

BEE THE CHANGE



Mentoring for Leadership

Why is mentoring Important?

A stronger membership on every level of our organization will be accomplished through mentoring. Mentoring for Leadership will enhance all types of Program activities. Vigilance in mentoring will make the difference in obtaining and maintaining members, since many other organizations are vying for our members' time and talents. Through the mentoring process, extending the hand of friendship to a new member or even a tenured member who has been inactive for a while can create a strong and vibrant organization. Providing a positive and organized meeting experience will leave members wanting to come back, especially when good communication and respect for each other is demonstrated. By engaging in mentoring activities, you will build a stronger relationship amongst new and tenured members. Whether you create a formal or informal mentoring program, every Auxiliary should have a type of resource to assist in communicating and motivating members to better understand the organization

Goals + Mentoring + Leadership = Healthy Auxiliaries

We have many resources available on the VFW Auxiliary National website's Program & Publicity Resources page at vfwauxiliary.org/resources. They did not just appear there magically. Someone worked to start writing them down, another added to them, and then another and each year they are fine-tuned just a bit more. Everyone needs a starting point to learn. You can be that starting point for someone. Others may not be sure that they can be a mentor; show them they know more than they think.



Mentoring Who does it?

Mentoring is the responsibility of all of us and we need to begin today. We need to find out replacements and train them to be better than we are. We need to share our knowledge. What good does it do anyone for us to keep the information to ourselves? How does that make for a successful organization?

This year I ask you to look around and see how YOU can help this organization by mentoring. Hold a training event for members – on your local level, join up with other auxiliaries. Make a game out of it so enjoyable to learn that others will want to be part of it. Team building is important for all aspects of the VFW Auxiliary. So why not create mentoring teams. Remember we had a teacher we never forgot. Why? Most likely because they saw something in us and nurtured it. They made us feel special and important. That is what we want to do this program year make our mentees feel special and important. We want them to become the next experts and to feel special enough to want to share what they were taught. Work together to make the next term of office and terms for many years to come, a little bit better than the last one, and we have done our job. A mentor who uses the Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation is the key to creating a successful leader. This resource should be shared on each level of the organization. The guidebooks provide suggestions and examples for Officers, Chairmen and members to understand their duties according to the National Bylaws and the best practices discovered during the 100-plus year history of the organization. The goal of the guidebooks is to develop and maintain consistent practices across the organization, to train and equip leaders of today and tomorrow, and to strengthen the basic building blocks of the organization: the foundation.

Care

- Catch the member when they first join.
- Ask them to participate.
- Remember what it felt like to be new.
- Engage them in a program that fits them.

Team

T – Teach someone what you know and are passionate about.
E – Everyone deserves to find their joy in our organization.
A – Always be on the lookout for the next leader.
M – Mentor all the time since success is best when it is shared.

Resources

- 2022-2023 National Program Book
- Mentoring at VFW Auxiliary: Relationship Building for the Future
- Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation