

MICHIGAN CONNECTION

September/October, 2017

www.vfwauxmi.org

(MUST be read on the Auxiliary Floor)

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

Department Theme: Strength and Unity for Our Veterans

Special Announcements

Congratulations to Jan (Lawrence) Passmore on her election and appointment as National Secretary/Treasurer; Sandi Onstwedder as National Chaplain; and Marilyn Malick as National District Council Member #23. Michigan is proud of these members and know that they will serve us well.

There have been some changes to the Bylaws so be sure to get a copy of the new Podium Edition when it becomes available in September and October.

REMINDER!!! Please follow the chain of command if you have any questions. You should contact your District President or the Department. You should never contact National directly with a question as they will only send it back to the Department President for response.

MALTA (the National website) is still not fully operational. Please wait for either the National Organization or our Department Office to let you know when it will be fully functional. Any issues you have with MALTA, please contact the Department Treasurer.

Department Dues Increase

Important Notice: At our Department Convention held June 2 and 3, the delegation approved a \$.50 increase in the Department Per Capita. **Effective July 1, 2017, Department Per Capita is \$7.00.** National Per Capita remains the same. **Total to be remitted will be \$12.00 for 2018 annual dues.**

Bylaws and Orders

Special Order #354, dated July 17, 2017 – The Charter of Lake Superior Auxiliary to VFW Post #4167, Mass City, is hereby cancelled and the Auxiliary is declared defunct.

Special Order #358, dated July 18, 2017 – The Charter of Smelt City #3675, Boyne City, is hereby cancelled and the Auxiliary is declared defunct.

Department Website

Our Department website is in full operation. Please read the front page of our website on how to access the reporting section. If you have any questions, please call the office.

Upcoming Events

Fall Conference is September 20-24 at Boyne Highlands Resort. Refer to our website for the Hotel Registration Information. The tentative Auxiliary Agenda will be available in a few weeks.

Secretary/Treasurer/Trustee/NCRT workshop on Saturday, October 7 at Post #4073 in Marshall. Reservations forms are available on our website under Announcements.

Big 10 Conference, October 13-15, at the Minneapolis Marriott Airport in Bloomington. Our own Jan Passmore will be installed as Big 10 President along with our Department Secretary Cindy Peto as Big 10 Secretary.

Let's show them our support! Forms and information are available on our website.

National President's CAFÉ and Celebration will be held in Williamsburg, VA, October 18-22. Information available on our website.

Any upcoming events can be found on our website under Announcements. Be sure to access our website on a regular basis.

Treasurers Tips

Reminder: Applications for New Members MUST have the Member ID of who recruited or that individual will NOT receive credit.

Due to the on-going issues with MALTA, National has extended the required due date for Bonds to September 30. HOWEVER, you can access our Department website for the bond application and send with a check to National. This is really the preferred method since there are issues with the National's new computer system.

For a listing of where to send donations, please access our website under Resources/Treasurer.

Remember that 990's are due by November 15. The Department Treasurer does not automatically file for your Auxiliary. It is the responsibility of the Auxiliary to contact the office and let the Treasurer know and she will be happy to do it. If you have any questions or need assistance, please call the Department Office. Please send the Department a copy of your verification so that we may keep it on file.

You may also access our Department website under About Us and FAQ for guidance in filing your 990.

Reminder: September is the month for when your District Dues are due. If you have not received your notice from the District, please contact your District Treasurer.

Connection Corner

Q: Our Post and Auxiliary will be escorting the Viet Nam Moving Wall into our city. As an Auxiliary, do we report that under Americanism or Veterans and Family Support.

A: Neither. You would, however, document and give the information to your Post for them to report under their Community Service.

The Auxiliaries no longer report under Community Service. Our reporting is structured to follow the goals outlined on our Program Guide Sheets. How you obtain those goals is what is reported to the Department. Other accomplishments (Community Service) that an Auxiliary does can be documented and given to the Post for reporting under their Community Activities.

However, if you should distribute patriotic information or items or information under the Veterans and Family Support Program, then it would be reportable under those programs. But just escorting is NOT.

Questions? If you have any questions or comments, please email the Department Office at misec@asiserve.net and we will answer your question and also incorporate it into our next Michigan Connection.

