



2025-2026 DEPARTMENT CIRCLE OF EXCELLENCE FOR AUXILIARIES

Every Auxiliary has the opportunity to join the Department of Illinois Circle of Excellence. The criteria are listed below. Consider this a checklist for the year to meet important deadlines that **MUST** be met. **Your Auxiliary MUST achieve 245 points or above to enter the Department of Illinois Circle of Excellence.**

Criteria for entering the Circle of Excellence:

1. Growth in Membership:

Membership Standings by April 30, 2026 based on the June 30, 2025 final membership statistics.

Possible Points	Actual Points	Criteria
110		101% in membership, not including deaths
100		100%+in membership, not including deaths
90		100%+ in Membership including deaths
80		97% -100 % in Membership, including deaths (paid percentage)

2. Comply with Bylaws/Administrative Follow-Through:

A) Auxiliary Installation Report **MUST** be completed in Malta and/or received by Department.

Possible Points	Actual Points	Criteria
20		Installation Report submitted by June 06, 2025
15		Installation Report submitted by June 30, 2025

B) Auxiliary President and Treasurer **MUST** be bonded for 2 times the bank balance.

Possible Points	Actual Points	Criteria
20		President and Treasurer bonded by July 15, 2025
10		President and Treasurer bonded by Aug. 15, 2025

C) Auxiliary Officers' dues **MUST** be paid before December 31, 2025. This includes: President, Treasurer, and Secretary

Possible Points	Actual Points	Criteria
20		Officers' annual dues paid by August 31, 2025
15		Officers' annual dues paid by October 31, 2025

3. Training:

An Auxiliary member **MUST** attend at least one training session (school of instruction) on each of the following: Training *session topics can be combined into one school of instruction. A written report must be submitted to the Department Secretary immediately following the training session.*

A) How to Identify a Healthy Auxiliary

Possible Points	Actual Points	Criteria
10		Auxiliary attends a training session District or Department on How to Identify an Unhealthy Auxiliary by November 30, 2025

B) Overview of Programs and Organization Knowledge (Bylaws, Ritual, and Malta

Possible Points	Actual Points	Criteria
10		Auxiliary to attend a training session District or Department giving an overview of all programs and Organizational Knowledge by November 30, 2025

C) Attend a Department Training Program to Benefit Members (Not A & B above)

Possible Points	Actual Points	Criteria
10		At least one Auxiliary member to attend a training program hosted by Department by March 1, 2026

4. Programs Participation and Working Together on a Common Goal:

A) Auxiliary **MUST** complete projects, activities and donations that benefit Veterans by March 15, 2026 (Report on Veterans and Family Support Program)

B) .

Possible Points	Actual Points	Criteria
10		Donations to assigned Hospitals of at least \$1.00 per member, based on June 30, 2025 membership by December 31, 2025.
10		Donations to Hospital Pledge used for administration of the Hospital Program i.e. Assist with mileage to/from assigned hospital by VAVS/Hospital reps, with an increase of at least \$1.00 more than 2024-2025 pledge amount by December 31, 2025.
10		Donation of at least \$5.00 to all other hospitals not assigned to your auxiliary by December 31, 2025
10		Donation to Department President's Special Project "Operation Sweet Life" by April 1, 2026
10		Donation to the National President's Special Project Continuing Education Scholarships by April 1, 2026
10		990 is completed with IRS and a copy sent to the Department Treasurer by November 15, 2025
10		Donation is made to VFW for both Veterans and Military Support and National Veterans Service by, December 31, 2025

NOTE: Donations made to National Military Services (NMS) or National Veterans Service (NVS) are sent directly to VFW National Headquarters. **To receive credit for these donations, the Auxiliary must notify the Department Secretary.**

C) The Auxiliary must hold a joint fundraiser with their VFW Post that benefits the joint Department Fundraiser.

Possible Points	Actual Points	Criteria
10		The Auxiliary and VFW must hold a fundraiser that benefits the Department's joint fundraiser. The proceeds sent to the Department Secretary earmarked "Dept. Joint Fundraiser" and a report with details of the fundraiser sent to the Department Secretary. Deadline: April 15, 2025

Circle of Excellence Awards:

Each Auxiliary entering the Department of Illinois Circle of Excellence will receive an award that will be presented at the Department Convention.

If the Auxiliaries audits are not completed correctly and received by the Department Treasurer by May 31, 2026. The Auxiliary will be disqualified from the Circle of Excellence, regardless of the point total!