

MICHIGAN CONNECTION

September/October, 2018

www.vfwauxmi.org

(MUST be read on the Auxiliary Floor)

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

Department Theme: United We Stand

Special Announcements

Congratulations to Sandi Onstwedder as National Jr. Vice President; Jan Passmore on her election and appointment as National Secretary/Treasurer; Nicole Koutz as National Membership/Recruitment Ambassador; and Stephanie Krueger as a member of the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee. Michigan is proud of these members and know that they will serve us well.

Congratulations to Michigan's First Place Winner in the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Competition, Kristin Donnelly sponsored by Auxiliary #2326 in Grand Haven, District 8. Kristin placed 7th at the National level and was awarded a \$500 scholarship.

REMINDER!!! Please follow the chain of command if you have any questions. You should contact your District President or the Department. You should never contact National directly with a question as they will only send it back to the Department President for response.

AWARD CATEGORIES — The award categories for the Programs have been changed. We are going back to 10 membership categories. More awards for everyone!!

Bylaws and Orders

Special Order #302, dated June 1, 2018 – The Charter of Dr. George Washington Carver/Leo R. Crow Auxiliary, Flint has been cancelled and the Auxiliary declared defunct.

Special Order #330, dated June 22, 2018 – The Charter of Thornapple Valley Auxiliary to VFW Post #8260, Nashville has been cancelled and the Auxiliary declared defunct.

National Convention Report

See attached sheet for the listing of Resolutions that were adopted at the National Convention. There were additional proposed amendments to the bylaws and ritual, however, a motion was made to dispense with the presentation of these amendments as ample time was not given to the delegation and members to review and discuss. Motion carried. So there are no additional changes beyond what has been listed above.

Upcoming Events

Fall Conference is September 26-29 at Boyne Highlands Resort. Refer to our website for the Hotel Registration Information and tentative agenda. We will once again be having our Auction on Friday night so please be sure to bring your new items.

Secretary/Treasurer/Trustee workshop on Thursday, September 13 at 10:00 am at the Department Office. Reservation form are available on our website under Announcements.

Secretary/Treasurer/Trustee workshop on Saturday, October 13 at Post #4073 in Marshall. Reservation form are available on our website under Announcements.

Big 10 Conference, October 19-21, at the Hilton St. Louis Airport. Our own Jan Passmore will be ending her reign as Big 10 President along with our Department Secretary Cindy Peto as Big 10 Secretary. Let's show them our support! Forms and information are available on our website.

National President Sandy Kriebel will be making her official visit to Michigan on October 28 – 30th. Itinerary and reservation forms are available on our website.

Any upcoming events can be found on our website under Announcements. Be sure to access our website on a regular basis.

Treasurers Tips

Reminder: Applications for New Members MUST have the Member ID of who recruited or that individual will NOT receive credit.

For a listing of where to send donations, please access our website under Resources/Treasurer.

Remember that 990's are due by November 15. The Department Treasurer does not automatically file for your Auxiliary. It is the responsibility of the Auxiliary to contact the office and let the Treasurer know and she will be happy to do it. If you have any questions or need assistance, please call the Department Office. Please send the Department a copy of your verification so that we may keep it on file.

Reminder: September is the month for when your District Dues are due. If you have not received your notice from the District, please contact your District Treasurer.

Words from Sandi Onstwedder

Notice: There will not be a Silver Dollar table at Fall Conference. I am asking you to save your items up for the next Silver Dollar Table and bring them with you to our Midwinter Conference in Kalamazoo this coming January.

This year at our Fall Conference, we will be having a Rock Raffle in its place. Please watch the Department Website for further details.

I sincerely wish to thank those that have worked the Silver Dollar Table at the Midwinter Conference and the Department Convention. Also I wish to thank those of you that donated items for the table.

We have experienced great success in our fundraising efforts so far. I am being very optimistic and hopeful that we will be able to conclude fundraising efforts for my Celebration after our Midwinter endeavors. Then together we will concentrate on the needs of our Department operations.

Sandi Onstwedder Past Department President, National Jr. Vice President Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

Connection Corner

Q: I am a brand new President and relatively new member of the Auxiliary. I have very little knowledge to help me as I serve in this position. What can I do to get more information?

A: Be sure to contact the Department Office right away so that we can provide assistance. In addition, access our website and check out the resources that are available. An excellent resource is the "Building and the VFW Auxiliary Tradition" manual. It is a wealth of information and provides you with duties and responsibilities for all positions, best practices, and examples of how to handle different positions and expectations. The goal of this manual is to develop and maintain consistent practices across the organization; to train and equip leaders of today and tomorrow; and to strengthen the basic building blocks of the organization. This manual is available on the vfwauxmi.org website or may be purchased for \$5 from the Department Office.

Questions? If you have any questions or comments, please email the Department Office at misec@asiserve.net and we will answer your question and also incorporate it into our next Michigan Connection.

By Order of:

Sandy Medos

**Sandy Medos
Department President**

Cindy Peto

**Cindy Peto
Department Secretary**

Resolutions at 2018 National Convention

The following Resolutions submitted at the 2018 National Convention were approved and adopted. If a Resolution is not on this listing, it means it was defeated. The additional suggested changes to the Bylaws by the Resolutions committee was tabled to the next National Convention..

1. Realign of the National C of A seats. Adopted. Michigan will now have their own seat on the Council. At our June Convention (2019), we will elect a National Council of Administration who will serve a 3-year term (2019-2022). At Department Convention in 2022, we will again elect a National Council of Administration that will serve for two years and we will then elect every two years (even numbered year; ie 2022, 2024, etc.).
2. An optional cap of Marine Blue with yellow piping was approved. For those wishing to wear caps, they will be available through the VFW Store (availability date is not known). In addition, pins may be worn on the caps. Caps may be worn with or without the blue shirt.
3. Official look is to be worn at National Convention business sessions by Officers, Ambassadors and National District Council members.
4. Proof of eligibility no longer needed for any type of transfer, but must show a current year paid or life member card.
5. Switch from Demeters to Roberts Rules.

