



VFW, Auxiliary Still Going Strong After 74 Years

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"VFW stands for Very Few Workers!" joked Hufnagel.

Ideas are bounced around among members which leads to planning, setting up, preparation and serving. Dinners are advertised by means of posters, newspaper and media contacts.

"In recent years it has become increasingly difficult to contact members for volunteer help if they do not have telephone directory listing," stated Hufnagel.

Between the Post and Auxiliary there are approximately 280 members. However, many of the men and women are getting older. It continues to be a challenge to attract younger members.

"It is a goal to remain a viable business on Front Street and to be accommodating to our membership. We want to serve Veterans and their families as well as the community of Barnesville in any way possible."

For every Veteran, there are eight people who qualify for Auxiliary membership.

"There is a saying in the Auxiliary, there are those who could join and won't and those who want to and can't,"



Membership suppers are held each year at the VFW. Members enjoy a supper and program. The building which houses the VFW club rooms on Front Street is open to the public except for membership suppers and other special membership meetings.

commented Hufnagel.

Men were welcomed into the Auxiliary several years ago. Spouses, even widow or widower spouse, parents, grandparents, sons, daughters, grandchildren, brothers and sisters are eligible for membership through a Veteran who has served in any foreign war.

The objects of the Auxiliary is fraternal, patriotic, historical,

charitable and educational; to assist the Posts and members whenever possible; to maintain true allegiance to the government of the United States and fidelity to its constitution and laws. Finally to foster true patriotism and maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom and equal rights and justice to all men and women. The role of both the VFW and Auxiliary is to preserve and defend the United States of America from all her enemies.

Most of the current members served in Vietnam or Korea while in military service.

Officers of the VFW Post are Commander Kevin Hufnagel, Senior Vice Commander Lee Cox; Junior Vice Commander Clifford Langerud; Adjutant John Iverson; Quartermaster Wilbert Scheffler; and Chaplain Ronald Morey.

Auxiliary officers are President Rebecca Stout; Senior Vice President Mary Ann Scheffler; Junior Vice President Elaine Isaak; Secretary Phyllis Mulari; Treasurer Jean Carver and Chaplain Marlene Schell.

The Barnesville VFW enjoys an excellent relationship between the Post and Auxiliary, each helping the other.

"This rapport is a key to our success as many other Posts have folded due to power-minded individuals causing hard feelings with the Auxiliary or making bad

decisions," said Hufnagel.

When a Post's charter is pulled, the Auxiliary must follow although National is presently "talking" about allowing Auxiliaries to stand alone in the future.

The VFW and Auxiliary really strive to continue to be a vital part of the Barnesville community.

Post 4628 is a member of Barnesville Main Street Program and supports Showcase and Show N Shine. The facility is open to Potato Day events.

The VFW alternates with the American Legion to plan the annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day observances in Barnesville.

The VFW also has scholarship opportunities for local youth. The Auxiliary works with Thursday Nite Lions helping with the annual Halloween party for children. The annual father and daughter Butterfly Dance is another activity they promote.

The Auxiliary helps sponsor LEAD (Law Enforcement Appreciation Day) every January 9. Donations are given to Friends of the Library; Miss Barnesville program; and usually any other worthwhile cause requesting monetary support.

Bi-monthly bingo sessions are sponsored at Valley Care and Golden Manor to provide entertainment for residents.

Every Memorial Day week end the Auxiliary places approximately 500 flags on the graves of veterans. Over \$1,000 is donated every year to veterans causes including the Fargo VA Hospital and Fergus Falls Veterans Home.

The VFW and Auxiliary also contribute to other funds across the country including the National Home for Children in Eaton Rapids, MI; Armed Forces Service Center; Freedom Flight POW/MIA hot air balloon awareness; Gladys Ray House; Fisher House; Wreaths Across America; Veterans and Family Support; and Cancer Grant Fund.

The Cancer Grant Fund supports members coping with cancer and endeavors to provide a gas card to community members known to be incurring expenses for cancer treatment.

It is estimated 22 soldiers take their lives every day thus Suicide Prevention Awareness is promoted.

Last spring the Auxiliary sponsored a very successful spaghetti feed with all proceeds going to the

Brian Oberg Legacy Foundation for veterans coping with PTSD.

The VFW and Auxiliary is a vital part of the community. Any veteran who is eligible would be a welcome

addition to the group.

VFW and Auxiliary members are proud of what they can accomplish and appreciate the support of the community.



Auxiliary members Mary Ann Scheffler, left, Phyllis Mulari, center and LaVonne Heng, right, served refreshments at the Butterfly Dance held in February. They work with the Thursday Nite Lions to put on the event.



In February, Valentines were assembled for the Valley Care and Golden Manor residents by Auxiliary members, left to right, Ron Johnson, Marlene Schell, Jean Carver and Florence Johnson. Auxiliary is open to men as well as women. Ron Johnson is one of five male members of Barnesville's Auxiliary. He was able to join under the eligibility of his son, Stephen.

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