



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
MICHIGAN CONNECTION #3
October/November, 2024

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Auxiliary VFW – Michigan

517-487-3715 (Office)

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

Greeting Members!

Huge thank you to Mt Pleasant #3033 and Clio #1492 for their hospitality, fantastic food and love shown for our National President Brenda Bryant's visit to Michigan. You helped make it an enjoyable and successful visit.

Thank you to everyone who attended and made the Fall Conference fun and successful. Please share with your auxiliaries all the valuable information you received. The Friday night Bingo fundraiser raised \$3,000 and the Camp Trotter table raised \$240! We appreciate all of you who participated and generously donated items.

Continue your fantastic work on membership! Currently we are at 86.37%. IMPORTANT REMINDER: National raised their dues to \$10. Please send \$17 to the Department when submitting dues. Our next deadline goal is that Officers must have their dues paid by **December 31st**. Don't wait till the last minute to get this done.

Per Bylaws Section 102 Letter "l" a-f.

The investigating committee needs to review and be responsible for the eligibility and filling out the applications properly. Improperly filled out applications, or ones with missing information will be returned.

Our goal is to begin adding on the Website, under Calendar, Auxiliary and Post events. If you wish to have your event listed, please submit your information to the Department Secretary at misec@asiserve.net.

Thank you for continuing to recognize our "unsung heroes". All members are deeply appreciated!

Chief of Staff (Extension and Revitalization)

Healthy Auxiliary Due Dates/Reminders by Chief of Staff Jan Passmore

October is the month in which your Auxiliary is to audit the books of the Secretary and Treasurer. Once completed it must be read on the Auxiliary floor and approved before submitting to the Department Treasurer by November 30th. If you need assistance please contact the Department Treasurer, Cathy Sasse at 517-420-9342.

Mentoring – “Great mentors don’t just impart wisdom from their own experiences. They allow the time to understand another person’s perspective and the space needed for them to uncover the wisdom residing within.” We need to listen to all the voices of our members in order to grow our organization and keep it moving forward.

The 990’s are due [November 15th](#). Please call the Treasurer Cathy if you need any help and remember to send in a copy to Department.

VFW Community Service Reporting form for Auxiliaries

It has come to our attention, that many of the Auxiliaries are not aware of this form or have chosen not to complete it. A copy is included in the packet, and, also can be found on our website under Resources/Department Forms. Please make this a priority so that we can assist our posts.

Upcoming Events

Big 10 Conference in Indianapolis, IN, October 18-20

Veterans Day, November 11 and the office is closed

Thanksgiving, November 28, and the office is closed the 28th and 29th



By Order of:

Jane Dady

Jane Dady
Department President

Cindy Peto

Cindy Peto
Department Secretary

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

Form for Auxiliary to turn in to Post RE: VFW Community Service

Auxiliary to Post # _____

Date From: _____

Date Through: _____

Auxiliary Programs that count

Americanism

Auxiliary Outreach

VFW National Home for Children

Hospital

Legislative

Scholarships

Veterans & Family Support

Youth Activities

Total Auxiliary Community Service Information

	# of members	# of hours	# of miles	Donations
Americanism				
Auxiliary Outreach				
VFW National Home for Children				
Hospital				
Legislative				
Scholarships				
Veterans & Family Support				
Youth Activities				
Total	0	0	0	0

Auxiliary Programs that do not count for VFW Community Service - Extension & Revitalization, Buddy Poppy, Historian & Media Relations, Mentoring for Leadership, and Membership. Work for your Post Home also does not count.



**Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
Americanism Bulletin – October/November, 2024**

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

Happy Fall Y'all, by now all schools should be back in full swing and thus giving our Auxiliaries plenty of opportunity to re-engage with the schools on patriotism and things like flag raising protocol. You could print off coloring pages and have the younger ones do a little contest with them. With Halloween coming at the end of the month and many of you holding Trunk or Treat events why not try to tie in some patriotic goodies when passing out candy. As always though if you pass out any number of flags, I must have those numbers in order for you to achieve that particular goal.

As the fall months turn into winter ones some people will take in their American/Pow Mia flags down so they are not ruined by the harsh Michigan winter, but before they do take a moment and drive around and see the number of businesses or community members who show their pride and award them a Patriotic Citation in recognition for their American pride. Maybe you could do this "citizen event" a couple times a year in the fall and spring. Better yet tie it in with a monthly dinner you might have and invite those individuals or business persons to your dinner and present them with their citations in front of everyone. This honors them and boosts your Auxiliary/Post involvement in the community.



