



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF CONNECTICUT
MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP

“Remember Your Why”
“Banding Together for our Veterans”

MENTORING FOR LEADERSHIP COURSE: 103

Ok, does anyone remember the acronym we learned in course 102? (Pause for someone to answer.) C.A.R.E.

“C is Catch” Catching a member when he or she first joins means not saying to yourself “Surely someone will call or email the new people about the next meeting.” Guess what? Your new name is SOMEONE!! You also want to catch newer members as they come in the door at the meeting. They might arrive alone, choose a seat near the back, and generally look a little overwhelmed. That’s when SOMEONE (remember, that’s you) goes up to the new member, introduces themselves and says “Come sit with me. I’ll help you out.”

“A is for Ask” There are not nearly enough people in this world who stand up and volunteer to do things. These people who do are the exception to the rule. For MOST other people, they need and want to be asked. It is critical to ask those new members to participate in whatever is coming up next. Don’t make them CHAIRMAN of it but invite them to come and join you in what you are doing. You want help, just ASK!!

“R is for Remember” Everyone was new once. Everyone had that first meeting. Everyone was once a stranger. Try to remember what this felt like. And then be GENTLE!! Remember the first time you talked when they were closing the Bible? And someone said to you, “DON’T DO THAT!” Be Gentle! Remember what it felt like, and then be the SOMEONE who gently says, “Let me tell you about why we do it this way so you can do it better next time.”

“E is for Engage” One of the unique things about the VFW Auxiliary is that there are so many different ways to become involved in the organization. In order to help the new member find his or her place, you have to get to know his or her passion and then find a way to get them involved in that program. Find out what it is, and you find out how to get them involved. We have everything from working with youth to serving in hospitals to fundraising to publicity and more!

Homework: I’d like someone (Mentor) in each Auxiliary to explain to the Auxiliary what the Department Presidents Special program is this year. Keep track of who did what, you never know if you’ll be asked!

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Lisa Salisbury

Mentoring for Leadership, Chairman

lmsalisbury307@gmail.com