



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
MICHIGAN CONNECTION #2
August/September 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:

- ✓ Department Office will be closed July 24- July 31. Dept. Secretary and Dept. Treasurer will be with the Dept. Officers at National Convention. If there is an emergency and you need to get ahold of the Secretary she will have the Dept. phone with her.
- ✓ Department Office will be closed August 26, 27, and 28th for the National Presidents visit. Hope to see most of you there. Info is on the website about her visit.

National VFW Auxiliary

Special Order No. 005: Upon recommendation of the Department President and by order of the National President, the Charter of the Auxiliary to Iosco County VFW Post No. 5678, Tawas City, MI. is cancelled and declared defunct.

Special Order No. 007: Upon recommendation of the Department President and by order of the National President, the Charter of the Auxiliary to Captain John J Kelley VFW Post No. 1355, Sturgis, MI., is cancelled and declared defunct.

Special Order No. 15: Upon recommendation of the Department President and by order of the National President and accordance with the VFW Auxiliary National Bylaws, Article II, Section 209 the Charter of the Auxiliary to Marlette VFW Post 4837, Marlette, MI. is hereby suspended for a period not to exceed three (3) Meetings due to: Failure to elect and install Officers for 2026-2027 and Failure to purchase a bond.

President - Jason's Corner

Congratulations to Past Department President Debbie Scheetz on achieving the high honor of being inducted into the National Circle of Excellence, and congratulations to the 25-26 Department Chairman for making Michigan shine as you received National awards. I'm looking forward to seeing a lot of our members at the VFW National Home for Michigan Day on Aug. 9th. Aug. 22nd is the annual Camp Trotter Family Day which is always a fun time. Just a couple reminders for Fall Conference we will be having a Bingo fundraiser and a Halloween evening where who knows what you might see or meet. Michigan has the honor of hosting the Big Ten Conference on Oct 16th and 17th, this event we will need several members to help with. I'm still planning on conducting a Training for President's, Secretary's, and Treasurer's, in each district. Lastly, I look forward to traveling and visiting with our great members.

Healthy Auxiliary Reminders

- **Bonds are available to purchase in Malta from NOW till August 31.** Please go to the Please make a motion on your auxiliary floor to purchase the 2026-2027 Bond.

- **Audits are due to the Department Treasurer by August 31, 2026.** Remember it must be read and approved on your Auxiliary Floor before submitting. Mailing Address: 1117 Michigan St., Midland, MI. 48640 Email: mitreas@asiserve.net
- **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
- **Bonds and Audits not submitted on time will result in your Auxiliary being in violation of the National By-laws.** Our Department President will have no choice, but to submit a letter of Suspension on behalf of your auxiliary. PLEASE CONTACT THE: Dept. President, Chief of Staff, Dept. Sec. or the Dept. Treas. so we can get you the help you need to perform your duties as a Healthy Auxiliary.

Upcoming Events

August 9 – Mich. VFW National Home Day
 August 22 – Camp Trotter Family Day
 Sept 18 – POW/MIA Day
 Oct 15-16 – Big Ten Conference, Kalamazoo

Upcoming District Meeting Dates

8th District - August 1, 2026, Rockford 3946
 9th District – August 1, 2026, Dewitt 671
 11th District – August 2, 2026, Midland 3651
 7th District – August 2, 2026, Homer 9411
 10th District – August 8, 2026, Fenton 3243
 14th District – Aug. 16, 2026, Brimley 9023
 12th District – Aug. 16, 2026, Baldwin 5315
 5th District – August 30, 2026, New Baltimore 7573
 4th District – Sept. 12, 2026, James Europe 2233
 14th District – Aug. 16, 2026, Brimley 9023
 15th District – Sept. 13, 2026, Iron River 3134
 6th District – Sept. 19, 2026, Brighton 4357

By Order of:

Jason Manke

Jason Manke
 Department President

Edna Kiviniemi (Kevin - knee- me)

Edna Kiviniemi
 Department Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN VFW AUXILIARY 2026-2027

RECOMMENDED DONATION SHEET

Auxiliary # _____ District # _____ Membership Total _____

Please!! Use one (1) check for all donation.

Make Check out to: MI. VFW Aux.

Send to: Department Treasurer, Cathy Sasse 1117 Michigan, Midland MI. 48640

1. **General Fund Donation:** Aides to Aux., Supplies for New Aux., Dist. Pres. Official Visits, Dept. Pres. Official Visits & travel, Dept. Chairman and Officers expenses to conferences, Schools of Instructions, Road Shows, Promotional Material for Dept./National Programs, Dept. Sec. & Treas wages, Dept. Office rent, phones, Vehicle/insurance, phones, Office Supplies, and etc.

Recommended Donation \$1.25 per member _____

2. **Hospital Donation:** Help with purchasing supplies & need for our Veterans, helps with parties and events for Veterans at the hospital, Reps and Deputies travel to and from VA Hospital & State Nursing Homes.

Recommended Donation \$1.00 per member _____

3. **Americanism Donation:** To promote the Americanism Programs, Presentation of Flags, Special Programs, and to assist with Fort Custer & Great Lakes National Cemetery.

Recommended Donation \$.25 Cent per member _____

4. **All Scholarships Donation:** Dept. Awards for Art Scholarships total \$4000.00 per year. Dept Awards for VOD total \$5000 per year. Dept. Awards for Patriots Pen total \$800 per year. Our **total obligation** is \$9,800 per year

Recommended Donation \$.50 Cent per member _____

Total of All Department Donations:

Department Total _____

National VFW Aux. Donations

Please Mail Health & Happiness of ten cents (\$.10) or twenty-five (\$.25) per member to VFW Auxiliary, National Headquarters, 406 West 34th St., Kansas City, MO 64111. Make checks payable to National VFW Aux.

It was also brought to our attention National is also in need of the \$2.00 for Cancer Grant Fund. We may not have a Cancer Program but the reserve they have is falling short and we need to continue our support for our members who fall to this disease.

Now available the Auxiliary Treasurer Can also go to the National Malta Website and Pay the Health and Happiness online.

National President Donna Mills

Official Visit Agenda

August 26- 28, 2026

Official Hotel

Comstock Inn & Conference Center

300 E. Main St. Owosso, MI. 989-725-0999

August 26, 2026 Nothing going on this day

5:15 p.m. Arrival of National President at Airport

6:45 p.m. Dept. Line Officers Dinner with the National President.

After Dinner

Night of Rest for the National President Donna Mills

August 27, 2026

9:30 a.m. **Aisle of Flags for the National President**

"Michigan Heroes Museum" 1250 Weis St., Frankenmuth, MI.

Please bring your Color Bear Flags for the Aisle

10:00 a.m. **National President will tour "Michigan Heroes Museum."**

Dress Code is VFW/Aux shirt, Jason Shirt. Something VFW or Patriotic.

Everyone is welcome to tour the Museum and visit Frankenmuth, MI.

Everyone is responsible for their own cost for events and meals.

12:00 p.m. Lunch on your own

2:30 p.m. **National President will tour "Owosso Curwood Castle"**

5:30 p.m. **Doors open for Banquet** Post & Aux. 9455 Owosso

Business Casual Dress 519 S. Chipman St., Owosso, MI

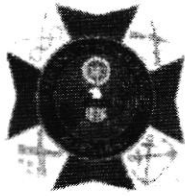
6:15 p.m. **Aisle of Flags - Bring Color Bear Flags**

6:30 p.m. Dinner with Program and Pictures to follow.

