

Mentoring for leadership will enrich all of our programs and activities. It is important that every auxiliary have some type of mentoring program and plan in place. A mentor may be assigned to every new member to answer questions and guide them to become active and productive members. A committee could be assigned to reach out to those members who haven't been to a meeting for a while to find out why they aren't coming to meetings, what they might like to see your auxiliary do, and just check to see how the member is doing. Mentoring is all about building relationships – relationships that will help your auxiliary flourish and grow.

Mentors can be members of any age or membership tenure – a mentor should be one who has helped with programs; is willing to participate in projects; someone who realizes the importance of auxiliary membership; and a member who cares about Veterans and their families. Every auxiliary has one or more members who can be excellent mentors!! Reach out to them to help your auxiliary in this program and **BE THE LIGHT!**

I am excited to serve as the Mentoring Chairman and so pleased to be working with Leona McDermott, National Auxiliary Ambassador for this Program. Leona stresses that “Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation” is one of the most valuable tools available to members on all levels. Please download a copy and make it available for your members to see and tell them where they can find it on the National website. I will also request that this be put on the MO Auxiliary website as a resource tool.

**BE THE LIGHT****CONSULTANT – BE AVAILABLE****COUNSELOR – ACTIVELY LISTEN****CHEERLEADER – PROVIDE SUPPORT AND BE ENTHUSIASTIC**

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.

Leadership can be difficult in any circumstance – but we have to remember that we have the opportunity every day to make a difference in the life of at least one person – we do this in our attitudes, actions, and with our words. It is hard to take back words that hurt others – my grandson actually shared an interesting thought with me. If we break a dish and say we are sorry – the dish is still broken. Think about the hurtful words we say – even when we tell someone we are sorry for hurting their feelings, that individual still remembers the hurt they felt.



Sometimes it is more of how we say something than what we say. Be kind **always**.

Mentoring for Leadership resource material may be found at www.vfwauxiliary.org/resources. Read the 2021-22 Program Book available at National Convention for those who registered or online at the website after convention for program information.

MENTORING + LEADERSHIP = HEALTHY AUXILIARY**BE THE LIGHT AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX!!**

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