

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN**

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 9 (MUST BE READ AT MEETING)

APRIL 2026

1. **Election of officers** is to be done at the regular business meeting in April. Installation of officers will take place in May. Remember, even if you keep the same officers, you need to fill out the Installation Report and install them. Secretaries at all levels will enter the installation reports directly into Malta.
2. **Membership:** All of you have been working so hard on membership and I deeply appreciate that. We are getting so close to reaching our goals! As of this writing, **WISCONSIN** is in **FIRST** place in the Big Ten Conference and Big Ten is in third place in the battle of the conferences. We are currently **100.97%** for our **PAID** membership and **93** (98.75%) members away from **100%** of our **CURRENT** membership. Spring is here and it is time to start planning poppy and membership drives. If your auxiliary needs help with your membership, please contact our department membership chairman, Charlene Cobb or District Chairman. They are more than willing to help in any way that they can.
3. Last month I had the honor of laying a wreath with our State Commander, Ty Letto at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at **Arlington National Cemetery** in Washington, D.C. What an honor and a very solemn experience. Auxiliary members also attended the National President C.A.F.E. in front of the Vietnam Memorial. You can find pictures on the department Facebook Page.
4. **Memorial Day** is May 27th. It is a time to honor and remember our fallen military.
5. Our convention is coming up soon! We will be at the **Holiday Inn & Suites, Rothchild, WI**, from **June 10th – 13th**. Our banquet is a formal, **military ball**. The registration form on our website, Vfwauwi.org Registration is due by **May 22nd**, otherwise there is a higher registration fee.
6. Make sure you get your department credentials form filled out, voted on, and submitted. Your delegates can't vote at convention without it. Even if you think no one will be attending, you need to submit your form. Delegates have a one-year term, not just for convention.
7. End-of-year reports should be completed and submitted to the designated location. It is important to remember that our work is not finished; completing these reports does not mean we should cease promoting our programs. The tracking of volunteer hours and support for the upcoming year begins now and will be included in next year's reports. If there is a change in program leadership, please ensure that all relevant information is passed on to the incoming chair to maintain continuity in reporting and program management.

Remember: "Individually we are one drop but together we are an ocean!"

Thank you to everyone for all that you do for our Veterans. You are greatly appreciated!

Please continue to **"Be the Lighthouse in Someone's Storm as We Rise by Lifting Others"**.

Kim McWilliams
Department of WI President
815-999-9214
mrsffiiemt@gmail.com



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Department of Wisconsin
Veterans and Family Support



April Bulletin 2026 www.vfwauxwi.org

Mental Wellness

Every day, **20 veterans die by suicide**, a staggering and heartbreaking reality. The VFW is committed to changing the narrative around mental health and breaking the stigma that keeps too many veterans from seeking help.

To raise awareness, strengthen community engagement, advance research, and support those living with invisible injuries and emotional stress, the VFW partners with several leading national organizations — Give an Hour, Campaign to Change Direction, One Mind, PatientsLikeMe, and the Elizabeth Dole Foundation. Together, we work to confront this critical issue and expand access to meaningful support.

How would we like to get involved?

The Campaign to Change Direction

This national initiative is focused on transforming the culture of mental health in America. It challenges stigma and encourages everyone to recognize the ****Five Signs**** that may indicate someone is experiencing emotional pain and needs support.

Elizabeth Dole Foundation

Founded after witnessing the profound challenges faced by caregivers of wounded warriors, the Elizabeth Dole Foundation raises public awareness, drives research, champions policy, and uplifts America's military caregivers and their families.

One Mind

One Mind is dedicated to improving the lives of people affected by brain illness and injury. With a strong focus on traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress, the organization advances cutting-edge neuropsychiatric research to improve diagnostic tools and treatments. Their work also extends to patient-centered services and nationwide efforts to reduce stigma and discrimination through education and media.

