

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary

MICHIGAN CONNECTION #5

February/March, 2025

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Auxiliary VFW – Michigan

517-487-3715 (Office); 517-420-9342 (Department Treasurer)

517-485-6432 (FAX)

National Theme: From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans

Department Theme: Aspire to Inspire

Jane's Corner

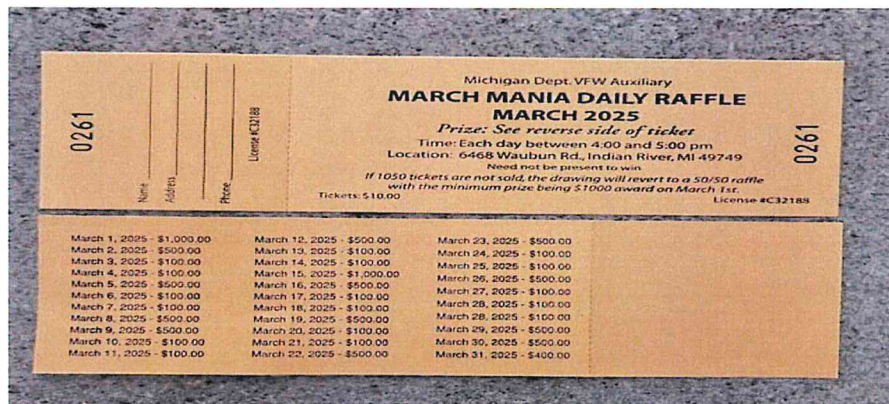
The National Home turned 100 years old on January 7, 2025. I was honored to have been invited to the Birthday Party, and to see all the birthday cards that have been sent. Big thank you to everyone who sent birthday cards and if you haven't, please do so. There will be more festivities for this milestone; refer to the National Home program bulletins for information. Continue to promote the Home's Helpline for our veterans and their families. Thank you to all our members for supporting this treasure.

Dues

We still have around 600 members who have not paid their 2025 dues. Currently they are considered not to be in good standing and are not eligible for cancer grants, voting, and other consequences. Call your delinquent members and see how they are doing, or perhaps be a dues angel, or if they have fallen on hard times, their dues can be paid by the auxiliary with monies from the Relief Fund.

Department Fundraiser

The Department Auxiliary is conducting a March Mania Daily Raffle for the entire month of March. For 31 days you will have a chance of winning \$100 up to \$1,000. Winner of the daily drawing will be announced on the Department Facebook page. Past Department President Edna Kiviniemi is the Chairperson of this fundraiser and she can be contacted either by text at 231-420-1410 or email at maggieeli6507@hotmail.com. Edna will be happy to work with you to get you ticket(s) and the Department also has tickets available for pick up. Please support this fundraiser!



Chief of Staff (Extension and Revitalization) and Healthy Auxiliary Due Dates/Reminders – Department Chief of Staff Jan Passmore

Please refer to the Booklet of Instructions on Page 23, Item #5, "It is not the duty of the Trustees to correct the Treasurer's or the Secretary's records, but the duty of the Treasurer or Secretary. The Trustees check the Treasurer's and the Secretary's books during audit and report their findings in their

regular report. If any mistakes are reported, the Treasurer or the Secretary, they shall be directed by the President to make the necessary correction(s) in their book. The Trustees shall sign the audit after all mistakes, if any, have been corrected.” This refers to Trustees, however, no member, at any time, should alter or change the secretary’s or treasurer’s book.

The October - December audit is due to the Department Treasurer by February 28, 2025.

Mentoring - Please remember that everyone is an individual and unique person with a personality all their own. It takes ALL of us working together, regardless of personality, to reach our ultimate goal – TAKING CARE OF VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

Reminder: The Michigan Connection **must be read** on the floor upon issuance and can be found on our website under Resources/Michigan Connection, or under Resources/Downloadables.

Programs And Reporting

There are still numerous auxiliaries that have not reported in any program. All Auxiliaries MUST complete at least one project, activity or donation that benefits veterans by April 30, 2025. If not, the Department President MUST submit a request for a suspension by that date.

Reminder: Our reporting year ends on April 20th. Please be sure to get your reports entered by that date. If you need assistance, please call the Department Chairmen or the Department Office.

The National Organization is offering awards for auxiliaries under each of our programs. Review the guide sheet and submit an entry form. Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to their Department Chairman by March 31, 2025, for judging. Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Columbus, Ohio.

Special Orders

Special Order No. 106: The Charter of Cochran-Roberts VFW Post No. 7439, Indian River, Michigan, was cancelled by direct order of the Commander-in-Chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States on August 28, 2024, and received by the National VFW Auxiliary Headquarters, in accordance with the letter from the Commander-in-Chief, therefore; Cochran-Roberts Auxiliary to VFW Post No. 7439, Indian River, Michigan is hereby cancelled and dropped from the rolls of the National Organization.

If your post or auxiliary has an event, such as dinners, fundraisers, etc., you may send the information to misec@asiserve.net and we will enter the event on our website under News.

