

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

## Michigan Connection

March-April 2024

(To be read on the Auxiliary Floor)

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

Department of Michigan Auxiliary  
Department of Michigan Auxiliary Programs

#6

National Theme: Banding Together for our Veterans

Department Theme: Our Veterans Angels Among Us

President Sara Manke

Email for the Secretary– [misec@asiserve.net](mailto:misec@asiserve.net)

Office # is 517-487-3715

Email for the Treasurer– [mitreas@asiserve.net](mailto:mitreas@asiserve.net)

A sincere thank you for helping the Department to reach 100% plus in Membership counting those that have been deceased since the beginning of this Auxiliary year. Please continue to submit continuous and new members' dues.

Our Department Senior Vice President Jane Dady will be placing her 2024-2025 Department Polo Shirt order forms on our website and Facebook page as soon as they become available.

Also, Spring is just around the corner. You still have time to plant a tree in recognition of Suicide Awareness. After your project is completed, please send pictures to our Department Historian, Nicole Koutz.

**Sara Manke, Department President**

**The Department is mailing each Auxiliary a packet containing necessary information and Delegate Forms.**

### **Sec. 301-Eligibility**

- A. Any member in good standing in their respective Auxiliary shall be eligible for election as a District, Department or National Delegate.

### **Sec. 302-District Meetings and Convention**

- A. Delegates and Alternates to Districts shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Auxiliary held not less than 10 (10) calendar days prior to the District Convention at which District Officer's are to be elected.
  1. One (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate for each fifteen (15) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Auxiliary at the time of the election of Delegates.

**Sec. 303-Department Meetings and Convention**

- A. Delegates and Alternates to Departments shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Auxiliary held not less than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the Department Convention:
  - 1. One (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Auxiliary at the time of the election of the Delegates.

**Sec. 304-National Convention**

- A. Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention shall be elected at the last regular meeting in April.
  - 1. One (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate for each fifty (50) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Auxiliary on March 31.

**Please return the Reports of Installation to the Department Office no more than sixty (60) calendar days prior to the convening of the Department Convention.**

**March 31, 2024 Deadline to submit Patriotic Art to the local Auxiliary**

Please secure your local entries for the Patriotic Art Competition by March 31st. Have them judged and on their way to the Department Chairman Evelyn Avery@ 44936 CR 352 Decatur, MI 49045 no later than the April 15<sup>th</sup> Deadline.

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**Department Testimonial May 31, 2024, on Friday evening of the Department Convention at the Radisson Hotel in Kalamazoo, MI**

Watch our website for information on the Department Commander Ray Lopez and Department President Sara Manke’s Testimonial. It should be finalized soon. Then we will place it and forms on our department webpage.

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Respectfully,

Sandi Onstvedder  
Department of MI Secretary

Sara Manke  
Department President

# Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT BULLETIN

March 2024

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

Facebook Page: Veterans & Family Support-Michigan

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

*National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans*

*Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us*

*“Some people live an entire lifetime and wonder if they have ever made a difference in the world. A veteran doesn’t have that problem.” — Ronald Reagan*

Here we are - our last full month of this program year! Look over your Guide Sheet and see what else your Auxiliary can do! As always, be sure to report!

National Awards forms are **due by March 31st**. These can be printed from Malta or the Department website. Please remember that the two National Awards are also Department Awards! In addition, look over the other Department Awards that you can be in the running for should you submit reports to qualify.



The weather is getting warmer and Spring is well on her way. If your Auxiliary has not had the opportunity to plant a tree in honor of Suicide Awareness, please consider doing it this month! Don't forget to take a picture of your tree and plaque and send it to Nicole Koutz so she can put it in Madam President, Sara Manke's tree book.

Reminder: Daylight Savings Time is March 10th. It will be time to move your clocks forward an hour.

If you haven't joined the Veterans and Family Support Facebook page, please do so you can be updated on relevant information as well as be prepared for the upcoming program year information! You can find it by searching for Veterans & Family Support - Michigan on your Facebook page.

### Dates to Remember

- March 3- Navy Reserve Birthday
- March 4-Hug a GI Day
- March 5- Seabee Birthday
- March 13- K-9 Veterans Day
- March 21- Rosie the Riveter Day
- March 25- Medal of Honor Day
- March 29- National Vietnam War Veterans Day
- March 31- Happy Easter



April 2024

Military kids say  
goodbye more often in  
their first few years

than some people do  
in a lifetime.

fb.com/themilitarywifeandmom

April is the Month of the Military Child!

This month I would love for you to focus on reaching out and supporting our military children. This group of individuals experience deployments, a home with a parent not tucking them into bed at night, stress, heartache and so much more. How can your Auxiliary support them this month? One way you can show support is to "Purple Up" on Fridays! That is, wearing a purple shirt! Your Auxiliary can also host a Purple Up day! Visit [www.militarychild.org/MOMC\\_toolkit](http://www.militarychild.org/MOMC_toolkit) for a downloadable poster and other supplies to assist you with your day!

This month is also the end of reporting for this program year. I want to encourage you all to look over your Guide Sheet to see what is left that you have to report. Remember to report how many veterans, service members and their families that you have assisted this program year! This will be indicated under the drop down menu that states, "How many veterans, service members and/or their families did your Auxiliary help?" on the reporting site. This number is important because it is a required number that I need to submit to National. If you need any assistance, please do not hesitate to email or call me, but don't wait until the last day to do so.

