



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



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

UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

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	T 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



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Americanism – October/November 2025

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Americanism - 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*

The year is moving right along. We are doing some amazing things across Michigan. Flags flying and patriotism spreading its red, white, and blue glow. The Auxiliaries are doing such a great job! I really enjoy reading your reports!

TEACHER OF THE YEAR

You should be finalizing the paperwork for any nominations you are making to the Post. You only have to submit one nominee to get credit under the program; however, you can submit as many as you would like. There are three categories – Elementary (K 5), Junior High (6-8) and High School (9-12). Rules and submission form can be found on the Department of Michigan VFW website under Programs/Teacher of the Year. An essay of not more than 350 words must accompany the submission form. The essay must detail why the nominee should be selected. Describe the teacher's innovative teaching and resource development methods, as well as his/her dedication to teaching. **The deadline for submitting a candidate to your Post is October 31, 2025.**

#AuxiliaryPatriotism

Have you tried this yet? It's really easy. I never used the hash-tag tool before and spent quite a bit of time browsing through the many posts. Log into your Facebook account. In the search bar, simply type #AuxiliaryPatriotism. You can see posts from across the country of patriotic videos, pictures, and statements. There is some really good information out there to see how people are promoting and educating the community on Americanism and patriotism. I even came across a posting that one of my own Auxiliary sisters posted last year! This is a great way also to post your own events and videos. If you have pictures or videos of your patriotic events upload it and add #AuxiliaryPatriotism and it will upload to this cite. This way other people can see what you are doing to educate and support patriotism in your area.

There is also another place where you can find informative, interesting, and educational posts regarding Americanism and patriotism. It is #patriotism. I found this on accident because I forgot to put "Auxiliary" in the search. Both search tools through Facebook can give you a lot of information to share with your members and community. It may give you some interesting ideas for future events and projects. Check it out!

UNDERSTANDING AUXILIARY TRADITIONS

Patriotic Instructor Duties

As the Patriotic Instructor, you have been appointed to this high office to teach patriotism and good citizenship to the people of our country; to assist in the floor work ceremonies and perform such other duties as the Ritual may require. Patriotic Instructors provide leadership in

promoting patriotism within the membership of our organization and inform, educate and promote patriotism among the community and within the organization. Familiarize yourself with the Ritual section of the VFW Auxiliary Bylaws and highlight the sections of your responsibilities for easy and quick reference.

Here are some key duties of the Patriotic Instructor:

- Shall see that the room is in keeping with the Ritual.
- Shall instruct the members in the proper use of and salute to the Flag.
- Shall maintain a record of all patriotic days and initiate programs for their proper observance and perform such other duties as the President may require.
- May carry the Flag in events and parades.
- Shall assist in the floor work ceremonies.
- Shall see that the pledge to the Flag is given properly and that due respect to the Flag is observed at all times by members.
- It is suggested that the Patriotic Instructor instruct new members how to stand at attention, parade rest, etc.
- The Patriotic Instructor should also try to read some portion of the Bylaws at every meeting.

REPORTING

We are currently 43% reported in Americanism – great job! Let's keep that ball rolling and get President Debbie 100% reported in Americanism. **October 31st is the deadline for the second quarter**; however, you can always report anything your Auxiliary has done. If the event or project is outside the reporting period, remember to put the day as the date being reported and put the event/project day in the body of the report.

HOLIDAYS & OBSERVANCES

October 13 – Columbus Day - Columbus Day was declared a national holiday in 1937 by President Franklin Delano Roosevelt. Since 1971, Columbus Day has been observed annually as a federal government holiday on the second Monday of October. It recognizes the historic voyage and arrival of Italian explorer, Christopher Columbus who sailed to the Americas on October 12, 1492.

U.S. Navy Birthday – The United States Navy was established in 1775 by an act of the Continental Congress. This year it will celebrate its 250th Birthday. The Navy functionally resolved after the Revolutionary War, but was re-established in 1794. In 1798, the U.S. Navy was permanently institutionalized with the creation of the Department of the Navy. It is now the most advanced naval service in the world. The Mission statement of the Navy states: "...the U.S. Navy protects America at sea. Alongside our allies and partners, we defend freedom, preserve economic prosperity, and keep the seas open and free."