By Order of:

Bonnie Pray

Bonnie Pray
Department President

Cindy Peto

Cindy Peto
Department Secretary

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
AMERICANISM BULLETIN
September/October 2017
www.vfwauxmi.org



National Theme: Catch the Dream for Our Veterans Keepsake

Department Theme: Strength and Unity for Our Veterans

Hello Patriots! September has been deemed **Military Suicide Awareness Month** and I encourage every member to either memorize or enter as part of your cell phone Contacts, the VFW National Home Help-Line number 1-800-313-4200, and also the Veterans Crisis Line 1-800-273-8255 press 1. We need to educate our members and our communities. It is our duty to help our veterans in need at all times. Knowing these numbers can help save a life!

September 11th is Patriots Day (Anniversary of 9/11). This day is in remembrance of the 2,996 people who were killed and the 6,000 who were injured in the 2001 terrorist attack on the United States. A moment of silence begins at 8:46 a.m. when the first plane, American Airlines Flight 11, struck the north tower of the World Trade Center.

Friday September 15th is POW/MIA Remembrances Day. As of March 15, 2017 the number of Americans still missing and unaccounted for is 1,606 (49 being from Michigan). I encourage you to go to www.powmiafamilies.org highlight the Missing Man Table & Honors Ceremony. You will notice as of 10/7/2015 the ribbon on the vase has been changed to yellow rather than red. Let's do our best to encourage this change on our Post/ Auxiliary Tables. If you know of a veteran that was a POW/MIA give them a call or send a note, letting them know that they will not be forgotten. Display the POW/MIA Flag, attend or conduct a ceremony, or put one on at your post or school as part of a Patriotic program. Remember to hand out flags. Explain the meaning of this day and the reason of the Missing Man Table and its contents. You can find the Ceremony Script on the Department web-site?

September 24 Gold Star Mothers Day is observed the last Sunday of September. It's a day to recognize Mothers and their families who lost sons or daughters while serving in the line of duty in a war or conflict.

The name comes from the custom of families hanging service flags in their windows. The Service Flag has a star for each family member in service. A Blue Star means current active duty service, Silver Star means wounded or injured in a war zone and a Gold Star means killed during active duty in a war or conflict. It stands for sacrifice made for honor and freedom. This was designated by Congress on June 23, 1936. Please send a Thinking of You card to a Gold Star Mother or Family member.

September Is Back to School Month: Has your Auxiliary made plans to go into the schools to promote Patriotism and Americanism also include Flag Etiquette or the meaning of the 13 folds of the flag? Why not reach out to your teachers and students, encourage and promote a RED/WHITE/BLUE DAY at school by working with your teachers.

Inform the teachers of the **Smart/Maher National Citizenship Education Teacher Award**. This program needs our help, and the teachers deserve a lot of credit and this is a GREAT way to give it. Offer to help in the classroom once a week by promoting Americanism, be creative. Remember if you can Dream It, You can do it!

Patriotic Dates:	Sept. 2	V-J Day Formally Japan Surrender 1945
	2	World Suicide Prevention Day
	14	Star Spangled Banner (written by France Scott Key 1814)
	17	Auxiliary VFW organized 1914
	18	US Air Force established 1947
Oct.	7	Afghanistan War started 2001
	13	US Navy established 1755
	18	Recognition of Women in Military Service



Family Freedom Festival: This is a wonderful idea that every Auxiliary can do. In our July, 2017 VFW Auxiliary Magazine (pg. 8, 9) it's explained very well. There is also a toolkit available at vfwauxiliary.org/resources. This is a fantastic way to promote patriotism as well as all the programs we offer to our community. Be sure to involve your entire community, use every media resource possible, and invite your local police, firefighters, school board chairman, principals, and teachers. Come one, come allby offering something for everyone in each of our programs. Have each program chairman set up an area promoting their program. This is big! Remember they are coming to you. What a better way to hand out poppies, VOD & PP brochures as well as Patriotic Art. Give them an inside view of what we do for our Veterans and don't forget to have a membership table set. You can do a craft with the children or have a 50/50 raffle.

Think outside of the box and remember if you can **"DREAM IT, YOU CAN DO IT"** I look forward to your reporting of what great ideas you found in your box.

