

Council of Administration
October 21, 2023

Chief of Staff
Extension and Revitalization

Identifying unhealthy Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Auxiliary units is important for ensuring the well-being and effectiveness of the organization. Here are some ways VFW Auxiliary members can identify unhealthy Auxiliaries:

1. **Low Membership Engagement:** If a VFW Auxiliary has a significant portion of its members who are disengaged, apathetic, or inactive, it may be a sign of an unhealthy unit. Members not participating in meetings, events, or volunteer activities can indicate a lack of enthusiasm and a potential problem.
2. **Declining Membership Numbers:** A steady decline in membership over time can be a red flag. It may suggest that the unit is failing to attract new members or retain existing ones, which can impact its sustainability.
3. **Inadequate Leadership:** Unhealthy Auxiliaries often suffer from poor leadership or a lack of leadership altogether. Look for signs of ineffective leadership, such as a lack of direction, communication issues, or disputes among officers.
4. **Financial Problems:** If an Auxiliary is consistently struggling with its finances, it can be a sign of mismanagement or poor financial planning. Members should monitor the unit's financial reports and budgets for transparency and responsible stewardship of funds.
5. **Lack of Communication:** Effective communication is essential for the success of any organization. If members are not well-informed about meetings, events, or important updates, it can lead to a breakdown in cohesion and involvement.
6. **Internal Conflict:** Frequent disputes, infighting, or divisions within the Auxiliary can weaken its effectiveness and harm the overall atmosphere. Addressing and resolving conflicts in a healthy manner is crucial.
7. **Failure to Fulfill the Auxiliary's Mission:** The VFW Auxiliary has a clear mission to support veterans, service members, and their families. If a unit consistently fails to meet this mission through various programs and activities, it may be considered unhealthy.
8. **Limited Community Involvement:** An Auxiliary should be actively engaged in the community, supporting local veterans and their families, and promoting patriotism. If it is isolated or disconnected from the community, it may not be fulfilling its purpose.
9. **Lack of Innovation:** Unhealthy Auxiliaries may resist change or be unwilling to adapt to the evolving needs of veterans and their families. Stagnation and resistance to new ideas can hinder progress.

10. **Negative Reputation:** A bad reputation within the VFW community or among members can be a strong indicator of an unhealthy Auxiliary. This can result from past controversies, conflicts, or a general perception of ineffectiveness.

To address these issues, VFW Auxiliary members can take proactive steps, such as open communication with leadership, encouraging member involvement, and working collectively to solve problems. In some cases, it may be necessary to seek guidance from higher levels of the organization or consider leadership changes to revitalize the unit. Ultimately, the goal should be to create a healthy and vibrant Auxiliary that effectively serves veterans and their families.

Sincerely,

Joyce Bilyeu, Chief of Staff
Extension and Revitalization Chairman
Jbilyeu42@gmail.com