**Last Day of reporting is April 20th!** Please have all reports submitted by this date!

Last, but not least, I want to thank you all for your support this program year. You all have done a great job reaching out to the very people that we need and want to assist. Thank you for supporting the VFW National Veterans Service that supports this amazing group in getting VA assistance, supporting the VFW Veterans & Military Support program that gives scholarships, grants and unit support! And, thank you for spreading awareness in Veteran and Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness! It takes a village to make it all happen. You are the guardian angel for the very people we are eager to assist! As this program year ends, remember our job is never done! Continue being out there being active in helping and supporting our veterans, service members and their families!

**Dates to Remember:**

Month of the Military Child  
April 5- Gold Stars Wives Day  
April 9- National former POW Recognition Day  
April 14- Air Force Reserve Birthday  
April 23- Army Reserve Birthday

Christine LeBrun  
Veterans & Family Support Chairman  
10367 River Rock Blvd  
Dimondale, MI 48821  
803-406-9088  
[vfsmi23.24@gmail.com](mailto:vfsmi23.24@gmail.com)



**Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary  
Americanism Bulletin  
March 2024**

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

Facebook page: Americanism-Michigan

National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans

Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us

**We are entering the last two months of this year, so if you have any activities that you have done, get them reported to me by April 20<sup>th</sup>.**

**St. Patrick's Day is this month, so if you want to send cards to veterans or take them to dinner on St. Patrick's Day, that would be great.**

**We have a patriotic holiday we can promote this month, it is National Vietnam War Veterans Day, March 29<sup>th</sup>, which honors those who served during the longest conflict in US History. There were 8.7 million Vietnam Era Veterans, with 3.4 million deployed downrange. This holiday was introduced in 2017 to honor these veterans on the day of the anniversary of the withdrawal of military units from South Vietnam by US Senators Pat Toomey, and Joe Donnelly. President Trump signed the act on March 28, 2017, calling for US flags to be flown on March 29<sup>th</sup> for those who served.**

**How many American Flags or Prisoner of War/ Missing in Action flags did you present to businesses or citizens?**

**What unique way did you promote "more than letters" to educate the community that our VFW Auxiliary is "more than letters" instead of just an acronym? You need to send the form from National to me by March 31<sup>st</sup>.**

Roberta Reid, Americanism/Patriotic Instructor Chairman  
flagsrreid@gmail.com  
6060 North Road  
Burtchville, MI 48059  
810-656-7725

**Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary  
Americanism Bulletin  
April 2024**

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

Facebook page: Americanism-Michigan

National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans

Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us

**This will be your last Americanism bulletin from me this year. Report to me any Americanism material resources available on MALTA Member Resources.**

**Here are some reminders for the year:**

**Did you remember to report any patriotic holidays, or branch of service birthdays?**

**How many American flags or Prisoner of war/Missing in Action flags did you present?**

**Report the number of Patriotic Appreciation Citations, Certificate of Appreciation or Respect for the Flag Citations presented to citizens and/or businesses in recognition of their displaying the American Flag, POW/MIA flag and/or other displays of American Pride.**

**A patriotic instructor duty: Attention & Parade Rest**

- **“Attention” in the VFW Auxiliary means hands at side, head up, with eyes looking straight forward.**
- **“Parade Rest” means the left foot is moved slightly to the side while bringing the arms to the small of the back. Clasp the left thumb in the right hand. The head is bowed slightly during prayer.**

Roberta Reid, Americanism/Patriotic Instructor Chairman  
flagsrreid@gmail.com  
6060 North Road  
Burtchville, MI 48059  
810-656-7725

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT VFW AUXILIARY  
AUXILIARY OUTREACH BULLETIN  
March 2024**

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

Facebook Page: Auxiliary Outreach-Michigan

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FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

*National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans*

*Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us*

Even though the end is near we still have plenty of time for partnerships. Consider thinking of potential spring partnerships as many organizations are starting their spring clean-ups.

If you still have questions about the Auxiliary Outreach program, you can find further information and resources about Auxiliary Outreach on our Department page Auxiliary Outreach including links to resources from National.

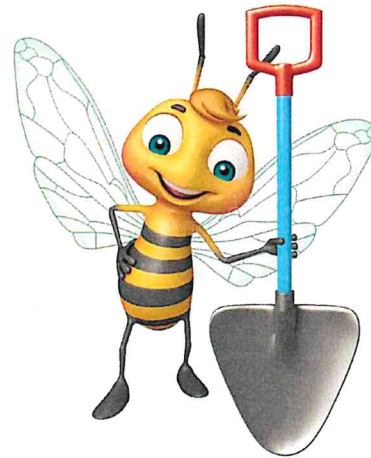
**National Auxiliary Outreach Award  
is due to me by March 31, 2024.**

I encourage every Auxiliary to select one partnership outreach project that you have done and fill this form out. Please send it in, so I can include your Auxiliary with the list of participants from our Department to National. Those that turn this in on time will receive a certificate of participation directly from National. One entry is going to be chosen for the Department of Michigan for further award entry and sent to National.

Please continue to report your efforts!

Thank you to everyone and being the change with your volunteer efforts, making a positive impact, showing we care to our community at large and helping others succeed.

As a reminder: most everyone knows that donating money does not count for Auxiliary Outreach, but did you realize that donating goods, which is called an "in-kind" donation, is also a no-no. So, you can't donate food to a food pantry or blankets to a homeless shelter or make any other kind of donation for this program. Hours worker bee hours.



**AUXILIARY OUTREACH**  
**April 2024**

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**to the finish line!**

Here we are in the homestretch; the finish line is right around the corner. Time to dig-in and get those last opportunities!

You only have a limited time remaining to get your reports in for credit during this business year. We have had some amazing reports from many Auxiliaries. Don't be left out, get your reports in today!

If your Auxiliary has found that you forget to enter some reports for something from a previous month please enter that report with the correct dates so I can get them approved and credited.

Thank you everyone for a great year. Wishing your Auxiliaries wonderful success in 2024-2025!

