



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
MICHIGAN CONNECTION #3
October/November 2026

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Auxiliary VFW – Michigan

517-487-3715 (Office)

517-487-9044 (FAX)

National Theme: Serving America's Heroes

Department Theme: Leading with a Patriot's Heart

Important Information:

1. Special Order No.064 Upon recommendation of the Department President and by order of the National President, the Charter of the Auxiliary to Marlette VFW Post No. 4837, Marlette, MI. is cancelled and declared defunct.
2. **Starting November 1st**, the Dept. Secretary and Dept. Treasurer will be working 100% remotely. Dept. Secretary will be down to the office periodically under the direction of the Dept. President. Treasurer's, **please use the Dept. Treasurer home address** when mailing to her 1117 Michigan St. Midland, MI. 48640 or email: mitreas@asiserve.net. Mailings for the Dept Secretary should go to 6468 Waubun Rd., Indian River, MI. 49749 or email: misec@asiserve.net. If you use fax or mail to the office after Nov. 1st then Dept. Sr. Jan Gelder will mail it once a week to us. Then mail takes another week to get to the Dept. Treasurer.

President - Jason's Corner

I would like to thank everyone who attended the National President Donna Mills banquet at the Owosso VFW Post 9455. A huge thanks to the Owosso VFW Auxiliary for cooking an awesome meal. Donna truly enjoyed her visit in Michigan and meeting a lot of our members. While Donna was here, we took her to the Michigan Hero's museum in Frankenmuth and to the Curwood Castle in Owosso. I would encourage our members to take a trip and visit the Michigan Hero's in Frankenmuth; this museum only shares the history of Michigan veterans and astronauts.

We welcome our newest Auxiliary, Shafer-Rachelle-Latham #6782 located in Eastpoint, District 5. I'm looking forward to seeing what great things this Auxiliary will be doing in the future. And I can't wait to see your Auxiliary at our Department Conferences.

Thank you to all the Auxiliaries for getting your bonds in on time.

I'm looking forward to seeing a lot of our members at the fall conference in Mt. Pleasant, where you will hear all about the national programs, then each chairman will have a table with handouts, and you'll be able to ask all of your questions. Friday evening will be our Bingo for the different baskets that each district is making. Saturday evening at fall conference will be the Halloween Party (costumes are suggested but not required). Our department officers will show up in costume, see if you can figure out who is who.

Don't forget on November 11th to tell our Veterans thanks for everything they did to give us our Freedom. I would like to wish all of our members a very Happy Thanksgiving, as you spend this holiday with your loved ones.

Healthy Auxiliary Reminders

- **990's are due November 15**, and a copy must be submitted to Department once completed. If you need assistance, please Contact Department Treasurer Cathy Sasse at 517-420-9342
- **Third quarterly Audit:** the months of July, August and September audit must be completed by **October 31, 2026** and Accepted Audit sent to the **Department Treasurer no later than November 20, 2026**
- **Auxiliary Elected Officers Must have their 2027 dues paid by December 31, 2026, or they will be removed.**

Upcoming Events

Oct 15-16 – Big Ten Conference, Kalamazoo Dept. Sec, Dept. Treas. Will be helping the VFW put this on.

Office will be closed Oct 14-18 but will have our Office phones with us.

Oct 28- Nov 1 – Fall Conference, Mt. Pleasant Office will be closed as Staff will be there, but will have office phones with them.

Nov. 11 – Veterans Day Office is closed to observe the holiday.

Nov. 26- 27 – Thanksgiving office is closed to observe the holiday.

- **The Dept. Offices will be closed Oct. 15-16, 2026, for the Big Ten Conference, Oct 12, 2026, for Columbus Day, and Oct. 28- Nov. 1, 2026, for Fall Conference. Dept. Sec. and Dept. Treas. will have Dept. phones, on at the two Conference to assist you in anyway.**
- **The Office of Dept. Secretary and Dept. Treasurer will be closed November 11, for Veterans Day and November 26 for Thanksgiving Day.**

By Order of:

Jason Manke

Jason Manke

Department President

Edna Kiviniemi (Kevin - knee- me)

Edna Kiviniemi

Department Secretary

Awards from the National Convention. Due to the timing of the National Convention, we had already sent out our Mailing. We want to congratulate Deb's team for the job well done.

Congratulations to our Past Department President Debbie Scheetz on Circle of Excellent Year.

Veterans & Family Support

April Lowery – 1st Place Outstanding Performance Award

Chief of Staff/Extension & Revitalization

Marilyn Malick – 2nd Place Outstanding Performance Award

Della Steege – District President or Official Representative for best assistance to the chief of Staff.

Bobbi Williams for Best organizer of new Auxiliary, Iron River 3134.

Historian & Media Relations

Maple City #2406 – Most Outstanding Social Media Reel

Blache Brown – 1st Place award best training and/or Education promoting how to use social media reel.

Legislative

Otsego #3030 – Most Outstanding activity and or event to create thank you notes and cards that include links to VFW Action Corps Week Corps Weekly and or the VFW Priority Goals

Arcadia Porter – 1st. Place Outstanding Performance Award

Membership

Marian Belaire – 1st Place Outstanding Performance Award

Scholarships

Celery City #6248 – Host the most creative and/or unique activity and/or event educating their community about the scholarship opportunities in the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary.

