



Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Auxiliary Community Outreach Bulletin – May-June 2021 www.vfwauxmi.org

National Theme: Soaring Above & Beyond
Department Theme: Tell Our Story of Service

Congratulations to our all our new Auxiliary Community Outreach Chairmen for this upcoming year! I would first like to thank our incoming Department President, Stephanie Krueger, for my appointment as Department Auxiliary Community Outreach Chairman. I feel very blessed to have this appointment and I look forward to working with you all this year. We, as a team, are instrumental to spreading awareness of our organization and its programs.



What is the Auxiliary Community Outreach Program look like? It is when you, the member of your Auxiliary, volunteers your **TIME** with another organization! What is a volunteer? According to Google, volunteering is a voluntary act of an individual or group freely giving time and labor for community service. "It is a donation of your time, not in-kind or monetary donations." - Mary Ryser, National Auxiliary Community Outreach Ambassador. This program offers you the opportunity to be recognized for activities you are most likely already doing within your community. By being actively involved in our community with other organizations, we are not only improving our community but gives us the opportunity to engage with others and spread word on what our organization does for veterans and their families. It is a great recruiting tool! Be sure to take membership applications with your when you serve in your community!

New this year for Auxiliary Community Outreach!

This past year has been a tough one for our country and across the globe; it has been our first responders that have been on the front line, working hard in our communities to keep us safe. In addition, this year will mark the 20th Anniversary of 9-11. With that said, we would like honor our first responders by "volunteering with a group of or for an organization that supports first responders." So as you prepare for this year, take a look at programs or events that might be happening within your community that you can offer your time and support to in regards to first responders!



As a reminder the 21-22 reporting has begun. Your quarterly reports are due by these dates: July 31st, October 31st, January 31st and April 20th.

Upcoming Dates: International Firefighters' Day, May 4; National Peace Officers Memorial Day, May 15; National Police Week, Week of May 9, National EMS Week, Week of May 16

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Chairman, have you reviewed your guide sheet? Now is a good time to look it over carefully and thoroughly. A key to a successful year is to be prepared and organized. One way to do this is lay out your plans for what you want to accomplish!

IMPORTANT NOTICE

In getting started on your program year there are some guidelines I would like to lay out that your Auxiliary will need to follow for this program, and they are as follows:

- Volunteer opportunities should **NOT** be affiliated with the VFW or VFW Auxiliary programs.
- **At the beginning of this Program Year a motion MUST be made on the floor that when a member(s) volunteer their time for a civic program, school program, youth program, etc., they are representing the VFW Auxiliary and should turn in their hours served to be reported for Auxiliary Community Outreach.**
- Projects may be done by a member who is representing an Auxiliary, by an Auxiliary alone, with the VFW Post or other community groups.
- Project or volunteer opportunity must be approved by the Auxiliary and recorded in the meeting minutes!
- Collectively, all of the volunteer hours need to be counted as well as the number of members who participated in your project.
- **SHOW YOUR PRIDE!** Wear your Auxiliary-branded attire while volunteering. Again, it is a great way to start a conversation about our organization.

What is and is not considered Community Outreach??

Considered	Not Considered
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Working with firefighters on fire safety and prevention	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Repairs/maintenance at Post home
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Serving food at a soup kitchen	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cooking/Serving meal for Post or Auxiliary
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Delivering food for Meals on Wheels	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• "Buddy"TM Poppy distribution
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Participating in walks that benefit other organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• VFW or Auxiliary meetings, conventions, conferences, or School of Instruction
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Help organizing, sorting at local organization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Church activities for one specific congregation and not the entire community

Don't forget to "Like" and share your photos on the Dept. Auxiliary Facebook page. I can't wait to see what you all will be doing this year!

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