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
September/October 2017
www.vfwauxmi.org



National Theme: Catch the Dream for Our Veterans

Department Theme: Strength and Unity for Our Veterans

It has been a wonderful summer and went by way too fast. Camp Trotter camping season has come to a close. We had a total of 401 happy campers. Each week we had campers asking to sign up for next year. It is never too early to start thinking about how many children you can send to camp next year. Get an early start so your children will get the week they want. We do not want to say no to anyone but some weeks fill up fast. Don't wait until the last minute to get started.

I want to thank the staff and the Camp Trotter team for making this such an amazing experience for our children. It takes a lot of energy, patience and time to make it the great place that it is. I would also like to thank everyone for all the help you have given this year.

We had a great turn out for Camp Trotter Family Day. It's wonderful seeing everyone having a good time. If you have not been to Family Day come join us next year for a fun filled day.

Fall Conference is Sept. 21-24, 2017 and Mid-Winter Conference is in January 2018 we will be having the Camp Trotter Silver Dollar Table at both. Please bring your new and/or slightly used, unwanted, or no longer needed treasures for this. It will be greatly appreciated. All proceeds go to the Scholarship Fund.

Please check your guide sheet and remember to report all that you do. You cannot get credit if you don't let me know what you have done. **Report Report Report**

Ginni Benderman
Camp Trotter Department Chairman
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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
CHIEF OF STAFF/EXTENSION BULLETIN
September/October 2017
www.vfwauxmi.org



National Theme: Catch the Dream for Our Veterans

Department Theme: Strength and Unity for Our Veterans

Auxiliary Presidents: Please remind your Treasurer, Secretary, and Trustees of the educational workshops that the Department is offering throughout the state. We will also offer these workshops at the Fall Conference coming up at the end of September. All of our Department chairmen will be speaking about their programs as well, so bring as many Auxiliary members as you can and join us for this wonderful weekend of information and camaraderie.



Good communication is essential to having a healthy and successful Auxiliary. How do you communicate with your members about meetings, events, etc.? In today's world, we have many forms of communication including newsletters, phone calls, texts, e-mails, Face Book, and Twitter to name a few. All of our members are different, and prefer different ways to communicate. Great leaders will find out what is best for their members and then use that form of communication

with them. Utilize the "Healthy Communication Phone/Text Tree" that is available on the Department website.

Promote Your Auxiliary! You do wonderful things for your community and the veterans who live there. Let your community know what you do and they will want to help too! Don't keep the VFW and its Auxiliary a secret. Let's publicize all of the great things that we are doing!

Mentor Your New Members! In the VFW Auxiliary, mentoring is an important part of maintaining a healthy and strong Auxiliary and for the organization as a whole. Everyone was new to our organization at one time and someone took them under their wing and showed them what our organization was all about and encouraged them to do whatever they could to better our Auxiliary. Are you ready to be a mentor? Let's look at some factors that might help you decide that you have a lot to offer another member.

- ✓ Have you ever held a position, either as an officer or a chairman?
- ✓ Have you ever helped with several different programs?
- ✓ Do people rely on you to remember how things are done?
- ✓ Are you ready and willing to lend a helping hand to get projects done?
- ✓ Do you care about veterans and their families?



- ✓ Is the organization important to you for many reasons?

If you answered yes to any of the above questions, then you are qualified to mentor another member. You don't have to know everything about the organization, you just have to CARE.

- 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.

This mentoring information is taken from "*Mentoring at VFW Auxiliary-Relationship Building for the Future*" by Cara Skodack Day. You can find more details about mentoring by reading the entire article which is found on the Department website under the Chief of Staff program.

New Auxiliaries! Congratulations to Auxiliary 2645 in Southfield which was instituted in August! Welcome to the most wonderful veteran's organization! I wish for you a successful and healthy Auxiliary! Thank you to the organizer of this Auxiliary,

Welcome!

Sandra Borieo.

If you know of any other posts who would like to start an Auxiliary let me know and I will assist them in doing so.

