



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
MICHIGAN CONNECTION #4
December, 2025/January, 2026

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

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!!!!

- **BEGINNING IMMEDIATELY, ALL DUES AND AUDITS MUST BE SENT DIRECTLY TO THE DEPARTMENT TREASURER AT:**

Cathy Sasse, Treasurer
1117 Michigan Street
Midland, MI 48640

This is to ensure that dues will be entered in MALTA in a timely manner due to the upcoming holidays and end of year.

- **EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026, the Department Dues Per Capita will be \$10. Any dues received at the Department Office after December 31 must send in a total of \$20 for dues (\$10 for Department and \$10 for National).**
- **In an effort to better serve you, please be sure that if you have an email address, that it is recorded in MALTA.**
- **Reminder that the office staff DO NOT have weekend business hours (Friday-Sunday). Please refrain from calling them on the weekends. Their business hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:00 am – 4:30 pm.**
- **Department Office building will be closed December 24, 25 and 26; December 31, January 1 and January 2.**

Blue Star Service Dogs – Department President's Special Project

There has been some confusion or misinformation about the Department President's Special Project. If you donate, PLEASE send the check to the treasurer made payable to the VFW AUX of Michigan and enter Blue Star Service Dogs on the Memo line. Do not send or make it payable to Blue Star Service Dogs. Some people are mailing straight to the BSSD. Madam President would like to give a HUGE check to them at the end of the auxiliary year. If you already sent it straight to BSSD's please make sure you report it under VFS so that we can keep a tally of what was donated but won't be in the check when it is presented at the Department Convention. Thank you so much. Any questions just ask! For more information about this very special program, visit their website at: www.bluestarservicedogs.org.

This organization gave a presentation at our Fall Conference, and it was amazing! We passed the hat, and our members generously donated \$1,549. THANK YOU SO MUCH!

Debbie's Corner

It takes many hands to put on a conference, so my thanks to all those who worked so hard to ensure that our Fall Conference was such a huge success. Many stated that they had a great time and learned a lot, which was so good to hear, and it was great to see everyone.

Welcome to two of our newest Auxiliaries. Reed City #2964, in Reed City, was instituted on October 28; Fred Quandt #3901, in Algonac, was instituted on November 9. Looking forward to great things from these two auxiliaries!

The Department Bingo fund raiser, headed by Carrie Turner, was a huge success and thanks to all who supported this event. Proceeds are listed under the Report of the Treasurer.

Report of the Treasurer

The Department Bingo held at Fall Conference yielded a \$3,205 profit for Department. Thank you to all who attended and supported this fund raiser. The proceeds from the Hospital Star Raffle - \$1,960 with a value of \$2,930 in gift cards; the proceeds from the Camp Trotter raffle baskets - \$365, with a value of \$820 in donated goods.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS. Beginning January 1, 2026, there will be a new membership application and the only one that will be accepted (please destroy any not dated 1/1/2026). The payment method on the form Section H is to be completed by the person who is paying by credit card. National will notify the applicant by email with a link to enter their credit card number. Also going forward they can charge annual and life membership fees. Any questions MUST BE directed to the Department Treasurer. The new membership application will be loaded to the Department website by December 25.

March Madness 2026 Raffle

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND: March Maina Raffle Tickets, \$10.00 per Ticket. We will draw a purchased ticket a day for 31 days in the month of March, for a total of \$10,000.00 in prizes. Each member who sells a WINNING ticket will receive a prize of \$40.00. To sell tickets or purchase a ticket contact: Edna Kiviniemi, 6468 Waubun Rd, Indian River, Michigan 49749, email maggieeli6507@hotmail.com or call 231-420-1410. We are doing well on getting these tickets sold but we still have a few 100 tickets left for someone to purchase or help us sell them. Proceeds from this fundraiser assists the Department in their efforts to assist our members and our auxiliaries. Please help us make this a successful fundraiser. GET YOUR TICKETS TODAY!!!

Healthy Auxiliary Due Dates

4th Quarter Audits for October, November and December must be completed in January, approved by the Auxiliary, and submitted to the Department Office by February 28.

The third quarter reporting period ends December 31. Please be sure to get your reports in! Important reminder that every auxiliary must report at least once and must report doing something that benefits our veterans.

Has every one of your Auxiliary elected officers paid their 2025 dues? All Auxiliary officers MUST have their dues paid and entered into MALTA by December 31, 2025, or they will be removed by National.

Mid-Winter Conference

January 28 – February 1, 2026, is our annual Mid-Winter Conference being held at the Kalamazoo Radisson. On our front page of the website is all the pertinent information. Looking forward to seeing you all there to support our VOD/PP students along with TOY. Please be sure to make your reservations early and get your banquet tickets.

The Department Officers wish you all a very happy, healthy, and safe Holiday Season.

By Order of:

Debbie Scheetz

Debbie Scheetz
Department President

Cindy Peto

Cindy Peto
Department Secretary