Youth Activities

Kelly Smyczynski – 1st Place Best promotion of resources to assist veterans, service members and families

1st Place Outstanding Performance Award.

Resolutions from National Convention

#1 - Post member eligibility VFW members who are providing eligibility to an auxiliary member at the same post living or deceased do not have to show proof of eligibility. **Passed**

#2, #3, and #11 Auxiliary to disband post - VFW will be discussing this auxiliary can't make these changes. **Not Adopted**

#4, #5, #6, and #8 - Consolidated auxiliaries - final audit in closed bank statement with 0 balance due within 30 days each resolution addressed wording in different sections of the bylaws. **Passed**

#7 Suspension committee cancellation of meetings - notification of canceled meeting to suspension committee members must be done within 24-hour notice if expenses are paid by the department and notice is not given in time auxiliary must reimburse the department for the committee travel. **Passed**

#9 Elections - proposed when majority is reached election process stops. **Not adopted**

#10 Charter Application - members for charter of new auxiliary will have at least 8 new or rejoined members and seven members at large transfers still at least 15 on charter application. **Passed**

#12 Auxiliary Business - divulging auxiliary private business outside of actual business meetings to non-members shall not be allowed. **Passed**

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Veterans & Family Support Bulletin OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2026-27

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Veterans and Family Support - Michigan

National Theme: Serving America's Heroes

Department Theme: Leading With a Patriots Heart

PROGRAM GOALS

1. Promote Post Traumatic Stress, Veteran & Military Suicide, & Mental Health Awareness
2. Assist Veterans, Service Members and their Families
3. Promote Resources for Veterans and Military Support Programs

OCTOBER 2026

Congratulations to Auxiliary Chairman on reporting how they are using the three goals above to work together as a team to accomplish "Serving America's Heroes". Veterans and Support National Ambassador, Beth West is passionate about the #1 goal: Promoting Post Traumatic Stress, Military Suicide, & Mental Health Awareness. "Leading With a Patriots Heart" will inspire us all to Promote the Resources we already have and find new ways to assist and Support Veterans, Military & families.

I have one reminder for reporting – Make sure the ACTIVITY type on the report is filled in with the proper guide point. PLEASE - Fill in ALL areas on the report. Don't forget to use the Veterans and Family Support-Michigan Facebook page to Share your ideas with everyone. Remember we need to work together as a team. "YOU" could be the one to lead the team to Victory by starting a "SWAP" Initiative with your Veterans and Family support IDEAS .



www.selfridgesupportgroup.org

Since 2012, every state in the U.S. has observed October 26th as #National Day of the Deployed. VFW Auxiliary President Manke has suggested Michigan Auxiliaries take this opportunity to support the deployed troops of Selfridge Air National Guard Troops based out of Selfridge, MI. The Selfridge Support Group (www.selfridgesupportgroup.org) has received a list of much-needed items requested by troops serving overseas and have arranged a way for us to help by donating through a designated Amazon Wishlist from the troops.

If you want to pick your own items to donate, You can order FROM the Amazon Wishlist by using the QR code or the link from the selfridgesupportgroup Flyer on their Facebook page. The items will be sent by Amazon directly to the Selfridge Support Group & they will collect, organize, and ensure every item gets to the 127th Air National Guard members overseas (if ordered with Prime-no charge for mailing to the support group, if regular Amazon, postage will be charged to you). If you would rather send a money donation and have the group order the items. 📄

MAIL MONEY

DONATION TO:

Or online at Website

Selfridge Support Group

PO Box 450021 ANGB

Selfridge, MI 48045

In the memo area of the check, earmark the donation for
***Deployed Troops or *Troops** (at base Troops & families)

****BE SURE TO REPORT****YOUR

DONATION AS DIRECT AID TO VETERANS , SERVICE MEMBERS & FAMILIES.



NOVEMBER 2026 VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT BULLETIN



November is Military Family Appreciation Month and was first recognized in 1996 after the Armed Services YMCA along with the U.S. Government expanded Military Family Week. Each year, the president declares the month through a signed proclamation. This would be a great time to adopt a military family for the holidays. Offer to run errands for military spouses who may have their hands full with their children or even their pets. Volunteer or donate services to military organizations. Make sure you invite Military families to any Veterans Day celebrations and dinners, a night out could just be what they need. Showing you care will raise moral for the Military member, by knowing their family has support while they are away and will ease the strain on the family. Don't be afraid to ask what is needed - a smile and a helping hand can work wonders. Remember, PTS isn't only with the Veteran – the families also may suffer.

Make sure Active Military Families know about the Resources available to them. The Financial Assistance for Service Members program is available to give financial help to active-duty and activated Guard/Reserve members and their families who have run into unexpected financial difficulties because of deployment or other military-related activity or injury. The program provides financial assistance up to \$2,500 to assist with daily necessities (housing, utilities, medical bills, and food) in the form of a grant – not a loan – so no repayment is required. To further ease the burden, it will pay the creditor(s) directly. You will find information and how to apply on the VFW website: [vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants](https://www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants).