**NATIONAL PRESIDENT SANDI KRIEBEL
OFFICIAL VISIT ITINERARY**

October 28-30, 2018

Sunday, October 28

Taylor-Aux. # 4422	5:00 Aisle of Flags (color bearer flags)
	6:00 Dinner

Monday, October 29

Holland-Aux. #2144	11:00 Aisle of Flags (color bearer flags)
	12:00 Luncheon

Mt. Pleasant-Aux. #3033	5:00 Aisle of Flags (color bearer flags)
	6:00 Dinner

For those who may not be able to attend, but wish to honor our National President, please send your love gift to:

Cindy Peto, Department Secretary
924 N. Washington Avenue
Lansing, MI 48906

Any questions regarding the visit, please contact Cindy Peto, Chairman, at 517 487-3715.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Sandi Kriebel

PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY

Please include this form with your gift:

Auxiliary Name _____ Auxiliary No. _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Amount of Gift: _____ Auxiliary President _____

***Auxiliary to Conroy-Renye-McNeil Auxiliary #4422
Cordially invites you to a Dinner in honor of
National President Sandi Kriebel***

DATE/TIME: Sunday, October 28

5:00 Aisle of Flags (color bearer flags)
6:30 Dinner
Dues Transmittals, Love Gifts and Pictures

LOCATION: Conroy-Renye-McNeil Auxiliary #4422
11590 Pine Street
Taylor, MI 48180

COST: **\$12.00/per person**
MUST be paid when reservation made
NO TICKETS will be sold the day of the dinner

RESERVATIONS DEADLINE: October 15, 2018

MENU: **Roast Beef, Stuffed Cabbage, City Chicken, Broasted Chicken,
Mashed Potatoes and Gravy, California Medley Vegetables, salad,
Rolls, and dessert.**

For those who may not be able to attend but wish to honor our National President
please send your love gift to Department Secretary Cindy Peto, 924 N Washington Ave
in Lansing, MI 48906 ***Make checks payable to Sandi Kriebel.***

Name: _____	Send reservations and payment to: Deborah Gaines 22296 Armstrong Avenue Brownstown, MI 48193
Number of Guests: _____	
Amount enclosed: _____	Checks payable to: Conroy-Renye-McNeil Auxiliary #4422

***Auxiliary to Henry Walters #2144
cordially invites you to a luncheon in honor of
National President Sandi Kriebel***

DATE/TIME: Monday, October 29

11:00 Aisle of Flags (color bearer flags)
11:30 Luncheon
Dues Transmittals, Love Gifts and Pictures

LOCATION: Henry Walters #2144
W. 8th Street
Holland

COST: **\$7 per person**
MUST be paid when reservation made
NO TICKETS will be sold the day of the dinner

RESERVATIONS DEADLINE: October 15, 2018

MENU: Chicken Salad on Bed of Lettuce or Croissant
Cucumber and Tomato Salad
Fruit Salad
Dessert
Coffee and Tea

For those who may not be able to attend but wish to honor our National President please send your love gift to Department Secretary Cindy Peto, 924 N Washington Ave., Lansing, MI 48906 ***Make checks payable to Sandi Kriebel.***

<p>Name: _____</p> <p>Number of Reservations: _____</p> <p>Amount enclosed: _____</p> <p>(If more than one reservation, please list all names)</p>	<p>Send reservations and payment to:</p> <p>Ellen Robinson, Treasurer 1004 E. 24th Street Holland, MI 49423</p> <p>Checks payable to: VFW Auxiliary #2144</p>
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***Auxiliary to Borley-Hanel #3033
Cordially invites you to a Dinner in honor of
National President Sandi Kriebel***

DATE/TIME: Monday, October 29

5:00 Aisle of Flags (color bearer flags)
6:00 Dinner
Dues Transmittals, Love Gifts and Pictures

LOCATION: Borley-Hanel #3033
4841 E. Pickard
Mt. Pleasant

COST: **\$10/per person**
MUST be paid when reservation made
NO TICKETS will be sold the day of the dinner

RESERVATIONS DEADLINE: October 24

MENU:

Beef	Chicken
Potatoes	Veggies
Salads	Rolls
Desserts	Coffee and Tea

For those who may not be able to attend but wish to honor our National President please send your love gift to Department Secretary Cindy Peto, 924 N Washington Ave in Lansing, MI 48906 ***Make checks payable to Sandi Kriebel.***

Name: _____	Send reservations and payment to: Victoria Bushong 5201 E. Pleasant Valley Road Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
Number of Guests: _____	
Amount enclosed: _____	Checks payable to: Borley-Hanel VFW Auxiliary #3033

**ATTENTION ALL PAST
AND CURRENT PRESIDENTS**

*You are cordially invited to the annual
Past President's Club Luncheon*

*Saturday, September 29, 2018
at Boyne Highlands Resort*

*Time: 11:30 to 12:30 pm
In the meeting room after the morning
session.*

**ENTERTAINMENT PROVIDED BY: THE DISTRICT
PRESIDENTS**

MENU

Ham OR Turkey sandwich, chips, pop

\$9.00 for lunch and \$3.00 PP Club dues

**Send form and check payable to: MI VFW AUXILIARY Mail to: Judy
Henson, 1100 S. Dalrymple St., Albion 49224**

DEADLINE: September 21, 2018

***THIS IS A FUN TIME! ORDER YOUR TICKETS
EARLY!***

Past Presidents Club
Luncheon Reservations and Dues Form
****Open to all past and current Presidents on all levels****

Lunch -\$9.00 per person

Dues \$3.00

Luncheon		Dist	Aux	Dues	
<i>Name</i>	<i>*H or T</i>			<i>Name</i>	<i>Amt</i>
Total Due				Total Due	

Send form and make check payable to: MI VFW Auxiliary
Mail To: Judy Henson, 1100 S. Dalrymple St., Albion, MI 49224

***...H is for Ham, T is for Turkey ...You must chose or it will be selected for you.**



Fall Conference



Live Auction

Friday Night
7pm -???

Held in
The
Blue Room

District VS District

(The District that raises the most money will **WIN \$100.00**)

The total amount of money raised by the donated items from Auxiliaries within each district, will be added together to determine the District that wins. We request that your Auction item be of significant value to help add up your Districts total. Thank you for your support!

