

Chief of Staff/Extension and Revitalization
March 2024 Part 1

Tom Worsham in "Are you a Goose" shares a fascinating story about geese that reflects a lot on leadership principles. He writes, "When you see geese heading south for the winter flying along in a "V" formation, you might be interested in knowing that science has discovered why they fly that way. Research has revealed that as each bird flaps its wings, it creates an uplift for the bird immediately behind it. By flying in a "V" formation, the whole flock adds at least 71 percent greater flying range than if each bird flew on its own. Whenever a goose falls out of formation, it suddenly feels the drag and resistance of trying to go it alone. It quickly gets back into formation to take advantage of the lifting power of the bird immediately in front. When the lead goose gets tired, he rotates back in the "V" and another goose flies the point. The geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. And finally, when a goose gets sick, or is wounded by gunfire and falls out, two other geese fall out of formation and follow it down to help and protect it. They stay with the goose until it is either able to fly again or dead, and then they launch out on their own or with another formation to catch up with their group. Whoever was the first to call another person a "silly goose" didn't know enough about geese."

In as much as the story of the geese is not new, neither are the leadership lessons we learn from them. These are simple reminders that will help keep your Auxiliary on course. Consider these three observations:

- Geese teach us that we can accomplish more when we work as a team. Individual talent, as impressive as it may be, is multiplied when we join forces with others. This includes working as a team with the VFW Post.

Greg Werner observed, "The life of a high achiever is one of give and receive. We receive that which we are first willing to give out. Therefore, to grow and achieve we must first be willing to help others grow and achieve, and, in doing so, the light of reciprocal achievement will brightly shine upon us." People who share a common vision, mission, and purpose, like the geese, attain that goal faster and more efficiently when they work together. Just as geese generate thrust as they travel together, your teams' thrust will allow you to accomplish more when you stay together.

- Geese teach us the power of unity. Solidarity of mission and purpose gives strength to the goals of the organization and make attaining them more realistic and achievable for both the Auxiliary and the Post.

Flying together gives lift to the team. Unity is defined not just by the slaps on the back when an organization succeeds, but in lifting up a teammate when they are down. A unified team wants everyone to succeed.

- Geese teach us to share the load. Each member possesses different skills and abilities to accomplish the goals of the team. On any given project, you may be the point man to bring the team to victory. On another project someone else may have the right talents and skills to accomplish the mission.

John Maxwell said, "People come together as teams, peers work together, and they make progress because they want the best idea to win." The formula for success is the same across the board; the team succeeds when we let the best idea win out.

Don't allow insecurity to cripple the productivity of your Auxiliary and its progress. Set personalities and politics aside and rally around the best idea and the best team member for the project. A strong leader gladly shares the lead on projects and is a model team player. When the team shares the load its work is more productive and the rewards much greater.

Take a look at your Auxiliary and its "formation". Are you headed in the right direction? Are you working together with your Post on membership drives, Buddy Poppy Distribution, and other events to accomplish more? It is no secret that Posts with strong Auxiliaries do well. Brothers and Sisters, Fly high and far!!!

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March 2024 Part 2

Quiz time!!! Answer the questions using resources available to you such as the National By-laws, the National or Department website, etc.

Mail, or e-mail your answers to me, or bring it with you to Department Convention in June. If you get all the answers correct your name will be entered in a drawing for a prize!!!

1.) When a new Auxiliary is instituted, how many members must be present?

- a. 10
- b. 15
- c. 25
- d. There is no specific requirement.

2.) The term of office for delegates is 90 days from date of election:

- a. True
- b. False

3.) Department Members at Large have the right to:

- a. Receive a Cancer Grant
- b. Volunteer in National Programs
- c. Visit Auxiliary, District, or Department meetings
- d. All of the above
- e. a and b only

4.) What becomes of the monies of an Auxiliary that surrenders or forfeits their charter?

- a. Split evenly among the members
- b. Must be turned over to the VFW Post
- c. Turned over to the Department President

5.) Who is responsible for completing and submitting the Chief of Staff Bi-annual report form?

- a. Trustee #1
- b. Secretary
- c. Sr Vice President
- d. President

6.) Which of the following items is the Auxiliary President required to submit to the Post Commander within 30 days of installation of officers:

- a. Auxiliary is not required to submit any information
- b. All bank Statements and Audits for previous year
- c. Last Quarterly Audit and membership status

7.) Who is responsible for submitting a Program Bi-annual Report if the Auxiliary Program Chair fails to submit a report?

- a. Secretary
- b. President
- c. Senior member of the Auxiliary
- d. No report has to be submitted

8.) Standing rules can only be amended, modified, or rescinded at the Auxiliary meeting held in April:

- a. True
- b. False

9.) Individuals that are eligible for membership may attend how many meetings at the invitation of a member in good standing and with approval of the President:

- a. One
- b. Two
- c. As many as they want.
- d. Not allowed to attend any meetings

10.) Which of the following military campaign or service medals does not qualify a veteran to join the VFW:

- a.) Combat Action Ribbon
- b.) Marksmanship Medal
- c.) Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
- d.) Vietnam Service Medal

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