

# EXTENSION, REVITALIZATION & MENTORING PROGRAM

## Program Goals:

- Ensure that all our Auxiliaries are Healthy and Strong
- Assist All Auxiliaries that may be Struggling
- Seek and Create New Auxiliaries
- Develop and Enrich Members for Future Leadership Roles & Overall Understanding of the Ritual and Traditions

## DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S THEME

"Unity" One Family! One Voice! One Team!

## NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S THEME

*"From Our Roots to Our Branches  
Extending Service to Our Veterans"*

## **EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION**

They always say a team is only as strong as the weakest link! We must ensure that **ALL** our Auxiliaries are as strong and healthy as they can be. IF they are not, we must work together to help build them up with new members and teaching them how to work the programs to better serve our Veterans.

The most important aspect of our Organization is the strength and health of the local Auxiliaries! We have many resources that are available to us, such as

- Healthy Auxiliary Checklist & member questionnaire
- Good job certificate & Healthy Auxiliary Certificate
- VFW Auxiliary Mentoring Guide
- The Auxiliary Meeting Clinic, Relationship Building for the Future

All of these documents can be found on the Aux. National website and the Dept. of Florida website

One of the best resources we have available to us is the ***"Building on the VFW Foundation"***-

- Every District President should have a copy of this document and assist their Auxiliary Presidents to have their own copy available to them as possible.
- All Presidents should know the 5 requirements to be an Auxiliary in the eyes of the National Organization!
- District Presidents should be keeping a watchful eye for any unhealthy Auxiliaries in their area. If they feel there is an unhealthy Auxiliary, please communicate with the Department President or Dept. Chief of Staff. An unhealthy Auxiliary may have the same officers year after year, very few new members, minimal reporting, and they don't attend District and Department meetings, just to name a few ***"Red Flags"***
- District Presidents should communicate with the Department about any Bachelor Posts so there can be presentations about the merits of having an Auxiliary.
- Please communicate with the Department if you feel your Auxiliary is struggling. Are you having trouble getting Officers, new members or are challenged by our programs for our Veterans? We are here to help!
- Always listen to all the members and be willing to try new or recycled ideas, it just might turn into something grand.

Our foundation will be solid and strong when our roots run deep. With Auxiliaries/branches that are vibrant we can better serve our Veterans, their families and our community. Let's make our **"UNITED"** VFW communities so enthusiastic & patriotic that everyone wants to join in!

## **MENTORING AT ALL LEVELS**

When you enter into management in the business world, the first thing they tell/teach you is to develop the next person to take your position. As a volunteer organization wishing to grow and succeed, it is imperative that we

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follow this practice. An Auxiliary member once told me to “*latch onto someone who has walked where you want to go*”. In other words, if I wanted to become a District President, I should seek someone who has been a District President to be my mentor. Mentoring is our only program that exclusively benefits our members and you don't have to fund raise for the program.

## **One of the main techniques we will implement is the Care Concept!**

- Catch the member when they first join – Do you remember your first meeting? Was it scary or did you feel welcome?
- Ask them to participate
- Remember what it felt like to be new
- Engage them in a program that fits them or their talents.

## **Every Auxiliary and District should hold a Mentoring event to help develop perspective leaders and future officers grow in areas of their interest.**

- You can hold them locally with several Auxiliaries working together or even as a District function.
- District training sessions are highly encouraged.
- Our organization only grows when our membership is encouraged to participate and share their talents & ideas
- Incorporating games into the event will help to keep the members involved while they learn.
- Please remember **EVERY MEMBER** has a worthy Talent, or passion that we need to discover and get them involved in their Auxiliary. All members need to feel needed and appreciated!
- Mentoring is appropriate and needed at all levels of our Organization!

Every Auxiliary should have a Mentor! Please make sure that all new members are greeted and made to feel welcome. Have an experienced member invite the new members to sit with them at the meetings so they can explain what is happening. Also encourage everyone to participate in the District and Department meetings.

There is a ton of great resources on the National VFW Auxiliary website. We share tools with the Chief of Staff, Membership, and Mentoring for Leadership resources. The *Membership engagement packet*, *Mentoring at the VFW Auxiliary* and *Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundations* are some of the most popular resources on the National website. We will also post them onto our Department website. Please study all available resources to become the most knowledgeable Mentor.

## **DEPARTMENT AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES:**

1. **Special Citation to the first, second, and third place Auxiliary in each of the membership classes that utilize the mentor/leader tools such as building on the Foundation etc., and reported in Extension & Revitalization, Mentoring program. (must answer the program questions)**

*Nomination form (required) available at [www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources) . Auxiliaries must send the nomination form to their Department Mentoring for Leadership Chairman by March 31, 2025.*

## **DEPARTMENT AWARDS FOR MEMBERS:**

1. **A special award to one (1) Auxiliary member in each of the membership classes who most assists in nurturing/strengthening/revitalizing a struggling Auxiliary and utilizing Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation in their efforts.** *Nomination form (required) available at [www.vfwauxfl.org](http://www.vfwauxfl.org) . Auxiliaries must send the nomination form to their Department Extension, Revitalization & Mentoring Chairman by March 31, 2025.*

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