

WELCOME TO OUR NEW AUXILIARY MEMBER

WELCOME to our Auxiliary! It is my sincere hope you will enjoy being a part of this great organization. Let me start off by saying that the VFW Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars was formed 106 years ago to aid and take care of our Veterans. Whether they are over-seas in harm's way, retired, in the reserves, or stationed in the United States, we **HONOR** our Veterans by doing what we do. We are an active Auxiliary as you will see in this little booklet. **EVERYONE** has special skills and talents. It's what we do with it that counts. Having said that, it is my wish that you will find some way that appeals to you that helps us help our Veterans. We are all here for the same cause. To help **OUR VETERANS**.

Lawrence A. Sims Post #2269
Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars
2652 Loon Lake Rd.
Wixom, Michigan 48393

OUR AUXILIARY INFORMATION

Our meetings are held on the _____ of the month.

Meetings are held at _____ at the _____ .

Auxiliary Officers

President: _____
Name Phone

Duties: Preside over monthly meetings.
Ensure Auxiliary is a "healthy" Auxiliary.

Sr. Vice President: _____
Name Phone

Duties: Assist the President.
Preside over monthly meetings when President is absent.

Jr. Vice President: _____
Name Phone

Duties: Assist the President and Sr. Vice President.
Preside over monthly meeting if both President and Sr. Vice President are absent.

Treasurer: _____
Name Phone

Duties: Handles all Auxiliary money.
Maintains banking records for six years.

Secretary: _____
Name Phone

Duties: Records meeting minutes.
Maintains meeting minutes as part of a permanent record.
Maintains communications for one year.

OUR AUXILIARY INFORMATION

Chaplain:

Name

Phone

Duties: Delivers opening/closing prayers.
Sends cards to ailing members on all levels.
Presides over Memorial Services.

Conductress:

Name

Phone

Duties: Assist the President.
Arrange the room for Auxiliary meetings.

Guard:

Name

Phone

Duties: At Auxiliary meetings, take place at the door and admit only those who are entitled to enter.

3 Trustees:

Name

Phone

Name

Phone

Name

Phone

Duties: Examine bills at meetings.
Performs audits quarterly on Secretary and Treasurer's books.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Member Booklet

VFW AUXILIARY PROGRAMS

Auxiliary chairmen are appointed by the president. Chairmen are to review their guide sheets and bulletins and report at the monthly meetings. Your job is to promote the program in the best interest of the organization. However, all members are responsible to help with these programs when possible. "Many hands make light work". There are several chairmanships. What follows is a brief description of the various programs.

VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT (V & FS)

This program is the back bone of our organization. There are many ways in which we can offer support to our Veterans, members of the armed services, Auxiliary members and their families outside the hospital. **National Veterans Service.** The VFW has service officers who work with Veterans to ensure they get the benefits they deserve.

Help A Hero Scholarship. "Sports Clip" has scholarships up to \$5,000.00 to help qualifying Veterans with their education.

Unmet Needs. Grants up to \$2,500.00 to help family needs that arrive while the soldier is away serving our country.

Operation Uplink. Three Free Call days are scheduled each month for families to stay connected while the veteran is serving or is hospitalized.

VFW AUXILIARY PROGRAMS

* After this, I added what we do as an auxiliary and how we need help.

Example:

***NEEDED:**

1. Help knitting or crocheting hats/scarves for Veterans at Michigan Veterans Foundation in Detroit and Vets Returning Home in Roseville.
2. Help with lunches when we invite the Veterans from these places.

AMERICANISM

Americanism is standing tall, living free, and being proud of who we are. It comes from your heart. It is our duty and obligation to teach the children today proper flag etiquette of our National symbol of peace and freedom.

***NEEDED:**

1. Hand out flags at Memorial Day parades.
2. Recognize businesses and home owners who fly the flag, with a Certificate of Appreciation(which the Auxiliary will provide).
3. Promote "Get Out the Vote".
4. Conduct a Flag Etiquette program to school children.

VFW AUXILIARY PROGRAMS

AUXILIARY COMMUNITY OUTREACH

This program is volunteer work when a member works for the benefit of their community. While we want you to work on our Auxiliary programs, we realize that many members do much more work outside of our realm. Examples are “Race for the Cure”, hosting a blood drive, delivering food for “Meals on Wheels”, working at the local food banks handing out food; just to name a few. When doing this, wear an Auxiliary branded item to show the community what our organization does for all.

BUDDY POPPY/NATIONAL HOME

For more than 90 years, the VFW National Home, located in Eaton Rapids, has helped military families who need a fresh start. These families can live there for four years and it's rent free. This peaceful setting has 42 single family homes surrounded by a gym, library, computer labs, playgrounds, hiking trails and fishing ponds. “**Buddy Poppies**” are made by disabled Veterans which in turn are purchased by our Posts and Auxiliaries. The Posts and Auxiliaries then go in the community to “hand out” the poppies in honor of our Veterans. We **DO NOT** sell them. We accept donations for the poppies. The money we get in donation form goes into the Auxiliary Relief Fund. There are specific ways that we spend that money. The money must be spent on

VFW AUXILIARY PROGRAMS

Auxiliary members in need of financial help, donate money to the National Home for Children, hospital work and donations, National Auxiliary Cancer Aid & Research Fund to name a few. Buddy Poppies are not just for distributing within the community. We use them at our Post, in the canteen in centerpieces, wreaths, etc. We take them to local businesses, banks and offices. We also use them in our Buddy Poppy contest at our conferences.

