



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Department of Maryland FROM CHIEF of STAFF CATHY GISTEDT Be A Force For Veterans in April



Check It Off...Getting Things Done!



Don't let time slip by without checking off the following:

- ✓ Elect Officers for your 2026-2027 year at your April Auxiliary meetings.
- ✓ April 15th is the deadline to send program reports to our Department Chairmen. Be 100% reported by sending at least 1 report for each national program.
- ✓ The 1st Quarter Audit for January, February, and March should be completed by April 30th and sent to Department Treasurer Jackie Kimball before May 31st.

Fundraisers vs Expenses –

Stay in Balance to Help Our Vets

Planning sufficient fundraisers to support your Auxiliary's anticipated expenses for '26-'27 is important to have the funds to conduct projects to help our veterans and their families. Take time to look ahead by looking back.

- List the fundraisers you would like to hold for the upcoming year. Estimate the profit you hope to make from each. Look back at past projects or *guess-timate* for any new projects.
- Determine your expected expenses for the year ahead. Use the Treasurer's Reports for required donations but also include what you plan to donate to other projects and worthwhile causes for veterans, their families, and the community.
- Compare the total expenses and the total you anticipate raising with fundraising projects to cover all you would like to accomplish.
- If more fundraising is needed to cover your spending, consider other projects to make up the deficit you foresee. Don't forget those simple, easy projects that can be conducted throughout the year...the profits will add up! Partner with a local restaurant for fundraising nights. Hold 50-50's at your auxiliary dinners.
- If there is still difficulty balancing expenses and receipts, re-examine expenses to prioritize. What must be covered based on our Bylaws? Can you reduce your planned donations?

You can feel confident when you donate through the year. Remember to create a yearly calendar to plan fundraising projects to space your efforts and coordinate with any Post events to optimize support and volunteer availability. By looking back to plan for the upcoming year, your Auxiliary will remain financially strong and healthy and able to fulfill our mission as a VFW Auxiliary by helping our veterans.



Will your Auxiliary enter the Buddy Poppy Display contest at our Department Convention? It's not too late. Be creative! There are multiple categories for the displays. Honor our veterans.



How Will You Vote?



The important task of electing your Auxiliary Officers will be taken at our April meetings. These Officers will determine the success and tone of your organization for the upcoming year. What determines who you nominate? What factors decide how you cast your vote? Your decision is important.

Ask yourself:

- Is the member I am voting for the best person for the office or just a friend?
- Does the candidate have the knowledge needed to complete the duties of the office?
- As an officer, will he/she attend District meetings and workshops to stay informed?

Vote for the member that will best complete officer responsibilities to keep your Auxiliary healthy.



From Cathy Gistedt, Chief of Staff
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Electing Delegates in April

Delegates to the Department and National Conventions should be elected at our April meetings. Any member of your Auxiliary in good standing is eligible to be elected at a regular meeting to serve as a Delegate or Alternate. Delegates and Alternates may *NOT* be appointed by the President.

(Bylaws Section 804-A and Section 304 A-A1)

**Department Convention May 26th – 29th
 Ocean City Maryland's *The Grand Hotel***

- 1) Auxiliaries are allowed 1 Delegate and 1 Alternate for every 30 members and an additional Delegate and Alternate for any fraction remaining.
- 2) Names of Delegates along with their \$10 registration fee and the names of the Alternates, not requiring any fee, must be sent to Department Treasurer Jackie Kimball by May 12th.
- 3) Remember to also list your President as one of your Alternates to cast your full strength should no other Delegates attend the Convention.

**National Convention July 24th – 30th
 Reno, Nevada**

- 1) Auxiliaries are allowed 1 Delegate and 1 Alternate for every 35 members and an additional Delegate and Alternate for any fraction remaining.
- 2) Names of Delegates and Alternates must be entered by your Secretary within 30 days of their election into MALTA along with their membership numbers.

Although all Auxiliaries are entitled to representation at Convention, your votes may be denied. (Bylaws Section 308)

- If your Auxiliary owes money to National.
- If the Auxiliary Treasurer and President are not bonded.
- If quarterly audits have not been sent to the Department Treasurer.

REMEMBER: If the President's or Delegate's expenses are being paid by your Auxiliary or District, he/she is obligated to attend every business session and to make a report of Convention events at your auxiliary meeting following the Convention.

(Bylaws Section 305-A2)

**Auxiliary Installations -
 Bylaws Section 806A**



Installation of your Auxiliary Officers may be conducted immediately following their election at your meeting or at a future date announced to members. Some Auxiliaries join with their VFW to celebrate the installation of both sets of leaders. Encouraging family and friends to join them. Regardless of when you hold your Installation, our Bylaws require specific guidelines be followed.

- ✓ Installation must be conducted prior to the official opening of the VFW Auxiliary Department Convention on May 27th.
- ✓ Newly elected Officers assume their duties *after* our Department President is installed on May 29th.
- ✓ The Installing Officer is selected by the President-elect.
- ✓ The Installing Officer must be a member who has been or is currently an Auxiliary President, a member who has held a higher elective office in our Auxiliary, or a current or Past Post Commander or higher VFW office.
- ✓ Immediately after Installation, the Installing Officer must sign and send the Installation Report to the Department and National Secretaries.

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