By Order of:

Jane Dady

Jane Dady
Department President

Cindy Peto

Cindy Peto
Department Secretary



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Americanism Bulletin – February/March, 2025

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Americanism-Michigan

National Theme: *From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans*

Department Theme: *Aspire to Inspire*

February

February is the month of “Love” but we really should have Patriotic love for our Veterans and our Country all through the year. Lots of people think about our shut in Veterans during Thanksgiving and Christmas but Valentines Day is a good time as well to send out some warm thoughts and “love wishes” to those who are not getting out and about because of the weather conditions or their age, especially the ones who live alone. If your Auxiliary doesn’t want to send out cards, how about a “love phone tree”? Get a list of those members that could maybe use a mid-winter pick me up phone call. Split up the list with a few members and reach out. Just speaking to those members for five minutes to chat and check in and letting them know there are others out there that are thinking of them will be very meaningful. Maybe it's a good time to take a couple members and go visit a nursing home or Senior center. Take some small flags and pass them out, or a patriotic pin. Prepare a few patriotic citations of thanks and gratitude for service if you know or meet any veterans. Be creative but please report what you do. These wintery months can be cold and dreary but if we put a little effort in, we can brighten someone's day.

February Dates to remember:

- 1st - Freedom Day (the signing of the 13th amendment to constitution)
- 2nd - Groundhog Day
- 3rd - Four Chaplain’s Day
- 12th - Abraham Lincoln’s Birthday
- 14th - Valentine’s Day
- 19th - President’s Day Observed
- 22nd - George Washington’s Birthday



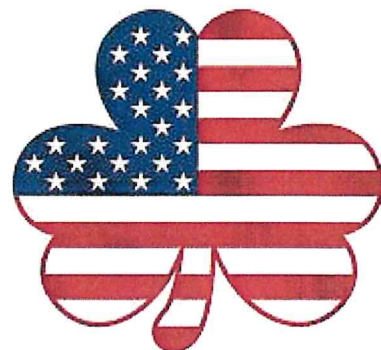
March

As we "march" towards the end of this business year have you accomplished all that you wanted to? Have you consulted your Guide sheets? If not, well good news you still have time but not much. You have about a month and a half to try to finish off your projects for your chairman goals. The numbers I need is how many flags you distributed, and how many citations you distributed. These are so very important for our department. It helps show we are all in good patriotic working order. Same with any patriotic Birthday or observance. If you post them in your hall or share them with the community at a public dinner or post them on a Post/Auxiliary Facebook page these are all reportable activities. Even if you are decorating your tables for a community dinner you can always slip in a flag or use red white and blue flowers. You don't have to make it look like 4th of July but it can look patriotic. Also, please don't forget our Pow-Mia flags and or missing man table at these events. A decorated poster near where the community will pay for your weekly/monthly dinners can give the public information and will help educate them on the lesser-known events.

March dates to remember

- 3rd - The "Star Spangled Banner" became the National Anthem in 1931*
- 13th - K-9 Veterans Day
- 17th - St. Patrick's Day
- 19th - Iraq War began in 2003
- 24th - Kosovo Campaign began in 1999
- 25th - Medal of Honor Day (to honor Heroism and sacrifice of Medal recipients)
- 29th - National Vietnam War Veteran's Day started in 2017

*During the war of 1812 the British captured the city of Washington, setting fire to the capitol and the White house. In the blaze of cannon fire, Francis Scott Key, a lawyer could still see an American flag waving over Fort McHenry. When the bombing suddenly stopped in the middle of the night, he had no way of knowing if the flag was still there or if the stronghold had fallen to the British. But as dawn broke, he could still see the Flag intact over the fort. He was so inspired he wrote a poem. His brother copied it and spread those copies around the city eventually becoming our National Anthem in March 1931.



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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Auxiliary Outreach Bulletin February/March 2025

www.vfwauxmi.org

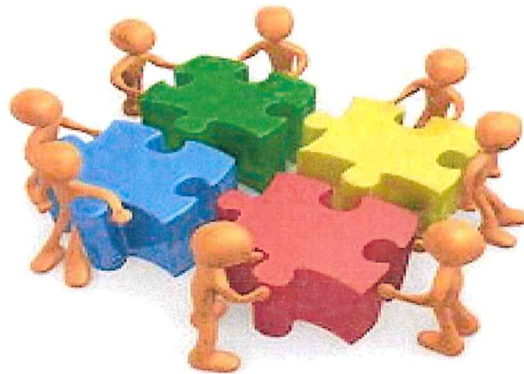
Facebook Page: Auxiliary Outreach-Michigan

National Theme: *From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to our Veterans*

Department Theme: *Aspire to Inspire*

Auxiliary Outreach is members of the Auxiliary assisting in the community and working with other organizations. We can achieve this on an individual or group basis. Working with our community benefits everyone. We are able as Auxiliary members to reach out in our community outside our Post and assist with our knowledge and skills.

