

**Chief of Staff**  
**Extension and Revitalization**  
**September 2023**

**Standing Rules:** Auxiliaries may establish Standing Rules to provide for specified operations, activities, events, expenses and disbursements allowable between meetings provided these Standing Rules do not conflict with the National Bylaws. Standing Rules may be amended, modified, or rescinded at **any** meeting. **If prior notice is given**, the vote is by majority vote of those members present. **If previous notice is NOT given**, the vote is by two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members present. Standing Rules become effective immediately. Standing Rules should be reviewed at least once a year to ensure they are still valid.

**Five Essentials:** Last month I asked if the 5 Essentials meant your Auxiliary was healthy. Is that true? No, meeting the 5 Essentials means your Auxiliary is in good standing with National HQ's requirements to remain an Auxiliary. Being a healthy Auxiliary entails so much more; members working together in harmony for the best interests of our Veterans and family members, recruiting new members to grow our membership, working the VFW Auxiliary programs, assisting with the needs of the community, mentoring new members to take leadership positions. These are just a few signs of a healthy Auxiliary. Where does your Auxiliary stand as a Healthy vs Unhealthy Auxiliary?

**Auxiliary Life:**

During Auxiliary Meetings are you...  
Friendly to your fellow members?  
Allowing all members to express their thoughts?  
Keeping side conversations to a minimum?  
Making sure that you are not dismissive to ideas you may not agree with?  
Correcting misinformation in a polite way?  
Including everyone?  
Avoiding singling out any one person for discussion, pro or con, on the issue at hand?  
Creating an environment that wants to make the member want to continue to participate in any Auxiliary activities.

Have you thought about what actually happens during your meetings?  
How decisions are made and how many members participate?  
Encouraging members to create bonds with other members?  
Creating an atmosphere that allows friendships to grow?  
Offering opportunities to highlight special talents that would benefit the Auxiliary?  
Reinforcing the reason we joined – to honor our veterans?  
Highlighting common interests?  
Offering opportunities for members to participate in any activity in which the Auxiliary participates?

Sometimes decisions made during the heat of the moment result in unforeseen outcomes. Some Auxiliaries view the only solution to personality conflicts is to disband their Auxiliary. Cooler heads must prevail; think before you act.

We need to be aware of how some members may see their Auxiliary. We want lifelong, involved and happy members. We need to bring new members into the organization with the same goals in mind. Good things happen when positive thoughts prevail. You are the face of the Auxiliary; wear your smile!

We have important work to do for our Veterans, their families, our youth, and our communities. There is no time or place for bickering, bullying, or intimidation in our organization. These types of behavior have a negative impact and will only drive away current and potential members. Let's be kind and respectful to each other and carry out the objects of our organization - helping Veterans and their family members, our community, and our youth!

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