Jody McKinney studebaker1971@gmail.com - **Veterans and Family Support Chairman**

Our National Ambassador's theme for 2025-2026 "*A rising tide lifts all veterans to success!*"

Our Department Presidents theme is "*We rise by lifting others!*"





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Patriotic Instructor/Americanism
APRIL 2026 Bulletin
Sally Lamers
sslamers@gmail.com
920.475.0789



Your AMERICANISM End of Year Report was to be **POSTMARKED BY APRIL 1st** and mailed to your **DISTRICT PRESIDENT.**

She/He has to get it to me, and I have a hard deadline to send it on so please do not hold things up.

Do not send to me, send to your District President.

**DEPARTMENT WI VFW
AUXILIARY CONVENTION**

will be on

June 10-13 at the

Holiday Inn, Rothchild

PLEASE (PLEASE PLEASE)

attend so you can be a part of the "Parade of Flags". (Date is to be determined, the agenda is not yet complete.)

Everything will be provided; we just need YOU to make it happen.



It is my hope at least one member of every Auxiliary in the Department participates in this event.

This past year you made me proud to have been the Dept WI Americanism Chair. Each of you should be equally proud of your achievements.

Thank you for all you do!



VFW Wisconsin National Home, est 1925

Mission Statement: "The VFW National Home assists military, veterans, and their families with children, by creating a foundation of services and resources to achieve their personal and family goals in order to move forward in a positive, safe and healthy environment."

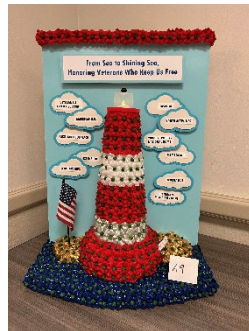
Our National Home Fall Festival trip will be October 23-25th, 2026 in Eaton Rapids Michigan. Our theme this year will be Hocus Pocus! Department of WI will be hosting the noon meal and games for the children. Lunch menu will be pizza, brats, hot dogs, chips and drinks. Plan to pack some treat bags to hand out to the kids. We will set up and run 6 games for the kids. People and prizes are needed for the game area. More information to come!

Louise Engness, Department National Home Chairman



The "Buddy"® Poppy represents the blood shed by American military service members and reminds us of their sacrifices. In 1924, the VFW registered the name "Buddy"® Poppy with the U.S. Patent Office.

The Winners of the Mid Winter Buddy Poppy contest, Buddy Poppy contest had 19 entries.
1st place-8483 Truax-Longmire; 2nd place-1038 Chippewa Falls; 3rd place-10262 Plover



Plan your display for the Department convention!

Now is the time to start planning your Auxiliaries Buddy Poppy distribution. Plan dates, get permission to distribute at a location, have plenty of volunteers, smiles and poppies to distribute!

Never refuse anyone a poppy because they are unable to contribute.
A POPPY ON ANYONE'S LAPEL HONORS ALL VETERANS!

Remember that Distribution of buddy poppies should be included in every post, district or department activity, or anything in which you participate! Such as membership drives, patriotic events or even your bingo night or special meals or burger night gatherings!

Remember to take pictures of Buddy Poppy Distribution, most enthusiastic, well-dressed and branded VFW to win! Send Pictures to wagnerla4@gmail.com

Louise Engness, Department Buddy Poppy Chairman

**REGISTRATION FOR BUDDY POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST
ANNUAL STATE/DEPARTMENT CONVENTION**

Post and/or Auxiliary Number _____ City _____

Category (1,2, or 3) _____ Display No. Leave Blank _____

Number of Poppies used in Display _____ (where display is entered in Category 3 & is a sample of a number of identical items, only one item needs to be displayed, but indicate the number of such items used and the total number of Poppies used.)

Name of Person/Persons responsible for setting up & taking down the display.

If you are the top winner in one of the three categories, do you wish to have your display entered in the National Contest? If yes, you will be responsible for having the display transported to the National Convention. In case the winners cannot get their display to the National Convention, the VFW and VFWA Chairmen will pick a substitute.

YES _____ NO _____

Your Signature & Title _____

NOTE: This entry form must accompany your display to the designated area at the State/ Department Convention prior to 12:00 noon on Friday of the Convention week. If entering a display in more than one category, prepare a separate copy of this form for each display.

