

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
AMERICANISM BULLETIN
June, July, August 2017
www.vfwauxmi.org

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

National Theme: Catch the Dream for Our Veterans Keepsake

Department Theme: Strength and Unity for Our Veterans

Hello Patriots! Are you ready for the journey ahead of us this coming year? What a wonderful time to begin promoting and sharing our Patriotism with several Patriotic Holidays fast approaching.

With no surprise, the VFW Auxiliaries in Michigan will show how Patriotic and devoted they are to meet each of the goals on our guide sheet. Just about every Auxiliary has promoted Americanism in their schools, in their churches, and out into the communities. The patriots of tomorrow are better educated from the work that is done by you, as Auxiliary members, by going into your schools to give educational programs on Americanism. Teaching them to proudly place their hand over their heart as they learn the proper way to say the Pledge of Allegiance and sing the National Anthem, teaching them the proper way to fold the American Flag and what each fold means. We need to continue giving our teachers the support they need so they can continue be more successful, while you are going into the schools and working with the teachers, you will find outstanding teachers that are working with our Veterans and promoting Americanism to the students, these are the teachers that need to be recognized as Teacher of the Year.

Flag Day is Wednesday June 14. It is a day to celebrate our flag as the symbol for the United States; our Stars N Stripes. A Wisconsin teacher is the brains behind Flag Day. In 1885 Bernard Cigrand, a 19 year-old Waubeka, Wisconsin teacher, proposed the idea of Flag Day "to inspire not only his students but also all Americans in the real meaning and majesty of our own flag." He wrote hundreds of articles advocating to celebrate June 14, the day the United States originally adopted its national flag. President Truman made Flag Day official in 1949, when he signed legislation making June 14 the Annual Flag Day. This is a great time to ask a local business if you could be outside and hold a Flag Day Promotion to promote patriotism in your community, which can also be a fundraiser.

Flag Day is also a time to organize a Flag Retirement Ceremony. Did you realize that many people are unaware that they should properly retire and dispose of a US flag when it has become worn and tattered. Create awareness in your community by organizing. There are links on the National web site to assist you.

The Prisoners of War and Missing in Action services happened throughout this state and great care was given to present this sacred service. My wish is that we present it saying the full meaning instead of saying POW/MIA and that someday each letter would have a period behind the letter (P.O.W.-M.I.A.). Just like K.I.A.-"Killed in Action". Each person who was a prisoner or missing from a war or killed while at war—was an American and someone's loved one! Please think about this the next time a service is given with the "Sacred Table" that represents those that endured so much!

4th July. Did you have a Great 4th of July? Did you participate in a parade? Did your Auxiliary pass out Flags along the parade route? If you answered yes –then I should be seeing your report on our Department web site! Something that is very near and dear to my heart as I am sure that it is yours! Did you notice the people on the sidelines giving respect to our Nations' Flag? Members we need to go tour community council meetings, board meetings and into the schools, to make a point of teaching the proper respect to our National Flag and the proper way to say the "pledge to our flag!" Members we need to make this a priority. We need to Wake America Up!

Summer is here, a time for parties, picnic's, gatherings, and block parties with family and friends. You may be planning your Post/ Auxiliary picnic. I have an Idea, let's try to incorporate a **"Patriotic Family Fun Day"** with patriotic games, best dressed patriot, best patriotic hat, patriotic coloring contest, best patriotic dessert, etc... be creative and think outside of the box for many ideas. I look forward to see how creative you were in your reports, this is a way to bring our families closer together and encouraging a truer meaning of patriotism. Remember to be safe!

Let's work together Patriots to get the 100% Team American going for Strength and Unity for Our Veterans. This should be a very simple task to accomplish! WE can do it, Yes We Can! When you join a team there are guidelines that have to be followed. Start your engines let's get going by following these guidelines you will finish with Americanism Pride with 100%.