October 26 – Day of the Deployed – This day is dedicated to saying "Thank you" to all military personnel who are serving outside of the United States and the sacrifices they and their families make while serving our nation. The first observance was in North Dakota in 2006. In 2011, a resolution was unanimously passed in the U.S. Senate to dedicate this day of observance and since that time, all 50 states have continued the observance.

October 27 – Navy Day – Established in 1922 by the Navy League of the United States to honor the men and women we call sailors. Originally, it was the birthday of the U.S. Navy based on a document presented to the Continental Congress in 1775 to purchase a fleet of merchant ships, but the birthday was changed in 1970. The last official observance of Navy Day was in 1949 when the Secretary of Defense announced that Navy Day would be replaced by Armed Forces Day. However, Navy Day is still widely celebrated because it was so deeply entrenched as a Navy tradition.

October 28 – Happy Birthday to Lady Liberty – Anniversary of the dedication of the Statue of Liberty in 1886. Lady Liberty will be 139 yrs old this month. The statue was a gift from France. She was conceived by Edouard de Laboulaye and designed by Frederic-Auguste Bartholdi to symbolize friendship between the United States and France. Lady Liberty has become a symbol of freedom and democracy. The Statue was dedicated as a national monument in 1924.

November 10 – Marine Corps Birthday – The Marine Corps will celebrate its 250th Birthday this year along with the Navy. The Marine Corps was established on November 10, 1775 when the Second Continental Congress put forth a decree for the Continental Marines. The two battalions were to only enlist good seamen acquainted with maritime affairs. After the Revolutionary War, the Continental Marines were disestablished along with the Continental Navy. The Marine Corps was re-established in 1798 by President John Adams.

November 11 – Veterans Day – Originally known as Armistice Day because it marked the end of WWI. The armistice with Germany went into effect at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. President Woodrow Wilson dedicated the first Armistice Day on November 11, 1919. In 1926, Congress passed a resolution for a yearly proclamation by the President for Armistice Day. By act of Congress on May 13, 1938, Armistice Day became a legal holiday. Again, by act of Congress, Armistice Day was changed to Veterans Day in 1954 to honor all veterans of any wars.

Diana Ward, Americanism Chairman
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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Auxiliary Outreach – October/November 2025

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Auxiliary Outreach-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*

The VFW Auxiliary Community Outreach Program is your auxiliary's way to partner with other groups and organizations in our communities, schools, Rotary, Kiwanis, Meal on Wheels, and the list goes on. Partnerships in Auxiliary Outreach may be a single event or regular ongoing events throughout the year.

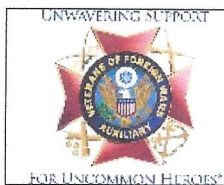
Auxiliary Outreach must benefit the community: The ultimate goal of the program should be to improve the well-being and health of the community. This can take many forms, from increasing access to services to enhancing social cohesion and unity. The report should clearly demonstrate how the program achieves this benefit.

We volunteer to make a difference, and to receive the benefits of helping others, meeting new people, learning new skills, increasing our confidence, personal growth, career advancement, fighting stress and depression, and developing a sense of purpose.

Remember that Auxiliary Community Outreach is for projects NOT AFFILIATED with the VFW or VFW Auxiliary Programs.

Keep up the great work in reporting and getting out there in the community to make a difference.

