



EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

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The sixth President of the United States, John Quincy Adams, said ... “If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.” These inspirational words of wisdom are instrumental for each of us to strive to be a good leader, an active listener and to keep our thoughts open to new ideas in order to achieve the goals that are set forth by our National organization.

As a team, we will all work together to achieve the four goals that have been established by the National Chief of Staff for 2024-2025:

- Goal # 1 – Maintain and Strengthen Current Auxiliaries
- Goal # 2 – Present to Unaffiliated Posts
- Goal # 3 – Establish New Auxiliaries
- Goal # 4 – Recognize Red-Flag Auxiliaries

MAINTAIN AND STRENGTHEN CURRENT AUXILIARIES The National Organization has developed many resources for members to use. These resources are found on the VFW Auxiliary National Website behind the MALTA login *Member Resources*.

One resource is the **Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit**. The Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit includes seven (7) tools designed to assist Auxiliaries and to help them identify and solve issues that may arise:

- Auxiliary Meeting Checklist for the Aux President • Healthy Auxiliary Checklist – To-Do’s and Deadlines
- Healthy Communication Phone/Text Tree • VFW Auxiliary Healthy Certificate
- VFW Auxiliary Meeting Challenges & Solutions • VFW Auxiliary Member Questionnaire
- VFW Auxiliary Sample Meeting Agenda

Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation is a guidebook that provides valuable information to help educate members about all aspects of the duties of all Officers [on all levels]. The guidebook outlines the duties and responsibilities of program chairmen. It explains why reporting is important and much more!

What is Extension & Revitalization? Extension pertains to contacting Unaffiliated Posts for their interest to institute a new Auxiliary. Revitalization refers to ensuring that our current Auxiliaries continue to be healthy by providing learning experiences for all members. Conversely, for auxiliaries requiring some assistance, the program will extend a helpful hand to the auxiliary to regain its strength to being healthy. Our Department has many legacy members who are willing to share their knowledge and provide assistance to auxiliaries in distress.

What benefits does the Extension & Revitalization Program provide? The Extension & Revitalization Program will benefit every member of the Auxiliary. Benefits to all members include being more informed about the organization and gaining knowledge of our Auxiliary traditions and programs designed to assist in mentoring our members for future leadership roles.

What are the 5 essentials of an Auxiliary?

1. Auxiliaries should have a minimum of 10 business meetings per year (Sec. 210A) with a quorum of 5 members in good standing attending for the transaction of business (Sec. 212A).
2. Membership dues should be paid by at least 10 members on or before February 1st of the current year. (Sec 207C)
3. Quarterly audits completed by Trustees must be submitted to the Department Treasurer (Sec. 814).
4. Officers elected, installed and reported to National Headquarters by June 30th. This generates the bond application via email (Sec 804A and 806A).
5. The offices of President and Treasurer must be bonded by August 31 (Sec. 814E).

Contacting Unaffiliated Posts and Establishment of New Auxiliaries can be achieved through communication, promotions and presentations. We must show Unaffiliated Posts how they can benefit from having a VFW Auxiliary. We can then help them establish a new Auxiliary for their Post. Several tools are available to share with Unaffiliated VFW Posts. **“Top Ten Reasons for Your Post to Have an Auxiliary”** is great handout to use when meeting Post members. A PowerPoint presentation **“Why Having an Auxiliary Can Boost Your Post”** is designed to show Post members how helpful the Auxiliary and its contributions are. Another valuable tool to have on hand when making presentations is the **VFW Auxiliary Eligibility Wheel**.

We continue to accomplish growth within our Department by actively extending ourselves to show how an Auxiliary is an asset to the Post. We demonstrate how we fulfill the mission of our organization by working together as a family to serve our veterans, our active-duty service personnel and their families.

Recognizing Yellow-Flag Auxiliaries – Auxiliaries are exhibiting Red Flag and caution light situations. The Department Chief of Staff, upon request of the Department President, will assist the Auxiliary to return to a posture of a Green Light Auxiliary. Green light Auxiliaries are considered healthy.

Recognizing Red-Flag Auxiliaries – The Auxiliary will be placed on Suspension which is a time for the Auxiliary to step back and regroup. Suspension simply means there is some work to do to get the Auxiliary where it needs to be with the hope for the Auxiliary to come back stronger and better than before.

Mentoring for Leadership – In the VFW Auxiliary, mentoring is an important part of maintaining the health and viability of each Auxiliary and for the organization as a whole.

What is the purpose of mentoring? The purpose of mentoring is to facilitate the personal and professional growth of individuals by providing guidance, support and knowledge transferred from experienced mentors to mentees.

Utilizing the “*Mentoring at VFW Auxiliary: Relationship Building for the Future*” document will help you get started in creating a program for your Auxiliary. Through the Mentoring for Leadership Program, all mentors will be encouraged to embrace and promote the C.A.R.E. concept.