Trained VFW Service Officers are available to help veterans with separation from active duty preparation, claims assistance, mental wellness, transition support for veterans, student support – Check it all out at the VFW Website: <https://www.vfw.org/assistance>. Then organize an informational/slash membership event with your Post, invite the Veterans & their families in the community. Maybe offer games or art projects for the kids to introduce VFW & Auxiliary Youth programs. Have a VFW Service Officer present to answer questions about what support is available for Veterans, active duty military and their families and how joining your VFW Post or VFW Auxiliary will benefit eligible Veterans. Serve refreshments and have a relaxed get together full of Veterans and Family Support.



Working together, it's always nice to say Thank-You to Team Members who have went the extra mile to support our program and help those in need. Auxiliary & District Chairman take a few minutes to use the Veterans and Family Support Citation available on the Department of Michigan VFW Auxiliary Website under the Veterans and Family Support Program to give to these "Support Angels" a well earned show of appreciation for **"SERVING AMERICA'S HEROES"** while **"Leading With a Patriots Heart"**

Evelyn Avery, Chairman
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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary AMERICANISM BULLETIN

October 2026

www.vfwauxmi.org

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

National Theme: Serving America's Heros

Department Theme: Leading with a Patriot's Heart



Happy Fall! The Fall Conference is almost here, are you coming? Be ready to come and learn more about our Americanism Program and how to meet our goals.

Happy Birthday to the US Navy on October 13, 1775!

Have you shared the Teacher of the Year contest with your local school, family and community? You have until Oct 31, 2026, to get your submission in locally and to Department by December 5, 2026. There are many deserving teachers in our communities.

Did you hold or attend any POW/MIA ceremonies? Did you report it? There is still time.

School has been back I session for over a month, have you been able to provide any flag education. All ages need to be educated or reminded of the importance of our flag and how to care for it. If you see someone in your community who flies the flag consistently, present them with a certificate of acknowledgement and thanks. Then report all of this. If you give out flags of any size, please remember to let me know how many you gave out in your report. We want Michigan and Jason to shine at nationals by being the state that gives out the most flags.

Have you worked on a POP Sign? Bring it to the Fall Conference in Mt Pleasant and show off your work!

Loyally;
Vickie Bushong
Dept. Americanism Chairman
Americanism2627@gmail.com 989-621-5971

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary AMERICANISM BULLETIN

November 2026

www.vfwauxmi.org

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

National Theme: Serving America's Heros

Department Theme: Leading with a Patriot's Heart



Happy Thanksgiving!

We are thankful for our Veterans and our Auxiliary members! What are you thankful for?

Happy Birthday to the US Marine Corp November 10th, 1775. Oorah!!!

I hope I was able to see and speak to many of you at the Fall Conference. Did you report you were there and that you attended a school of instruction? Now is the time to do it!!

Veterans Day is November 11. Please reach out to the veterans in your communities and share your gratitude. Make sure you report that under Veterans and Family Support!

The National President and Commanders Joint Project is Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). This organization raises money to provide funding to account for our missing POW's and MIAs from past conflicts. With our help all soldiers will come home. When making your donation, earmark your check to National President/Commander-in-Chiefs 2026-27 Special Project. Report under VFS Programs.

President Jason's special project is Vets Returning Home. Please remember help support our Veteran's as they transition when return stateside.

We have other unsung heroes in our communities such as Police, Fire, and EMS. This is a great time during the holidays to acknowledge their service and commitment to your community. Report and citations that you present to them.

Loyally;
Vickie Bushong
Dept. Americanism Chairman
Amerianism2627@gmail.com 989-621-5971



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Buddy Poppy – October 2026

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Buddy Poppy Michigan

National Theme: Serving America's Heroes Department Leading with a Patriot's Heart

Since 1932, the poppy has stood as a symbol to those who have died in service to our country. It was named the "Buddy"®Poppy to represent the buddies that never made it home. 1930 was the first year that a child who lived at the VFW National Home was selected to represent the VFW and the National Home at the VFW National Convention.

In the early days, the child pinned a poppy on the U.S. President. In recent years, they have pinned a poppy on the governor. Each April, as the Governor presents the Month of the Military Child proclamation, the Buddy Poppy Child has the honor of pinning Michigan's governor in recognition of their support for military and veteran families across the state.

2026-2027 Poppy Child Noelan had the special opportunity to pin the Governor personally.



Most Posts and Auxiliaries have their own Buddy ®Poppy Prince or Princess. This is an honor title and fun position. They could help you promote an event to educate the community on the VFW Buddy®Poppy. Perhaps they could pin a poppy on the mayor and explain what it means. If they are in a parade, have them pin the Grand Marshal.

Put it in the newspaper and give it to the department Historian. Take your old pictures and combine them with new ones to reflect the many years you have been promoting the poppy and the veterans you have helped, or how you have helped them. Show this display off at your post functions.

Be creative. The community must know about this life-saving flower, and it is up to you to tell its story.

Jane Dady VFW Budy®Poppy Chairman
95 N US 23 East Tawas, MI 48730
(989)254-7155 jdpickle12@yahoo.com



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Buddy®Poppy Bulletin – November 2026

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Buddy Poppy-Michigan

National Theme: Serving America's Heroes Department Theme: Leading with a Patriot's Heart

While every day is Veterans Day, we celebrate our heroes on Veterans Day, November 11th. Wear your poppy proudly in remembrance of all those who are not with us. As you are celebrating Veterans Day, make sure you include Buddy® Poppies in your decorations and advertising.