Please bring your item yourself or arrange for someone to bring it for you.

All Proceeds will go into the General Fund
(All items must be paid for that night)

Everyone Welcome

**Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
Veterans & Family Support BULLETIN
September/October 2018**

www.vfwauxmi.org

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

National Theme: BELIEVE... We Can Do It!

Department Theme: United We Stand

The second reporting quarter ends October 31st. It is MOST important that you look at your guide sheet. You need to be reporting on the achievements listed. The only way we can know how many veterans you have helped, what you did for them, etc. is in the reporting. Sending in a report that states "I missed the meeting, I am sure they read the bulletin" has nothing to do with the achievements. I can't give any credit, check it off or give recognition. Everything you do for a veteran is reportable. Year after year we quote numbers, which are great, but this year they want to recognize the outstanding work that goes into those numbers.

Our National Ambassador wants to share with you "it doesn't matter how small or large, how much money they spend or didn't spend, how many hours the project took or didn't take, EVERY PROJECT counts" and that is what she needs to hear about. "One Auxiliary, one project, one committee, one member. And that is worth reporting."

The National Veterans Service (NVS)-Service members and veterans may be entitled to benefits from the VA (Department of Veterans Affairs). These benefits include: Disability compensation, Rehabilitation and education programs, including GI benefits. Pension and death benefits and employment and training programs. To make a claim is quite complicated. The NVS has a network of VFW Service Officers to assist veterans with this at NO charge to the veteran. Each year the VFW has helped to recover billions in earned benefits and compensation for our veterans. Have or sponsor a project to support the NVS, as the funds and donations you send in fund these Service Officers. Have your nearest or Post Service Officer information posted or advertised.

November is Military Family Appreciation Month. This month is for recognizing the military families, because they know what it means to serve our country, as they serve too. They know the risks while standing by during long deployments. The spouse left behind holds the family together and celebrates the short time they have while on leave. When the tour of duty has ended, they have to adjust to civilian life and support their veteran.

Begin planning events that can help and celebrate our military families. A few ideas: Volunteer your time. Give them a break by helping with grocery shopping, watching the children allowing them to go to a movie. Leave a "care package", items you know they can use, on their doorstep. Find out what they need like their grass mowed or walk their fur baby. Give them a grocery gift card or certificate to a local restaurant. Have an appreciation dinner or lunch at your Post. Maybe all they need is someone to talk to. The possibilities are endless. Honor their commitment to their support of our country.

Provide direct aid to veterans, military and/or their families. All projects that aid and support our veterans and troops, like sending care packages, holiday parties, funeral dinners, providing transportation to doctor appointments, making their meals etc. is aiding our veterans.

It is important for you to report how many veterans you helped, value of your donation or money you spent. Report the miles each member drove. For example: if you had a funeral luncheon and 10 members helped, find out the total mileage from each member, add it up and report it. If each one made a dish to pass, value of what it cost, for each member, add it up. How many hours each member spent preparing and serving, add it up and report it. You are doing fantastic things for our veterans, so report everything that everybody did.

Some of you have donated furniture, clothing and household items. Many have asked for a standard donation value sheet. We do not have one. You can use one from the IRS or Goodwill if you want to. It is best to use your own judgement. Keep in mind what you would pay for it if you needed to buy it.

Purchase or sell President Sandy's Program Pin. We need to sell out these pins! All funds will go to support Veterans & Family Support. If you need more pins, contact Ruth Barnhill (aka: Raffle Ruthie).

Look over your guide sheet and see what you have done and what you can accomplish. Helpful information on this program can be found at www.vfwauxiliary.org . Go to Veterans & Family Support and click on any link you are interested in. Read through the National Auxiliary Program Book. You can also get more information at the VFW's website: www.vfw.org.

Chairmen attend your District meeting. Great information will be at the School of Instruction at your District meeting. When you attend, make sure the information makes it back to your auxiliary. When you attend your next auxiliary meeting, pass around a sheet of paper, so each member can list what they have done so you can report it.

Fall Conference will be September 26-30th at Boyne Highlands. I look forward to seeing you there. As the VFW and Auxiliary are a family, it is great to get together with family members, visit and share ideas.

Jane Dady Department Chairman
Veterans and Family Support
953 N US 23
East Tawas, MI 48730
(989) 362-4748
jdpickle12@yahoo.com

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
AMERICANISM BULLETIN
September/October 2018
www.vfwauxmi.org



National Theme: Believe....We Can Do It!

Department Theme: United We Stand

School is back in session and that means NOW is the time to head to the schools to get started promoting the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award. The contest recognizes three exceptional teachers for their outstanding commitment to teaching Americanism and Patriotism to their students. Each year a classroom elementary, junior high and high school teacher whose curriculum focuses on citizenship education topics – for at least half of the school day in a classroom environment can be nominated for the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award. Work with your VFW Post, EVERYTHING you need to know to get started and be successful can be found on the VFW Website: www.vfw.org/TeacheroftheYear/ .

Deadlines October 31st - Deadline for teacher nominations at the Post. Post judging should be completed by November 15th and winners sent to District. District judging should be completed by December 15th and winners forwarded to the Department. Department judging should be completed January 10th and winners submitted to VFW National Headquarters by January 15th. Post chairmen must be sure to send the original nomination form, essay and official VFW Post teacher entry form of the winner from each grade's category level — along with one-page resume, up to five pages of documentation and a good quality head and shoulders photograph from the winning teachers.

National Winners will receive:

- A \$1000 award for professional development expenses
- A \$1000 award for his/her school
- Two Award plaques; one for the teacher and the other for his/her school
- An all-expense paid trip to attend a VFW Conference to receive their award

Upcoming Patriotic Holidays:

Patriot Day – September 11

Patriot Day, also known as the national Day of Service and Remembrance, occurs on September 11 each year in memory of those killed during the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Those we lost September 11, 2001 will forever hold a cherished place in our hearts and in the history of our nation. Appropriate ceremonies and activities include a moment of silence beginning at 8:46 a.m. EDT, remembrance services and candlelight vigils. Flags should be flown at half-staff on Patriot Day.