Rachel Rhode
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Rogers City, MI 49779
989-745-4966
picklefreak@outlook.com



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Buddy Poppy/VFW National Home – October/November 2025

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page:

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*

Annabelle Furgason
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THE VFW NATIONAL HOME:

If you had someone at Michigan Day There is still time to report this. We need to fill the homes with families. The Vfw National Home is the biggest secret Michigan has. I know we have Veterans and their families that if they knew about the Red, White and Blue program would love to get a chance for a fresh start. Please! Please! Please! get out in your communities and find these Veterans that need a little Tender love and care. Educate your community about this great place in Eaton Rapids Michigan. Make sure you talk about the Helpline. You never know when you are going to touch a life that really needs these resources. You still have a few months to get your Centennial life membership. its only \$100 dollars and you get a pin and discount of Merchandise from the National Home. The Life memberships are still \$50.00. Did you send your Health and Happiness Donation in? Another way to support the VFW National Home is to buy a brick for the tribute park or Centinual Park. You will find the forms to do these projects and more on the VFW National Home Web-site. Please make sure you report what you do for the VFw National Home. The National Home has there Merchandise on line go to the store and check out whats new. You can have it deliever to your door.

BUDDY POPPY

Let me know on the facebook page how you are using your poppies and make sure you report how many you use. Make sure every chance you get that you educate your community. It's not to late to have a poppy drive with or without your VFW Post. Report how many poppies are given out. I am looking forward to your Mid-Winter Buddy poppy entries. This Years Theme is The Presidents Theme: "We don't know

them all but we owe them all" Rules aren't changing and can be found on line. Hope to have so many entries that we need another table.

Remember to check your guide sheet and use it to navigate you through the year. I can not say this enough I know you are all doing wonderful things, Please make sure you report what you have done. Please share on the face book page love to here from everyone what is being done.

If you have any question please feel free to contact me by phone or email me. Hope to see you at fall conference.

Annabelle Furgason
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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Extension & Revitalization/Chief of Staff October/November 2025

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*

Welcome to the Department of Michigan VFW Auxiliary!! I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Auxiliary to Pullman VFW Post 6134 who was instituted on August 23, 2025. We wish you all the best and we are looking forward to seeing all of the wonderful things you will do for veterans and your community. Thank you to Patricia Knapp, organizer, and the mentoring team of Nancy Vredevelde, Tracy Van Fleeren, and Michelle Holcomb for all of your assistance in starting this Auxiliary and helping them to learn.



Mentoring: Our National Extension & Revitalization Ambassador, Karlene Beams, has a great theme this year: "You can't stop the waves, but you can learn to surf." She states that it means to her that "even when we face roadblocks, we can find a way around them and complete our mission." If you are facing any roadblocks in your Auxiliary or need assistance in any way, please make sure you are

reaching out to get some help. You can reach out to your District President, District Deputy Chief of Staff, or directly to me. My contact information is at the end of this bulletin. There are plenty of people to help you "learn to surf".

District Presidents: At your next District meeting, invite your members to contact the Unaffiliated Posts in your District. Please make sure that only one contact is made per post. By doing this the membership in your District will grow. Once a Commander of an Unaffiliated Post says that he/she would welcome us coming to a meeting the following are the tools that the presenter should take or do:

- ✓ Our National Website (under Chief of Staff resources) has the Presentation to Bachelor Post using two different methods
- ✓ Take the Eligibility Wheel, with enough copies to give to each Post member
- ✓ Take copies of the National Facts leaflet (you can get these from National for free)
- ✓ Take copies of the Application form
- ✓ The presenter should let Post members know about the procedures to start an Auxiliary located in our Bylaws, Article II Section 202. A list may be helpful for the Commander.

If the VFW is interested, please let me know and I will assist in any way that I can to help them get started.

Auxiliary Presidents: Now is a great time to check on the Membership Committee that you appointed in the beginning of the year! How is membership going so far this year? Has the Committee contacted all unpaid annual members? Are there members who are in need of the Auxiliary to pay their dues out of the relief fund?

Good Job Awards: Do you have those few people who are always doing something extra for the Auxiliary? Maybe they are an officer who consistently does a great job in their position. Maybe it is a Chairman who just put on a great program for our veterans or a fundraiser for your Auxiliary. Maybe it is a member who assisted a Chairman? Whatever the case, how about giving



them a Good Job Award. You can find two different Good Job Award Certificates and a Good Job Award Card on the National Website under Member Resources and then Extension and Revitalization, or on the Department website under Programs and then Extension and Revitalization. Everybody likes to get a pat on the back occasionally. This is a nice way to say "Thank You" to the members who step up and help. Pass them out at your meetings or events and watch people smile!

