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# *Identifying Unhealthy Auxiliaries Training*

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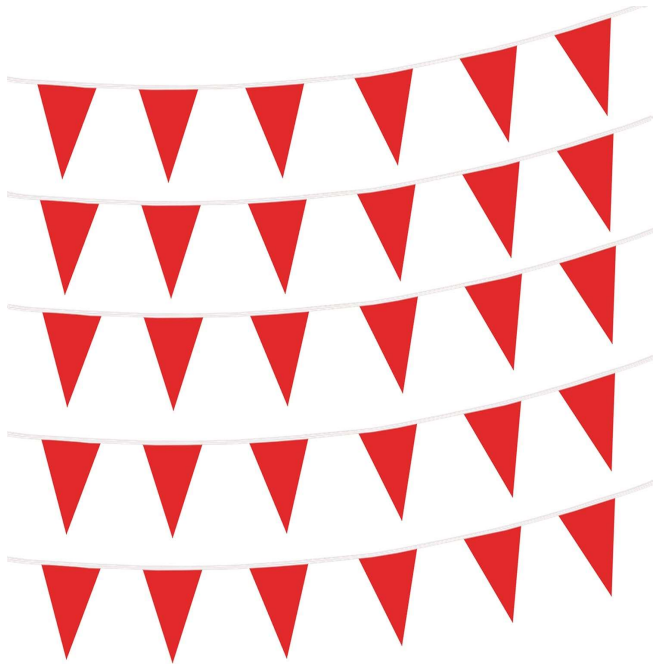
Extension & Revitalization Chairman



# Introduction

Identifying unhealthy Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Auxiliaries is important for ensuring the well-being and effectiveness of the organization.

We are going to go over **8 Red Flags** and 10 additional things that will help you to identify unhealthy Auxiliaries.





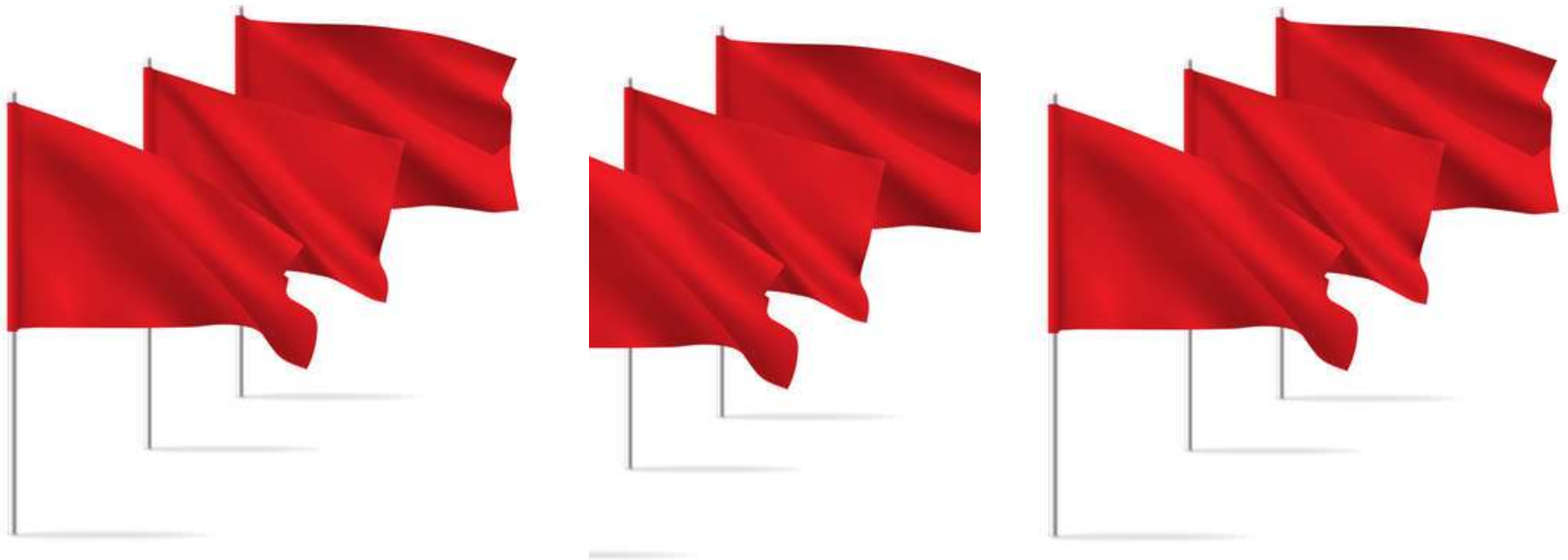
1. Conducting 10 meetings per year: Yes or No
2. Good attendance at the monthly Auxiliary meetings: Yes or No
3. Completing the required paperwork in a timely manner: Yes or No
4. Elect a new officer or re-elect the same Members: Yes (New) or No (Re-elect)
5. Officers, Chairman, and Members work as a team: Yes or No
6. Member involvement, input during meetings: Yes or No
7. Participating in the National/Department Programs: Yes or No
8. Membership Growth: Yes or No

One **No** answer is a **Red Flag**



# 8 Red Flags: *Yes or No Quiz*

# Additional Red Flags to Watch Out For



# # 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 Auxiliary.

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 an Auxiliary 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.

*How do you rate your Auxiliaries reputation?*



# **"Fab Five" Final Notes for a Healthy Auxiliary**

1. Healthy Auxiliaries have a good understanding of the Bylaws, Ritual, and Booklet of Instruction.
2. Healthy Auxiliaries follows the "Chain of Command".
3. Healthy Auxiliaries report on their programs (remember you do not have to report or do things in all programs). Pick the programs you like best and do a great job. However, at least one of the things you do and report on needs to benefit veterans in some way.
4. Healthy Auxiliaries DO NOT submit membership applications that have not been verified by the Investigating Committee and VOTED on the floor for approval by the membership. (DD214 is not the only verification tool.)
5. **Healthy Auxiliaries work in partnership with their VFW.**

# Summary

- 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.***





# Comments/Questions

## Thank you

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***"Stronger Together for Our Veterans"***