ASPIRE TO INSPIRE OUR COMMUNITY



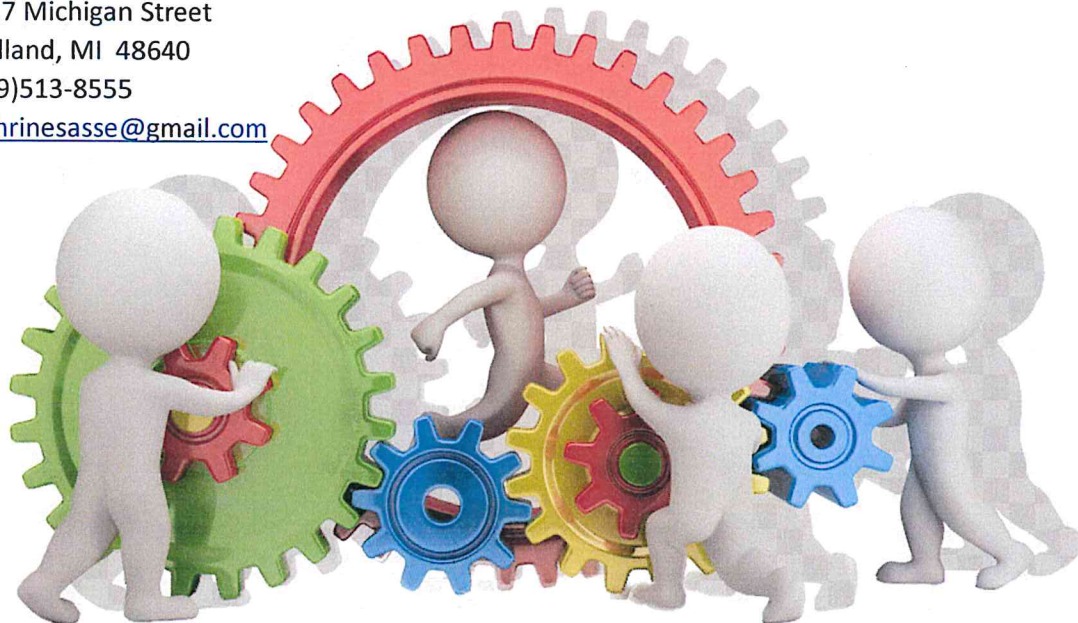
We are gearing up for some New Year's fun! Here are some ideas to help your Auxiliary reach some community outreach goals:

- Participation in local projects like Habitat for Humanity, or at your city's Parks and Recreation programs.
- Participating at local schools, libraries, nursing homes or senior centers by volunteering and assisting where needed.
- Partnering with local police training and events.
- Partnering with firefighters training and events.
- Partnering with EMTs to host CPR training.
- Partnering with an animal shelter with events.
- Partnering with a food shelter or food bank to assist with meals.
- Partnering with your community on assisting shut-ins like Meals on wheels, transportation or shopping with volunteering time.

When working with these organizations for the Auxiliary Outreach program be sure that the member(s) volunteering is/are *wearing* a VFW Auxiliary item. It can be a shirt, hat, jacket or name tag. Smile and be proud to wear them with pride, we may never know who we will run into. Also take *pictures* of your events I would love to share them on our Facebook page, and remember the National Award wants a photo collage of all of your great community events throughout the 24-25 year. Finally, it is considered Auxiliary Outreach if the project was *approved* by the Auxiliary

and must be *recorded* in the meeting minutes prior to the project. On rare occasions such as a natural Disaster or emergency community need, the project may be voted on after the fact. All it takes is one Auxiliary member volunteering to count. When reporting please report the number of members, hours and miles used to assist the event. Please include in the report that the event was voted on, approved and documented in meeting minutes. Your reports have been fun to read and some Auxiliaries have shared events on our Facebook page. I have received some photo collages and I am working to get them submitted for National awards. Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any additional questions. Good Luck to everyone for the 2024-2025 year. Let's make it awesome!!! Wishing everyone some fun and adventure as we head through the 2nd half of the program year.

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UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
“Buddy”® Poppy/National Home Bulletin –
February/March 2025

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: “Buddy”® Poppy/VFW National Home-Michigan

“All you need is love. But a little chocolate now and then doesn’t hurt.” – Charles M. Schulz

It was great seeing many of you at Mid-Winter conference in Kalamazoo. Thank you to those who were able to participate in the Mid-Winter “Buddy”® Poppy display contest. I loved the creativity that was displayed and the ideas of many come together for such a wonderful event.



The National Home not only offers on-campus services but off-campus services as well! What does that mean? The National Home is able to reach anyone, anywhere! Off-campus service is offered to families who qualify for on-campus services but due to circumstances are not able

to move on-campus. Off-campus services include goal support, accountability and resources that are provided by one of the four case managers at the Home. Additionally, it includes financial education, parenting classes and employment application support. These services, and more, are done via Zoom, phone conferences and email. Typically, families can receive these service up to a year. Families who move out of the program are eligible to receive additional support from their case manager for up to a year.

The goal from our National Ambassador for the remainder of this program year is to educate each other on this fact and share with our communities! The National Home understands that not everyone can move on-campus so they have prepared themselves to reach beyond the campus itself. When sharing the Helpline or promoting the Home, let it be known that there are opportunities like this available!

