

Extension & Revitalization Promotion #1 | July 2022
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My name is Sharon Connolly from the Department of New York, and it is truly an honor and a privilege to be the National Chief of Staff and Extension & Revitalization Ambassador. I joined the Auxiliary in 1972 and served as Auxiliary President, County Council President and Department Secretary. I also served as Department Secretary for seven years. In my other life, I was a licensed insurance agent and manager of five offices. I retired in 2008 after 31 years.

I joined the Auxiliary under the eligibility of my late husband, Neil, who was in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War, serving two tours in the Gulf of Tonkin. He became active in our local Post and convinced me to join the Auxiliary.

There are two important changes to this program. Chief of Staff is a person not a Program. Henceforth, the Department Chief of Staff will be considered an appointed Department Officer and should be extended the courtesies of that position. The Extension Program itself has been retitled the Extension & Revitalization Program. My goal this year is to gain new, well-working Auxiliaries and also help Departments revitalize struggling Auxiliaries into good-working order. By now, I'm sure all Department Presidents have their appointments completed. However, if you want to have a separate Chairman for the Program, that's perfectly okay. These two changes will be in effect going forward.

I look forward to working with each of you this year as we show our veterans and communities that we have ***Hands that Serve, Hearts that Care.***