Have a SPOOKTACULAR Month!

OCTOBER DATES TO REMEMBER

13th- 1775 – The continental Congress established the Continental Navy (predecessor of the United States Navy-1792) – In Washington, D.C.

14th - Columbus Day - A day of observance in which the arrival of Christopher Columbus arrived in the America in the Bahamas in 1492

27th- Navy Day - A day to celebrate the achievements and sacrifices and contributions of the U.S. Navy and to recognize those men and women who serve in the Navy.

When someone thinks of November, usually we think of Turkey, family gatherings, football and leftovers. All those are good things but this month also brings Veteran's Day on November 11 of every year. This day is set aside to publicly honor and commemorate the living Veterans. Originally called "Armistice Day" it was established in 1926 by a congressional resolution. Twelve years later it was changed by another resolution to become a National Holiday. In 1954 President, Dwight D. Eisenhower signed a bill proclaiming November 11 as Veteran's Day, but in 1968 a law was passed to establish the fourth Monday in October as the day to honor Veteran's Day. This change bothered many Americans and it was eventually changed in 1978 back to the original November 11th date for good. But truly we should be honoring all our Military personnel past and present all year long, not just at special times because a calendar says so.



If you are going to have some dinner or recognition at your post home why not make up a poster with this information on other lesser-known military holidays or birthdays and as people wander around and visit or are in line for food, they will be able to be "educated" on these. And you guessed it, it also counts for a goal on your guide sheet.

NOVEMBER DATES TO REMEMBER

November 10th the U.S. Marine Corp was established in 1775

"My fellow citizens, no people on earth have more cause to be thankful than ours, and this is said reverently, in no spirit of boastfulness in our own strength, but with gratitude to the Giver of Good who has blessed us with the conditions which have enabled us to achieve so large a measure of well-being and of happiness."

Theodore Roosevelt

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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary "Buddy"® Poppy/National Home Bulletin – October/November 2024

www.vfwauxmi.org

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

As Fall Conference has come to end, I would like to thank everyone for coming and I hope you were able to take some new information with you to assist you with the start of this holiday season.

Has your Auxiliary purchased the Department President's program pin yet? If not, please reach out to Ruth Barnhill to make that purchase. This year the proceeds from the sale of the pins will benefit the VFW National Home. Please don't forget to report to me that your Auxiliary has purchased the pins.



As fall begins to set in, so will our desire to drive around to destination nowhere and enjoy the beautiful colors that the trees have given us. This fall season, I encourage you to grab a friend and take drive to a destination called the VFW National Home! The home offers tours of the campus by calling the administrative offices and setting up an appointment. Perhaps you have a friend that has never been, and you can enjoy a lovely afternoon together and with the wonderful people at the National Home. While you are there you can swing by the Museum store to explore the history of the Home or you can see if you can find your brick that you might have just purchased earlier in the year!

Creativity is Contagious! Is your Auxiliary doing a trunk or treat this Halloween? Instead of candy, perhaps grab some cool, inexpensive toys from Amazon and wrap a "Buddy"® Poppy around them. For the parents? Print off Poppy Story cards, National Home Helpline info, your Auxiliary info, put information in a small baggie along with a poppy and perhaps a mint. Never miss an opportunity to promote!