The “Buddy”® Poppy/National Home program is not a stand alone program. What does that mean? When doing activities or events that are for other programs, you can incorporate the “Buddy”® Poppy/National Home program as well. Are you attending the local VA to volunteer? Make and take some Valentine cards with poppies! Have your youth help with making the cards. Historian/Media Relations, take pictures of those valentine veteran cards being distributed and send photos through social media or local press release. Membership, at your Valentine party have your membership applications ready along with a table display of “Buddy”® poppies and National Home material. With every activity or event you have, you have the ability to cross promote. Never miss an opportunity to share the benefits of our beloved poppy and National Home! At your next planning meeting, sit down with your other chairman and plan how you can incorporate this program into another!



Creativity is Contagious

Purchase some heart suckers, or any kind of suckers, and wrap them in poppies. Have them in your post home for purchase to celebrate Valentine’s. Proceeds benefit your relief fund and support your Home Front Hero commitment if your Auxiliary participates.

"Luck is a matter of preparation meeting opportunity." - Lucius Annaeus Seneca

The end of the program year is starting to wind down. Please go over your Guide Sheets and your reporting to see where you have not reported yet and plan activities to get what you need done. The end of this reporting quarter is April 20th and it will come faster than you know it. Please be prepared!

This year, "Buddy"® Poppy fundraising drive is scheduled for May 1-3, 2025. This is a reminder to order any "Buddy"® Poppies that you might need for any of those events that your Auxiliary might have planned for the month of May. If you haven't started any planning, I encourage you to do so. Reach out to your local businesses as ask you can set up at table or even place a can at their location to help assist you and the mission of the poppy program. Don't be shy asking, many businesses are happy to help! Order any supplies that you might need for your tables, like membership applications, National Home materials, Helpline card, etc. to help you get prepared for upcoming drives.

Reminder that March 31st is the Deadline for the "Buddy"® Poppy & VFW National Home Award for Auxiliaries No. 1 and 2! Criteria for Awards are as follows:

- **Award No. 1:** *Most outstanding activity and/or event using the VFW "Buddy"® Poppy to educate their community about the VFW "Buddy"® Poppy.*
- **Award No. 2:** *Most outstanding activity and/or event to recognize and celebrate the VFW National Home's 100th Birthday.*

Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions will be awarded for each of the of the National Awards.

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

Forms will be emailed out to chairman (if I have their email) and they are also available to print out on the Department website. I know there are a lot of Auxiliaries out there doing great things and I expect to get quite a few Award forms. Please send them to me via mail or email by March 31st! My email and address are located at the bottom of this page.

Creativity is Contagious

If your post has a canteen, partner up! Perhaps get together and design a fun green drink. Pinterest is a great place to look for ideas for non-alcoholic drinks or even dessert drinks. The possibilities are endless on this one! Price so part of the drink price goes towards your Relief Fund! I'll post ideas throughout the month of March on our Facebook page!



Christine LeBrun, "Buddy"® Poppy/VFW National Home Chairman
205 E Jolly Rd A10
Lansing, MI 48910
803-406-9088
bphmi24.25@gmail.com



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Historian/Media Relations Bulletin February/March 2025

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Historian/Media Relations-Michigan

National Theme: *From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans*
Department Theme: *Aspire to Inspire*

Historians, we are now into February and getting close to when the Auxiliary Scholarships and contest due dates are going to be coming, March 31, 2025. The ones coming due then are Continuing Education Scholarship, Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest, 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest (Scholarship Program) and the VFW Auxiliary National Illustrating America Art Contest (Youth Program). You need to be promoting all the VFW Auxiliary Programs on social media so members and the community can be aware of the many programs we are doing to help our veterans, youth and community. Remember, the Historian/Media Relations VFW Auxiliary National Award Form is also due March 31, 2025, to the Historian/Media Relations Department Chairman. The National Award is for the "Most Outstanding Promotion of Auxiliary Programs to the Community through Social Media". The form also qualifies your Auxiliary for the Department Auxiliary Award and the completion of the first goal on the Goal Sheet. Be sure to fill in that form and send it in. Your promotion of a program is unique to your Auxiliary and may be the one with the right touch!

When you have activities that are benefiting our veterans, youth scholarships and assisting a community organization you can promote them on social media along with other media platforms like newspapers, T.V., radio, flyers, magazines, newsletters, billboards and signs. Stay in contact with the people who can help you on these platforms, so they know who you are and what your mission is for the veterans and community. Soon they will be reaching out to you when they have a project that would benefit your Post or Auxiliary. It becomes a partnership. If your contact is unable to attend your Auxiliary event, you can send a Press Release to the contact. Print a copy of event photos and write up an article about the event (include the 5 W's) and send.

Before you contact anyone to cover an event your Auxiliary is hosting or participating in, answer the following questions:

- Are local people involved?
- Is the event happening in the near future?
- Will non-members be interested in attending or hearing about the event?
- Will the event help the community? And how?
- Is the activity or event unique?
- Does the activity or event promote a new idea or concept?

