

EXTENSION / REVITALIZATION

Bulletin #3

At the Mid-Winter Conference, District Presidents received Healthy Auxiliary Certificates for each auxiliary in their district that met all requirements and was current with reports and audits. If your auxiliary did not receive a certificate, it may indicate that some audits or requirements are not up to date. If you need assistance, please contact your District President—they are ready to help.

I would like to remind District and Auxiliary Presidents of the importance of reading and using the *Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation* booklet. This valuable resource provides guidance on conducting effective meetings, developing agendas, preparing accurate minutes, and understanding officers' duties. When used alongside our By-Laws and Ritual, it helps ensure proper procedures are followed and strengthens leadership within our auxiliaries. Strong, informed leadership is essential to retaining and engaging our members.

Please begin thinking about nominations for the Extension & Revitalization National Awards. Completed nomination forms must be submitted to me by **April 15, 2026**, so they can be forwarded to the National Chief of Staff by April 30, 2026.

There are two award categories:

- An Auxiliary member who assists in establishing a new VFW Auxiliary.
- A District President or Official Representative who supports a struggling Auxiliary through mentoring and guidance until it becomes healthy.

Nomination forms are available on the Department website or through Malta.

Mentoring is vital to developing future leaders and maintaining strong auxiliaries. We must treat one another with respect and professionalism at all meetings and functions. When members observe cooperation, understanding, and positive communication, they feel welcome and encouraged to remain active. While we may hold different opinions, we must listen respectfully and work together for the good of our organization. Don't forget to show your thanks by giving out the Good Job Awards!

As officer elections will take place in April, please begin considering members who would serve effectively in leadership roles. You will also receive delegate forms for the Department Convention. When selecting delegates, confirm who plans to attend convention so your auxiliary can ensure it receives the correct number of votes.

District Presidents are asked to remind members to follow the Chain of Command when addressing concerns. Members should first discuss issues with their Department President. If additional guidance is needed, she will seek the appropriate information. National Headquarters requests that inquiries follow this process and will refer matters back to the Department President when necessary.

We are having a successful year as we embrace our Department President's theme, **“Keeping the Home Fires Burning,”** and our National President's theme, **“From Sea to Shining Sea, Honoring Veterans Who Keep Us Free.”**

Loyally,

Karen Flynn

WA Department Chief of Staff

Retention & Revitalization Chairman

VFW Auxiliary, Department of Washington