



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary

MICHIGAN CONNECTION #1

June/July, 2024

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Auxiliary VFW – Michigan

517-487-3715 (Office)

517-487-9044 (FAX)

National Theme: From Our Roots to Our Branches

Extending Service to Our Veterans

Department Theme: Aspire to Inspire

Congratulations to the newly elected Department Officers and the 24-26 National District Council Member. Since this is published before the Convention, watch our Department's Facebook page for election results.

To dispel any rumors, the Department Office will remain open Monday – Thursday and closed on Fridays. The Secretary and Treasurer will work out a schedule so that the office is covered on those days. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

Jane's Corner

I am excited to begin the new administrative year. Thank you for your support and confidence you have placed in me as I serve as your Department President. My focus, this year, is on the needs of our veterans and recognizing our members.

I am very thrilled for our Department Chairmen as they all have great ideas and are eager to promote our programs. With our Officers, District Presidents, and Chairmen, we have a fantastic group all the way around!

Congratulations and welcome back to Cindy Peto. She will be serving as the Department Assistant Secretary until July 1 then she will resume the duties of Department Secretary. Congratulations to Cathy Sasse on her election as Department Treasurer. She has been the Assistant Treasurer since January for training purposes and has done a great job. Every effort is being made to make this a smooth transition and we ask for your patience as they both get acclimated to their new roles, and they are ready and excited to assist you with your needs.

Deb Hanes is the new Web/Facebook Chairman. Her knowledge and expertise will be an asset to our Department Office.

I want to thank Nicole and Sandi for their service and wish them the best in their future endeavors.

Chief of Staff (Extension and Revitalization)

Healthy Auxiliary Due Dates/Reminders

If you have not done so, Department is requesting that Reports of Installation be entered into MALTA by June 15 and copies sent to Department and your District President. In addition, Department will need a copy of your appointed chairmen.

The President at all levels is reminded to submit to their respective Commanders, within thirty (30) days after installation into office, the last quarterly audit and membership status report.

Bonds will not be available to purchase in MALTA until after July 1 and purchased by August 31. The cost of the bond and the amount covered by the bond must be approved by the body and entered in the Secretary's minutes. Bonds are to be completed by August 31, or the Auxiliary will be subjected to a Suspension.

The second quarterly audit report for April, May, June, is to be completed by July 31, approved by the Auxiliary vote, and submitted to Department by August 31.

What is a Mentor? A Mentor is ALL of us. In some shape or fashion, we are all Mentors to each other. Some have excellent knowledge of the Bylaws, some have knowledge of the National and Department Programs, and some are experienced in the overall workings of the Auxiliary all the way from the local level to the National level. We need to be receptive to listening to each other and learning from those individual strengths.

I encourage each of you to strive to be the best you can be in whatever aspect of the Auxiliary that makes you the happiest even if it's just making a craft item for the local hospital/nursing home or baking something to have for an upcoming Post and/or Auxiliary function or to have as a treat after your Auxiliary Meeting.

Jan Passmore
Department Chief of Staff

2024-2025 Changes

Bulletins will be bi-monthly beginning with June/July.

Department Program Facebook pages will continue for this administrative year.

Congratulations to PDP Deb Hanes, who has been appointed Chairman of the website team, which includes Cindy Peto and Cathy Sasse. Updates and possibly some minor changes will be made, so please be patient. We will NOT be making any changes to the process of reporting programs!

The Road Show Trainings are back!!! Keep watch on our Department's website and Facebook page for locations and dates.

Upcoming Events

The National Convention is from July 27 to August 3 in Louisville, Kentucky. We look forward to hearing all the fantastic awards the 23-24 team accomplished during the year. Rock-on Michigan!

Michigan Day at the VFW National Home will be August 11. Additional information will be available in the June/July "Buddy" ® Poppy/National Home Bulletin on our Department's website. We look forward to a successful and well-attended event.

By Order of:

Jane Dady

Jane Dady
Department President

Cindy Peto

Cindy Peto
Department Secretary

MOVING FORWARD IN 2024





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

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Americanism-Michigan

National Theme: *From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans*
Department Theme: *Aspire to Inspire*

Hello Chairman, welcome to another exciting year for Americanism and Patriotism. As you can tell this year is slightly different with doing two bulletins in one so we will be doubling the info and doubling the dates to remember and honor. Please consult your guide sheet for all the different awards to be earned this year. I hope to "Aspire to Inspire" you to be thoughtful and creative in your Patriotic endeavors throughout the year. In turn I would also like to have you share with me either on the Facebook page or in reporting how your Auxiliary is honoring or recognizing Patriotism in your specific communities. We just passed Memorial Day but please still share those activities.

