

(To be read on the Auxiliary Floor)

www.vfwauxmi.org

Department of Michigan Auxiliary
Department of Michigan Auxiliary Programs



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

National Theme: Banding Together For Our Veterans
Department Theme: Our Veterans, The Angels Among of Us
President Sara Manke
Email for the Secretary- misec@asiserve.net

Office # is 517-487-3715
Email for the Treasurer- mitreas@asiserve.net

Hello Sisters and Brothers,

I would like to congratulate immediate Past Department President Diana Ward and the members of the Department of Michigan, on achieving the Circle of Excellence and all the awards that her chairmen will bring home for Michigan. A full list of all awards will be in the September/October Michigan Connection.

I am excited to announce my Presidents Special Project will be planting trees in memory of those who have committed suicide or in honor of suicide awareness. The flier is available on our website and Facebook page.

Michigan will be hosting our National President Carla Martinez August 14-16; plans are being finalized now and the schedule of events will be out soon. We are looking forward to showing Carla a great time and hopefully will have a great turnout.

Audit covering the months of April, May, and June MUST be completed by July 31st, accepted by the Auxiliary, and sent to the Department Office by August 31, 2023.

Respectfully, Sara Manke Department of Michigan VFW Auxiliary President

Congratulations to Marian Belaire for being elected to represent Michigan as the incoming Big 10 Guard. She will be installed in October at the Big Ten Conference. She would love to have you there supporting her.

Pending the outcome of the National Council of Administration Special meeting to be held in Phoenix on Saturday July 22, 2023, the Department Council of Administration elected Stephanie Krueger to fill the vacancy.

Comstock VFW Auxiliary #6252 in District 8 donated their auxiliary funds to help others this past Auxiliary year. First, in the fall of 2022, they were generous in helping a Post in the Upper Peninsula, and recently they made a very nice contribution to Past Department President Diana Ward to help with her medical expenses.

VFW Auxiliary Department Gun Raffle Fundraiser- At your first District Meeting the Department Representative will have Raffle tickets with them. Twenty (\$20.00) dollars each or five (5) for one hundred (\$100.00) dollars. Drawing to be held based on the Michigan Lottery, every day in October. Please plan to support this new fundraiser.

MALTA will shut down at midnight on June 30, 2023. The National Organization plans to have it up and running again as soon as possible. Estimated date is to be July 5, 2023.

.....
Per Sec. 814 –Trustees Duties of 4th dark bullet, 1st and 2nd sub bullet.

***It shall be the duty of the Trustees to see that the offices of the President and Treasurer are bonded with an indemnity company authorized by National Headquarters or the Department.**

* As surety in a sum at least double the amount of funds and value of property for which, so far as can be anticipated, the President and Treasurer may be accountable.

* The amount shall be approved by the body and the bond premium paid from their funds. A motion shall be made, passed and included in the Secretary's minutes.

Bonds are to be purchased before August 31, 2023.

Upcoming Events:

The National Convention will be July 21-28th in Phoenix Arizona. We are looking forward to celebrating the Department of Michigan's accomplishments.

Michigan Day at the National Home is Sunday August 6th. Please plan to attend, our Department Chairman Patrick

Rich has announced that he will be awarding many special citations and is hoping for a GREAT turnout.

Michigan/Ohio VFW National Home Challenge- Make donations to VFW National Home Technology Fund.

District Meeting Dates:

| | | |
|-------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| District 5 | August 20 th | Bruce Post #1146 |
| District 7 | August 13 th | Homer Post #9411 |
| District 8 | August 5 th | Boat and Canoe Club Grand Rapids |
| District 9 | August 12 th | St. Louis Post #3055 |
| District 10 | August 12 th | Caro Post #4164 |
| District 11 | August 13 th | Kawkawlin Post #6950 |
| District 12 | August 20 th | Muskegon Post #7727 |
| District 13 | August 5 th | Harbor Springs Post #2051 |
| District 14 | August 20 th | Sault St. Marie Post 3676 |

Camp Trotter Family Day is Saturday August 19th. Everyone is welcome to attend and see our wonderful camp in person. Please bring your family and friends to experience firsthand what an amazing Childrens Camp the Department of Michigan VFW has. Bring a passing dish to share. Lunch will be served at 12:00 PM.

Sara Manke

Sara Manke- Department President

Sandi Onstwedder

Sandi Onstwedder- Department Secretary

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT BULLETIN

July 2023

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

Happy Birthday, America!!

Thank you to everyone who was able to come to the Department Convention in June and attend the School of Instruction. There was lots of great information presented and I hope that Auxiliaries were able to leave with information that will help aid them in getting their program year off to a great start!

This month brings us many opportunities to have adventures that take us outdoors and perhaps a stop at a local eatery along your way. This month I will share about the VFW's Veteran and Military Support program, Unmet needs.



The VFW Unmet Needs program was established in 2004 and has provided over \$10.5 million in emergency assistance to nearly 9,000 qualified veterans and military families!

Unmet Needs provides financial aid of up to \$1,500 to assist with basic life needs in the form of a grant - not a loan - so no repayment is required. To further ease the burden, the creditor is paid directly!

