

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP BULLETIN January 2024

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

We are more than halfway through the current leadership year, so it is time to get down to the nitty gritty of Mentoring for Leadership.

This program is exactly what you think it is. Mentoring every member and hoping by educating fellow members, they will feel comfortable stepping up into, and embracing leadership roles in the future. I have been trying to encourage every Auxiliary to select one or more members to fill the position of mentor.

What is our purpose for appointing a mentor or multiple mentors?

The simple answer is, so assure that every member sitting in a meeting has the same knowledge and ability to join in discussions and actions of the Auxiliary. To allow each member to value what skills and knowledge they can bring to assist the Auxiliary in functioning to its' best potential.

The mentor should visit our national website. Click on Mentoring for Leadership. Then, read the bullet points for a better understanding of the program. Next, login to MALTA. Click on the Main Menu, then scroll down until you reach Mentoring for Leadership. There you will have access to a PowerPoint video by the National Ambassador, forms for Awards, and multiple resources.

My goal as your Department chairman has been to encourage you to Educate your members on National Mentoring for Leadership Awards. To encourage you to visit the national website to see what resources are available, then when the opportunity arises to recognize them for being the mentor.

We are an organization of do gooders. Thankfully so. When we focus on having all members aware of our objectives and clear goals, we become quite amazing together.

Respectfully yours,
Sandi Onstwedder' Mentoring for Leadership Chairman

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Today is the day that you can make a difference in your auxiliary when you focus on making all members aware of our organizational traditions, rituals, and bylaws.

Sounds easy, doesn't it? The truth is it can be hard. A mentor must have the right personality and temperament. They should be patient and understanding. We all know the old saying, "Rome wasn't built in day?" Nor should we expect a new Auxiliary member to be right on target, and knowledgeable of our ways the moment they join.

When we all practice mentoring type behaviors within our Auxiliary meetings, the stronger our Auxiliary can potentially become. The way new members learn is mostly through the leadership practices of those conducting the monthly business meetings. Officers set the tone for the successful outcome of the Auxiliary. Whether it is demonstrated by positive enthusiasm, careful thought-out previous procedures, or a willingness to proceed differently than has always been done.

Auxiliary officers are encouraged to support the mentors of their choice. Allowing mentors to quietly speak to new members as the meeting is being conducted. By engaging in mentoring activities as a whole Auxiliary, you will soon notice how much stronger individual voices grow and aide in the success of the business being transacted.

Being a **successful mentor** is not a one and done appointment that you think of occasionally. It is the continuous efforts of one, or many, to achieve the best outcome for your individual Auxiliary! I believe, if you believe, this can and will be your Auxiliary's best asset.

Respectfully,

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