Loyally yours,

Jared Blum  
Wyandotte, MI 48192  
734-771-3050  
Jblum25@gmail.com



**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT VFW AUXILIARY**  
**"BUDDY"® POPPY/NATIONAL HOME BULLETIN**  
**March / April 2024**

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

Facebook Page: Buddy Poppy/National Home Michigan

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

*National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans*

*Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us*



It has been a wonderful year as your Department of Michigan "Buddy" Poppy Chair.

The "Buddy" Poppy is very important for our Veterans.

You can Purchase the new "Buddy" Poppy and Old from your local V.F.W. Post. Spring will be here soon planning a Poppy Drive with your Post. (Remember: NEVER REFUSE SOMEONE A POPPY

**BECAUSE THEY ARE UNABLE TO CONTRIBUTE. A POPPY ON ANYONE'S LAPEL HONORS ALL VETERANS!)**

I would like to personally thank all the participants in the Mid-winter. "Buddy" Poppy Display contest this year. WOW a lot of great entries this year and it was very hard to pick just One they all look great.

In Flanders fields the poppies blow Between the crosses, row on row, that mark our place: and in the sky The larks, still bravely singing, fly Scarce heard amid the guns below, we are the Dead. Short days ago, we lived, felt down, saw sunset glow, Loved, and were loved, and now we lie in Flanders fields. Take up our quarrel with the foe: to you from failing hands we throw the torch; to be yours to hold it high. if we break faith with us who die We shall not sleep, though poppies grow in Flanders field.

Please keep on reporting. Numbers of Poppies used. Miles, total Members.

These wonderful flowers will be in bloom soon to make our hearts full we will never run out of 'Buddy" Poppy so use them and report them.

Use MALTA there are so much information and helpful hints.

We had 37 "Buddy" Poppy Displays and one youth, WOW they where all wonderful the judges had a hard time choosing anyone to be first Place.

Keep up the good work to you all.

Patrick Rich "Buddy"® Poppy/VFW National Home Chairman  
315 ½ E. Elizabeth St  
Eaton Rapids, MI, 48827  
Prichfred@prodigy.net  
517-525-9300

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT VFW AUXILIARY  
"BUDDY"® POPPY/NATIONAL HOME BULLETIN  
March / April 2024**

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

Facebook Page: Buddy Poppy/National Home Michigan

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

*National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans*

*Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us*

**The National Home's Mission**

The VFW National Home assist Military, Veterans, and their family with children, by creating a foundation of services and resources to achieve their personal and family goals to move forward in a positive, safe and healthy environment.

I have had a spectacular year being your V.F.W. National Home chair. As a Alumni from the National I was proud to promote and support the National.

Have you purchased a Life Membership pin yet.

You can order Bricks, and gift shop items by using the QR codes I put on the Facebook "Buddy" Poppy/National Home-Michigan Page.

Don't forget the National Home will be 100 Years next year January 7,2025 help us Celebrate this big event with us. We have a full year planned.

The Pollet Cottage will be totally remodeled by next year.

Help Line 1-800-313-4200 if you know a Veteran and their family that might need housing and a hand up give out this Phone number, they will fill out all the paperwork on the phone.

The future looks bright for the National Home keep on supporting our Veterans out there. And I would like to say a Big Thanks you to all the Auxiliaries for your continuing support for the past 99 years.

Keep working on Helping our veterans, they know we are on their side.

Patrick Rich "Buddy"® Poppy/VFW National Home Chairman  
315 ½ E. Elizabeth St  
Eaton Rapids, MI, 48827  
Prichfred@prodigy.net  
517-525-9300

**Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary  
EXTENSION AND REVITALIZATION BULLETIN  
March 2024**



**Review of the Healthy Auxiliary checklist found on the Chief of Staff Program page:**

**Next month (APRIL) is Auxiliary Elections.**

If you have issues please call me immediately so we can assist you.

- District Delegates are often elected in March to allow time to comply with the By-Laws timing in relation to your District Meeting. Auxiliary nominations and elections are done in the same month, April along with Department Delegates. National Delegates can occur then also.
- We have completed the round of February District meetings and many auxiliaries apparently do not realize that they are violating the By-Laws when NO ONE from the auxiliary attends the regularly scheduled District meeting. Make a plan now to get someone there to represent your Auxiliary when the April and May Convention meetings occur. HEALTHY Auxiliaries have representation at EVERY District meeting, as the By-Laws require.
- The October, November, December audit was to be completed January 31, 2024 and approved by your Auxiliary at a meeting, and in the Department Office by February 29, 2024. If not done, you must contact the Department President.

Now that we are well on our way to meeting the required Healthy Auxiliary Criteria, please remember that assistance is just a call away - please don't be afraid to ask.

There are many opportunities out there to assist in getting new auxiliaries, and in fact several teams are working with Posts on this. Let us know if you know of one we can help start the process.

As we continue working this Spring on the second half of this administrative year, I remind all to keep working together as a team.

## **April 2024 Bulletin Extension and Revitalization**

Here we are! April – the month of annual Auxiliary election of officers.