The financial hardship must be due to the following:

- Currently on active duty, whose financial hardship is a result of current deployment, military pay error, or from being discharged for medical reasons.
- Discharged on or after September 11, 2001, whose financial hardship is a direct result of your military service-connected injuries and/or illness.
- Discharged prior to September 11, 2001, are on a fixed income that must include VA compensation for a service connected injury/illness and facing an unexpected financial hardship.

Expenses that are eligible for payment include household expenses, vehicle expenses, utilities, children's school or childcare expenses, medical bills, prescriptions and eyeglasses. More information can be found at www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants. For donations for this program, visit www.vfw.org/Contribute. Please report when your Auxiliary donates to this cause!

In addition, Burger King franchisees have become the primary supporter of the Unmet Needs program. You can support this program during the month of July (and November) by stopping by participating Burger Kings. I encourage your summer stop to be at a participating Burger King as they will donate 100% of their proceeds for the month to support veteran and military families!



VETERANS & FAMILY SUPPORT BULLETIN

August



MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

What is the Military Assistance Program (MAP)?

The Military Assistance Program, since 2005, has sponsored events that have supported service members and their families. This program, through donations, provides financial assistance to VFW Post and Auxiliaries (Departments, too), to sponsor troop send-offs, homecomings, and get-togethers. This program also supports Adopt-a-Unit funding opportunities!

Does your Auxiliary have a local military unit that needs support?

Or, do you know of any Welcome Home opportunities that might be in the works? Summer is here! Don't miss out on a chance to receive financial assistance to help aid your Auxiliary in developing supportive relationships with our service members and their families! You can use this program to fund any Family Days, Picnics, BBQ's, Welcome Home's and Deployment Ceremonies, Holidays or Festivals. (Please note: MAP Grants cannot be used for Public Events and/or Formal Military events such as: Military Dining In/Out, Military Balls, Change of Command/Responsibility Ceremonies, etc.) The grant does require the application for assistance to be submitted 14 days before the event, along with some other terms and conditions. Check out <http://www.vfw.org/troopsupport/> for more information!

One of our Auxiliaries missions for this program year is to also support the National Veterans Service (NVS) and VFW Veterans & Military Support Programs through monetary donations. As an Auxiliary, get creative on ways to promote and support these wonderful programs. This month you can host a BBQ Cookout with all proceeds benefiting these critical support programs. Don't forget to report how much you donated. Addresses for donation submission can be found www.vfw.org or in the VFW Auxiliary Program Book under Veterans & Family Support.



When reporting, please indicate how many veterans, service members or their families you assisted. In addition, if your Auxiliary provided monetary donations or goods/services, please indicate the dollar amount!

If you would like to be on my email list, please email me below so I can add you to my roster. If you are a District Chairman, please email me your contact info and indicate what District you are from.

Upcoming Dates:

August 4th is National Coast Guard Day. Do you know a Coast Guard service member? This is an excellent opportunity to reach out to take them out to dinner or see if they have needs that need to be met.

August 6th is Michigan Day at the VFW National Home. Bring a veteran or their family out for the afternoon and give them a tour around the VFW National Home. This is an opportunity to share the support services they have at the Home.

August 7, Purple Heart Day; August 16, Airborne Day; August 29, Marine Corps Reserve Birthday

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

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT VFW AUXILIARY
Americanism Bulletin
July 2023

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Americanism-Michigan

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans

Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us

Happy 4th of July to you all. Be safe and enjoy the day. On this day in 1776, we formed a new nation by adopting the Declaration of Independence with picnics and parades. You can donate 3x5 flags and POW/MIA flags to show your patriotism. Keep track of how many and report it. Plan your upcoming year for the patriotic holidays. You can look on MALTA member resources and use any of the material on Americanism and report it.

Keep track of any patriotic day or branch of service birthdays. If you promote it or participate in any event or recognize businesses or individuals, report it.



Now is the perfect time to start recognizing citizens and/or businesses for displaying their American Flag, POW MIA Flag and/or other displays of American pride. Present them Patriotic Appreciation Citations and make sure to report it.

AUGUST BULLETIN AMERICANISM



Remember POW/MIA Recognition Day is September 15, 2023. Start planning your ceremony now. Our National Ambassador Linda Roloff is encouraging us this year and going forward to use #MoreThanLetters especially when referring to our POWs, MIAs and KIAs. They are more than letters. Encourage the use of the words: Prisoner(s) or War, Missing in Action, Killed in Action. Acknowledge them daily, learn and say their names. Meet their families and help share their stories in your local paper or Post/Auxiliary newsletter.



Gold Star Mother's & Family Day is always the last Sunday in September – On this day, Americans are encouraged to display the Flag and hold appropriate ceremonies as a public expression of our nation's gratitude and respect for our Gold Star Mothers and Families. Educate your Auxiliary and the Community and hold a ceremony.

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

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT VFW AUXILIARY
Auxiliary Outreach
July 2023

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Auxiliary Outreach-Michigan

National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans

Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

It is important that at the beginning of the program year a motion is made on the floor that when members volunteer their time for a civic program, school program, youth program, etc., they are representing the VFW Auxiliary and should turn in their hours served to be reported for Auxiliary Outreach.

