



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary

MICHIGAN CONNECTION #5

February/March, 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

- **EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026, the Department Dues Per Capita will be \$10. Any dues received at the Department Office after December 31 must remit a total of \$20 for dues (\$10 for Department and \$10 for National).**
- **EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2026, a new membership application is on our website. Failure to use this new application will result in the application being returned. National will only process new applications on the revised 2026 application.**

Debbie's Corner

By the time this is read on the Auxiliary floor, we will have announced the Department VOD, Patriots Pen, and Teacher of the Year winners. The information will be made available on our Department Website and Facebook Page. Congratulations to all the winners and look forward to hearing who the National winners will be.

My special project, Blue Star Dogs, has raised \$6,886 to date and I thank you for your generosity. However, we still have auxiliaries that have not purchased the program pin, which the proceeds go to the Blue Star Dogs. Be sure to reach out to Pin Chairman Ruth Barnhill, to purchase pins. Reminder that all other donations to the program are to be sent to the Department Treasurer as I will be presenting one large check to the Blue Star Dogs at our Department Convention.

Thank you to all who braved the weather and attended our Department Mid-Winter Conference. Your attendance and participation are greatly appreciated. Since this Michigan Connection is being written before the Conference, watch our Facebook page for the winners of the Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen and Teachers of the Year.

Dues

We still have around 120 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.

Department Fundraiser

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!!!

Deadline Reminders

The October - December audit is due to the Department Treasurer by February 28, 2026.

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.** Department Officers and/or District Presidents will be contacting the Auxiliaries who have not yet met that requirement.

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, 2026, 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 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Reno, Nevada.

By Order of:

Deborah Scheetz

Deborah Scheetz
Department President

Cindy Peto

Cindy Peto
Department Secretary