**TRAITS OF A LEADER**

**There are many examples**: Courage, good listener, works for common good, works as a team, dedicated to others, committed to do the right thing, instruct vs. criticize, etc.

In terms of our **VFW Auxiliary organization**, leadership positions and responsibilities are well defined in our By-Laws and Ritual. How we carry out these duties and procedures, however, will determine how successful we are as a leader.

* **Decisiveness**: Answer with conviction and reference the source.
* **Empathy**: Be considerate of a member’s lack of information or confusion. Explain clearly so that you are sure they understand.
* **Awareness**: There may be negative attitudes that are visible at the meetings. Call for a separate meeting to identify and resolve issues.
* **Honesty**: If you see something, say something. Addressing the problem truthfully is halfway to solving it.
* **Optimism**: There may be problems and disagreements but with a positive attitude and open discussion they can be resolved and hopefully prevented in the future.
* **Communication**: Speak with a person or group, inviting their thoughts and comments. Instruct and coach.
* **Inspiration**: A leader encourages members to stay the course by example.
* **Development**: A successful volunteer leader develops leaders.

Leadership and cooperation within each Auxiliary will create stronger Districts. The traits that are polished and perfected there will support future Department and National officers.