August 28, 2026

6:25 a.m. National President fly's home.

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Auxiliary to Post #9455

Cordially invites you to a Dinner in

Honor of National President Donna Mills

DATE/TIME:

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Doors open at 5:30 pm.

6:15 pm. Aisle of Flags (Color Bear Flags)

6:30 Dinner

Meet & Greet

LOCATION:

Owosso Memorial Post 9455

519 S. Chipman St.

Owosso, MI. 48867



COST:

\$15/per person

MUST be paid when reservation is made!

NO TICKETS will be sold the day of dinner

Reservations Deadline: August 21, 2026

Menu: Salisbury Steak w/Gravy & Pork Loin rolled up in Bacon

Baked Potatoes

Green Bean Casserole & Cauliflower Casserole

Rolls w/Butter, Fruit Bowl, Desserts

Send ticket money to: Sandra Harvey, Aux. Treas. – 1863 Ketegawn Rd., Owosso,
MI 48867

Post/Aux # _____ Number of Tickets _____ x \$15.00 = \$ _____

Name of Picking up Tickets _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

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**NATIONAL PRESIDENT DONNA MILLS
OFFICIAL VISIT ITINERARY
AUGUST 27, 2026**

Thursday, August 27, 2026

Owosso #9455

Banquet

6:15 Aisle of Flags (color bearer flags)

6:30 Dinner

(Love gifts and pictures)

For those who may not be able to attend, but wish to honor our National President, please send your love gift to:

Edna Kiviniemi, Department Secretary

924 N. Washington Avenue

Lansing, MI 48906

*Any questions regarding the visit, please contact
Department Secretary, Edna Kiviniemi at 517 487-3715.*

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: Donna Mills

Please include this form with your gift:

Auxiliary Name _____

Auxiliary No. _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip Code _____

Amount of Gift: _____

Auxiliary President _____

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VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS
20256 VFW & AUXILIARY 100th ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE
Comfort Inn and Convention Center, Mt. Pleasant
October 29 – November 1, 2026
AUXILIARY AGENDA

Thursday, October 29

2:00 pm – 3:00 pm	Department Auxiliary Line Officers Meeting	- Suite 2400
3:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Auxiliary Pre-Council of Administration Meeting	- Suite 2400
6:00 pm	Department Auxiliary Line Officers Dinner with the National Auxiliary Representative	
6:00 pm – 10:00 pm	Hospitality Room	

Friday, October 30

8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Conference Registration (closed for lunch 11:30 am – 1:00 pm)	
8:00 am – 4:00 pm	Auxiliary Hospital Table Fundraiser tables VFW Camp Trotter and VFW Committee and Vendors	- Room F-G
8:00 am – 10:00 am	Sec. / Treas. Training	- Room B,C,D
10:30 am	VFW/Auxiliary Joint Presentations • VFW National Home Representative • MVAA Representative – <i>State Director – VFW Member</i> • Karmanos Cancer Institute Representative Presentation • Vets Returning Home • Training on VFW required Community Service Form from Auxiliaries.	
1:15 pm – 3:00 pm	Auxiliary Council of Administration Meeting	
3:15 pm – 5:00 pm	Concurrent Auxiliary Training • How to Identify a Red and Yellow Flag Auxiliary by Chief Della • Communication and Chain of Command • Audience Participation	- Room B,C,D

4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	District Sr. Vice Presidents Meeting W/ Jan Gelder, Dept. Sr. Vice President	VFW Hospitality Room
6:30 pm – 9:30 pm	Doors Open for Bingo -	
7:00 pm – 11:00 pm	Hospitality Room Open	

Saturday, October 31

8:00 am – 10:00 am	Conference Registration	
8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Auxiliary Hospital and VFW Camp Trotter Fundraiser Table/Vendors	
9:00 am – 9:30 pm	Dept. Chairmen's Meeting W/ Dept. President Jason & Program Chairman -Sara Manke	- Room B,C,D
9:30 am – 10:00 am	Parliamentary/Bylaws	
9:30 am – 10:30 am	District Jr. Vice Presidents Meeting W/ Kris Griffith, Dept. Jr. Vice President	VFW Hospitality Room
10:00 am – 11:00 am	Dept. Auxiliary Program Chairmen Presentations 5 Min. presentation then break out Chairmen at tables within room for question & answer. Meeting & Great your Dept. Chairman	
12:00 pm – 1:30 pm	Auxiliary Past Presidents Luncheon	
1:30 pm – 4:00 pm	Member Applications Training on using the Dashboard on Dept. Michigan Website. Questions/Answer	- Room B,C,D
6:30 pm	Fall Conference Dinner & Halloween Costume Party Raffles	(Costumes if you wish)

Nov. 1st 2026 Have a Safe Trip Home

**VFW and Auxiliary
Department of Michigan
99th Annual Fall Conference Housing Information
Comfort Inn & Suites
2424 S. Mission St.
Mt. Pleasant, MI 48858**

Wednesday October 28 – Sunday November 1, 2026

RESERVATION DEADLINE IS SEPTEMBER 12, 2026

**YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MAKE A RESERVATION AT THE VFW
RATE AFTER THE DEADLINE DATE OR
AFTER THE BLOCK IS FULL!!**

**Call for reservations:
Group Name: VFW Department Fall Conference**

**Comfort Inn & Suites
989-772-4000**

Or

**Fairfield Inn
989-775-5000**

The Fairfield Inn is across the parking lot from the Comfort Inn

Room Rates:

**King bed or 2 Queen beds - \$111.00
Suite - \$132.00 (limited number available)**

**PLEASE MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE.**

PLEASE REVIEW THE CONFERENCE AGENDA

**WHEN THE ROOM BLOCK IS FULL THERE WILL NOT BE
ADDITIONAL ROOMS ADDED TO THE BLOCK AT THE
BLOCK RATE**

**THERE WILL NOT BE A FALL CONFERENCE GOLF OUTING
DUE TO THE CONFERENCE DATE**

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DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN
VFW AND AUXILIARY
99th ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE AD BOOK

AD BOOK RATES:

FULL PAGE AD - \$125.00

1/2 PAGE AD - \$90.00

1/4 PAGE AD - \$70.00

PATRON AD - \$10.00 (Name and Post or Auxiliary Number Only)

Payment can be made by check (payable to Department of Michigan VFW) or by credit card: contact Jan or Amanda at Department Headquarters at 517-485-9456

MAIL AD WITH PAYMENT TO:

Department of Michigan VFW

924 N. Washington

Lansing, MI 48906

OR Email to: Jan Gelder - bookkeeper@vfwmi.vet

THE DEADLINE FOR ALL ADS IS OCTOBER 2, 2026

MESSAGE: (PLEASE PRINT or ATTACH SEPARATE PRINTED PAGE)

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Veterans & Family Support Bulletin August-September 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

Promote Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) Veteran, Military Suicide & Mental Health Awareness

Assist Veterans, Service Members and their Families

Promote Resources for Veterans and Military Support Programs

AUGUST 2026

REPORTING: Working together as a team and reporting what you do for the Veterans & Family Support program is very important. Through promoting programs available to Veterans and their families we can help bring a solution to the problems faced by Veterans and their families every day. Reporting how you were able to reach your community, veterans, and families will help other auxiliaries reach even more veterans with the information they need.

