

## Mentoring for Leadership Presentation

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Good Morning!! I am Francine Cornish from the Department of Maryland, and I am very honored to have been appointed the Mentoring For Leadership Ambassador for 2023-2024. And it will be my pleasure to have the opportunity to work with you, the future Department Presidents for 2023-2024!

Mentoring is essential for every organization... Even without a formal Mentoring Program, Mentoring is happening all the time. In school, there were teachers and counselors who motivated, guided and supported us; when we started our first job, there was someone there who, perhaps showed us how to get to the break room among other things;

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And as you can see from this diagram, our families, our parents, siblings and other relatives, easily fit the description of mentors. They are coaches, trainers, supporters, motivators and have all the other attributes of a mentor.

To quote Denzel Washington: "Show me a successful individual, and I'll show you someone who had real positive influences in his and her life. I don't care what you do for a living—if you do it well, I'm sure there was someone cheering you on, or showing the way. A mentor." Unquote.

Fortunately for us, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary has developed a great Mentoring Program, to assist us during the year.

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You should recognize, by now, that you are mentors and have been mentoring each other through the years.

First and foremost, your connection to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary is strong. When you joined the VFW Auxiliary, based on the service of your veteran, you dedicated your time and abilities to support the organization. You became a leader by developing greater knowledge of its Bylaws and Programs. You are now in a position to counsel and advise your members.

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Remembering the reasons that created a positive member experience for you, can help you as you promote and develop a Mentoring program for your Department: Reasons such as, the way you were warmly welcomed into your first meeting and the way you were encouraged to participate in Auxiliary activities.

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The Mentoring Program has coined an acronym CARE to describe the best way to begin mentoring a new member or a returning member. To CARE...

Meet the member at their first meeting with a warm welcome ; Invite the member to join you in the next activity and stay in touch. We were all new members once. Remember that the VFW Auxiliary has many traditions, rules and guidelines. Be patient. There's a lot to learn. Then, take time to find out the members interests. The Auxiliary has so many programs from which they are able to choose.

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In order for the Auxiliary to thrive and grow, we have to continue to prepare good leaders. Although the Mentoring Program recognizes that it's important to learn from someone who knows- a mentor, we are aware that training is also essential for good leadership. For a member preparing for leadership, the Auxiliary has a wealth of information and resources available.

The 2023-2024 Program Book and the Mentoring Guide: Relationship Building for the Future, are among the resources found on the Auxiliary website, [vfwauxiliary.org](http://vfwauxiliary.org). Encourage the members to attend the School of Instructions, Department Conferences and Conventions and other activities offered by the Department, Districts and their Auxiliaries.

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As you step into your new leadership role, reach back, and promote, guide and motivate your new and old members to assume leadership roles.

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I want to thank Senior Vice-President Carla for this appointment and I wish each of you a very successful year, as we work together to support our veterans, our families and our communities.

Thank you.

