Historian & Media Relations – October 2026

I want to talk about something that may seem simple—but is actually one of the most important things we can do for our Auxiliary.

We need to tell our story.

And the best way to tell our story is to know our members, capture our moments, and preserve our history.

Our Auxiliary history is much more than dates and meeting minutes. It is made up of the people who volunteered countless hours, supported veterans and their families, organized community events, mentored new members, and carried our mission forward.

When we document our members' experiences, achievements and traditions, we create a living history that reflects the heart and spirit of our Auxiliary.

Think about that for a moment.

If all we save are meeting minutes and reports, we may know what happened—but we may not know the people behind those accomplishments.

Who organized the event?
Who volunteered?
Who was there?
Why was the project important?
And what did it mean to the people involved?

Every member brings a unique story of service, sacrifice, leadership and dedication. When we take the time to listen to those stories, we honor the individuals who built our Auxiliary into what it is today.

AND THIS IS WHERE A DIGITAL HISTORY BECOMES IMPORTANT.

We have an incredible opportunity today that previous Historians didn't have.

We can create a digital record of our Auxiliary history.

Instead of having photographs sitting in a box, programs tucked away in a drawer, newspaper articles scattered around, or someone's memories existing only in their mind—we can bring those pieces together.

A digital history can include:

• Photographs of our members and activities
• Event programs and flyers
• Newsletters
• Newspaper articles
• Awards and accomplishments
• Membership milestones
• Special projects

• Stories from longtime members
• Information about our Auxiliary's traditions
• And, most importantly, the people behind the accomplishments

A digital history can be organized by year, by event, or by category. It can grow a little at a time.

And it doesn't have to be complicated.

Start with what you have.

Take a photograph of an old scrapbook page. Scan an old program. Save a newsletter. Write down the story of a longtime member. Add today's photographs.

Then keep adding to it.

Because five, ten or twenty years from now, those little pieces may become incredibly important.

AND THAT'S WHERE YOUR CAMERA COMES IN.

Your camera—or your cell phone—is a history-making tool.

A photograph can capture something that words sometimes cannot.

Years from now, someone may look at a photograph and say, “Look at what they were doing. Look at the people who were there. Look at what our Auxiliary accomplished.”

But taking a good historical photograph isn't just about pointing the camera and pushing the button.

Before you start, clean your lens, look at the direction of your photo, and check the lighting. Look at the background, too. Is there a trash can? A cluttered table? A pole or tree that distracts from your subject? Those little things can make a big difference in the final photograph.

And during the event, capture the action! Don't take only posed photographs.

ACTION PHOTOGRAPHS TELL THE STORY.

Get closer to your subject. Make sure the picture is clear. And take several photographs—because someone will inevitably blink!

Remember that you're photographing the people and the activities. Choose the best photograph. Make sure it's clear. And tell the story in the caption.

Remember the Five Ws:

WHO?
WHAT?
WHEN?
WHERE?
And WHY?

A good photograph doesn't just show us what happened. **It helps us remember why it mattered.**

Good photographs preserve our moments, tell our story, and honor our veterans.

And let's remember something else:

Today's conversations become tomorrow's history.

The member you're talking to today may have a story that has never been written down.

The photograph you're taking today may become something future members treasure.

The event you're documenting today may become an important part of your Auxiliary's history.

So, let's make it our goal to capture the entire story—not just the event.

Get to know your members.
Ask questions.
Listen to their stories.
Take the pictures.
Save the documents.
Create that digital record.

And most importantly—preserve the people behind the history.

Because our Auxiliary history isn't just about what we did.

It's about who did it, why they did it, and the difference they made.

Don't just take a picture—preserve the history.

Document it.
Record it.
Share it.
Preserve it.

Because your camera is a history-making tool. So let’s make some history!!