

# Becoming the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary...

NEW! ~ [www.vfwauxiliary.org](http://www.vfwauxiliary.org)

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES

Thank you for your patience as we have compiled the necessary information in order to make this transition as smooth as possible. The following documents are to help your Auxiliary, District, County Council and Department make the appropriate changes so that we can follow state and national laws and guidelines.

Included in this packet:

- 3 sheets of new membership cards; there is also a digital version available online behind login under “Officer Tools”
- “What Your Auxiliary and Department Need to Do with the Name Change”
- Copy of the VFW Bylaw change
- Sample letters to the IRS for both incorporated and non-incorporated organizations; there is also a fillable PDF online behind login under “Officer Tools”
- One copy of the new Membership Application, which may be copied; there is also a digital version available on the website

Things to know:

1. New Eligibility Chart: These individuals are eligible if they are this relation to a person who is or was eligible for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. See the VFW Eligibility Guide in the Bylaws.

Husbands/Wives	Fathers/Mothers	Sons/Daughters	Brothers/Sisters
Widowers/ Widows	Grandfathers/ Grandmothers	Grandsons/ Granddaughters	

2. Please note that though “step children” was removed from the eligibility language, they are still eligible. Per VFW ruling, step children are children [Sons/Daughters]. There is to be no distinction between them.
3. The minimum age requirement has NOT changed. Applicants must still be a minimum of 16 years of age.
4. You can print off an updated Membership Application on the Resources page of the website or behind login under “Officer Tools”. These now include check boxes for male and female. The nicer printed version is in process and will be available soon for request.
5. From now forward, please use the new emblem (shown above) which is available behind login in the Emblem Branding Center. Please delete all other versions of the emblem from your files and only use this one going forward.
6. The VFW Store will have discounts on items needed for regular business meetings, such as seals, with the new name and emblem. Please see the Store for more information.
7. Please remember that this change has nothing do with nor did it affect the formation or membership of Men’s Auxiliaries. All questions about the Men’s Auxiliary should be directed to the VFW. It must be noted that an individual who is eligible for both the Men’s Auxiliary and the VFW Auxiliary may have memberships in both.
8. An individual who is eligible for the Veterans of Foreign Wars is NOT eligible for the VFW Auxiliary.

9. All eligible men and women seeking membership in the organization must fill out an application, be investigated, voted on and accepted. All accepted members in good standing have all the same rights and privileges.
10. Same-sex marriage has been accepted for many years (based on each state's law), and is now extended to all same-sex marriages because of the Supreme Court's ruling making same-sex marriage legal nationwide.
11. All current membership cards, both Life and Annual, are valid and will remain so.
12. Those members who become Life Members from August 21, 2015, forward will receive the new plastic Life Membership card. A revised metal Life Membership card will be available through the VFW Store.

We wish you the best as we move forward with this historic change! We can't wait to help you welcome the newest members of the organization so that we can all better serve veterans, active-duty military and their families!

-National Headquarters

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