**BUDDY POPPY ANNUAL CONVENTION AWARDS PROGRAM
BUDDY POPPY DISPLAY CONTEST**

1. Will follow State/Department Rules
2. Judges Award for **“MOST IMPRESSIVE”-\$25.00 State/Department Convention Only**
3. 1st, 2nd,3rd place awards in each category-**State/Department Convention Only**
4. 1st place in each category will be entitled to represent the State/Department of Wisconsin in the National Convention Contest

DISPLAY CONTEST CASH AWARDS-ANNUAL STATE/DEPARTMENT CONVENTION

CATEGORY	1	2	3
1st Place	\$75.00	\$75.00	\$75.00
2nd Place	\$50.00	\$50.00	\$50.00
3rd Place	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$25.00

Department of Wisconsin VFW Auxiliary
April 2026
Hospital Chairman Report

As you are reading this I am reading through your year-end reports and making sure that the Auxiliary members who volunteered this year receive recognition.

If you want to become a volunteer and need some help getting started please let me know, if you don't think you have time to volunteer – think again! An hour or two helping to play bingo, serving coffee and treats for an hour or two, taking residents to their doctor appointments or church or planned activity an hour or two! That is all it takes to get started or to help out where needed.

When you give of your time it gives so much to those who receive your kindness, removes just a few minutes of stress from their daily lives and hopefully is replaced with many more minutes of happiness.

Do you know of a friend or neighbor or a student looking for something to do – let them know they can be a volunteer and brighten the lives of a veteran or someone who is hospitalized. If you do not have a Veteran's Hospital or Veteran Nursing Home or Veteran Facility near where you live – check out a Nursing Home or a Hospital that they can volunteer at.

Just because this year is about to end in the next couple months doesn't mean that you should stop volunteering or doing what you like to do.

Do you have ideas that you would like to share with others about volunteering? Please forward to me and I will pass on to our Hospital Volunteers that they might be able to use.

The Baby Shower that was held in February instead of January due to the very cold temperatures was a "Wonderful Success" due to all of the items donated from throughout the state and also to the cash donations so that we could purchase locally!! Pat yourself on the back if you or your Auxiliary donated to this event. "See, you can volunteer – even from home". The families who were present at the baby shower were so overcome with joy to see what they were able to take home for their little ones. It was a great time. "Thank You All!!!"

Being a Volunteer is not just for Auxiliary Members – Talk to your Post Members to see if any of them would like to become a Volunteer! There are fishing tournaments, fishing clinics, bowling, and many other opportunities for VFW and Auxiliary members and those who are not members of the VFW and VFWA.

Hospital Chairman
Laura Coffin
Laurie2bk@gmail.com
605-792-1422



**Veterans of Foreign Wars
Department of Wisconsin
April Membership Bulletin**



YOU ARE AWESOME

A friend the other day showed me a tumbler similar to the one above. At times we all need validation that what we are doing matters and is appreciated. IT DOES AND YOU DO! Just like George Bailey (It's A Wonderful Life) discovered our Veterans, their families and our communities would be totally different without us there. We make a difference every day.

The VFW Auxiliary is an essential component of the organization and vital in us being able to fulfill our mission – No One Does More for Veterans and Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes. We need to:

RECRUIT – REINSTATE – RETAIN

our members to stay healthy. As I write this, we only need 91 more members to be 100% in current members, though we are already 101% in paid members.

Hopefully we'll get a real spring instead of the "teasers" we've been having and we can get out to check up on our members that they have what they need and bring in those new and reinstated to help fulfill our mission. Give it your all in the next two months, remember you're awesome and our Veterans and their families need us!

Sr. Vice President Charlene Cobb

Membership Chair

ckcand2k9@yahoo.com

262-348-6547

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary

Department of Wisconsin

National Scholarships

March 31st was your deadline to receive works of art from area students. You were to immediately judge them and submit your auxiliary winning entry to the Department. I need all the entries by April 15th (as if April 15th wasn't taxing enough!). This includes any 3-Dimensional art pieces. Remember, these are 2 separate contests. Contact me to make arrangements to get them to me on time. We don't want to disappoint any student by missing the deadline.

