



Michigan Connection

May 2023

(To be read on the Auxiliary Floor)

www.vfwauxmi.org

Department of Michigan Auxiliary

Department of Michigan Auxiliary Programs

#12

FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

National Theme: Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care

Department Theme: *Be the Anchor for Our Veterans, Hold them Steady and Safe*

President Diana Ward

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Hello Sisters and Brothers,

It's hard to believe that a year has come and gone, and this will be my final Michigan Connection article. Thank you all for all your hard work and dedication to our veterans. The Department of Michigan has done so much for our veterans, their families, and the communities around our state. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Department Convention in Kalamazoo. Don't forget that May 12, 2023, is the deadline for Convention and Testimonial Ad Book submissions.

I would like to announce the Institution of our newest Auxiliary, VFW Auxiliary #1075 in Harrison, Michigan. I had the great privilege of Instituting this Auxiliary on April 30, 2023. Let's all give them a warm welcome to our organization. We have instituted two Auxiliaries this year – we brought in Auxiliary 6132 in Lansing several months ago. Unfortunately, we will also be losing two Auxiliaries – Houghton Lake and Adrian. We are making every effort to transfer all those members to another Auxiliary, so we don't lose the members.

It is with great pleasure that I inform you that the IRS has completed their investigation into our tax situation, and they have finally found in our favor. All the charges and penalties have been reversed. In fact, they have now found that we had an overpayment, and they owe us \$71.15.

Please make sure that all your audits are completed on time and forwarded to the Department office before May 31, 2023. Any Auxiliaries and/or Districts who are late will lose your Delegate votes at the Department Convention. Likewise, all lists of Delegates along with your delegate fees must be paid prior to Convention so your Delegates have their votes at the Convention.

We still have a few of my Casper pins left. If your Auxiliary or District would like to get some pins to take donations for, please contact Ruth Barnhill, myself or the Department office and we will make sure that you get them. Remember, all proceeds go to Camp Trotter. Thank you also for your support of my joint project with Commander John Griffith – the Oscar Mike Foundation. I'm so happy that we will be able to assist with this amazing project for our disabled veterans and those suffering with PTSD through our donations.

I would like to thank all of you for putting your faith in me six years ago when you elected me to the office of Department Guard to eventually lead the Department of Michigan as your Department President. It has been my greatest honor to have served our Department and our veterans in this capacity! I have truly enjoyed fulfilling all my obligations, serving our veterans and their families, and supporting all our members. Thank you from the bottom of my heart for having given me this opportunity and privilege to

have served you as your Department President. I hope you all feel that I have brought honor to the Department Presidency and served you well.

In Service to our Veterans

Diana Ward
Dept President

National Delegates

Your Auxiliary Secretary has until May 31, 2023, to enter your delegates into MALTA. If they are unable to do so themselves the Department Secretary would be happy to assist and get them into the system.

Department Delegates

May 10, 2023 is the final day to have your Department Delegates into the office. Thirty days prior to the election of Department officers.

Your Auxiliary has until June 30, 2023, to get your lapsed annual members to pay their membership dues before they will be dropped from the rolls. Make calls or visits to ask them to stay active.

Reminder: Auxiliary and District bonds may not be paid until after July 1, 2023.

An election will be held to elect a National District Council Member Area B and a Big 10 Guard at our June Convention along with all Department Officer positions.

Passing of Past Department President

Please Drape Your Charter for Ivy Shaffer, Past Department President 2003-2004, who passed away on Saturday April 15, 2023. Ivy led the Department under the theme: "Unity with Caring for Our Veterans". She was a wonderful leader and dedicated member. She will be missed.

Friendly Reminder:

IMPORTANT FYI- The VFW Auxiliary 96th Department Convention will be **held at the Kalamazoo Radisson Hotel June 8-10, 2023**. You can find housing information on our Department website.

Diana Ward- Department President

Sandi Onstwedder- Department Secretary