When you have those community gatherings at post dinners or membership drive booths make a poster and list some of the lesser-known holidays that will be coming up. By this, you share with the community that we as a Veterans organization take these occasions seriously and want to respect and honor those dates. What about a community fair? Get together with your post to split the cost and get a table or two and have that info available along with some of our youth contests. The more we can get the word out about our organization and what we stand for and represent we will all benefit. May we all get back to being true Red, White and Blue!

JUNE

14th – **Flag Day** - our "Stars and Stripes" flag was recognized by Congress in 1777

14th - the US ARMY was founded 1775

22nd - *Pledge of Allegiance recognized by Congress 1942*

22nd - *G.I. bill signed into law 1944*

JULY

2nd - *Us Army Air Corp established*

4th - **Independence Day** - 1776 forefathers signed Declaration of Independence

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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Bulletin - June/July, 2024

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Auxiliary Outreach-Michigan

National Theme: *From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans*
Department Theme: *Aspire to Inspire*

Auxiliary Outreach is members of the Auxiliary going out into the community and working or assisting other organizations. We can achieve this on an individual or group basis. Working with our community benefits everyone. We are able as Auxiliary members to reach out in our community outside our Post and assist with our knowledge and skills.



ASPIRE TO INSPIRE OUR COMMUNITY

We have so many ways to reach out to our community. Here are some ideas to help your Auxiliary reach some goals:

- Google local community activities on the internet to see what's happening in your area
- Local Police, Fire, and EMT
- Homeless Shelters, Soup Kitchens & Food Pantries
- Libraries and Local Schools for program assistance (Summer Programs)
- Youth Organizations
- Senior Centers
- Hospice and Shelterhouse Homes
- Habitat for Humanity and other community family projects
- Hospitals – Doctors, Nurses and assistants
- When Driving in your area look for signs of events that may be a window of opportunity to assist the community

When working with these organizations for the Auxiliary Outreach program be sure that the member(s) volunteering is wearing a VFW Auxiliary item. It can be a shirt, hat, jacket or name tag. Smile and be proud to wear them with pride, as we may never know who we will run into. Also take pictures of your events. I would love to share them on our Facebook page. Remember the National Award wants a photo collage of all of your great community events throughout the 24-25 year. Finally, it is considered Auxiliary Outreach if the Project was approved by the Auxiliary and must be recorded in the meeting minutes prior to the project. On rare occasions such as a natural Disaster or emergency community need, the project may be voted on after the fact. All it takes is one Auxiliary

member volunteering to count. When reporting please report the number of members, hours and miles used to assist the event. I look forward to working with everyone and excited to read all the fantastic reports on your community events. With the Convention coming up May 29th thru June 1st please stop and introduce yourself and ask any questions as needed. I want to thank Jane Dady, Department President for this opportunity to be your Auxiliary Outreach Department Chairman. Good Luck to everyone for the 2024-2025 year. Let's make it awesome!!!

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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary "Buddy"® Poppy/National Home Bulletin - June/July 2024

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: "Buddy"® Poppy/VFW National Home-Michigan

Congratulations to our all our new "Buddy"® Poppy/VFW National Home chairman for this upcoming year! I am very excited and blessed to be able to do this program again and work with all of you. The real winner through all of this is our beloved National Home and the benefits that come from that small and mighty flower we call the "Buddy"® Poppy.

As you begin your program year, the first thing you need to do is look over the Guide Sheet for this program. It consists of information pertaining to this program as well as a list of achievements. You will want to take a good look over the achievements that are listed as they will be the goals you will need to achieve and report on this program year. From that list, you can get an idea of what you need to do and begin planning your program year this month.

Another resource you should look at as you begin your program year is the VFW Auxiliary National Program Book. This online book is available at vfwauxiliary.org. This year's National Ambassador, Jodie Hollinger, will highlight the program goals as well as share valuable information about the "Buddy"® Poppy and the VFW National Home. This year, she would like us to conduct an activity and/or event to educate their community about the VFW "Buddy"® Poppy. In addition, she would like us to conduct an activity and/or event to recognize and celebrate the VFW National Home's 100th Birthday. These programs are critical in making a difference for veterans and their families. Again, resources that you will need to use to help you can be found at vfwauxiliary.org as well as our department website, vfwauxmi.org. Throughout the year, I will also be giving you suggestions to help you accomplish these goals.

