

## July 2023

Greetings Brothers and Sisters and welcome to July.

Phew, I don't know about you all, but it got hot over here very quickly. It is a gorgeous hot summer day here in Central Oregon at my house. Yep, we are firing up the grill to have BBQ for dinner. While the grill is warming up, I am sitting in my nice cool office thinking about our Veterans and Family Support program and it occurred to me that I am not very familiar with the VFW MAP grant. I am sure that I am not alone in my unfamiliarity so with some help from a friend (thank you Tracy Bogard) I set out to learn more about this grant.

The MAP Grant or Military Assistance Program Grant is grant offered through the National VFW organization to offer financial assistance to VFW Posts and Auxiliaries for troop support activities. Does your Auxiliary have an Adopted Unit? What is an Adopted Unit?

The Adopted Unit program was developed to provide a supportive relationship with military units before, during and after they deploy. Our own Tracy Bogard and VFW Member Jason Griswold have been working with the Oregon National Guard to compile and update a list of the National Guard units in Oregon. This list includes which units have been adopted by a Post and/or Auxiliary. The goal is to have all our Oregon National Guard units adopted so that we can give them support they need and deserve.

There are numerous ways to show your support and the MAP Grant is there to help Auxiliaries financially with specific projects to show that support. Some of the projects include family days, picnics, BBQs, Welcome Home and Deployment Ceremonies and holidays and festivals. The grant may not be used for public events and/or formal military events such as Military Dining In/Out, Military Balls, Change of Command Ceremonies, etc.

Items that can be purchased with grant funds are basic food and non-alcoholic beverages for currently serving military and their family members only. Further, if you are cooking on site, the grant covers \$8.00 per person for food or if your event is catered \$10.00 per person. You should also be aware that if your event is occurring on a drill weekend, the soldier's meals are covered by the military and only the family's meals are covered by the grant funds. You must have adopted the military unit prior to the event to qualify for grant funds. The grant application must be filled out by a VFW or Auxiliary member and must be signed by an appropriate individual (VFW Commander or Quartermaster or Auxiliary President or Treasurer).

For specific information about the grant or for a grant application please go to the VFW National website online at <https://www.vfw.org/community/troop-support>.

If you have questions about whether your Auxiliary has an adopted unit or to update your information, please contact me or Tracy Bogard. Tracy's email is: [lovfwaux12140@gmail.com](mailto:lovfwaux12140@gmail.com). My email address is: [tlsteller@gmail.com](mailto:tlsteller@gmail.com).

In the months to come, I will continue to try to clarify some of the specific items that are included in our Veterans and Family Support program like the MAP Grant. In the meantime, don't forget to **REPORT, REPORT, REPORT**. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

**Phone: 541-279-7135** (Text for the quickest response. If you call, please leave me a voicemail so that I can call you back.)

I hope to see all of you at one of the newly updated training academies in August. Yes, I will be attending all three of them and can't wait to see you and answer your questions in person.