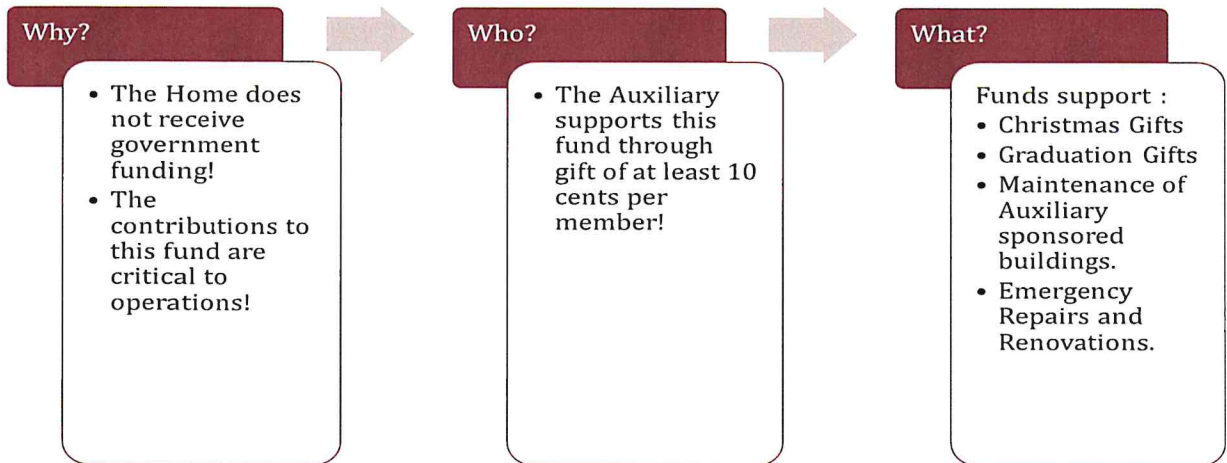


Reporting: Reminder that October 31 is the end of the second quarter reporting! If you haven't reported yet, please do so. If you need assistance, please don't hesitate to call, email, or text me as I will be happy to help.

November

November is the month of not only giving thanks for our family, health, friends, and a multitude of other blessings in our lives, but to also give thanks to our VETERANS! After all, we are the Home of the free because of the brave! This month allows for many opportunities to share what the VFW National Home is and what the "Buddy"® Poppy provides for our veterans and their families! Now is the time to order poppies, select collection sites, and get your volunteers ready for November 11!

Health & Happiness Fund



If there is a good time of year to make your contribution to the VFW Auxiliary Health & Happiness Fund, it would be now. Why you ask? As the Home approaches closer to the holiday season, they have needs to assist with the Christmas season but it is also approaching winter in Michigan. That means cold, wet and sometimes unexpected repairs winter can bring. As you can see from the info graphic above, this fund supports five Auxiliary sponsored buildings. What are they? The Chapel, Community Center, Guest Lodge, Health and Education Building and the Nursery. These buildings are critical to the day-to-day operations, so please, if your Auxiliary has not yet contributed to this fund, please submit your payment directly though Malta or by mail soon!

Creativity is Contagious

Attached to this month's bulletin is a template to help you for your FUN-raising efforts and promotion of our two essential programs. There you find a "Thank You Veterans" card you can print out on cardstock. You can ask for a dollar or two in donations, have the purchaser write their name, "In honor", or "In memory of" on the card. Then, hang up in your post home for November. Proceeds of this will go in your relief fund.



Don't forget to join our Facebook page at "Buddy"® Poppy/VFW National Home-Michigan to stay up-to-date on current happenings!

Christine LeBrun, "Buddy"® Poppy/VFW National Home Chairman
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Lansing, MI 48910
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bph24.25@gmail.com



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Historian/Media Relations Bulletin – October/November, 2024

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*

Auxiliaries, Districts, Departments and National have all completed their elections, installations and had their official first meetings under the newly elected officers. Let the 2024 – 2025 year begin. All the Historian/Media Relations Chairmen should be now collecting photos, copies of news articles about the Auxiliary, information about Auxiliary events and activities that **you have done** so far, this 2024 – 2025 year. The information collected should have been or should be shared on social media, put in the Auxiliary Historian Books, put in your newsletters and emails to members and in local newspapers. Brag about what you do for veterans and the community. Get started collecting now and file the information so you don't have to hunt it down when you need it, like for your Historian Book or for Department and National Awards you will be applying for. The Auxiliary is a TEAM so ask others for photos and information they may have from the activities and events they attended.

☑ DONE!



Sharing all you do helps you to be part of your community. Showing what **you can do**, working with them, helping with community events (Outreach) and reaching out to veterans and their families (Veteran and Family Support) in the community to help with their needs are great examples. You have a lot to offer youth (Youth Activities), donating funds for education (Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen) and other contest awards (Scholarships), involving them in patriotic events and learning about America and the American flag (Americanism). Share going into hospitals to volunteer (Hospital) and what you do for the veterans there. Draw attention to the legislative process (Legislation), Priority Goals and promote legislation for veteran's needs.