- C ... Catch the member when they first join.
- A ... Ask them to participate.
- R ... Remember what it felt like to be new.
- E ... Engage them in a program that fits them.

As a mentor, you will also be asked to practice the **3 C's of Mentoring**:

- **Consultant** – that is the most obvious role of the mentor.
- **Counselor** – listen to your mentees.
- **Cheerleader** – give constructive feedback, advise, provide support and enthusiasm.

Be Informed – There is something else you can do to grow and become more involved. You need to learn all you can with the resources available to you.

1. Obtain a copy of the National Bylaws and read it in its entirety. Your rights and responsibilities as a member of this organization are contained in that document. You need to know them!
2. Be sure you read all communications received from Auxiliary, District, Department and National levels.
3. Do you receive the E-Newsletter from the National Office? Go to National website Home page -> Media ->E-Newsletter Signup
4. Log on to the Auxiliary website and Facebook pages often. You will want to stay up-to-date on news and information, www.vfwauxiliary.org

Back by Popular Demand! Communication and training are important to achieve success. The Chief of Staff will host monthly “**Zoom Training Sessions**”. All members are encouraged to attend. Each month, beginning in September, a different VFW Auxiliary topic will be featured along with an agenda of the scheduled training. The “**Zoom Training Session**” will last approximately 30 minutes. Time will be allotted for questions and answers. After each “**Zoom Training Session**”, the information will be included in the next *Auxiliary News* and posted on the Department Facebook page and Department website. A Zoom Training schedule will be posted on the Department Website with dates and times. We hope you will be able to attend.

Communication works hand in hand with Recognition. A simple “*thank you*” for a job well done is always appreciated. The “**Good Job Award**” certificate is available for download at the National website. This certificate allows us to show how much we appreciate our members. Always welcome members at your meetings and events with a spirit of *compassion, kindness and empathy*.

Department Award For Auxiliaries and Members

Organizer Award – Citation and \$25.00 to a member who organizes a New Auxiliary with the approval of the Department President between July 1, 2024 and February 28, 2025.

Member Award – Citation and \$25.00 to the Auxiliary Member appointed by Department President who reactivates an Auxiliary that has been disbanded within the previous 12 months.

***“From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans” while
“Soaring into the Next Century of Service with Our Veterans and Their Families!”***



Auxiliary Program SWAPS

In an effort to assist our Auxiliaries with ideas, suggestions, and opportunities to engage their members to participate on the National and Department Programs, Department President Darlene would like to promote the *Auxiliary Program SWAP Listing*.

The Auxiliary Program SWAP Listing will identify activities which Auxiliaries can utilize to energize their membership. While this is sharing of ideas, it is also promoting the mentoring process.

Auxiliaries may find an idea they like and tweak it to meet their needs or the upcoming project. As not every suggestion will be able to meet the needs of every Auxiliary, however, it is a tool available to use if the Auxiliary so chooses.

Each National and Department Program will list the ideas and suggestions. It is anticipated that the Program SWAP List will be available in the Department Auxiliary News and on the Department Website .

Department Chairmen are encouraged to share the ideas, projects, events they receive on their monthly reports for other Auxiliaries to consider.

Program SWAP List

Americanism

- Fly your Flag every day in honor of your Veteran.
- Purchase US Postage Flag Stamps and report to your Chairman
- Replace a tattered American Flag

Auxiliary Community Outreach – Volunteering your Time

- Contact your local Homeless shelters and Assistance Centers; Local Food Pantries
- EMT/Fire/Police; Animal Shelters;
- Red Cross, Cancer, and other charities;
- Adopt a Highway; Town/City/open areas/Community Gardens

Buddy Poppy / VFW National Home – Every day is “Buddy” Poppy Day

- Wear a “Buddy” Poppy everyday, attach to your purse
- Collect loose change at meetings to support the Food Pantry at the VFW National Home

Hospital Program

- Send monthly birthday cards for the hospitalized veterans
- Send holiday greeting cards (Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, St. Patrick’s Day, Easter
- Enlist the support of a Girl Scout, Boy Scout or Youth Group to create the cards for Valentine’s for Veterans as well as “Thank you for your Service” cards for Veteran’s Day

Legislative Program

- Provide childcare or eldercare for a member to vote in the elections
- Provide transportation for a member or non-member to vote in the elections

Scholarship Program

- Promote the VOD and Patriot’s Pen themes at your local Library
- Promote the programs at Community Center

Veterans and Family Support

- Collect Non-perishable food items for a local food pantry
- Collect New blankets for your local Rescue Mission or Veterans Outreach Center
- Send monthly birthday cards to your members
- Send Miss You cards to your Homebound members

Youth Activities

- Collect mittens, gloves, hats for your local elementary school
- Collect items for your community Holiday Giving Tree
- Sponsor a local youth sports team; School Music Program (Chorus, Band) or Musical
- Schedule a baby shower for your local female veterans