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Membership Program

Welcome to the Land of Oz for this coming year in the Membership Program. My name is Dorothy and I am the incoming Department of Missouri Membership Chairman for this coming year. I first want to thank this past year's Membership Chairman, Vicki Garcia, for her awesome work on membership. I want us to build on her success and keep the momentum going.

Membership Team

First of all, I want to introduce the wonderful membership team. We will be working together to increase our membership numbers.

The Lion, alias Anita Crowell – Districts 3, 5, 6, 15, 17

The Tin Man, alias Karen Cypret – Districts 7, 9, 14, 18

The Scarecrow, alias Denise Szafranski – Districts NonDistrict, 2, 8, 12

Jackie Davis – At Large Membership

Membership Goals

This year's membership goals will be based on Paid Membership. Paid membership includes deaths.

- 85%+ in Paid Membership by September 15, 2025
- 90%+ in Paid Membership by October 15, 2025
- 95%+ in Paid Membership by November 15, 2025
- 98%+ in Paid Membership by January 31, 2026
- 100%+ in Paid Membership by April 15, 2026
- 102%+ in Paid Membership by May 15, 2026



We can meet these goals if we all work together as a team. Always carry an application with you. You never know where you will meet a prospective member. But be very careful. The Wicked Witch has flying monkeys flying around to check on us. The flying monkeys will try to stop the dues from being paid and new members from signing up for this wonderful organization. They will tell the prospective members what have the VFW Auxiliary done for them.

Recruit New Members

We need to work on recruiting new members for this wonderful organization. We need to always have an application with us. You never know where you will meet a prospective member. Answer any questions that the prospective member has. Let them know what the Auxiliary does for veterans and their families. One way to recruit a possible new member is to ask your VFW counterpart if their spouse and family members are members. If they aren't a member, ask them to join. Some ways to recruit new members are:

- Joint VFW/Auxiliary open house
- Exclusive Membership drives
- State/County fairs (with prior approval)
- Patriotic gathering (with prior approval)
- Newspaper article
- Partner with your program chairmen from Extension & Revitalization, Youth Activities, Scholarships, etc.

When you get a new member, invite them to your next meeting. If they do not have a way to the meeting, offer to pick them up. When they get to a meeting, have them sit by a member who can explain what we are doing and why. Find out what their strengths are. If they like to bake, then let them do some baking for an upcoming bake sale. Tell the new member about your Auxiliary Facebook page (if your Auxiliary has one). Please make sure that the new members feel welcomed and useful in the Auxiliary. If they don't feel welcomed and useful, they may not want to come back to a meeting.

Retain Members

Remind your members that everyone has something to contribute in this organization. When it is time to pay their dues for the coming year, call the annual members and see if they are able to pay their dues. If they aren't able to pay their dues, offer to pay their dues for them. They may be going through a financial situation and not able to pay their dues. I am sure they would appreciate the help to pay their dues. Let your members know of the resources in Malta concerning membership.

Membership Program Awards

Awards for Members:

1. 5 Member Recruiter Pen. Each VFW and Auxiliary member who recruits five new and/or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary will receive a **5 Member Recruiter Pin**.
2. 5 Member Recruiter Drawing. Each VFW and Auxiliary member who recruits five new and/or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary will be entered into the **5 Member Recruiter Drawing to receive a \$100.00 Visa Gift Card**.
3. National Membership Achievement Recruiter Award. Each VFW and Auxiliary member who recruits 20 new and/or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary will receive a **National Membership Achievement Recruit Award**. VFW Auxiliary Treasurers on all levels are not eligible for this award.
4. National Membership Achievement Recruiter Drawing. Each VFW and Auxiliary member who recruits 20 new and/or rejoined members to the Auxiliary will be entered in the National Membership Achievement Recruiter Drawing to receive a \$400 Visa Gift Card.

Award for Auxiliaries:

\$50 to each Auxiliary that reaches 100% Plus in Membership by June 30, 2026. I am sure that every Auxiliary could use an extra \$50.

Department Membership awards are subject to the budget for the upcoming year.