



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

# Michigan Connection

#1

June-July-August 2021  
(To be read on the Auxiliary Floor)

[www.vfwauxmi.org](http://www.vfwauxmi.org)

Department of Michigan Auxiliary  
Department of Michigan Auxiliary Programs

National Theme: Soaring Above & Beyond  
Department Theme: *Tell Our Story of Service*  
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## Special Announcements

Welcome to the 2021-2022 administrative year! First, I would like to welcome our new Department Guard, Jason Manke. Congratulations and best wishes on a successful journey. In addition, we are pleased to announce that Sandi Onstwedder has been appointed as the Department Secretary and Nicole Koutz as the Department Assistant Secretary.

## Change/New-Facebook

If you have not yet done so, please "like" our Department Facebook page (Department of Michigan Auxiliary). We will be using our Facebook page on a regular basis to keep our members informed. In addition, "ALL" programs have been moved to the same Facebook page to make it easier for our members to keep up on all programs in one place. The Facebook page name is Department of Michigan Auxiliary Programs.

## Roster

The Department Roster will be available by August 1 and can be found under Login/Members Only and will be updated on a regular basis. Changes will be highlighted.

## Presidents Packet

The packets for every president can be found on our website under Resources/Downloadable/ president packet. There is LOTS of information on the website, please check it often.

## Installation Reports

Your report of Installation **MUST** be entered into MALTA by **July 31<sup>st</sup>** with a copy sent to the Department Office and to the 2021-2022 District President. If you need assistance with entering report into MALTA, please contact the Department Secretary.

## Program Pins



Once again, Ruth Barnhill, is our Program Pin Chairman and you can find the order

form on our website. Please be sure to add \$5.00 for postage if you have them mailed. Also, the Department Representatives will have them available when they visit the Districts for their meetings. Proceeds will be donated to the Michigan Gold Star Families.

## State Convention 2020

Congratulations to Carrie for having a successful Convention. We also want to congratulate all those who received the Auxiliary Achievement and District Achievement awards! Thank You for all you do for our organizations!

If you were unable to attend the Department Convention but would like to know what was accomplished during the 2020-2021 year, you can go to our website under Log-In/Members Only.

**Congratulations-** Past Department of Michigan President Carrie Turner on your National Appointment as the Big Ten Membership Coach. Also, to Jason and Sara Manke for being selected as National Color Bearers for the 2021/2022 Auxiliary year.

## Save the Date

September 19-21 we have the Honor to have the National President Jean Hamil visit our wonderful state.

## Auxiliary Presidents

All Auxiliary Presidents have already or will soon, receive a packet containing vital materials to serve in their leadership position. The packets also include 2021/2022 Program Guide Sheets. The Guide Sheets are also available on our department website.

## Upcoming Events

### Sunday, August 22

Michigan Day at the VFW National Home for Children. We are once again collecting cleaning supplies for the National Home in competition with the Department of Ohio. Please help us blow them out of the water by our generosity. Thus, giving Michigan a year of boasting power over our very good friends to the south.

### Saturday, August 28

Camp Trotter Family Day at VFW Camp Trotter in Newaygo will be held on Saturday August 28<sup>th</sup>. Plan to attend and bring a dish to pass along with your soft drinks/water. This is a great opportunity for the whole family to enjoy everything the camp has to offer.

## Treasurer Tips

You may not pay your Bond until after July 1, 2021.

After July 1, remember that 990's should be completed and filed with the IRS. You have until November 15. The Department Treasurer **does not** automatically file for you Auxiliary. It is the responsibility of the Auxiliary. to contact the Department office to let the Treasurer know and she will be happy to help complete it.

## Covid 19

2020/2021 Auxiliary Year taught us Some valuable lessons. First and foremost, how very creative And dedicated members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary truly are. Now that we are seeing signs that the Covid 19 Virus is lessening its' hold on Us we need to stand vigilant and follow all the recommendations and guidelines that the CDC requests. This will help to reduce and avoid any resurgence of Virus.

## Questions or Concerns

If you have any questions or comments, please email the Department Office at [misec@asiserve.net](mailto:misec@asiserve.net) and we will do our very best to answer your question.

It will then also be addressed in the Next Michigan Connection.

## Gratitude 2021

My sincerest thank you to every member of the Department of Michigan for electing me to the position of Department President. I promise to serve each of you with respect and transparency.

## A few thoughts to Ponder

As we begin a new administrative year, it is a chance to make a New Start. New officers, chairmen, VFW counterparts and a new positive attitude will make this a great year. This is our chance to "Tell Our Story of Service" in both words and actions. Make it a priority to work in harmony with everyone. We are just finally coming out of the tunnel called Covid-19. We were forced to cut back and make changes to the way we did things. We survived to serve another day, because of who we are, and because of our devotion to our Veterans.

Team work on every level should be our game plan going forward. I am grateful for our VFW Department Commander Kevin Conklin and plan to continue communicating on a regular basis. Please do the same with your VFW counterparts.

There is a song by Diana Ross that says, "Reach out and touch somebody's hand and make this world a better place, if you can..." We can and we will in 2021-22. My thanks are given to all who have stepped up to take a position this next year. And a final and heartfelt thank you must go to Past Department President Cindy Peto. She served us faithfully and efficiently as our Department Secretary for 6 years and will remain in the office through the end of June helping to input Installation reports and type up the Convention proceedings, as well at training our new Secretary. Give her a call and thank her. See you next issue, Stephanie Krueger