**By now you should have received paperwork for election of District, Department and National Delegates.** So here is a quick review of requirements for each of them. (Sections 301-308 of National By-Laws)

- **District Delegates and Alternates** – One Delegate and One Alternate for every 15 members (at the time of election) and fraction over = One more of each. These are elected at a regular Auxiliary meeting held NO LESS THAN 10 calendar days prior to the District Convention where officers of the District are elected. A copy is sent ASAP to the District Secretary.
- **Department Delegates and Alternates** – One Delegate and One Alternate for every 30 members (at the time of election) and a fraction over = One more of each. These are elected at a regular Auxiliary meeting held NO LESS THAN 30 calendar days prior to convening of the Department Convention where officers of the Department are elected. A copy is sent ASAP to the Department Secretary. **NOTE** that this year we start the convention on May 30<sup>th</sup> so these must be elected at your April meeting. Paperwork was sent to you for this telling the fees required to accompany the list. Whether your Auxiliary attends or not the fee is Mandatory. If you do not send in the money required, a bill will be sent to your Auxiliary.
- **National Delegates and Alternates** – One Delegate and One Alternate for every 50 members and fraction over = One more Delegate and One more Alternate (number is based on your March 31<sup>st</sup> membership). The Auxiliary secretary is to provide this list to the National secretary along with their member number no less than 30 days after election is held. Your Auxiliary Secretary can enter into Malta or mail it to the National Secretary. Allow time for the mail to get it there on time.

**Election of officers is held in April** and nominations and elections are done at the April meeting ONLY. (See Section 804 ELECTIONS in the National By-Laws, as well as pages 8-11 in the Booklet of Instructions). This is a perfect guide to run a smooth election. Paperwork should be sent to the Department Office and your District as soon as possible. Rosters cannot be completed on either level without this getting sent in a timely manner.

Do all you can to be a Healthy Auxiliary and avoid those Red Flags!

Stephanie Krueger  
10165 Fairview  
Taylor, MI 48180  
313-585-5066 [stepherthevfer@aol.com](mailto:stepherthevfer@aol.com)

# Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary HISTORIAN/MEDIA RELATIONS BULLETIN

March & April 2024

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



***National Theme: Banding Together for our Veterans***

***Department Theme: Our Veterans, The Angels Among Us***

It is hard to believe our year is coming to an end. As Historians we sure had our work cut out for us this year, but we found new ways to do our job and to tell our story. I personally want to thank all of you for doing the very best job. So many of you thought outside the box and came up ways to communicate with the members by way of Facebook, newsletters, and many other ways.

Even though this year is coming to an end for the 2023-2024, our job doesn't stop. As a chairman, or a member of an Auxiliary I plead with you that you continue to tell your story for your Auxiliary. Even though this one is ending, and the new year is right around the corner.

I hope that you learned something from me this year that will help not only you but your Auxiliary. It could be taking pictures with a smart phone, Facebook pages, how to get memory books printed, how to do newsletters. If you missed one of these, then I encourage to look back through the bulletins for the helpful hints on each subject.



## **Still Need Your Pictures of Planting Trees**

I need pictures sent to me by email or mail of the Auxiliary planting of a tree in memory or memorial of those that have committed suicide. Our President is wanting a book of these wonderful pictures as it means something special to her. Help me give her a special book that she cherishes for the rest of her life.

## **Awards Due by March 31, 2024**

### **NATIONAL AWARDS for Auxiliaries**

1. **Most outstanding video interview** with a VFW Auxiliary legacy (longtime active) member.

- Citation to every Auxiliary that submits a 3–5-minute video interview with a legacy Auxiliary member. Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form and video interview to their Department Historian and Media Relations Chairman by March 31, 2024, for judging.
- The Department Historian and Media Relations Chairman must email National Headquarters by April 30, 2024, at [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org) a total combined list of every Auxiliary in their Department that completed and submitted an entry form and video interview.
- Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.
- Citation and @25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences that submits most outstanding 3–5-minute video interview with a VFW Auxiliary legacy member.

# Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary

## BULLETIN

March & April 2024

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

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

***National Theme: Banding Together for our Veterans***

***Department Theme: Our Veterans, The Angels Among Us***

### **New- for this Program**

At the State Convention we will be having a contest for a physical book of pictures. Diana's year is the first in a long time to do this and National is requesting it again this year. It doesn't have to be a handmade scrape book; it can be digital. There will be one winner for each type of book.

Requirements:

#### **Handmade Scrap Book**

At least 20 pages

President Official Visit to District

At least 1 tree planting picture

Creativity

Design

At least 1 picture of a Conference

#### **Digital**

At least 20 pages

President Official Visit to District

At least 1 tree planting picture

Creativity

Design

At least 1 picture of a Conference

### DEPARTMENT AWARDS

✓ Best Overall Historian/Media Relations program for the year among all membership categories \$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary.

✓ Historian Book Contest \$50 in each Category (scrapbook and Digital) winners to be judged at 11:00 am on Saturday morning of Department Convention 2024. Citation of Merit to each winner.

✓ Best Overall Media Relations "how to" training to educate your members on use of Media Relations (Facebook, websites, snap chat, tik-tok) \$10 and Citation of Merit to the Auxiliary

With all that is taking place, it is important to document what and how it was done. When members look back at this time in 10, 20 or 50 years (or more) in the future, they will have an idea of how we, as an organization, adapted and met the needs of our veterans and their families during the different years.

Are you?

**Connecting with members:**

**Using MALTA Resources**

**Capturing your Auxiliary's history? If not, it is time to start.**

I know some think it is hard to report for Historian, but it really isn't!! Remember you can report that you post on Facebook, that you do Newsletters, that you use MALTA resources, that you are working on a scrap book, and that you are taking pictures. Many of you have not reported under Historian yet, and just know it's not too late, you have at least 1 quarter left if you we not able to report in the first three.

Nicole Koutz

Historian/Media Relations

924 N Washington Ave

Lansing MI 48880

989-620-6425 / [turtlelee@hotmail.com](mailto:turtlelee@hotmail.com)

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT VFW AUXILIARY  
HOSPITAL BULLETIN  
March 2024**

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

Facebook Page: Hospital Michigan

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

*National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans*

*Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us*

Thank you for all the gift card donations and buying a star at the Hospital Booth during Mid-Winter Conference. I am pleased to announce the booth made \$1520. I was concerned on Friday evening we had only made about a thousand dollars. Within an hour and half on Saturday, we raised an additional \$520. Thank you, Thank you.

