

Historian and Media Relations

November 2026

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As the Weather Turns Colder, Preserve Your Auxiliary History!

As the temperatures drop and we begin spending more time indoors, it's the perfect opportunity to turn our attention to something that is just as important as the work we do today — preserving the history of our Auxiliary for tomorrow.

Throughout the year, our Auxiliaries are busy serving veterans, supporting our communities, recognizing our members, raising funds, and participating in programs that make a difference. So much happens during the year that it can be easy to forget the importance of documenting these activities while the memories are still fresh.

Now is the time to gather, organize, and preserve those memories!

Take a little time to review your Auxiliary's social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, and any other pages or groups where your activities are shared. Posts, announcements, event pictures, and member recognition are all pieces of your Auxiliary's story. Save copies of important posts, photographs, and information so they can become part of your permanent historical records.

Pull out those boxes, folders, scrapbooks, and computer files filled with photographs and documents. Sort them, organize them by year or event, and label everything clearly. One of the most important things you can do is identify the people in your photographs. A picture may be worth a thousand words, but without names, dates, and a little information about the event, future historians may never know who is pictured or what made the moment special.

Whenever possible, include:

- The names of everyone in the photograph.
- The date and location of the event.
- The purpose of the activity or event.
- The names of participating Auxiliaries or members.
- Any special recognition, accomplishments, or milestones.

Don't forget to create digital memories, too! Scan older photographs, save important documents electronically, and create organized folders on your computer or in secure cloud storage. Consider keeping a backup copy so these valuable records are protected if something happens to the originals.

Remember, history isn't just about the big celebrations or major accomplishments. It is also about the everyday acts of service, the friendships formed, the members who worked behind the scenes, and the countless ways our Auxiliaries support veterans and their families.

Someday, a future member, historian, or researcher may look back at the records we preserve today to learn about the dedication and accomplishments of those who came before them.

Let's make this indoor season a season of preservation! Set aside a little time each week to organize pictures, identify members, save social media posts, and record your Auxiliary's activities. Your efforts today will help ensure that the stories, faces, and achievements of our members are never forgotten.

After all, we aren't just recording history — **we are preserving the legacy of our Auxiliaries for generations to come!**