The VFW store has a variety of Buddy®Poppy items. They have pins, shirts, and promotional material. Check them out at www.vfwstore.org to help with your ideas.

Share your ideas on our Facebook page. We can SWAP ideas (our Ambassador calls it Sharing With A Purpose). Tell us what works and doesn't work. How do you use them?

Poppies can be used at community events, schools, and veteran gatherings to raise awareness. Engaging youth in making poppy decorations fosters community spirit and remembrance.

Host a workshop for DIY to create poppy projects. Have children make poppies out of egg cartons, coffee filters, and cupcake liners. Make poppies out of tissue paper. Paint a poppy on a rock and "plant" it somewhere to be found. Use social media to promote the event and educate the public about veterans' issues.



Thank you for the great reports. You are all amazing! Remember to report on the number of poppies you use every quarter.

Keep up the great work for our veterans.

Jane Dady Buddy®Poppy chairman
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**Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
Extension & Revitalization/Chief of Staff
BULLETIN
October 2026
www.vfwauxmi.org**

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

National Theme: Serving America's Heroes

Department Theme: Leading with a Patriot's Heart

Hi auxiliary members, October is a busy month for Michigan. We will host the Big Ten Conference in Kalamazoo, followed just a few days later by our Fall Conference in Mt. Pleasant. I hope our District Presidents are enjoying their



official visits to Auxiliaries throughout their districts. If your auxiliary needs assistance, please reach out. Likewise, if you are available to help another Auxiliary in your district or a nearby one, please call Jason or me. We would be happy to add you to our list of members we can contact when help is needed.

Auxiliary Challenge: Members may not know when meetings are held, and meetings may run too long when there is no agenda.

Solution: The meeting day, time, and location should be voted on and approved by the members. At the closing of each business meeting, the presiding officer should clearly announce the date, time, and location.

Ways to Keep Members Informed

- Call members by telephone.
- Send e-mails, newsletters, or postcards.
- Post meeting details prominently on your Post or Auxiliary website.
- Consider creating an Auxiliary Facebook page as a free way to inform members and increase public awareness.

R U Healthy Checklist for October

- Trustees will complete the July, August, September Audit by October 31st, and have it approved at your next meeting and to Department by November 30th. You can scan and email it or snail mail it.
- Report in all programs
- Dues submitted to National via MALTA or to Department Treasurer

Della Steege, Department Chief of Staff/Extension & Revitalization Chairman
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**Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
Extension & Revitalization/Chief of Staff
BULLETIN**

November 2026

www.vfwauxmi.org

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

National Theme: Serving America's Heroes

Department Theme: Leading with a Patriot's Heart



Holidays are here!!

Extension & Revitalization wisdom:

Now is the time to review your membership progress. I hope your membership committee has reached out to unpaid members. If some members need a helping hand, consider using your Relief Fund to pay their 2026–2027 dues. Here are a few ways to boost your membership numbers.

- Contact current members
- Reaching out to former members
- Recruiting events for new members

Find an Un-Affiliated Post ready to add an Auxiliary?

In accordance with the VFW Bylaws, a notice is to be mailed or emailed to each Post member advising them that members will be voting on having an Auxiliary and that the vote will take place at a specific meeting.

In accordance with the VFW Bylaws, a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Post members present is required to set into action the formation of a new Auxiliary to that Post.

Inform the Department President of the approval and the Department President will then assign an Auxiliary Organizer who will work on obtaining the required number of charter members (15) and filling out necessary paperwork.

R U Healthy Checklist for November

- IRS 990 ePostcard filed by November 15th
- Trustees should have already completed the July, August, and September audit. Have it approved at your November meeting, and to Department by November 30th
- Additional dues notices sent, and dues submitted through the MALTA system or to Department
- Purchase 2027 Bylaws and Ritual from the VFW Store
- Report in each program

Della Steege, Department Chief of Staff/Extension & Revitalization Chairman
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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
HOSPITAL BULLETIN
October & November 2026
www.vfwauxmi.org

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

National Theme: Serving America's Heroes

Department Theme: Leading with a Patriot's Heart

Let's continue our travels to Ann Arbor "Go Blue" to the Ann Arbor VA Medical Center. The Construction of the Ann Arbor Veterans Hospital began on September 30, 1949 on a 16-acre site near the city of Ann Arbor. The hospital was authorized following a series of federal approvals, including President Truman's 1945 agreement to construct a tuberculosis hospital and the subsequent 1946 approval for a 500-bed general medical and surgical hospital for Veterans'. The hospital officially on October 12, 1953 admitted its first patients and dedicated on October 18, 1953.



Over the years the Ann Arbor VA has evolved into a major healthcare center serving Veterans across southeast Michigan and Northwest Ohio providing both general and specialized medical services. It supports the activities of more than 150 researchers working in Ann Arbor, Saginaw, and Battle Creek. The facilities include 40,000 square feet of laboratory space and updated office space with a sample processing lab for

clinical research staff. Research and Development program increases advanced medical therapies and treatments to Veterans. Major research areas include Cardiology, Pulmonary diseases and disorders, Infectious disease, Hematology and Oncology. Health Care services at locations in Michigan and Northwest Ohio. Outpatient clinics in Adrian, Ann Arbor, Canton, Howell, Flint, Jackson and Toledo.

