

VFW AUXILIARY • DEPARTMENT OF MARYLAND



SEPTEMBER 2026

Extension & Revitalization Chief of Staff Cynthia Davis

Dear Auxiliary & District Presidents,

As we begin September, I would like to take a moment to remind each of us about one of the most important responsibilities of leadership: how we treat our members.

Leadership • Respect • Accountability

As Presidents, you set the tone for your Auxiliary & Districts. Members look to you for leadership, guidance, and an example of how we should work together. Every member deserves to be treated with courtesy, respect, dignity, and fairness, regardless of their position, length of membership, personality, or level of participation.

Please remember that we may not always agree, and disagreements are a normal part of working together. What matters is how we handle those disagreements. Listen before responding, allow members to express their concerns, and address issues calmly and privately when appropriate. Avoid favoritism, personal criticism, or making a member feel unwelcome because they have a different opinion.

A Few Reminders for Presidents

- Be respectful: Speak to every member with kindness and professionalism.
- Be fair: Apply the same rules and expectations to everyone.
- Be courteous: A simple "thank you" or "I appreciate your help" can make a difference.
- Listen: Members want to know that their thoughts and concerns are being heard.
- Avoid favoritism: Every member should have an equal opportunity to participate.
- Handle disagreements professionally: Focus on the issue, not the individual.
- Encourage participation: Make members feel that their contributions are valued.
- Lead by example: Your behavior influences the entire Auxiliary.

Our members volunteer their time because they care about our mission and want to make a difference. No member should leave an Auxiliary or District meeting or activity feeling belittled, ignored, or unwelcome.

As leaders, we have an opportunity every day to build an Auxiliary where members feel comfortable sharing ideas, volunteering, asking questions, and working together.

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This month, I encourage every President to ask yourself:

LEADERSHIP CHECK-IN

“Would I want to be treated the way I am treating my members?”

Would I want to be treated the way I am treating my members?

If the answer is yes, keep leading by example. If the answer is no, take the opportunity to make a positive change.

Let's remember that strong leadership is not about being the loudest voice in the room—it is about creating an environment where every member is treated fairly and feels valued.

Thank you for your leadership, your dedication, and your continued commitment to our members, veterans, and their families.

Let's lead with kindness.

Let's lead with fairness.

Let's lead with respect.



Standing Rules -

Bylaw changed at 2026 National Convention concerning Standing Rules

Standing rules shall be voted on at least once **yearly**.

Section 211 Standing Rules (Auxiliaries, Districts and Departments)

Do Standing Rules in the VFW Auxiliary have to be voted on?

Yes. VFW Auxiliary Standing Rules must be adopted by a vote of the Auxiliary if you are establishing them, and they can also be amended, modified, or rescinded by a vote.

According to the VFW Auxiliary's current guidance for Section 211 - Standing Rules:

- Standing Rules may be established by an Auxiliary for specified operations, activities, events, expenses, and disbursements between meetings.
- They cannot conflict with the National or Department Bylaws.
- If prior notice has been given, adoption/amendment requires a majority vote of the members present.
- If no previous notice was given, a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present is required.

Once approved, Standing Rules become effective immediately.

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The “Strange Things Can Happen” in my August mailer has not been solved.

I will reveal the answer on Sept. 13th at COA meeting.



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