Remember to share events and activities you **will be doing**. Right now, you should be promoting the Post and Auxiliary Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year programs. Show how community youth can benefit from the great scholarships offered, the patriotic thought process writing the essays, and the Auxiliary giving back to the community. By promoting upcoming activities and events to your community, you provide an opportunity for the community to join you promoting patriotism, working with veterans at care facilities or hospitals, providing meals to veterans, helping or enjoying youth activities and joining you for social events at your VFW Post. This also provides opportunities to recruit (Membership) those who are eligible to join.

What Will You Be Doing?

You work the Programs in all your activities. So, get out there and share what you have done, what you can do and what you will do.

Another way to get your message out is by using the resources available to you. Learn the names of reporters who cover stories like yours and collect a list of media contacts. Send information to these contacts on a regular basis so they become familiar with you and look forward to your activities. You can send photos and information to your contacts if they are unable to attend your events. Your contacts can be in newspapers, radio, Facebook, community newsletters, social groups, schools and churches. Consider these questions when getting in touch with your contacts.

- ✓ Does it involve local people?
- ✓ Does it interest non-members?
- ✓ Does it help the community?
- ✓ Is it unique and new?

There is a lot of information in Malta Member Resources to help you with media relations.

vfwauxiliary.org > Malta > member resources > media relations

1. The VFW Auxiliary Publicity Guide includes information and ideas to help promote your Auxiliary.
2. The VFW Auxiliary Elevator Speech/What we do that summarizes who we are, what we do and how we describe ourselves as an organization to the media.
3. Website and social media information – There are a lot of resources here, everything from the basics to setting up a Facebook page for your Auxiliary.

NOW GET OUT THERE AND SHOW OFF!

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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Hospital Bulletin – October/November 2024

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Hospital-Michigan



The holidays will soon be here. Are you saving toilet paper tubes to turn into treats for our veterans who are in VA, non-VA or nursing homes? The tubes are good for putting soft candy in for our veterans. Since some veterans are diabetic, when wrapping the tubes with gift wrap, indicate if the candy is sugar free. Attach a label with your Auxiliary number and location. Set aside a day or evening when you can do this with your Auxiliary members and invite youth groups to help.

Along with this team building, the wrapping party would be a good way to talk about the joys of volunteering, and recruit new members to come along when you distribute the candy-filled tubes. There are many ways of volunteering.

When you take a position, especially as a volunteer, it is said at that time you need to think about finding your replacement or at least another volunteer. What have you or your Auxiliary done to recruit new hospital volunteers within your Auxiliary or with youth groups in your area? Check with your local high school, as the guidance counselors may be looking for opportunities for their students who need volunteer hours. Hospital volunteering is not just about accumulating hours for awards; it is about bringing joy and smiles to our veterans. Talk to them, ask their first name, what branch of service they were in, do they have a favorite story about their time in the **military** to share, etc.

Regularly Scheduled Volunteers are individuals who participate in the VAVS program on a regularly scheduled assignment under VA supervision. There is a process at the VA to become a RS volunteer with background screening and orientation.

Occasional/Episodic Volunteers are those individuals serving under the VAVS program but don't meet the requirements of RS volunteers. These individuals frequently volunteer with a group or organization on an occasional basis.

Student Volunteers are under the age of 18 and must have parental or guardian approval to participate in the VAVS program.

More information on volunteering can be found in MALTA under Hospital Resources.

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.

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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Legislative Bulletin – October/November, 2024

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

Where has this summer gone? The kids are back in school, football season is here and Halloween & Thanksgiving are just around the corner. This also means that our present sitting Congress will recess at the end of this year. Keep current and promote our pending legislation. The Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act, which would expand the caregiver program to those who serve our nation's veterans, is at the top of the list. We also still have H.R. 1282 / S. 344, the Major Richard Star Act, either as a standalone bill or as an amendment in the National Defense Authorization Act for 2024. Over 50,000 medically retired combat veterans with less than twenty years of service are required to forfeit every dollar of their Department of Defense retirement pay for every dollar they receive in Department of Veterans Affairs service-connected disability compensation. This extremely unjust offset must be eliminated. Please continue to contact your Legislators to get these important pieces of legislation passed before Congress recesses.