In January 2019, a bill to rename the medical center was passed in Congress. Lieutenant Colonel Charles S. Kettles VA Medical Center, after the late Medal of Honor recipient Lt. Charles Kettles who was awarded the Medal of Honor in 2016 for leading a rescue mission that saved the lives of 44 soldiers that would become a legendary tale of bravery in the Vietnam War. Lieutenant Colonel Charles S. Kettles was from Ypsilanti.

In October consider making Halloween bags for the Veterans filled with candy or other snacks.

October 13th – US Navy Birthday

Don't forget about the Hospital table at the Fall Conference. We need as many gift cards as possible \$5-\$25. You can mail them to me, Department Treasurer Cathy or have your District President bring them to the conference, if you are unable to attend.

November: Happy Thanksgiving

Our next stop is Saginaw. The Saginaw VA Medical Center, now known as the Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center, was established in September 1950 and dedicated on September 3, 1950. It was originally a 217-bed general medical and surgical hospital equipped with three major operating rooms, bacteriology and x-ray laboratories, dental services, and physical medicine facilities to provide comprehensive care for hospitalized veterans. The facility was named in honor of Lt. Aleda E. Lutz, a U.S. Army Nurse Corps officer and Michigan native who served during World War II. She was the first American woman to die in combat during the war and is among the most decorated women in U.S. military history. The name was formally designated by Congress in 1989.



The Aleda E. Lutz VA Medical Center is an 81-bed skilled nursing/rehabilitation community living center. Offering mental health, social work and primary care. The Saginaw VA North Clinic for optometry, ophthalmology, and blind rehabilitation Veterans Affairs. The system serves over 40,000 veterans in central and northern Michigan's lower peninsula, with more than 1,500 employees. It is a teaching hospital affiliated with multiple universities including Michigan State University, Central Michigan University, and Wayne State University, offering residencies, fellowships, and training in numerous medical and allied health fields. Outpatient locations include Alpena, Bad Axe, Cadillac, Clare, Gaylord, Grayling, Indian River, Oscoda and Traverse City.

We have completed our travels to the (5) five VA Medical Centers. This shows how Michigan is a big part of helping serve our Veteran's needs.

November 10th – US Marine Birthday

November 11th – Veterans Day – Thank you for your service

Next trip is the State Homes for Veterans.

Things we can do in November: Host a Thanksgiving Dinner for the Veterans in your area, invite them to your VFW Post from the VA Medical Centers. Or take turkey dinners to the VA Centers.

It's not too early to print your award forms from MALTA under member resources. You can keep up to date on what you will need to report, and those forms must be sent to me before March 31, 2027.

Fran Budzisch
Department Hospital Chairman
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Homer MI 49245
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(586) 883-3902

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary BULLETIN October 2026

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Legislative - Michigan

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

National Theme: Serving America's Heroes

Department Theme: Leading with a Patriot's Heart

School is back in session. Our lesson for the month is educate yourself and vote wisely.

Are you ready for elections? Use this link to find who is running for office in your district.

https://ballotpedia.org/Michigan_elections,_2026

Your voice matters. Our Veterans fought for us we must fight for them. Our voices must ring strong as if we were on the school playground. Unlike legislators who took a brief recess last month there are no fall breaks for us. Our representatives must hear our respectful loud voices and pass the Major Richard Star Act and reject H.R. 9237.

Remind our legislators:

- Cutting veterans' benefits is a choice. Don't choose it.
- They're serving today. Don't cut their benefits tomorrow.
- "Current veterans are protected" isn't good enough.
- Veterans. Caregivers. Survivors. We all deserve better than this.

Homework for October:

- Who is on your November ballot?
- Voting is like a test. Please research the candidates. What do they stand for?
- Find out if they are in your hometown campaigning.
- Choose the one you feel will fight for our Veterans and their families.

Enjoy Halloween and remember no costumes are needed when advocating legislation for our Veterans, all treats, no tricks.

Rose Sancrant
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I enjoyed talking with each of you at Fall conference. If you still have questions, please reach out.

Elections are over now what? Time to move to the next lesson. We continue to push forward with educating our legislators whether they are new to your district or re-elected. Veteran Care 101 is now in session. Our work does not end at the ballot box.

Reach out to both newly elected/re-elected representatives. Introduce yourself and provide them with our veteran's needs. Give them a short story for why you are so passionate about protecting our men and women who have served. These personal stories can help legislators understand why it is so important to Honor the Contract.

Homework for November

- Help members find their newly elected representatives and preferred method of contact
- Schedule a meet and greet with your community and newly elected officials
- Understand newly elected officials' stance on bills and adjust your lesson plan accordingly.
- Show our veterans how thankful we are by keeping them apprised of our activities.

Take a moment or two and give thanks for those representatives who are fighting for our veterans.

Rose Sancrant
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**Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
Historian & Media Relations - BULLETIN
October & November 2026**

www.vfwauxmi.org

[Facebook Page: Historian & Media Relation-Michigan](#)

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



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National Theme: Serving America's Heroes

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October

MALTA offers a variety of Historian & Media Relations resources designed to help Auxiliaries. The Historian & Media Relations Chairman can use the resources under **Member Resources > Historian & Media Relations** to effectively document, promote, and share the Auxiliary's achievements throughout the year.