- 1.** I WILL put together a sound Patriotic Program for my Auxiliary, to include all the materials that are needed for the success of this year's program by following the list on the Guide Sheet and other Americanism Projects that will be talked about in the following Bulletins.
- 2.** I WILL plan a trip to my local school (s) and approach the teachers to talk about the Smart/Mahar National Citizenship Education Teacher Award, with applications in hand. There will also be a contact in place with my local newspapers to publish the National Education Teacher Award recipient.
- 3.** Develop a plan to have POW-MIA Day recognized in my local community and present POW-MIA flags to all attending as well.
- 4.** I plan on delivering special citations to the business/home owners that fly their American Flag and/or POW MIA Flag making sure that this will be given notice.
- 5.** I WILL promote reciting the Pledge of Allegiance the proper way and the Singing of the National Anthem in my community and at the schools.
- 6.** I WILL present American and POW/MIA Flags when needed and where-ever they are needed.
- 7.** I WILL conduct or attend Patriotic Symbols presentations.
- 8.** I WILL report all of the Americanism Projects on time every quarter.
- 9.** I WILL attend school of instruction at District meeting or Department Conferences
- 10.** I WILL attend and register at my district Meetings

**I am going to do everything in my power to fulfill our "Americanism Goals"-
-- how about you?**

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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
CAMP TROTTER BULLETIN
JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2017

www.vfwauxmi.org

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FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

National Theme: Catch the Dream for Our Veterans

Department Theme: Strength and Unity for Our Veterans

A new year is upon us already! This is my first adventure in working as a Department Chairman (Thank you Bonnie Pray for this opportunity) and I will need all the help that I can get. I would like to thank all of you who have become a Camp Trotter Chairman at Auxiliary or District level. I'm looking forward to meeting and working with all of you. I know we will have a great year.

Something new this year: Special Camping Session for 13-15 year olds. July 5-8, 2017. Drop off Wednesday July 5@ 10am – Pick up Saturday July 8@10am. Limited to 50 campers. The Scholarship Fund will NOT be used for this special session.

Regular Camping season begins July 9 and ends August 12, 2017. We need to fill every bunk for the whole camping season this year so get out and promote, promote, promote. Remember Camp Trotter is the best children's camp around!

Go to the Camp Trotter website: www.vfwmi.org/camptrrotter.htm this is where you will find the application and the other forms. Please fill out the application and all attached forms include a copy of your insurance card and the camper's immunization forms. Send everything along with the camper's fee to: Department of Michigan VFW-Camp Trotter, 924 N. Michigan Ave., Lansing, MI 48906. When your information is received, you will get a confirmation letter and welcome packet from Denise Arnold, Camp Director. Any problems give me a call and I will try to help.

VFW Camp Trotter Eleventh Annual Charity Golf Outing is on Friday, June 23, 2017 we need donations and help! Please let Larry Thayer 989-413-1096 or Bob Benderman 231-773-2076 know if you're able to help. We need donations for:

1. Sponsor a hole or tee box. Because of the popularity of sponsoring holes and tees, we are recognizing those Individuals, Corporations or Groups with the appropriate sign on the tee or hole. (\$55.00 minimum donation)
2. Sponsor a Team. \$60.00 per person or \$240.00 per foursome.
3. Donating a product or gift certificate that can be used as a raffle prize or a door prize. All kinds of golf paraphilia will be helpful.
4. Making a monetary donation.
5. All participation to the Golf Outing is credited to the All-State Program for 2017-2018.

We will be having the Big Fund Raiser Raffle again this year. Please watch your mailboxes, the raffle tickets will be mailed out in May, 2017. The drawing will again be held at our *Annual Family Day on August 19, 2017*. If you have never been to Camp Trotter this would be a great day to visit. We have a wonderful potluck lunch,

swimming, pontoon rides, or you can just visit with everyone.

Please let me know if you have any questions about Camp Trotter. I will do my best to answer them. Thank you for supporting our children's camp and making it one to be proud of for generations to come.

Thank you everyone for all that you do!

Ginni Benderman
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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary CHIEF OF STAFF/EXTENSION BULLETIN June/July/August 2017 www.vfwauxmi.org

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

National Theme: Catch the Dream for Our Veterans

Department Theme: Strength and Unity for Our Veterans

Auxiliary Presidents: Congratulations on becoming President of your VFW Auxiliary. Here we go! The 2017-2018 year has officially started for the Department of Michigan VFW Auxiliary! Your District President will soon be sending you a notification about their official visit to your Auxiliary. It is their job to make sure that your Auxiliary is healthy and working toward the goals of the organization. Your District officers are there to provide encouragement, to ensure that you are a healthy Auxiliary, and to provide the Department President with an inspection of your Auxiliary. This is a good time to let your District President know if your Auxiliary needs any assistance.

