**Chief of Staff**
**Revitalization/Extension**
**Department of New Mexico**

Sometimes you don't have to reinvent the wheel. I was lucky in that aspect as another Chairman wrote my promotional for me this month.

I won't add anymore because I don't want to take away from their succinct promotional.

I continually have to check myself, and strive to follow the below-yes, I sometimes fail, I am human; however, I do continue to try! 😊 It is so easy to get in our own minds and not realize how we say something, how the words can be more abrupt than we intend, and how our body language can come across!

Members can and will get tired of drama; and quit volunteering with our organization.

**VFW Auxiliary Membership Moment How to Treat People with Respect**

The key to treating people with respect is to treat them as you would like to be treated – also commonly known as the Golden Rule. When dealing with difficult members in your local Auxiliary, seek to understand the root of their problems toward you. Then, you will be able to rise above the situation, and treat them well. Here are several tips for treating members with respect within your Auxiliary:

1. **Practice self-respect**. Because you want to respect others as you would hope to be respected, it is incredibly important that you extend to yourself the same respect and courtesy that you would extend to another person. If someone says something cruel or demeaning, speak up. Tell them what you found to be disrespectful and why.
   *Talk to the person, even if a neutral person(s) needs to sit in and mediate the issues. Don't try to recruit others into the situation! It destroys organizations-as quality volunteers will not want continue to waste their time, energy and monies on drama-we are here to help veterans, their families and our communities! If you cannot resolve the issues, then at least be professional and adult enough to work together for the greater good and the missions of the VFW and VFWA!*

2. **Really listen**. A lot of people don't listen very well, because they're distracted, checking their phone, or thinking about the next thing that they are going to say. Learn to really listen when other people speak.
   *This takes practice, and a very conscious effort on each of our parts.*

3. **Treat other people's ideas with due consideration**. This means listening to another person's ideas, opinions, and advice with an open mind. Even if you don't necessarily agree with them, give them the benefit of thinking about what they have said.
   *No matter how long we have done something, there is always more to learn, and ideas to be accepted. Don't belittle or be rude by talking and snickering when someone is speaking or even in small groups talking. It makes whomever is doing it look petty, as well as immature, and it annoys those that care about the organization and want it to grow and thrive.*

4. **Be mindful of your words**. Words are very powerful and they can be incredibly disrespectful if used improperly. Think carefully about what you're going to say, and to whom, otherwise you might hurt someone.
*We all say things wrong, for most of us it is unintentionally, our emotions get involved, we use the wrong tone of voice, the look on our face or our body language seems angry-and it may not even have to do with the person we are speaking too. It is okay, and respectable to give a sincere apology. It also falls on the person to accept a sincere apology. Remember there isn't a person who hasn't hurt a person with words. Be as gracious to them, as you would want those you have hurt, to be towards you.*

5. **Cultivate good manners.** This is as simple as saying "thank you" and "please" when you're requesting something from another person. It shows that you respect the time and effort that it will take for them to help you, and it will allow them to feel respected.
*Please give the other person this respect, and yourself the class and dignity of this common courtesy! It isn't a sign of weakness, it is a sign of leadership and strength.*

Betty Decker
VFWA NM
Chief of Staff