The VFW Auxiliary has been a leader in community volunteerism since our founding. What better way to show we care by continuing to step up and lend a hand and be a "Worker Bee"? By building partnerships, we strengthen ourselves, those we assist and our communities.

Reaching out into your community to assess the needs of others is key to launching your successful Auxiliary Outreach Project.

Remember these basic steps:

- Seek out local groups and organizations in need of assistance
- Ask what your Auxiliary can do to partner with them
- Vote on your Auxiliary floor to accept the opportunity
- Execute the partnership
- Record the details and report your success



Finding opportunities

- Check with your members, family, friends and neighbors; what their interests are and what they do
- Check local community bulletin boards and city/county/neighborhood calendars
- Look for opportunities in your local Facebook Groups
- Reach out to find the right contact and ask if their group or organization needs assistance
- Develop ideas and present the possible partnership to your Auxiliary at a meeting for approval
- Under the direction of the partner, put the plan into motion
- Finally, when your partnership is complete, report your success

Auxiliary Outreach

August 2023

The VFW Auxiliary Outreach Program is your Auxiliary's opportunity to partner with local groups and organizations. This Partnership assists those groups to help them achieve their program goals and objectives. Our communities are hungry for volunteers. Show them we are here to help!

Projects may be done by a member who is representing an Auxiliary, by an Auxiliary alone or with the VFW Post. Collectively, all of our volunteer hours need to be counted to effectively show the importance of the local VFW Auxiliary to the community

Some ideas for volunteer opportunities include:

Local Community Center

- Youth sports, classes and enrichment
- Senior center activities
- Informational events (Spring fair, recycling events)
- Adult class assistance
- Community beautification event

Schools

- Parent/teacher groups
- Library, office, field day, carnivals

Community Food or Shelter Programs

- Intake, distribution, serving

Animal Shelters and Adoption Events

Important Reminders

- Auxiliary Outreach is not to be reported under any other programs
- Participation by our members is completely under the direction of the sponsoring organization. Remember you are the "Worker Bee"
- Partnerships are to be approved by vote of the Auxiliary and recorded in your minutes
- Opportunities may only need a handful of Auxiliary members at a time. If the partnership is recurring, keep track through the year of those long-standing partnerships
- Can your post home or meeting location be the site of your partnership? Under certain circumstances, If the event is completely under the control of your sponsoring partner and all other requirements of the program have been met, you may volunteer and report this opportunity
- Make sure you wear something that signifies you are a member of the VFW Auxiliary

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT VFW AUXILIARY "BUDDY"® POPPY/NATIONAL HOME BULLETIN July 2023

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



Welcome to all the "Buddy" Poppy Chairman this year. We are going to have a wonderful year. Working together promoting the "Buddy" Poppy. Helping our Veterans by using them. We all need to report every "Buddy" Poppy you use. If you do table display report is and tell me how many uses not a bunch. If you make a table display like this yes count how many on each jar and total. I would like to all your hard work, you can post then on # "Buddy" Poppy/National Home-Michigan. on Facebook. Our Theme. (Our Veterans the Angels Among Us). You can have a fund raiser by counting how many "Buddy" Poppies in a Larg Jar. Let's have fun with this year. This wonderful flower puts a smile on peoples faces. We need to share them. Our theme this year is "Our Veterans the Angels Among Us".



Doris Day Hollywood "Buddy" Poppy.



Poppy.
Have fun with it.

Remember "Buddy" Poppy Helps our Veterans and we need to promote them as much as we can. Report all you and your Auxiliary do using the "Buddy Poppy.

Report . Miles

- . Total "Buddy" Poppy Used
- . Displays you have done Total amount used in your Display.
- . Did you and your Post work together handing out "Buddy"

Poppy I need a full count every time you do anything with "Buddy"

August Bulletin



V.F.W. National Home Michigan Day August 6,2023.

I would like to see more Auxiliaries attend Michigan Day. Bring your American Flag and Banner with you.

V.F.W. National Home Hot Line 1-800-343-4200 put this phone number in your cell phone so you can give it out when needed. There are Veterans we can help.

Cleaning Supplies for the National Home list is out, share this with your Auxiliary and the Post. Do what you can. New Program is Healing with Music. You can visit the VFW National Home website at info@vfwnationalhome.org.

Your Auxiliary can purchase a Memorial Brick with your Auxiliary Number.

Also, Life Membership is \$50.00 Now

We want to see all the Auxiliaries at Michigan Day on August 6,2023.

Michigan Day District Activity list

- . Bingo Prize Dist. 13
- . Running Bingo Dist. 10
- . Popcorn/ Ice Cream Dist. 6
- . Sell 50/50 Dist. 5
- . Coin in the Sand Dist. 11
- . Fishing Dist. 9
- . Flag /Banner Dist. 7
- . Provide two Raffle Baskets/ Prizes Dist. 8
- . Face Painting Dist. 1

I am trying to get corn Hole and Frisbee Golf.

We are all going to have a great time there and if your Auxiliary would to donate a check for the parade of checks you can do that as well.

They will have lunch.