Now is also the time to place some important dates into your planning calendar including District meetings, schools of Instruction, and the Fall Conference. Plan on attending these informative meetings and take along some of your Auxiliary members too. Let your chairmen know that they will hear a lot of valuable information at these meetings. Check the *Michigan Connection* and the Department website for dates and times of these events.

Reporting! Due to new items being put on the Year End Report that Madam President Bonnie needs to send to the National at the end of the year, we will all need to start reporting for the Chief of Staff/Extension Program. I suggest that the President does this or appoint someone to do it for you. It will work the same way as the other chairmanships. Check the Guidesheet for reportable items.

Technology rocks! Your Guide Sheet, bulletins, and resources can be found at the above Michigan website, and additional resources are found at the National website www.vfwauxiliary.org. On either website, click on the Programs tab, then the Chief of Staff tab and you will find information and tools to help you and your Auxiliary throughout the year. Check your Guide Sheet for a list of resources found on the National website.

Don't forget to publicize your Auxiliary! When you publicize your Auxiliary's activities and programs the community sees all of the wonderful things you are doing and they may want to get involved too!! It can turn into a great membership tool for you as well!!



Start the year out right by mentoring your members!

Members of organizations want to feel needed. If you mentor your members properly and find something they are good at, they will feel like they are making a difference and will keep coming back and volunteering. Ask members to help on a project that you are heading up. Some members are sitting back and waiting to be asked to help.

Do you know of a Post without an Auxiliary! Did you know that there are around 80 VFW Posts in Michigan without an Auxiliary? One of the responsibilities of the Chief of Staff is to try to bring in new Auxiliaries to Posts that don't have one. If you happen to visit a Post without an Auxiliary, talk positively about the Auxiliary to them and then let me know if they are interested in starting an Auxiliary and I will contact them. Let's get more people involved in this great organization!

R U Healthy Checklist reminders for June, July, and August:

- ✓ Submit an itemized report of the financial and membership status of your Auxiliary to your Post Commander within 30 days of taking office. If you have not done this, you have until July 3, 2017 to do so.
- ✓ Submit Bond Application for offices of President and Treasurer bonded with an indemnity company authorized by National Headquarters.
- ✓ Submit April 1, 2017-June 30, 2017 audit to the Department Headquarters by July 31, 2017.

If there is anything that I assist you with, don't hesitate to contact me using the following information.

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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
HOSPITAL BULLETIN
June/July/August 2017
www.vfwauxmi.org



National Theme: Catch the Dream for Our Veterans

Department Theme: Strength and Unity for Our Veterans

PROGRAM GOALS

- Military Suicide Awareness
- Volunteer Service in Medical Facilities
- Volunteer Recruitment and Recognition
- Veterans Voice Writing Project

Congratulations to all the District and Auxiliary Hospital chairmen! Thank you to our incoming Department President Bonnie Pray for giving me this opportunity.

First off, let me introduce myself. My name is DeeAnn Miller. I am best known as Past Department President Mariann Hamann's daughter. This is my first Department chairmanship. I am nervous and excited. I joined the Auxiliary under the eligibility of my father, Marvin Hamann (past Department Membership Director). I have been a member for over 20 years but only active since 2007. I attended my first district meeting. My Auxiliary President Stella Robak, who was about 90 at the time, told me if I didn't take over Presidency the Auxiliary would fold. I didn't know what I was in for but told her I would think about it. I couldn't let the Auxiliary fold so I agreed. I knew I would be President forever. A majority of the members were over 60. After my dad passed away in 2011, the Post and Auxiliary consolidated with another Post and Auxiliary. I was no longer President. I became a regular member for a few months so I could sit back and relax. Since then, I have held an officer position in both the Auxiliary and District levels. I was District 4 President in 2013-14 and earned Runner-Up District of the Year award. The thing I enjoyed most about being District President was visiting all the Auxiliaries. I have held several Auxiliary chairmanships. I am currently District 4, Auxiliary 7546 and District 4 Past President Club Secretary. My parents have been great mentors to me. I hope to one day follow in my mom's footsteps and be Department President.