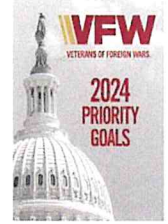
Get Out The Vote: This November is an extremely important election for our country and our democracy, not only the presidential election but also the congressional and state races that are going on. Please make sure you research the candidates to determine who will best represent our military and veterans issues. So how do we do this? Simply put, we **EDUCATE** - educate ourselves, educate others, especially our candidates, and then get involved in the voting process!

Remember who sacrificed to give you the right to vote - it is your responsibility to exercise that right!

Please report any interaction you may have with your candidates. Remember - as an Auxiliary member, we are non-partisan. As an individual, you may campaign or support any candidate you choose but not as a representative of the VFW or Auxiliary. Don't forget to proudly wear your "I Vote in Honor of a US Veteran" sticker when you go in to vote! Remember, voting or working the polls are not reportable Legislative activities!



VFW Priority Goals: Don't forget our Priority Goals. Educate our candidates on our six areas of importance. Share our brochure with them and make sure you have them visible at your Post and any displays you may have. And don't forget to report any and all of your activities!



VFW Action Corps Weekly: Continue to promote and assist members, and anyone interested in veteran's affairs, in signing up for this newsletter. It's how we stay up to date on the goings on in Washington, D.C. Visit www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots to read and sign up. Please let me know if you need any assistance in the sign-up process. And don't forget to report the number of members who are actually signed up for the Action Corps Weekly.

Reporting: It has been a pleasure reading your reports and a big thank you for all of your hard work. Again, this is a great time to contact your congressional leaders through social media, town halls, phone calls and letters. Please, when you report, make sure you tell me the name of your official and what you discussed. When addressing a bill, please include the bill number and title.

If you don't know who your legislators are, reach them at the websites below:

State of Michigan legislators - www.michiganlegislator.org

U.S.Senators - www.senate.gov

U.S. Representative - www.house.gov

In closing, I would like to quote our National Ambassador, DeeDee Guyette:
"Remember that our legislative efforts are the roots of Brenda's tree, with a strong foothold this election year. Together our voices will be heard loud and clear this November."

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.

Have a Happy Halloween and a Happy and Blessed Thanksgiving!

Respectfully Submitted,

Deb Marshall
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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Membership Bulletin–October/November, 2024

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

Ready for something new and exciting? Introducing our **NEW** VFW Auxiliary QR Code. Point your mobile device at the QR Code and you'll have access to the Membership page on the VFW Auxiliary website. Think about it! No longer is there a need to always carry things around with you, such as: Auxiliary information, Post/Auxiliary locations, or a membership application.

	<p>How it works:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Open app.2. Point at QR Code.3. Scan QR Code.4. Open QR Code.
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As a bonus, I will be distributing the QR Code lasered onto dog tags at my training session at the Mid-Winter Conference.

From Our Roots to Our Branches



Extending Service to Our Veterans.

**Good soil is needed to foster root growth
WE are the soil!**

**Seeds grow when they are nurtured
NEW members are OUR seeds!**

**Extending service to our Veterans
Requires continuous membership growth!**

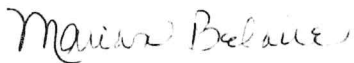
National's 1st Goal

- Bronze Department Award #1: 95%+ by November 30, 2024 (we **all** need a membership plan)
 - Reach out to family who are not members, to former members, and to other Veterans' organizations
 - Develop recruiting events year-round, with or without the VFW
 - Appoint a mentor for all new members for the first year
 - Recognize current members for all their help
 - Host family events, making children the center of such events

If you have yet to join the Membership – Michigan Facebook page, please do so because I would like to see everyone's contributions to the growth of Auxiliary.

God bless you for everything you do for our Nation's heroes, God Bless our Veterans, and God bless the United States of America.

All the best.



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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Scholarship Bulletin – October/November

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

Happy Fall! I can smell pumpkin spice and burning leaves.

BIG ANNOUNCEMENT: Congratulations to our 2024 Department 2-D Patriotic Art Winner Ana Bruck from Aux 3652 Decatur, who won 1st place at the National Level. She won a \$15,000 scholarship.

How are you “Aspiring to Inspire”? The current area of focus is the promotion of our scholarship programs. For high school students it is Voice of Democracy and Patriotic Art. For the middle school, it is Patriot’s Pen. These programs are not just for the chairman to promote. Everyone knows either a student, youth group or a school that can participate.

