
Banding Together for
our Veterans.

Do it for Those That
Can't.



Mentoring for Leadership

Issue #3

Who can be a Mentor?

You don't have to be a certain age or have been a member for any specific length of time or even know everything there is to know about the organization. More importantly than any qualification, what you really have to do is CARE.

C: Catch the member when they first join.

A: Ask them to participate.

R: Remember what it felt like to be new.

E: Engage them in a program that fits them.

C is Catch

Catching a member when he or she first joins means not saying to yourself, "Surely someone will call or email the new people about the next meeting." Guess what? Your new name is Someone. Decide now that when a new member is recruited (or if a rejoined member comes back after some time off) that Someone needs to contact that member and let them know they are important to the Auxiliary.

You also want to catch newer members as they come in the door at a meeting. They might arrive alone, choose a seat toward the back and generally look a little overwhelmed. That's when Someone (remember, that's now YOU) goes up to the new member, introduces themselves and says, "Come sit with me. I'll explain everything!"

A is for Ask

There are not nearly enough people in this world who stand up and immediately volunteer to do things. These people are typically the exception rather than the rule. For MOST other people, they need and want to be asked.

Research done by many nonprofit organizations has shown that if a member is not actively participating within three months of joining, he or she will mostly likely drop that membership after the first year. It is critical to ask those new members to participate in whatever is coming up next. Don't make them CHAIRMAN of it, but invite them to come and join you in what you're doing.

R is Remember

Everyone was new once. Everyone had that first meeting. Everyone was once a stranger. Try to remember what this felt like. And then be gentle. There are an enormous number of details to know about VFW Auxiliary. There are rules and there are guidelines and there are suggestions. It's a lot! Remember the first time you accidentally walked when the flags were in motion? Or you talked when they were closing the Bible? At some point, someone said to you, "Don't do THAT!"

Remember what it felt like, and then be the Someone who gently says, "Let me tell about why we do it this way so you can do it better next time."

E is for Engage

One of the unique things about VFW Auxiliary is that there are so many different ways to become involved in the organization. Every personality and every passion can find a place in VFW Auxiliary. But in order to help that new member find his or her place, you have to get to know them. Take the time over coffee to figure out his or her passion and then find a way to get them involved in that program. We have everything from working with youth to serving in hospitals to fund-raising to publicity and more! There was something, some phrase, some project or program that was mentioned when they decided to join. Find out what it is, and you'll find out how to get them involved.

Banding together for our veterans and doing it for those we can't we are the CARE TEAM!

Loyally,
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