I have a Bachelor's degree in Information Technology from the University of Phoenix. I have been employed with a large health insurance company for over 27 years. I have 3 children (ages 26, 24, 22) all members of the Auxiliary. I had one granddaughter but she passed away in March. I have another grandchild due September 7. I have 2 families: my biological family and my VFW family. I always believed blood was thicker than water. My VFW family has proved me wrong. They have been there for me as much as my biological family. I never understood that until the death of my father and granddaughter. The love and support they have shown me has been tremendous.

My goal this year is to visit all the hospitals and homes in Michigan. I have been to a few already but I would like to visit all of them. If you are having a hospital fundraiser, please let me know. I will try to attend. I am really looking forward to meeting new people.

The new reporting period started May 1. Once the new website is up, remember to report everything you have done thus far. If it is easier, report immediately after the event takes place. This way you don't forget the details about the event. Please make sure to report how many members helped with the project, how long the project took, how many miles driven to and from the project and total cost spent on the project. Be as detailed as possible.

Reminders for reporting:

1. If you car pool to an event, the person driving takes the mileage not everyone in the car. For example: 3 members meet at their post and ride together to the VA hospital to volunteer. The driver takes the total amount driven from their home to the post to the VA hospital. The riders count the miles from the home to their post only.
2. Do not include money for mileage in the value of a project. Only report the actual number of miles
3. Greeting cards sent after discharge from the hospital and any home visits to the Veteran and their family should be reported under Veterans and Family Support.

Did you know the Department has Facebook pages for each of their chairmanships? This year the Department Hospital Facebook page will be used quite a bit to post any information and suggestions. This is a way of communicating in between bulletins and to keep in touch. Please only post constructive comments. If a member has a good idea for a fundraiser, post on the Facebook page. I am always open to suggestions. Department President has the final say. I will be checking this page daily. If you have questions, you can always email me, use the Facebook page, call or text me. If you call, please leave a detailed message (name, auxiliary, phone number and reason for call).

In a future bulletin, a needs list will be provided for each hospital and home. Hospitals and homes are always looking for volunteers. If you have some extra time, become a hospital volunteer. You can volunteer once a month or once a week. I will be contacting the VAVS representative for their facilities volunteer opportunities and needs. You can volunteer at any hospital or nursing home. Contact your local hospital or homes to inquire on how you can volunteer. It is hard to volunteer when you work full time. I am researching different opportunities for volunteering when you work full time.

September is National Suicide Awareness month. Suicide is still on the rise. Look for the warning signs.

- Hopelessness, feeling like there's no way out
- Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, or mood swings
- Feeling like there is no reason to live
- Rage or anger
- Engaging in risky activities without thinking
- Increasing alcohol or drug abuse
- Withdrawing from family and friends

The following signs require immediate attention:

- Thinking about hurting or killing yourself
- Looking for ways to kill yourself
- Talking about death, dying or suicide
- Self-destructive behavior such as drug abuse, weapons, etc.

Veterans crisis line at 1-800-273-8255 and press 1, chat online at www.veteranscrisisline.net or text 838255 today. Let's get them help before it is too late.

Fall Conference is September 21-23, 2017 at Boyne Highlands. President Bonnie gave her approval to have a District Basket Raffle. My auxiliary will be drawing the theme for the districts. The themes of the baskets will be the Months of the Year. Each District will have a different month. Anything to do with the month can be included in the basket. For example: if you draw October, Breast Cancer Awareness and/or Halloween can be included. I had members of my auxiliary draw for the basket raffle at Fall Conference. I know some months may be harder than others. Use your imagination. For example: if you have a winter month, you have items to keep you warm or winter sports.

- District 4 – October
- District 5 - January
- District 6 - November
- District 7 - May
- District 8 - September
- District 9 - December
- District 10 - April
- District 11 - March
- District 12 - February
- District 13 - June
- District 14 - August
- District 15 - July

At Fall Conference, I will be collecting toothbrushes and toothpaste. Dingell doesn't accept Colgate toothpaste but I will distribute to the remaining hospitals and homes. They can be full size or travel size.