Do not forget your American Flags and your Banners before you all leave.



Yes, Nani will be there. I hope to see all the Post and the Auxiliary there.

Remember the commitment we owe the V.F.W National Home.

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 July 2023

www.vfwauxmi.org

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans

Department Theme: Our Veterans, The Angels Among Us

July already and where is your Auxiliary at on your Healthy Auxiliary accomplishments so far? Check the June 2023 Bulletin for a list and if all needed items are not completed by now, make those things a priority this month.



Do you know the Department President has no choice but to place an Auxiliary on suspension if Installation reports were not in by June 30th? And if the bond is not paid by August 31st, it is the same fact. So get these done early and then you can take them off your mental list – then report to it me.

Are you aware that a By-Law change requiring attendance/representation at all District meetings? This is not just the job of the President. All of us are capable of representing the Auxiliary. Get in the habit of attending these meetings. The August/September meetings include a School of Instruction and we can all learn at least one new thing. Then report to me your auxiliary was in attendance.

Look for the letter of the Official Visit from your District President and make plans to show him/her how well you are doing meeting goals and requirements.

The bond payment period runs from July 1-August 31. Please don't wait. Get it paid. This is a requirement in the By-Laws. Double the amount in your account is a good plan, and you must Bond **both the Treasurer and the President** on all levels.

An audit must be conducted this month covering the months of April, May and June. This is conducted by the current Trustees (all those serving as of June 10, 2023). The retiring Trustees may attend.

Remember to drape the Charter for Deceased Members in a timely manner. Watch the Michigan Connection for any information on this for Past Department Presidents or Past National Presidents.

Extension and Revitalization Bulletin

August 2023

August 31st is the final date that the Bond payment is due. It is a simple process to pay through MALTA. Do not wait. Remember both the President and Treasurer positions are to be bonded. The amount should be double the amount of assets, and it is approved by the auxiliary. No one wants to be placed on suspension for such a simple thing, but that will happen if you miss the deadline.

Did you hold a Planning Meeting and get the Auxiliary's financial and membership status information to your Commander? If not, then NOW is the time. Doing this is a By-Laws requirement. It should have been accomplished within 30 days of the end of our Department Convention (June 10, 2023).

REMINDER - that many District meetings are starting this month. Remember that the By-Laws now mandate that all Auxiliaries are to be represented at every District meeting. Someone should be able to go and represent the Auxiliary and take back information.

Begin to prepare for the Official Visit from your District President. This is your annual opportunity to shine. District officers often find their future chairmen at these very visits.

Did you hold your audit in July? Did the auxiliary vote to accept it? Did it get forwarded to the Department Office yet? *It is due to them by August 31st.*

Was someone from your Auxiliary at the National Convention? There are Resolutions to be reported on. They cover several areas and include dues amounts.

Get going on dues collecting. That is the job of everyone.

Have you contacted the unaffiliated posts in your area? We know they need us and we need them to realize it also. Contact me if you see a spark of interest from them.

Work together as a team. That is what makes for a Healthy Auxiliary. Healthy Auxiliaries make for Healthy Districts and a Healthy Department. We are all in this together. Remember to utilize the Building on the Auxiliary Foundation materials.

Stephanie Krueger
10165 Fairview
Taylor, MI 48180
313-585-5066
stepherthevfer@aol.com

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT VFW AUXILIARY HISTORIAN-MEDIA RELATIONS BULLETIN

July 2023

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Historian-Media Relations Michigan



National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans

Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us

Think outside the box!

Reach out to members in your Auxiliary and ask everyone to take pictures of the projects they are working on at home or in small groups, at the post. We all know that members do things for Veterans outside the Auxiliary. Please give them examples of different things for example: Piles of cards, trunks full of goodie bags, truck beds of school supplies, donations for food pantries, etc. Explain that even though they are still helping Veterans or doing different things that everyone would love to see the pictures and have something written up for the historian showing all your support in the community.

Once you have photos of these projects, post them to your Auxiliary's Facebook page. If your Auxiliary doesn't have a Facebook page, start one! It's free and a great way to share photos of your Auxiliary in action in your community. Make sure to put your Auxiliary's events and everything your Auxiliary is involved within the community on the page. Share these photos on your personal Facebook page and encourage other members to do the same. Everyone needs to know what your Auxiliary is about!

It is important to capture the present of our organization, as the present quickly becomes the past. Do you remember what happened 10, 20 or 30 years ago? I remember some things, but I, like so many of you, need help to remember much of what happened years ago. I enjoy looking through scrapbooks, photo albums, and reading journals, letters and cards to jog my memory. Now, Facebook Memories helps me remember, too!

The who, what, when, where and why of an event is so important to the story – and history – of the VFW Auxiliary. Take pictures (and write down who is in them), keep newspaper articles or print out online news articles about what is going on in your community, your state, our country and the world.

A picture is worth a thousand words...make sure your photos is newsworthy when submitting them to local media, sharing them on social media or putting them in a scrapbook. You don't want to embarrass anyone at any time. If it is newsworthy, you will capture the person's attention. If it's not, then the person will move on to a photo or story that does.

Are you capturing your Auxiliary's history? If not, it is time to start.