The Guide Sheet provided at the beginning of the year is intended to outline the steps needed to meet the program goals. Its purpose is to guide you. Communication is the key to success: by promoting available programs and reporting what you do, helps share ideas and reach more veterans. When completing the report, please note that when it asks **who**, you do not need to provide a specific name, such as "helped John Smith." Instead, identify the general group or activity, such as Veteran, family member, spouse, or event. If your description includes **how many** and **how much**, you do not need to complete achievements #3 and #5 because that information is already included. If you do a few of the same kind of activities but at different times – include them in the same report and make sure you fill in the # of projects done and include numbers for all projects. The details requested on the report is needed to prepare the final report for President Manke at the end of the year. Please include the **"WHO", WHAT, WHEN, WHY, HOW MUCH, and HOW MANY, & VFW RESOURCES USED.**



RESOURCE BONANZA: Your "go-to" for information and resources can be found on **"MALTA"** **M**embership **A**uxiliary **L**eadership **T**echnology **A**ccess <https://malta.vfwauxiliary.org> Activate your account today!

Check out the Veterans and Family Support – Michigan Facebook page for suggestions and ideas to help you spread the word about programs to give support.

SPECIAL DATES TO SHOW APPRECIATION & CELEBRATE OUR VETERANS

Aug. 4.....U.S. Coast Guard Birthday	Sept. 2.....V-J Day (Victory over Japan)
Aug. 7.....Purple Heart Day	Sept. 7.....Labor Day
Aug. 16.....National airborne Day	Sept. 11.....Patriot Day
Aug. 29.....Marine Corps Reserve Birthday	Sept. 18.....Air Force Birthday & POW/MIA DAY
	Sept. 27Gold Star Mothers & Family Day

SEPTEMBER 2026

Suicide Prevention Month 2026 is observed in **September**, with World Suicide Prevention Day on September 10 and National Suicide Prevention Week from September 13 to 19.

Know the Signs: Familiarize yourself with the "5 Signs" of emotional suffering

1. Talking About Suicide or Death
2. Uncharacteristic Changes in Behavior
3. Isolation and Withdrawal
4. Accessing Lethal Means
5. Extreme Mood Swings or Changes in Sleep Patterns

• **The Lifeline:** Keep the 988 (Press 1) number saved in your phone and displayed in your Posts. Your awareness could be the bridge that leads a veteran from crisis to recovery. You truly may not know how much of a difference you may make in someone's life.



Use the teardrop sticker pattern on the Veterans and Family Support page located on the Auxiliary Website to make stickers or make pins with teal & purple ribbon to give to people in the community to raise awareness of the importance of Suicide Prevention.



You can make the difference check out other Ideas at: [vfw.org/assistance/mental-wellness](https://www.vfw.org/assistance/mental-wellness)

STUDENT VETERAN SUPPORT: The VFW website: <https://www.vfw.org/assistance/student-veterans-support> explains opportunities for student veterans to gain help with education and even career help beyond education. You can learn about Programs like the **Student Veteran Support Grant**, which offers much needed assistance to support specific student veteran events. The VFW has teamed up with **Student Veterans of America**, which provides exemplary student veterans the opportunity to make their voices heard on Capitol Hill and in their community. This program has been held annually since 2014. The VFW has also teamed with **Sport Clips Haircuts** to provide the assistance needed to help with the cost of an education. Information about Education and Career Resources, Choosing a School, the GI Bill, and little known facts about what is available to veterans can all be found on the website above. Take the opportunity to promote all these programs in support of Veterans and their families by having a booth at community events – think of ways you can “Spread the Opportunities”

VFW FOUNDATION GRANTS: ***VFW #StillServing Grant** is offered exclusively to VFW Posts, Districts and Their Auxiliaries to offset expenses incurred while doing community service projects. ***Uniting for Veterans Grant** help with donations to local food banks, pantries or homeless relief organizations. ***Post Assistance Grant (PAG)** for Posts building repairs and equipment. ***VFW Disaster Relief Fund** provides our organization with the opportunity to react quickly with immediate relief to affected areas. More information is available on the VFW website: <https://www.vfw.org/community/communityinitiatives/post-grants>. Donations are welcome for all these programs. Promote these programs & do a Fundraising Event to help serve even more Veterans & their families.

YOU ARE “SERVING AMERICA’S HEROES” by “LEADING WITH A PATRIOT’S HEART” when you **REPORT** all you do - One Guideline step at a time for **“Veterans & Family Support”**. We are a Team - You are not alone – I am here to help you – together we **WILL** reach our goals!

Evelyn Avery
269-491-0642 (cell)

44936 CR 352
269-423-8129 (home)

Decatur, MI 49045
E-MAIL: averycow1950@gmail.com

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary AMERICANISM BULLETIN

August 2026

www.vfwauxmi.org

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

National Theme: Serving America's Heros

Department Theme: Leading with a Patriot's Heart

Greetings Brothers, Sisters, and Patriotic Instructors,

As summer winds down, a brand-new school year is right around the corner. This gives our Auxiliaries a prime opportunity to plant the seeds of patriotism in our local communities. Back-to-school season is one of the most impactful times of the year to promote Americanism, honor our military history, and celebrate the educators who guide our youth.

Before the school bells ring, we have a major military milestone to celebrate! On August 4, we honor the birthday of the United States Coast Guard, established on this day in 1790. Originally founded by Alexander Hamilton as the *Revenue Marine* (and later the Revenue Cutter Service), it began with just a small fleet of ten cutters tasked with enforcing federal customs and tariff laws. Over the centuries, their mission expanded tremendously. Today, the Coast Guard stands as a vital branch of the Armed Forces, protecting our nation's maritime borders, conducting daring search-and-rescue operations, and saving lives at sea.

To help your Auxiliary plan its youth outreach this fall, focus on these key initiatives:

- Promoting the Pledge of Allegiance: Work with local elementary schools, preschools, and youth groups to teach the history, meaning, and proper posture for the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Provide Patriotic Bookmarks, coloring pages & other resources that promote patriotism, supporting our veterans, Americanism and the importance of our flag.

Don't wait until the first bell rings to connect with your local educators. Reach out to your school administrators, principals, or individual classroom teachers early to complete a classroom flag check:

1. Assess the Need: Ask the schools if their classrooms are missing an American flag, or if their current flags are worn, faded, or damaged. Donate flags if you can. Don't forget to report how many.

Now is the perfect time to get out into your community and spark the conversation for the VFW Smart/Maher Teacher of the Year awards! As schools are preparing for the new year, reach out directly to Superintendents, Principals, and Teachers. Encourage them to nominate an outstanding educator who consistently incorporates patriotism, civic responsibility, and American history into their curriculum. We want to recognize the teachers who go above and beyond to build strong, patriotic citizens. K-5th grade, 6-8th grade and 9-12th grade teachers.

Thank you for everything you do to keep patriotism alive in the hearts of our youth and community!

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
AMERICANISM BULLETIN
September 2026
www.vfwauxmi.org

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

National Theme: Serving America's Heros

Department Theme: Leading with a Patriot's Heart

As we transition from the excitement of the back-to-school season into September, our focus turns toward one of the most sacred pillars of our organization: remembering those who have borne the ultimate cost of freedom, yet have not returned home, while honoring the deep milestones that changed our nation forever.

This year, the National Commander-in-Chief and National President's Special Project is proudly dedicated to supporting the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). The DPAA uses a combination of archival research, global recovery excavations, and advanced forensic science (including DNA testing) to identify missing service members and bring them home to their families.

