



Best Communications Practices- VFW Posts & Auxiliaries

Debra Anderson
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Making Your Year a Success

- Put your team together
- Have a written plan - goals & calendar
- Have a communications plan
- Build relationships with key people

Communications Between Posts & Auxiliaries

- Minimum requirements -

30 days after assuming the office of President, an itemized report of the financials and membership status of the VFW Auxiliary will be given to the Post Commander.

Problems Between Posts & Auxiliaries

- Commanders & Presidents don't get along
- Disputes over methods, finances, or other issues
- No coordination - each acts independently
- Cliques or factions fight against each other

Set the Stage for Success

Promote Teamwork

- Set the example at Department level
- Meet with the Commander early on. Get to know each other.
- Look for & discuss shared goals.
 - Membership recruitment & retention
 - Recognition of veterans
 - Community Service
 - VFW Programs (Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, Teacher Awards, Buddy Poppies, MAP)

Set the Stage for Success

Promote Teamwork

- Schedule joint social events
- Deal effectively with conflict or difficult people
 - Identify the problem
 - Arrange a meeting in private
 - Address the issue and the behavior, state why it is unproductive or harmful
 - Ask for help in finding a solution
 - Agree on a plan
- Create joint newsletters, websites, or Facebook groups

Tips for Good Communications

- Treat everyone with respect.
- More information is generally better. Share information generously.
- When necessary, respectfully disagree. Don't get emotional. Look for common ground.
- Keep an open mind. Look for collaborative solutions. Be willing to compromise.
- Communication is a two way process. Feedback is important.
- Reflect back what the other person is saying and ask question to ensure understanding.

Tips for Good Communications

- Encourage everyone to work as a team.
- Respond promptly to member concerns.
- Ask: What is best for the organization?
- Find ways to have fun together.

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