

It's Time to Hit the Ground Running
2024-2024 National Extension & Revitalization National Ambassador Betty Arnold

National Convention is over and it is time to hit the ground running. It was great meeting so many of you in Louisville and I hope you enjoyed the Program presentations!

Mentoring is a very important part of this Program. Mentoring allows each of us to extend a hand of friendship to both seasoned and new members. By providing positive experiences within our meetings and activities, we give our members a reason to want to join, become active and stay involved, especially when good communication and respect to each other is demonstrated. Ask if five of your Officers (this can be done on Auxiliary, District and Department levels) vacate their chairs – how will your Auxiliary survive? Do you have a plan for succession in place?

Reminder: There is an award to the Department Chief of Staff in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the best promotion of mentoring and/or training to educate VFW Auxiliary members on the duties of the Officer roles to ensure the future of the VFW Auxiliary. There is no Year-End Report in the Extension & Revitalization Program so you will need to explain how you educated your members. This should be an ongoing teaching opportunity.

Have you contacted unaffiliated posts and explained the importance of having an Auxiliary? Not a letter but a genuine contact should be made. We want viable Auxiliaries to assist us in our goals to help veterans and their families.

Official Visits are being made and those visits should alert us to any potential problems that can be handled with a Mentor or Mentoring team. These subtle “yellow caution lights” can prevent big problems that could even lead to a suspension. District Presidents and/or Department Representatives should be trained to recognize signs of concern.

The VFW Auxiliary is built on a strong foundation of pride and patriotism – it is up to each of us to continue that legacy. ***From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service to Our Veterans*** is not just a theme but a sincere promise!