



Michigan Connection

January 2024

(To be read on the Auxiliary Floor)

www.vfwauxmi.org

Department of Michigan Auxiliary

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Hello Sisters and Brothers,

I hope that you enjoyed the holidays and are looking forward to attending the Mid-Winter Conference at the end of the month in Kalamazoo at the Radisson Hotel.

It's important to me to be upfront with full disclosure to all Auxiliary members concerning the changes that will be occurring at our Department Headquarters Office in Lansing beginning on January 1, 2024.

With our Department Treasurer accepting a full-time position outside of our organization I have had to evaluate how the rest of my year should look going forward. I still believe that a Treasurer belongs in our office. Especially, if they are new to the position, so that they will be able to fully grasp and understand the position.

I was contacted by two Auxiliary members. Neither was interested in traveling to Lansing to learn the position but were willing to help in a pinch. A Department as large as ours needs more than that.

Therefore, since Nicole's letter stated she was willing to assist in any way possible, and she stated she can be in the office 6 days a month and can work remotely on many aspects of the position, I am appointing her as interim Treasurer Pro-Tem until the Council of Administration meets on January 26th, under those parameters I stated above. I am adjusting the office hours to be Monday through Thursday 7:30am – 4:00pm effective January 1, 2024. The Council of Administration will be electing a Treasurer at our January 26th meeting.

I realize that there will be other thought processes going forward beyond my year of leadership but as for me, I would rather have Nicole finish my year in a part time position, than find a new one who is only willing to work from home. Nicole has agreed to stay on for my term of office and she will work at the office and from home up to 24 hours a week.

Respectfully, Sara Manke Department of Michigan VFW Auxiliary President.

The Department Mid-Winter Conference will be held at the Kalamazoo Radisson Hotel January 26th-January 28th. Please plan to join us for some valuable training and to honor our Student Voice of Democracy, and Patriot's Pen Essay Winners. Teacher of the Year Award recipients will also be recognized, along with some of the judges.

Audits for the months of October, November, December are to be completed by January 31, 2024.

Upcoming District Meeting Dates:

District 5-	February 4, 2024	CPL Richard W. Menge Post #6756
District 6-	January 6, 2024	Mason VFW Post #7309
District 7-	February 4, 2024	Capt. John J. Kell Post #1355
District 8-	February 3, 2024	Maple Valley VFW Post #2406
District 9-	February 3, 2024	Fred E. Richards VFW Post #3055
District 10-	February 11, 2024	Lawrence W. Smith Post #4139
District 15-	February 11, 2024	Iron River Post #3134

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For those of you that attended our Mid-Winter Conference we hope you enjoyed the training and time honoring our District Scholarship Winners in the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Scholarships. Along with the announcement of who the three Teachers of Year were. Many long hours of preparation and execution go into making these programs successful year after year. To you, and all of your Auxiliary members that makes this program possible, we appreciate and thank you.

A heads up for every Auxiliary. Sec. 708 – National Dues as stated in the National Bylaws.

A. National dues shall be ten dollars (\$10.00) per annum on each member, effective July 1, 2024, Paid by ACH transaction to National Headquarters.

This is the time your auxiliary should be holding discussions about your Auxiliary yearly dues for your continuous members. Beginning July 1, 2024, your Auxiliary will be forwarding a total of \$17.00 per member to cover the \$10.00 National dues amount and the \$7.00 Department of Michigan dues amount. To fulfill your Auxiliary to do list. Can you keep your current dues at the same amount?

How are you planning to spend Valentine's Day? As a group of Auxiliary members maybe you can make plans to visit shut ins, or hospitalized local Veterans, and pick up their spirits by letting them know that they are not forgotten by giving them a Valentine's card.

Winter is here and mother nature tends to display her wrath through snow, ice, and winds during these months. Remember it is okay to cancel up to two meetings an Auxiliary year based upon extenuating circumstances. Your safety and that of your members should always hold precedence when deciding if the business meeting is a go or not.

District Delegate sheets will be placed in the mail as soon as they are completed based on the Auxiliary membership total as of February 28, 2024.

This Auxiliary calendar year is quickly passing us by. Now is the time to look at your Guide Sheets and see what programs still need to be completed to be considered for a Department or National Award. We understand that most Auxiliary's don't do things to be noticed or awarded. It is still very important to report on the things that we do accomplish when connected to our Auxiliary Programs.

Sara Manke

Sandi Onstwedder

Sara Manke- Department President

Sandi Onstwedder- Department Secretary