

Mike McCandless  
Department President  
“Teamwork Makes the  
Dream Work”



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National President  
“Banding Together  
for our Veterans”

Tessa Butcher, Department Chairman

### MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP – SEPTEMBER 2023

Mentors are people that can help provide you with guidance, advice, support, and knowledge. Good mentors should be enthusiastic about helping you achieve your goals. The qualities of a good mentor usually include someone that is able to listen and provide feedback while being respectful. Mentoring and training are essential to help shape the future leaders of our Auxiliaries.

This year, I encourage your Auxiliary to establish a Mentoring Team that is willing to reach out to newer members and assist them with being engaged in our organization. As a member of the Mentoring Team:

- \*Establish a point of contact for each new member so that they can reach out with any questions they may have.
- \*Be sure to invite them to your next event, meeting or a meal and then follow up with a reminder close to the occasion. Be sure to thank them for attending afterwards.
- \*Sit by them at your Auxiliary meeting and have a copy of the *Understanding Auxiliary Traditions* (Americanism resources page) and *VFW Auxiliary Acronyms and Commonly Used Terminology* (Mentoring for Leadership resources page) available.
- \*Follow up with them after their first meeting to see if they have any new questions.

Mentoring can take place both during our Auxiliary meetings and after. During our meetings, we might include group activities such as a bylaw scavenger hunt or split into groups and break apart the *VFW Auxiliary Foundations Guidebook* and have each group give a short report on what they’ve learned. You could also take five minutes at the start of your meeting and watch one of the videos from the Online Auxiliary Academy and then discuss the video.

Outside of meetings tend to be more one-on-one. Mentoring outside meetings helps provides guidance, education and encouragement of goal setting. Think ahead about the projects you’d like to complete by the end of the year – and then make sure you talk about them during your Auxiliary meeting. Establish a committee to help with projects. You never know what ideas someone else might bring to the table. Mentoring both inside and outside business meetings promote the ability to gain and share knowledge – making each of us better mentors and leaders.



### TRAINING CORNER

**What is the deadline for submitting District Dues and how are they figured?**

Please reply to me either by mail or email with the answer and Section from the Bylaws & Ritual to be entered into a drawing for a prize.