HISTORIAN-MEDIA RELATIONS BULLETIN

August 2023

Facebook

A couple of things to keep in mind when you post to Facebook:

- Whatever you write is what is printed.
- Watch your grammar and the spelling of people's names.
- Make sure you write the 5W's in your post.
- Be sure to include the time and date of events.



Newsletter and PowerPoint Templates

I normally open Word, select "new document," click on business or type "newsletter" in the search box and many different types show up to pick from. Some have graphics and some let you add your own. The same can be done in PowerPoint by opening a PowerPoint, selecting "new," clicking on presentations, themes, designs, etc. Templates are also available for download at the links below. Many of these are free; some have subscription fees.

Newsletter Templates

- <https://templates.office.com/en-us/newsletter-tm02686615>
- <https://www.layoutready.com/Microsoft-Word-Templates/Newsletters/Newsletter-Templates-Library.aspx>
- <https://blog.learningtree.com/easily-create-newsletter-template-microsoft-word/>
- <http://www.worddraw.com/>

PowerPoint Templates

- <https://www.presentermedia.com/powerpoint-templates/templates.html>
- <https://templates.office.com/en-us/templates-for-powerpoint>
- <https://www.free-powerpoint-templates-design.com/free-powerpoint-templates-design/>
- <https://slidesgo.com/simple>

Use templates to create eye-catching newsletters and presentations for your Auxiliary. I promise you won't break the programs and you can learn if you try!

Nicole Koutz-
410 N. Clinton, St. Louis, MI 48880
989-620-6425-cell
turtlelee@hotmail.com

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT VFW AUXILIARY HOSPITAL BULLETIN July 2023

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

Congratulations to all the new Department officers. Congratulations Patricia Patterson for winning Outstanding Hospital Volunteer of the Year. Congratulations to all Hospital Chairmen that won an award at Convention. Thank you to all the those who participated in the Star Raffle. The total raised at the Convention was \$1850 which I believe is a record.

Several people approached me at the Convention to see whether the Star Raffle would continue. The answer is yes. I will continue doing the Star Raffle. Everyone seems to enjoy this fundraiser.

We are shaking things up this year. Instead of celebrating the traditional holidays, celebrate the non-traditional holidays.

- July 1 is International Joke Day
- July 7 is World Chocolate Day.
- August 1 is National Girlfriend Day
- August 7 is Left Handers Day.

Do something special for the hospitalized Veterans on those days. Check with hospital or home to make sure what can be brought in and passed out to the patients. When celebrating non-traditional holidays, don't forget the hospital or home staff. While all facilities were on lockdown, the staff stepped up to support the needs of Veterans. Just like our Veterans, the staff has seen the repetition of the traditional celebrations year after year so please include the doctors and staff in all your new celebration plans.

Here is a great link to start planning: <https://www.calendarr.com/united-states/observances-2023/>

If the facility allows handouts, pick a theme based on the day you are visiting. Make cards to pass out and decorations. Always check with the facility on their protocol.

Let's make the patient's smile. It no fun to be in the hospital. Bring joy to the patients and staff.

Hospital
August 2023

VA provides health care for Veterans from providers in your local community outside of VA. Veterans may be eligible to receive care from a community provider when VA cannot provide the care needed. This care is provided on behalf of and paid for by VA.

Community care is available to Veterans based on certain conditions and eligibility requirements, and in consideration of a Veteran's specific needs and circumstances. Community care must be first authorized by VA before a Veteran can receive care from a community provider.

Types of Care provided:

- General Community Care
- Urgent Care
- Emergency Care
- Foreign Medical Care
- Home Health and Hospice Care
- Indian/Tribal Health Services
- In Vitro Fertilization
- State Veterans' Homes
- COVID & Flu Shots

As with care provided directly by VA, Veterans are charged a copayment for nonservice-connected care. Learn how to pay your bill and alternative payment options. In addition, VA may bill Veterans' health insurance for medical care, supplies, and prescriptions related to treatment of nonservice-connected conditions.

For more information: www.va.gov/communitycare

Together in Service,

DeeAnn Miller
5742 Harrison St.
Garden City, MI 48135
Phone: 313-570-4525
auxmihospital@yahoo.com

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN
July 2023

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Legislative Michigan

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans

Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us

Let us talk about written communication with our legislators.

- Remember to address your legislator as Senator or Representative.
- Introduce yourself.
- Keep the message simple.
- One topic per letter.
- Make sure there is a contact email or address for the senator/representative to acknowledge your letter.

EXAMPLE

July 1, 2023

Dear Representative Carter:

I am Aileen Adragna from VFW Auxiliary 1370 in Pontiac.

I am writing to you to ask for your support of HR. 1224 the concurrent receipt of disability and retirement pay for military personnel who were eligible under chapter 61 of the military code for military retirement. Personnel who are penalized because they receive one pay over the other is a great disservice to their time spent defending our country.

I can be reached at aileenadragna@yahoo.com or via U.S. Mail at 10 Cardinal Hill.

Sincerely,

Once you send your letter to your legislator, report, report, report. Please add the bill number and title when you report.