I look forward to viewing all the amazing work our students create and to meet the creator of the winning entries at Department convention in June.

All of your year-end reports are also due at this time. Look for them on the state website under Programs/year-end-reports. Information I receive on these reports will help determine which auxiliaries will receive an award.

“From Sea to Shining Sea, Honoring Veterans who Keep us Free” as “We Rise by Lifting Others”.

Marge Southworth
National Scholarships Chairman
Dept. of Wisconsin Jr. Vice President
715.551.3487
Dmsouth2228@yahoo.com

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary
Department of Wisconsin
April S'more News
Ways and Means

Hello Sisters and Brothers,

Countdown to a Hundred Calendar Raffle

The *Countdown to a Hundred Calendar Raffles* were distributed at Mid-Winter. Please check with your District President to be sure your Auxiliary has received them.

We encourage you to share and sell these calendars with your friends and family. There are **34 chances to win**, and **winning tickets are re-entered for future drawings**, so every ticket stays eligible for all remaining drawings. This is a great way to support our Department Auxiliary while giving participants multiple chances to win.

Please remember that **all calendars are due at your Spring meeting**, so be sure to reach out to friends and family soon.

Thank you for helping support our Department Auxiliary!

Fill the Boot – Fundraising Reminder

There is still time to participate in our **“Fill the Boot”** fundraising initiative. Please consider placing a boot in your community to help raise funds and awareness.

All funds must be received by **Lenore at the office by May 1, 2026.**

Payment Details:

- Make checks payable to: **VFWA-WI**
- Memo line: **Fill the Boot**



If placing a boot in your community is not possible, please consider other alternatives such as organizing a small fundraiser or making a donation from your auxiliary.

Thank you for supporting this effort and helping make a difference in our communities.

“WE RISE BY LIFTING OTHERS”

“FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA HONORING VETERANS WHO KEEP US FREE”

The Way and Means Team

Jennifer, Aimee, Lerline and Barbara

Jmauritz922@gmail.com

fancysbags12@gmail.com

rohaas4@gmail.com

stillmanb@att.net

VFW Auxiliary
Department of Wisconsin
100
YEARS
1914-2014

We Rise by Lifting Others
WI VFW Auxiliary Raffle
Count Down to “Celebrating a Hundred”

President Kim McWilliams invites you to join the countdown to “Celebrating a Hundred” and help us be there for our Veterans and their families for another hundred by purchasing tickets for this raffle.

We are “Celebrating a Hundred” years of helping veterans and families this year and we will be holding drawings on the days as shown on the calendar shown below.

Thank you for supporting the Wisconsin VFW Auxiliary.

Your ticket will be in every drawing. Winning tickets are re-entered for future drawings. Drawings will be held at Noon on the days noted on the calendar at the Treasurer’s office located at 1383 W Wisconsin Ave, Oconomowoc, WI.

Prize money will be mailed weekly. Proceeds go to the WI VFW General Fund. Winner’s name and ticket number will be published on our website, www.wfvwauxil.org. Only 1,300 tickets to be sold!

Ticket Price: \$20

All Calendar must be turned in at district Spring meetings, to your District President, these may not be mailed. All entries must be to Lenore Otto before May 15, 2026, NO late entries will be allowed.

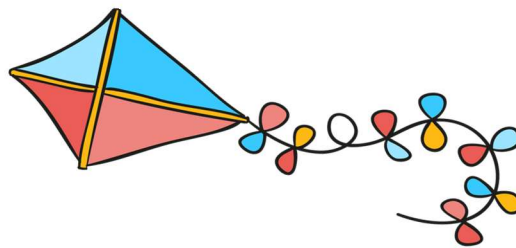
May 18, 2025- June 5, 2026							
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	
May 18 12 \$20	May 19 24 \$20	May 20 31 \$20	May 21 24 \$20	May 22 24 \$100	May 23 24 \$100	May 24 24	May 25
May 25 24 \$20	May 26 14 \$100	May 27 14 \$20	May 28 24 \$100	May 29 24 \$20	May 30 24	May 31 24	May 31
June 1 14 \$20	June 2 24 \$20	June 3 24 \$100	June 4 24 \$20	June 5 24 \$100	June 6 24	June 7 24	June 8