R U Healthy Checklist reminders for October:

- ✓ Trustees will complete the July, August, September audit by October 31, have it approved at your next meeting, and mail, email, or fax it to Department by November 30.
- ✓ Report in all programs
- ✓ Dues submitted to National via MALTA or to Department

R U Healthy Checklist reminders for November:

- ✓ IRS Form 990 ePostcard filed by November 15
- ✓ Trustees should have already completed the July, August, September audit. Have it approved at your November meeting, and mail it to Department by November 30.
- ✓ Additional dues notices sent, and dues submitted through the MALTA system or to Department
- ✓ Purchase 2026 Bylaws and Ritual from the VFW Store
- ✓ Report in all programs

If there is anything that I can assist you with, don't hesitate to contact me using the following information.

Marilyn J. Malick
Department Chief of Staff/Extension & Revitalization Chairman
15903 Venice Ave.
Clinton Township, MI 48035
586-536-6004
MJMalick@msn.com



Technology Talk: This QR code will take you to the VFW Auxiliary website Extension & Revitalization Program information page.



Please log into vfwauxiliary.org and click on Member Resources under MALTA login, or vfwauxmi.org and click on Programs for more Extension & Revitalization information.



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Historian/Media Relations Bulletin – October/November 2025

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Historian/Media Relations-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

Auxiliaries, Districts, Departments and National have all completed their Elections, Installations and have had their Official First Meetings under the Newly Elected Officers. All the Historian / Media Relations Chairmen should be now collecting photos, copies of news articles about the Auxiliary, information about Auxiliary events and activities that you have completed so far, this 2025 – 2026 year. The information collected should have been or should be shared on social media, put in the Auxiliary Historian Books, put in your Newsletters and Emails to members and in local Newspapers. Brag about what you do for Veterans and the Community. Get started collecting now and file the information so you don't have to hunt it down when you need it, like for your Reels, Historian Book or for Department and National Awards you will be applying for. The Auxiliary is a TEAM so ask others for photos and information they may have from the activities and events they attended.

Sharing all you do helps you to be part of your community. Show what you can do. Working with them, helping with Community Events (Outreach) and reaching out to Veterans and their families (Veteran and Family Support) in the community to help with their needs. You have a lot to offer Youth (Youth Activities). Funds for education (Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen), other contest awards (Scholarships), involving them in Patriotic Events and learning about America and the American Flag (Americanism). Share going into hospitals to volunteer (Hospital) and what you do for the Veterans there. Draw attention to the Legislative process (Legislation), Priority Goals and promote Legislation for Veteran's needs.

Remember to share events and activities you're going to be doing. Right now, you should be Promoting the Post and Auxiliary Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen and Teacher of the Year Programs. Showing how Community Youth can benefit from the Great Scholarships offered, the Patriotic thought process writing the essays and the Auxiliary giving back to the community. By Promoting upcoming activities and events to your community, you provide an opportunity for the community to join you promoting Patriotism, working with Veterans at Care Facilities or Hospitals, providing meals to Veterans, helping or enjoying youth activities and social events at your VFW Post. This also provides opportunities to recruit (Membership) those who are eligible to join.

You work the Programs in all your activities. So, get out there and share what you have done, what you can do and what you will do.

Another way to get your message out is by using the resources available to you. Learn the names of reporters who cover stories like yours and collect a list of media contacts. Send information to these contacts on a regular basis so they become familiar with you and look forward to your activities. You can send photos and information to your contacts if they are unable to attend your events. Your contacts can be with newspapers, radio, community groups, community Facebook pages, community newsletters, social groups, schools and churches. Consider these questions when getting in touch with your contacts.

Does it involve local people?
Does it interest non-members?
Does it help the community?
Is it unique and new?