To Donate: Contributions can be made quickly and securely online through MALTA.

To Report: Financial contributions and awareness projects for the DPAA are to be **reported under Veterans and Family Support.**

Mark your calendars and start planning your events now! Friday, September 18, 2026, is National POW/MIA Recognition Day. This day is dedicated to ensuring that our nation never forgets the servicemen and women who were taken prisoner of war or remain missing in action.

How your auxiliary can promote this important day:

Host a Missing Man Table Ceremony, set up a Missing Man Table at your post home, hold a POW/MIA ceremony at your post or a local library, a school, or a community center. Hand out brochures explaining the deep symbolism behind each item on the table.

We have a momentous event happening right here in our department! On September 19, 2026, there will be a special ceremony and dedication of a brand-new POW/MIA monument, generously donated by Jane and Ralph Dady.

When: September 19, 2026 at 1pm

Where: Oscoda Veterans Memorial Park (Old Wurtsmith AFB)
4000 N. Skeel Ave. Oscoda, MI 48750

September 11 holds a permanent, sacred place in the hearts of all Americans. As we mark another year since that fateful day, we must ask ourselves: How will we choose to remember?

1. The Lives Lost: Those who went to work or boarded a plane on 9/11 and never came home, as well as the heroic first responders who ran toward danger.
2. Post 9/11 Veterans: The brave soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines we lost in the global war on terrorism that followed, and the families who continue to carry the weight of those sacrifices. Consider hosting a community breakfast, a unified moment of silence at 8:46 AM, or coordinating with local fire and police departments for a joint Patriot Day memorial service.

We want to see the incredible work your post and auxiliaries are doing! Please remember to share your photos, stories, and event flyers on our Facebook page Americanism-Michigan.

Thank you for your unwavering commitment to our veterans, our missing heroes, and our communities.

Loyally;

Vickie Bushong, Dept. Americanism Chairman

americanism2627@gmail.com 989-621-5971



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary

Buddy®Poppy – August 2026

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: Buddy Poppy-Michigan

National Theme: *From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free*

Department Theme: *We Don't Know Them All, But We Owe Them All*



Anniversary "Buddy®Poppies are available from the VFW Store while supplies last. The poppies are the same design as the original, but it comes in Silver for the 25th Anniversary, Gold for the 50th Diamond (iridescent white) for the 75th. VFW Posts or Auxiliaries in their 100th year can order any color and as many as they need. Once they are sold, they are gone

MALTA has many resources to help you with your poppy event. It has a Chairman's Manual, business cards that you can print, and citations. The VFW store also carries many items, including a pamphlet called "The Story of the Buddy®Poppy.

Share and SWAP (Sharing Wonderful Auxiliary Projects) creative ways to educate the community about the VFW Buddy®Poppy.

Some ideas:

- The VFW has several videos on YouTube, including "The Impact of the 'Buddy'® Poppy," "Behind the VFW 'Buddy'® Poppy" and "The Veterans Behind the Poppy."
- Share these videos on social media or at a holiday or event at your Post.
- Distribute "Buddy"® Poppies during food/donation drives and put Poppies on desserts as decorations for holiday meals.
 - Create table centerpieces or wreaths using "Buddy"® Poppies. Explain to your guests.
 - Make a wall of remembrance at a community location like your local Post.
 - Contribute to virtual "Buddy"® Poppy Gardens on Instagram using the hashtag #buddypoppy. Several of these exist online, where you can share personal photos of poppy fields and gardens or other tributes.

What are your ideas? Post them on our Facebook page.

Jane Dady

953 N US 23 East Tawas, MI 48730

989-254-7155

Jdpickle12@yahoo.com

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary

Buddy®Poppy – September 2026

www.vfwauxmi.org

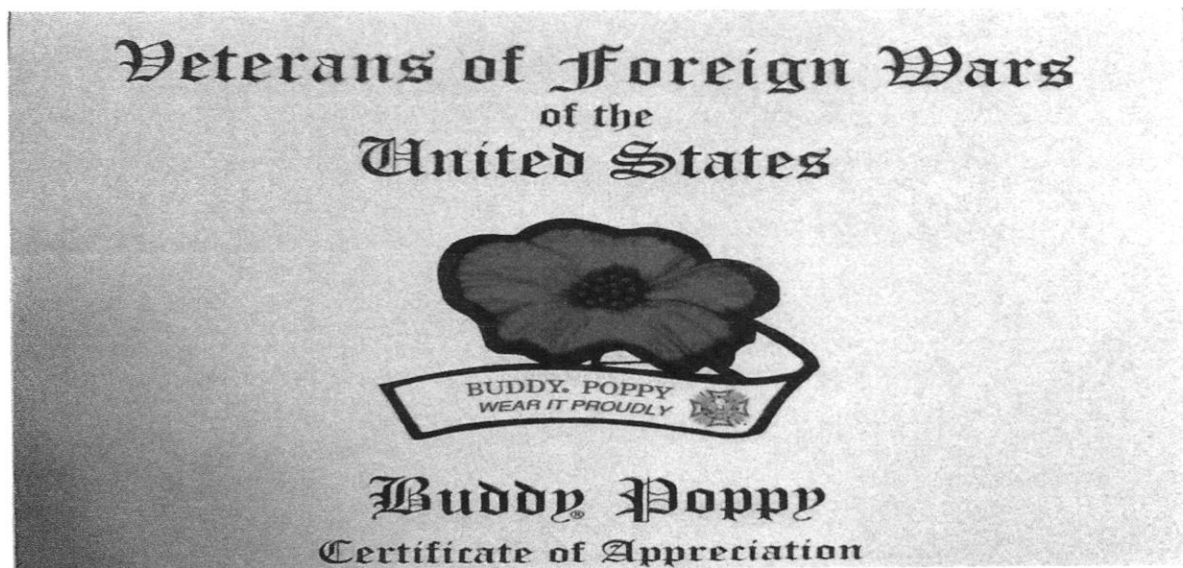
Facebook Page: Buddy Poppy-Michigan

National Theme: Serving America's Heroes

Department Theme: *Leading with a Patriot's Heart*

Honor the Dead by helping the living. Wear a Buddy®Poppy in remembrance of a fallen veteran. These small but mighty remembrance flowers have raised millions of dollars for the welfare of veterans and their families. All money collected from distributions goes directly into your relief account. This is a restricted account. The money can only be used to help veterans and their families.

Recognition is Important! Give recognition for a job well done. A word of praise often means more than any kind of financial reward – especially if it is done publicly. Don't overlook the faithful Auxiliary member who goes to stores or businesses each year to distribute Poppies. Recognize their efforts at Post events or Auxiliary meetings. Special citation awards are made available through the VFW Store www.vfwstore.org along with citations, year pins, and other items.



Report the number of poppies distributed each quarter, attending a School of Instruction, and your District meeting.

Jane Dady

953 N US 23 East Tawas, MI 48730

989-254-7155

Jdpickle12@yahoo.com

**Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
Extension & Revitalization/Chief of Staff
BULLETIN
August 2026**

www.vfwauxmi.org



National Theme: Serving America's Heroes

Department Theme: Leading with a Patriot's Heart

Do you understand what the signs mean?

A **Red flag** is an auxiliary that could be placed on suspension to give them time to work with a suspension team, with hopes that they return to a healthy auxiliary.