***NEEDED:**

1. Volunteers to hand-out poppies during our events.
2. Help making poppy displays for conferences.

HOSPITAL

Michigan has 5 VA hospitals and 2 Veterans homes which needs our support. Our volunteers fulfill special care needs by giving unselfishly of their time for our hospitalized Veterans. One way our Auxiliary does this is by sponsoring a monthly BINGO at the VA Hospital in Ann Arbor. It takes a total of 3 hours including travel time. And let's not forget there are also nursing facilities that house our veterans.

***NEEDED:**

1. Volunteers to go to bingo (Auxiliary provides all prizes).
2. Members with knitting/crocheting /quilting skills to make lap robes for patients in the VA. (Auxiliary provides yarn, etc.).

VFW AUXILIARY PROGRAMS

LEGISLATIVE

Since the VFW and our Auxiliary was chartered, our members have played an important role by increasing awareness for Veteran's issues in Washington DC. Our strength is in our numbers! As advocates for our Veterans, it is imperative we help influence our local legislators and the public about the needs of our veterans. We do this by:

- Promoting *VFW Priority Goals*
- Promoting the *Get Out The Vote*

HISTORIAN & MEDIA RELATIONS

This member keeps a written report of the history of the Auxiliary (complete with pictures and news articles).

MEMBERSHIP/RECRUITMENT

Membership is the lifeblood of our organization. Without our members, our organization could not support our Veterans and their families. We have many wonderful programs to choose from. I have always said that everyone has special skills. That means there is something for everyone! I hope that by reading this little booklet, you will find your "one thing". One great way you can help grow our organization is by inviting your family members, both males and females to join us. Keep

VFW AUXILIARY PROGRAMS

in mind, if anyone joins as a life member, our Auxiliary will discount the cost by \$50.00.

VFW Auxiliary Eligibility Wheel



**Step- and adopted parents, children, siblings (and half-siblings), grandparents and grandchildren are considered the same as biological parents, children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren and may join the VFW Auxiliary under their VFW-eligible veteran.*

MENTORING

For our organization to be successful and continue to grow, we must not only recruit new members, but we must **RETAIN** our present members. One way we do this in our auxiliary is to assign a **MENTOR** to sit with the new member for at least six meetings. We want you to feel comfortable coming to our meetings. Trust me, we all know what it's

VFW AUXILIARY PROGRAMS

like to be the “new kid” here. So, please feel free to ask questions, and remember that **NO** question is stupid.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Our organization is proud to offer several opportunities to our youth to earn tuition assistance to further their education. There are two scholarships from the Auxiliary.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest. Open to high school students. Open to any student, in public, private or home schooled. They do not have to be related to a VFW member. So, promote this in all the communities! The National prize is \$15,000.00.

Continuing Education Scholarship. This is open to **MEMBERS ONLY** who wish to continue their education. A \$1,000.00 scholarship is awarded each year in our conference.

The Auxiliary also is critical in assisting the VFW with two of their scholarships. The theme is different each year and is on the website (www.vfw.org).

Voice of Democracy (VOD). This is a written and oral contest for high school students who do not have to be related to VFW members. The National prize is \$30,000.00.

VFW AUXILIARY PROGRAMS

Patriot's Pen Essay (PP). This is a written essay contest for junior high students who do not have to be related to a VFW member. The National prize is \$10,000.00. The theme changes every year.

***NEEDED:**

1. Members to go out to the community and **PROMOTE** our scholarship programs.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES/CAMP TROTTER

The VFW has a fantastic camp located on Bills Lake, 7 miles north of Newago. It is open for children aged 7 through 12 years old. It is the **ONLY** VFW children's camp in the nation. It covers almost 20 acres and is open for 5 weeks and the cost is \$250 per child. Many auxiliaries sponsor scout groups. We have two groups here at our Post. Invite the children to help with poppy days, or make poppy displays. They also should be invited to participate in the Memorial Day parade. If they do a patriotic event at the school, be sure to recognize them.

***NEEDED:**

1. Work with youth group to promote Americanism.
2. Promote Camp Trotter to the community.

THANK YOU

I hope this small booklet explains a bit about our organization. Of course, we have book of “Bylaws and Rituals” which is available to you as well. We all know how it feels to be new and not to understand the workings of a new group. Please don’t feel funny about asking questions, just raise your hand. Our President will be more than happy to help you understand what we are talking about. It was not my intention to “overwhelm” you, that’s why this is just an overview of our Auxiliary and its workings. It is our hope and intent that you feel comfortable and an important part of our VFW Auxiliary family. God Bless Our Veterans and may God continue to Bless the United States of America.