**NON-TRADITIONAL HOLIDAYS**

- March 4 is National Hug a G.I. Day
- March 14 is PJ Day and National Popcorn Lover's Day
- March 23 National Chip and Dip Day.
- March 25 is National Medal of Honor Day

I have really enjoyed learning more about these Non-Traditional Holidays. Non-Traditional Holidays can be found at [www.calendarr.com/unites-states/observance-2024/](http://www.calendarr.com/unites-states/observance-2024/). These days are creative ways to celebrate with our Veterans in Hospitals or Homes.

Read over your guide sheets. Complete any goals you need to. All Hospital entry forms are on the Department or National website.

The following Hospital Award forms are due to me by March 31,2024.

- Auxiliary award-most outstanding activity or event that recognizes Veterans on non-traditional holidays. Please be detailed. Attach any additional information (flyers, brochures, social media posts, newsletters, newspaper clippings, photos, link to videos, etc)
- Member award-Most Outstanding Hospital Volunteer

The following Hospital Award form is due to me by April 5, 2024

- Member award-Hospital Volunteer Recruiter

I am looking forward to receiving a lot of these forms. Please make my job hard in choosing winners. Keep up the great work.

# MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT VFW AUXILIARY HOSPITAL BULLETIN March 2024

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

Facebook Page: Hospital Michigan

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# MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT VFW AUXILIARY LEGISLATIVE BULETIN

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

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National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans

Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us

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## MARCH 2024

OMG! OMG! OMG! IT'S MARCH!

There are less than 8 weeks left for doing, acting, and reporting. So let us go through this again. Legislative work is about making friends and influencing others.

1. Did you or your members write to Senators Peters and Stabenow?
2. Did you or your members write to your representatives in DC?
3. Did you or your members write to your state representatives in Lansing?
4. Did you report the total number of members who receive Action Corps weekly reports?
5. Did you invite state representatives to a program at your post? Did you report in detail who, what, when?
6. Did you attend an event where politicians were present and talk with them about veterans issues? Did you report in detail who, what, when?
7. Did you print from the national Malta website priority goals and distribute materials to friends, members, the community? Did you report in detail who, what, when?
8. Did you participate in the department initiative to have petitions signed for a veteran cemetery in the Upper Peninsula?

We are influencing Lansing to be serious about this initiative. Governor Whittmer appointed State Representative Jenn Hill to investigate a location in the upper peninsula. Now we need to push even harder. Keep sending me the completed petition pages.

The area that the Commander's Group has their eye on is KI Sawyer Air Base that was closed in 1995. The airfield at one time was a small airport that was under Marquette county jurisdiction. With World War II, the federal government negotiated a deal to lease the airport and develop the small airfield into a larger field to handle military aircraft. Since the closing, the federal government should allow control to revert back to Marquette and Marquette should allow the development of a veteran cemetery.

I am asking all concerned individuals to write to Representative Jenn Hill and ask why we cannot petition the federal government to re-designate KI Sawyer Air Base for the purpose of a veterans' cemetery in the upper peninsula. While you are writing to Representative Hill, also include Representative Greg Markkanen; Representative Dave Prestin and State Senator Edward McBroom. This is not just a VFW concern, but one for all veterans in Michigan. Ask your family, friends, neighbors, American Legion, DAV, VietNam Veterans, AmVets, etc., to write/contact these individuals for a repurpose of the land at KI Sawyer to become a veterans' cemetery.

State Representative Jenn Hill [109] ([JennHill@house.mi.gov](mailto:JennHill@house.mi.gov))  
Representative Greg Markkanen[110] ([gregMarkkanen@house.mi.gov](mailto:gregMarkkanen@house.mi.gov))  
Representative Dave Prestin {108} ([davePrestin@house.mi.gov](mailto:davePrestin@house.mi.gov))  
State Senator Edward McBroom [38] ([SenEMcBroom@senate.michigan.gov](mailto:SenEMcBroom@senate.michigan.gov))  
Congressman Jack Bergman (<https://bergman.house.gov>)  
US Senator Debbie Stabenow (<https://stabenow.senate.gov>)  
US Senator Gary Peters (<https://peters.senate.gov>)

Loyally

Aileen Adragna, Department VFW Auxiliary Legislative Chair

# MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT VFW AUXILIARY LEGISLATIVE BULETIN

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

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National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans  
Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us

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## APRIL 2024

Making a list, Checking it twice, I'm going to find out who is naughty and who is nice. Three weeks to go for doing, acting, and reporting. Did you and or your members complete any of the following list? Did you report with details who, what, where, when?

At the Fall Conference I challenged the delegates present to get 10% of their members signed up for Action Corp. At Mid-Winter, I reported that we have about 2%. Where are the rest of you?

At the Fall Conference, I also shared a petition for members to circulate for signatures to push the State legislature to designate land in the Upper Peninsula as a veterans cemetery. Because of this, State Representative Jenn Hill has been tasked with searching for a location. We need to keep up the letters and petitions even after this program year ends. This initiative will take some time until fruition. Do not stop working on this. Keep sending letters to the individuals I listed in the March bulletin.

I want to thank Madame President for asking me to be this year's chair. Convention is at the end of May in Kalamazoo. Make your reservations. Let's keep up the work.

