



February 11, 2025

Comrades and Auxiliary Members,

As members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and its Auxiliary, we are bound by the principles and guidelines set forth in our National Bylaws. One of the most fundamental aspects of our organizational structure is the adherence to the chain of command, which ensures that all issues and concerns are addressed at the most appropriate and effective level.

It is imperative that all members, Posts, and Auxiliaries first seek resolution of concerns through their respective Districts and Departments before escalating matters to National Headquarters or National Officers. Our Department Commanders and Auxiliary Department Presidents are entrusted with the responsibility to oversee and manage issues within their jurisdictions. They possess the experience, knowledge, and authority to handle concerns efficiently and in accordance with our bylaws, policies, and procedures.

By following this structured approach, we accomplish several key objectives:

1. **Efficiency and Expediency** – Addressing issues at the District and Department levels allows for quicker resolution, as these leaders are familiar with local circumstances and can respond in a timely manner.
2. **Preservation of Organizational Integrity** – Ensuring adherence to the chain of command fosters unity and respect within our organization, reinforcing the effectiveness of our leadership structure.
3. **Reduction of Unnecessary Burdens** – National Headquarters and National Officers handle strategic and overarching matters affecting the entire organization. Resolving issues at the local level minimizes the need for their involvement in matters that can and should be addressed by District and Department leaders.
4. **Empowerment of Leadership** – Trusting and supporting our Department Commanders and Auxiliary Department Presidents in their duties strengthens their ability to lead and uphold the values of the VFW and its Auxiliary.

All members are reminded that bypassing the proper channels disrupts the structure designed to serve our organization effectively. Should a matter remain unresolved after all proper avenues have been exhausted at the District and Department levels, then escalation to National Headquarters may be appropriate. However, the vast majority of concerns can and should be managed by those closest to the issue.

We appreciate your cooperation and commitment to ensuring the integrity and efficiency of our organization. By working together and following the proper channels, we can continue to serve our veterans, their families, and our communities with the excellence that defines the VFW and its Auxiliary.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Dan West'.

Dan West  
Adjutant General

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Ann Panteleakos'.

Ann Panteleakos  
Auxiliary National Secretary-Treasurer

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