



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
MICHIGAN CONNECTION #3
October/November, 2025

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION!!!!

- Included with this Michigan Connection is General Orders #1 from the National Auxiliary that **MUST BE READ ON THE FLOOR**. Secretaries, please be sure that the general order is read.
- Effective January 1, 2026, the Department Dues Per Capita will be \$10.
- 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 will be closed on October 29-31 as staff will be attending the Fall Conference, on November 11 in honor of Veterans Day, and November 27 and 28 in honor of the Thanksgiving holiday.
- Early in September, an email was sent to Auxiliary members requesting a donation of \$5 along with a card honoring your veteran. **THIS IS NOT SPAM**. This was a solicitation fundraiser for Department in lieu of sending/mailling a letter. The cost of mailing and copying is astronomical and, in an effort, to save money, we opted to do an email instead. There will be future emails of this nature, and we thank you for your participation and patience as we work through this new process.

Debbie's Corner

My sincere appreciation to all who attended and hosted our National President Lois Callahan on her recent visit to our state. She indicated that she had a great time meeting our auxiliary and post members and touring Michigan Veterans Foundation, Fisher House, Vets Returning Home and Chesterfield home for veterans.

We welcome our newest Auxiliary, Ralph Daily Jr. #6134 located in Pullman, District 8.

There is an unauthorized email from President Debbie being circulated requesting gift cards. **THIS IS SPAM** and please **do not open, and do not send gift cards**. These emails of this type from Department Officers, including VFW, are spam and should be deleted immediately.

This last audit period, a lot of time was spent contacting Auxiliaries to remind them to submit their audit to the Department Treasurer. Please be more cognizant of the due date and your audit on time.

Healthy Auxiliary Due Dates

990's are due November 15, and a copy must be submitted to Department once completed. If you need assistance, please contact Department Treasurer Cathy Sasse at 517-420-9342.

November 30, third quarter audits are due.

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

Fall Conference

October 29 to November 1 is our Fall Conference at the Comfort Inn in Mt. Pleasant and we have a great weekend planned with training and fun events. Friday night is our Department Bingo Fundraiser with lots of great prizes; anyone over 18 can attend. Please check out our Department Website for more information.

By Order of:

Deborah Scheetz

Deborah Scheetz
Department President

Cindy Peto

Cindy Peto
Department Secretary

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FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 1

2025-2026 SERIES

September 24, 2025

1. Having been elected National President and having been installed in office in accordance with the Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary, I hereby assume command.
2. The following officers have also been duly elected and installed by the 112th National Convention and will be accorded with the recognition due them:

National Senior Vice President

Donna K. Mills, Auxiliary 1754, Huntingdon, Pennsylvania

National Junior Vice President

Kim Harney, Auxiliary 9972, Sierra Vista, Arizona

National Treasurer

Ann Panteleakos, Auxiliary 5446, Plainfield, Connecticut

National Chaplain

Sandra L. Uzell, Auxiliary 7536, Lyndhurst, Ohio

National Conductor

Margaret Jane Feher, Auxiliary 7387, Hazard, Kentucky

National Guard

Cynthia P. Davis, Auxiliary 8509, Baltimore, Maryland

National District Council Members (NDCMs):

