



**Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary**  
**MICHIGAN CONNECTION #5**  
**April/May, 2026**

[www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org)

Facebook Page: Auxiliary VFW – Michigan  
517-487-3715 (Office); 517-420-9342 (Department Treasurer)  
517-485-6432 (FAX)

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*National Theme: From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free*

*Department Theme: We Don't Know them All, But We Owe Them All*

**MUST BE READ ON THE FLOOR**

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION!!!!**

**DEPARTMENT DELEGATE FORMS MUST BE TO THE DEPARTMENT TREASURER BY MAY 22, 2026**

**Cathy Sasse, Treasurer**

**1117 Michigan Street**

**Midland, MI 48640**

**Debbie's Corner**

This is my last Michigan Connection to you as your Department President. The year has been filled with excitement, challenges, and moments that take your breath away.

Thank you to each of you that have ensured such a successful year with membership and our programs. You have done a fabulous job, and I couldn't be more proud.

My special project, Blue Star Service Dogs, has been a huge success and we still have time to donate to this very worthy cause that benefits our veterans. **Donations need to be to the Department Office by May 29.** At the Department Convention, I will be presenting a lump sum donation to Blue Star Service Dogs and am excited to do so. You all have been very generous and supportive.

Welcome to our newest Auxiliary! Auxiliary to the VFW Ottawa Post 3134, Iron River, was instituted on April 13, 2026.

Again, thank you for all you do for our nation's heroes and our organization. See you at Department Convention!

**Special Orders**

Special Order No. 196 – In part, "It is hereby ordered by the National President that Tori Shortridge, Life Membership No 2000440931, be removed from the rolls of VFW Auxiliary 4420 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary permanently."

Special Order No. 197 – In part, "It is hereby ordered by the National President that Shannon Hider, Annual Membership No. 2000440930, be removed from the rolls of VFW Auxiliary 4420 and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary permanently."

Special Order No. 207 – In part, "The information received from the Veterans of Foreign Wars indicates that permission was granted for the consolidation of Trenton Post No. 1888, Trenton, Michigan, and Cpl.

Lambert A. Pfeiffer Jr. Post No. 9283, Southgate, Michigan. The consolidated Post shall be known as Southeast Wayne County Post No. 1888, Southgate Michigan, as approved on February 12, 2026.”

### **Information from Department Secretary**

District and National Delegate forms are available on the front page of our website. The Report of Installation is also available and is the only form that needs to be completed, entered into MALTA, and a copy sent to the Department Office. Any questions or need assistance, please contact Department Secretary Cindy at 517 487-3715.

### **Information from Department Treasurer**

Reminder that you MUST use the new membership application dated January 2026. All other applications will be returned and thus delaying the process.

Regarding the new processing of credit cards for Life membership, when a new member (or the person) wants to pay annual or lifetime amounts by credit card, there must be a good phone number and email listed on the new application under section H. The credit card box must be checked on the application. Once the application is entered into Malta the new applicant will receive an email from the department treasurer to request them to enter the credit card for payment. Once it is approved, the email will come back to the department, and the applicant will be completed. During the approval process the auxiliary treasurer and department treasurer will have an applicant pending showing in Malta under payment processing tab. The applicant has 30 days to answer the email and complete. After 30 days, the Department Treasurer returns the application to the auxiliary treasurer to review and update for future processing. **It is important that the auxiliary treasurer shares the credit card processing with the new applicant to make the process go smoothly.** The Department treasurer does send a reminder to the applicants every Monday morning by email until the applicant's nonresponse expires in Malta. Please don't hesitate to contact Cathy if you have any questions.

### **Dues**

We still have around 106 members who have not paid their 2026 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. Let's not leave any member behind.

### **Department Fundraiser**

To all those who purchased our March Madness Fundraiser tickets, THANK YOU! The fundraiser was a great success and a huge thank you to Past Department President Edna Kiviniemi , the Chairperson.

Districts - if you were unable to do a fundraiser for the Department, please consider making a donation We have traveled a lot this year to help yellow and red flag Auxiliaries and these monies are needed so that we can continue to assist districts and auxiliaries throughout the year.

### **Deadline Reminders**

The 2025-26 reporting year ends on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Please be sure to get your reports entered by that date. If you need assistance, please call the Department Chairmen or the Department Office. Reminder that every Auxiliary must report at least one project regarding veterans.

The January - March audit is to be completed by April 30 and a copy sent to the Department Office by May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Department Delegate Forms must be to the Department Treasurer by May 22.

Included in this electronic packet, for your convenience, is the form for the Department President's Love Gift.

**By Order of:**

*Deborah Scheetz*

Deborah Scheetz  
Department President

*Cindy Peto*

Cindy Peto  
Department Secretary