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

April 2026

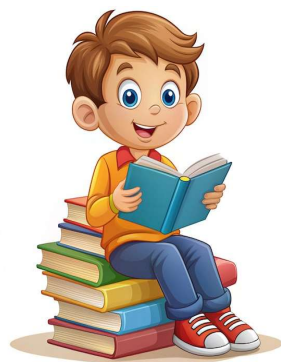
VFW Auxiliary – Department of Wisconsin

Patty Jansky, Chairman / pajansky@charter.net



ILLUSTRATING AMERICA CONTEST

Thank you to our Auxiliaries for the wonderful **Illustrating America Contest** entries that you forwarded to me. Hopefully, you'll be able to recognize your local winners in some special way. The Department of Wisconsin judging will be completed during April and those first-place winners will soon be on their way to National. **Go, Wisconsin!**



READING BUDDIES and PATRIOTISM THROUGH LITURGY

Have you found your special reading buddy yet? As Shannon Stanley, our National Youth Activities Ambassador, says, "Are you shining a light on reading by volunteering to listen to a child read? Remember, any Auxiliary member can participate in this project and make an impact on a child's life." Sharing patriotic stories together can make this reading experience even more meaningful!

YOUTH AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

Before we know it, schools will close their doors for the summer and our youth will be off on their various vacation adventures. While we still have a chance, let's remember to say, "**Thank You**" and "**Good Job**" to them for supporting our veterans, showing patriotism, and being kind and helpful to others. Acknowledging their good deeds will show that we appreciate them and will encourage them to do more! Check out these award options that are on our WI VFW Auxiliary website under the Youth Activities Program or on MALTA Member Resources:

- **Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans Citations**
- **Individual Patriotic Youth Awards**
- **Youth Acts of Kindness Certificates**
- **Random Act of Patriotism (R.A.P.) Cards**

Working with our youth is a win-win partnership for us all!



**DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES TO DEPARTMENT CONVENTION
VFW AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF WISCONSIN**

DIST #: _____ AUX# _____ AUX. NAME: _____ CITY: _____

AUXILIARY SECRETARY: Immediately following your election of Delegates and Alternates to the Department Convention, to be held June 10-13 in Rothschild, WI, please complete this form. It is **YOUR** duty to mail/email this form to the **DEPARTMENT SECRETARY, Faith Elford, 1414 Montclair Place, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538** or Secretary@vfwauxwi.org

PLEASE NOTE: NO CREDENTIALS will be mailed to your Auxiliary. **ONLY THOSE** Presidents, Delegates and Alternates attending the Convention will receive credentials at the Convention. Please elect those people who plan on going to the Convention first...and then fill in with ones that are undecided.

NOTICE: Delegates and Alternates to the Department Convention shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Auxiliary held not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Department Convention; one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate for each thirty (30) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Auxiliary at the time of the election of Delegates. Sec. 303 page 33-34 of the 2026 National Bylaws.

Date of Election _____ Number of Members dues paid on date of election _____

DELEGATES

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

ALTERNATES

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____

President

(Auxiliary Secretary)

Sr. Vice President

(Secretary's Address)

Jr. Vice President

(City, State & Zip Code)



NOT ACCEPTED BEFORE APRIL 1, NOR AFTER MAY 31
of the Current Calendar Year

**NATIONAL CONVENTION
OFFICIAL DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES**

~~DO NOT SEND THIS FORM IN IF NAMES HAVE BEEN INPUT ONLINE~~

TO: National Secretary
VFW Auxiliary
406 West 34th Street, 10th Floor
Kansas City, Missouri 64111

FROM: AUXILIARY NO. _____ DEPARTMENT OF _____
AUXILIARY NAME _____
CITY AND STATE _____

Per Section 304 of the National Bylaws, "Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention shall be elected at the last regular meeting in April; one for each thirty-five (35) members or fraction thereof in good standing on March 31. The VFW Auxiliary Secretary shall provide the names of the Delegates and Alternates to the National Secretary, along with their membership ID number, within thirty (30) calendar days of the day of election" and no later than MAY 31. The Auxiliary Secretary is asked to input his or her Auxiliary's Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) online in MALTA via use of their respective membership ID number(s) and to print out a copy of the Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for his or her records.