If you have any questions or need help, please don't hesitate to ask. I don't know everything. I will find out the answer.

DeeAnn Miller, Hospital Chairman
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**Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
MEMBERSHIP/LEADERSHIP BULLETIN
JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2017**
www.vfwauxmi.org

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

National Theme: Catch the Dream for Our Veterans

Department Theme: Strength and Unity for Our Veterans

Membership Theme: "Freedom Is Not Free"

All dues collected until June 30th 2017 are credited to the 2016-2017 year. What a fantastic year Michigan has had! You are all to be congratulated on achieving this remarkable goal!

Our membership year begins July 1st, 2017. All reporting for our membership year will begin July 1st. I look forward to working with all of you. I know we will achieve 100% plus for the Department of Michigan again!

I hope you are all now familiar with the **Circle of Excellence**. Please look at the Guide Sheet and get your plan of action going. You need to report under this chairmanship the same as you do the other chairmanships. I cannot stress this enough-REPORT every quarter! Your reporting affects everyone. First you are recognizing YOUR auxiliary for their efforts. Next, you are supporting your District because YOU are included in the achievements the District has to do to. Next, President Bonnie needs the information so that the Department of Michigan can meet the requirements for that circle. It is one big circle (so to speak) to obtain the Circle of Excellence, and it all starts with YOU.

National has a new system MALTA for treasurers. This system will help deal with membership more effectively. They will have a hotline to call with problems or questions. The Department will have their new web site up in June. It is more user friendly. Please take advantage of both. The end of the first reporting quarter is July 31st.

Each and every auxiliary is important and needed just like every member is. Please make sure to send in your installation reports to Department as soon as possible. All auxiliaries are required to be bonded. Make sure Department receives your bond information. ALL Officers must have their dues paid by December 31, 2017

The membership theme this year is **Freedom Is Not Free**. Our veterans have paid a dear price. Every freedom we have today is because of them. We owe them everything. Be the kind of member the veteran is glad they fought for.

We joined this organization under *their* service. Our purpose as members is to honor and help them and their families. We remember their sacrifices by first, belonging to this organization and second by investing ourselves in supporting the programs that

help them. "The objects of our Auxiliary shall be fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable and educational; to assist the Posts and members of the VFW and its members". If you haven't read that passage before, it is from your Bylaws and Ritual guide. It is a reminder to us why we are members and that "Freedom is Not Free".

Let's kick off the membership year by sending out the dues notices immediately. Get on the band wagon to keep and secure all your present members.

We all have membership lists with names. Those names are people who believed in our veterans by joining. Every one of them are important. Go through your list. Call, email, text, Facebook them. We need to retain and keep each and every member. Maybe you have members on your rolls that live out of town. Do they get a newsletter? How about writing them a note thanking them for continuing to belong to this wonderful organization and telling them what your Auxiliary has done.

Every member is important regardless of what they may or may not do. We must retain the members we have. As stated to me "it doesn't do much good to bring in 5 members in the front door, when 10 are going out the back door". We must respect each other and get along as we all are working together for the same cause. One of the many benefits from being a member is the friendships. The camaraderie is gained from serving together for a cause that is so close to everyone's heart and it provides a strong network of support. As an added benefit, you get to work with America's finest veterans!

While we work hard to keep our current members, we need to inspire new ones to join by our actions. There is a current application for membership included with this bulletin. You can also download one from the Departments website. Please carrying it with you. As you do your projects, you inspire others. You don't want to miss an opportunity to gain a new member. Another member means we can do more for our veterans.

Start planning your recruiting event. Advertise it in the paper, Facebook, or any method you like. When you have your event, explain all the wonderful deeds you have done! Tell them about how much you have aided veterans and their families.

Our Fall Conference is September 21-23 at Boyne Mountain. There will be a school of Instruction. Our National Certified Recruit Trainer (NCRT) will be offering a membership training session. Marian Belaire is remarkable and you can learn a lot from her. This training session is not just for chairman. Every member is invited to attend.