There is a lot of information in Malta Member Resources to help you with media relations and getting the Auxiliary Out Front and Center.

vfwauxiliary.org > Malta > member resources > media relations

1. Tips on making your Reels and helpful information on how to showcase your Auxiliary.
2. The VFW Auxiliary Publicity Guide includes information and ideas to help promote your Auxiliary.
3. The VFW Auxiliary Elevator Speech/What We Do that summarizes who we are, what we do and how we describe ourselves as an organization to the media.
4. Website and social media information – There are a lot of resources here, everything from the basics to setting up a Facebook page for your Auxiliary.

NOW GET OUT THERE AND SHOW OFF!

Blanche Brown
Historian/Media Relations
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Vermontville, Mi. 49096
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bbrownvfw@gmail.com



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Hospital – October/November 2025

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Hospital - 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*

Welcome to Fall and falling leaves and welcome back to the MASH word. There is so much to share so let's get started. MASH word will be bold & in italics. Put the word in your October and November reports.

FISHER HOUSE – DETROIT. During the National President, Lois Callahan's visit we toured the new Fisher House in Detroit. This is a wonderful addition to the area for our veterans who are being treated at the local VA, and their families. It provides a warming, caring "home away from home". If you or your auxiliary has not yet toured this Fisher House – or the Fisher House in Ann Arbor, please arrange a tour and remember to support them in their work of providing for our veterans – and then REPORT IT.

HOLIDAYS FOR VETERANS. It's time to start thinking about planning for the upcoming holidays for our veterans. Here are some fun ones.

Oct 27th – National Civics Day – Pass out copies of the Constitution with refreshments.
Oct 29th – National Cat Day – dress up like a cat and serve refreshments to veterans.
Oct 29th – National Chocolate Day
Oct 30th – National Candy Corn Day -dress up like a candy corn to pass out refreshments.
Nov 11th- Veterans Day
Nov 10th- Marine Corps Birthday
Nov 14th- National Diabetes Day – pass out sugar-free candy and treats.
Nov 19th- National Men's Day

GIFT CARDS FOR HOSPITAL ALL STAR TABLE. Don't forget to get gift cards for the Hospital All Star Table. Amounts can be from \$5.00 to \$25.00. Please don't send checks made payable to me to get gift cards for your auxiliary. Also when bringing them to the Hospital table at Fall Conference, please let the hospital team at the table know the amount you are donating and your auxiliary information. We need this information for Gaming Commission requirements.

BREAST CANCER- While there is much "pink" information out there, please remember that men can get breast cancer too. October is the month for Male Breast Cancer Awareness.



NOVEMBER IS CAREGIVERS' MONTH. This is a time where we need to recognize the caregivers of our veterans. Maybe take a meal to the veteran and their caregiver, provide respite for the caregiver so they can have some time to themselves for a break. While the VA provides up to 30 days for *respite* for the caregiver, realistically there are not enough personnel at the agencies to provide respite care.



TIPS ON HOSPITAL REPORTING: If 17 members are present when motion(s) for Hospital donations or projects, only one member should be reported, not 17. When reporting online, only click on the submit button **ONCE**. Multiple times will create multiple duplicate reports. Include your hospital chairman's name. On reports I get 3 or 4 different names, so I don't know who the actual hospital chair is.

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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Legislative – October/November 2025

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Legislative-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*



I look forward to meeting you all at Fall Conference this year in Mt. Pleasant. I hope many legislative chairmen come and they can tick off attending a School of Instruction for their Auxiliaries guide sheet for the Legislative program.



Coming into October and November we have many things to think of including but not limited to Fall Conference, Veteran's Day, and Thanksgiving.

This is a great time to remind all my Legislative chairs about our National Auxiliary Awards for this year:

Most outstanding activity and/or event to create thank-you notes and cards to veterans that include links to VFW Action Corps Weekly and/or the VFW Priority Goals.

- Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions with the most outstanding activity and or event to create thank-you notes and cards to veterans that include links to VFW Action Corps. Weekly and/or the VFW Priority Goals.



VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to their Department Legislative Chairman by **March 31st, 2026**, for judging.