Remember to report your activities and events you put on social media and other media platforms showing members and community your achievements. Place the information and photos in your 2024-2025 Auxiliary scrapbook for memories, accomplishments and ideas for future years. Post on the Historian/Media Relations-Michigan Facebook page to show your ideas and help other Auxiliaries come up with ideas.

Blanche Brown

Dept. Historian/Media Relations Chairman

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10975 Irish Rd.

Vermontville, MI 49096



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Hospital Bulletin – February-March 2025

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Hospital-Michigan



The traditional holidays are over, so let's have some fun for our veterans with some fun holidays through the last of the winter months – February/March 2025. Here are some fun days which can be used as themes. These are not the only ones, so if you have some other ideas, post them on our Hospital Facebook page.

February 2025

2nd- Eat Ice Cream for Breakfast Day, Play your Ukulele Day, Groundhog Day

11th- Make a Friend Day

14th - Valentines Day

17th - Random Act of Kindness Day

27th - International Polar Bear Day

March 2025:

2nd - Dr. Seuss Day

4th - Mardi Gras Day, National Soldier Day, Hug a G.I. Day

17th - St. Patrick's Day

19th - Let's Laugh Day

Hospital Reports have been wonderful to read and review to see all the good things you are doing for our veterans and in the community. Sometimes I haven't been able to approve for some reason. If you get an email saying it hasn't been approved and you have questions as to why, give me a call. I try to explain when I send it back unapproved, but we only get so many characters to type a note. If you think you need something edited, let me know. I will be glad to do that.

Hospital-Michigan Facebook Page This page is designed for our Auxiliaries and Districts to post their activities. Sharing what your Auxiliary or District has done for hospital work for our veterans gives other Auxiliaries ideas of how we can help our veterans. Post pictures and descriptions of the event. I will send these to our National Hospital Ambassador.

As your Department Hospital Chairman, I have been thinking what new idea(s), we can do, especially when it comes to ***recycling***. I am asking that we start saving those little bags that come with new bed sheet packages. Yes, I have an idea! Also, I am looking for those who could make small ditty bags. Keep saving those toilet paper tubes to make candy rolls and save the paper towel tubes also. Save small toiletries and small tubes of toothpaste, etc. What am I up to? Follow along on our Hospital-Michigan Facebook page to see the new ideas I have stayed up nights coming up with!!

Have you read this far? Are you looking for the code word to put in your hospital report? Well, you have already read it at your meeting if you read this bulletin! Reminder that it is in bold letters and not underlined. It is in italics and bold lettering.

Ann Backhurst

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251-604-5998.

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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Legislative Bulletin – February/March 2025

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Legislative-Michigan

National Theme: *From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans*

Department Theme: *Aspire to Inspire*

Program Goals

Be an Advocate - Be Informed - Be Engaged

Happy Valentine's Day & St. Patrick's Day! And any other holidays you wish to celebrate!

I was so excited to meet some of you at Mid-Winter Conference last weekend and hope you had fun and learned a few "fun facts" about our programs as you participated in our Q & A game.

Effective Advocacy: The elections are over but our job is not done. We did our part to get people out to vote but now we need to step up the advocacy game. Now that legislators have either been re-elected or elected for the first time, we need to hold them responsible to uphold their campaign promises. We are starting this New Year with a new U.S. Senator, Elissa Slotkin, filling the vacancy left by retiring Debbie Stabenow. Elissa, who was with the CIA, did two tours in Iraq alongside our military so I'm hoping she will be a staunch supporter of our VFW backed issues, our mission & the VFW Priority Goals.

Landmark Legislation Passed:

After months of negotiation, *The Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act* passed the Senate and House and is now headed to the President's desk to be signed into law.

This bill is a bicameral, bipartisan veterans' legislative package for the 118th Congress and includes provisions to modernize the delivery of healthcare, benefits, and services at the Department of Veterans Affairs, expand access to job training and employment opportunities, address veteran homelessness and strengthen mental health services for our nation's ill and injured veterans. The legislative package will also expand care options for aging veterans, improve access to mental healthcare for veteran caregivers, strengthen home and community care options and streamline the disability claims process.

This legislation is a significant step in helping to keep the promises made to those who have served. **Thank you** to the nearly 90,000 email messages, letters, phone calls, etc., to our lawmakers urging them to get the job done and pass this crucial legislation before the close of the 118th Congress. Because of your dedication and advocacy efforts, we can celebrate this important victory for veterans!

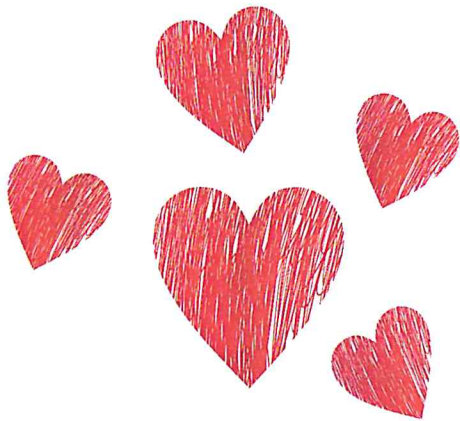
But our work is never done! We still need support for *The Major Richard Star Act* as well as *S.2888/H.R.3933, TAP Promotion Act*. So, get those letters and emails out to your U. S. Senators and Congressmen ASAP!!

