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**Auxiliary Community Outreach**  
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Welcome to a new auxiliary year! I am Samantha! To tell you a bit about me, well I am from Auxiliary 513-DuQuoin in the 14<sup>th</sup> District, Downstate. I am a Past Department President-serving the auxiliary community 2016-17. I am very excited about the New Year and all that it will bring. We are living in unprecedented times and I will work with each of you to help your auxiliary participate and report in this program.

You might have noticed, National has given us a brand-new program to promote this year-**Auxiliary Community Outreach Program!** Auxiliary Community Outreach is all volunteer work performed by an individual, a group of members, or the whole Auxiliary for the benefit of the community or its institutions. It can be performed by all auxiliary members of any age, skill set, or ability level.

Volunteering makes a difference in our community, but we also receive benefits from it such as be able to help others, learning a new skill, advancing one's career, gives one increased confidence and it is a great way to meet new people.

As restrictions on meeting as a group allows, it is very important that at the beginning of your Auxiliary's program year a motion is made on the floor (during your meeting) that when a member(s) volunteers their time for a civic program, school program, youth program, etc., **and** they are representing the VFW Auxiliary, the member should turn in their hours served to be reported for Auxiliary Community Outreach. Motion should be recorded in the meeting minutes and approved before the member or Auxiliary participates in a project. The project cannot serve the Post or the Auxiliary.

Now the fun part, reporting! I am very excited to see all the facebook posts about what our auxiliary members are doing already to volunteer in our communities.

Maybe you are just like our Department President Linda and sewed masks for hospitals, churches, or emergency personnel in your community. Maybe you donated hours to making signs for your local school children who graduated this spring, or perhaps you helped organize and serve food through the food banks. Maybe you volunteered with your local school district and passed out meals to school children during the school closure.



I cannot wait to see what our auxiliaries have already done. How are you and your auxiliary Making Life Bearable for our Veterans [and communities]? If you have performed activities after April 1, 2020, you can report the activity **now** and receive credit *just don't forget to get your auxiliary's approval by motion*. Even though I can read what you are doing on facebook, I will need you to make a report to me.

Thank you for your volunteer work. I am looking forward to a great year ahead. Please contact me if you have questions or need assistance.