



Extension – Revitalization - Mentoring

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From the Brooklyn Bridge to the Rainbow Bridge VFW Auxiliaries are working hard for our veterans staying *“True to Our Red, White and Blue.”* From the Atlantic to the Pacific *“From Sea to Shining Sea”* Auxiliaries are *“Honoring Our Veterans Who Keep Us Free.”*

Goals:

1. Maintain and Strengthen Current Auxiliaries
2. Recognize “blue” Auxiliaries
3. Volunteer as a “buddy” to assist “white” Auxiliaries
4. Present benefits to Unaffiliated Posts
5. Establish new Auxiliaries
6. Assign a past or current President, Secretary and Treasurer to work with new Auxiliary

Extension: Contacting and encouraging Unaffiliated Posts to consider establishing an Auxiliary.

- Make personal contact
- Ask permission to describe benefits of an Auxiliary
- Use tools on the VFW Auxiliary website vfwauxiliary.org or **QR Code**
- Presenters must be positive and knowledgeable Auxiliary members

Revitalization is necessary to assist Auxiliaries who may need a gentle touch to become a viable Auxiliary. Use the tools available. There is an abundance of information on the Auxiliary website. I challenge each of you to check out the valuable resources available to Auxiliaries using the **QR Code**.

Healthy Auxiliary Checklist: while a valuable tool there are other indications of an Auxiliary that may be struggling.

- No change in officers for years
- Using an outdated copy of the Bylaws
- Failure to report in our programs
- No representation at District or Department meetings
- Lack of regular communication with members

Five (5) essentials of an Auxiliary:

- Minimum of 10 business meetings with a quorum of 5 members
- Dues paid by a minimum of 10 members on or before February 1st
- Quarterly Audits completed by Trustees and sent to Dept Treasurer
- Officers elected, installed and reported to National Headquarters by June 30
- Offices of President & Treasurer must be bonded by August 30.

RED, WHITE and BLUE Auxiliaries:

RED: These are viable healthy Auxiliaries. These Auxiliaries set the standard and may be relied upon to assist other Auxiliaries when necessary.

WHITE: These Auxiliaries are showing the early signs of needing assistance. A team or mentor may be assigned to assist. A friend or “buddy” from another Auxiliary may help.

BLUE: These Auxiliaries are in danger and may be suspended and must be assigned a team to help them get back on track. It is necessary to help this Auxiliary and allow them to become a healthy Auxiliary. With guidance it is the hope that they can be saved.

Auxiliary Buddy System:

We rely on the Official Visit Form, input from District Presidents and other Auxiliaries within their District to notice and bring to the attention of the Chief of Staff and the Department President of any Auxiliary exhibiting warning signs. Before the Auxiliary becomes a “blue” Auxiliary they can request help from a friend from another Auxiliary near them. This volunteer could offer assistance with the permission of the Auxiliary & Department President. Sometimes you just need a friend! This is a **BUDDY**!

Zoom Training:

Zoom training will resume in September as this is a vital tool for our Auxiliaries and our members. Date, time and subjects will be announced and published in the Auxiliary News and on the Department website. Please complete the survey included in your packet. Zoom training sessions are only valuable if we are training on what you want and need.

Mentoring:

Mentoring is more than explaining the raps of the gavel, etc. It is adopting a new, inexperienced member who is interested in becoming more active. It is one on one teaching, helping and encouraging this member. It is training them to take over your position or chairmanship. We must build new leaders if we are to exist beyond today or tomorrow.

Department Awards for Auxiliaries and Members:

- **Organizer Award** – Citation and \$25.00 to a member who organizes a new Auxiliary between July 1, 2025 and February 28, 2026.
- **Member Award:** - Citation to the Auxiliary Members appointed by Department President who reactivates an Auxiliary between July 1, 2025, and February 28, 2026..
- **“Buddy Award”:** Citation to any member who volunteers to help an Auxiliary that requests assistance. Must be nominated by the Auxiliary who received the assistance. Nominations must be received by me (janereape@yahoo.com) by April 15, 2026.
- **Mentor of the Year Award:** Citation and \$100.00 to the Mentor of the Year. Nominations must be received by April 15, 2026. Recipient will be announced at the Department Convention.