Resources such as the Historian & Media Relations Auxiliary Award, Participation Citation, and Communications Recognition Certificate recognize outstanding efforts, while brochures and fact sheets provide valuable tools for community outreach and member engagement.

Media, photography, social media, and public speaking resources help chairmen increase the Auxiliary's visibility and tell its story more effectively. The Publicity Guide, Media release templates, photography tips, Facebook and website resources, sample speeches, and talking points provide practical tools for promoting events, recruiting members, and building community awareness. These are great tools to help with one of Department Awards, "Best overall Historian & Media Relations Chairman training and/or education promoting how preserve the history of their VFW Auxiliary".

October 31st is the last day to report for this quarter. Remember, the description is one of the most important sections of your report. Clearly explain what was done, who benefited, where and when the activity took place, and how it supported the program's goals. Include specific details about community impact, partnerships, special recognition received, media coverage, social media engagement, and any measurable outcomes. Complete, detailed reporting helps showcase the Auxiliary's accomplishments and helps with Department and National Awards in March.

Looking forward to seeing you at the School of Instructions at Fall Conference.

November

As Michigan's weather begins to change and we head into the winter months, it's a great time to focus on preserving your Auxiliary's history. For some Auxiliaries, organizing and digitizing years of photographs, albums, and historical records may seem like a daunting, overwhelming, and time-consuming task. However, taking small steps now can help protect your Auxiliary's legacy for future generations. Use the Photo Preservation Checklist below as a guide to help you get started and make the process more manageable.

- Collect and organize photos, albums, scrapbooks, and historical documents.
- Scan photos and documents, saving high-quality digital copies.
- Label files with dates, event names, and member information when available.
- Store digital files in multiple locations, including cloud storage (OneDrive, Google Drive, or Dropbox).
- Create digital photo albums, slideshows, or PDF archives to preserve Auxiliary history.
- Share historical photos through Facebook, Auxiliary websites, newsletters, and presentations.
- Identify people, places, and events in photos to preserve important historical details.
- Update the archive regularly by adding current photos and activities.

Remember: Every photo tells part of your Auxiliary's story. Preserving and digitizing these memories today helps protect your Auxiliary's legacy for future generations

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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary BULLETIN

October/November 2026

www.vfwauxmi.org

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

National Theme: Serving America's Heroes

Department Theme: Leading with a Patriot's Heart

"Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go – and in racing, that's the art of releasing the past to run your best self forward."

Fall is fastly approaching us and with all its changes we should take the time to reflect on what drives us to be a part of this great organization. Is it our fellow members? Is it the veterans and their families we have the pleasure of assisting? Is it being out in our communities sharing our pride and patriotism for our country? Is it promoting the many resources out there that can help our veterans and service members? Is it sharing opportunities for youth to earn scholarship money from their God given talent? If I had to guess, I would say it is all the above and more! Now is the time to reignite your passion for why you do what you do, release what might have been holding your back, and put your best self-forward in recruiting others to share in your passion.



An achievement your Auxiliary should be working on this month is sending out your second dues notice by November 1st. In your notice, you can include an incentive your Auxiliary would like to promote for annuals converting to a life membership. Your Auxiliary has until December 31st to get into the first drawing for the "Shift in to Life" drawing! What better way to get that extra entry into the drawing and help your Auxiliary. You can also include any upcoming events that your Auxiliary and/or Post is hosting, invite them to a meeting, promote your Social Media pages and last but not least, thank them for being a member. Be sure to report

on our reporting website that you sent out your dues notice. This is also a requirement for Auxiliary Achievement.

REMINDER: DISTRICT AWARD UP FOR GRABS

Time is running out! The first district to reach 100% by November 30th will receive \$100! Now is the time to come together as a district to support each other, as team mates do, to get those due paid and raise that percentage to 100! How are you planning on working together to make that happen? Who will it be? Keep your eye on vfwauxmi.org to see who is leading the race.

Fall Conference will be held October 29 to November 1, 2026 at the Mt. Pleasant Comfort Inn Hotel and Conference Center. See you there

November

Hey Department of Michigan, we have a goal set and that is to achieve "First Down"! What is that you ask? Well, National is asking for us to be 95%+ by November 30th as a Department. What does that mean for our Department? It means money! Our Department will earn \$400 if we achieve this goal. Again, with all your hard work in the month of October sending out your dues notices, promoting membership incentives, hosting membership drives, I am sure this goal will land into the end zone.

Reminder: National will no longer send out Annual member cards. You can easily access and print your membership card through MALTA or you can add it to your digital wallet!



Inspiration for a Fall Membership Drive Ideas



A fall membership drive works best when it blends seasonal energy, clear value messaging, and easy, urgent calls to action — turning autumn's momentum into new member commitments.

