

Banding
Together for our
Veterans.

Do it for those
that can't.



Mentoring for Leadership

Issue #5



The Auxiliary attracts members who want to support veterans, service members, their families and communities. When they join, they are usually enthusiastic and willing to serve. We need to channel that enthusiasm into a willingness to serve in leadership positions.

We can encourage members to participate by:

- Creating a welcoming atmosphere at meetings and activities.
- Showing a genuine interest in members
- Closely listening to what they are saying.
- Recognizing their strengths and interests in order to match them with Auxiliary leadership goals.

Mentoring is essential to good leadership. Mentoring can be successful by anyone in a position of experience. We look to Auxiliary Officers and Program Chairman as natural mentors since they have experiences within the Auxiliary that can benefit mentees. We should also consider members who bring skills from other experiences that can help the Auxiliary. Remember, although we may be longtime members, there is much to be learned from nurturing and interacting with members of all ages and experience levels. Good leaders are also good followers.

A stronger membership on every level of our organization will be accomplished through mentoring. Mentoring for Leadership will enhance all types of Program activities. Vigilance in mentoring will make the difference in obtaining and maintaining members, since a large number of other organizations are vying for our members' time and talents. Through the mentoring process, extending the hand of friendship to a new member or even a tenured member who has been inactive for a while can create a strong and vibrant organization. Providing a positive and organized meeting experience will leave members wanting to come back, especially when good communication and respect for each other is demonstrated. By engaging in mentoring activities, you will build a stronger relationship amongst new and tenured members. Whether you create a formal or informal mentoring program, every Auxiliary should have a type of resource to assist in communicating and motivating members to better understand the organization. Utilizing the Mentoring at VFW Auxiliary: Relationship Building for the Future document will help you get started in creating a Program for your Auxiliary.

Thank you to all of you that have worked on this program this year. For those that took on a role of Mentors and promoting this program your auxiliaries and Districts.

Loyally,
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