

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN

June/July 2026

www.vfwauxmi.org

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

National Theme: Serving America's Heroes

Department Theme: Leading with a Patriot's Heart

Welcome and congratulations to all our membership chairmen across this great state! I want to first take the time to introduce myself. My name is Christine Senko and I am your Department Membership Chairman. This is my first ride with this program, it seems big, scary and a little overwhelming due to the importance of what this topic is about. However, like everything in life, we should just take it one day at a time, show grace, support one another and we will finish this great race and reach that coveted checkered flag together and stronger than ever!

This year, Mr. President, Jason Manke, has a focus on racing for his membership theme. This is truly a great concept because it is a team mentality. We are all part of the great race, each with our own moving parts, talents, wisdom, dedication, respectfulness and perseverance to reach our membership goal. There is a great quote by the famous Dale Earnhardt Sr which states, "**The winner ain't the one with the fastest car, it's the one who refuses to lose.**" This quote reflects Earnhardt's philosophy that true victory is not just about speed or starting position, but about perseverance, mental toughness, and the will to push through adversity. While some Auxiliaries can get out of the gate faster than others due to Life Membership numbers and such, we all have the ability to reach the same goal, but we must stay the course, be prepared, don't allow personalities to deter each other and accept nothing less than winning!

The first goal this month in preparation for a successful year is to establish a plan. The should consist of the following:

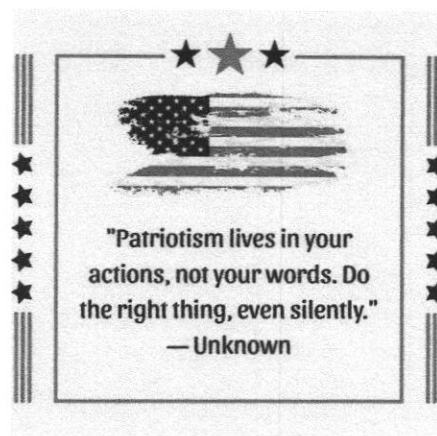
- ★ Establish a membership committee per our By-Laws.
 - Your committee should consist of five (5) Auxiliary members who are dedicated throughout this year to be fuel that is instrumental in achieving the year's membership goals.
- ★ Check out resources on Malta.
 - Under Member Resources, Membership has resources such as downloadable business cards, the Membership Eligibility Wheel, QR code and Membership Application.
- ★ Set Dates on your Membership Calendar.
 - Establish recruiting events. This would make it possible for members to renew their dues or convert to Life. This can be done in conjunction with your post.
 - Share to your members that they can renew under Malta!
- ★ Create!
 - Create your recruiting board to take to your events.
 - Create a new members tool kit.

July Bulletin

"A nation exists only in its patriots." – Ralph Waldo Emerson

The quote above captures the essence of leadership rooted in patriotism – that without people who are deeply committed to their country, a nation cannot truly endure. It emphasizes that true leadership comes from those who act with loyalty, courage, and a sense of duty to the principles and people they serve. This month, as we celebrate our great nation's birthday, take the opportunity to share who and what our organization represents. This can be done through tables, drives, and events (Fourth of July parade) throughout your community to recruit new members. Remember, you are the representative of this great organization, leading the charge to foster a community to advocate for our veterans and their families.

As we know, change on the Hill happens in numbers, our community can improve through volunteerism, and support is given by the hands and feet of our members!



To help begin your recruiting year, remember these key talking points on the benefits of membership:

- Support veterans, service members and their families.
- Develop new skills.
- Network and develop friendships that last a lifetime.
- Enjoy member benefits.

When opportunities arise, you should consider having a recruiting table to maximize membership recruitment. Suggestion of items to include:

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|---------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| - Table Cloth | - Membership Board | -Candy |
| - Small Flags | -Patriotic Items | -Small bottles of water |
| - Membership App | -Pens/Pencils | -Auxiliary Information |
| - Dept Program Pins | -Coloring Book/Crayons | -Buddy Poppy's |

I hope, together, we can lead with our Patriot's Heart to foster positive growth in our Department this year. Remember, to stay up-to-date, follow me on our Facebook page: Membership-Michigan. Any questions, please reach out to me!

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