

November 2018

Membership & Recruitment Bulletin

NEWS: California leading 3rd Nationwide in Membership

ALERT: Remember if a member does not have their dues paid by DECEMBER 31, 2018, they are no longer a member in good standing. Now is the time to reach out to those who have not paid their dues and see if there is something your auxiliary can do to help that member. We DO NOT want to leave any member behind.

LET'S MOVE CALIFORNIA TO #1 IN THE NATION.

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN ORDER:

Congratulations California for reaching our first quarterly goal of 380 New or Rejoin members. Because of your hard work the Department received \$100. In addition, you all showed American that we are “in it to win it”. Thank you so much! Keep up the good work and let’s show our Veterans that we are CA Strong and that we are not only growing but thriving to ensure support for them.

SECOND QUARTERLY GOAL:

Now it is on to our second quarterly goal of getting **240 new or rejoined members by January 31st**. As of this posting we **only need 173 more** members to reach this. When we reach this goal (which I know we will) our Department will receive \$200 as a result of your hard work. Keep moving forward and bringing in new members, getting past members to rejoin, and most of all getting current members to pay their dues by December 31st.

MEMBERSHIP APPKICATIONS: The Investigating Committee’s Responsibility

One of the most critical steps in considering a new member for the VFW Auxiliary is the careful review of the prospective member’s application by a three-member Investigating Committee appointed by the Auxiliary President (as outlined in Sec. 102 of the *2018 Podium Edition: Bylaws and Ritual*).

As an exclusive veterans’ service organization, the VFW Auxiliary must ensure that every prospective member’s eligibility has been thoroughly vetted by the Investigating Committee before any action can be taken on the application. According to the Applications section of the *Booklet of Instructions*, “It is the duty of the Investigating Committee to see that the applications are filled out completely before they are presented to the body for consideration.

In addition to the prospective member’s application, it is the responsibility of the Investigating Committee to review proof of honorable service of the eligible veteran, unless he/she is a member of the VFW Post to which the applicant is applying for membership.

Proof of the veteran's honorable service in any foreign war, insurrection or expedition (as a member of the U.S. Armed Forces) may be determined through careful examination of a Separation Document (DD214) with a VFW-authorized campaign or service medal of the United States; receipt of Hostile Fire or Imminent Danger Pay, as verified by a copy of a Leave and Earning Statement (LES) issued by the U.S. Armed Forces; or service in Korea for 30 consecutive/60 non-consecutive days after June 30, 1949.

Performance reports, travel orders, medical order, medals reports, morning reports, assignments listings, buddy affidavits, and letters from a foreign war zone may also be reviewed if a DD214 is not available. For veterans prior to 1946, a report of their discharge listing the medals and decorations that were earned is acceptable proof.

For soldiers currently on active duty, they will not have a DD214. In those cases, the appropriate orders showing overseas deployment to a qualifying area, or awarding of an authorized campaign medal, or a LES showing Hostile Fire/Imminent Danger pay will suffice to prove eligibility.

The Investigating Committee will report its findings to the body before voting on the applicant. Members will have an opportunity to state their objection to the admission of the applicant to the Auxiliary after the report and before the voting.

Still have questions about what the Investigating Committee does and why? See Sec. 102—Application-New Members of the *2018 Podium Edition: Bylaws and Ritual* for more information.

AWARDS AND IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

District Auxiliaries who reach **100%** by **December 31, 2018** will **receive the Department Presidents Special Award.**

Help National with Training & Promoting, then Win Money!

Auxiliary Membership Chairman this is your chance to win a National Award. To participate you need to send to your Department Membership Chairman, Joyce Bilyeu by **December 31, 2018** exact information on how you trained your Auxiliary Members in the art of recruitment (training materials, power points, handouts etc.). The Department Membership Chairman will then forward one winner on to National by January 31, 2019, so the award can be announced at the 2019 National Mid-Year Conference.

Create A Fact Sheet or Brochure and Help Fellow Members!

A second possibility of obtaining a National Award with the same **December 31, 2018** deadline to your Department Membership Chairman is, a Fact Sheet or Brochure that you/or your members created to pass out to potential or new members. When creating these fact sheets or brochures be sure to include information you would have loved to have received yourself as a brand new member. The same timeline by the Department Membership Chairman as outlined above. Winner will be named at the 2019 Mid-Year Conference.

I want to wish you all a wonderful Thanksgiving this year. I am so grateful for having all of you in my life and honored to be a part of such an amazing organization. Please keep all the fire victims and their communities in your thoughts. Reach out to them and offer any assistance and support that you can. They need all of us right now.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

Joyce Bilyeu, Membership & Recruitment Chairman Department of California