POW/MIA Recognition Day – September 21

POW/MIA Recognition Day honors the commitments and the sacrifices made by our nation's prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action. National POW/MIA Recognition Day is one of the six days specified by law on which the black POW/MIA flag shall be flown over federal facilities and cemeteries, post offices and military facilities. Plan ahead and check with your local facilities to make sure they have a POW/MIA flag and if not, it would be a great time to make a formal presentation of the flag to the facility. POW/MIA – YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN.

Gold Star Mother's/Family's Day – September 29

Gold Star Mother's/Family's Day honors mothers and families who have lost a service member in combat. The name comes from the custom of families hanging Service Flags in the window of their homes. The Service Flag has a star for each family member in the armed forces. A blue star represents a family member in active service, a silver star represents a family member wounded or injured in a war zone and a gold star represents a family member killed during active-duty and stands for sacrifice made for honor and freedom. Americans are encouraged to display the Flag and hold appropriate ceremonies as a public expression of our nation's gratitude and respect for our Gold Star Mothers and Families.

Remember to REPORT all that you do! 2nd Quarter is August 1 – October 31st

When submitting your reports PLEASE provide detailed information. Especially how many U.S. or POW MIA flags you handed out, and the number of certificates presented to businesses or citizens in recognition of displaying their U.S. or POW MIA Flag.

Thank you for all you do for our Veterans and our GREAT Country!

Sara Manke
Department Americanism Chairman
22232 P Dr. S
Homer MI 49245
(517) 652-4507
Smanke508@hotmail.com

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
"BUDDY" ® POPPY & VFW National Home
BULLETIN

September/October, 2018

www.vfwauxmi.org



National Theme: Believe....We Can Do It!

Department Theme: United We Stand

Greetings Members, keep those reports coming in, It is wonderful to see how creative our members are in promoting our "BUDDY" ® POPPY in the many displays. It was Wonderful to see the many entries we had at MI. Days Congratulations to our winners.

Emphasis is going to continue at Fall Conference, It will be a bit different than our usual buddy poppy contest entries, this time please bring a picture of your entry not the actual entry, being this is Fall Conference we are encouraging school of instruction promoting training and learning all we can to bring back to our Auxiliaries also space is of short supply, I will have boards to display all entries, hopefully in the back of our meeting room. Be Creative and "THINK OUTSIDE OF THE BOX" We need to let the secret out and share it with our Members and Our Communities, please use your displays to promote the awareness of Buddy Poppies. Use the many Promotions through VFW National Resources & Veterans Behind Buddy" ® Poppy Video or Article. There are many people in your community may question you what is a "Buddy Poppy" they refer to it as a red pansy or red flower unaware what the poppy stands for or even how it's made, let's make sure we Promote, Educate and use the Resources that are available on our National and Department websites.

Has your Auxiliary sent in your Health & Happiness donations to National? Please report how much money was sent and how much it represents per member? Your support of the National Home gives struggling military and veteran families hope at a time when they need it most. They are counting the days until the end of deployment, seeing their veteran through a VA Vocational Rehabilitation program, or simply working to build a better life, these families are blessed to have a place to call home because of the many generous members. Please go to the vfwnationalhome.org website and follow the blogs, or Facebook page so you can stay on top of their needs. How many feet has your Auxiliary walked so far to "Make a Change for Our National Home". ?

Remember, school is starting soon you may be able to purchase backpacks for each of the children? Then report all donations made.

National Home Life Memberships are increasing January 1st, 2019 to \$50.00 and will include a life membership pin. That's a \$10.00 increase. Being a Life Member or an Associate Member (not a member of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary) of the National Home is one way you can create a bond between yourself and the mission of our National Home, ask members of your community if they would like to be an Associate member promote our National Home. Let's see who can sign up 10 new Life Memberships!

Other ways you can promote the National Home is sign up for Amazon Smile if you are a online shopper or if you shop at Kroger's the Community Rewards program helps our home. <http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com/> group #79329 is VFW National Home. I Believe ...We Can Do This! United We Stand for Our Veterans

Have you taken on the challenge by adding the VFW Helpline as a contact in your phone. 1-800-313-4200 Remember it's a Helpline NOT a Hotline
"Just One Act of Yours May turn the Tide of another person's Life."

Keep Reporting! Take the Daily Challenge to Promote Our VFW National Home to someone everyday as well as Wear a Buddy Poppy and share it with some-one you met during the Day, and then report it!

Kathy Hubbard Buddy Poppy & VFW National Home Chairman
248-830-6324 or 248-693-6759
108 Schorn Rd. Lake Orion, MI. 48362
specialk843@aol.com

Michigan Department Auxiliary to the VFW

CAMP TROTTER BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2018

www.vfwauxmi.org

National Theme: Believe...We Can Do It!

Department Theme: United We Stand

Happy Fall Brothers and Sisters of the Great State of Michigan!

Well another camping season has come to a close at our beautiful Camp Trotter. A huge thank you goes out to Matt Koutz and his awesome team this year. Without the hard work and dedication of the staff each year our camp could not be such a success. A big shout out also goes to Larry Thayer and the board for making sure the camp was in order and Matt had the supplies he needed to do such a great job.

This year over 350 campers attended camp and went home with a heart full of memories to last a lifetime. That is the goal of our camp. We want to change the life of every child that attends for the better. When the child steps foot on the ground of Camp Trotter we want them to forget about any of the stresses of life they may have and just be a kids for a week.

Hopefully you were able to attend Family Day at camp August 25. Fun was had by all and we made some people very happy when there name was drawn in the big money raffle.

Keep an eye out for dates for the fall cleaning up and closing of buildings for the winter. It takes a platoon to get the work done. Contact Larry Thayer if you have any questions.

Larry Thayer
4858 Apache Path
Owasso, MI 48867
vfwlarry@aol.com

Even though camping season is over your donations are still very important to the camp. Do not forget that part of your goals is to purchase a Camp Trotter Life

Membership (or more) for \$35 each. The funds raise help to support the camp. Do this in memory of a veteran you love.

