



**MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP NEVER ENDS.** Mentoring should be a way of our daily life – every day of the year. We should all be striving to teach others and to share knowledge and enthusiasm as a member of the VFW Auxiliary. If you have lost that “lump in your throat” and that feeling of “pride that makes your heart race” when you see a flag passing in a parade; when the National Anthem is sung correctly; when Taps are played at the funeral of a veteran something is amiss and it is time to step back and figure out where your attitude has changed.

I have learned of many wonderful things Auxiliaries have done this year as you have welcomed and embraced new members. The “Welcome” packets are amazing and every Auxiliary should think about doing these with a letter of introduction to the Auxiliary telling new members of your meeting time and place. Encourage members who haven’t been to a meeting to come – offer a ride. Send out a survey asking what they would like to see done in your Auxiliary. Stay in touch - a member needs to know they are valued or they will disappear.

Report forms were due April 15 – if for some reason you missed sending the report, do it now. I want to see what you have done in this program.

As Chief of Staff, I have seen problems that should have been addressed much sooner when they were small areas of concern before they became real issues causing great concern. District Presidents are so important in keeping our VFW Auxiliary Department advised of things – they are the eyes and ears and must take greater responsibility within our Department of MO VFW Auxiliary. District President is not just a title – it is a real job that involves time and effort and genuine concern for the VFW Auxiliary on Local, District and Department levels. Thank you to all those who have served as a District President and for all that you have done to assist in making our Auxiliaries healthy and strong. Department President Janet has been so approachable and made working with Auxiliaries a top priority.

Always remember to say “Thank-You” and hand out those “Good-Job” awards.

I was disappointed in the number of Auxiliaries that applied for the National Awards within the Mentoring Program and the number of “Outstanding Mentor” applications. Think about that special member who took you under their wing when you first joined and encouraged you to be the best you could be. Are you following up by sharing your talents with others to make our Auxiliaries strong and viable for the future? Are you mentoring others to take on Leadership Roles?

Members are the lifeblood of our organization. Treat everyone as you would like to be treated – with respect. Each member is a part of our VFWA team that “Thinks Outside of the Box” allowing us to “Soar Above and Beyond.”



**BE THE LIGHT**      **ALWAYS BE POSITIVE AND PATIENT – ATTITUDE IS EVERYTHING**

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