

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

## Michigan Connection

December 2022

(To be read on the Auxiliary Floor)

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

Department of Michigan Auxiliary  
Department of Michigan Auxiliary Programs

#7

National Theme: Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care

Department Theme: *Be the Anchor for Our Veterans, Hold them Steady and Safe*

President Diana Ward

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### President Diana Ward

Hello Sisters and Brothers,

I hope you all had a wonderful Thanksgiving with friends and family as well as reaching out to our veterans and doing something nice for them.

**CRITICAL NOTICE – I need your help!** We currently have 129 officers that have not paid their dues. These need to be paid by December 31, 2022 or they must be removed from office. Please get these dues paid. We can't afford to lose even one officer. This is a way to lead by example. Paying your dues timely, will teach other members to do the same.

In setting up my year, I listened to what the members were saying that they liked or disliked about how we reach out to the membership. Many people did not like the single Facebook program page – said it was too hard to manipulate, they didn't know how to utilize or do a "hash tag" search for their Chairmanship and it was too time consuming to search through all the postings. National Ambassadors also told me they didn't have time to filter things either when they are trying to visit Facebook pages for 50 states. Consequently, I went back to individual Facebook pages for the Chairmanships. Additionally, I went with monthly Bulletins because it is a way that we can get more information and give more ideas about the programs to the Auxiliaries. Plus, members had said that the every other month Bulletins were hard to remember which month to do it. I felt these changes would be beneficial to the membership as a whole.

**Now we want to hear from you. There are surveys in the mailing with the raffle fundraiser. Please take a moment to share with us what you think. Future Department Officers want to know what the membership wants or finds most helpful so please fill out, complete and return the surveys to the Department Office. Thank you.**

Congratulations to the Auxiliaries that made 95% in membership by November 30<sup>th</sup>. Great job! Now you are just a few members away from 100% and I know you can make it. We have many Auxiliaries that are very close. Have you sent out another Dues Notice? Reach out to those members who haven't paid – maybe they could use a little help this year. As a member you can be a Dues Angel for anyone. You might want to give a gift of renewal for someone in your Auxiliary or District. It's also wonderful to see all the new members coming in.

I would like to welcome our newest Auxiliary that will be Instituted on December 4, 2022. VFW Auxiliary 6132 in Lansing. Please join me in welcoming them to the Department of Michigan.

I hope that those of you that were at the Fall Conference enjoyed and were impressed by the presentation about Oscar Mike. This is an amazing group of people that are getting veterans active again and helping them to regain their self-esteem, survive PTSD, and giving them back

their confidence to do amazing things despite injuries and other issues. This is my joint project with Commander John. If you haven't yet, please make a donation to help this organization help our veterans. You can take credit for your donations through the Veterans & Family Support Program.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you at the Mid-Winter Conference in January. The conference agenda is posted on our webpage. There will be program booths available for you to visit and get a personal touch with the Department Chairmen and get answers and pointers for each program. I have chosen some new and interesting training sessions on topics that we need to be aware of and do, but we don't always teach it to newer members. Hope you find it interesting. I'm really looking forward to all the Buddy Poppy Displays for the contest

**Room Reservation and Banquet Forms are now available on our Department Website. Currently all rooms at the Radisson have been booked. The Radisson has made arrangements with the Hilton Garden Hotel located across the street from the Radisson to house those still needing to secure their reservations. Use the same Housing Form that is online or call directly. 269-382-4000. Mention the VFW to secure the lower rate. Deadline date for making reservations is January 5, 2023 or when the block fills whichever comes first.**

In Service to Our Veterans,  
Diana Ward  
Dept. President

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Auxiliary Treasurers the office has been receiving way too many incomplete membership applications. When these are not filled out correctly, they then are sent back to you. This wastes valuable time in the membership process. Please take the necessary time to completely fill out the application including birthdate, eligibility under, dates of service of the eligible Veteran and what Auxiliary # they are joining. Seriously, they cannot be processed without all the above.

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**Mid-Winter Conference Kalamazoo, MI January 26<sup>h</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Please mark your calendars now. Plan to come out to support our VFW Auxiliary Programs and, enjoy the banquet as the Voice of Democracy, Patriots Pen, and Teacher of Year Awards are given out.

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**Sec. 104- Members in Good Standing Sub Bullet 1 and 2**

- "A member who has paid their dues to December 31 is in good standing."
- "A member **ceases** to be in good standing on January 1 immediately following the year for which the dues have been paid."

If an Officer has not paid their dues by December 31, 2022, they are no longer an officer. The Auxiliary must then declare that officer position vacant.

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**Sec. 109- Members and Officers— Rights of Bullet 2 and Sub Bullet 1**

- No Officer may be relieved of their office except for the following reasons:
  1. Non-Payment of dues prior to December 31. Once relieved from office, the member may not be re-elected or appointed to any position until the member's dues are paid.

## Office Closed Dates

The Department Office will be closed on the following dates  
December 23, 2022 Office closed Per VFW Commander John Griffith  
January 3, 2023 Office Reopens

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It is the Season for recognizing all our many blessings. Snow covers the landscape and festive lights brighten most homes. Your Department Officers are so grateful to serve and represent each one of you! It is through your hard work and dedication to our Veterans, their families, and your communities, that we make a difference through our membership in this wonderful Veterans organization. Now take time some me time. Sit awhile, drink a cup of hot mulled cider or cocoa, and enjoy those around you.

## *Happy Holidays*

*President: Diana Ward*

*Jr. Vice President: Jane Dady*

*Secretary: Sandi Onstwedder*

*Conductor: Jason Manke*

*Chief of Staff: Stephanie Krueger*

*Sr. Vice President: Sara Manke*

*Treasurer: Nicole Koutz*

*Chaplain: Debbie Scheetz*

*Guard: Jan Passmore*