"Buddy"® Poppy Program

Need supplies to get started?! Visit the vfwstore.org for all your "Buddy"® Poppy merch. If you don't already have some, you will need to order poppies from your Department Headquarters. Don't forget to check out the "Buddy"® Poppy Chairman's Manual. The manual can be found at <https://vfwauxiliary.org/resources/>. This manual offers a brief history of the "Buddy"® Poppy and how it became an integral part of the VFW Community. It also contains planning ideas, guidelines, ways to overcome adversity, how to order and why recognition is so important. A key point to remember as you begin your "Buddy"® Poppy program is to be enthusiastic. The enthusiasm you demonstrate will inspire others to jump on board to support this great campaign of helping veterans and their families. Remember, never refuse someone a poppy because they are not able to contribute as poppies are distributed, not sold!



It was so great seeing so many out there for the "Buddy"® Poppy Drive in May. From what I have heard and seen; it was a successful event! I know it has been hard these last couple of years getting out into our community, but it appears the climate is starting to change. Thank you for stepping out in your communities and promoting this important program!

VFW National Home

This year the VFW National Home is celebrating their 100th birthday. This year will be focused on promoting and celebrating the big occasion. Along with this celebration, Auxiliaries will be asked to send the VFW National Home a birthday card before January – more to come on this. The VFW National Home has quite a few new opportunities to help support them and commemorate the year. To properly aid in your program year and the dissemination of information, please check out the VFW National Home website at <https://vfwnationalhome.org/>. Here you can find great information about the National Home. Be sure to take notes and prepare yourself to educate, spread awareness and promote the National Home in your community.

There are a few ways that you can start supporting the National Home now and with relative ease.

- Become a **Home Front Hero** and commit to a monthly donation, personally or your Auxiliary.
- Kroger Community Rewards - Visit krogercommunityrewards.com/group to sign up. The group ID # for the National Home is #79329.

2025
A Year to Remember



100th Anniversary Events

January 7, 2025

Original Birthday Party Celebration
VFW National Home

February 8, 2025

Black Tie Event
VFW National Home

March 9, 2025

Pollet House Dedication / Ribbon Cutting
VFW National Home

June 28, 2025

100th Birthday Party
VFW National Home

August 9-14, 2025

VFW National Convention
Columbus, Ohio

We hope to see you there!

VFW National Home Michigan Day

If you have never been to Michigan Day, I encourage you to come and check it out! The VFW National Home Michigan Day will be August 11th from 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. It is a great day, and fun for family and friends. Please share this special day with everyone you know and bring at least one friend to share it with.

Don't forget to join our Facebook page at "Buddy"® Poppy/VFW National Home-Michigan to stay up-to-date on current happenings!

Christine LeBrun, "Buddy"® Poppy/VFW National Home Chairman
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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Historian/Media Relations Bulletin - June/July, 2024

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Historian / Media Relations - Michigan

National Theme: *From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans*

Department Theme: *Aspire to Inspire*

Congratulations on becoming the Historian / Media Relations Chairman. You are the person who will collect your Auxiliary's photos, awards and activity documentation. You are the Historian of the Auxiliary. These items will be put together to make a Historian Book of your President's year and help promote your Auxiliary. The Historian Book is one of the Achievement Goals and everything that you collect through the year will also help with the other goals. Get familiar with Malta Historian / Media Relations information and tools, then educate members of your Auxiliary what is available and where to find the tools to help you. When you attend the School of Instruction at your District Meeting, Fall Conference, or Mid-Winter Conference you get credit for attending plus pick up on ideas you may have not considered. Everything we do for our Veterans, Auxiliary, Post and Community are promotional events to get us out in the public and member's eye to get them to want to be more involved with our mission, OUR VETERANS!

Let's Get Acquainted:

Malta is located under the National VFW Auxiliary website: vfwauxiliary.org

If you have not activated your account yet, please do so. When you are in the website: sign in => Member Resources => Historian / Media Relations. Explore all the options and get acquainted with everything that is available. You won't use all, but you will know where to find what you might use.

