

**Chief of Staff
Extension-Revitalization & Mentoring
School of Instruction**

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Welcome to a new year as we work together From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to Our Veterans. And may we always remember to put "Veterans, Family First"

I will be serving as your Department Chief of Staff, the Extension & Revitalization Chairman and promoting Mentoring for Leadership.

I will be assisting our Department President Sue as needed and will be kept up to date on what is going on within our department. I will be an extra set of eyes and ears to be able to help Auxiliaries and Districts who may need any additional help to make them successful. It will be my job to work closely with our Department President, District Presidents and Auxiliary Presidents to make sure that all the Auxiliaries are healthy and strong. Throughout the year, I will be promoting the use of *Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation* and the many resources available to the Auxiliaries in MALTA.

As I mentioned in my first bulletin. The VFW Auxiliary has been built on traditions and the Extension and Revitalization program will benefit each member of our organization by keeping them informed and involved in our programs and traditions. Remember that the more we teach and learn together the stronger our Auxiliaries will become and as our roots run deeper our branches will continue to grow and expand.

We need to make certain that current Auxiliaries are sound, but remember it is just as important to make presentations to bachelor Posts and when viable to institute new Auxiliaries. An Auxiliary cannot exist without a Post and there must be a 2/3 vote of the Post to get started. Positive and knowledgeable Auxiliary members are important when addressing a Post. Extension tools and presentations are available in MALTA Member Resources.



Maintaining Current Auxiliaries as Healthy Auxiliaries is the focus of Revitalization.

Is your Auxiliary a Green Light, Yellow Light, or Red-Light Auxiliary?

Green Light means that you are a Healthy Auxiliary.

Yellow Light means that you are having some problems and that you may need some help. Which will require you to be open and honest and need to take action to resolve the problems. Be aware of the caution light. As soon as the caution light appears, please reach out to me so that I can work closely with the Department President, and we can come up with a plan to see what is happening. If we do not know we cannot help. This would be the time that we can step in to offer the help that you need. Remember we in the Department are here to help you work through the problems and get back to that Green Light as soon as possible.

Red Light is when you will be put on suspension. This is not an entirely bad thing it just means that there is work to be done to get you back to the green light and to come back better and stronger than you were before. There are many resources and people to help you avoid it.

National has many resources to help the Auxiliaries stay strong and viable. You can find valuable information in *Malta* as well as the *Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation*. Please use them as they have great information that will help educate all members on the workings of the Auxiliary on all levels.

The Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit – included in this kit are seven (7) resources to assist Auxiliaries in identifying and solving issues:

- Healthy Auxiliary Checklist
- Healthy Auxiliary Member Questionnaire
- Auxiliary Meeting Clinic
- Communication Phone/Text Tree
- Good Job Certificate
- Healthy Auxiliary Certificate
- VFW Auxiliary Mentoring Guide

Five Essentials of an Auxiliary– National requires on five things of an Auxiliary.

1. Auxiliaries should have at least ten (10) business meetings per year. Five (5) members in good standing (of that Auxiliary) shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.
2. Dues should be paid by at least ten (10) members on or before February 1 of the current year.
3. Quarterly Audits by Trustees must be submitted.
4. Officers must be elected, installed, and reported to National Headquarters no later than June 30. This generates the bond application via email.
5. The offices of President and Treasurer MUST be bonded by August 31.



Mentoring for Leadership should include training and educating our members to be future leaders of our organization. We must make sure that the VFW Auxiliary continues to be strong and healthy Auxiliaries with members who are prepared to take on leadership roles and will continue to move the VFW Auxiliary forward. We can't allow our Auxiliaries to stay "in the past", technology gives us the ability to reach so many more members, which then allows us to continue the tradition and promise to take care of our veterans and their families.

It is our responsibility to become mentors to all our members at every level and remember what it felt like to be a new member. Extending a hand and a smile to new or longtime members can make them feel welcome and accepted. Always remember to use the CARE concept.

C- Catch the member when they first join. Remember your first meeting and how you felt.

A- Ask them to Participate.

R- Remember what it felt like to be new.

E- Engage them in a program that fits them.

Please remember that every one of our members has great ideas and we need to avoid saying that “WE tried that before and it didn’t work” or “This the way we have always done this” New ideas or new twists can create fantastic results.

Please be the reason someone feels welcomed, loved, heard, seen, supported and accepted today and every day!

“Mentoring is a brain to pick, an ear to listen, and a push in the right direction” - John Crosby

If you need anything at all, please do not hesitate to reach out to me. I am here to help!

Now let’s have a Great Year!

Loyally,

Lori Nettles
Department Chief of Staff!