



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Membership Bulletin – June/July, 2024

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Membership-Michigan

National Theme: *From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to our Veterans*
Department Theme: *Aspire To Inspire*
Membership Theme: *America's Greatest Treasure*

PROGRAM GOALS

Invite New Members-Include Current Members-Invest in the Future of the Organization

Ahhh... the warm weather is FINALLY here!! Not only does the nicer weather bring us flowers and sunshine, but also places we can go to find potential VFW Auxiliary members.

I am hoping all Membership chairmen have a Membership board that shows all the work we do and how we honor our Veterans. You can go on my **Membership-Michigan** website on Facebook and you will see a picture of my board. Actually, I made up 3 boards. My hairdresser (and good friend) kindly allowed me to set a board up in her salon. If you have friends, or family that own local businesses....hit 'em up.

Now that you have your Membership board, there are flea markets, farmer markets, and yes... even garage sales. I personally recruited a new member when I set up my Membership poster board at a farmers' market last year. Yes, I WILL be going back this summer. Please, keep in mind that it is so important to carry an application (or 2) with you. Is your town having a 4th of July parade? That's a wonderful opportunity to hand out small flags, with your Auxiliary info wrapped around the stick. Or if they allow it, set up a Membership table.

Are you a grandparent watching your grandkids over the summer and take the little ones on walks thru their neighborhood? In the past, I made up flag appreciation certificates and handed them out along with info on the Auxiliary to the homeowners who flew the flag. It's all about getting the word out about how great our VFW Auxiliary is and how we HONOR our heroes... our Veterans.

The potential members are out there...we just have to go out and find them. Do your grocery stores have a community board? If yes, take a flyer that will include all the good we do, such as cancer grants, scholarships, care packages sent to our troops, sponsoring scout troops and events we do at the VA hospital and Veterans homes. Be sure to include your name, post number and location, and contact number.

In the Bylaws, every Auxiliary must form a Membership Committee. Please do that as soon as possible. But that doesn't mean only those on the committee will do the work. Oh No. It is up to each one of us to be actively looking to recruit. But, not only recruiting is important...we must RETAIN our current members. Also, go back in your files, and look at the dropped members. Contact them. Maybe the reason they dropped is no longer an issue. At your next meeting, have each member write down family members that are NOT in the Auxiliary, but are eligible. Go Get 'EM!!!! EX: If you joined under your grandfather, your cousins are also eligible. Then, the next month ask them to report on their progress.

One of the most important things I learned as the NCRT a few years ago is this...IF YOU DON'T ASK, THE ANSWER IS ALWAYS NO. So, what do you have to lose? Just ask. There's a 50/50 chance you will get a YES. And if you get a NO, move on to the next one. I have gotten many, many no's, but I have also gotten many yes's.

I hope you read my guide sheet. National has several awards for Auxiliaries and members. The top recruiter drawn will get a \$500.00 Visa Gift card!!

I also have several monetary awards for Auxiliaries and members!! I firmly believe in rewarding people who work hard.

If you are having a Membership drive and want me to come to help out, please let me know asap. Also, District presidents, I'd be happy to help you out if my schedule permits. So far, I have two District meetings on my books.

If there is anything I can do to help you please let me know. (I LOVE texting.) I know we all want to get our Auxiliaries to 101% PLUS for President Jane Dady. Michigan is a great State and I know we can and WILL do it.

We all can "Aspire to Inspire "

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