

## MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP 2021-22

I will be serving as the **Chief of Staff** and the **Mentoring for Leadership Chairman** for this year. These two programs are intertwined and it makes great sense to bring them together. It is my goal this year to provide you with guidance, resources, and the tools necessary to ensure that **ALL** Auxiliaries are functioning in a healthy manner. Auxiliaries are encouraged to strive for flexibility in conducting their business in a way that works for them and where their members feel empowered and engaged.

**“Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation”** is one of the most valuable tools available to members on all levels. It will help you learn how to conduct meetings, duties of Officers and Chairmen, and why we need to report the things we do. It is available at [vfwauxiliary.org/resources](http://vfwauxiliary.org/resources).

A mentor takes the time to explain our Programs to new members; listens to all of our members; is open to all ideas; but also remembers to appreciate our older members who have laid the foundation on which we continue to build. We must always remember that veterans and their families are our main purpose. Every one of us joined this organization because of a veteran that we care about – perhaps if we focus more on that and leave our petty differences, jealousies, and egos aside we can continue to thrive.

We will be practicing the three “C’s” and be a **Consultant** – this is the most obvious role; **Counselor** – listen to the members; and **Cheerleader** – provide support and enthusiasm.

Mentoring is vitally important on all levels – starting on auxiliary level and moving to district, department, and national levels. Mentoring allows each of us to extend a hand of friendship to both new and seasoned members. By providing positive experiences within our meetings and activities, we give our members a reason to want to join, become active, and stay involved especially when good communication and respect for each other is demonstrated. Through this program you will be encouraged to promote the CARE concept –

**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.**

Most of us when we joined the auxiliary had someone who took an interest in us, was knowledgeable about the auxiliary, was willing to share that knowledge, and genuinely cared about us. This program is about becoming that special person who makes a difference to a new member or a member who has not been active – a member who wants to learn and grow within the VFWA. As we mentor members, we are also mentoring leaders. Through mentoring we express a willingness to listen to the suggestions of others, teach members about our traditions and the National bylaws, and train and equip our members to be leaders for tomorrow.

Our Department will be recognizing 2 **“Outstanding Mentors”** this year – look around and start thinking about who these mentors are – more details on this award later.

I am very excited about the opportunities this program offers – positive mentoring practices with great leadership will produce healthy and vibrant auxiliaries that have members who are excited and passionate about helping veterans, their families, and our communities. **BE THE ONE TO BE THE LIGHT!!**

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