Things you can do to promote:

- Make up postcards with links to all our scholarships and hand them out to people at church, the grocery store or anywhere.
- Go on the schools’ websites and find teachers that teach English, Social Studies, Civics, Government or the Student Government Club. Send them the information for the PP or VOD. Find art teachers for the Patriotic Art at high schools or tech centers. For Illustrating America, contact teachers at elementary and middle schools. Follow up with contacts to the superintendent, principals, secretaries, and counselors. The more people hear of them the better.
- While you are in contact at the schools don’t forget to mention and seek names for the Teacher of the Year contest. Many of our teachers deserve recognition.
- Does your town have a community Facebook page? Put a post on it about our programs and scholarships.

This is a great time of year to hold a fundraiser event or activity to raise money for your Scholarship fund. That money can go towards awards and a recognition event. Some ideas are a bake-less bake sale, craft show, 50/50 at an event, or change canister at your canteen marked coins for kids.

Voice of Democracy, Patriot’s Pen and Teacher of the Year entries are due to your post by October 31, 2024. Local post judging needs to be completed and the post winner(s) sent to the district chairman by November 15, 2024.

REMEMBER all entries **must** include:

- VOD: Completed application, a USB with the recorded speech, a paper copy of the speech, a Student Bio form, a School Release form, and a wallet sized photo.
- PP: Completed application, a paper copy of the speech, a Student Bio form, a School Release form, and a wallet sized photo.
- TOY: Completed form, resume (teacher bio and why they are being submitted) other supporting documents and a wallet sized photo.

Once again, this year the Department will be uploading the winner information into the ScholarApp program for you, so no worries there. We just need all the above documentation. PLEASE also send to your District chairman the number of entries you had in each contest, the number of winners, how much you spend on awards and how much you spent on other recognition (meal).

Did you attend the Fall Conference, and/or School of Instruction? REPORT it. Did you attend your District meetings or District school of instruction? REPORT it. Did you promote each of the scholarships? REPORT it. Did you do any fundraising or provide funding for the scholarships? REPORT it. Did you share our scholarships with your community? Did you ask any community leadership to come and speak at your awards ceremony? REPORT it.

Thank you for supporting our programs but most importantly our students. Looking forward to hearing and reading all the District winner entries in December.

Stay Safe!

Denise Arnold
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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Veterans & Family Support Bulletin - October/November, 2024

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*

Operation Enduring Freedom begins October 7, 2001

Birth of our U.S. Navy October 13, 1775



O is for October and **O** is also for ***Operation Bottom Cover***. Operation Bottom Cover is our National President Brenda Bryant's Special Project for 2024-25. You and your Auxiliary are being asked to help with this often overlooked expense of diapers and wipes for the babies of our active military and veteran families. Auxiliaries that participate in this project by **reporting** their promotion and or fundraising, will get a chance to receive a Citation of Merit and \$10. Here are more than a few ways to help:

- Gift money to Operation Bottom Cover through MALTA under gifts- National President's Special Project or mail a check to National Headquarters earmarked NP special project.
- Coordinate with and make a gift of diapers directly to a military base. If you don't have a contact at the base, reach out to your VFW VMS Chairman, maybe they can help.
- Host a diaper giveaway for veteran or military families at your Post.
- Your Auxiliary can donate directly to a veteran or military family with this need in your area.
- Don't forget the wipes. Maybe you can challenge the VFW for every box of diapers you deliver, they can throw in the wipes. Team Work.

When your Auxiliary helps with this project, it can be reported under Veterans & Family Support i.e. promoting or participating with disaster relief, military assistance, National Veterans Service, unmet needs or providing direct aid; just remember to mention Operation Bottom Cover. In the near future, a link will be shared with members where veteran and military families can apply for this type of assistance.

Last day to report what you and your Auxiliary has done from August thru October is: October 31, 2024.

Birth of our U.S. Marine Corps November 10, 1775

Veterans Day November 11

Honor Flight- websites and addresses:

upperpeninsulahonorflight.org -7480 J Rd. Gladstone, MI 49837

talonsouthonorflight.org -PO Box 280 Portage, MI 49081

midmichiganhonorflight.org -PO Box 98 Gowen, MI 49326

Since November is National Veterans and Military Families Month, this would be an excellent time to spread the word about the VFW's **National Veterans Service** or also known as **NVS**. NVS helps veterans, service members and their families obtain the benefits that they are entitled to and deserve - at no cost.

