voice of Democracy audio-essay program provides high school students with the unique opportunity to express themselves in regards to a democratic and patriotic-themed recorded essay. The national first place winner receives a \$35,000 scholarship paid directly to the recipient's American university, college or vocational/technical school. The first place winner from each VFW Department (state) wins at least a scholarship of \$1,000. applications must be turned in by midnight, Oct. 31.

The 2023-24 theme is: "What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?"

Patriot's Pen - 2023-2024



Each year, nearly 68,800 students in sixth through eighth grades enter the VFW's Patriot's Pen youth essay contest for a chance to win their share of more than \$1.4 million in state and national awards. Each first place state winner receives a minimum of \$500 at the national level, and the national first place winner wins \$5,000!

The essay contest encourages young minds to examine America's history, along with their own experiences in modern American society, by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay,

expressing their views based on a patriotic theme chosen by the VFW Commander-in-Chief. Applications must be turned in by midnight, Oct. 31.

The 2023-24 theme is: "How Are You Inspired by America?"

Rules and eligibility requirements and the complete 2023-2024 entry form can be found on the Department Website <u>vfwsc.org</u>

Sentinel Feedback Survey

Asking for help with this feedback survey for the Department Sentinel Newsletter. Due to a glitch, the previous survey did not save the answers resulting in no returns. We apologize for asking to retake this feedback survey again, but it will help us make the Sentinel Newsletter a better product. Your answers are much appreciated.

Thanks Bill LaMonte Sentinel Editor.

Sentinel Newsletter Feedback Survey https://forms.gle/XEXViBaVtmLqb7Cj6

5 Tips to keeping your myPay SAFE

Dear myPay user:

Your online habits go a long way in keeping scammers away from your personal and account information. The bottom line is that what you do and don't do protects you, your family and your financial security.

Here's some things you need to be aware of:

1. Always make sure your browser goes to the right URL. While imposters have tried to lure myPay users to a site that looks very much like myPay, make sure you are at myPay.dfas.mil.

2. Don't use third party financial websites or apps that promise early deposits and asks you to provide your myPay login credentials. Giving that information may result in having some of your myPay settings and information being changed without your awareness.

3. Beware of calls, emails or text messages allegedly from DFAS asking for information, money or containing active links to other online destinations. DFAS does not make unsolicited calls regard-ing debts, payroll mistakes or ask for information.

4. DFAS will only communicate electronically using official DFAS emails (look for ".mil" at the end of the sender's address). Don't click on links in unexpected or suspicious emails or texts.

5. Got a call, email or text you are unsure about? Check with 1-888-332-7411. Our customer service representatives can check if the call or information is legitimate. You can also use the online ASK myPay secure tool to submit your questions or concerns.

For more information about protecting yourself online, visit <u>https://www.dfas.mil/mypayinfo/</u> <u>Protect-Yourself-Online/</u>

Delivered by Defense Finance and Accounting Service

Know the issues and Legislative Priorities. The VFW has played an instrumental role in nearly every piece of veterans' legislation passed since the beginning of the 20th century. Everything we do on Capitol Hill is with the VFW's Priority Goals and veterans' well-being in mind. Sign up today and watch for the Action Alerts.





News from the Posts

Post 445

2023-24 VFW AUXILIARY OFFICERS

President	ident Barbara Barger			
Sr. Vice-President Evie McKinnon				
Jr. Vice-President Tamme Suggs				
Secretary	Joyce Miles			
Treasurer	Dennis Baker			
Chaplain	Mary Lenda			
Conductress	Irene Henderson			
Guard	Sharon Robertson			
1st Year Trustee	Irene Wright			
2nd Year Trustee	Daniel Suggs			
3rd Year Trustee	Bill Edmonds			

Congratulations.

Post 3433

Commander elect Christopher Lee

As the incoming Post Commander of Post 3433 in Summerville, I am with deep gratitude to the overwhelming welcome and comradeship from members of Post 3433 and others around. There are many tasks ahead for us that require the entire leadership team's skills, knowledge, and experience in which the elected team is surely competent to take this mission on. As with any Post or organization, good and bad things happen. It is our responsibility to embrace the good and why or how it became good. Additionally, we are charged with not only identifying the bad things, but why they happened and evolving from them. I am greatly looking forward to having the Comrades and Auxiliary operating together to have Post 3433 a solid, bright place for Veterans and their families to conjugate with other like-minded members while continuing to provide profuse support to Veterans and their families.

I have goals I hope to steer Post 3433 towards. I want to reach out to those members that are not seen and find out what it will take to welcome them back at the Post or a meeting. We're hoping to put together more events throughout the year to see each other's silly faces more to include family-oriented events. We are working on our electronic/social communications to include website, Facebook, emails, etc. Full support and encouragement will be directed to VFW programs such as Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, Budd Poppy, and others. We as a Post have our goals to concur and we will. Others and I have started to visit the other Posts throughout the district to visit and communicate. Hopefully, we will be able to put together events supporting each other. Though I'm somewhat new to the areas, we've had a great time touring Goose Creek and Monck's Corner so watch out District 1, I'm coming to all that are open to have a good time.

