

# VFW Auxiliary

## Auxiliary President



**Mary Spindler**

As I write this, I am thinking about Past CIC John Gwizdak's comments at our Sr. Vice training. He said something to the effect that it takes 17 years to go through the Auxiliary chairs before becoming a Department President.

Of course, he was joking, but it is true that any person taking this path is going to invest a huge part of their life in the process.

However, these years in the line have passed quickly, and I can honestly say that I have enjoyed and learned every step of the way. I am grateful to those who have been so kind to mentor me by sharing their information and knowledge of this organization (although I have a feeling that my bylaws book will be my best friend this year).

I humbly promise that I

will serve by doing what I believe is right, and in the best interests of the VFW and VFW Auxiliary, in any situation. I am looking forward to working as a team with Jeff Hastings, our newly elected Department of Illinois VFW Commander, and all the other VFW officers and members, to help make this a successful and memorable year.

My theme is "Leaving our Legacy," and specifically, I am referring to leaving behind our ideals and values. Let's face it—we are all getting older, and none of us are going to get out of this world alive. So often, in our Auxiliaries (and in our VFW), we see the same people, doing the same jobs, and doing it the same way, for years on end. What is going to happen when these individuals are no longer here to

carry on? If we want to see our organization survive, we need to teach the ideals that have made the VFW Auxiliary one of the greatest service organizations in the world for over 100 years. If we fail to do this, to pass the torch—then all our efforts will have been in vain. So, just as a family hands down its legacy to their children, we should all work to pass down our knowledge and skills to those who follow in our footsteps.

The most important thing we can do to ensure a strong future for the VFW Auxiliary is to grow our membership. We need to attract individuals who hold the same values into our group. At the same time, we must stay relevant to the 21<sup>st</sup> century, so it is vital to accept and embrace change. The most recent modification

has been accepting male members and changing our name to the VFW Auxiliary. As with any new member, it is unlikely that these male members will come into the organization knowing exactly what it is that we wish to accomplish. It should be everyone's responsibility to make them feel welcome, mentor them, and get them actively involved. Male members are a great asset to our VFW Auxiliary!

In closing, our National President, Dee Guillory, has asked all VFW Auxiliary leaders to concentrate on showing kindness and respect to our fellow volunteers. A gentle touch can go a long way in showing how much we appreciate our members. Let's all keep that in mind as we work with others to meet our goals!

To all the veterans who may be reading this, I want to begin by once again thanking our VFW members for their service, and for giving so much for all of us. Thank you for placing yourself between us and danger; and for putting your life on hold while choosing to serve. Thank you for your courage in defending America's freedom; and thank you for the sacrifice of time that might have otherwise been spent with

your families. And, finally, thank you for all you do for the VFW, as you continue to serve our veterans, families, and communities through this organization.

These are things that nobody should ever take for granted, and I am proud to be a part of the VFW Auxiliary that works alongside you to promote patriotism and carry out the programs. This is a meaningful way to give back to you; and together, we make a great team.



Department of Illinois Auxiliary officers recite the oath of office at the Installation of Officers at the Auxiliary Convention June 17.



Auxiliary President Mary Spindler installed by husband, Past State Commander J.D. "Butch" Spindler.

## Auxiliary Membership



**Jo Lynn Altvatter & Lynn Smith**

It's a new VFW Auxiliary year and we are inspired to better last year's success of 102.6 percent membership.

We want to witness Department President Mary Spindler's induction into the Circle of Excellence at the National Convention in Kansas City and, additional members mean more hearts and hands to help our veterans, our youth and our communities.

Our Membership Goals from National of 425 new/rejoined members each quarter seems daunting but we're confident with our Brothers and Sisters in the Department we will achieve those goals.

We also need everyone's help to retain our current members so if you know someone who might be having any problems, let

your Auxiliary President or Treasurer know so they can work with them.

For our Districts with Bachelor Posts, we know they have been contacted on numerous occasions about starting an Auxiliary but this might just be the time they want to give it some serious thought.

Now that the Auxiliary membership is gender neutral, it might be easier to recruit Auxiliary members who want to help them achieve their goals and spread their mission; that's what an Auxiliary does, they support their VFW Post and comrades.

On the positive side, we have two Posts in District 15 working with the District President to start an Auxiliary, how about your Post? Contact Lynn or me and we'll get you started.

## Department President's Homecoming

### "Leaving Our Legacy"

**Saturday, October 28, 2017**  
**Theodore Hoffman VFW #1769 Post**  
**2304 Veterans Drive**  
**Effingham, IL**

Entertainment by "Sojourn Rocs."  
 "A musical journey that starts in the 1960's and continues through the music of today."

**Social Hour at 5:30pm**  
**Dinner 6:30pm**  
**Presentations 7:30pm**

**Tickets \$25.00**  
 Ticket Chairman: Norma Janney  
 307A SE 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
 Casey, IL 62420  
 Ticket Deadline: October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017