R U Healthy Checklist reminders for September and October:

- ✓ If you have not yet done so you must submit Bond Application for offices of President and Treasurer by September 15, 2017!
- ✓ District dues, based on June 30, 2017 membership, paid to the District by September 30.
- ✓ Submit July 1, 2017-September 30, 2017 audit to the Department Headquarters by October 31, 2017.
- ✓ Reported in all programs
- ✓ Dues notices sent and dues submitted to National via MALTA or to Department

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
September/October 2017
www.vfwauxmi.org



National Theme: Catch the Dream for Our Veterans

Department Theme: Strength and Unity for Our Veterans

Congratulations to the 2016-2017 Hospital Volunteer of the Year, David Zimmerman. David is an Auxiliary member of Post 702 and a resident of the Grand Rapids Home for Veterans. He has lived at the Home for 8 years and has been volunteering for 6 of those years. David is always right there to help the Volunteer Office or Activities staff. He enjoys giving back to the community.

For non-members to the VFW/VFW Auxiliary who wish to serve under the VFW Auxiliary sponsorship and supervision as volunteers at non-VA facilities, they must be interviewed and screened in the same manner as VFW Auxiliary members. Upon acceptance, sponsored volunteers are governed by the same ethics and rules prescribed for members. Sponsored volunteers are not eligible for VFW Auxiliary Hospital service pins, but shall receive a one-time recognition upon completion of 100 hours of service with a Sponsored Hospital Pin. Local recognition should also be given to sponsored volunteers.

All members should help in recruiting new volunteers. Successful recruiting is an art in itself. Tips for recruiting:

- Know the hospital program so you can answer any questions regarding the VFW Auxiliary.
- Know your facility. Make certain that any information you give regarding your facility is accurate.
- Be prepared to describe various assignments and what is expected. Explain that volunteers are trained and supervised by facility personnel.
- Create incentives that will attract and interest different generational groups.
- Work with the facility to create incentives for volunteers.
- Publicity release about an outstanding volunteer or an interesting hospital/facility project can aid in getting the public attention which can promote recruitment
- A good reason to volunteer is to gain work experience, learn new skills, meet new people and most importantly to give something back.

If you are interested in volunteering, contact Volunteer Services at the individual VA Hospital. They will be able to tell the volunteering jobs available.

September is suicide awareness month. There are four types of symptoms of PTSD, but they may not be exactly the same for everyone. Each person experiences symptoms in their own way.

1. **Reliving the event (also called re-experiencing symptoms).** You may have bad memories or nightmares. You even may feel like you're going through the event again. This is called a flashback.
2. **Avoiding situations that remind you of the event.** You may try to avoid situations or people that trigger memories of the traumatic event. You may even avoid talking or thinking about the event.
3. **Having more negative beliefs and feelings.** The way you think about yourself and others may change because of the trauma. You may feel guilt or shame. Or, you may not be interested in activities you used to enjoy. You may feel that the world is dangerous and you can't trust anyone. You might be numb, or find it hard to feel happy.
4. **Feeling keyed up (also called hyper-arousal).** You may be jittery, or always alert and on the lookout for danger. Or, you may have trouble concentrating or sleeping. You might suddenly get angry or irritable, startle easily, or act in unhealthy ways (like smoking, using drugs and alcohol, or driving recklessly).

PTSD can affect anyone who has had a traumatic experience, just not Veterans.

Don't forget. Toothbrushes and toothpaste are being collected at Fall Conference, September 21-24 at Boyne Highland. There will be a basket raffle. The basket themes are:

- 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

These are also listed on the Facebook page.

If you have any questions or need help, please don't hesitate to ask.

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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN
September/October 2017
www.vfwauxmi.org



National Theme: Catch the Dream for Our Veterans

Department Theme: Strength and Unity for Our Veterans

Well, the leaves will start changing soon if they haven't already. Time to plan for Fall Conference this month, September 21-24. The Conference is being held, again, at the Boyne Highlands Resort. A shorter drive for those of us in the U.OP. I hope to see many of you there.

Please sign up members for the VFW Action Corp Weekly. Start at your own Auxiliary. Bring a form to your meeting for the members to complete, and then take it to your District Meeting and do the same. There is always one more who is not receiving the Weekly. This is a great way of keeping abreast of what is going on in Washington concerning our Veterans. Go to vfw.org/weekly and at your meeting, try to explain what Bills will affect our Veterans. Don't just say Bill Number such and such and expect your members to look it up. Explain what the bill is and how our Veterans will benefit by it being passed or not.

