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VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES

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[www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) | [info@vfw.org](mailto:info@vfw.org)

August 3, 2015

Jan Owens, Secretary-Treasurer  
Ladies Auxiliary, VFW  
406 W 34<sup>th</sup> St.  
Kansas City, MO 64111

Dear Secretary-Treasurer Owens:

It is my esteemed pleasure to officially inform you that the delegates who attended and voted at the 116<sup>th</sup> National Convention demonstrated equality for all veterans, their spouses and family members by passing By-Law amendments that will effectively transform our national association known as the Ladies Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars into the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

This transformation makes suitable accommodations for the male spouses and male family members of all eligible service members to join the Auxiliary. I want to thank you for your hard work in helping these amendments pass by providing your insight as we developed suitable language, but must ask for your further support in ensuring this transition's success by reviewing and making necessary changes to the Auxiliary's By-Laws, Ritual, Rules and Regulations in order to make them consistent with the revised language of the VFW By-Laws and Manual of Procedure.

I have attached the revised language of the VFW's By-Laws and Manual of Procedure, but am also available should you need further help in implementing these changes. As it took the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary working in concert to successfully pass these changes, it is imperative more now than ever that we continue to work together to ensure these changes' implementation is a success. Thank you for your continued support and thank you for all that you do for our Nation's veterans and their families.

Sincerely,

John A. Biedrzycki, Jr.  
Commander-in-Chief

By: John E. Hamilton  
Adjutant General

JEH:DEP:jrd  
cc: Ladies Auxiliary National President

**NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.**

## ARTICLE XI—AUXILIARY

### **Sec. 1101—Organization, Disbandment, and Transition of Auxiliaries.**

*The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary is an incorporated national association of eligible members chartered by the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. Such association shall be subject to the jurisdiction of the National Convention of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, the Commander-in-Chief and the National Council of Administration.*

*The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary shall be governed by such By-Laws, Rules and Regulations and Ritual as may be adopted by it and by the lawful orders issued by the National Officers of the Auxiliary, provided such By-Laws, Rules and Regulations, Ritual and orders do not conflict with the Congressional Charter, By-Laws, Manual of Procedure or Ritual of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States or the lawful orders or directives of the National Convention, the Commander-in-Chief or the National Council of Administration of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.*

*The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary may issue charters to Department, District, County Council, and Post Auxiliaries, provided that the establishment of such Auxiliary shall have been approved by the respective Department, District, County Council or Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States and subject to its control. Formation, control and disbandment of auxiliaries as well as suspension or cancellation of charters shall be in the manner prescribed in the Manual of Procedure.*

*Auxiliary units approved and chartered prior to the adoption of these provisions shall be entitled to retain such unit's seal, uniforms, emblems, badges, and insignia so long as such seal, uniforms, emblems, badges, and insignia are serviceable and available, for a period of up to five-years following the adoption of this provision.*

*Auxiliary officers shall make such reports as may be required in the Manual of Procedure.*

### **Sec. 1102—Eligibility.**

*Membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary shall be limited to spouses, parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, children, and grandchildren of a person who was or is eligible for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States.*

*Persons eligible for membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States shall not be eligible for membership in the Auxiliary; however, members in good standing of the Auxiliary and the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States prior to August 20, 2015 may retain membership in both.*