

Hello To My Outstanding Department Membership Chair,

On behalf of your incredible Conference Coaches and your National Membership Ambassador, I wanted to share with you several questions asked regarding the New application vs the Old. To provide you and your Members with the most concise answer, I asked these questions to the National Office for clarification and the response. These were the most reparative questions. They are not in order of the most asked to the least.

- Are the old application forms obsolete and cannot be used even if they are paying cash or check?
 - The old applications **will not be used starting January 1, 2026, even if the applicant is paying by cash or check.** The Department Treasurers were trained on the process and should be sharing the information with Auxiliaries.
- When does membership approval occur when a new member is using a credit card? In otherwards, Would membership approve a new applicant before a credit card is processed or, do they now have to wait for the Treasurer to process the credit card before accepting their membership at a meeting?
 - This process will not change. Per the National Bylaws, the applicant becomes a member at the time the Auxiliary votes them in:

VFW Auxiliary National Bylaws, Article I, Sec. 103—Notification and Obligation

A. When an applicant has been accepted by vote of the Auxiliary,

1. They shall be notified orally or in writing that their application has been accepted.

2. The Auxiliary Secretary shall notify the newly accepted member to appear at a stated time to receive the optional ceremonial obligation.

a. In the event the newly accepted member has subscribed to the printed obligation on the application, they shall be considered a member in good standing as soon as accepted and shall thereafter be entitled to all the rights and privileges of a member including election to an office.

- However, for Cancer Grants, the date in MALTA is what is used.
- How will that affect the Investigating Committee verifying payment, as per the By-Laws?
 - It doesn't. If the applicant marks that they are paying by credit card, that's all the investigating committee needs to know. If a check bounces or a credit card is declined, it doesn't go back to the investigating committee.

- Does the Auxiliary Treasurer process the credit card or the Department Treasurer?
 - The Department Treasurer processes new member applications (not the Auxiliary Treasurer), as is the current process. The difference is that if the applicant marks that they will be paying by credit card on their application, the applicant will be notified to enter their own credit card information. Neither the Department Treasurer NOR the Auxiliary Treasurer will have access to the credit card information.

- Called National to order new member brochures, and they said the old application will still be accepted, just to not use the credit card portion. They are still mailing brochures with the old application form. My Department Secretary has been told the old application will not be accepted past December 31.
 - We now have the new brochures and are starting to provide those now. We will speak with the Headquarters Staff to ensure everyone knows that only the new application will be accepted on 1/1/26. Additionally, all Department Treasurers have access to the new membership applications in MALTA under Duties, Treasurer Resources, Membership.

- What happens if we receive an old application on December 28th do we have to have the new member complete the new application?
 - All old applications should be processed by the end of December 31st, especially if the applicant is using a credit card. Beginning January 1, 2026, they must use the new application. Department Treasurers are aware of this.

Kindly direct your member to their respect Department Treasurer, as all Department Treasurers have been trained on the new process.

The New Application is available on MALTA under Member Resources.

We truly appreciate each of you for your outstanding work and dedication to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

Together we can calm the Ocean and achieve 100% for our National Organization.

Michael Maruszak - National Membership Ambassador

Margaret Russo - Eastern Conference

Nancy Ustruck - Big 10 Conference

Carol Fetters - Southern Conference

Betty Decker - Western Conference

