

Chief of Staff/Extension and Revitalization

February 2024

This month I would like to cover your Rights and Responsibilities as a member of the VFW Auxiliary. This is from an article several years ago which I think is worth repeating every year. Rights and responsibilities help members achieve their potential, show respect to others, think critically, and make informed decisions.

As a member of the VFW Auxiliary:

You have the right to **question** what we do, how we do it and why, as well as the authority for doing what we do.
You have the right to **disagree** in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order and the National By-laws.
You have the right to **be heard** during discussions, at meetings, and in committees.
You have the right to **decide** on issues, on projects, on expenditures, on candidates.
You have the right to **vote** on motions during elections and at meetings.
You have the right to **lead** through a committee chairmanship, as an elected officer, or an appointed chairman.
You have the right to **represent** your Auxiliary at District, Department, or National meetings or conventions.
You have the right to **share** the privilege of membership in the VFW Auxiliary with others that qualify.
You have the right to **fellowship** with other Auxiliary members regardless of race, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or color.

And with every Right there is a Responsibility, and these may be what makes the difference between an active Auxiliary member and one who just belongs.

You have the responsibility to **be informed**; you must acquaint yourself with our programs, goals, and accomplishments.
You have the responsibility to **be familiar** with the National by-laws, the objects of the VFW Auxiliary, and our Rituals.
You have the responsibility to **attend** meetings; local, District, Department.
You have the responsibility to **support** fundraising events at your Auxiliary and if possible District and Department.
You have the responsibility to **lead**; as an Officer or Program Chairman you must know and fulfill your duties.
You have the responsibility to **voice** your opinion because your opinion is valued and may provide a new line of thinking and reasoning on an issue or event.
You have the responsibility to **pay dues** on time.
You have the responsibility to **seek out and recruit** new members who may qualify for membership.
You have the responsibility to **participate** in Auxiliary, District, and Department events or conventions.
You have the responsibility to **share the fellowship** of the VFW Auxiliary to its fullest, only then can the spirit of the Auxiliary be a part of your life and inspire others to join our ranks to serve our Veterans, their families, our community, and our youth.

“We are all one family in the world. Building a community that empowers everyone to attain their full potential through each of us respecting each other's dignity, rights, and responsibilities makes the world a better place to live.” Pope John Paul II

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