**VFW AUXILIARY OVERVIEW**

The VFW Auxiliary is one of the nation’s oldest veterans’ service organizations.

Since 1914 the VFW Auxiliary has brought together Americans from all walks of life with a common purpose: to improve the lives of veterans, their families, and our communities.

Our purpose shall be fraternal, patriotic, historical, charitable, and educational. We assist VFW Posts and members and our Auxiliary members, maintain allegiance to the Government and fidelity to its Constitution and laws, foster patriotism, maintain American freedom and equal rights, and preserve and defend the USA from all her enemies.

Our purpose translates into our programs. It is through our programs that we fulfill the Auxiliary's reason for being.

Nationally, there are over **475,000** members with approximately **4,000** Auxiliaries in 50 states. Our overseas locations are Germany, Guam, and Panama.

**How many VFW Auxiliary Districts are in PA?** We have 24.

**How many Auxiliaries are in PA?** 259

**How many Auxiliary members do we have?** 38,280

 PA's veteran population is approximately 943,000, otherwise 9.5% of PA's adult population are veterans. That means for everyone Auxiliary member there is 3.3 veterans who need or will need your assistance.

**Yes, we are needed**

As part of the Department leadership team, it is your role to inspire, educate and motivate others, and to create a vision of the future that is vivid and compelling. One that motivates members to want to be active and achieve. Everyone wants to be a part of something that makes a difference in their community. As a leader, you are best able to help the members of your team connect what they do in their community with the impact of our mission of service to our veterans and their families.

**What do you think is the mission of the VFW Auxiliary? Why do we exist?**

To assist the Posts and members of the VFW, and Auxiliary members to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States of America and fidelity to its Constitution and Laws; to foster true patriotism; to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom and equal rights and justice to all; and to preserve and defend the United States of America from all her enemies.

Now, based on this mission we have, what do you think our core values are? In other words, **what is the Auxiliary’s reputation**?

**Personal Integrity** – the VFW Auxiliary is guided by integrity. We act with honesty, fairness, and sincerity in all endeavors. We are accountable to those we serve and to those who support us.

**Compassionate Service** – we exemplify compassionate service in our interactions with veterans, their families and our community partners. We respect everyone’s ideas and input. We treat everyone with courtesy and respect.

**Family Oriented** – The Auxiliary strives to offer opportunities for experiences that are convenient for the entire family.

**Respect Traditions** – the Auxiliary is loyal in our allegiance to America. We honor our traditional prayers, rituals and bylaws and acknowledge all faiths. We are united and committed in advocating for all of our nation’s veterans and their families.

**Community Engagement** – we make a difference through community partnerships and advocacy.

**Embrace Diversity** – we embrace diversity broadly to respect such personal characteristics as race, gender, age, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, religion and disability. In other words, we don’t discriminate.

Additional information regarding our values is available at [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org), resources.

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