Gratitude: what two holidays express such emotion better than Veterans Day and Thanksgiving? We should be looking into how to host an activity or event to thank our veterans. Remember links or QR codes for VFW Action Corps Weekly and/or VFW Priority Goals **MUST** be included. If you struggle with finding a way to do this, I made

Business Card size Thank you Cards that you can locate on the Legislative program page on the Department website. They can easily be included in any envelope or taped on any card.

You are all doing an amazing job at meeting your local legislators, please when we post these photos and events online that we remember to use **#Auxlegislative** to help complete our guide sheets and show the world that we are advocating for our Veterans.

I want to take this opportunity to say I am truly thankful for all of you and the work you put into this program - You are truly appreciated! The work you put in shows how much we all care for our veterans and how much we want them represented on Capitol Hill and by our legislators, that these men and women who sacrifice are our "why". They are why we volunteer here at the VFW Auxiliary and why we continue to do our good works.



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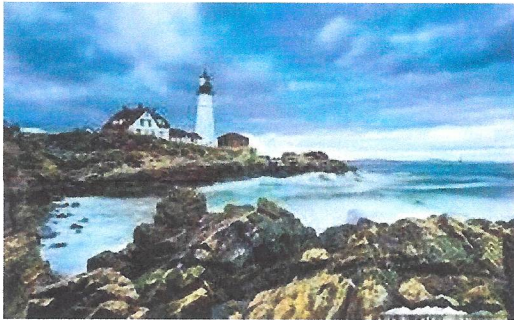


Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Membership – October/November 2025

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Membership- 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*



From sea-to-shining-sea, we, the members of the Auxiliary, need to act more like a lighthouse. Like a lighthouse whose very presence is a welcoming sight to those traveling our rivers, lakes, and oceans, our Auxiliary members must reflect our light outward to those that served our nation, and even to those spouses who worried about their safety for those long, lonely months.

We need to represent “safe harbor” to any Veteran. Just like a lighthouse stands on guard day and night to help vessels traveling the waters of the world, so should we do something similar for our Veterans. We need to be as creative as possible to attract new members. The more successful we are in attracting new members, the better the chance is we can help the organization continue to serve future generations of Veterans for decades to come.

Important vs. Critical

As my husband is fond of saying, “All dimensions are important. Some are critical.” And so, it is with membership. All aspects of membership are important. Some are **CRITICAL**. We’ve got to attract new members to the organization (critical), we need to retain our current members (critical), and we need to work to make sure our annual members pay their dues on a timely basis (important).

A Membership Committee is an Expectation

In our By-Laws, Sect. 810A, it states we shall have a Membership Committee of no less than five members. A personal phone call is a great way to get feedback from members.

- If they are elderly, or struggling financially, be a dues angel.
- Personality conflicts, remember, officers change yearly.
- If they do not want to renew, remind them of their personal **WHY**.

Did you know that all officers **MUST** have their dues paid by December 31, or they will be removed from office? That is at all Auxiliary levels at Post, County and District. That is why it is so important to contact those annuals and get them to pay as soon as possible.

I have been getting many reports about the “Convert to Life” contest. If you are one of those that have questions, let me refer you back to the flyer. It’s a WIN-WIN for everyone. Not only is the Auxiliary in a drawing for \$50.00, you don’t have to contact anyone or send out dues notices. We will have a drawing for five lucky Auxiliaries at the Department Convention. Please keep in mind that after January 1, National and Department will be getting \$10.00 for each annual. That means \$20.00 from each annual member will be taken out of your Auxiliary dues. I know many Auxiliaries are considering raising their dues to cover this. Get them to be life members, it’s so much easier.

**Convert Your Annual Members
into Life Members & Earn
Cash, CASH, CASH for Your Auxiliary!**

Five Auxiliaries will Receive \$50!

Here’s How it’s Going to Work:

When your Auxiliary converts **ONE Annual Member** into a **Life Member** between July 1, 2025 and December 31, 2025...

Your Auxiliary will get TWO entries into the drawing!

