



**Michigan Connection**  
 September/October 2023  
 (To be read on the Auxiliary Floor)

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[www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org)

**Department of Michigan Auxiliary**  
**Department of Michigan Auxiliary Programs**

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Hello Sisters and Brothers,

Congratulations to the 2022-2023 Department Chairmen for all their hard work! The following brought home National Awards:

Buddy Poppy & VFW National Home- Outstanding Performance 1<sup>st</sup> Place  
 Christine LeBrun Extension & Revitalization — Outstanding Performance 1<sup>st</sup> Place —  
 Stephanie Krueger Hospital — Outstanding Performance 1st Place —  
 Mariann Hamann Youth Activities — Outstanding Performance 2<sup>nd</sup> Place —  
 Melody Schalk

Congratulations to the following members who also won awards at the National Convention:

Hospital Volunteer Recruiter of the Year —Sonya Van Valkenburg

National Membership Achievement Awards for those who recruited 20 new members:

Ronalda Smith Auxiliary 2780

Marilyn Malick Auxiliary 6691

I am looking forward to many of you attending our Fall Conference in Flint on September 28,29, and 30<sup>th</sup>. Our National Representative will be National Jr. Vice President, Lois Callahan. We are planning to present program changes and hold opportunities for you to meet with Department Chairman in a curbside setting.

Thank you for getting Auxiliary Bonds paid. Now is the time to complete your 990's also. Please do not wait until the last possible moment. If you need help reach out to our Department Treasurer Nicole Koutz. She will be happy to assist you.

Respectfully, Sara Manke Department of Michigan VFW Auxiliary President.

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**Resolutions Passed on the National convention business floor by registered delegates.**

Resolution # 1 Sec. 806D—Department Installation

- All officers except for the Treasurer and Secretary shall enter upon the duties of their respective offices at the conclusion of the current Auxiliary year. The treasurer and Secretary shall enter upon the duties of their respective offices at the conclusion of the current Auxiliary fiscal year.

Resolution #2A Sec. 708—National Dues

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

Resolution #3 Sec. 102--Application

- The Department Treasurer shall transmit to the National Treasurer fifteen dollars (\$15.00) of the dues collected for each Member At Large Beginning on July 1, 2024.

A Special Council of Administration Meeting was called to order at the 2023 National Convention to address the appeal of Carrie Turner as National District Council Member Area B representing Michigan, being removed from office by then National President Jane Reape. The Council of Administration voted to uphold the decision of the National President. Stephanie Krueger was elected at our June 2023 Convention to fill the position and will serve until June 2024.

We need Auxiliaries to donate new or slightly used items for our Camp Trotter Silver Dollar Table at our Fall Conference at the end of September in Flint.

Our Hospital Chairman is also looking to the Auxiliaries or individuals to donate gift cards to the Star Raffle.

**All Department Gun Raffle Ticket Stubs and money is to be turned in no later than September 20, 2023, to Department Auxiliary Headquarters. Drawings to begin on October 1, 2023, based upon the Michigan Lottery three-digit numbers drawn daily.**

Department President Sara Manke's Special Project is to have every Auxiliary plant a Tree in recognition of Suicide Awareness during the month of September. Hopefully your Auxiliary will participate and take pictures to forward to our Department Historian/Media Relations Chairman Nicole Koutz.

Sec. 210—Meetings, Regular and Special

- Monthly business meetings are encouraged; however, every Auxiliary shall hold at least ten (10) business meetings per year.

Sec. 506—District Dues

- Delegates assembled at a District Convention may assess annual dues not to exceed fifty cents (\$.50) per member per Auxiliary.  
Based on the June 30 membership of the preceding year.  
Dues cannot be assessed per Auxiliary on a flat rate basis.  
Dues should be remitted to the District Treasurer by September 30 of the current Auxiliary year or as established by the District Standing Rules.

**October 12, 2023, there will be a Secretary/Treasurer/ Trustee Training at the Department Headquarters between 1:00 pm-4:00 pm.**

**October 25, 2023, Secretary/Treasurer/Trustee Training at Plymouth VFW Post #6695 at 6:00 pm.**

**Big 10 Conference will be held in Itasca, Illinois from Friday October 20<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday October 21<sup>st</sup>. Hotel reservations can be made at the Westin Chicago Northwest, 400 Park Blvd. Itasca, Illinois 60143  
Group rate for the 2023 VFW Big Ten Conference. Marian Belaire will be installed as Big 10 Guard.**

Buddy® Poppy/National Home Chairman Patrick Rich, wants to invite all life members of the National Home to attend the Life Member Board Meeting on Saturday, October 28, 2024, at 9:00 am. Please plan to attend and bring any donations your Auxiliary may have with you to be presented.

The Buddy® Poppy Contest Theme at Mid-Winter Conference will be Our Veterans, Angels Among us.

**Hopefully your District Presidents have shared with you that using a third party pay site is not acceptable per directive from our National Headquarters.**

Sara Manke- Department President

Sandi Onstwedder- Department Secretary