A **Yellow flag** is an auxiliary that is struggling in one or two areas and improves quickly with minimal assistance.

A **Green flag** is a positive and healthy auxiliary, meeting all required goals of the organization.

What is a PIP? Simply put, a PIP is a Performance Improvement Plan. It helps an Auxiliary take ownership of problems by identifying needed actions, responsible people, and timelines. With goals and a plan in place, the Auxiliary can resolve issues in a way that benefits its members, the organization, and the Auxiliary as a whole. The Department President may appoint a person or team to assist, but the Auxiliary creates its own plan to become healthy again.

How can a PIP benefit the Auxiliary? A Performance Improvement Plan helps reduce the impact of suspension by guiding the Auxiliary through issues, conflicts, or concerns while continuing its important work. Monitored at the Department level, the plan allows timelines to be adjusted as needed, tracks progress and gives members a voice in deciding how to return the Auxiliary to a healthier place. With support from a mentor or mediator, a PIP helps the Auxiliary pause, identify the problem, and create a practical plan to move forward and better serve our veterans.

R U Healthy Checklist reminders for August:

- April/May/June audit reports to Department by August 31, 2026, after they have been read and approved on your auxiliary floor before submitting them.
- Duties of the Trustees on every level to see that the offices of the President and Treasurer are bonded by August 31, 2026. The amount of the bond shall be approved by the Auxiliary and written in the minutes.
- Use MALTA to prepare and send your dues notices to annual members.

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

September 2026

www.vfwauxmi.org

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

National Theme: Serving America's Heroes

Department Theme: Leading with a Patriot's Heart

Presidents: Official visits have begun. You may have already hosted your District President's visit, while others are scheduled soon. If your Auxiliary needs mentoring or assistance with anything, please contact me or the Department Office.

Our focus remains on ensuring every Michigan Auxiliary has the guidance and resources needed to stay healthy and successful.

Tools: District and Auxiliary Presidents are encouraged to read and use the *Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation* booklet. This helpful resource offers guidance for conducting effective meetings, creating agendas, preparing accurate minutes, and understanding officer duties. Used together with our By-Laws and Ritual, it supports proper procedures and strengthens leadership within our Auxiliaries. Strong, knowledgeable leadership is key to retaining and engaging members.

Another great tool available is the *Online Academy* on MALTA.

www.vfwauxiliary.org



-About Us tab

-Online Academy

There you will find videos and PDF files on Membership, Treasurer, social media and how to engage existing members.

Yellow Flag signs:

1. Audits are not done on time.
2. No representation on District -Level at meetings
3. No change in Officers
4. No new members
5. No Program reports

R U Healthy Checklist reminders for September:

- District dues, based on June 30, 2026, membership, paid to District by September 30, 2026.
- If you didn't send out due notices in July or August, do them now.
- Report in all programs
- Begin preparing for the July, August, September Audit.

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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
HOSPITAL BULLETIN
August & September 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 take a trip to the Upper Peninsula, as we enjoy the ride along Lake Michigan and Lake Superior. Our first stop is in Iron Mountain at the Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center.

With injured Veterans returning home from World War II, Iron Mountain was chosen in 1945 as a site for one of 100 VA hospitals being built. On March 14, 1948, construction began on 31.5 acres that had once been the site of a large sawmill and lumberyard. It was the largest building project to date in the Upper Peninsula. The six-story, 265 bed hospital with 360 staff was dedicated on March 5, 1950.

In 1950 when the doors opened to the Veterans it was named Iron Mountain Veterans Administration Hospital. In October 2008 it was renamed Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center to honor a local WWII Veteran & Medal of Honor Recipient. Mr. Johnson was a Foster City Mi native. In May 2013 the front circle drive was renamed the James D. Priestap Drive in honor of Sergeant First Class Priestap who was killed by a sniper's bullet in Iraq on Thanksgiving Day, 2006. He was an OGJVAMC police officer during the time of his deployment.



The VA offers Primary Care Outpatient Clinic and Urgent Care Clinics & Specialty Care Clinics in the following areas: Gladstone, Hancock, Ironwood, Manistique, Marquette, Menominee, Rhineland, and Sault Ste. Marie.

A NEW Service they offer is Electromyography (EMG) this has the ability to help diagnose the following conditions: Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), Carpal Tunnel, Neuropathy, Pinched nerves, Sciatica, nerve injuries and other inflammatory muscle diseases.

The Oscar G. Johnson VA Medical Center is proud to be ranked first nationally for Veteran permanent housing placement.

August 4th – US Coast Guard Birthday

September 2026

As we move further North to Marquette you will be at the Marquette VA Hospital D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans. D.J. Jacobetti opened in 1981, former St. Mary's Hospital which was built in 1954 with 2 later additions. The Home is named after Dominic Jacobetti, longest serving member of the House of Representatives, headed the House of Appropriations Committee and secured a lot of funding for the UP including a veteran's home.



For those that remember Past State Commander Dale Brubaker (1992-1993) he was a huge advocate for D.J. Jacobetti Home for Veterans, and they named a room after him.

D.J. Jacobetti is a long-term skilled nursing home and provides dementia and memory care, rehabilitation, domiciliary and palliative care. The veterans who call MVHDJJ home have honorably served our country. Service-connected veterans receive priority in admission. All honorably discharged veterans are eligible for admission, along with Gold Star Mothers and Fathers, spouses, and other eligible dependents.

They currently house WWII, Korean, Vietnam, Gulf War and Peacetime Veterans.

It's not too early to start thinking about the Holidays. For Veterans Day consider sending the veterans cards thanking them for their service. If possible, host a luncheon at your Auxiliary and invite Veterans from the VA Medical Centers or Veterans Home to attend.

Please visit our Hospital Facebook page to see a wish list of items needed for MVH D.J. Jacobetti.

September 18th – US Airforce Birthday

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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
BULLETIN
August 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

Hoping everyone safely celebrated our nation's 250th birthday.

As indicated in the July bulletin, legislation is a lot like school, where learning, participation, and effort shape the outcome. Did you go to school by voting in the August primaries? Let's continue our obligation of making our voice matter by bookmarking

<https://mivic.sos.state.mi.us/PublicBallot/Index> for future reference to dates, times, and ballot samples for our districts.

We also need to stay on top of current legislation <https://votervoice.net/VFW/bills>. We must remain vigilant on all. Although the vote was cancelled for H. R. 9237 due to overwhelming opposition from so many, thanks all. We must remind our legislators that every veteran honored their contract it is time our leaders honor the contract. Bills can move very quickly or come to a screeching halt as we saw with Take Care of America's Veterans Act.

Homework for August:

- Learn who your representatives are [Find Your Legislators](#)
- Pick five bills from the link above and research
- Write your representatives or reach out to them personally to encourage or steer them to take action in the best interests of our Veterans and their families
- Thank them for taking time to speak with you

Everyone is off to a good start with reporting. Keep up the great work. Please let me know if you are struggling. We will fight together to help our Veterans.

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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary BULLETIN

September 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

Everyone enjoying the last few days of summer? Kids/grandkids are back in school.

I would like everyone to partner with your Americanism chair to review H.R. 3057, The National POW/MIA Memorial and Museum Act. Like many bills the House has not moved on this since April 2025, we need to give it a little kick start. The VFW supports this bill to preserve stories of prisoners of war and missing in action. How many of the more than 83,000 POW/MIA are from your area; take a look.