We need to remember why we joined, who we joined under and what we do. "Freedom Is Not Free"

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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary SCHOLARSHIPS BULLETIN

June/July/August

2017-2018

www.vfwauxmi.org

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

National Theme: Catch the Dream for Our Veterans

Department Theme: Strength and Unity for Our Veterans

PROGRAM GOALS

Student Participation
Recipient Recognition
Community Awareness

Welcome to the new Scholarship Chairmen. Scholarships consist of Continuing Education, Young American Creative Patriotic Art, Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay, and Patriots Pen Essay.

Let's get started so we will be on track for the school year. Read your application for the different scholarships and know your deadline dates. Put together a letter of introduction to give with the applications so they will know just what they have to have to turn in to the Post level.

Voice of Democracy (Audio Essay) and Patriots Pen (written Essay) are due to the Post by midnight October 31, 2017. Voice of Democracy is offered to students in grades 9 through 12. The theme this year is "American History: Our Hope for the Future" and the Patriot's Pen is for students 6th through 8th, their theme is "America's Gift to my Generation".

It is important that we reach the schools, churches, home school students, clubs that young people work with. You can do this by social media, newspapers, Post bulletin, school newspapers, TV and radio. It is also time to send letters and information to the local school, teachers, community centers for children and young adults. Let them know what the VFW and it's Auxiliary have to offer the students as far as scholarships and prize money. Social media, Facebook, Snapshot, Instagram, and Twitter are a big part of the student's life, use these tools to get your information out to them.

It is never too early to start the Continuing Education Scholarship. Please print out the application and give it to your members and put the information in you newsletters. Let them know it is for them, their spouse, and children.

Please make sure you go over your Guide Sheet and keep track of your reporting. Report every month so you don't forget something you do. Remember to report everything you do to promote your Scholarship Program.

Your first quarter reporting should be May, June, July, and August. Each Auxiliary chairman should report how many school, church, youth groups, home schooled or individuals you have given applications to for the different scholarships we offer, also hours spent, miles traveled, and how many Auxiliary members helped you get the information out.

Please I need every Auxiliary to report first quarter. Read and promote your Bulletin at your meeting, attend your School of Instruction at your District meeting, and report it to me.

Scholarship and Contest Resources

VFW website: www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education

VFW Auxiliary website: www.vfwAuxiliary.org/scholarships

Department website: www.vfwauxmi.org

With each application you forward to District you will need a copy of the application, the school release form, 2 wallet size pictures of the student, 2 copies of the student's speech, and the student biographical page all completely filled out. Please pass this information on so that we as your state chairmen can complete our paperwork for National. Please check to make sure the information is clearly written, as we need correct spelling of their names for the jacket and paperwork.

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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT BULLETIN
June/July/August 2017
www.vfwauxmi.org

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

National Theme: Catch the Dream for Our Veterans

Department Theme: Strength and Unity for Our Veterans

I was honored to be given the appointment as Chairman of Veterans and Family Support by our Department President Bonnie Pray.

My name is Donna J. Miszewski, I am a member of Gold Bar Post Auxiliary #5096 in the 12th District. I was eligible to join through my father, James L. Walker who served during W.W.II.

This year the National Theme is "Catch the Dream for Our Veterans". I am going to do my best, along with all of you to make both of these themes to become a reality for our Veterans and their families.

We need to go forth and spread the word of our goals, to help Veterans and their families "Catch the Dream" by focusing on the following goals:

1. National Veterans Service
2. VFW Veterans and Military Support Programs
3. Buddy Poppy
4. VFW National Home for Children

We, the Auxiliaries, must toot our own horns for all that we do, the more we blow our horns, the more we do for our Districts and when we, as Districts get together on the band wagon and all work together, we make our state Department look good. Hence, our Department Theme: "Strength and Unity for our Veterans".

Our National Veterans and Family Support Ambassador for 2017/2018 is Karen Dotson from the Department of New York. Our Big Ten Conference Chairman is Sheila Allen 2017/2018 from the Department of Missouri. If there are any questions I cannot answer, I am sure I can contact one of these ladies for help with an answer.

In the bi-monthly Bulletins I will provide you with information to be the best you can be, to help you have a solid program of which you can use to support our Veterans and their Families.

