

EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION PROGRAM

Program Goals:

- Maintain and Strengthen Current Auxiliaries
- Present to Unaffiliated Posts
- Establish New Auxiliaries

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT'S THEME

"Champion for Veterans"

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S THEME

"Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care"

Things have changed!

What has changed?

Why the changes?

The Chief of Staff program's name has changed to Extension and Revitalization Program. The words *Extension and Revitalization* better describe the work of the Chief of Staff who manages the program. Also, Mentoring for Leadership once again has its own program this year. Both programs (Extension and Revitalization and Mentoring for Leadership) are especially important programs and need equal support. Be sure to keep that in mind when promoting and reporting the programs.

As your Department Chief of Staff, I am here to offer educated and informed advice to Auxiliaries and members. I will be listening to District Presidents, Auxiliary Presidents and members who have questions or need clarification of resources or issues. I am here to encourage members, promote teamwork, and provide guidance especially during challenging times.

District Presidents are a vital part of the Extension and Revitalization program. In their Official Visit to each Auxiliary, they will be looking for red flags that an Auxiliary may be struggling. They are not there to critique the President or the members but to give an honest assessment of the working order of the Auxiliary.

Every Auxiliary's goal should be to meet the 5 essentials of an Auxiliary. As a member and officer, you can help your Auxiliary by helping keep them on track.

The 5 Essentials are:

- Have at least ten (10) business meetings per year with at least five (5) members in good standing (which constitutes a quorum) for the transaction of business.
- Have Department and National dues paid for at least ten (10) members on or before February 1 of the current year.
- Submit quarterly audits by trustees in accordance with the bylaws.
- Elect, install and report officers to National no later than June 30.
- Bond the offices of President and Treasurer by August 31.

Achieving these 5 essentials, allows members to focus on serving veterans and their families.

All officers should know the resources available and how to use them. Members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the following resources:

- *Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit*
- *Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundations*
- *Online Auxiliary Academy*

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We have many Unaffiliated Posts (VFW Posts without an Auxiliary) in our Department. We can reach out to these unaffiliated Posts to explain why having an Auxiliary can boost their Post. We have resources available to help Posts decide if they want an Auxiliary.

- *Why Having an Auxiliary Can Boost Your Post*
- *Top Ten Reasons for Your Post to Have an Auxiliary*

Once a Post vote (by 2/3 majority) to have an Auxiliary, Department President appoints an official organizer. Keep in mind that it takes 15 new or rejoin applicants to apply for the charter. Once a charter application has been received, 10 members must be present at the institution of the auxiliary. We can work together on organizing new auxiliaries.

Final step for a new Auxiliary is that we as a Department must welcome them. We will present the Auxiliary with a Department Charter kit (to enhance the National Charter Kit), distribute welcome packets to each member of the new auxiliary, and recognize the Auxiliary and members in promotions, Department website, social media, and newsletters. We will not institute them and let them go.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS:

AWARDS FOR MEMBERS

1. A special award to one (1) Auxiliary member in each of the four (4) membership who most **assists in nurturing/strengthening/revitalizing a struggling Auxiliary and utilizing *Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation* in their efforts.**

The nomination form is available on the VFW Auxiliary Department website

www.vfwauxiliary.org/resource

AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES

1. \$25 to one (1) Auxiliary in each of the four (4) membership classes with the most creative uses of the ***Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit and/or Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation*** to **strengthen the Auxiliary.**

NATIONAL AWARDS:

AWARDS FOR MEMBERS

1. \$25 VFW Store Gift Certificate to one member in each of the four Conferences who **assisted the Department Chief of Staff in nurturing/strengthening/revitalizing a struggling Auxiliary and utilized *Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation* in their efforts.**

Nomination form (required) available at www.vfwauxiliary.org/resource. Winners will be announced, and awards presented at the 2023 National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.

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