This is to certify that the Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) listed below were duly elected to represent our VFW Auxiliary at the upcoming National Convention on _____ based on the total VFW Auxiliary membership as of MARCH 31 in the MALTA System.

ID Number and Name ARE REQUIRED to complete this form.
TYPE or PRINT NEATLY each Delegate's or Alternate's ID NUMBER and NAME.

~DELEGATE CREDENTIALS WILL BE ISSUED AT CONVENTION SITE UPON CHECK-IN.~

DELEGATES		ALTERNATES	
ID NUMBER	MEMBER'S FIRST AND LAST NAME	ID NUMBER	MEMBER'S FIRST AND LAST NAME
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

(Auxiliary Secretary) (Address) (City, State & Zip Code)

NOTE: This is a listing only. (NO CHECKS ARE TO BE INCLUDED WITH THIS FORM.)

INPUT INTO MALTA OR MAIL TO DEPARTMENT SECRETARY BY JUNE 30th 2026 - 2027

Installation Report for Auxiliaries/Districts (short form)

If you cannot put it into MALTA yourself, email to: Secretary@vfwauxwi.org
 or mail to: Faith Elford, Dept. Secretary

1414 Montclair Place, Fort Atkinson, WI 53538

Mail as soon as possible after Installation.

The following information about the Auxiliary's meetings is required:

Date of Installation: _____ Continuous Annual Dues Per Member: \$ _____
 Meeting Date: 1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____ 4th _____ Last _____ (select Date)
 Meeting Day: Mon. _____ Tues. _____ Wed. _____ Thurs. _____ Fri. _____ Sat. _____ Sun. _____ (select Day)
 Meeting Time: _____ A.M. _____ P.M. _____ (select A.M. or P.M.)
 Meeting Place: _____
 Meeting Street Address: _____ Meeting City: _____ Meeting State and ZIP: _____,
 Phone No. of Meeting Place: (_____) _____ **Please note offices/positions denoted with an asterisk (*) listed below are REQUIRED.**

President*	Member ID No.	Auxiliary No.	First Name	Last Name	Email Address		
Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Primary Phone Number (Home/Cell/Work)			
				Home	Cell	Work	
Senior-Vice President*	Member ID No.	Auxiliary No.	First Name	Last Name	Email Address		
Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Primary Phone Number (Home/Cell/Work)			
				Home	Cell	Work	
Junior-Vice President*	Member ID No.	Auxiliary No.	First Name	Last Name	Email Address		
Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Primary Phone Number (Home/Cell/Work)			
				Home	Cell	Work	

INPUT INTO MALTA OR MAIL TO DEPARTMENT SECRETARY BY JUNE 30th

Installation Report for Auxiliaries/Districts (short form)

Secretary*	Member ID No.	Auxiliary No.	First Name	Last Name	Email Address
Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Primary Phone Number (Home/Cell/Work)	Home Cell Work
Treasurer*	Member ID No.	Auxiliary No.	First Name	Last Name	Email Address
Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Primary Phone Number (Home/Cell/Work)	Home Cell Work
Trustee No. 3*	Member ID No.	Auxiliary No.	First Name	Last Name	Email Address
Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Primary Phone Number (Home/Cell/Work)	Home Cell Work
Trustee No. 2*	Member ID No.	Auxiliary No.	First Name	Last Name	Email Address
Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Primary Phone Number (Home/Cell/Work)	Home Cell Work
Trustee No. 1*	Member ID No.	Auxiliary No.	First Name	Last Name	Email Address
Mailing Address	City	State	Zip Code	Primary Phone Number (Home/Cell/Work)	Home Cell Work

The Installing Officer certifies that he/she is a Past Auxiliary President or held higher elective Auxiliary office; or he/she is a Past Post Commander or held higher elective Post office; and all Bylaws and Regulations have been complied with according to National and Department Headquarters.

Signature of Installing Officer _____

Title of Installing Officer _____

Date _____