- **Harvest & Community:** Tie your drive to "harvesting" new members — use imagery of golden leaves, pumpkins, and harvest festivals to symbolize gathering and growth
- **Fall Festival Kickoff:** Host a seasonal event (e.g., pumpkin patch, cider press, or community fair) where attendees can learn about your mission and join for a special fall rate
- **Giving Season:** Leverage the spirit of giving by framing your drive as part of the fall "giving season," similar to Giving Tuesday, with a one-day membership sprint

If you have not already, please join our Department Membership Facebook page: Membership-Michigan. This page is a resource for staying up-to-date on current happenings as well as ideas for you to use in your Auxiliary!

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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Scholarships Bulletin October-2026-2027

www.vfwauxmi.org -Facebook Page: Scholarships - Michigan

HAVE YOU BEEN BACK TO THE SCHOOL?

It is hard to believe that we have **less than 31 days** to finalize everything for the **Voice of Democracy** and **Patriot's Pen** contests!

By now, your Auxiliary should have made contact with your local schools to verify that they are participating in these programs. If you haven't followed up recently, **now is the time!**

Remind teachers, counselors, and administrators that there is still time for students to complete their essays and submit them to your Auxiliary by **October 31, 2026**.

A simple follow-up visit, phone call, or email could be the reminder that encourages a teacher or student to participate.

HAVE YOU DECIDED ON YOUR PRIZES?

Has your Auxiliary decided what prizes you will award to students at the Auxiliary level?

If the prize amounts are not already established in your Standing Rules, make sure your Auxiliary votes on and approves them.

Once your prizes are determined, **let the students know what they are working toward!** Students may be even more motivated to participate when they know there is an award waiting for them.

Ideas for Student Awards & Recognition

Host a Pizza Party!-Consider providing a pizza party for **all students who participate** in the program. Incentives can make participation more exciting, and what student doesn't enjoy getting pizza instead of the regular school lunch?

Award Cash Prizes!-Some Auxiliaries provide cash awards to their top students. For example, prizes could range from **\$100 for first place to \$25 for additional winners**, depending on what your Auxiliary can afford.

Whatever you decide, the important thing is to recognize the students for the time and effort they put into their essays.

REMEMBER THE 1-FOR-EVERY-15 RULE

An Auxiliary may advance **one winning entry for every 15 entries received, or fraction thereof**, provided the requirements of the contest are met.

For example, if your Auxiliary receives **100 eligible entries**, you may advance **7 winning entries** to the District level.

When advancing multiple entries, remember that they must all be considered **first-place winners** at the Auxiliary level and should receive the **same first-place prize amount**.

Be sure to carefully follow all current program rules when selecting and advancing your winners.

Nicole Koutz-Department Scholarships Chairman
410 N. Clinton, St. Louis, MI 48880-989-620-6425-turtlelee@hotmail.com



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Scholarships Bulletin November 26-2027

www.vfwauxmi.org

DUE DATES:

The Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Essays had to be turned into the Auxiliary by now and by November 16th they must be turned into District Chairman for the District Judging.

ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET!

Have you decided how you will recognize your students?

You might hold an awards ceremony immediately following the essay contests, or you could wait until all of your Auxiliary's scholarship programs have been completed and recognize everyone together.

Remember, this year's theme is **RED CARPET!**

We hope you will have some fun with it and **GO ALL OUT!** Roll out a red carpet, decorate with stars, create a photo area, invite families, and make your students feel like the stars they are.

These students worked hard on their essays. Let's make sure they know how proud we are of their accomplishments!

KEEP PROMOTING ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Don't forget the importance of continuing to promote our scholarship programs through social media.

The **Department Scholarships Program** page provides flyers, promotional graphics, and other valuable resources that are ready to download and share.

Post scholarship information on your Auxiliary's:

- Facebook page
- District social media pages
- *Instagram
- *Personal social media pages
- *YouTube

Encourage your fellow Auxiliary members to **LIKE, SHARE, and POST** the information as well. Every share gives us another opportunity to reach a student or parent who may not otherwise know these scholarships are available.

EVERY STUDENT DESERVES THE OPPORTUNITY

Remember, these scholarship opportunities are not limited to students attending public schools.

Be sure to reach out to students attending:

Public Schools • Private Schools • Parochial Schools • Homeschool Programs

Every eligible student deserves the opportunity to participate, share their voice, and compete for these scholarships.

DON'T WAIT — FOLLOW UP TODAY!

A phone call, school visit, email, Facebook post, or conversation with a parent could result in another student participating.

Let's make the 2026–2027 scholarship year a successful one!

Nicole Koutz-Department Scholarships Chairman
410 N. Clinton-St. Louis, MI 48880-989-620-6425-turtlelee@hotmail.com

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary National Home – October 2026

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: National Home*Michigan

National Theme: Serving America's Heroes Department Theme: Leading with a Patriot's Heart

One of the goals on the guide sheet is a friendly competition between auxiliaries to see who can raise the most change to help the VFW National Home. It is listed as "special collection," and it is for the auxiliaries. This is separate from the one for the crown award between Districts.

We now have a mission! The VFW National Home's sign is in disrepair. The Department of Michigan presented the home with the sign in the early 90's. Over the years, it has been repaired multiple times, and now they need a new sign.

All money collected for this special collection will be given to the home for that sign. Send all monies to the department treasurer, Cathy Sasse, not to the home. She will keep track of the donors and amounts. The trophy award will be given to the auxiliary that raises the most.