NDCM No. 1 Maine | New Hampshire

Celeste Leigh Nicholas

NDCM No. 2 Vermont | Massachusetts

Lisa Jackson

NDCM No. 3 Maryland | New Jersey

Elizabeth DallaTezza

NDCM No. 4 Delaware | New York

Millie Hayes

NDCM No. 5 Missouri | Illinois

Danetta G Wakefield

NDCM No. 6 West Virginia | Virginia

Tina Lynn Hicks

NDCM No. 7 Tennessee | Kentucky

Cindy Kohrs

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NDCM No. 8 Georgia Alabama	Paulette Murray
NDCM No. 9 South Carolina North Carolina	Sandra S Johnson Leu
NDCM No. 10 Oklahoma Arkansas	Amanda Pipkin
NDCM No. 11 Wisconsin Iowa	Renee M Quinn
NDCM No. 12 Wyoming North Dakota	Vivian Bernotas
NDCM No. 13 Kansas Colorado	Tessa K Butcher
NDCM No. 14 Montana Idaho	Gale L Bestland
NDCM No. 15 New Mexico Arizona	Betty L Decker
NDCM No. 16 Hawaii Alaska	Amy L Vukasin
NDCM No. 17 Utah Nevada	Renee June West
NDCM No. 18 Rhode Island Connecticut	GinaMarie Rodriguez Doherty
NDCM No. 19 Mississippi Louisiana	Mary F Johnson
NDCM No. 20 Oregon Washington	Erin Mezek
NDCM No. 21 Nebraska South Dakota	Nancy Worth
NDCM Area A Pennsylvania	Bonnie S Drake
NDCM Area B Michigan	Carrie S Turner
NDCM Area C Indiana	Linda S Misuraca
NDCM Area D Ohio	Teresa L Singh
NDCM Area E Minnesota	Sonia Marie Tatge
NDCM Area F Florida	Tela Gay Harbold
NDCM Area G California	Kathleen M Smith
NDCM Area H Texas	Karen L Kaylor

3. All previous appointments having expired are declared null and void.

4. The following appointments are hereby announced:

National Secretary

Ann Panteleakos, Auxiliary 5446, Plainfield, Connecticut

National Chief of Staff

Karlene Beams, Auxiliary 2278, Hot Springs, Arkansas

National Patriotic Instructor

Diana Russell Milton, Auxiliary 4647, North Highlands, California

National Historian

Kristin M DiGiacomo, Auxiliary 2754, West View, Pennsylvania

National Color Bearer No. 1

Michael S. Yates, Auxiliary 10087, Beverly Hills, Florida

National Color Bearer No. 2

Katlyn M. Burke, Auxiliary 8334, Millard, Nebraska

National Color Bearer No. 3

Danetta G. Wakefield, Auxiliary 4207, Monett, Missouri

National Color Bearer No. 4

Karen Keech Lavoie, Auxiliary 237, Bristol, Rhode Island

National Banner Bearer

Sandra S. Johnson Leu, Auxiliary 7383, Cary, North Carolina

National Flag Bearer

Lisa Delaney, Auxiliary 4588, Bossier City, Louisiana

National POW-MIA Flag Bearer

Deborah Crowder, Auxiliary 10226, Oak Island, North Carolina

National Musician

Patsy Cole, Auxiliary 4190, Decatur, Alabama

National Soloist

Willa Watts, Auxiliary 3629, Fairbanks, Alaska

National Assistant Guard

Vicki McGahhey, Auxiliary 4554, Camden, Arkansas

National Assistant Soloist

Julia Price, Auxiliary 2111, Chula Vista, California

National Assistant Musician

Rhonda White Marcum, Auxiliary 4190, Decatur, Alabama

National Assistant Conductor

Shirlee Frias, Auxiliary 401, Albuquerque, New Mexico

5. As a reminder, some of the objects of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary shall be fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable and educational; to assist the Posts and members thereof of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, and its own members whenever possible.

We therefore support the VFW in their focus to identify, address, and eradicate racial bias and discrimination. And the VFW Auxiliary leadership unites with the VFW leadership in the pursuit to eliminate racial injustices and discriminatory practices within our organization.

6. Attention all members, in accordance with the VFW Auxiliary National Bylaws, Article XI-Discipline, any member who commits offenses recognized by the VFW Auxiliary may be subject to disciplinary action and may be assessed the penalties provided in this Article. The VFW Auxiliary joins with the VFW in stating that acts of sexual harassment, racial or

sexual discrimination, or any other conduct prejudicial to good order and discipline or deemed unbecoming of a member will not be tolerated. Harassment and discrimination include any verbal, non-verbal, or physical conduct that is sufficiently severe or pervasive to create an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment, or that otherwise interferes with another's ability to participate in VFW Auxiliary activities. All members are expected to conduct themselves with dignity, respect, professionalism, and common courtesy always.

BY ORDER OF:
Lois Callahan
National President

OFFICIAL:



Ann Panteleakos
National Secretary-Treasurer