Of course, if you use the links set up by the DAV, VFW, etc. it is even easier than this; the link will fill in everything for you and send it to all the appropriate people. You will receive a message back thanking you for writing.

Come on everyone. Let's do this!

August 2023 Legislative

I want to remind everyone, although you read the bulletin at your meetings, it is not reportable for awards. We need you to take action by writing letters, emails, postcards or calling your representatives and/or senators to Lansing and Washington DC. When reporting, add the bill number and title of the bill to your report. This will help you keep track of the bills and any answers you may receive. Ask yourself, does this bill help our veterans and military service personnel collect their VA benefits? If yes, ask for their support and explain how it will help others. If not, then ask them to reject the proposed action and why it is wrong.

When using the material from Malta, report how you utilized the material. Did you make copies of the priority goals and distribute copies at your summer membership picnic? Did you share them with members, guests, visitors? I will not approve a report that says utilized material from Malta, unless you can tell me how you used the items. If you cannot utilize the items on Malta, let's have a discussion at the fall conference in Flint with others who may be using them and how they are implemented.

And now for some simple definitions:

Legislate - to make or enact laws.

Republic - a state in which supreme power is held by the people.

Democracy - a system of government by the whole population

Congress - the national legislative body

Constitution - a body of fundamental principles or established precedents

Freedom - the power or right to act, speak, or think without hindrance.

Advocate - a person who publicly supports or recommends a particular cause or policy.

This last definition is what we are...advocates for veterans and military. This is why we write letters. This is why we need to get to know our legislators on a first name basis. This is why the organization came together more than one hundred years ago. To advocate for the benefits that were promised by a national government when they asked for men to join the service to fight in the first great war. Never again do we want a government to make false promises to the men and women who choose to defend this country. Never again do we want fighting men and women to be spit upon and told they are forgettable.

Stand tall. Be that powerhouse. That Champion. That Advocate.

Loyally

Aileen Adragna
2023-2024 Legislative Chairperson
aileenadragna@yahoo.com
10 Cardinal Hill, Orion, 48359

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT VFW AUXILIARY
MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN
July 2023

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

*** **ATTENTION** all Membership "Special Agents" I have your first secret assignment in the mission for membership. I would like as many people as possible to send me a picture of a family member in uniform. You can take your picture and scan it to my email. Or if you prefer you can make a paper copy off your printer and mail me a copy as well. What I would like included with each submission is the following information, your District and auxiliary number. I need to have these pictures by **September 1st**. The secret part of this mission is you will have to wait to see what will be done with these.***

As we get into the summer months and things heat up, I hope you're heating up your drive for membership. The sooner you can get your members to pay their due the more time you will have to sit back, relax, and enjoy your summer. I believe one way to help achieve your auxiliary reaching 100% quickly, is to really encourage your members to convert to life memberships. With their renewal notices, type up a little information paper that would be about a ½ or ⅓ of a page describing the benefits of their conversion to life and how it would take the pressure off them to pay each year. You should also include the cost breakdown so they can see immediately what they would need to send in. This also makes the whole process for your treasures so much easier each year. Maybe as an incentive you have some members that attend every meeting and always work the dinners and other auxiliary sponsored events but do not have a life membership. Perhaps your auxiliary could once a year put those names into a drawing to have the Auxiliary purchase a membership or pay even half. It's a small reward/thank you to that member for their tireless efforts for your auxiliary and Veterans. Please, whatever you do, do not hold the dues. The auxiliary treasure should pay them as they get them or at least once a week during the main rush of dues coming in. New member dues should be sent in to the Dept Treasure once they are voted through on the auxiliary floor for processing.

Should you accept this mission, this message will self-destruct in 30 sec.

.....

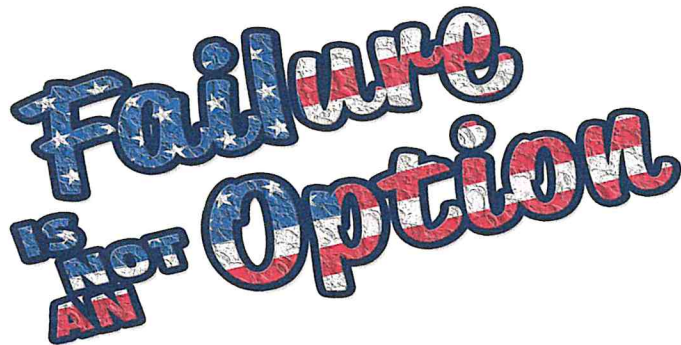


MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN

August 2023

August is generally the hottest time of the year here in Michigan and I sure hope your auxiliary is “hot on the trail” of those dues of current members and seeking out new members. If you are having a difficult “mission” in this area, please do not hesitate to seek out membership resources on our Department or National websites for good ideas. You are all superheroes for our Veterans but there is no shame in seeking additional ideas or help. With summer events being held in all your communities there should be at least a couple of opportunities for you to put out a table or two for membership recruitment. You could join forces with your post or go solo just don’t be “incognito”. Make a poster list some of those benefits that a membership in the Auxiliary will offer someone when they join. You could also “team up” with other chairman and promote other programs like Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen, Americanism, and Outreach, just be creative, the sky's the limit. This membership program can soar to new heights using our “wings” and our “superpowers”.

