

VFW AUXILIARY
Department of California
Mentoring, Extension & Revitalization Program
July 2026 - Promotional #2
Joyce Bilyeu, Chairman

"Remembering Our Who Through Mentorship, Growth & Revitalization"
Start Strong... Finish Strong

As we begin a new Auxiliary year, each of us has an opportunity to set the tone for the months ahead. Success isn't determined by one fundraiser, one meeting, or one event. It is built one relationship, one conversation, and one act of service at a time.

Department President Angie Prill has challenged us to **"Remember Your Who."** Every decision we make should bring us back to that purpose, serving our veterans, military families, and communities while strengthening the Auxiliary that makes that service possible.

One of the greatest gifts we can give our Auxiliaries is a strong beginning.

Leadership Begins with Relationships

Every member wants to know they matter. Whether someone has been a member for 30 years or joined last week, each person brings valuable experience, ideas, and talents.

This month, I encourage every Auxiliary to intentionally connect with its members.

- Welcome every new member personally.
- Reach out to members who have not attended recently.
- Thank your volunteers.
- Introduce newer members to experienced leaders.
- Make every meeting a place where members feel valued and appreciated.

People stay where they feel welcomed.

Mentorship is More Than Training

Many people believe mentoring is simply teaching officer duties or explaining bylaws. While those are important, true mentorship is much more.

A mentor listens.

A mentor encourages.

A mentor celebrates successes.

A mentor helps someone believe they can become tomorrow's leader.

Every one of us can mentor someone simply by sharing our experiences, answering questions, and inviting others to become involved.

Building Healthy Auxiliaries

Healthy Auxiliaries are built through communication, teamwork, and planning.

Take time this month to ask:

- Are we communicating effectively?
- Are new members becoming involved?
- Does everyone understand our goals?
- Are we preparing future leaders?
- Are we creating an atmosphere of respect and encouragement?

Small improvements today create lasting success tomorrow.

Revitalization Begins with Hope

Sometimes Auxiliaries face challenges, declining participation, leadership transitions, or member burnout. Those situations do not define an Auxiliary.

Revitalization begins when someone says, "How can I help?"

If your Auxiliary is struggling, know that you are not alone. Reach out to your District leadership, Department Chairmen, and fellow Auxiliaries. Together, we can share ideas, provide encouragement, and rebuild momentum.

We are stronger together.

July Challenge

This month, I encourage every Auxiliary to complete these five simple actions:

- Contact one member you have not seen recently.
- Personally welcome every new member.

- Identify one future leader to mentor this year.
- Review the National Healthy Auxiliary "5 Essentials."
- Thank someone who quietly serves your Auxiliary.

These small acts strengthen our organization in ways that numbers alone never can.

Remember Your "Who"

As we move through this Auxiliary year, let us never lose sight of why we serve.

Our "Who" is the veteran who answered our nation's call.

It is the spouse waiting at home.

It is the child who misses a deployed parent.

It is the Gold Star Family carrying memories that will last a lifetime.

It is also the member sitting beside you at your auxiliary meeting, someone looking for friendship, purpose, and the opportunity to make a difference.

When we mentor with kindness, lead with integrity, and serve with compassion, we honor every one of them.

Thank you for everything you do for our veterans, military families, and communities. I look forward to working alongside each of you throughout this year as we continue building stronger Auxiliaries through mentorship, extension, and revitalization.

Together, we will continue **Remembering Our Who**.