Click on this link: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/bills> to see more VFW supported bills and where they currently sit.

Reporting:

Again, when you contact a lawmaker, you need to report who it is, the name of the bill & the House & Senate number, if available, and how many members participated. We only have a few more months for doing, acting and reporting this program year! I also need the number of members who are signed up for The Action Corps Weekly newsletter. What have you done to promote the VFW Priority Goals? Have you contacted any State or Local Representatives? Are you working with your Post to connect with lawmakers?

In closing, and I know this was in the last bulletin but it is so important, please review and keep in mind your Achievement Goals when reporting. Keep in mind the National and Department Awards for collaborating with the VFW Post connecting members with local lawmakers. The entry form is in Malta/Member Resources and due to me by March 31, which is not very far away! Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your continued efforts on behalf of our Veterans and their families.



Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Marshall
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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Membership Bulletin–February/March 2025

www.vfwauxmi.org
Facebook Page: Membership - Michigan

National Theme: From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans

Department Theme: Aspire to Inspire

Membership Theme: America's Greatest Treasure

PROGRAM GOALS

Invite New Members – Include Current Members – Invest in the Future of the Organization

The 2025 calendar year is well underway and I'm betting that a majority of you that made a resolution have already broken it. I know that about 25% of you broke it by the end of the first week in January and barely 10% of you will make it thru to the end of 2025 with your resolution still intact. I'm one of those that broke my resolution in early January! There is, however, **one** resolution I'm hoping all of us will do our best to maintain and that is making sure our membership applications are **completely** and **accurately** filled out. All too often, our Treasurer receives applications that are missing various **required** pieces of information. **Any incomplete or inaccurate application received at Department will be returned, which will delay a new member's installation.**

Below you will find our membership application marked with a **GREEN** number in those areas where the most common "errors" are found by our Treasurer. For each number, you will find a brief explanation of what should be included in the area.

VFW AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP / MEMBER TRANSFER APPLICATION

An incomplete application could delay your membership start date.

Applicant completes sections A, B, C or D and F. Auxiliaries/Departments complete section E.

A Recruited/Recommended by: **1** _____ Recruiter Member ID **2** _____
 Auxiliary No. _____ City _____ State _____ Member ID (if already a member) _____
 Annual Membership Rejoin
 Life Membership Transfer
 Member at Large in Department of _____ Member at Large - VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
(If not a transfer, skip to B.)
 LIFE MEMBER TRANSFER Previous Auxiliary _____
 ANNUAL TRANSFER Previous Auxiliary _____ Paying Nonpaying
 ANNUAL TRANSFER CONVERTING TO LIFE *(Fill out Life Membership information below.)* Previous Auxiliary _____

B *THESE FIELDS REQUIRED*
 Name **3** _____ Date of Birth **4** _____
 Address _____ Female Male
 City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Phone _____ Email _____

C POST-AFFILIATED *(Must be a current member of the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.)*
 Relationship _____ to Eligible Veteran* _____ VFW Membership ID _____

1	YOUR NAME , the "recruiter" of the new member
2	YOUR membership ID number
3	NEW MEMBER'S name, address, etc. PLEASE MAKE ALL ENTRIES IN SECTION "B" ARE LEGIBLE
4	Do not forget NEW MEMBER'S date of birth, their sex, and their email address

THESE FIELDS REQUIRED

D **NON-AFFILIATED** (*Veteran is not a current member of the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.)

Relationship _____ to Eligible Veteran* _____ VFW Post (if applicable) _____

Name of campaign ribbons or medals: **5** _____

Dates of Service: **6** _____ to **7** _____ Location: **8** _____

E Investigating Committee Signatures

1 **X** **9** _____ 2 **X** _____ 3 **X** _____

Per Section 102 of the National Bylaws. Rejected Accepted Meeting Date _____ Obligated Date _____

F By signing this, I agree to the stated charges for a Life Membership fee.

OBLIGATION In the presence of Almighty God and the members of this organization here assembled, I do of my own free will and accord, solemnly promise that I will never wrong or defraud this organization nor a member thereof nor permit either to be wronged if in my power to prevent it. I will never propose for membership any person not eligible, according to our Bylaws. I further state that I believe in God. I will be faithful to the United States of America, obedient to the laws and loyal to the Flag. Should my membership with this organization cease in any way, I will consider this obligation as binding outside of the organization as though I had remained a member. I do so promise. I attest that I am at least 16 years of age. I pledge to comply with the National Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary. I attest I am not eligible for membership in the VFW. I further attest that the above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, including my stated relationship to the Veteran.

