

## JULY 2023

Membership is the life's blood of this organization, and we need to continually add new members to our organization for it to grow. Last year we lost over 200 members to death, and we will be losing more to auxiliaries closing. We need to work on getting new members. To do that we need to have recruitment booths at festivals and bazaars throughout the state. We need to let more people know what we are all about. Let people know of our programs for veterans and for students. We are not here just for ourselves. Have information about our programs on your tables and have some Buddy Poppies there to distribute. Any day is Buddy Poppy day in this organization, and you can distribute anytime.

The main goal for the 2023-2024 year is to be 100%+ by the end of the year. We have until June 30, 2024 to get this accomplished. This Department has been 100% many times in the last few years and we need to do it again for Cookie.

We need to include all members of our auxiliary in getting new members, so have incentives in your auxiliary for your members who recruit new members. Ask a new member to help with a recruiting booth or to call members who have not paid their dues yet. It will make them feel like they are part of the organization.

Retention is critical in this organization and that is why I am adding some awards for those who help retain members. We have many members who have "At Large" status due to closures of auxiliaries, and many have been at large for several years. We need to try to get these members back into an auxiliary. Many of them live in areas where we have auxiliaries, and we need to try to get them to transfer into that Auxiliary.

### CHANGES FOR THE MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM

- No decrease in dues for the months of July & August this year.
- Recruiting one member will not earn you a pin, you will get a gift card instead.

- The first auxiliary in each membership group to achieve 100%+ will receive \$50.00.
- The auxiliary that had the most recruiting events will receive \$50.00 at Dept. Convention.
- The member that recruits the most at-large members into an auxiliary, whether in this Department or any other department, will receive a gift of \$50.00.

### **Dues Angels**

Department will have two drawings for Dues Angels this year. We will draw two names at Mid- Winter and two at Department Convention for \$25.00. For every member that you pay dues for, please let the Membership Chairman know so that you can be put in the drawing.

### **National Awards for Auxiliaries**

\$25.00 to each Auxiliary that reaches 98% Plus in Membership by March 31, 2024

\$25.00 to each Auxiliary that reaches 100% Plus in Membership by June 30, 2024

There will be a drawing and each VFW Auxiliary that reaches 101% Plus by June 30, 2024 will be entered in a drawing to receive \$500.00.

Just a few little reminders:

Make sure that you keep an application with you at all times, you never know when you are going to run into a potential member or a member of the auxiliary that wants to know if you have an application with you.

When you are filling out the application, make sure that you have put your name and VFWA Membership # on the top of the application. If the person has been recruited by a VFW member, their name and number need to be put on the bottom of the paper and a VFW Auxiliary member needs to put their name and number on the top.