Thank you for those of you who sent campers or scholarships this year, I know the camper also appreciates it.

Happy Camping!

Denise Arnold
Camp Trotter Chairman
9525 E River Rd
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858
989-621-0327

dmarnold65@gmail.com

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
CHIEF OF STAFF / EXTENSION BULLETIN
September/October, 2018
www.vfwauxmi.org



National Theme: Believe....We Can Do It!

Department Theme: United We Stand

The Department will be offering the Secretary, Treasurer, and Trustee Workshop at our Fall Conference in September. If your Auxiliary has not had this training this year, please attend at the Conference. The training is a wealth of knowledge for all members. As well as the workshop, our Department Chairmen will be presenting their programs so you are better able to understand the guidelines and mentor your members.

In Michigan, the months of September and October still provide beautiful weather for outdoor activities. Has your Auxiliary scheduled a Family Freedom Festival? Now is the time to invite your members, their families, and your community to participate in the celebration. Make sure your Auxiliary Chairmen are available to provide information on our Programs. Highlight all we do in our community. Promote patriotism! Invite winners of your student contests to share their essays and art with all attending. Your Post should be a major part of the festival. Please include your Post Service Officer to answer questions that may arise. Invite the local media to report on your event. Make it a day to remember!

Please visit our Auxiliary website. Click on Programs and scroll to Chief of Staff/Extension. Look at the forms available for you to utilize during meetings. Make use of the Phone Tree to communicate with members. Reach out to members and ask what type of contact they would prefer. Social Media is an easy way to send a reminder of meetings and upcoming events. Some members prefer phone calls. Maximize your ability to reach your members.

Check with your new members. Is your mentoring team aiding them in their understanding of our organization? Are they enjoying the welcome packet you provided at their first meeting? Have you included them in any scheduled events? Ask if they have any lingering questions or concerns. Madam President, are you confident you chose the right Mentors? I know you have answered yes to all of the above questions! Your Auxiliary is Healthy!

I am available at any time if you need to contact me. My preferred mode of contact is text, however I will respond to Facebook Messenger, e-mail, and/or a phone call.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the Fall Conference!

Gloria Dobbie
Chief of Staff/Extension Chairman
12451 Clinton River Road
Sterling Heights, Mi 48313
586-739-8095
wadobbie@prodigy.net

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
HOSPITAL BULLETIN
September and October, 2018
www.vfwauxmi.org



National Theme: BELIEVE... We Can Do It!

Department Theme: United We Stand

FALL CONFERENCE – September 27 – 30, 2018

Attend a School of Instruction and Program breakout sessions at the Fall Conference. Want a raffle where EVERYONE who plays is an instant winner? Visit the Hospital Booth at the Fall Conference.

Attention Auxiliaries and Districts: Your help is needed with this new kind of raffle. Please ask your auxiliary and district to donate \$5 to \$25 gift cards from statewide stores and restaurants like Meijer's, Wal-Mart, McDonalds, Burger King, etc. Stores with online shopping like Kohl's and Amazon along with Visa and MasterCard gift cards would work well, too. A few hundred gift cards would make this raffle a huge success.

We will also be collecting deodorant for our five VA hospitals and 2 Veterans Homes. Please bring them to the Hospital Booth at the Fall Conference. If you volunteer at a facility or nursing home, you may take your donation directly there. Be sure to report that the deodorant donation was for Fall Conference.

SEPTEMBER IS SUICIDE AWARENESS MONTH

Sad to report that 20 of America's Military and Veterans commit suicide each day. The Veterans Administration, VFW and VFW Auxiliary are serious about reducing Military and Veteran Suicides. Suicide Awareness is one of your Annual Goals. Below are some Mental Wellness Support and Resources. Do your part by sharing vital information on the warning signs and Help Lines.

- **The Campaign to Change Direction** – The goal of the Campaign to Change Direction is to change the culture of mental health in America so that all of those in need receive the care and support they deserve. The Campaign encourages all Americans to pay attention to their emotional well-being – and it reminds us that our emotional well-being is just as important as our physical well-being. You are encouraged to know the Five Signs that may mean someone in your life is experiencing emotional pain and what to do next.
- **Make the Connection** – Make the Connection is an online resource designed to connect veterans, their family members and friends, and other supporters with information, resources and solutions to issues affecting their lives.

- **Veterans Crisis Line** – The Veterans Crisis Line connects veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders. Confidential support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Veterans and their loved ones can:
 - Call 1-800-273-8255 and Press 1
 - Chat online
 - Send a text message to 838255
- **Give an Hour** (www.giveanhour.org)
- **Patients Like Me** (www.patientslikeme/join/VFW)
- **One Mind** (www.onemind.org)
- **Help Heal Veterans** – therapeutic craft kits (www.healvets.org)
- **Objective Zero** (www.objectivezero.org)

NOTE: Support for deaf and hard of hearing individuals is available. Non-Veterans can use the Crisis Line, too. They call the same number but do not press 1.

- **Blue Teardrop** - The VFW Auxiliary has designed their own symbol to call attention to Veterans and Military Suicide Awareness. It is the Blue Teardrop. The template is on our department website. Print a few sheets, cut them out and distribute them to your auxiliary members. Wear a Blue Teardrop and open a possible, life-saving conversation.

NEWS FLASH!!!! - Reporting the Number of Hospital Volunteers

I recently received clarification from National on how you should count any auxiliary volunteer at VA facilities or regular hospitals, retirement homes, hospices, veterans' homes, etc.

A volunteer is always only **ONE VOLUNTEER**. It doesn't matter how many times or places they volunteer; they are still just one person and should only be counted once for the entire year. If it is easier, you can keep a running list and wait until the end of the reporting year to give me the cumulative total count of volunteers (MEMBERS field in our Reporting System) from all volunteering and projects.

COMMUNITY VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT WEEK #1 (NOVEMBER 5 – 11, 2018)

The Hospital Volunteer Recruitment Kit is available on the National (www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources) and Department (www.vfwauxmi.org) websites. The kit includes advertising tools (posters, sample announcements, etc.), the official Member Report Form and guidelines for National awards.