The Department of Michigan VFW Auxiliary website also has a lot of Malta's information plus additional information: vfwauxmi.org

When you are into the website: Tap Programs=>Historian / Media Relations. Explore all the options so your familiar with what is offered.

Media:

Make sure everyone knows what your Auxiliary is all about. Promote what you do! The more we show, the more people will want to join us. Be the messenger! Our Facebook pages and websites are great places to get that message out. Post and take pride in your efforts, take the credit. We work hard to help our Veterans and we want everyone to know about our Veterans. We are benefitting our Veterans by promoting our Auxiliary, showing the work we do with our community and youth, and showing people how they can help with legislation.



Include in Your Message:

When putting out your message always tell your audience “What” Activity and “Who” was involved, then your “Where” location and “When” you did it, and most of all the “Why”! If the 5W’s are included the complete story is told. Working with the community gets us out in the public eye. Getting seen brings questions like “What does your group do?” Let us educate those who do not know us. When working with other organizations we always want to give credit to those who help us with our cause and those we help with their cause. No one knows us and what we do unless we tell them. Communicate, Communicate, and Communicate.

Enjoy all your Auxiliary and Post events and make sure everyone else does also through your postings. You hold the keys to what others know about us.

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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Hospital Bulletin - June/July 2024

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Hospital-Michigan

National Theme: *From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans*
Department Theme: *Aspire to Inspire*

As we come into the summer months, let's look forward to new ways to work on our Hospital programs and think outside the box on how we can accomplish that.

One way could be to find some unique unofficial holidays to use as themes for our hospital work. June 1st, we have Men's Health Month, Wear Blue Day, National Heimlich Maneuver Day, National Eyewear Day, and Hot Air Balloon Day. June 13th is National Career Nurses' Assistants Day. July 3rd is National Stay Out of the Sun Day. Take an unusual, unofficial holiday using that theme for visiting veteran patients, parties at veterans' homes, VA CLC, etc. Or create your own unique theme.

To accomplish these parties and events for our hospitalized and nursing home veterans, we need more volunteers so we need to **RECRUIT**. This is the time to begin your search for new volunteers to have more helping hands to help serve our veterans. This 2024-2025 year we have a very special award to each Auxiliary who recruits five new hospital volunteers. Invite your friends, family, and youth to come along on your hospital visits and show them how much fun and rewarding volunteering is for our Nation's best – our veterans.

After your hospital work, you then need to **REPORT!** Let's not just give a sentence or two, hours and money spent. Just as you think outside the box to utilize new ways to work this program, when writing your report let us know how you came up with the idea, how you planned for it and lots of details on what was easy or difficult about it, and what you might do differently.

Reporting is important, however, just as important is **RECOGNIZING** the Auxiliary brothers and sisters for the hospital work they do. It is important to recruit; however, retaining those volunteers is vital to keep our hospital program going for our veterans. Have a special recognition event, use the Volunteer Appreciation Certificates available on MALTA, keep track of their hours and use the VFW Store to get the Volunteer Hour Service Pins. Recognition is equally important as working the program, getting volunteers and reporting.

Did you know each Auxiliary can be a MASH unit? More details in the next bulletin, so stay tuned.

If you have any questions, suggestions, and ideas, let me know.

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

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Legislative-Michigan

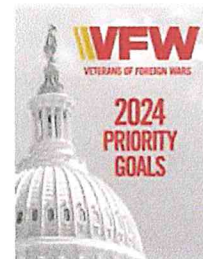
National Theme: *From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans*
Department Theme: *Aspire to Inspire*

Program Goals

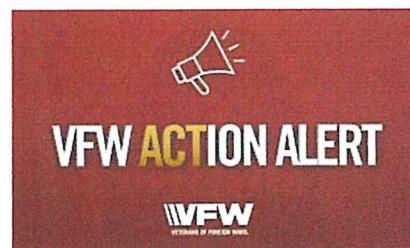
Be an Advocate - Be Informed - Be Engaged

Greetings and Happy June! As we begin another year of advocacy for our veterans, I would like to thank each and every one of you for undertaking this most important mission called the Legislative Program. For those of you who are familiar with our Program, Welcome back! For those of you who are new to the organization, first time chairmen or you just want to be more informed about the program, please visit <https://vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do-/legislative/> for a wealth of knowledge and tools.