***** ATTENTION** all Membership “Special Agents” I have your first secret assignment in the mission for membership. I would like as many people as possible to send me a picture of a family member in uniform. You can take your picture and scan it to my email. Or if you prefer you can make a paper copy off your printer and mail me a copy as well. What I would like included with each submission is the following information, your District and auxiliary number. I MUST have these pictures by **September 1st**. The secret part of this mission is you will have to wait to see what will be done with these.***



Failure
is not
an Option

Wendi Hall
Membership Chairman
4849 Williams Street
Montague MI 49437
wendihall65@gmail.com
917-295-3531

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP BULLETIN July 2023

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

Program Goals

- Create a Welcoming Environment at your Auxiliary.
- Recognize individual members' strengths and weaknesses.
- Train when the opportunity presents itself.

July 2023 Auxiliary Meeting:

Congratulations on being given the position of Auxiliary Mentoring for Leadership Chairman!

Guide Sheets are out on our webpage, as are the May and June Mentoring for Leadership Bulletins. These bulletins are meant to not only instruct but to also inspire members of the auxiliary to share all information of our organization.

At your business meeting remind your members that the 2024 Membership dues are now being accepted. Encourage your officers to set the example of being in a leadership position by paying theirs early if they are not already life members.

Has your auxiliary held a planning meeting and prioritized programs and events that you really want to focus on? Are you being inclusive when planning programs and projects? First and foremost, working together lightens the load. Secondly, putting the knowledge of our organization in the hands and minds of all members almost assuredly guarantees success for the auxiliary. If it isn't custom to sit down together outside your business meeting to make an outline of what the auxiliary can do moving forward, consider it. Most members want to know things way in advance so they can plan their schedules accordingly.

2022-2023 was a banner year in membership for our department. Did your auxiliary numbers increase? Has someone or several members of your auxiliary taken them under their wings to express our objectives in the auxiliary? Remember how hard it was in the beginning to understand everything the auxiliary was doing? Don't let that happen to anyone else.

If whole heartily commit as members to take Mentoring for Leadership seriously this year, at the end of the year I believe you will recognize the gain in strength as an auxiliary.

MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP BULLETIN

August 2023

August 2023 Auxiliary Meeting:

I am excited to see reports come in under mentoring for Leadership that tell me you have created your Mentoring for Leadership Tool Kit. Did you include the most up-to-date Bylaws and Ritual? Were you able to secure a copy of Building on the Auxiliary Foundation? What about the guide to Auxiliary Traditions? It should be easy to maintain a file on hand of the program Guide Sheets plus, current, and immediate past 2023-2024 Department Bulletins.

Speak with your auxiliary treasurer ahead of time. Remind them that Bonds will be due soon. Remind Your Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters that a vote must occur at the regular business meeting to pay the Auxiliary bond in an amount double the funds and assets of the auxiliary. The motion must be placed in the Secretary's official minutes. Bonds are to be paid by **August 31, 2023**.

I believe that if we are a T.E.A.M. our Auxiliaries will reap the benefit of success in everything we apply ourselves to.

T= Teach and Instruct during the meeting as it unfolds.

E= Every member is the key to success of the Auxiliary whether you hold a title or not.

A= Announce things in advance of the program, project or event, planning purposes.

M=Make time to listen to new ideas and concepts of trying new things.

Mentoring for Leadership can sound daunting if you let it. Whereas in reality, it is a proven way to build up our members, their knowledge and leadership skills, while experiencing success in our auxiliaries beyond our individual limited perceptions.

Please share your gains and success stories by reporting. We have 152 Auxiliaries. I believe it is possible for us to see 152 different success stories occurring in our department.

Respectfully,

Sandra Onstwedder

Sandra Onstwedder

Department Mentoring for Leadership Chairman

2597 Heartland Blvd. #4

Ionia, Michigan 48846 616-835-7126 osandi25@hotmail.com

**MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT VFW AUXILIARY
SCHOLARSHIPS BULLETIN
July 2023**

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 Summer!

NEW! NEW! NEW!

For those of you who were not at the June Conference School of Instruction, we have some exciting news:

The Smart/Maher National Citizenship Education Teacher of the Year program is now part of the Scholarship program.

As with the other programs in this chairmanship, it is important to do the following:

1. Participate by delivering or mailing brochures to local schools.
2. Recognize all schools and entries that participate with a certificate or get together.
3. Promote the program on social media and other community locations.

Entries are due to your local post by Oct 31, District Nov 15, and Department Dec 15, 2023. Please make sure all of the required paperwork is included with your entry to avoid disqualification. You may report this in the **OTHER** section on the Scholarship Program reporting.

Question of the Month: How many words should the PP essay be? 300-400 words

If you are reporting that you read and discussed your bulletin, please report that under the **OTHER** sections as well. Utilize the drop-down menu to assist you with what needs to be reported for this chairmanship.

August is a good time to send out VOD/PP information to schools. If you are a techy, download the brochures and email them to school staff emails that you can find on the school's website. Please make sure you identify who you are, where you are from, why they are receiving the information and an accurate contact for you if there are any questions.

