

EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

Program Goals:

- Ensure that all our Auxiliaries are Healthy and Strong
- Assist All Auxiliaries that may be Struggling
- Seek and Create New Auxiliaries
- Ensure all members are familiar with the abundant resources available

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S THEME

“Growing Stronger for our Veterans”

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S THEME

“Serving America's Heros”

EXTENSION

There are several definitions for Extension in the dictionary- *a part that is added to something to enlarge or prolong it.; the action or process of enlarging or extending something:*

One of the best ways to grow our *Auxiliary garden* is to promote ourselves to “Unaffiliated Posts”. There are numerous benefits to having an Auxiliary at your post. The National website has a multitude of resources to help you present information to the unaffiliated posts. This information helps to explain the benefits & attributes of organizing an Auxiliary. Be sure to include the Chief of Staff and/or the Department President as you start the discussions. There are several steps and procedures to ensure a healthy new Auxiliary. Please be sure to read and submit an entry for the special award for Extension.

Growing healthy Auxiliaries

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 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.

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 member in any position you serve. Planting new seeds, watering, fertilizing, & weeding will ensure a healthy abundant garden!

REVITALIZATION

Definition- the process of making something grow, develop, or become successful again:

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 teach 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

- The Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit
- Healthy Auxiliary Checklist & member questionnaire
- Good job certificate & Healthy Auxiliary Certificate
- VFW Auxiliary Mentoring Guide
- The Auxiliary Meeting Clinic, Relationship Building for the Future
- There are many more resources available including the Department leadership

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”-

- All Presidents, at every level, 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 you feel there is an unhealthy Auxiliary, please communicate with the Department President or Dept. Chief of Staff. Examples of 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**”
- 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.
- 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 that help our Veterans? We are here to mentor you and insure your success!
- Always listen to all the members and be willing to try new or recycled ideas, it just might turn into something grand.
- How many YELLOW and RED lights are flashing within your Auxiliary or District?

Our foundation will be solid and strong when our roots run deep and healthy. When our gardens are vibrant we can better serve our Veterans, their families and our community. We need to grow, fertilize and nurture our VFW communities to be enthusiastic & patriotic so that everyone wants to join in!

DEPARTMENT AWARD FOR DISTRICT PRESIDENTS:

1. **Special award to the District President that utilizes the mentor/leader tools such as building on the Foundation, Healthy Auxiliary tools etc., to help revitalize a struggling Auxiliary.** *Nomination form (required), & available at www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources and www.vfwauxfl.org . District Presidents must send the nomination form to their Department Extension & Revitalization Chairman by March 31, 2027.*

DEPARTMENT AWARD FOR MEMBERS:

1. **A special award to one (1) Auxiliary member in the Department who most assists in nurturing/strengthening/revitalizing a struggling Auxiliary and utilizing Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation and other resources in their efforts.** *Nomination form (required) available at www.vfwauxfl.org . Auxiliaries must send the nomination form to their Department Extension & Revitalization Chairman by March 31, 2027.*
2. **A special award to one (1) Auxiliary member in the Department who most assists the Chief of Staff and Dept. President to establish a new Auxiliary. They should use the tools available under member resources in Malta in their efforts.** *Nomination form (required) available at www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources or www.vfwauxfl.org . Auxiliaries must send the nomination form to their Department Extension & Revitalization Chairman by March 31, 2027.*

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