VFW Priority Goals: The 2024 VFW priority Goals can be found at: <https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service>. This page will explain, in detail, the priority goals. On the left-hand side of the page, you can click on the priority goals brochure and print it off. Share with your members as well as your Post members. Work in conjunction with your Post counterpart and have them available at your Post as well as any other displays you may have.



VFW Action Corps Weekly: This is a free weekly newsletter that provides up-to-date legislative information and what is happening in Washington, DC. It will also let us know if we need to "Take Action" on any bills in the House &/or Senate. Anyone can sign up for this newsletter but **every** Auxiliary & Post member should be signed up. Sign up at <https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts>.



Communication With Your Legislators: Don't know who your legislators are? You can access your State Legislators by going to www.Michiganlegislature.org. Your U.S. representatives are available at www.senate.gov and www.house.gov. Get on their webpages and sign up for their newsletters. They share whenever they are working or attending a veteran affair/issue.

With elections approaching, check to see if any candidates or current representatives are holding town hall meetings. Invite them to your soup supper or burger night. Inquire where they stand on veteran issues. Remember, we are non-partisan; equal time for all parties.

When communicating with your legislators, remember to report who the representative is, the topic, if it is a bill, report the number of the bill & the title. Always thank them for their support of our veteran.

I would like to continue our past Dept Chair Aileen's push for a military cemetery in the Upper Peninsula. We are looking at KI Sawyer Air Base as a potential site. I will have petitions available at Dept Convention for you to sign. You can certainly start your own & send them to: State Representative Jenn Hill at: JennHill@house.mi.gov. I will post info on the Legislative Facebook page as soon as I have access.



I am looking forward to a wonderfully productive year. Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. If I don't immediately have an answer for you, I will find someone who will. Please familiarize yourself with the Legislative Guide Sheet and don't forget to REPORT!!!

Respectfully Submitted,

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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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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Program Pins Bulletin – June/July, 2024

www.vfwauxmi.org

National Theme: *From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans*

Department Theme: *Aspire to Inspire*

GOOD MORNING, GOOD AFTERNOON OR POSSIBLY GOOD EVENING! Let me introduce myself to all of my brothers and sisters of the VFW Auxiliary. I am Ruth Barnhill from the 4th District, Auxiliary #6695, in Plymouth, MI. I will be your Pin chairman for another year, and I am delighted to represent our President, Jane Dady in handling the Program Pins for the 24-25 year.

I just know that ALL of you are going to love the pins. Jane's design this year is called "AMERICA'S GREATEST TREASURE", and the design of the pin is a Treasurer Chest. Inside the chest are Empty Boots, symbolizing "All of the Veterans who have Served in the Past". There is also a POW/MIA symbol, for those who have NOT come home. The chest is filled with Dog Tags and on top of the Dog Tags are the logos of all the branches of the service. On the side of the chest are the letters R.E.D. for "Remember Everyone Deployed". Altogether the chest symbolizes "America's Greatest Treasure – OUR VETERANS!" ALL PROCEEDS from the pins will be going to the National Home in Eaton Rapids.

I will start selling PINS at our Convention in June in Kalamazoo. I will be at the registration table Thursday, Friday, and Saturday until the Elections start in the afternoon, so I won't be hard to find.

Cost of the Program Pin remains at \$2.00 per pin. That is a real bargain since everything else we purchase seems to have gone up in price. For \$50.00 you can get 25 pins, for \$100.00 you can get 50 pins. There is no actual mandatory limit of what you can purchase, but we are asking that each Auxiliary try to get at least 25 pins. Now don't forget to bring your check for whatever amount your Auxiliary has planned on purchasing. We're asking that you pay when you pick them up, but if you forget or can't connect with your Treasurer to obtain a check, I will put you on the honor system to send ME the check when you get back to your Auxiliary. One more thing, if you could fill out the pin request form ahead of time and get it to me, I'll have your pins bagged and waiting for you to pick up. Please keep in mind, that although you pay \$2.00 per pin, you will get that \$2.00 back when you sell the pin, so your Auxiliary isn't out that money.

Again, this year, I will be mailing pins to you quickly if you need to order them after convention. We will be adding on a \$5.00 charge for mailing because of the postage that just seems to be going up and up, so try to pick them up at Convention, if possible. You can call me: 734-233-8121 anytime and I will take your order and mail the pins. PLEASE send all Checks to me, using the address below, BUT PLEASE, make your CHECKS PAYABLE TO: MI DEPT. VFW AUXILIARY. I'm looking forward to seeing all your smiling faces!

