

Extension & Revitalization Program
Promotion
October 2023

Joyce Bilyeu, Chief of Staff
VFW Auxiliary Department of California

First 5-Steps to Starting an Auxiliary

Are you interested in starting an Auxiliary? Whether a VFW Post decides on its own that it wants an Auxiliary or whether a member or non-member sees the potential for a new Auxiliary, the steps for creating an Auxiliary are the same. Below are the first 5 steps in getting started: VFW Post votes to have an Auxiliary.

1. A copy of the portion of the minutes from the meeting at which the VFW Post voted to have an Auxiliary is sent to the Auxiliary Department President at 9136 Elk Grove Blvd., Suite 101, Elk Grove, CA 95624
2. The Department President appoints an organizer (must be a VFW Auxiliary member).
3. The organizer holds a meeting (s) to recruit future VFW Auxiliary Members.
4. Then the organizer will complete the Charter application (must have a minimum of 15 interested and qualified (not to include transfer members).
5. Following Post approval, the Post Commander signs/dates the Charter Application.

After these five steps are complete the appointed organizer will work with the Department President and Secretary/Treasurer on the next steps.

5-Thing to Maintaining Current Members

The national organization requires only five (5) things of a VFW Auxiliary:

1. Auxiliaries should have at least ten (10) business meetings per year. (Sec. 210) Five (5) members in good standing shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. (Sec 212)
2. Dues should be paid on at least ten (10) members on or before February 1 of the current year. (Sec. 207)
3. Quarterly audits by Trustees must be submitted. (Sec. 814)
4. Officers elected and installed and reported to National Headquarters no later than June 30. This generates the bond application via email. (Sec. 804A & 806A)
5. The offices of President and Treasurer MUST be bonded by August 31. (Sec. 814) This form can be found MALTA.

I want to express my deep appreciation for your unwavering dedication and service to our nation's veterans. Your commitment to supporting those who have sacrificed so much for our country is truly remarkable. I'd like to offer some inspiring words on the importance of being a healthy auxiliary.

1. **Strength in Unity:** Just as our veterans fought together on the front lines, the strength of the VFW Auxiliaries lies in our unity. When we work together with a common purpose and vision, we can achieve remarkable things. Let us continue to stand shoulder to shoulder, supporting one another in our mission.
2. **Resilience:** Our veterans have shown immense resilience in the face of adversity. Let their example inspire us to be resilient as well. In the ever-changing landscape of our world, we must adapt and grow stronger to meet the needs of our veterans.
3. **Self-Care:** To be an effective auxiliary, we must take care of ourselves. Remember that self-care is not selfish; it is essential. By nurturing our physical and emotional well-being, we ensure that we have the energy and enthusiasm to give our best to our veterans.
4. **Inclusivity:** Our strength lies not only in numbers but also in diversity. Let us embrace and celebrate the unique perspectives and talents that each member brings to our auxiliary. By fostering an inclusive environment, we can better serve our veterans.
5. **Inspiration from Veterans:** Our veterans have faced unimaginable challenges, and many have overcome incredible odds. Their stories of courage and perseverance are a source of inspiration for us. Let us listen to their experiences and draw strength from their wisdom.
6. **Continuous Learning:** The world is constantly evolving, and so are the needs of our veterans. To stay relevant and effective, we must commit to continuous learning. By staying informed and adapting to change, we can provide the best possible support.
7. **Passion and Dedication:** The passion and dedication you bring to your role as an auxiliary member are truly inspiring. Your commitment to making a difference in the lives of veterans is a shining example for all. Keep the fire of your passion burning brightly.
8. **Legacy of Service:** Remember that what we do today will leave a lasting legacy. Let us strive to leave behind a world where veterans receive the care, respect, and support they deserve.

In closing, being a healthy auxiliary means not only taking care of ourselves but also recognizing the profound impact we can have on the lives of veterans. Let us continue to work together with dedication, compassion, and a sense of purpose, knowing that our efforts make a meaningful difference.

Thank you for your service to our veterans and for your commitment to being a healthy and vibrant VFW Auxiliary.