Christopher Lee

Commander Post 3433

Post 10256 (A 2021/2022 All American Post)

On Memorial Day Weekend, we had some awesome volunteers from our Post and from Booz Allen Hamilton to honor the sacrifices of American service members. The volunteers placed flags donated from ACE Hardware on the graves of American Service Members at Whispering Pines Memorial. Flags were also place at various location to honor the volunteers' families also.



We also held our Memorial Day service at McCalisters-Smith Funeral home. The VFW State Honor guard participated and would like to thank them for a wonderful service along with Comrade John Cardno for putting together a very nice ceremony.





Thank you for a great and awarding year, we have made many strides this year. Here are some highlights that we accomplished together. We increase membership up to 106 percent (May 2023), participated in two parades, hosted an ex-Commander and Chief, made the front page of the Post and Courier, and had our side of our building painted to support the local High School talent and our troops. Let's have a bigger year next year. Let's welcome our new officer coming in on the 25th of June (after Department Convention).

Our Auxiliary had a great year, just wanted to thank them for the support and hard work. We would not be a Post with them, here are the newly elected officers for the Auxiliary.

Commander – Mike Goad Sr. Vice Commander – Patrice M. Hanley (Tree) Jr. Vice Commander – Anthony Derhovanesian (Tony-D) Quartermaster – Benjamin Money (Ben) Chaplin – Marc Pato 1 yr. Trustee – Dwight Bain 2 yr. Trustee – Dwight Bain 2 yr. Trustee – George White 3 yr. Trustee – Rick Turner Adjutant – Benjamin Money Service Officer – Russell Brooks (Russ) Judge Advocate – Chris Manning Surgeon – Christopher Griffin (Chris) President – Annie Bain Sr. Vice President – Lori Marshall Jr. Vice President – Richard Harbold Secretary – Cathleen Derhovanesian Treasurer – Ruth Ann Hynie Conductress – Becky Moseley Chaplin – Theresa Milligan Guard – Susan Shepard Patriotic Instructor – Susan Shepard 3yr. Trustee – Michelle Goad 2yr. Trustee – Elonna Manning 1yr. Trustee – Barbara Meyerhoff

Post 12102—Very busy this year.



The auxiliary worked with a local school and made Easter cards for the residents of the

Veterans Victory House.







Auxiliary Installation

Maria Schaffer, Easter Cards.



The Auxiliary held a spaghetti dinner and bake sale fund raiser on April 14th.





Food collected for post food drive.

Loyalty Day 2023



District 1 Installation









Department President Beth Tufts Home Coming Sponsored by Post 3433 Auxiliary













National President Jane Reap Visit





Kansas City Spree













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Presented by the Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of South Carolina

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 15, 2023 DINNER AT 6:00 PM TICKETS \$75 / PERSON

& AUXILIARY

CITADEL COURVOISIE BANQUET HALL HOLIDAY ALUMNI CENTER 69 HAGOOD AVE, CHARLESTON, SC 29403

-LEARN MORE--RESERVE YOUR SEAT--BECOME A SPONSOR / DONOR-



SCAN, CLICK OR TAP

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF FREEDOM!

The VFW Department of South Carolina is honored to celebrate POW/MIA Recognition Day, Friday, September 15, 2023, by honoring Vietnam POWs who were released from captivity in 1973. Dinner will be catered by Mt Pleasant's "Top Shelf Catering Company," to be followed with a Panel Discussion (and Q&A session) conducted with SC POWs who were held in captivity during the Vietnam War. Enjoy a delicious meal while experiencing the unique opportunity to meet living legends, who will share stories about their lives before, during and after captivity. Funds raised for this once-in-a-lifetime event will be used to support the VFW's Veteran Service Officer (VSO) Program: providing veterans with help receiving the benefits they earned and deserve. This VSO fundraiser will also make a contribution to the NAMPOWs, to provide funding for their future reunions.

SPONSOR LEVELS



Diamond \$3,500+ Platinum \$3,500 Gold \$2,000 Silver \$1,000 Bronze \$500



POW / MIA RECOGNITION DAY — YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN—



Department of South Carolina 210 Glassmaster Road Lexington, South Carolina 29072 Phone: (803) 808-0317

2023-2024

Jim Fox - State Commander Laura Jo Sweetsir - State President

WHO WE ARE

Veterans of Foreign Wars vfw.org vfwsc.org vfwauxsc.org

District 1 Comrades and Auxiliary

VFW District 1 Polo Shirt - \$30.00

We have shirts ready for purchase / delivery and proceeds will go to VFW Programs. All shirts are Men sizes. Please call 843-327-3858 if you have any questions. We will have shirts at the Department of SC Convention available in the District 1 Hospitality Suite!