I had a great time meeting all of you at State Convention, I hope it was a good learning experience for all.

Now it's time for us to get to work and do lots of activities to help our Veterans and their families.

We have a new web site so we are all going to learn together!

The end of the first quarter is July 31, 2017. Let's make Department President Bonnie proud of us and be 100% reported in all four quarters. If you have any questions feel free to get a hold of me and we can discuss situation till we get it solved. If I don't know the answer, I will get it for you.

Remember when reporting you report:

1. Number of members involved
2. Mileage
3. Hours.
4. Expense toward the project

REPORT! REPORT!! REPORT!!!

Michigan Day at VFW National Home for Children is August 6, 2017. It is located in Eaton Rapids Michigan. I have been there and it was a beautiful campus. Michigan Day has many activities going on that our 12 Districts get involved helping with such as Bingo, Coins in the Sand and even a Fishing Contest! Remember to bring your Auxiliary banners and American flags to be registered.

The VFW National Home for Children helps and supports the following:

1. Military families of active military during deployment.
2. Veterans families during difficult times.
3. VFW descendants (families of VFW or VFW Auxiliary)

So please come and get a tour and enjoy all the activities available that day.

Auxiliaries please start thinking of projects, fundraisers or donations to

- National Veterans Service
- VFW Veterans National and Military Support Programs
- VFW National Home for Children

I know the Buddy Poppy campaign was in May but, remember any day is Buddy Poppy Day. Remember all monies goes to the Auxiliary Relief Fund to help Veterans.

I am looking forward to a great year working with all of you. I will be available to help wherever I am needed.

PROUD TO HELP VETERANS

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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
YOUTH ACTIVITIES BULLETIN
JUNE/JULY/AUGUST 2017

www.vfwauxmi.org

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

National Theme: Catch the Dream for Our Veterans

Department Theme: Strength and Unity for Our Veterans

Welcome to your new year of excitement!!!! You have chosen to work with our youth; to guide them in working with our Veterans and their families. To lead them in interacting with Veterans and veterans programs. Teaching them how our veterans service to our country has kept us a free country under God.

With your guidance they will learn there are many ways to help Veterans. Such as doing yard work and gardening. Making cards to send to hospitalized and active duty veterans etc. Be sure to take the time to fill out the paperwork to get a Citation to present to them.

Every community has many youth groups which you will be able to work with or sponsor. You can give a pizza party or give them a donation for items they may need for their projects. Have a flag folding and flag etiquette class for them to attend. Also take time to teach them about the Missing Man Table.

There are many youth who participate in sports, academics, scouting, and many other activities. Be sure to recognize these young people for their excellence. Citation, recognition certificate, or dinner can be given. Have them lead the Pledge of Allegiance or National Anthem; have them speak about what they do.

Share your involvement with these and other youth groups in the media. You can go on Facebook, tweet, newspaper, T.V. If you make posters and/or fliers for your event report those also.

When you see a youth doing a Random Act of Kindness give them either a R.A.P. card or coin. Be sure to report these random acts. Include how many cards and/or coins you gave and what their acts were.

Have a day where you can have youth and Veterans get together for interviews for the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. You can also go to nursing homes, and senior citizens housing. It can be all foreign war Veterans young and old. Remember our Veterans are everywhere. To find out more information on this project go to: www.loc.gov and follow directions to get the kit and brochure, needed to start you on your way.

Plan your project around your goals. How many goals can you complete in that project?

Be sure to report all projects whether you are sure or not. You can never over report.

If you are in need of R.A.P. cards you can go to the youth chairmanship on the Department web site to make copies. Or you can purchase R.A.P. coins from the VFW Store. Be sure to carry them with you at all times because you never know when you will use them.

Remember to report any youth that help you on your poppy days poppy campaign. Be sure to invite your youth to Fourth of July picnic and have them help with the veterans. Michigan Day is August 6. Be sure to attend and take your youth with you. Camp Trotter Family Day is August 19 take your kids, grandkids, neighbor kids, or any young people you would like to show our great camp to.

When you apply for a National citation remember they won't be processed until August after the new officers are seated. Remember its only one citation per group per program year.

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