

EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION

Karen Hoover, Chief of Staff
582 Hoover Lane, Halifax, PA 17032
Phone (717) 503-0996
karen.hoover0996@gmail.com

As Auxiliary members, we strive to remind everyone that “**Every Day is Veterans Day,**” with our efforts reaching “**From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans.**”

There are many tools available in Malta and the vfwauxpa.org website to aid in maintaining strong and healthy Auxiliaries. However, when issues arise, the Chief of Staff is also a great resource to provide assistance when needed.

The Chief of Staff wears many hats, including coach, counselor, and mentor to all members. They must be knowledgeable about all parts of the auxiliary, including bylaws and programs.

The VFW Auxiliary is implementing a Green Flag – Yellow Flag – Red Flag identification plan to allow easier identification of struggling auxiliaries. If your Auxiliary is struggling, please do not hesitate to reach out for guidance and potentially a “Performance Improvement Plan” (PIP) to get you back on track. We need all Auxiliaries across the department to be in good working order to fulfill our mission of serving veterans.

The National Organization requires only five (5) items for an Auxiliary to be considered in working order:

1. Hold ten (10) business meetings per year with a minimum of five (5) members present.
2. Dues paid by at least ten (10) members on or before February 1 of the current year.
3. Quarterly audits performed by the Trustees and submitted to Department Headquarters.
4. Officers elected, installed, and reported to National Headquarters by June 30.
5. The offices of President and Treasurer are bonded by August 31.

The goals of the Extension & Revitalization Program for this year include the following:

1. Establish New VFW Auxiliaries.
2. Recognize New VFW Auxiliaries.
3. Maintain Current Auxiliaries.
4. Mentor and Encourage Members to maintain their membership and consider holding an office within their Auxiliary.

ASSESSING AN AUXILIARY’S HEALTH: GREEN LIGHT – YELLOW LIGHT – RED LIGHT

GREEN LIGHT: Healthy Auxiliaries, Membership, Programs, and Officers.

YELLOW LIGHT: Auxiliaries are exhibiting the Caution Flag. This Caution Flag could wave because the Auxiliary has failed to meet the essentials of an Auxiliary. The Caution flag could wave for other reasons, such as failure to vote for new members, failure to report involvement in activities/programs that assist veterans and their families, failure to elect

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officers, or the Auxiliary isn't growing. Another Caution Flag is failure to attend District and Department meetings and trainings. As soon as the Caution Light appears, the District President will notify the Department President so assistance can be given.

RED LIGHT: The Auxiliary will be put on suspension as a time to step back and regroup. Suspension simply means there is some work to get the Auxiliary where it needs to be. The hope is that the Auxiliary will recover and come back stronger and better than before.

SUSPENSIONS, CANCELLATIONS, AND CONSOLIDATIONS

The suspension of an Auxiliary does not label your Auxiliary as a bad Auxiliary. It means there is some work that needs to be done to improve your Auxiliary and return it to good working order. During the suspension, the Department President will appoint a team to mentor your Auxiliary back to health.

The National President is the only one with the authority to order cancellations, with or without the recommendation of the Department President.

Auxiliaries cannot consolidate without first receiving a notification from National Headquarters. The notification will allow time for the Auxiliary to close, move members to their desired working Auxiliary, or consolidate with wherever the Post goes. The Auxiliary must wait for directions from National Headquarters before taking any action.

MENTORING

Mentoring is a way of advising or training someone, sharing their knowledge, skills, and experience with another person to help them progress and grow. Mentoring is used to train and educate future leaders. Mentoring helps broaden leadership skills, and leadership provides guidance for mentoring members as they work hand-in-hand. Mentoring for Leadership will enhance all types of program activities. Mentoring will make the difference in obtaining and maintaining members. Through the mentoring process, extending a hand of friendship to a new member or even a long-time member who has been inactive can create a strong organization.

Utilizing the "Mentoring at VFW Auxiliary: Relationship Building for the Future" document will help you get started in creating a program for your Auxiliary. Through this program, you will be encouraged to embrace and promote the CARE concept:

- C-CATCH the member when they join.
- A-ASK them to participate.
- R-REMEMBER what it felt like to be new.
- E-ENGAGE them in a program that fits them.

A mentor who can communicate, energize interest, is patient, and willing to explain the meeting proceedings, the Podium Edition: Bylaws and Ritual, and National Programs will enhance member experience. Over time, the mentee may express interest in going beyond

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just attending meetings. They might even take the next step into a leadership role as an officer, chairperson, or committee member. A stronger membership on every level of our organization will be accomplished through mentoring.

RESOURCES

- Build on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation
- Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit
- MALTA – Extension & Revitalization
- The current year's National Program Book
- "Understanding Auxiliary Traditions" Video

THERE IS NO YEAR-END REPORT FOR EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION.

NATIONAL EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION PROGRAM AWARDS

Awards for Members:

1. Providing the best assistance to the Chief of Staff in establishing a new VFW Auxiliary with the approval of the Department President.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary member in each of the 10 Program Divisions providing the best assistance to the Chief of Staff in establishing a new VFW Auxiliary with the approval of the Department President

Awards for District Presidents:

1. Providing the best assistance to the Chief of Staff with a struggling VFW Auxiliary by mentoring and maintaining a close relationship until the VFW Auxiliary becomes healthy, with the approval of the Department President.
 - Citation and \$25 to one District President or Official Representative in each of the Program Divisions for the best assistance to the Chief of Staff with a struggling VFW Auxiliary by mentoring and maintaining a close relationship until the VFW Auxiliary becomes healthy, with the approval of the Department President.

From July 1, 2025 to March 31, 2026. Entry form (required) available at vfwauxpa.org website under *Program – Chief of Staff/Extension – National Awards Forms*.

DEPARTMENT EXTENSION & REVITALIZATION PROGRAM AWARDS

To be presented at the state convention at the discretion of the Department Chief of Staff and Department President.