

THE END IS NEAR!

An electric buzz has filled the air. Hushed whispers about “the end” darts between friends and family, a nervous tension building. Side glances at the calendar remind us of the dwindling time ahead.

No, the world isn’t ending, just the program year! Those once distant deadlines have inched ever close to us all. Outgoing chairmen are tirelessly preparing to wrap up their year, and incoming chairmen are brainstorming their ideas for the upcoming year.

As the 2023-2024 Historian Chairman, this means finalizing your chronicle of the past year’s history for your Auxiliary.

Don’t forget to reach out to all your members to determine if any projects supporting Veterans were unaccounted for. Follow up with Chairmen to fill in any other gaps.

Next up, what are you going to do with all those photos you and

other members took over the past year? There are several options available that will allow you to ensure members for years to come will be able to view them and learn about your Auxiliary’s history.

A photo album, scrapbook or photo book are longstanding traditional options, and for good reason. They are easy to look through and require no tools to do so once created. However, they may take up a lot of room over time.

A digital frame, PowerPoint presentation, a website, and social media are other options. The latter ones can be accessed from remotely.

Whichever way you choose to share your Auxiliary’s photos, do not forget to provide descriptions, names, and locations. Also, try to find a way to include mementos, newsletters, flyers, etc.



Supports to Help Cope

Google PhotoScan allows you to professionally scan photos or flyers with your phone while avoiding glare, shadows or awkward angles.

DigitalScrapbook.com provides free daily downloads of the neatest backgrounds, elements, and embellishments for your digital or print designs.

FreePrints offers 85 free 4x6 photo prints a month for the cost of shipping. (Walgreens and CVS are constantly competing for the lowest price with weekly sales.)

Photo Books through Shutterfly, MixBook and WalMart are reported to be the highest rated and easiest to use. Be sure to search for coupon codes and sales!

Photo Gallery on your phone often has a quick one-click edit feature that automatically enhances your photo. Find it on your phone for quality pictures!

PREPARING FOR THE END

Although as incoming chairmen, you are just beginning, keeping an eye on the end is important. Knowing your goals and deadlines ahead of time is essential to ending your year with a bang.

National’s award for the 24-25 program year is for the most outstanding promotion of VFW Auxiliary Programs to the community through social media sources. Start brushing up on your social media skills by browsing through the materials available under the Historian Member Resources in MALTA. Entries are due by March 31, 2025.

Department’s award for the 24-25 program year is for the most outstanding promotion through any media highlighting the teamwork displayed between VFW Auxiliary **and** VFW members in an endeavor that assists Veterans. Entries are due by April 15, 2025.

End of year reporting will ask if you communicated quarterly with members, had a Facebook Page and if you have a website.