

# BULLETIN – JULY 2023



## VETERANS AND FAMILY SUPPORT

**BILLIE GUTHALS, CHAIRMAN**

In my first bulletin for Department President Lynn Smith's year, I would like to encourage all Auxiliaries to find opportunities to work with their Comrades at their VFW Posts and find ways to provide aid to our military and their families. Our National President Carla's theme of *Banding Together for our Veterans* calls for us to unite with others and make our contributions even more beneficial. As an Auxiliary member, you can be a knowledgeable and helpful resource when hearing of Veterans or their families in need.

One connection you can make is with your VFW Post's Veterans Service Officer (VSO). Find out who that person is for your area and set aside time to have a conversation with them. Let them educate you on the types of questions and concerns they hear from Veterans. Is there a way that you can assist? Once you know issues that are being faced, you or other members may have solutions that can help solve problems.

To develop an ongoing relationship with your VSO, invite them to an Auxiliary meeting to discuss their experiences and open a line of communication. Assign an Auxiliary member that can serve as a liaison with the Service Officer for the coming year.

Think about the types of services Auxiliary members may be able to offer such as transportation assistance, occasional childcare, and a meal for a family when there's a need. The list can be added to depending on the skills and abilities of your members.

Partnering with the VFW Service Officer can also create a stronger bond with your Post. It's another chance to work together for the benefit of our Veterans and their families.

Do you have ways you have utilized your Veterans Service Officer and aided a Veteran or their family? Tell me your success stories so that we can all look for more ways to give Veterans the support they have earned.