Achievements	Completed	Reported
Report the number of Auxiliary members who subscribe to the VFW's Action Corps Weekly E-Newsletter.		
Report <b>each contact</b> auxiliary members made with their legislators on veteran's issues by any means (email, telephone, letter, etc.).		
Report invitations made to legislators to a meet/greet at the post home to meet veterans. Include the name of the legislator who attended.		
Report invitations made to representatives to attend honors/awards programs (i.e. scout of the year, VOD, holiday program). Include the name of the legislator who attended.		
Report on events where auxiliary members were able to interact with legislators (report each event) i.e Town hall meeting, coffee club.		
Report (describe) how the auxiliary utilized any of the legislative material/resources available on the National VFW Auxiliary Malta website under member resources.		
Details on how the auxiliary promoted, participated or co-hosted with their VFW Post all activities regarding the VFW Priority Goals.		

Loyally,  
Aileen Adragna, Legislative Chair 2023-2024  
Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT VFW AUXILIARY**  
**MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN**  
**March 2024**

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

Facebook Page: Membership Michigan

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

*National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans*

*Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us*

Hello March, this is the month of shamrocks and luck but there is no luck where this Department is concerned. You have all been working so hard to get this Department in the best position to receive our "Golden Malta" at the National Conference. I know (or hope) by now we have pushed over those last few percentages to make us 100% but truly membership is and should always be an ongoing endeavor. New members are wonderful and getting new ideas and enthusiasm is what helps keep things fresh and moving forward. However, I do not want us to disregard our more seasoned members and some of those that may have stepped back because of personal issues. Depending on those issues or people involved maybe it's time to reach out and try to reconnect with those members and get them to come back to meetings or rejoin. We have to look out for each other and take care of our "Incredible cast and crew".

We have gained almost 400 new members this year and I hope you are all trying to educate these new members in our various programs and what great programs and resources we have for our "Angel Veterans". We all have a responsibility to be mentors to new and older members. We are all in this organization for different reasons and those are personal and unique as each person. But the fact that connects us all, is or should be, that we CHOOSE to belong because we want to respect and honor those who have sacrificed and gave it their all for our many rights and freedoms that we have. One "lucky" benefit I have found in belonging to the Auxiliary is that over many years of being a member is that so many friends have now become family and that is a gift that I do not take lightly. Like the "Incredible superhero family" we / the department can soar to new heights and accomplish great things for our Veterans.

Our veterans are the real hero's and should be the winners of our hard work and efforts. You still have time to consult the guidesheet and double check if you have done and reported all the items you have accomplished for membership as next month will be the "closing curtain" on this year's program.

Wendi Hall  
Membership Chairman  
4849 Williams Street  
Montague MI 49437  
[wendihall65@gmail.com](mailto:wendihall65@gmail.com)  
917-295-3531



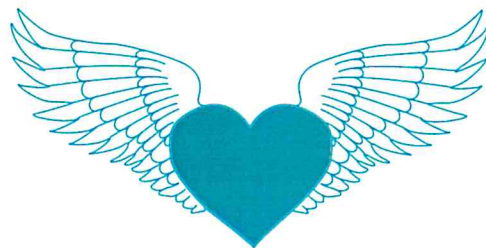
# MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN

April 2024

It's no April's Fool, our "Incredible production" is almost over and time for the final curtain for reporting but not for recruiting or retaining members. Though the "reporting year" is here at the end of the month, current members still have until June 30th to keep their dues going. At this point I am sure you have sent reminders in the mail, tried a second follow up notice, or perhaps texted and made phone calls. If your auxiliary can help them please consider doing this now as we need every person we can get, to be paid up. As an incentive, a reminder, that starting in July, for the 2025 dues National will be increasing their portion that they receive from each member so in trickle down form, you may have to adjust your auxiliary portion going forward. Getting members to convert to life membership is really the way to go. Perhaps offer incentives or do a drawing for the active members that do not have a life membership and the auxiliary could perhaps pay for the winner. Be creative. Without membership, it is not just this organization that will suffer but our Veterans. We can't afford to let these members down in any way. They gave so much of themselves and their families to protect and serve this country we in turn need to take care and honor them. April 20th is the final deadline for all reporting, but please do not wait till the last minute before doing your final reports. If you report as you go it just makes it easier on everyone.

No matter what the "critics Siskle and Ebbert" lol or "Maruszak (big ten) and Lansing(National Chairman)" say about our "Incredible production" this year, I am sure it will be two thumbs up. Whether or not we achieve a "Golden Malta" at National Convention, I am still so proud and honored that I was able to play even a supporting role. You all have been a great supporting cast. If we all do our part and work for our veterans then our "spotlight" can shine bright for them and what they have done for all of us. Remember "Our Veterans are the real Angels among us"

Wendi Hall  
Membership Chairman  
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917-295-3531



# Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP BULLETIN March 2024

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

Facebook Page: Mentoring for Leadership Michigan

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

*National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans*

*Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us*

## **Valuable Tool**

We are nearing the end of our current Auxiliary leadership year, so it is time to get down to the successful completion of the Mentoring for Leadership program. Have you as the mentor visited our national website. Did you click on Mentoring for Leadership. Next did you take the opportunity to peruse the bullet points to achieve a better understanding of the Mentoring for Leadership program? The information found there can assist you and your Auxiliary members to conduct a quality program at the local level. Have you checked our Department Program Guide Sheet? Have you reported everything that your Auxiliary Achieved in the Mentoring for Leadership program?

## **Delegate Packets**

Letters with valuable information are being received by each Auxiliary this month containing Delegate forms for District, Department and National. Please assist the Secretary to see that all information is filled in correctly and then forwarded to the corresponding person or place in a timely manner.

## **Election Time**

Has your Auxiliary discussed the upcoming election process? Elections are held at the first business meeting in April. All the Auxiliary officer chair positions need to be filled. A Trustee can be elected that also holds another elected position if it is not the President, Treasurer or Secretary. The reason behind this is to keep the integrity of the check and balance system that is in place to assure no possible impropriety occurs. Hopefully as the Auxiliary Mentoring for Leadership Chairman, you have trained members of your Auxiliary some of the necessary tools that they will need to possess to fulfill the open elected positions and that you continue to make yourself available as their questions arise in the future.

