



Michigan Connection

November 2023

(To be read on the Auxiliary Floor)

www.vfwauxmi.org

Department of Michigan Auxiliary

#4

Hello Sisters and Brothers,

A sincere thank you to all the members who attended the Fall Conference Trainings. The feedback that I received was all positive. The Quarter Mania was well attended, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Thank you to the Officers, Districts, and members who donated to the Quarter Mania. About \$3800.00 was raised.

The Hospital Star Raffle raised \$1655.00, and the Silver Dollar Table brought in \$262.00.

I wish to thank every Auxiliary that participated during the month of September with my special project of planting a tree to bring attention to Suicide Awareness. Although I asked for the project to be completed during the month of September, your Auxiliary can still plant the tree and report it any time this year. Please submit your tree planting event or ceremony pictures to our department historian. She will be compiling a book with those pictures separate from everything else that happens during my tenure as a special gift to highlight my year of service.

We hope that enjoyed the membership slide show at the Fall Conference. Thank you to everyone who submitted pictures of your Veterans. We will be showing it again during our Mid-winter Conference. It was brought to my attention some pictures that were sent in did not appear. PLEASE resend the pictures for them to be added. If you didn't participate the first time now is your opportunity to do so. Pictures MUST be submitted by December 31, 2023, to be included.

Congratulation to Marian Belaire for being elected and Installed at the Big 10 Conference as Guard!

Many questions have been asked by Auxiliaries as to whether their installation reports, bonds, or audits, have come to the office. Every Auxiliary can check our Dashboard. There you can scroll across your Auxiliary line and if it is green, the answer is yes. If it's still red, that means the office has not. You can also see program chairmanships that have been reported in each quarter marked in green also.

Respectfully, Sara Manke Department of Michigan VFW Auxiliary President.

A sincere thank you to the officers, District Presidents and members who distributed the Department Gun Raffle Tickets. It clearly was a huge success as a fundraiser clearing \$10,140.00 in net profit. Thank you to our Department Chaplain Jason Manke for bringing this project forward.

The Auxiliary IRS 990's is due on or before November 15, 2023. Please get them completed and send a copy to the Department Office.

Has every one of your Auxiliary elected officers paid their 2024 dues? If not, please encourage them and all continuous members to get their dues paid in a timely manner and not at the last minute on 12/31/2023.

Upcoming District Meeting Dates:

- District 5- December 3, 2023 Heart of Lakes VFW #1008
- District 6- January 6, 2024 Mason VFW Post #7309
- District 7- November 5, 2023 Celery City VFW Post #6248
- District 8- November 4, 2023 Thornapple Valley Post #8260
- District 9- November 18, 2023 Fred E. Richards Post #3055
- District 10- November 4, 2023 Sandusky VFW Post #2945
- District 11- November 5, 2023 Harrison VFW Post #1075
- District 12- November 5, 2023 Gold Bar Post #5096
- District 13- November 4, 2023 Onaway VFW Post #5857

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The holiday season is upon us. We hope you find the opportunity to spend time with Veterans that are in VA Facilities, Nursing Homes, or living on their own without family nearby. Maybe your Auxiliary could provide a goodies basket filled with things that would make their lives a little bit more festive this holiday season.

Colder months are coming quickly. When planning to cancel or reschedule meetings let this be a friendly reminder.

Sec. 210—Meetings, Regular and Special

First two bold black bullets

- Monthly business meetings are encouraged, however every Auxiliary shall hold at least ten (10) business meetings per year.
- A change in the regular monthly business meeting date, time, or location shall be approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Auxiliary members present at such meeting.

- Notification of such change shall be sent to all of its auxiliary members, the National, Department, and District Secretaries within ten (10) calendar days.

The deadline to pay your 2024 dues to remain a member in good standing is December 31, 2023. An officer who has not paid by 12/31/2023 will have their position declared vacant.

The Buddy® Poppy Contest Theme at Mid-Winter Conference will be Our Veterans, Angels Among us. Chairman Patrick Rich is looking forward to witnessing all your entries with all of their individual creativity.

The Department Mid-Winter Conference will be held in Kalamazoo at the Radisson Hotel January 26th-27th, 2024. The hotel information can be found on our Department Webpage under announcements. The National VFW Auxiliary Representative to the Conference will be National District Council Member Area B, Stephanie Krueger.

You may now order your Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen/Teacher of the Year Banquet Tickets. Online ordering is available at vfwmi.org click on the NEWS TAB and then MID-WINTER CONFERENCE PAGE. Tickets are \$52.00 per person. Ordering after January 19, 2024, the cost will be \$60.00 per person.

Training will be the primary focus for this Mid-Winter Conference. We believe what is being planned will be beneficial to every Auxiliary and we hope that you will make your plans now to attend.


Sara Manke- Department President



Sandi Onstwedder- Department Secretary