



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Extension & Revitalization/Chief of Staff February/March 2026

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Extension & Revitalization-Michigan

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*

Reminder: Chief of Staff National Awards

If you'd like to nominate someone for one of this year's two National Awards, now's your chance. Any Auxiliary or member can nominate a fellow member or a District President. You'll need to fill out the official entry form, which you can find in the MALTA Member Resources. Please make sure your form reaches me by March 31, 2026.



1. National Awards for Members

Citation and a \$25 VFW Store gift certificate to one member in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the best assistance to the Chief of Staff in establishing a new VFW Auxiliary with the approval of the Department President.

2. Awards for District Presidents or Official Representatives

Citation and a \$25 VFW Store gift certificate to one District President or Official Representative in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the best assistance to the Chief of Staff with a struggling VFW Auxiliary by mentoring and maintaining a close relationship until the VFW Auxiliary becomes healthy, with the approval of the Department President. Use of MALTA Healthy Auxiliary tools and mentor training is required.

Mentoring and Performance Improvement Plans (PIP): This year, our mentors and Auxiliaries have a new resource to help them tackle challenges. As Karlene Beams, National Extension & Revitalization Ambassador, explains on her blog, the PIP was designed so Auxiliaries can take the lead in figuring out how, who, and when to address their own problems. When Auxiliaries take charge of their improvement process, they're more likely to solve issues and stick with the changes that help them stay healthy. What's especially helpful about the PIP is that it kicks in during the "yellow flag" phase—before any suspension is on the table. That gives Auxiliaries a chance to work things out while keeping their operations running smoothly.

Extension: How many times do you travel to other cities in Michigan and the first thing you do is look to see if they have a VFW there? If they do, check with them to see if they also have an Auxiliary. If they don't then start talking fondly of the Auxiliary and letting them know all the wonderful things we do for veterans. If they sound interested, let me know and I can assist them with starting a new Auxiliary!

Show off what your Auxiliary is accomplishing! Did your group support the Voice of Democracy or Patriot's Pen contests this year? Are you involved in the VFW Auxiliary Patriotic Art or Illustrating America programs? These Youth and Scholarship activities are great opportunities to

spread the word about what we do. Share your efforts—let people in the community see how you're making a difference for both our youth and our veterans.

New Auxiliary Organizers: If you attended my training session at the Mid-Winter Conference, thank you for joining me! If you're currently an organizer and would like a copy of the PowerPoint text, just reach out—either by email or phone, using the contact information below—and I'll be happy to send it your way. And if you're interested in becoming an organizer, let me know! There are several VFWs across Michigan hoping to launch new Auxiliaries, and we'd really appreciate your help.

Healthy Auxiliary Resources: You'll find a ton of helpful materials for your Auxiliary on our national website, www.vfwauxiliary.org. Once you log in, head to the "Member Resources" section — it's packed with tools designed to make your work easier. One standout is the Healthy Communication Phone/Text Tree. Good communication is the foundation of a strong Auxiliary, and this tool maps out exactly who should contact whom to share news fast and keep everyone in the loop. Plus, it encourages a personal touch by reaching out to members directly with a phone call or text.



R U Healthy Checklist reminders for February:

- ✓ Dues must be paid on at least ten (10) members on or before February 1, 2026
- ✓ 100% +1 in membership
- ✓ Reported in all programs
- ✓ October/November/December Audit is due to Department by February 28, 2026
- ✓ Attend your District meeting
- ✓ Purchase 2026 Bylaws and Ritual from the VFW Store

R U Healthy Checklist reminders for March:

- ✓ 101% + in membership.
- ✓ Reported in all programs.
- ✓ Project, promotion and/or donation made to each National Program by March 31, 2026.
- ✓ Submit any entry forms for National Awards to your Department chairmen by March 31, 2026, check your Guide Sheets for information on these awards.
- ✓ National Home Health & Happiness donation made by March 31, 2026.
- ✓ All monies owed to Department must be paid in full by March 31, 2026.

If there is anything that I assist you with, don't hesitate to contact me using the following information. Continue to honor our veterans who keep us free!

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