Ruth Barnhill (A.K.A. Raffle Ruthie)
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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Scholarship Bulletin – June/July 2024

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Scholarships-Michigan

National Theme: From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans
Department Theme: Aspire to Inspire

Student Participation – Recipient Recognition – Community Awareness – Increasing the Fund



Welcome to the 2024-25 VFW Auxiliary Program year. I am honored to be your Scholarship Chairman again this year. I know this year working with President Jane and all the Michigan members will provide another successful year.

The goals presented by our National Ambassador are to encourage our students to participate and then recognize all that participated not just the winners. We need to bring more community awareness to each of our programs. **Promotion is key!** Providing donations to the escrow accounts will help keep these program awards growing.

As we are approaching summer break from school, it is not too early to get the information out to our youth. Anywhere you see students, tell them about all our programs including the ones under the Youth Chairmanship. Please review the new guide sheet for this year's goals. I will be discussing these in later bulletins, the training day at the June convention and at the Fall conference.

Scholarship Programs:

- Voice of Democracy 9th -12th grade
- Patriot's Pen 6th - 8th grade
- Continuing Education Auxiliary family members, age 21 and older attending advanced educational training.
- Young American Creative Patriotic Art 9th - 12th grade
- 3-Dimensional Art 9th – 12th grade

Themes for this year:

Voice of Democracy (VOD): Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?

Patriot's Pen (PP): My Voice in America's Democracy?

Rules/regulation and entry forms will be available on the department website, or you may purchase them from the VFW store. www.vfwstore.org

While not a scholarship but a very important part to education is the Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award Citation for Elementary, Middle and High School teachers and their schools. TOY was added to the Scholarship program last year.

Due Dates:

- VOD/PP/TOY: Post - October 31, 2024, District - November 15, 2024, and Department - December 15, 2024
- Patriotic Arts and 3-D Art: March 31, 2025, post, Department April 15, 2025.
- Continuing Education: Feb 15, 2025

Each month I will promote 1-2 of our scholarships or TOY programs. I am here to help you with anything you may need for this chairmanship. Being a teacher, I know how important it is to encourage our youth. They are our future leaders. Remember the VOD/PP/TOY are VFW programs. We should be working closely with our posts, assisting them with the promotion, recognition, and funding of each of these programs. Meet with your VFW post chairman this summer to see how you can help them.

Denise Arnold
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989-621-0327
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UNWAVERING SUPPORT



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Veterans & Family Support Bulletin - June/July, 2024

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Veterans and family Support-Michigan

National Theme: *From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans*
Department Theme: *Aspire to Inspire*

Our National Veterans & Family Support Ambassador Evan Smiley, is challenging all of our Auxiliary members to be innovative thinkers, be creative and be like a shark in water that needs to survive by: **Always Keep Moving Forward!**

June is Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Month with June 27th being Post Traumatic Stress Awareness Day. Post Traumatic Stress can ultimately lead to suicide if not diagnosed or treated. Some Post Traumatic Stress Disorder symptoms are:

- Being easily startled
- Feeling tense, on guard or on edge
- Having difficulty concentrating
- Having trouble sleeping or staying asleep
- Feeling irritable and having angry or aggressive outbursts
- Engaging in risky, reckless or self-destructive behaviors (alcohol or other substance abuse)

Because our veterans have been trained to hide their emotions, it is important for us to make a difference in the lives of our veterans or service members who may be in crisis by educating ourselves and others about the warning signs of suicide, and by helping to change the conversation and social stigma surrounding mental health in the United States.

Veterans Crisis Line

- Call **1 800 MyVA411** to access all VA departments
- Call **988** and press **1**
- Chat online at **veteranscrisisline.net** or
- Send a text message to **838255**

More Mental Wellness Support and Resources

- **VFW Mental Wellness Campaign** vfw.org/assistanve/mental/wellness
- **The Campaign to Change Direction** changedirection.org
- **Give an Hour** giveanhour.org
- **Patients Like Me** patientslikeme.com/join/vfw

The topic of **Suicide Awareness and Mental Health for Veterans, Military and their Families** directly ties into this year's National Award Opportunity for your Auxiliary; so start brain storming, planning, and thinking about how your Auxiliary can put together an activity or event to increase awareness of suicide and mental health for veterans, military and their families. Please review your Veterans & Family Support **Guide Sheet** often and don't hesitate contacting me for any questions or concerns you may have. My contact information is on your V&FS guide sheet and V&FS bulletins.

