

October 2023

Greetings Brothers and Sisters.

My article for October hit the Dept Website right before our National Ambassador's article in the VFW Magazine was received. The following is the correct way to hashtag your social media articles and pictures for Auxiliary Outreach.

Use #vfwauxoutreach, #vfwauxiliary and #vfwauxSWAP to reach fellow members.

I hope this information is useful as you continue the year.

OCTOBER 2023

Greetings Brothers and Sisters.

It is October with Halloween just around the corner. This would be a perfect time to partner with a community organization for Auxiliary Outreach and Youth.

I recently received an email from one of our Auxiliary's Concerning Auxiliary Outreach. I have listed the question and answer below. I hope that getting this information out to all our Auxiliaries will help you as the year progresses.

Q: My Auxiliary has a question for you! We were discussing after our district meeting what does and does not count for outreach. We were wondering, if an auxiliary member is part of the board for another non-profit organization, does it still count as outreach? We have multiple cases of this in our Auxiliary with various organizations. As an example, one member actively participates and sits on the board of our local non-profit, the Veterans Day Parade. Can she count the hours she is at meetings and preparing for the parade towards community outreach?

A: Good question. My take is that your member is sitting on the board as a member of that board and not a volunteer for the Auxiliary doing volunteer work for that organization. So, no. But if that board asks your Auxiliary to volunteer at one of their events, please vote to add them as a partner, then volunteer, and report hours and miles. Also, please remember that you need to identify yourself as an auxiliary member, shirt, pin, name tag, etc. The key to Auxiliary Outreach is this. You are a volunteer only at an event sponsored by that partnered organization. You are working at their direction and you only give time and miles. Here is an example: Your local Kiwanis are hosting a community breakfast and ask your Auxiliary to help (serving, cooking, tables, etc.) You have voted to partner with them. You show up, help them, and wear your identifying information. You do not spend or make money from this. This is Auxiliary Outreach. More examples can be found on Malta under Auxiliary Outreach.

Also, anything to do with Veterans should be reported under Veterans and Family Support. You should ask Chairman Terri Steller how much of this time can be counted towards that program. Her email address is: tlsteller@gmail.com.

Wishing everyone a spooktacular Halloween.