

**Chief of Staff/Extension  
Department of Kansas VFW Auxiliary  
2023/2024**

As Department Chief of Staff /Extension Chairman I will be working closely with the Department President, District Presidents, and Auxiliaries to maintain our current Auxiliaries and to establish new Auxiliaries. Our primary goal is for every Auxiliary to be “healthy” and supporting our programs and Veterans to the fullest extent possible. Too many times we get bogged down with general housekeeping issues such as audits, reports, toxic members, running interference with the Post, most of which can be easily fixed but we cannot fix it if we don’t know it is broken.

There are many tools to help your Auxiliary to be healthy. First and foremost are the National By-laws and Ritual which is available on the National Auxiliary website behind Malta Member Log-in. The “Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation” training manual has a wealth of information to include Officer Duties and Responsibilities in an easy to read format, it also covers our Programs, Trustee duties and so much more. The Healthy Auxiliary Toolkit will be available again which contains information and ideas for your Auxiliary to implement to ensure it remains “Healthy”. The Sunflower Express on the Department website and the resources available on the National website will help you keep up to date on promotions, new ideas, and important deadlines. The Department and National Facebook pages are also a good source of information and ideas. Attending District and Department meetings will keep your Auxiliary in the loop of what is happening within the Department of Kansas.

If an Auxiliary is not able to meet the 5 Essentials of a Healthy Auxiliary there is a chance the Auxiliary will be placed on suspension. Suspension is not always negative nor does it mean the Auxiliary is “bad”. It means that there is some work to be done in order to get the Auxiliary healthy. The Department President will assign a team to mentor, educate, and assist the Auxiliary to get back to a healthy status.

Coffee and Chat is a program available for each District this year. We have done this type of meeting in District 2 for the last 5 years. We can pick a central location within your District to have a Coffee and Chat informal meeting. Department Officers and Chairman may be present to provide training, discuss current Department and National programs or issues, or just open it up for questions and answers. It has been very successful in District 2 and we can get more accomplished at one location for a couple hours than running from Auxiliary to Auxiliary to spend just 20-30 minutes on a Coffee Tour.

As the Extension Chairman I will be contacting Bachelor Posts to speak with them about the many advantages of having a VFW Auxiliary in their community. VFW Posts deciding to have an Auxiliary can be a boost to our organization’s growth.

I look forward to working with all of you this year to ensure your Auxiliary is “healthy” and the best that it can be!!

Kristi Meid, 17425 McIntyre Road, Leavenworth, KS 66048  
(913) 683-3491 jkmeid@live.com