Review your 2017 VFW Priority Goals; you can find them under the Legislative Program. They are Budget, Healthcare, Work Force Development and Accountability, Compensation and Benefits, Defense/Homeland Security, Education, Employment and Transition Assistance, Military Quality of Life, POW/MIA. The big thing to do is support our Veterans and our Military. Please stress the issues with your Congressmen and work at helping by writing, calling and sending e-mails.

Inform any Veterans you know they do not have to carry their DD214 with them to get discounts at restaurants, theaters or other businesses offering them. When renewing their driver's license they can get the Veterans designation put on the license. Check with local branches of State Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Department of Motor Vehicles or Department of Transportation for availability of the designation, fees, and other details.

We as a large group must become pro-active advocates to protect and improve the quality of life for our veterans, service members and their families. Together we can accomplish much.

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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
MEMBERSHIP/LEADERSHIP BULLETIN
September/October 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

Congratulations Michigan and President Gloria for achieving the Circle of Excellence!! This is a monumental achievement for everyone. National Convention was awesome! Especially for all the recognition for Michigan! Look over your Auxiliary Circle of Excellence requirements. We can do this again!! Don't think that this impossible-think-I'm Possible!

Our veterans have paid a dear price to become members in this exclusive organization. The VFW Auxiliary was founded in 1914. Back then when soldiers went into battle, there was little or no medical care. More soldiers died of disease and food poisoning than their wounds. Their need was recognized and the auxiliary was formed to aid and assist. The Auxiliary is the backbone of the VFW.

Our members know the many challenges that faces our veterans. Those challenges are our opportunities to help our veterans. Department's theme, Strength and Unity for Our Veterans means together we are strong. There is power in teamwork. Where there is teamwork, anything can be achieved.

One of President Bonnie's icons is Rosie the Riveter. Rosie was the WW2 home-front equivalent of G.I. Joe. She is an example of a strong competent foremother. She went from being a housewife to going to work doing defense jobs. She was crucial to the war effort. She gave blood. She motivated millions of women (and now our men) to help our veterans. Her motto was "We Can Do It!" This is an excellent example of what we can accomplish. So we CAN do it!!

Organize your recruitment events. Look at your own auxiliary and take stock of all you have done. When you are out there recruiting, tell everyone of the monumental amount of work you do. Explain all the programs and the ways that you have helped. If you need ideas for your program, our NCRT Marian Belaire has a host of ideas for you. Attend one of her training sessions if you haven't already.

With all you have done, NONE of this would not have been possible without each and every member. Send out your dues notices. Membership is vital for our success in continuing our work. Let them know that not only belonging to this organization, but everything they do is important.

Have you visited National's website? They have a new system MALTA (Membership Auxiliary Leadership Technology Access). There are many training videos and a wealth of information for you to use. Take the time to review all the program information. There are many useful tools in each program category. They have sent out new membership cards that have a barcode on it. Carry it with pride.

The Department's website has had a few hiccups. I know you were frustrated by not being able to report, but Thank-you to everyone for your patience and understanding while it is being fixed. It is now easier to use and all information is at your fingertips. Check back regularly for any new information. Please remember to report every quarter.

Does your Auxiliary offer any incentives for renewing dues early? There are many ways you can do this. This can be as simple as a free drink or game of pool. Or create a Hall of Fame on your bulletin board. Give them a flower, or have hor devours before a meeting in their honor. Create a special Thank-you note. Just some small way to thank them for continuing their membership in this great organization. Kindness and appreciation goes a long way.

It is important to retain our current members. If they don't attend meetings, find out why. If they have circumstances that they can't, let them know they are still appreciated. Members feel appreciated when they are recognized. Send out a card on their birthdays. Send a newsletter or ask a member to call or send a note, explain all you have done and what their membership means. If a member is ill or in need, feature them on Facebook and ask for cards or prayers. Let them know you care.

When they do come to a meeting, find out what they are interested in. Engage them in any activity that suits them. Invite them to an event. Ask for their help or input. Update everyone on your status with the goals. Display the pride for all you do.