- 1) For a successful event, organize a committee and set a date, time and place. Use email, newspapers, TV, posters, and social media to publicize your event. Remember you will need auxiliary members to help set up and man your booth.
- 2) Contact local hospitals and nursing/rehabilitation facilities to gather information on their opportunities, training and need for volunteers.

Requesting a copy of their volunteer application and have them available at your booth.

- 3) Contact local youth groups like Scouts, local businesses and churches. Give them a flyer or poster that explains the VFW Auxiliary volunteer story.

The second Recruitment week is April 7-13, 2019. Document lessons learned from the November event so your April event can be even better.

National needs to know the number of NEW adult and NEW Youth volunteers. These can be one-time, occasional or regularly scheduled volunteers. In the Description Field on your Quarterly Report, please include separate counts of new adult and youth volunteers your auxiliary recruited.

REPORTING TIPS

- 1) Every time you present a report or read from the Hospital bulletin at an auxiliary meeting is considered one project and should be reported on every one of your quarterly reports.
- 2) Report the number of miles related to hospital projects on your quarterly reports. Do not include a monetary amount for mileage in the VALUE field.
- 3) Only greeting cards sent to hospitalized Veterans and their family members or those in a nursing home/rehab center are reportable under Hospital.
- 4) Each day a member volunteers at a hospital or nursing home/rehab center is one project. Including a timeframe or the actual dates that they volunteered, will help you keep track of what has already been reported.
- 5) If you forget to report a project completed in one quarter, report it for the next quarter.
- 6) For proper credit, report the actual or estimated value of items donated. If the value is not specified but the count is reported, I use an average of \$50 value for a lap robe and \$75 for a quilt.

Using my contact information below, please let me know if you have any questions, concerns or suggestions.

Thank you for all you do for our Veterans!

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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS BULLETIN
September/October, 2018
www.vfwauxmi.org

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

National Theme: BELIEVE....We Can Do It!

Department Theme: United We Stand

I would like to say what a great job you doing so far with what you have reported! I have reports of many parades and events. Some of you have already contacted local papers and media outlets about membership drives and other events!

Make sure you connect with all of your the other chairmen in your auxiliary to see what they are doing. Ask how they have promoted it. You can also offer to help them with promotion if they need it. Then report those activities!

Has your Auxiliary had your inspection by your District President? That is a great opportunity to take photos and make a record in your Auxiliary written history. Have you had your official visit to your District by Department President Sandy Medos? This is a time to take photos. If you do take photos, please post them on Facebook and tag me.

September presents many opportunities for promotion of our Auxiliaries.

It is back to school time. Work with your Youth, Scholarships, and Americanism chairmen. Are they working with the schools? Promoting Patriotism to students? Do you have Post dinners open to the public? Make sure you promote these events.

September has some important patriotic holidays. I have listed them for you.

- Patriot Day – September 11
- POW/MIA Recognition Day – Third Friday in September
- Gold Star Mother's/Family's Day – Last Sunday in September

You can download the complete list of all our nation's patriotic holidays from the National Auxiliary website by clicking [Patriotic Holidays](#).

September 26-30 is Fall Conference at Boyne Highlands. We will be having training by all of the Department Chairman. **There will be a Media Relations Workshop scheduled for 1-1:30 pm Friday.** I will be training everyone on ideas, types of media you can utilize, etc. Be sure to take advantage of this time set aside just for you. This is your opportunity to learn about this new and exciting chairmanship. I look forward to seeing you there!

October

I hope you all had a great time at Fall Conference!

The biggest event we will have in October will be the Official Visit of National President Sandy Kriebel to Michigan! Watch the Department Web Site for details and locations of her stops!

Remember the Guidelines for using the 5 W's for media promotions: Tell **WHO** we are, **WHAT** we do, **WHEN** we do it, **WHERE** it happens and **WHY** we work for our veterans, their families and our communities.

Remember, there are also many great tools on the National Auxiliary website, www.vfwauxiliary.org. There are publicity tools, and how-to documents for websites and Facebook pages.

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Michigan Department Auxiliary to the VFW
LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN
September, October 2018
www.vfwauxmi.org

National Theme: Believe...We Can Do It!
Department Theme: United We Stand

Legislative Chairman, let's be "Team Believe" because "United We Stand" because we "Believe....We Can Do It" for our Veterans.

ALWAYS PROMOTE THE LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM GOALS: *Priority Goals *VFW Action Corps Weekly *Student Legislative Education *Community Legislative Engagement

Is every chairman getting familiar with "I'm just a bill" on Capitol Hill and trying to "make him a law some day"? Have you picked a Veterans bill to Follow? - how is it doing in the Legislature?: Follow a bill through its stages of the legislative process at www.thomas.gov Report how it's doing at your next meeting. Go to the VFW website (vfw.org under Legislative priorities) and find out more about these items & report on them at your auxiliary meeting – I believe YOU can do it!

H.R. 2787, *Veterans-Specific Education for Tomorrow's Medical Doctors Act or the VET MD Act*

H.R. 3696, *Wounded Warrior Workforce Enhancement Act*

H.R. 5521, *VA Hiring Enhancement Act*

H.R. 5693, *Long-Term Care Veterans Choice Act*

H.R. 5864, *VA Hospitals Establishing Leadership Performance Act*

H.R. 5938, *Veterans Serving Veterans Act of 2018*

H.R. 5974, *Department of Veterans Affairs Creation of On-Site Treatment Systems Affording Veterans Improvements and Numerous General Safety Enhancements Act*

Let's think of those Capitol Hill "steps" as the ways we can help "Just a bill" one step at a time with the goals set out in the Legislative Guide Sheet.

STEP 1: "The Priority Goals" Display the VFW Priority Goal flyer containing the Priority Goals at every VFW Auxiliary event and make it available throughout the community to get the information out. Include the goals in Newspaper articles in your local paper, take the flyers to the local library for display. Make sure your Legislators in Congress know what they are and write letters, e-mails, personal contact to ask for support. Mention them at every VFW Auxiliary Meeting – make a fun game out of what they know by asking questions, make a word search, play jeopardy, or Wheel of Fortune with the goal main points.....give small prizes of candy, etc.