It seems early for November elections, however, absentee ballots should be received in September. Early voting begins October 24th. As we get closer to elections use this link <https://mvic.sos.state.mi.us/PublicBallot/Index> to find out what will be on your ballot. The VFW Auxiliary remains proudly nonpartisan and encourages members to participate in the democratic process without endorsing candidates or political parties.

September 17th is Constitution Day which reminds us of the freedoms we enjoy and the responsibilities we share as citizens.

September 18th is National POW/MIA Recognition Day. Honor those who were prisoners of war and those who are missing in action. Remember their families who keep their memories alive.

Homework for September

- Contact at least one elected official regarding a veterans' issue
- Share legislative updates during your Auxiliary meeting
- Encourage members to sign up for legislative alerts
- Report all legislative activities promptly

As always, your voice matters—thank you for your commitment to advancing legislation that supports those who have served.

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**Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
Historian & Media Relations - BULLETIN
August & September 2026**

www.vfwauxmi.org

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

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

National Theme: Serving America's Heroes

Department Theme: Leading with a Patriot's Heart

Hello Auxiliaries, over the last few months, we have celebrated events such as Memorial Day, Flag Day, and the Fourth of July. We have also elected new officers and held Department Convention. Each of these events provides valuable opportunities for historians to capture photographs that help preserve the history of our Auxiliary. Historians—and Auxiliary members alike—serve as the storytellers of our organization for future generations. When taking photographs, it is important not only to capture the image itself but also to provide key information about the story behind it. We all know the "Five Ws," and they are an excellent guide when documenting photographs:

- **Who** is in the picture? **What** is happening? **When** was the photo taken?
- **Where** was it taken? **Why** is the event significant?

When capturing moments for your Auxiliary's history, keep these guidelines in mind:

- Make sure everyone is looking at the camera. If necessary, point to where you want people to focus their attention.
- Take multiple photos to increase your chances of capturing the perfect shot.
- Whenever possible, avoid harsh shadows and poor lighting. Natural or direct lighting often produces the best results.
- Always ask for permission before taking someone's photograph.
- If children are included in the photo, ensure a parent or guardian has completed the appropriate photo release form.
- If alcoholic beverages are being served at an event, politely ask individuals to set their drinks aside before taking the photo. This helps maintain a professional and family-friendly image.

There are many options available for Auxiliaries to preserve their photographs digitally. One popular choice is creating digital photo books or online photo albums. Platforms such as Shutterfly, Canva, and Mixbook offer free accounts that allow you to upload photos at your convenience and organize them into albums.

This can be an excellent tool for historians to create a yearbook-style record of the Auxiliary's activities throughout the year. Photos can be uploaded after each event, complete with captions and descriptions, much like a traditional scrapbook or photo album.

Media Relations involves working with various forms of media to inform the public about an organization's mission, policies, programs, and activities in a positive, consistent, and credible manner.

The duties of a Media Relations Chairman encompass many different areas, and they do not have to accomplish them alone. Chairmen are encouraged to work with other Auxiliary members and chairmen to help promote the work of the Auxiliary effectively. One of the primary responsibilities of the Media Relations Chairman is ensuring that the Auxiliary's programs, events, and accomplishments are visible to both members and the community. This includes collaborating with other program chairmen to promote important information through platforms such as Facebook and other social media channels. For example, the National Home Helpline is an excellent resource that can be promoted through social media to increase awareness and reach those who may need assistance. When program chairmen and Media Relations work together, the Auxiliary is better able to highlight its programs and achieve success across all areas.

Another important aspect of Media Relations is promoting events sponsored by both the Auxiliary and the VFW Post. Effective promotion helps ensure that not only your members, but also members from neighboring Posts and Auxiliaries, as well as community members, are aware of opportunities to participate and provide support.

Promotion efforts may include:

- Creating Facebook events
- Posting event information on your Auxiliary's social media pages
- Designing and distributing flyers
- Sharing information through local media outlets and community calendars

Working closely with the Auxiliary President, event chairmen, and other members can help maximize attendance and contribute to the overall success of your events.

Communication with members is another key component of Media Relations. Auxiliaries should utilize a variety of communication methods to ensure information reaches all members. While social media is a valuable tool, not all members use these platforms. Newsletters remain an effective way to share updates, announcements, and program information. Newsletters can be mailed, emailed, or printed and distributed to members monthly or quarterly.

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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary BULLETIN

August/September 2026

www.vfwauxmi.org

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

National Theme: Serving America's Heroes

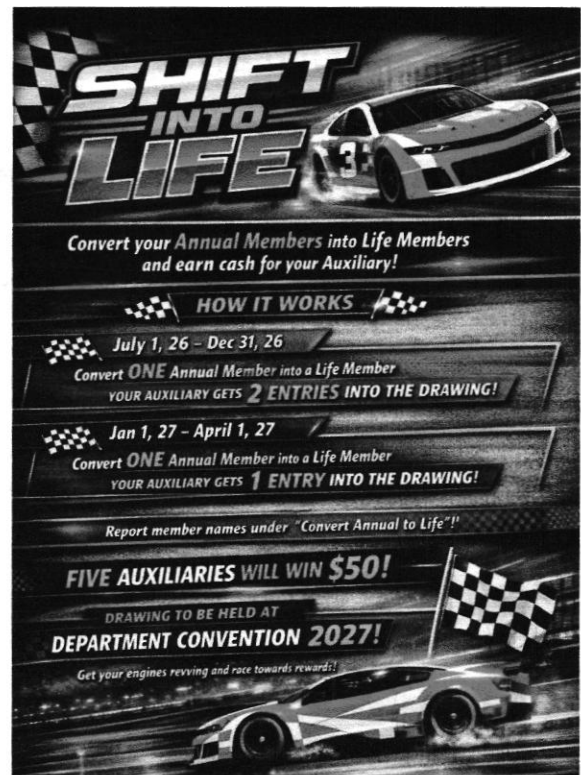
Department Theme: Leading with a Patriot's Heart

TEAM! We are now officially a month into our new membership program year! How has the planning you did in June helped you out and gotten you off to a running start? Summer is officially in full swing and you should be out there at the County Fairs, parades, auto shows, farmers' markets and even garage sales to name a few. Any place you go is a great place to find a prospective member! Whatever your membership goals are, we are currently in green flag racing, full speed ahead with a Department membership goal of reaching 102% plus. It will take the whole TEAM to get us to that coveted checkered flag at the end of our program year!

This year we will be doing "Convert To Life" drawing but for it to align with President Manke's theme, we are calling it "Shift into Life"! The goal of this program is to convert your Annual Members into Life Members to help you in minimizing resources in collecting yearly dues along with many other benefits for not only the member but the Auxiliary. Here is how it works:

- July 1, 26 - Dec 31, 26
 - Convert ONE Annual Member into a Life Member - Your Auxiliary gets **2** entries into the drawing.
- Jan 1, 27 - April 1, 27
 - Convert ONE Annual Member into a Life Member - Your Auxiliary gets **1** entry into the drawing.

*You must **report** member names under "Membership", then select "Convert Annual to Life-"Shift into Life" Drawing" in order to verify and be qualified for drawing.



This drawing will be held at Department Convention 2027 with five (5) Auxiliaries going home with \$50. Get your engines revving and race towards rewards!!

(Flyer for this promotion is on our Department website)

*Reminder: Send out your dues notice by **August 31** for Auxiliary Achievement points!