When your Auxiliary converts **ONE Annual Member** into a **Life Member** between January 1, 2026 and April 1, 2026...

Your Auxiliary will get ONE entry into the drawing!

You must report to me under “Membership” on the website and click “Convert to Life”. In that report, I must have the members name that converted to life.

The drawing will be held at Department Convention in 2026.

**LET ME
SHOW YOU HOW
TO HONOR YOUR
VETERAN**



I had my new Membership pins at Department Convention and will have more at the Fall Conference. The cost is \$2.00. In my opinion, wearing it in the community is a great way to begin a conversation, especially when doing the Auxiliary Outreach Program.

Advertise in Your Community

My home Auxiliary in Wixom does a fundraising event periodically at a local bowling alley. We recently decided to purchase shirts for those that regularly help by volunteering to help at these events. On that shirt is the QR Code for the VFW on the left sleeve, and, of course, our Auxiliary QR Code is on the right sleeve.



God bless you for everything you do for our Nation’s heroes, God bless our Veterans, and may God continue to bless the United States of America.

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UNWAVERING SUPPORT



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Scholarships – October/November 2025

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Scholarships-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*

Happy Fall. The kids are back in school. The Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen information should have been dropped off at the schools by now. Check in with the schools, or your contacts to see if they have any questions or issues. Don't make them feel abandoned.

If you have extra entries, spread the wealth (you can give entries to other Posts in your District who may not have an entries). Contact your District Chairman. The District Chairman can help you find a good home to extra entries. We are a team. Let's work together to give students the opportunity to compete for the scholarships.

I hope to see you at Fall Conference. I will have forms available. If you need something specific, let me know. I will make sure I have it for you. I am willing to do the printing. I am here to assist you. I understand not everyone has access to a computer or a printer. I added the QR code for Scholarships to the bottom of this bulletin.

Don't forget the important deadlines for Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen contest.

- Entries due to the Post by October 31 (remember this is during Fall Conference)
- Post and Auxiliaries have to complete their judging by November 15 (team with your Post chairman)
- District judging has to be completed by December 15.
- Department will complete their judging by January 10.

Did you know the VFW store has some cool gifts for your Voice of Democracy or Patriot Pen winners. Check out the store at www.vfwstore.org.



Voice of Democracy



Patriot's Pen



Additional information can be found on the National website www.vfwauxiliary.org. You will have to log into Malta to access the programs. The website has citations, required paperwork and even a business card you can print out.

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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Veterans & Family Support – October/November 2025

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Veterans and Family Support-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*

This year, our program will focus on these core areas:

1. VFW-Based Veterans Assistance Programs




The VFW provides a wide range of services to assist veterans, their families, and service members with VA claims and benefits.

At the heart of these efforts are VFW Service Officers—trained professionals who help veterans navigate the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) system to secure the benefits they have earned. Their services include:

-  Case preparation
-  Claims and appeals assistance
-  Transition support for separating service members
-  Advocacy at every step of the process

 Financial Assistance for Service Members

The VFW Financial Assistance Program supports active-duty service members (including activated Guard/Reserve) and their families who face financial hardships due to deployment, military-related injury, or other unexpected challenges.

-  Up to \$2,500 in grants – not loans (no repayment required)
-  Direct payments to creditors
-  Covers essentials like housing, utilities, medical bills, and food

 Learn more: vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants

2. Support for Student Veterans

The VFW offers dedicated support for student veterans through the following programs:

-  VFW Student Veteran Support Grant
-  Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship

These programs help veterans advance their education and successfully transition into civilian careers.

 Details available at: vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support

3. Veterans' Mental Health Matters

Mental health is a critical part of every veteran's well-being—and our program recognizes this as a key pillar.

If you recognize a veteran in crisis (or anyone, for that matter), here's how you can help:

- Dial 988 and press 1 for the Veterans Crisis Line
- Or text 838255 for immediate support

✓ Be aware of the five signs of emotional suffering—you never know how much of a difference you might make in someone's life by simply reaching out.