Signature **X** **10** _____ Date _____
(Must be signed by all members.)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES
 Life Membership fees are not refundable.
 Attained age at 12/31 of year applying for Life Membership

Through 20	\$253
21-25	\$242
26-30	\$230
31-35	\$219
36-40	\$213
41-45	\$201
46-50	\$196
51-55	\$184
56-60	\$173
61-65	\$161
66-70	\$150
71-75	\$132
76-80	\$109
81-85	\$86
86-90	\$66
91 and over	\$50

LIFE MEMBERSHIP ONLY Check here if this is a gift.
Credit cards may NOT be used for initial payment of Annual Dues

Cash Check Visa MasterCard Discover AMEX _____ Life Membership Fee **11**

Name on credit card _____

Billing address for card _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Credit Card No. _____ CVV Code _____

Exp. Date _____ Date _____ Signature **X** _____

Revised May 2022

5	Don't forget to include campaign ribbon(s) and/or medal(s)
6	Don't forget to include the starting date of service
7	Don't forget to include the ending date service
8	Don't forget to include the location of service
9	Recruiter can NOT be a part of the "Investigating Committee"
10	NEWMEMBER signature and date
11	Ensure ALL sections are COMPLETED and LEGIBLE

I hope you enjoyed the chairmen programs we had at Mid-Winter. Congratulations to the five winning Auxiliaries of \$50 each for reaching 100% by December 1st. Get your Auxiliary to 100% by March 31st and three more winners will be drawn at Department Convention in June.

Any member who recruits ten new/rejoin members by March 31st will be in a drawing for \$100 at Department Convention.

If your Post is having a Valentine's Day party or a St. Patrick's Day dinner, make sure you have your membership board on prominent display with the Auxiliary QR Code plainly visible.

Thank you for all your hard work. Keep collecting dues and recruiting to get Michigan to 101% PLUS by June 30, 2025.

All the best.

Marian Belaire

Marian Belaire
 17384 Doris St.
 Livonia, MI 48152
 248.345.2442
 MBelaireMVF@yahoo.com

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES*

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Scholarships Bulletin – February/March 2025

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Scholarships-Michigan

National Theme: From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans
Department Theme: Aspire to Inspire

Student Participation – Recipient Recognition – Community Awareness – Increasing the Fund

Hello Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters!

We have completed another year of honoring our scholarship students and Teachers of the Year and it was a blast! Congratulations to all of our winners. If you were unable to attend, you missed some awesome essays. The kids enjoyed some outings as well as building new relationships. The winners are looking forward to the National level of the competition. Our teachers, in my opinion, are some of the best in the Nation.

Please make sure your Continuing Education applications are submitted by the end of February. Applicants must be 21 years of age and a member or family of a member in good standing.

If you haven't started promoting the 2D and 3D Patriotic Art programs, now is the time. Your push should be anywhere you would find 9-12 graders; at schools, youth groups, etc. You can also hold an event to help promote the program and raise money for your local or district awards. Don't forget to make your donations to the escrow funds.

Besides the national entry form, I have designed an additional form to be submitted with your art entries this year. I know another piece of paper, but it will help me to communicate more effectively with the chairman, Auxiliary and student. Please read over the new submission rules pertaining to sizes, mating, and colors of the American Flag. Also, make sure you are using the correct form, there is one for the 2D and one for the 3D submission.

ART DEADLINES:

Post level: March 31, 2025

Department level: April 15, 2025

National Level: May 5, 2025

It is now time to review your guidesheet and complete your reporting. I challenge every Auxiliary that submits a 3D Art to complete the National Awards form. We want to make President Jane and Michigan shine at the National convention.

Thank you to all that participated in the VOD, PP and TOY programs this year. I am looking forward to receiving many art entries.

Denise Arnold
Dept of MI Scholarship Chairman
9525 E River Rd
Mt Pleasant, MI 48858
989-621-0327
scholarshipsmi2425@gmail.com



Michigan Patriotic 2D and 3D Art Information Sheet

Student Name: _____

Student Address:

Student Email: _____

Student Cell Phone: _____

Parent Names: _____

Parent Contact #: _____

Name of School: _____

School Contact: _____

District #: _____ **Post/Auxiliary Name & #:** _____

Post/Auxiliary Contact Name: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

District Contact Name (optional): _____

Contact Phone number: _____

Description of Artwork:

Date Received: _____ **Date Notified if Winner:** _____

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Veterans & Family Support Bulletin - February-March 2025

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Veterans and Family Support-Michigan

National Theme: *From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans*
Department Theme: *Aspire to Inspire*

February 3, Four Chaplains Day

February 14, Valentine's Day

February 19, Coast Guard Reserve Birthday

I don't know about you but this VFW Auxiliary reporting year is going by fast for me. Here is a reminder of your goals that you should complete and report-

- (1) *Promote, participate, host/co-host with your VFW Post activities for any of these programs: Disaster Relief, Military Assistance (MAP), National Veterans Service (NVS), Unmet Needs, Veterans & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness*
- (2) *Fundraise for or donate to any of the 3 Michigan Honor Flight programs*
- (3) *Coordinate an open house event or activity that includes VFW accredited Service Officers to help all vets, military and their families to navigate the VA system to obtain their benefits*
- (4) *Promote veteran and military suicide prevention and mental health awareness*
- (5) *Provide direct aid to military, veterans and/or their families. (cash, diapers, food, cooking, cleaning, laundry, car repair, maintenance, bills, transportation etc.) Report monetary donations and number of veterans, service members, and/or families assisted*
- (6) *Attend and register at a School of Instruction*
- (7) *Attend and register at your own District meeting*
- (8) *Report every quarter (I can tell if you report every quarter, no need to send a report stating that you report every quarter)*

Trouble Reporting?

