

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT VFW AUXILIARY
MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN
May 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

Even though it is the new year for bulletins, we are still in Diana's year for Membership until June 30th. It is important that we continue to work on our members that still haven't paid their annual membership. It would be a shame if we lost those that we have already recruited into our Auxiliaries. Check with the lapsed member and establish why their dues aren't up to date. There is still plenty of time to get them paid. So, please take the time and call, write, or even visit them. Invite them to an event that is taking place at your Post home. Remind them they matter as members of the Auxiliary, and they are equally as valuable and important as every other member.

Members might not be in good standing, but they still have 2 months to get their dues paid before they must start all over with a new app and show their DD214 paperwork all over again. We must remind them of this. We must remind them of WHY they joined. The purpose of helping our Veterans and their families, we can't do that unless we have volunteers to help with our projects that we do to promote our programs.

I would like to say, welcome to a new membership year, but our quest for membership should never really stop so there should not really be a start and stop but for argument's sake welcome to the auxiliary business year where this year we are going to be an "Incredible team" working for membership within our state and our Big Ten Conference. This year National has given an extra fun little challenge by giving each of the four conferences a different movie theme for an extra fun way we all work our respective membership programs. Please refer to the guide sheet for specifics.

Meanwhile from time to time there will be a "Superhero" reference based on our theme of the Incredibles which is a cartoon family with undercover superhero parents.

For our part here in Michigan I want us to focus on getting back to basics. The basics of why each of us are part of the VFW Auxiliary. What we can do to help serve this organization on any level and in any capacity. What each of us has to offer in the manner of a particular skill. "We must Band together for our Veterans" is a good National theme as I will lay out over the next few months how we really need to work together for our Veterans. After all, "Our Veterans are the Angels Among Us" and need and deserve to be honored and respected for everything that they have done and sacrificed for all our well beings so that we can have a safer and brighter future.

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The foundation or building blocks of this organization has been based on gathering likeminded people who care about veterans. We are a service group and there are many programs available to us to participate in. I fully believe in cross promoting all of the different programs that we have and feel this should be done as often as possible.

For example: Many posts have a Friday night dinner, ask your post if you can set up a small table with some literature on a couple of our programs or better yet work with them and both put out information on Membership, Buddy Poppies, Youth Scholarships and or art and singing contests. If your post/aux has multiple dinners, you could pick just one dinner a month to put this information on display and or change it up every time. The point is to get information out into the communities and to get people talking.

Well, here we are getting ready to Jump into Summer and all that entails. It is time to take advantage of all the upcoming summer type events held throughout your community and your own post homes. Take every opportunity you can and turn that into an advantage. Use these opportunities for auxiliary to get the word out that you are looking for new members. You should also be looking to reconnect with former or “forgotten” members. Reach out to them. Maybe plan a membership tea or “summer picnic”. Make it a time of talk and discussion on what these missing members might be needing to bring them back to meetings or getting them back on the rotation list for baked items for funerals or bake sales for dinners.

Maybe there were some hard feelings at one point and that person that has stepped back just needs to be asked back. The point is to find out what is going on in that member's life and see if there is anything the Auxiliary can do and possibly what they can do for the Auxiliary and get back involved. We need members to be involved and active, not just on the roster. Everyone has something at some time that they can contribute to, we just need to be conscious of what those abilities might be and to fully use them. We have to respect each other's differences and opinions, but we can and should all work together for the greater benefit of all Veterans.

With our Charter members or most senior members we should be reaching out and touching base with them just to let them know we are thinking of them and see if there is anything we could do for them. Most times this happens at Thanksgiving or Christmas but what about those unexpected times. Maybe on the 4th of July, Mother's or Father's Day, Halloween, or Easter? Form an “outreach membership group,” that sends out cards or makes phone calls and just says hello. Talking to these members is important and we need to show them that they are still important to your auxiliary.

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