4. Veteran and Spouse Employment Support

Employment is essential—not only for financial stability but also for a veteran's sense of purpose and belonging. This also extends to their spouses, many of whom must reenter the workforce after years of supporting their partner's service.

 How You Can Help:

- Partner with local employers, state/county workforce programs, and veteran-friendly businesses
- Host or promote job fairs
- Provide resume-building workshops
- Share training and certification opportunities

When our veterans succeed in the workforce, our communities benefit.

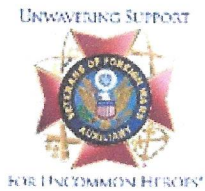
 Tools and resources for employment support can be found in MALTA:
 malta.vfwauxiliary.org/MemberResources

Upcoming Patriotic Holidays/Recognition Days:

Please note the Patriotic Holidays and Recognition days in October/November and reach out, hold an event, honor them **ALL**:

- Global War on Terrorism & Desert Storm Veterans Day (October 7)
- Day of the Deployed (October 26)
- Statue of Liberty's Birthday (October 28)
- Veterans Day (November 11)

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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Youth/Camp Trotter Bulletin – Aug/Sept 2025

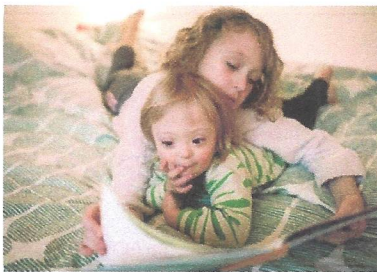
www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Youth Activities/Camp Trotter - Michigan

National Theme: *From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free*
Department Theme: *We Don't Know Them All, But We Own Them All*

Youth:

The Holiday Season is nearly upon us with Halloween just around the corner! Think about how you can bless the underprivileged youth in your community. In my community, we have The Whaley Center that house children in need of foster care. They are always in need of clothing and personal care items – and how special would it be for these children to receive something they want instead of only what they need?



Or investigate the local warming/homeless shelters and soup kitchens to see how many children they serve? Some ideas are providing backpacks filled with warm socks, hats, gloves, snacks, and maybe a small toy that would be their very own. Donate your time and spend a few hours playing games and reading with those children. Reading one on one counts as being a Reading Buddy!

Keep promoting the Illustrating America Art Contest. If you have more entries than you can accommodate, consider sharing with another Auxiliary. Begin planning your awards ceremony. March will be here before you know it.

Keep encouraging, and honoring, our youth that honor our Veterans and demonstrate Patriotism by presenting them with the certificates and R.A.P. cards. You can print them from MALTA or create your own. Get our youth involved in all you do. Keep them involved by showing how much you appreciate them. One Auxiliary reported they had the youth lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Another had their youth group help with their fish fries and then made a large donation to that group to thank them for their service.



Remember, to keep building those relationships with the families and grow your membership!

Reporting:

Keep reporting! While I want to know all you do, focus on the Achievements and Department Award categories. I enjoy reading each and every report that is submitted! You are amazing! Please remember to include the number of Youth Groups or individual Youth on your report. When in doubt, report it anyway. If you have any questions, ask!

Camp Trotter Table Fundraiser:

Districts 4, 5, 6, & 7 should be putting together their baskets for Fall Conference. Districts are welcome to donate multiple baskets, and Auxiliaries may donate their own baskets, as well. Due to Charitable Gaming Commission Licensing, we can only sell tickets on the day we draw. Please get your baskets to the Auxiliary Camp Trotter table on Friday morning as our drawing will be held Friday near the end of the day.



This Photo by Unknown

Fall Conference – Districts 4, 5, 6, 7

Mid-Winter – Districts 8, 9, 10, 11

Conventions – Districts 12, 13, 14, 15



Another Family Day has come and gone. I was sorry to have missed it this year due to an emergency. I heard everyone had a great time! The docks are out for the winter and camp has been closed until next year. As far as I know, there will be kids camp next year. I will let you know if I hear otherwise.

And, as always, please reach out if you have any questions, comments, concerns, or just want to say hi.

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