STEP 2: Promote **Action Corps Weekly** and inform members and the community how they can receive this publication with the click of a few buttons by signing up from www.vfwauxmi.org (legislative program) Use copies of Action Corps Weekly with the flyers for the Priority Goals in the display you take to the library. Make sure you have a contact name on your display for more information.

STEP 3: Youth Education: Have you gathered materials you can take to school about the legislative process? There is a website [www.classroomdoodles.com /branches-of-government.html](http://www.classroomdoodles.com/branches-of-government.html) that has coloring pages or just google Veterans or legislative coloring pages. Ask the school if you can hand out the coloring pages in classrooms or ask Scout Leaders if you can visit a meeting to help educate the children about Veterans and how the legislative process works.

Copy the **"I Vote in Honor of a Veteran"** sticker on heavy paper – you can get the pattern for the stickers on-line at the Department site: www.auxiliarymi.org – Copy them on thick paper, if you do them in black and white you could a youth group to Color them (glue pins or put sticky two sided tape on the back). Talk to them about Veteran Issues and how they can help our Veterans even though they can't vote by giving adults a sticker and reminding them to vote in honor of a veteran.

STEP 4: Contacting Legislators about Veteran Issues: "Use the Guide to Contacting Your Legislators" (you can find this on the Dept. website under Legislative Chairmanship), start by researching who your senators or representatives are by using this website: <http://cogresslookup.com/> Plan how you will contact your Legislator and be prepared. Decide what form of contact you will have (in person, e-mail, regular letter) and take the time to actually do it. Visit local council meetings, school board meetings, any public setting you can share Veteran concerns.

Elections are coming up, make sure you get involved by offering to bring people to the polls, ask the VFW to co-sponsor "Meet the Candidates Night", hold voter registration drives. Please Read the VFW Auxiliary Involvement in Elections and Political Activities flyer on the Dept. website. You should not endorse candidates on behalf of the VFW Aux. as a Local, District, Dept. or National leader. The key is to stay informed on the issues and use your influence to urge new candidates and those up for reelection to support the VFW, VFW Auxiliary and Veteran issues. Be an example as a veteran supporter to show we are a strong group of voters that candidates want on their side.

STEP 5: Learn all you can about the Legislative chairmanship by attending a School of Instruction and attend your District Meetings to learn all you can about what is happening in your area and around the state and nation with the VFW Auxiliary – be informed.

STEP 6: REPORTING: Follow the simple guidelines in the guide sheet and **REPORT** at least once a quarter. I need to know **HOW** YOU DID IT....**HOW** MANY CONTACTS.....**HOW** YOU USED MATERIALS.....**HOW** YOU EDUCATED YOUTH.....**HOW** YOU PROMOTEDnot just that you did it.....**HOW YOU DID IT IS IMPORTANT!**

Take credit for **all your hours, all your miles**, Example: if you had 6 people working 2 hours on a project that is 12 hours – not 2 hours - also count the miles EACH ONE OF THE 6 PEOPLE TRAVELED to get there = TOTAL MILES.

One step at a time let's climb to the top of those Capitol Steps by doing our part to help make that "Veteran related bill" become a law. Remember: "United We Stand" because we "Believe....We Can Do It"

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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
MEMBERSHIP/RECRUITMENT BULLETIN
September/October 2018
www.vfwauxmi.org



National Theme: Believe....We Can Do It!

Department Theme: United We Stand

We are going into our 2nd quarter. Time is moving fast, so please do not wait to work on the goals for the year. I would like to thank all the auxiliaries that took the time to report last quarter. It is important to make sure you report every quarter so that we can acknowledge what we do for our auxiliary and our veterans. We had 109 auxiliaries report so that is over 60%. Let's see if we can make it 100% next quarter!

Did you get your 5-person membership committee? Did you send out your first round of dues notices? Give any incentives to go switch to a life member? Some auxiliaries were putting annual members that paid before October 31st into a drawing to win a life membership. The money for that life membership can be taken out of your relief fund. These are very important goals to do so that you can be successful and achieve 100% plus 1 in membership.

Have you held a membership recruitment event or have a table set up at an event? Let me know about. Let the community know about it on social media so that you can get people to attend. Then REPORT it!!

It is very important to get your dues notices out early and often so that annual members pay their dues before December! Don't forget if your auxiliary can get to 100% by December 31st your auxiliary will then be put into a drawing for a chance to win \$25 to be drawn at Mid-Winter Conference.

I have only received one brochure for the National "contest". It is due by November 30th. Please review the guide sheet and if you have any questions I will be promoting/explaining on the Facebook page, as well as the next bulletin. No one has put an entry in for the other award for "Most Outstanding Training and Promotion of the Membership/Recruiting Program"! This is also due by November 30th. I will also be doing some promotion of my own on Facebook to explain this in more detail. If you have any questions just ask! These are just more ways to earn some cash for your auxiliary! So good luck!

So, I promised that I would give you tips through out the year on how to recruit new members as well as retain current members. So here it goes...First USE our resources online. There are great tools available to you so there are no excuses to not be able to recruit and retain members. One resource to use is the 30 ways to recruit, retain and mentor members. It is a great tool to help strengthen your auxiliary. You can use this calendar over the next few months, make copies and pass them out to your active members to use, too. It really is a team effort to achieve these goals.

So here is a list of where to find prospective members (per national):

- Local Guard/Reserve Units
- Homecoming/Yellow Ribbon events for ships and units
- Veteran Job Fairs
- USO at Airports
- Veteran Representatives at Colleges and Universities
- VFW Auxiliary Brochures/magazines at hair salons
- VFW Auxiliary material in VA Hospital waiting rooms
- Past Auxiliary Membership Rosters
- Military Recruiters
- And anywhere else there might be veterans' relatives!

Make sure you ALWAYS CARRY OR HAVE AVAILABLE a membership application!

Also, don't overlook lapsed members. Find out why they lapsed and try to fix the issue, if its money, help them pay, if it is non-interest try and make them interested again and so on.

Do not be afraid to use the internet. Social media is huge. Make posts on your personal page weekly to recruit members. Be ready to answer questions, because there will be questions. Share the posts I put on the membership page. If you need ideas or questions just ask me!

