

VFW Auxiliary Acronyms and Common Terminology



ACH (Automated Clearing House) – Electronic funds-transfer system that enables electronic transfers of money in the United States. The ACH network acts as a financial hub and helps people and organizations move money from one bank account to another. ACH transactions consist of direct deposits and direct payments, including business to business transactions, government transactions and consumer transactions. (source: Investopedia.com)

Ambassador – The National Ambassadors are appointed annually by the National President. The Ambassadors communicate and promote National Program goals to Department (state) Chairmen and the membership at large.

Attention – Physical position of standing with hands at side, head up with eyes looking straight ahead.

Auxiliary – The local unit of the VFW Auxiliary organization; also, the shortened term for all levels of the organization.

Booklet of Instructions – Yellow pages within the Podium Edition: Bylaws and Ritual; a manual of internal policy and procedures for the Auxiliary (all levels).

Bylaws – The Auxiliary's rules and procedures. The Bylaws include the purpose of the Auxiliary, membership criteria, how Delegates are elected, the duties of Officers at all levels of the Organization, information on the Organizational image and the discipline of members, among other topics. Available for purchase from the VFW Store. The Podium Edition book may be accessed online in MALTA under Member Resources.

CDCE – Department of Veterans Affairs Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE). See VAVS for more information.

COE (Circle of Excellence) – A premier group of Department Presidents who have proven their leadership. The program replaced the former Outstanding Department President awards and gives every Department President the opportunity to achieve National recognition for their hard work. When a Department President achieves the Circle of Excellence, they remain in the Circle forever.

COA – Department Level (Council of Administration – Department Level) – The Council of Administration approves the Department budget and the audit of the Auditing Committee, proposes and approves expenditures outside Department Standing Rules, Budget and Bylaws, and represents, in all matters, the Department Convention in the interval between its sessions.

The Council of Administration of a Department consists of the Department President, Senior-Vice President, Junior Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, Chaplain, Conductor, Guard, Chief of Staff, District Presidents and the four immediate Past Department Presidents, and all Past National Presidents, elected National Officers and the National District Council Member in their own Department. (See National Bylaws Sec. 608 for specific information.)

Delegate – An Auxiliary member elected annually by fellow members to represent their Auxiliary at the District, Department or National level.

Department – The VFW Auxiliary National Organization is organized into 50 Departments, with one representing each of the 50 states. The Department is the liaison between National Headquarters and Auxiliaries, and Districts and relays information to all levels.

District – Geographic area within a Department. Districts are liaisons between Auxiliaries and Departments and relay information to both.

EIN (Employer Identification Number) – A nine-digit number assigned by the IRS used to identify the tax accounts of employers and certain others who have no employees. An EIN is needed to open a checking account in the name of the Auxiliary.

EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer) – A transaction that takes place over a computerized network, either among accounts at the same bank or to different accounts at separate financial institutions. EFTs include direct debit transactions, wire transfers, direct deposits, ATM withdrawals and online bill pay services. Transactions are processed through the Automated Clearing House (ACH) network, the secure transfer system of the Federal Reserve that connects all U.S. banks, credit unions and other financial institutions. (source: investinganswers.com)

Floor Work – Ritualistic movements performed on the floor during a traditional Auxiliary meeting at all levels. Floor work is not done during a roundtable or contemporary meeting.

Health & Happiness (H&H) Fund – The Health & Happiness fund supports families living at the VFW National Home as well as those facilities built by the VFW Auxiliary.

MAL – Member-at-Large can be Department Member-at-Large or National Member-at-Large. These are members that do not belong to a specific Auxiliary.

National District Council – The National District Council is comprised of Auxiliary members that are elected by the Department(s) (state(s)) they represent and serve a single two-year term as a National District Council Member (NDCM). The twenty-nine (29) member National District Council is the ruling body between National Conventions, and the National District Council Members are the voice of the members from the Department(s) they represent. The Council functions similarly to a board of directors or a board of trustees.

Official Visit – Official visit by a District President/Assigned Officer/Department President to an Auxiliary. The District President/Assigned Officer is to ensure that the Office of the President is bonded, the installation report has been submitted to Department and National Headquarters and is to review and sign both the books of the Secretary and Treasurer, among other duties.

Parade Rest – The physical position of moving the left foot slightly to the side while bringing the arms to the small of the back. The left thumb is placed in the palm of the right hand. The head is bowed slightly during the prayer.

Patriotic Art – The VFW Auxiliary's Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest in 2-D and 3-D is for students in grades 9-12.

PDP – Past Department President; one who has served the Organization as Department (state) President.

Per Diem – A daily allowance for expenses; a specific amount of money the Auxiliary gives an individual to cover expenses when traveling for Auxiliary business.

PNP – Past National President; one who has served the Organization as National President.

Patriot's Pen or PP – The VFW's Patriot's Pen youth essay contest for students in grades 6-8.

Program – Outline of resources designed to bring needed services, information and assistance to veterans, active-duty military and their families, and our communities. The National Organization has eleven (11) programs: Americanism; Auxiliary Outreach; Buddy Poppy/National Home; Extension & Revitalization; Historian; Hospital; Legislative; Membership; Scholarships; Veterans & Family Support; and Youth Activities.

Project – A task or event within a Program.

PSA (Public Service Announcement) – A message broadcast or published by the media at no charge. PSAs must include information that raises social or community awareness of a topic or event; it doesn't just promote the Auxiliary's image in the community. Many PSAs are about health, safety and scholarship issues.

Ritual – Activities unique to the Auxiliary, including how meetings are conducted, officer installations and special ceremonies, including the member initiation and memorial service.

Salute:

Heart Salute – When salute is used, Auxiliary members who are not veterans shall rise, face the Flag and salute the Flag by placing the palm of the right hand over the heart.

Military Salute (veterans) – When salute is used, Auxiliary members who are veterans shall rise, face the Flag and salute the Flag by raising the right hand, keeping the fingers together, until the tip of the forefinger touches the outside edge of the right eyebrow.

SOI (School of Instruction) – A training event put on by a Department near the start of each program year.

VAVS (Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service) – The Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) program, established in 1946, is one of the largest volunteer programs in the Federal Government. Along with the VFW, the VFW Auxiliary is a charter member of this Veterans Health Administration (VHA) program. The mission of VAVS is to provide a structured volunteer program under the management of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) by supplementing VA employees and resources in cooperation with community resources to serve veterans and their families with dignity and compassion, playing a crucial role in all areas of patient care and support.

VOD – The VFW's Voice of Democracy audio-essay scholarship program for students in grades 9-12.