Every program has a Facebook page. Check them all out. Get information and share ideas. Get connected with one another. You can search and find out what other states are doing as well. You would not believe the amount of work and time the Department officers and chairmen put in. They are all dedicated and do it for you. They are all approachable with questions or concerns.

Fall Conference is at Boyne Highlands September 20-24. There will be program presentations, workshops, and dues transmittals.

Remember why we are members, what we do and why we do it.
Freedom IS Not Free

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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
SCHOLARSHIPS BULLETIN
September/October 2017
www.vfwauxmi.org



National Theme: Catch the Dream for Our Veterans

Department Theme: Strength and Unity for Our Veterans

Voice of Democracy (Audio Essay) is offered to 9th -12th grade students in public, private, parochial and home-schooled students in Michigan. Former first place winners at the State and National level competition or any foreign exchange students are not eligible. Students do not have to be a relative of a member to be eligible.

With the school year starting in September, it is time to make sure you have all the information in the schools, newspapers, social media, and on your website to inform the parents and students that there is prize money and scholarships out there. When you receive your entries, make sure you have a clear sound on the CD or flash drive, also two (2) copies of their speech, one (1) wallet size picture and all paper work (Student Biographical sheet, school release form, application completed in its entirety, typewritten copy of speech and post report. (It is very important that all student, parent information, and post information is fully complete and legible).

The Patriots' Pen is a 300-400 word written essay, for 6th – 8th graders. All the instructions for turning in the essay for judging is the same a VOD, except they just need the written speech and all paperwork.

Post and Auxiliary entries:

*Post hold their own judging and send one first place winner in for every 15 entries, to their District. Deadlines to Post is October 31, 2017 and to District by November 15, 2017.

*Department Awards for VOD Scholarships: 1st place \$6,000; 2nd place \$3,500; 3rd place \$3,000; 4th place \$1,500 and 5th – 12th \$1,000.

*Department Awards for Patriot's Pen: 1st place \$1,000; 2nd place \$750; 3rd place \$750; 4th place-12th place \$500.

Posts, Auxiliaries and Districts set their own prizes.

Remember to publish on social media, newspaper, TV, School papers. **District Chairmen** - please make sure you go over the information at your District meetings so the Auxiliary chairmen can ask questions and get answers for their program.

Please make sure you report the number of applications you give out in each program.

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

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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT BULLETIN

September/October 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

Thank you for accepting this chairmanship and all you do for our veterans! My name is Diana Ward and I have agreed to take over being your Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman. For those of you who may not know me, I am a member of Auxiliary #3243 in the 10th District. I earned my eligibility through my father, James Ward, a retired Navy veteran. He served in the Korean and Viet Nam Wars, the Philippines, Guam and many other locations of service as well as serving as a United States Air Marshall. I am also proud to say that my mother, Viola Ward, although not serving overseas, is a Navy veteran. As you can imagine, I grew up with a strong sense of patriotism and devotion to veterans. Our National theme "Catch the Dream for Our Veterans" and our Department theme "Strength and Unity for Our Veterans" are truly inspiring for the work we do. I am looking forward to sharing this journey with you this year. I would love to meet each and every one of you so please take a moment to introduce yourself to me when you see me at any Department or individual function.

The Department reporting system is now up. Nearly everything your Auxiliary does can be reported through Veterans & Family Support. If you are not sure how to report something, is there another chairmanship this can be reported under? If it doesn't fit one of those, then report it here. The end of the reporting quarter is October 31, 2017. If you are sending me your reports to enter, please do not wait until the last minute to send it. My understanding is that you can back date your reports; however, for purposes of achievement, I know when the reports come in because I get an email copy. If your report comes in after the deadline, it will not be counted for that quarter, but it will be counted for your overall program. Reporting is crucial for your Auxiliary as well as the Department. The very basics of reporting is that it shows where our time and money goes – to remain a charitable organization, we are required by law to "give away" 51% of our profits and reporting is one way that we do this. The other primary importance of reporting is to assist our President Bonnie to achieve the Circle of Excellence distinction. She cannot do that on her own, it is what we do as Auxiliaries that will distinguish us as a truly excellent organization for the care and support of veterans everywhere and this reflects onto our Department. Last year, we were 100% reported and we had the following statistics:

<u>Projects</u>	<u>Members</u>	<u>Miles</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Cost/Value</u>
10,546	19,048	226,555.79	69,265.75	\$401,267.07

With your help, I want us to do even better this year! Each Auxiliary should be able to report multiple things under Veterans & Family Support, not just that you read your Bulletin at a meeting. We are failing our veterans miserably if that is all we do. Here

are some ideas for things that are reportable: thank a veteran for his/her service; buy a veteran a meal; funeral dinners for the veteran or family member of a veteran; visit the grave of a veteran – clean up around it; spend time and check in with a widow/widower of a veteran; send thinking of you cards to veterans in the area; put an article in the local paper about things we do for our veterans – this gets our communities thinking of what we should be doing for those that have served for us; or maybe you paid the bill for a veteran – a lot of them need assistance with medical costs, light bills, rent, etc; or maybe you took them to a doctor's appointment. There are so many things we do and we don't even think about it. Just report! Remember, you need to include your time, money, mileage, and **how many veterans were assisted** with each report.

Fall Conference is early this year – September 21-23, 2017 and program presentations will be on Friday, September 22nd from 1-3pm so please try to be there. For many of you, this will be your last chance for a School of Instructions. Each program will be presented and then we will have breakout sessions for the individual programs. Be prepared to ask your questions. This is all reportable.

Something new this year is the Military Family Month which is November 2017. Of course we do things for our veterans every month of the year, but we want to make November special. You need to start planning right now for that. Try to do something every day of the month for a veteran, but come up with one bigger project for the month. Some ideas include dental day, turkey dinner, parent and kids fair, Veterans Day dinner, yard clean ups, or anything that you can come up with which will benefit a veteran and his/her family. Now that we have male members, many of them can do projects like plumbing, building, electrical work that some veterans may need done in their homes.

Homeless veterans are also on the program. Holidays are coming up and will be here before we know it. Plan to have a party for them or get items that they can use. If you don't have a shelter in your area, maybe you can go in with another Auxiliary and take it to an area that does. Also, with winter months coming up, they will be needing things for the colder weather such as hats, coats, mittens and scarves. Do you have members that can knit or sew? Maybe make blankets.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns that you need assistance with. I can be reached by phone or email. My information is below.

In service to our veterans,

Diana Ward, Department Chairman
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Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary
YOUTH BULLETIN
September/October, 2017
www.vfwauxmi.org



National Theme: Catch the Dream for Our Veterans

Department Theme: Strength and Unity for Our Veterans

Please take notice that due to the delay in completing the reporting portion of our new Department website, President Bonnie has waived the first quarter reporting requirement for judging of the programs and Auxiliary and District Achievement. You may submit your reports with the actual date the project was held.

Camp Trotter camping is over for the year. Did you send children to camp? I'm sure they had fun. Be sure to report this under both Camp Trotter and Youth. Camp Trotter Day was on August 19, 2017. Did you take any youth with you? Be sure to report how many youth from your Auxiliary family were there.

Did any of your Auxiliary members attend Michigan Day at the National Home? Hopefully there were many first timers there. Were you able to interact with any of the children who live there? How many? Did your children or grandchildren attend with you? This is a beautiful place for all to see and to be proud of. Be sure to report it.

Now is the time of year our children are returning to school. Did your auxiliary do a drive for school supplies, donate them to children in need? Or did you take them to your local schools? Or maybe even send them to our National Home? Maybe you helped a family in need with back to school clothing. Please report.

This year we have an achievement for our youth to participate with our veterans. It is the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. High school youth are welcome to participate, however, our focal point will be on middle and junior high school youth (grades 6, 7 and 8). What a perfect age for these youth meet veterans and begin or advance the understanding of their freedom and patriotism. Also, what a great way for our youth to learn more than what's in the history books? They learn by interviewing your local veterans. You can get more information on the internet to: Library of Congress Veterans History Project Brochure and [Kit.www.loc.gov](http://www.loc.gov). Information is also available at the vfwauxiliary.org website.

How about inviting teachers to a meeting or hold a learning fair for them to learn about what can be done for our veterans. They can take the information back with them and incorporate into their teaching curriculum.

Please keep reporting all you do.

Hope to see you at Fall Conference.

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