## **Taking on Responsibilities**

The goal that each Department chairman accepts is to encourage all members to become educated and well versed in our organization. Carefully watching as each new year unfolds. Checking to see if there were changes that we need to recognize and share with all members. These small simple changes may be made to improve and expand the organization. That's when the seasoned member comes into play with noticing the changes and then getting all members on the same page going forward.

Respectfully yours, Sandi Onstwedder' Mentoring for Leadership Chairman

**Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary**  
**MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP BULLETIN**  
**April 2024**

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

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FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

*National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans*

*Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us*

Did you as the Auxiliary Mentoring for Leadership Chairman successfully encourage other members? Did you take every opportunity to share information when other members had questions about our organization? Do you feel that you successfully completed a year of mentoring?

The very moment you agreed to this chairmanship, you became a lifelong "Sharer of Auxiliary Information." Those members that you have already aided in their understanding will continue to lean on you, way into the future, whether you are holding the title of Mentoring for Leadership Chairman or not. To me, that would be an amazing concept. To have not only helped, but also to know your input was valuable to some other Auxiliary member.

Thank you for modeling a behavior within your Auxiliary meeting that exhibited the ability to make it stronger and more successful. Officers along with chairman and all active members, set the tone for whether the Auxiliary will be productive or not. Whether you modeled it by your infectious positive enthusiasm, your deliberate well-thought-out instructions, or by a willingness to approach things differently than how they have always been done, I thank you for caring enough about every member of the Auxiliary and the potential for that success to become common.

Being a **successful mentor** is not a one year, and I have given it my best, and now I am done. Mentoring is the continuous and constant efforts of one, or many, to achieve the best outcome for the Auxiliary! I know that our Mentoring for Leadership program is needed, and one of the best assets that an Auxiliary can have. Thank you for an amazing year of reporting and supporting your members!

Respectfully,

Sandi Onstwedder [Osandi25@hotmail.com](mailto:Osandi25@hotmail.com)  
2597 Heartland Blvd. #4 Ionia, MI 48846 (616) 835-7126

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT VFW AUXILIARY  
SCHOLARSHIPS BULLETIN  
MARCH 2024**

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

Facebook Page: Scholarships Michigan

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

*National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans*

*Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us*

**\*Participation \*Recognition \*Program Awareness \*Scholarship Fund Building**

Happy Spring!

This month is another big month for our Scholarship Program. The 2D and 3D Patriotic Art entries are due to the post/auxiliary March 31, 2024. They then need to be sent to me by April 15, 2024. Please make sure your student has followed all the National rules and completed all the required paperwork. If you provide any awards or celebrations at the auxiliary level, please make sure you report what you did, how many people were there and how much money was spent. The state winners will be announced in June at the Department Convention. All entries except for the first-place winner will need to be picked up that weekend in Kalamazoo.

Don't forget to help promote the other student contests such as Illustrating America for grades K-8<sup>th</sup> grade, and the Get Excited for the Red, White, and Blue, National Anthem singing contests for grades K – 12. See the Youth Activities guide sheet for the National Website for contest rules. These are also due to the Youth Chairman March 31, 2024.

Hoping you have a wonderful St. Patrick's Day and Easter season.

Follow the guide sheet for reporting. I am here if you have any questions, email, text or call (after 3pm).

Denise Arnold  
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989-621-0327  
[mischolar2324@gmail.com](mailto:mischolar2324@gmail.com)

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT VFW AUXILIARY**  
**SCHOLARSHIPS BULLETIN**  
**April 2024**

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

Facebook Page: Scholarships Michigan

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

*National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans*

*Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us*

**\*Participation \*Recognition \*Program Awareness \*Scholarship Fund Building**

April Shower are sure to bring May flowers. And who does like flowers?

The Patriotic Art entries should soon be on their way to me. Please make sure they are packaged well to prevent damage. Judging will take place in May. Thank you to everyone that participated in this program. We need to continue to promote both the 2D and 3D art programs as well as donate to the escrow accounts. Every dollar helps to provide scholarship money for our students.

Reminder all Patriotic Art entries will need to be picked up at the Department Convention in June. (Except 1<sup>st</sup> place which will go on to National judging).

This month is the final time to report for this year. Please review your guide sheets and report something other than reading your guide sheets or going to a meeting. Did you talk to someone at a function or church service about our programs? Did you attend an awards ceremony or Mid-Winter? Think out of the box and describe what and when you participated or provided support.

It has been a pleasure to be part of the Scholarship team with my co-Chairman Mike Martin. Thank you, Sara, for trusting me with this Chairmanship.

Follow the guide sheet for reporting. I am here if you have any questions, email, text, or call (after 3pm).

Denise Arnold  
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# MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT VFW AUXILIARY YOUTH ACTIVITIES BULLETIN MARCH 2024

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

Facebook Page: Youth Activities Michigan

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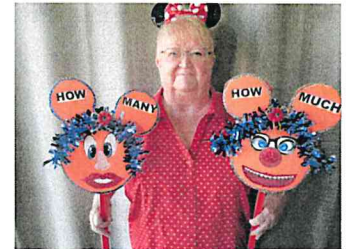
FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

*National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans*

*Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us*



In case you didn't meet "Ida Didit" at the Mid-Winter Conference, I didn't want you to miss out! Ida is the newest member of the Disney Crew to support VFW Auxiliary Youth Activities. She has almost completed all the guidelines for her Youth Activities Chairmanship. She's working with "How Much" and "How Many" (& me) to help you complete all your guide points in the Youth Activities



Chairmanship. If "Ida" can do all the guidepoints to achieve a fantastic year, so can YOU!

