Engage new members with a solid plan during their first year as an Auxiliary Member.
The first 3 months are the most critical to show a new member that they are valued and appreciated. They just paid to donate their time and energy to our cause and should receive an orientation on programs and benefits and mentoring to help develop a feeling of commitment and belonging.

Be sure to utilize the New Member Orientation Checklist.

Within The First Week
Call or email the new member to introduce yourself. Offer your contact information should that new member have any questions. If your Auxiliary has a website or Facebook page, tell them about it so they can see what's going on. Provide a calendar of upcoming events.

Encourage them to create a member profile in MALTA and give them instructions on how to load their card to their wallet.

Within The First Month
Invite the new member as soon as possible to whatever Auxiliary event is coming up next, whether it be a meeting, a community service project, or something else. Offer to pick them up if they need a ride. Or if it's a family event, be sure to let them know that anyone can come. They might feel more comfortable coming with a family member or friend. Be sure to send them a reminder at least three days out from the event. And immediately following the event, send an e-mail or handwritten note saying that you're glad they came.

Give them a New Member Packet with the items available on the national VFW Auxiliary website (www.vfwauxiliary.org).

Within The First Two Months
Your Auxiliary will most likely have a meeting within this time period. Specifically invite the new member and save them a seat. Have a copy of "Understanding VFW Auxiliary Traditions" printed out, and make time to explain each of the items on it. Much of it will be entirely new to them.

Within The First Three Months
Scheduling is difficult, but try to meet up for coffee, and see if the new member has any questions about what they have been involved with so far. Have a copy of the VFW Auxiliary Bylaws and Ritual available in case a question comes up that you can't answer.

The goal with each of these steps is to maintain contact with the new member in order to engage them in your Auxiliary as soon as possible. Engaged members actively participate in Auxiliary meetings, events, special projects and leadership opportunities. Once you have engaged that member and extended that hand of friendship, continue to nurture that relationship. An engaged membership equals a healthy Auxiliary!

Partner up **Mentoring** – Utilize the knowledge of an existing member by matching new members with them and having an orientation package with information about our traditions, officer contact info, upcoming events & programs.