How awesome is it that the auxiliary of Michigan will be the proud presenters of the new sign!

So let's get to work. When you give your quarter to show your card at a meeting, put in an extra one (or 2). Put National Home banks out at your meetings and ask members for their spare change. Have a special raffle. Be creative. Let's get that sign!

Thank you for your reports and thank you for all you do for our veterans.



V F W
N A T I O N A L H O M E

Jane Dady National Home Chairman
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(989)254-7155
Jdpickle12@yahoo.com,



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary National Home Bulletin – November 2026

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: VFW National Home-Michigan

National Theme: Serving America's Heroes Department Theme: Leading with a Patriot's Heart

Celebrate and Honor our Veterans on Veterans Day and every day!

The VFW National Home plays a significant role in honoring Veterans Day by recognizing the sacrifices of service members and their families. It emphasizes the importance of community support and advocacy for veterans' needs, ensuring they receive the respect and assistance they deserve.

Promote the VFW National Homes Helpline. Share a post on social media.
Military & veteran families across the country receive guidance, referrals, and emotional support through our veteran services and outreach efforts.

Tell the story. Talk about the VFW National Home with friends and family. Tell them what the home does and why it matters. Explain all the ways the home helps our veterans. Encourage them to visit the home. Hand out promotional material. Share the QR code.



"You don't have to donate to make a difference. By sharing the story of the VFW National Home, you help ensure more people know about the families they serve. Every conversation, post, and referral helps strengthen support for veteran and military families."

The address for the home is 3573 South Waverly Rd, Eaton Rapids, Michigan 48827
Share where the home is located.

Go to their website www.vfwnationalhome.org and sign up for their free newsletter.

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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Youth/Camp Trotter Bulletin – October/November 2026

www.vfwauxmi.org

[Facebook Page: Youth Activities/Camp Trotter - Michigan](#)

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

National Theme: Serving America's Heroes

Department Theme: Leading with a Patriot's Heart

October 2026

Youth Activities

Here comes the best time of the year to involve youth in our events that celebrate our veterans! This month specifically you could host a Halloween party! With Thanksgiving coming up you could host a station where kids fill out thankful for you cards to send to Veterans in your community, at local adult foster cares, or independent living homes. Try to remember our homeless veterans as well. Local homeless shelters often house veterans and you may be able to provide goodie bags to them that kids put together for these holidays. With the winter coming, many people could use heavy socks, hats, scarves, and gloves. Getting a group of kids together to put these bags together and then pass them out is a wonderful way to show our youth how to give back to our veterans and our communities in general.

Just a reminder that Illustrating America art is due back to your auxiliary by December 15. You still have 2 months to promote this contest and inspire a young artist to participate! Who knows what could happen, but you won't know if you don't try.

Just a reminder if you are taking photos of children you plan to share on social media you should be making sure everyone is aware. Put out signs that say photos will be taken and if you DO NOT want your child included, please see (and insert the name of photographer).

Camp Trotter

I bet the fall at Camp Trotter is beautiful! But those leaves are going to fall my friends! Keep and eye out for spring clean up dates so that we can continue to support our camp. Did you know, we are the only state in the COUNTRY to have a camp? How fortunate are we? Let's make sure we continue to support through those donations as well so we can make sure we can allow as many campers attend each summer as possible. Reminder that we are not hosting a Camp Trotter table at conferences/conventions this year, so donate what you would've spent on a basket to that scholarship fund and then REPORT IT!!

**Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
Youth/Camp Trotter Bulletin –
October/November 2026**

www.vfwauxmi.org

[Facebook Page: Youth Activities/Camp Trotter - Michigan](#)

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

National Theme: Serving America's Heroes

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November 2026

Youth Activities

What was your favorite book when you were a child? Think of all the fond memories you have of reading and finding that book that you could read over and over again. What if your little lending library could help a child find that perfect book for themselves? As I mentioned last month, with all the holidays coming now is the time to involve our youth as much as possible. When you have an event at the post, host a naming poll for your lending library, or a theme contest.

Time is winding down! Have you had any early Illustrating America entries? Do you have a youth group someone in your auxiliary works with? You could host them at your auxiliary to have an art night, provide the supplies, and allow parents to fill out the entry forms before they leave.

Camp Trotter

Camp Trotter is quiet this time of year, but you don't have to be! When you are hosting events at your post, make sure you are telling families about this gem! Have a flyer ready to hand them with information about how to register next summer! Start your scholarship fund as a donation jar at your weekly dinners, start a sponsorship contest by collecting names of kids (with parent permission!) in a jar so you can call them to tell them registration is open and possibly tell them they were drawn for a free week of camp!

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ILLUSTRATING AMERICA CONTEST



Calling all young artists! Show your creativity and patriotism by participating in the Illustrating America Art Contest sponsored by the VFW Auxiliary.



WHO CAN ENTER?

Kindergarten – 2nd Grade
3rd Grade – 5 Grade
6th Grade – 8 Grade



AWARDS

Department of Michigan Awards
First Place (each grade): \$50 Gift Card
Second Place: \$50 Gift Card
Third Place: \$25 Gift Card



IMPORTANT DEADLINES

December 15 – Entries due to local Auxiliary
January 15 – Entries due to Department
January 31 – Entries due to National