Deadlines can be scary things – but not for Ida & you! March 31<sup>st</sup> is a goal I'm confident you will meet by contacting the youth in your area to enter the Illustrating America and Get Excited for the Red White & Blue Contests. I'm sure by now you have contacted art teachers, choir directors, club leaders, and everyone who has anything to do with art and singing! Hopefully we will have many entries at the Department Level, can't wait to see all of them. Make sure you go to the Michigan website [www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org) where you can find the entry form, info sheets and judges score sheets for both contests. Don't forget the Illustrating America Art Release Form.

....March 31, 2024 .... Is also the magic date to fulfill another goal! National #1 \*Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that educates their community about Patriotism Through Literacy and utilizes the Random Act of Patriotism car (R.A.P) Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. The #1 activity in each of the four Conferences will earn a Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary with the most outstanding activity and/or event that educates their community about Patriotism Through Literacy

Thank you to all the auxiliaries who donated to the "Silver Dollar" Table at Mid-Winter Conference. Your donations earned \$276.00 for Camp Trotter. Camp Trotter registration is open for the new season. Visit the Website. There are a few different ways a VFW Post and Auxiliary can sponsor a camper at VFW Camp Trotter for Children. Go to the Camp Trotter website and learn methods to fund a specific camper. These steps should be completed after a Post/Auxiliary has chosen which individual(s) they are sponsoring. If you are looking for a camper to support, please contact the Camp Trotter team at (231) 519-7091 or [support@camptrrotter.org](mailto:support@camptrrotter.org). You can also support Camp Trotter by purchasing a Life Membership for \$50.00, available on the website.

Auxiliary members working and volunteering with youth presents a positive Patriotic role model and encouragement to our youth, who are our future. Let's show we are "Banding Together for Our Veterans" because "Our Veterans are the Angels Among Us"

Evelyn Avery, Youth Activities Chairman 269-423-8129 (h) 269-491-0642 (c)  
44936 C.R. 352 Decatur, MI 49045 email: [averycow@yahoo.com](mailto:averycow@yahoo.com)



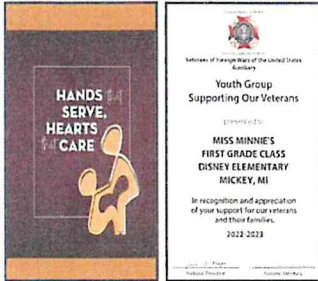
# MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT VFW AUXILIARY YOUTH ACTIVITIES BULLETIN APRIL 2024

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

Facebook Page: Youth Activities Michigan



*National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans*  
*Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us*



Make sure your Auxiliary has Group Supporting Our Youth Awards for all the participated in and worked with your auxiliary on. Make sure you report “How Many” you presented.

given out R.A.P. cards and Youth Troops Citations, as well as Patriotic activities the Youth in your area has participated in and worked with your auxiliary on. Make sure you report “How Many” you presented.

Make sure you report “How Much” you awarded the winners of the Youth Contests and explain what you did to reward and thank all participants in each of the guideline contests. Did you send in your #1 entry form for the National Award telling what you did for the Literacy Program and how many R.A.P. cards you used. Check the guide sheet and make sure you have covered all the guide points.

Make sure you review all those Department Awards you can earn – and make sure you let me know what you did, you may be chosen as the “Best Overall” and make \$10.00 for your Auxiliary – it may not sound like much, but it could mean a new book for a young reader!



I hope you enjoyed using “How Much” & “How Many” & you showed “I did it” FOR OUR YOUTH !



Make sure you post articles on Facebook and in the local newspaper on what your Auxiliary is doing to support the community youth. I hope you have had fun this year and accomplished what you set out to do. Thank you for Working with our Youth, being a role model and encouraging our youth! You have made a positive difference in a young life. We were able to “Band Together for Our Veterans” because “Our Veterans are the Angels Among Us”

**Evelyn Avery, Youth Activities Chairman**  
44936 C.R. 352

**269-423-8129 (h) 269-491-0642 (c)**  
[averycow@yahoo.com](mailto:averycow@yahoo.com)





# Youth Activities

## Auxiliary Award No. 1

### Entry Form • 2023-2024 Program Year

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about Patriotism Through Literacy and utilizing the Random Acts of Patriotism card (R.A.P.).
  - **Citation** to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event educating their community about Patriotism through Literacy and utilizing the Random Acts of Patriotism card (R.A.P.). Citations will be mailed directly to the participating Auxiliaries from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters.
  - **Citation and \$25** to one Auxiliary in each of the four (4) Conferences that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community about Patriotism through Literacy and utilizing the Random Acts of Patriotism card (R.A.P.). Winners will be announced at the 2024 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky. Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after VFW Auxiliary National Convention

**Auxiliaries are to send this completed form to their Department Youth Activities Chairman by March 31, 2024.**

Auxiliary Name: \_\_\_\_\_ No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Department of: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the activity and/or event that educated their community about Patriotism through Literacy and utilizing the Random Acts of Patriotism card (R.A.P.). (E.g., flyers, brochures, social media posts, newsletters, e-newsletters, handouts, photos, links to videos, etc.)

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Department Youth Activities Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*(signature)*

April 30, 2024 - The Department Youth Activities Chairman is to sign and send the completed Department winning entry form to National Youth Activities Ambassador Joyce Caldwell for judging.

**AND**

April 30, 2024 - The Department Youth Activities Chairman must email VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters at [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org) a total combined list of every Auxiliary in their Department that completed and submitted an entry form.

Forms sent directly to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters will not be processed.