

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT VFW AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN

January 2024

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!! First off, I hope everyone had safe and happy holidays with whatever you did. At this time of year our thoughts are often about renewal and rejuvenation of mind, body and spirit. That being said, I want to see us get rejuvenated with lots of effort and energy to reach our next goal or even better surpass it. We are into a new calendar year but not a new business year. We still have time to achieve the next level for our department and that is to be 98% by March 31st. I know this "Incredible Dept of Michigan" can and should be able to reach this goal or heck lets just make it 100% by then and we can breathe easy. You have sent out reminders by now and probably a couple of times so now you have to try to maybe do phone calls or facebook messages. Don't be intrusive by try to find out if there is a reason for that member not paying their dues. See if there is a way the auxiliary can help. Members who did not pay by December are not considered a "member in good standing". Dues must be paid to have any type of benefits like attending meetings and Cancer grants. If a member does not pay up by June 30, 2024 then they would actually have to refill out paperwork to REJOIN and go through the voting and initiation process all over. Please do not announce on your auxiliary floor who hasn't paid though because that could be very embarrassing to that individual. Treasures should make a list and handle it discreetly. If one auxiliary member wants to help a particular person then that person could ask the treasure if that one is paid and go from there. Just be kind and respectful because we don;t know what the members particular financial issues might be and that is the last thing we want to do is alienate that member on top of dues issues. Encourage life membership. Some auxiliaries I know hold a drawing once a year for either a discount or to pay one life membership for someone. Set up the rules and put them in your Standing rules. Like must attend at least 8 meetings a year or 6 meetings and volunteer/make something(funeral lunch/bake sale) and your name gets placed in the hat and one is drawn. You could do that or something similar for Camp Trotter and National home memberships. Talk to your members and see what works for the majority who attend meetings.

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MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN

February 2024

It's the month of "LOVE". Michigan shows lots of love for our Veterans in so many ways. The way members go into our VA centers and hospitals and play games and do activities with resident Veterans. We tend to do a lot during the "Winter holidays" but what about springtime? It might be a little cold out and our members and Veterans are not wanting to get out in this unpredictable michigan weather sometimes so it can get lonely in these last few months of winter so why not plan a Veterans Valentines dance or luncheon. Offer to carpool these members to your post home, set up fun decorations and music or games.

At least maybe do some "Valentines for Veterans". Do up some cards at your next meeting and address them or drop a note on the card and send them out even if it is after the actual Valentines day. Showing "love" for our Veterans should never be tied to a certain day or time of year.

How are you doing with any new members you got this year? have you asked them to participate in anything yet? Remember to get them to give them guidance on our organization and any particulars of your own auxiliary but then you need to let them "settle in". Don't brow beat them the second meeting in to take an office and three chairmanships. They need to feel wanted and not pressured. If we pressure ANY member we could lose them, and we need to continue to grow and strengthen our Auxiliaries. the Keep sending in reports and checking the guide sheet for anything you might not have gone over with members. There are only a couple more reporting months left but we must all keep pushing forward and continue to reconnect with members we have, retain members and recruit new members for the future of this organization. If your Auxiliary reaches 98% by March 31st you help the department but you are also in line for a \$25.00 to your specific Auxiliary and if you are 100% by June 30th then another \$25.00 will be heading your way. Don't forget the lights, Camera, Action pin for recruiting five new members they are really cool! Good Luck to you all and keep up the "INCREDIBLE work".

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