Remember at the June convention last auxiliary year during my skit I challenged EVERYONE to go out and recruit at least 1 new member and to encourage their auxiliary members to also recruit one new member? Well not many members have reported that they have recruited any more members. As of August 1st, we have had 47 new members, that is great, but we CAN do better. Let's go out and RECRUIT and RETAIN members. We can reach these goals with a little hard work. I know we can do this if we follow the theme of the year...United We Stand!

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**Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
SCHOLARSHIPS BULLETIN
September/October, 2018
www.vfwauxmi.org**



National Theme: BELIEVE....We Can Do It!

Department Theme: United We Stand

Life is so cyclical! It's hard to believe that the summer is almost over, and the fall will soon be upon us. I hope you have been promoting our contests during the summer months. If you have a Facebook account for your post, did you post information there? How about a post newsletter?

By chance, did you go to any outdoor festivals? Flea markets? Car shows? If so, I hope you had a table with information about all the scholarships. Many smaller cities and towns have events like Founders Day Festivals, Family Freedom Festivals and other special days that celebrate the local heritage. Those are perfect to get a table with maybe a poster or two highlighting all four contests. By the way, you should always bring applications and the information sheet on the Auxiliary with you to these types of events. You never know when an opportunity will present itself to handout information about our organization and all we do for our Veterans.

I hope that you have been working on your information packets in the last few months and that they are ready to be passed out. The sooner you get the information out to the students, the more time they have to complete the essays. We all know how kids (and some adults) like to procrastinate. The deadlines will be here before you know it, so don't delay.

Many school districts have websites. Contact the school and see if it's possible to have your post and auxiliary listed along with the essay information on their website. How about putting an ad in your local church paper if they have a school? Think of innovative ways to get the word out that the VFW and its Auxiliary have money to help pay for college tuitions.

These two essays are the first ones with an *early deadline*.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY AUDIO-ESSAY:

9th thru 12th grade
Due to Post October 31st

PATRIOTS PEN ESSAY:

6TH thru 8th grade
Due to post October 31st

Even though the **YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST** has a deadline date of March 31, 2019, you could hand out that information along with the VOD paperwork to the students or schools.

If you have questions on the essays, or the judging, all four contests are on the website:

www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education

And, please don't forget the students that are home schooled! The link I got from my Ambassador, Chrissy Harlan, for some local Home School Associations for each state:

www.homefires.com/state.asp

REPORT REPORT REPORT Have you done it yet?

Please review the Achievement Points from my Guide sheet. These Achievement Points come directly from the National Ambassador's program. By now, you could have reported (and gotten credit for) several Achievement Points. How? Did you contact the schools and hand out information on these essays? Have you contacted the past student contest participants who are still eligible to submit another entry? Are you working with your post on this? Let me know how much time it took and how many members participated. I'm getting reports on cash awards handed out to the winners of the Young American Creative Patriotic Contest. Great, let me know how much.

Did your auxiliary donate *any* amount to the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest Escrow Fund and mail that to National? Yet, *another* one done. If you would prefer, you can host a fundraiser for the escrow fund and please make sure you tell me all about it. National is looking for creative ways to help sustain this worthy program. Send me pictures, Facebook entries, or any other method that demonstrates a creative way to publicize this program!

If you attended your district meeting in August, there's another one. While I want to hear everything you do for this chairmanship, please note that I can only give you credit toward the Department award when you are promoting these Achievement Points. I have gotten a few reports saying an Auxiliary member returned the art projects to the students after Department convention last June. Even though that action does **not** award you an Achievement Point, you will get credit for reporting in that quarter. I hope this clears up any confusion about the reporting. Bottom line, report to me all you have done for this program. As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me via text, call me, or send me an email.

Think about reaching the community on a wider scale. If you work outside of the home, think about bringing information with you to your job. I sent information on VOD and Patriot's Pen to work with my husband. Dennis works with two ladies who are members of the American Legion Auxiliary, who may be interested in putting our essay information out in their Post. It doesn't hurt to ask. As I have said as a past National Certified Recruiter Trainer, "If you don't ask, the answer is always no."

My Post sponsors Boy Scout troops. I have gone to their meeting and brought my informational packets to them. I've also taken the opportunity to handout Auxiliary applications to the adult leaders and parents in the troop.

If you haven't already done so, please join my group Facebook account at: VFW Auxiliary Dept of Michigan Scholarship.

Thank **YOU** for everything you do, and have done, for this organization, and, of course, thank **YOU** for all that you've done, and will do, to promote the scholarships program.

All the best,
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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
Youth BULLETIN
September/October, 2018
www.vfwauxmi.org



National Theme: BELIEVE... We Can Do It!

Department Theme: United We Stand

The kids are now back in school and this is a good time to present your new Contest for K-5th grades that you have developed. Please remember to report what you do.

This is also a good time to reach out to the youth groups that you have encountered this summer such as the band that played in the Memorial Day Parade/4th of July Celebration or the Boy Scout Troop and the Girl Scout Troop that marched in the parade or were active in doing something for our veterans or their families. They probably need a National Citation! Remember to fill out the form indicating where you want the citation to be sent and send it to me so I can send it on to National and don't forget to report it.

I hope you have been able to take advantage of all the activities this summer and distributed our RAP Coins or Cards. It is very important that you report how many you have distributed. I will be keeping a running tally for each Auxiliary. Some Auxiliaries are reporting that they have distributed RAP Cards or RAP Coins to their members so they may catch a young person doing something patriotic. That is an awesome idea! Please report how many were actually presented to youth people that were "caught in the act".

We have been asked by National to come up with a unique way to reuse/recycle RAP cards and coins. Please report anything you come up with.

Lastly, remember the Patriotic Award. This is an award that may be presented to a young person that you deemed to have done something quite fantastic. The award may be downloaded off the website and presented to the young person, then please report it.

I am hoping to see you all at Fall Conference. Please come and talk with me and identify yourself. I am receiving so many great reports, and I would love to put a face with a name/Auxiliary.

This year is going to be terrific!

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