NVS provides a nationwide network of nearly 300 VFW Service Officers who help veterans navigate the Veterans Affairs system. Those VFW Service Officers recover more than \$1 billion annually in VA benefits for veterans and their dependents. These highly competent professionals assist all veterans, whether they are VFW members or not, in filing claims for:

- Disability Compensation.
- Rehabilitation and Educational Programs.
- Pension and Death Benefits.
- Employment and Training Programs.
- VA Health Care.
- Hospital Inpatient or Outpatient.
- Specialized Healthcare for Female Veterans.
- Alcohol and other Drug Dependency Treatment
- Medical evaluation for disorders associated with military service such as Agent Orange, Camp LeJuenne or other environmental hazards.

Coordinating an open house event or activity that includes VFW accredited Service Officers to help all veterans, military and their families to navigate the VA system to obtain their benefits is one of your VFW Auxiliary Veterans & Family Support goals. Auxiliaries that complete and **report** this goal under Veterans & Family Support activity, will get a chance to receive a Citation of Merit and \$10.

Keep up the good job of reporting. If you or your Auxiliary are providing meals to veterans or their family members, report it. Every report no matter how big or small counts!

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns that you may have with this program or reporting. I am here to help. If I can't help, I will try to find someone that can.

Scott Collins

127 E. Case St.

Negaunee, MI 49866

Call/Text 906-236-2419

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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Youth/Camp Trotter Bulletin – October/November 2024

www.vfwauxmi.org

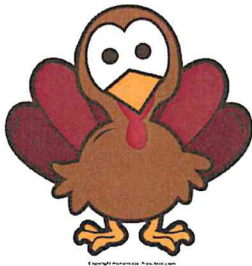
Facebook Page: Youth Activities/Camp Trotter - Michigan

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

Department Theme: *Aspire to Inspire*

Youth:

The holidays are coming! There are so many exciting ways to incorporate youth into your activities. Is your town holding any Halloween festivities that you could participate in? Perhaps there's a Trunk-or-Treat you could attend? Join with your post and your Buddy Poppy®/National Home Chairman to make goody bags with some candy and a Buddy Poppy® to hand out! Nothing is going on in town, but you get so many trick-or-treaters at your home? You can hand the goody bags out there instead! Another idea is to join your Post to throw a Halloween party for the community!



Thanksgiving is also on the way. Ask some youth to come help your Auxiliary put together a meal for Veterans in your area that may not have a dinner to go to. This dinner could be around Thanksgiving instead of on the day to increase participation from youth. Parents may not be willing to have them missing from their holiday table but might be more willing to do so the Sunday before! Many high school students and teams need volunteer hours, this is a great way to help them and help you at the same time!

Illustrating America:

After the National Convention I was notified of a change to the Illustrating America requirements. Due to a mix up, all submissions must now have the child's name and grade written on the back of the art. The entry form has been updated to reflect this and must be the document used. It has been uploaded to the Department Website under Youth and is labeled *NEW*. Please be sure to check your submissions as they come in, just in case an old form is attached.



Camp Trotter:

Things are slowing down for the season at Camp Trotter. Don't forget we can still fundraise for next season. If you haven't already, donate to the scholarship fund. Buy a life membership for a member who doesn't already have one. There are also some general maintenance projects to do around camp so you can also donate to the general fund to assist with that! Be sure you report everything you do! Work with other chairman

to incorporate Camp Trotter into their fundraising events in the community and within your Post.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the first "Stuff Your District!" I am looking forward to our next one at Mid-Winter.

Remember the more money we make on this fundraiser the more money Camp Trotter gets. We are the only state with a camp, so we want to make sure it is successful!

If you have any questions about what to bring, when to bring it, etc. please don't hesitate to reach out! I am happy to help!

STUFF YOUR DISTRICT ASSIGNMENTS

MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

Districts 5, 8, 11, 14

CONVENTION

Districts 6, 9, 12, 15

When you are reporting under youth, please be specific! Make sure you note the number of youths who participated in the event and what the event was. You may notice reports are declined that don't have enough information. I will do my best to email you to let you know if your report was declined.

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