

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES™

**South Dakota Department VFW Auxiliary
Auxiliary Outreach
Bulletin January 2025**

National Theme: *From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending Service to Our Veterans*
Department Theme: *United in Service for Veterans*

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

How did your Auxiliary and its members support your community during the holiday season? Have the volunteer hours and events been reported? Did you have your photographs taken?

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary National Auxiliary President Brenda Bryant's theme this year is "From Our Roots to Our Branches: Extending Service to Our Veterans," is a definite reflection of this program. Auxiliary Outreach shows our continued commitment to our Veterans.

Some key points to remember with this program are:

1. Look for Volunteer Opportunities (not monetary donations – those fall under another program) such as organizing or assisting with community fundraisers and awareness campaigns, providing administrative or volunteer coordination. There are also lots of direct service opportunities: meal delivery, facility maintenance, "undecorating" local senior/community centers or nursing homes, etc.
2. Joining forces/collaborating by partnering with all the evident community services such as police, firefighters and EMTs to help educate folks about fire safety, CPR training or child ID information sessions. Don't forget assistance to local food banks (collecting and restocking food), animal shelters (collecting needed items and cleaning where necessary), blood drives (administrative needs, handing out snacks) and so many more.
3. Engagement with Community includes contacting local groups (as long as the activity/event is not affiliated with the VFW or Auxiliary) to determine the need for volunteers. REMEMBER to vote on participation during the Auxiliary meeting to properly document the membership approval.
4. Auxiliary visibility means you should wear some Auxiliary attire (shirt, name badge, hat, etc.) when assisting with or participating in a community event. This opens the door to folks wanting more information about what we do, why we do it and how someone can become a member.

Be sure to take pictures when assisting another organization as there is a National Award this year for the best photo collage of community events. Volunteering can be done as an individual or as a group.

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