

## AUXILIARY OUTREACH PROGRAM

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Welcome to the 2023-2024 Auxiliary Outreach Program! I was chairman the first year that National introduced this program and I'm proud to be your chairman again for this year.

Most of us are still confused about this program but actually it is a very easy program. This program involves your Auxiliary volunteering to help nonprofit organizations, and local groups with needs in your community.

Ask what your Auxiliary can do to help the community, not what they can do to help us!! Get together to help other organizations by reaching out into your community and offer to volunteer.

**WHERE DO YOU FIND THESE VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES??** Ask your Auxiliary members as most members belong to more than one organization; look in your local newspaper for upcoming events; check local community bulletin boards and check your local and surrounding town/city websites for their calendar of events.

**SUGGESTIONS FOR VFW AUXILIARY OUTREACH** – work with local police, fire and EMTs on their activities (child ID, fire safety, and fire prevention at local schools; volunteer with your park and recreation; serve food at soup kitchens or distribute food at food banks; drive for Meals on Wheels or help prepare food for delivery; assist with local fundraising walks as a volunteer; help your local library; assist local youth activities or at senior citizens centers. Volunteer with food banks or at an animal shelter. These partnerships can be a single day event or ongoing events throughout the year.

**BENEFITS OF THE AUXILIARY OUTREACH PROGRAM** – helping others; learning new skills; meeting new people; fighting stress and depression, developing a stronger sense of purpose and personal growth.

**KEYS TO MAKING YOUR AUXILIARY OUTREACH PROGRAM SUCCESSFUL** – find organizations that need volunteers; one or more Auxiliary member(s) must participate; wear your VFW Auxiliary attire (name badge, shirt, hat, jacket, etc.).

**EVENTS THAT ARE HELD AT YOUR POST HOME ARE ALLOWED IF** – the VFW or Auxiliary did not plan the activity, nor does it benefit the organization; the organization is only using the facility as a venue to held their event and they complete all of the preliminary planning on their own; **REMEMBER** we are only there as volunteers to help on the day of the event. You can find many resources that outline this program behind your MALTA login, Member Resources, Auxiliary Resources.

**OUTREACH AND THE VFW AUXILIARY** – while emphasis is placed on our core VFW and Auxiliary programs, we realize Auxiliaries also participate with other community organizations. Projects may be done by the Auxiliary alone or with the VFW Post.

**WHAT CAN YOU NOT DO** - donate blood to the Red Cross; walk in a Cancer Walk for Life; placing American flags or wreaths on Veteran’s graves; serving as ushers or helping to maintain the church property; mow lawns or shovel the driveways for Veterans or Senior Members or donate cash, canned goods, animal food, warm clothes, lap blankets or cleaning supplies to Shelters.

**REMEMBER BEFORE YOU DO A PROJECT, PLEASE BRING IT UP AT YOUR AUXILIARY MEETING FOR APPROVAL AND IT MUST BE NOTED IN THE AUXILIARY MINUTES. THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT.**

### **NATIONAL AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES**

1. Most outstanding community partnership with another organization.  
Citation to every Auxiliary that partners with another organization within their community. An entry form is required and is available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman by **March 31, 2024**, for judging. Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.
2. Citation and \$25.00 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences with the most outstanding community partnership. Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after National Convention.

### **AWARDS FOR DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN**

1. \$25.00 VFW Store Gift certificate to one Department Auxiliary Outreach Chairman in each of the 10 programs divisions for the effective promotion of the Auxiliary Outreach Program. Winners will be announced, and awards presented at the 2024 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky.
2. Outstanding Performance Award in each of the 10 Program Divisions based on the criteria and promotion of the Program goals listed in the National President’s Guidebook. Winners will be announced at the 2024 National Convention.

**“BANDING TOGETHER FOR OUR VETERANS”**

**“LIGHT THE FLAME OF HOPE FOR OUR VETERANS”**