September

Can you believe it that we are already a couple months into this membership year? In the previous months we have discussed coming up with a plan and executing it. This includes establishing your membership committee (By-Laws, Sect 108A), checking out resources on Malta, setting dates, creating needed items for your membership program and recruiting talking points. So now what? Invite someone to join!



As we are set up in our communities via a table at a local event or promoting on social media, we send out that invitation to join, but they are just not ready yet. "I'll think about it and get back to you." might be a familiar phrase. Whatever it is, be sure to follow up! During that first contact with a prospective member, be sure to ask for the contact information. This can be done by having a contact form readily available at your

fingertips. If you have not heard anything within about a week, reach out. You can do this via a personal phone call, an email, text, or even a sweet little note in the mail. And, if your Post or Auxiliary has an upcoming community event, invite them.

Membership Drive Ideas - "Fuel Your Passion – Drive With Us!"

Here are a couple membership drive ideas to get you towards the winners circle.

Leverage the "Just One Card" Referral Program

Encourage current members to recruit just one new member. Offer incentives such as a **free VFW Store item**, a **discount on their own dues**, or a **special recognition plaque** for the most recruits. Promote this through email, events, and social media.

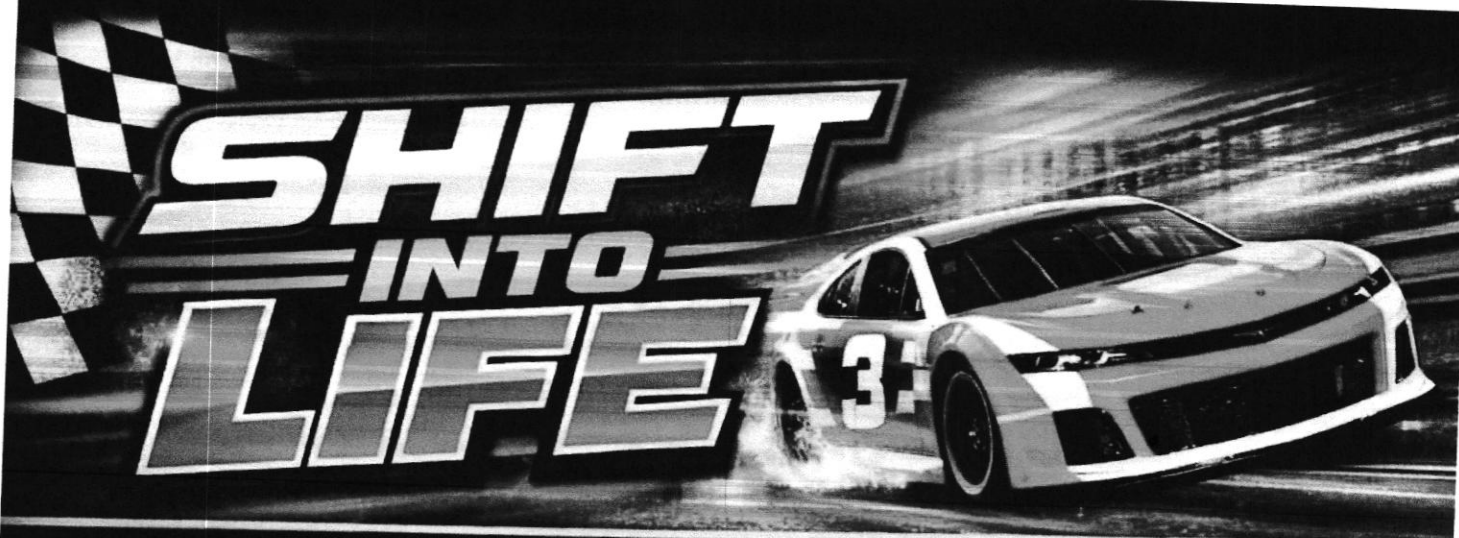
Create a "Membership Moments" Campaign

Highlight **member stories, events, and benefits** through social media, newsletters, and in-person displays. Use the **Membership Moments** concept to show the impact of Auxiliary members.

Reminder: Any Auxiliary that reaches 100% by September 1, 2026 will be entered into a drawing for \$50. One winner will be drawn at the Fall Conference next month!!

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!

Christine Senko
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**Convert your Annual Members into Life Members
and earn cash for your Auxiliary!**

HOW IT WORKS

July 1, 26 – Dec 31, 26

Convert ONE Annual Member into a Life Member

YOUR AUXILIARY GETS 2 ENTRIES INTO THE DRAWING!

Jan 1, 27 – April 1, 27

Convert ONE Annual Member into a Life Member

YOUR AUXILIARY GETS 1 ENTRY INTO THE DRAWING!

Report member names under "Convert Annual to Life"!

FIVE AUXILIARIES WILL WIN \$50!

**DRAWING TO BE HELD AT
DEPARTMENT CONVENTION 2027!**

Get your engines revving and race towards rewards!



SAMPLE



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Scholarships Bulletin August-2026-2027

www.vfwauxmi.org

National Theme: Serving America's Heroes
Department Theme: Leading With a Patriots Heart

PROGRAM GOALS

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

It is hard to believe that August is already here and the start of a new school year is just around the corner. If you have not already done so, it is important to begin contacting your local schools as soon as possible.

Please make every effort to deliver the **Voice of Democracy** and **Patriot's Pen** materials to both middle and high schools early in the school year. Entries for both contests must be submitted to your Auxiliary no later than **October 31, 2026**. This year's theme for both contests is:

"What A Veteran Taught Me about America?"

When delivering the application packets, please include the following materials:

- Official application
- School release form
- Student biography form
- Headshot/photo requirement

It is highly recommended that every student complete all required forms when they submit their entry. Doing so will make the advancement process much easier should their entry be selected to move on to the District level. All these documents are required for District competition along with those that go on to State level.

For the **Patriot's Pen** contest, it is also helpful to remind teachers that the essay should be submitted on a single page, following the contest guidelines.

While visiting the schools, please also introduce the **Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest** and the **3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest**. Providing this information early allows teachers the opportunity to incorporate these contests into their classroom curriculum and gives students ample time to prepare their entries before the later deadlines.

To assist you with your school visits, I have prepared two introductory letters to accompany the scholarship applications—one designed for high schools and another for elementary and middle schools. These letters explain the scholarship opportunities available through the VFW Auxiliary and highlight that students have the opportunity to compete for thousands of dollars in scholarships and additional awards.

The first deadlines of the scholarship year are the **VFW Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contest** and the **VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest**. Please remember that all entries must be received by your Auxiliary **no later than October 31, 2026**, to be judged and advance through the competition.

Nicole Koutz-410 N. Clinton St. Louis MI [48880-989-620](tel:48880989620)-turtlelee@hotmail.com



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Scholarships Bulletin September-2026-2027

www.vfwauxmi.org

Schools Are Back in Session – Have You Followed Up?

Now that school is back in session, have you returned to the schools to follow up after originally delivering the scholarship applications? If you haven't been back since the end of the last school year or your August visit, I encourage you to prepare another packet and schedule a follow-up visit.

Take a few minutes to meet with the principal, counselors, or teachers and reinforce the importance of these scholarship opportunities. Remind them that these programs not only recognize students for their patriotism, creativity, and writing abilities, but also provide the opportunity to earn scholarships and awards that can have a lasting impact on their future.