Hopefully this Independence Day on July 4, you will be able to spend time with your veteran and or family. Whether or not veterans or active military are home safe or currently deployed elsewhere, there are a few good ways to support our heroes and their families by donating to these organizations:

VFW Veterans & Military Support Programs

Veterans & Military Support contains programs initiated by the VFW-Military Assistance Program or MAP, Unmet Needs, and the VFW "Sports Clip Help A Hero Scholarship." These programs serve active duty and recently discharged military. Donate online at vfw.org/ways-to-help, select Veterans & Military Support, click "contribute". You may also donate by mail by sending funds to the VFW earmarked for Veterans & Military Support. Mail Check to:

VFW National Headquarters
Attn: Veterans & Military Support
406 W. 34th Street, 9th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111

Military Assistance Program (MAP) Funds Ways to Connect with Troops

MAP helps VFW and Auxiliary members give more to their local military units. It helps forge and nurture bonds with those units by providing financial assistance for Posts, Districts, and Departments to sponsor morale-boosting send offs, homecomings, and casual get-togethers. Post and Auxiliaries participating in Adopt-a-Unit and Family Readiness Group events can also receive assistance. MAP keeps care packages circulating by covering postage costs.

For guidelines on how to apply for MAP funds, contact the VFW Veterans & Military Support office at 816 756 3390.

***** Review your Guide Sheet, Don't forget to Report and Thank You!**

Scott Collins
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Negaunee, MI 49866
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scott.collins@negauneeschools.org



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Youth/Camp Trotter Bulletin – June/July 2024

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Youth Activities/Camp Trotter - Michigan

National Theme: *From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans*
Department Theme: *Aspire to Inspire*

Youth:

It's planning meeting time! Start working together with your team to identify different youth groups you can work with during this program year. How can you incorporate the youth groups into all the chairmanship areas? You can also begin planning events youth groups can participate in to go towards "Youth Groups Supporting our Veterans." Combine Patriotism through Literacy by working with your local library to have a reading night where kids from the community or youth groups attend and read with veterans. Go one step further and donate the books that will be read. There are so many ways to begin connecting our kids to the heroes who walk among them. It is up to us to help kids understand what our Veterans have done for us.



As a reminder the Red, White, and Blue singing contest is no longer part of this program which gives us more time to focus on the many other areas of this program.

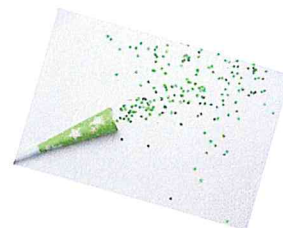
Please keep in mind the important dates of the Illustrating America contest. It is never too early to reach out to local schools to invite them to participate. Art is a process and giving kids more time to perfect their submission is always helpful!

Important Illustrating America Art Contest Dates:

- March 31 – Local Auxiliary
- April 15 – Submitted to Department
- May 5 – Submitted to National

Camp Trotter:

Camp Trotter is celebrating 75 years this year! What a wonderful treasure it is that we have among us.



Get those donations made early! Camp Trotter is coming up fast this summer with 4 weeks of camping. Remember that the camp is available for children ages 7-12 years old

and costs \$375/week this year. As you may know, the cost of housing a camper for the week is closer to \$500/week but to make camp more attainable for many families, Camp Trotter absorbs the cost. Your donations and help throughout the year make this possible. You'll also notice the cost this year has increased but in order to continue to have this asset available it was necessary. Sponsoring a kiddo, buying your life membership, and donating to the scholarship fund are all ways you can support this beautiful camp we are so fortunate to have here in Michigan.

Camp Trotter Camp Dates:

- Week 1 - July 7-13
- Week 2 - July 14 – 20
- Week 3 - July 21 – 27
- Week 4 - July 28 – Aug 3



Remember the 18th Annual Camp Trotter Golf Outing is Friday, June 14th at the Village Green Golf Club in Newaygo, Michigan. Registration has passed but you can still make donations that will all benefit the camping season!

Other Important Dates:

- **June 14** – Golf Outing
- **August 17** – Camp Trotter Family Day

Keep an eye out in the next bulletin for updates to the Silver Dollar Table at Fall Conference!

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