SCHOLARSHIPS BULLETIN

August-2023

Participation - Recognition - Program Awareness - Scholarship Fund Building

Hello!

Summer is almost over, and it's back to school time. Time to promote all of our scholarship programs. Patriotic Art may take months to complete.

Do you have a scholarship fund at your post? This would be a great time to do a fundraiser to build your local awards and recognition funds up. Don't forget to make motions to send in your donations for the Department Scholarship funds for VOD, PP and Patriotic Art.

Teacher of the Year information should be sent out as well this month. This award can go to elementary, middle and high school teachers.

Reminder: If you are reporting that you read and discussed your bulletin, please report that under the **OTHER** sections as well. Utilize the drop-down menu to assist you with what needs to be reported for this chairmanship.

Questions of the month: How long does the Voice of Democracy recording need to be? Answer: 3-5 minutes

What grades can enter the Patriotic Art Contest? Answer: 9th - 12th.

I have a new email for all scholarship questions and communications.

Denise Arnold
Dept. of MI Scholarship Chairman
989-621-0327
scholarmi23.24@gmail.com

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT VFW AUXILIARY YOUTH ACTIVITIES BULLETIN JULY 2023

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Youth Activities Michigan

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans

Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us



CAMP TROTTER has started! (5 weeks starting July 9 & ending August 12. Campers are making memories, making friendships for a lifetime, and enjoying the out of doors as you read this bulletin! Don't forget to ask the parents of campers from your Post to take pictures and share them on the VFW Auxiliary Youth Activities

Facebook page and the Camp Trotter Facebook page. This is a great way to promote Camp for next year! Please get the word out to visit **FAMILY DAY AT CAMP TROTTER ON AUGUST 19! See it all for Yourself! Then Promote it!**

Suggestions for donating to Camp Trotter: Does your Auxiliary have a 50/50 drawing at your meeting? Why not have a second drawing with a Camp Trotter Life Membership as a prize – or have a membership recruitment drawing for those that have recruited new members and give a Camp Trotter Life Membership as a prize. What a great way to work together with Membership, Youth Activities, helping Camp Trotter and promoting your Auxiliary! Life memberships are \$50.00 and need to include a form found on the www.camp Trotter.org website. Donations are also welcome and part of your chairmanship points. Please ear mark you donation to the General Fund (so it can be used for anything needed at the camp). Both Life Memberships and Donations are sent to Dept. of MI 924 N. Washington Ave Lansing, Michigan 48906 - NOT to the Camp.

It's still not to late to hold a "Summer Safety Fun Fest" with a Bike Safety rodeo, games, etc. Why not partner with your town Fire Department and Police Department – this also give you an "Outreach" to helping the community – always display how the youth of the community can participate in **ALL** the VFW Auxiliary programs. Working together with other programs helps promote more of our VFW Auxiliary Programs to the Community.

Make sure you get the information to the schools early about the "Illustrating America Program" (K – 8th grades) ask the Scholarship Chairman to include information about the Patriotic Art program, (9-12th grades) include the "Red, White, & Blue" K-12)Program and **ALL** the things the Youth can participate in with the VFW Auxiliary and the Importance of learning about Veterans and how they can help honor Veterans.

Let your community know they can be part of "Banding Together for Our Veterans" because we consider "Our Veterans the Angels Among Us"



YOUTH ACTIVITIES BULLETIN

AUGUST 2023



THINK OF YOUR VFW AUXILIARY AS A FAMILY & ORGANIZE A “FAMILY” TRIP TO FAMILY DAY AT CAMP TROTTER ON AUGUST 19! See the Camp & take a ride on the pontoon on beautiful Bills Lake, play games, try your hand at archery, explore – make a memory, enjoy the day & be a kid again!! Then Promote by experience!

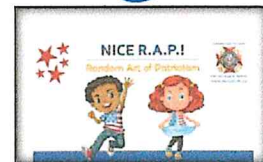
School will be starting pretty soon and some students need help with school supplies. Organize a “School Supply Collection” and then put the supplies collected in Back Packs – include a flyer with all the programs available through the VFW Auxiliary Programs along with forms needed. Another great supply to include is an age appropriate “Patriotism Through Literacy” Book, include these books in your count for this program on your reporting – be sure to include how many given.



Ask Elementary Teachers or Librarian or even the Public Librarian to work with the Auxiliary to form a “Patriotism through Literacy Book Club”. Make up flyers explaining the program - When the student reads a book about Patriotism from the Library they get a point, at the end of a set time, they earn a small Patriotic prize. Include the cost of the prizes on your reporting.

Get ready for - Random Acts of Patriotism

Make copies of the R.A.P. cards from the pattern on the Dept. Aux. website or purchase RAP coins through the VFW Auxiliary Store and keep them with you – when you see a young person Say Thank you to a Veteran – salute the American Flag – Reading a Patriotic Book – etc. give a card to the child. KEEP REPORTING ALL YEAR HOW MANY YOU GIVE.



Use the internet, newspapers, flyers to Let your community know they can be part of “Banding Together for Our Veterans” because we consider “Our Veterans the Angels Among Us”



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