Currently In Stock at the time of this newsletter: 3 – LG, 6 – XLG, 3 – 2XLG



District 1 webpage is now up and running it is <u>http://vfwscd1.org/</u> and we are using this site to order shirts. There are many plans for the use of this site to make D1 better so keep watch for future updates.

We now have a banner to post around District events including at the Department



The Department Website <u>vfwsc.org</u> has lots of good information. The home tab has an announcements section that has the current updates added to the site. Check this often to see new updates. and the About, Resources and News tabs are continually updated. Any post who uses the VFW Website Solution program and has the news section enabled will see items added to the Department news. If you are using the Calendar section you will see District and Department events on your Calendar. If you are not using the VFW Website Solution program for our website you might want to check it out. You can find information on <u>vfwsc.org</u>

Department of South Carolina 2023-2024 Dennis M Hamilton

Financial Management > Technology > Reporting > Accountability



Military Service

1978 – 1982: US Navy, Petty Officer 2nd Class, Boiler Technician, USS America (CV-66) Expeditionary Medal, Indian Ocean during Iranian Hostage Crisis in the Middle East.



Veterans of Foreign Wars

2015: Joined VFW as Life Member Post 3137 Isle of Palms 2016 – Present: Post 3137 Communications, Website, Membership Email, Social Media 2016-2022: Post 3137 Member of All State / All American Team, 6 Consecutive Years. Various other Committees and Positions 2017-2019: Post 3137 House Committee 2019-2020: Post 3137 House Committee Chair 2020-2022: Post 3137 All State / All American Quartermaster

2021-2022: Post 3137 Website & Social Media Award - vfwpost3137.org

2022-2023: District 1 Quartermaster, Department National Home Chair, Member of the SC Department Budget and Finance Committee



Education

1984 – 1986: Associate Degree Computers and Electronics
1986 – Present: Perseverance, Dedication,



Professional Career

1986 – 2007: Standard Register Company HQ – Variety of Positions in Field Service, Sales, Support, IT Technology, and Management 1992: Co-Founder with Logical Computing Solutions (Small Business) 1995: Co-Founding Member with Panini North America (Small Business)

2004 – 2019: Hamilton Innovative LLC, Owner/CEO/President until retirement in 2019 Sales, Operations, Payroll, Quarterly / Annual Tax Filings and Business Filings with State(s) and Federal.

2016 – 2019: Licensed SC Real Estate Agent (Residential)

2004 – Present: Maintained QuickBooks bookkeeping for Hamilton Innovative, Applied Security Knowledge, VFW (Post 3137 / District 1), Bridlewood HOA

#STILLSERVING, WORKING, LEARNING, AND GROWING WITH OUR COMRADE AND AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP TOWARD SUCCESS. I ASK FOR YOUR ENDORSEMENT, SUPPORT, AND VOTE 2023.

Veterans of Foreign Wars VFWSC District 1 of the Lowcountry



VFW & Auxiliary candidates for the Department of South Carolina













DONNAMARIE KING

JR. VICE PRESIDENT MARIETTA HILL



Congratulations for a Job Well Done!







Beth Tufts, President VFW Auxiliary Dept of South Carolina





District 1 Officers 2022-2023			District 1 Auxiliary Officers 2022-2023	
Commander	Curtis Peterson		President	Patrice Lamb
Sr. Vice Cmdr.	Rex Brown	Γ	Sr. Vice President	Lynn Holgate
Jr. Vice Cmdr.	Chris Manning		Jr. Vice President	Robin Pittman
Quartermaster	Dennis Hamilton		Treasurer	Sandy Roland
Adjutant	PSC Betty Hilliard		Secretary	Anna Deacon
Chaplain	Charles Blankin		Chaplain	Kelly Wiggins
Inspector	Curtis Peterson		Conductress	Elonna Manning
Judge Advocate	Michael Goad	Γ	Guard	Beth Tufts
Surgeon	PSC Robert Holsclaw		Patriotic Instructor	Kathy Thomas
Trustee 1 yr.	Jim Barger	Γ	1 Year Trustee	Michele Jones
Trustee 2 yr.	Marc Jacob		2 Year Trustee	Cliff Weaver
Trustee 3 yr.	Mike Hadbavny		3 Year Trustee	Sharen Peterson
Service Officer	Ron Jones			
Chief of Staff	PSC Ted Tufts			
Patriots Pen	Bill King			
Voice of Democracy	Marc Jacob			
Teacher Awards	James 'Smokey' Stover			

District 1 Meetings 2023-2024

26 August—District School of Instruction Post 3433—Eat 1, meet at 2.