We are now officially in the 4th and final quarter for reporting what we do for our veterans and families. **April 20, 2025** is the last day that any reports will be accepted and entered for the year into the Department Dashboard. So, if your Auxiliary has not reported yet, you still do have time. **All Auxiliaries are required to report how they have helped veterans and or their families at least once a year.** Please reach out to me as soon as possible if you need assistance; my contact information is: Scott Collins- 127 E. Case St. Negaunee, MI 49866- yes, I do accept handwritten reports email- scott.collins@negauneeschools.org
cell/text- 906 236 2419
home phone- 906 401 0453

March 3, Navy Reserve Birthday
March 13, K-9 Veterans Day
March 17, St. Patrick's Day
March 25, Medal of Honor Day
March 29, Vietnam Veterans Day

National Awards for Auxiliaries

Has your Auxiliary been doing a good job coordinating an activity, event or anything that promotes military and veteran suicide prevention and or mental health awareness? I know the answer is "yes" for many Michigan Auxiliaries by the reports that I have received.

Hopefully, your Auxiliary is planning to enter this year's National VFW Auxiliary Veterans & Family Support Program award contest.

A citation and \$25.00 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity or event to increase awareness of suicide and mental health for veterans, military, and their families.

* An entry form must be completed and turned into me by or before March 31, 2025. The form can be obtained on the Malta website. If you're not familiar with Malta, you should login and register. Here is how you do it:

- (1) go to malta.vfwauxiliary.org
- (2) log in or register. Your ID is your Auxiliary membership number, you will make up a password.
- (3) Once in, click on member resources
- (4) click on Veterans & Family Support Award Forms
- (5) Print out and follow directions. You can attach extra information if necessary.
- (6) Mail to me before March 31, 2025. I cannot accept any submissions received after March 31, 2025**

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

Please contact me if you need help reporting and thank you to those who have successfully reported or that have contacted me for help and or questions. I do enjoy helping!

Scott Collins
127 E. Case St.
Negaunee, MI 49866
scott.collins@negauneeschools.org
cell/text 906 236 2419
home phone 906 401 0453



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Youth/Camp Trotter Bulletin – February/March 2025

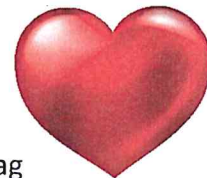
www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Youth Activities/Camp Trotter - Michigan

National Theme: *From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans*
Department Theme: *Aspire to Inspire*

Youth:

Different parts of the year allow different opportunities to include youth in our activities. Start thinking about the different holidays that are coming up that we could begin educating our youth about. Contact schools to see if they will allow history presentations, or a book reading event with a veteran! The obvious upcoming holiday is Valentine's Day. Maybe work with a classroom/school to fill out Valentine's Day cards to take to a local nursing home or VA Hospital. Other holidays to think about include President birthdays, 20th



Amendment adopted to U.S. Constitution (February 6), American Flag raised on Iwo Jima (1945), and the Battle of Java Sea (World War II 1942). If you cannot make it into a classroom, hold an event at your Post with snacks and activities and invite the public. You could participate in Patriotism through Literacy, and hold a reading event on one of these days as well!

Illustrating America:

Due date incoming! Please make sure all submissions are to me by March 31, 2025 for judging! Remember this is a K-8 contest (not scholarship!). All entry forms are available on the Department Website. Please note the size restrictions are less strict this year and remember, name and grade **MUST** be on the back of the artwork. Art that does not fit the sizing requirements or does not have a name and grade will be disqualified from the contest.



Camp Trotter:

Camping season is coming soon! Be on the lookout for kiddos you want to let know about camp. Start thinking about how many kids your Auxiliary may want to sponsor. Send in those donations to Camp Trotter and buy your life memberships. Remember, if you have teenagers that may make great counselors, that is also a way to help! Clean up days will be posted soon; all help is greatly appreciated. Finally, remember the golf outing is hosted in June. They are always looking for donations to assist with that event as well.



Thank you to districts 5, 8, 11 and 14
for your donations to the Stuff Your
District table at Midwinter! Please see
our Facebook page for the amount we
raised!

STUFF YOUR DISTRICT ASSIGNMENTS

CONVENTION

Districts 6, 9, 12, 15

April Lowery
7820 Heritage Drive, Apt 4
Lansing 48917
(707) 495-2195
asmith0725@gmail.com