## **MEMBERSHIP - DOES IT REALLY MATTER?**

## December 25/January 26 Bulletin

Membership affects us all; from the local Auxiliary all the way to the National level. Locally we are best in a position to know the needs of our Veterans and their families in our communities and what we can do to assist them. When we work in tandem with our Post, we are a force that is not easily dissuaded or defeated.

As we move up the organization it is about tensile strength (the maximum strength a "body" can withstand before it breaks). One person alone or even 5, 10, or 15 can be ignored or overwhelmed and therefore fail in the mission to "care for those who have borne the battle and their widows and orphans" ~ A. Lincoln. However, when we band together, we can accomplish phenomenal achievements. There is "tensile" strength in numbers!

The Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary are organizations that takes care of veterans and their family that need assistance not just financially, but we also take veterans for hospital visits, to the store, we build ramps, do some minor repairs on homes, and visit veterans who are shut in just to mention a few things. We support our communities as well as so much more.

The VFW leadership reaches out to congress making sure our Veterans never lose the benefits they were promised when they served our country. Additionally, we are committed to ensuring our young people understand our service and sacrifice and learn to be responsible Americans that will care for our country as we do.

A comrade said recently, "it was one of those moments that reminds you why bringing people together matters. Everyone in the room came with real experience, strong knowledge, and a unique way of looking at the same problems.... I'm grateful to sit with people who can challenge each other without losing the shared goal. When everyone brings something different to the table, the work gets better, the outcomes get clearer, and the mission becomes easier to move forward."

For one hundred years the Wisconsin VFW Auxiliary has stood with the Post, the District, the Department and the National Organizations to provide for the relief of those who fought in defense of our country and those depending on them who may need our aid. Ours is a great work, lasting throughout life; for so long as there are Veterans, so long will our work continue. We have an obligation to continue this legacy that has been given us. To that end it is critical that we reach out to retain our current members, reinstate our lapsed members, and recruit new ones. Let's continue to grow our organization to ensure our voices are never silenced."

Membership - Does it really matter? YES, YES, YES!!!

Charlene Cobb, Sr. Vice President Membership Chairman ckcand2k9@yahoo.com (262) 348-6547