Don't forget the importance of promoting these scholarships through social media. The Department Scholarships Program page provides flyers, promotional graphics, and other valuable resources that are ready to download and share. Be sure to post them on your Auxiliary's Facebook page, Instagram, and YouTube accounts. Also utilize your personal social media pages, your District page, and encourage fellow members to share the posts to expand your reach.

Remember that these scholarship opportunities are open to students attending public schools, private schools, and homeschool programs. Every eligible student deserves the opportunity to participate.

Scholarship Promotion Idea

One of the best ways to reach students is by reaching their parents.

Ask your local school if you may set up an information table during a football game, volleyball match, or other school event. Display information about the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, Continuing Education Scholarship, Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest, and the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest. Highlight the scholarship amounts available at each level—especially that the national Voice of Democracy first-place winner receives a **\$35,000 scholarship**.

Parents often recognize the value of scholarship opportunities and can encourage their children to participate. A simple conversation with a parent may be all it takes to inspire a student to enter one of our programs.

While hosting your information table, consider including brochures about your VFW Auxiliary, upcoming community events, youth activities, and other Auxiliary programs that are open to the public. It's an excellent opportunity to promote both our scholarship programs and the important work of the VFW Auxiliary within your community.

Reporting

Accurate and timely reporting is a priority, and I strongly encourage all members to consistently report on their Scholarship activities.

Your cooperation and diligence in reporting are greatly appreciated, as they support both our mission and our organizational responsibilities.

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UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary VFW National Home – August 2026

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: VFW National Home-Michigan

National Theme: *Serving America's Heroes*

Department Theme: *Leading with a Patriot's Heart*

Join us for a fun-filled Michigan Day on Saturday, August 8th, and experience all the National Home has to offer. Explore the campus and learn about how they support military and veteran families. Bring and register your U.S. Flag and Auxiliary Flag starting at 9 AM. This is an Achievement on your guide sheet. Make sure to report it.

The fun starts with a Fishing contest from 8-9 AM. There will be Activities and games, and a Guided People Mover Tour of the Campus, and much more.

There will be Gift Baskets & Quilt Raffle, Souvenir and Apparel Sales. There will be a lunch with a program to follow. Check out all the activities and times on the Department's website or at www.vfwnationalhome.org.



Pay your Health and Happiness. National asks for 10 or .25 cents per member. This money goes toward events at the home, such as Christmas, Birthdays, and Graduation parties at the National Home. This special collection is to help them out.

We are having an auxiliary vs auxiliary Trophy award to see who can raise the most spare change for the National Home. Put National Home Banks out at your meeting. Collect an extra quarter when you show your dues card. Send the money to the Department. Report what you sent. Our Treasurer, Cathy, will track all monies. At the end of the year, the auxiliary who raised the most funds will receive a trophy and the loving gratitude from all the children you helped.

Jane Dady

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UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary National Home – September 2026

www.vfwauxmi.org

Facebook Page: VFW National Home-Michigan

National Theme: *Serving America's Heroes*

Department Theme: *Leading with a Patriot's Heart*

September 11, 2026, from 8-4 is the VFW National Home's 4th Annual Golf Outing. Grab your clubs, gather your foursome, and join us for a fun-filled day on the course — all while supporting military and veteran families.

The Medalist Golf Club

15701 N-Drive North • Marshall, MI 49068

Whether you're playing for bragging rights, networking with friends, or just hoping to win the \$5,000 Hole-in-One prize, this is a day you won't want to miss! Show your support while promoting your organization to golfers and community supporters. Sponsorships range from **\$200 Hole Sponsors** to **\$3,500 Reception Sponsors**, with valuable recognition included throughout the event. Sponsor opportunities include Golf Cart Sponsor, Lunch Sponsor, Beverage Sponsor, Prize Sponsor, Event Sponsor, and Hole Sponsor. Proceeds from the outing help the VFW National Home provide services and resources to military and veteran families with children, helping them build stability, growth, and opportunity for the future. For more information, contact: **Nancy Archambeau**, narchambeau@vfwnationalhome.org, 517-663-7931 or **Sarah Sims**, ssims@vfwnationalhome.org, 517-663-7024.



District vs District "Nickels for the Nursery" is off to a great start! District Presidents were given baby bottles that they will take with them on their official visits. They are to collect nickels (loose change) for the nursery at the National Home. The winner (who raises the most) will be announced at each conference/convention. The winner gets to wear the crown. If you don't want someone to have that crown, put in another nickel and take it away from them. District #4 started right out of the gate at the end of the Convention. Anthony Markarevitz turned in \$10.47 to put District #4 in the lead. However, District 9 says the crown is his, and District #15 disagrees. Can't wait for Fall Conference!



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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Youth/Camp Trotter Bulletin - August/September 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

August 2026

Youth Activities

At the end of this bulletin, you'll find a flyer for Illustrating America. It is also posted on the Facebook page. Work with your Scholarship chairman to include this information when contacting schools, youth groups, etc. School starts this month so it is a great time to start reaching out to get kids involved. If you work with a youth group, or know someone who does, Illustrating America is the perfect contest for them to participate in. It opens the door to begin teaching the young ones about our nation's greatest treasure!

Now is the time to start getting creative! In addition to purchasing books from the Patriotism through Literacy list, you can start brainstorming your community lending library! Start looking for the perfect location! Is it your Post (make sure you ask first!), members front yard, downtown on the square? It may be fun to include youth in voting on a name for your library!

Camp Trotter

The 2026 camp season comes to an end this month. Wish the campers and the staff well as they recover from all the good times that were had over the 5 weeks. Just because the camp season is over, doesn't mean our work here ends. Fundraisers for Camp Trotter are a great way to connect Youth with all of our other programs.



Camp Trotter Family Day is on **Saturday, August 22**. Keep an eye on the Facebook page for more information about the schedule. Having every district represented at this event would be great! Let's welcome Camp Trotter back to action with the best attended family day in years! It's nestled on beautiful Bills Lake so bring your suit and enjoy. There will be opportunities to make donations while onsite that day, so you'll be able to report donating to Camp Trotter.

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Youth/Camp Trotter Bulletin - August/September 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

September 2026

Youth Activities

Have you heard back from anyone about Illustrating America? Are there questions? Have you promoted it enough? You can share the flyer on community Facebook pages, print it and post it around town, leave it everywhere you go! I am looking forward to having so many entries that I just don't know what to do with them!

What did you decide about that lending library? There are so many creative options that you can decorate your library after, Classic Americana (Red, White, and Blue rustic), focus on the Constitution, an Eagle's nest, Fireworks, Lady Liberty, Military Appreciation, etc. You can add some special touches by including a book of the month, adding a guest log, or include a bookmark dispenser! These are a just a few ideas to get kiddos excited about reading. Now, how will you announce it to the community?



Camp Trotter

Just because camp is over for this year, remember that donations help provide the supplies, equipment, and experiences that make Camp Trotter unforgettable. Your generosity supports everything from arts and crafts materials, STEM projects, archery equipment, and sports gear to waterfront activity upkeep. Gifts also help keep campfires burning with s'mores, support outdoor adventures, and make special events like themed days, talent shows, and treasure hunts possible.

Donated funds also enrich the heart of camp by supporting community service projects, cabin activities, and opportunities for campers to build friendships, confidence, and new skills. Whether it's creating care packages, writing letters to seniors, exploring the outdoors, or simply sharing meaningful moments with cabin mates, every donation helps provide a safe, engaging, and memorable camp experience for every child.

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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