

Volume 7/ January 2024

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



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Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter

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President Bambi Johnson's Message

Happy New Year Everyone!

I hope you have all enjoyed the Christmas Holiday and are excited for the start of 2024.

We are about to hold our Winter Conference and are honored to have our National President Carla Martinez attending.

We will be honoring her with an Aisle of Flags on Friday evening at the USS Arizona Memorial Gardens so remember to bring both your American flag and your Auxiliary Banner. President Carla will also be joining as many of us as possible, at the cemetery on Friday afternoon at 1 pm as we remember and salute our interred veterans with Flags and Flowers. It is such a moving experience to place those items on the grave of those who have served our country and thank them out loud for their service.

Wreaths Across America this year was phenomenal! There are more than 69,000 veteran graves in Arizona alone and Auxiliary members,

along with citizens of all ages, were out honoring our deceased veterans while placing a remembrance wreath on their final resting place and thanking them for their service.

It is awesome to see so much of what the members are doing across Arizona for both our scholarship participants and our communities this past month. From children's Christmas parties to food distributions for those in need to Christmas stockings for the homeless...
OUTSTANDING!

You have done a wonderful job so far on membership, bringing our Department to 97.7% as of December 20, 2023. We need only 257 more statewide to reach 100%. That is quite a small number as our total membership last year of paid members was 11,175! Let's keep working on contacting not only the unpaid annual members, but also our lapsed members. I believe we can reach 100% by January 31st.

Keep reporting to the Program Chairmen on these wonderful events and sending your Program Activity Reports (PAR). Everything you do for our veterans, their families and our communities, helps our organization both grow and enhances how we are perceived by others.

See you at Winter Conference!



The District Corner and flyers will no longer be featured in the newsletter. They are located on the webpage www.vfwauxaz.org under news/events. Be sure to check out all that is happening around the Department.



News

***Flag Retirement Assistance Needed** - On Jan 3rd starting at 9 am the Department VFW will be holding a Flag Retirement at the Veterans Transition Center in Coolidge at 5497 W. McCartney. There are 6 truck loads of flags so far. All volunteers are welcome. For more information, please reach out to

Derek Hulsebus at 520-252-5677. This can be counted as an Americanism project for your Auxiliary.

***Uniting to Combat Hunger Grant** is open from Oct 1 thru June 1, 2024. The form is available on the Department webpage - www.vfwauxaz.org under programs/veterans and family support or resources/forms.

***Winter Conference** is Jan 5-6th in Phoenix at the Hilton Phoenix Airport.

***National President's visit** will be Jan 5-7 during Winter Conference.

***Department MIT's** will be held on 2/3 at Post 6271 in Benson and 2/24 at Post 9399 in Apache Junction. Both trainings will be from 9-3 pm. The flyers are on the Department webpage - www.vfwauxaz.org under news/events. **PLEASE NOTE** - this is a change in location for the MITs.

***Department President and Commander's Homecoming** will be a joint event on April 6th at Post 9399 in Apache Junction. Event begins at 5 pm and cost is \$25. Click [here](#) to see the flyer.

***Department Convention** is May 29th - June 2nd at Loews Ventana Canyon in Tucson.

*Go to www.vfwauxaz.org under news/events to see the flyers for the conferences/convention mentioned above.

*Irene Norwacki is running for **Department Guard** at the 2024 Department convention. Click [here](#) to read her brochure.

*Department of Arkansas Kim Davis is a candidate for **National Guard** at the 2024 National Convention in Ky. Click [here](#) to read her letter and brochure.

*National President Carla, Department President Bambi, Department Commander Bill and Kim Harney's **shirts** are available to order. Click [here](#) for the order forms.

JANUARY 5-7, 2024

Winter Conference

National President Carla Martinez's Official Visit
Voice of Democracy / Patriot's Pen Awards Banquet

Friday Afternoon January 5 Flags and Flowers

1:00 Double Butte Cemetery 2505 W. Broadway Rd., Tempe
All VFW and VFW Auxiliary members are invited to participate in "Flags and Flowers" event.

Friday Evening January 5 Aisle of Flags

5:00pm – All VFW and VFW Auxiliary members are invited to join National President Martinez at the USS Arizona Memorial Gardens at Salt River (7455 N. Pima Rd., Scottsdale). Department, Districts and Auxiliaries are asked to bring their large American Flag and Auxiliary Banner for the Aisle of Flags.

Saturday January 6

9:00 a.m. Winter Conference

Welcome MC Jim McCormick

Pledge of Allegiance and Opening Prayer

Opening Remarks – Cmdr. Schaeffler and President Johnson

Introduction of Special Guests – Cmdr. Schaeffler

National Representative National Sr. Vice CinC Al Lipphardt

Introduction of Special Guests - President Johnson

National President Carla Martinez

Special Presentations

Major General Chrystal Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commemoration

Chuck Byers Transportation for Veterans

Mike DeRosa VFW Foundation

VFW and VFW Auxiliary Membership Awards

VFW National Convention Volunteer Awards

Sharpen Your Communication Skills – Becky Baldwin
Training on how people communicate differently, how to recognize those communication methods and skills to communicate and engage with others more effectively.

Closing Remarks Department President Johnson
 National President Carla Martinez
 Department Commander Schaeffler
 National Sr. Vice CinC Lipphardt

Programs – All VFW and VFWA Chairmen

Noon Lunch on your own

4:00 p.m Student Photos (Open to only Students, Parents, Department Officers, District Commander and President)

5:00 p.m. No Host Reception

6:00 p.m. Dinner and Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen Awards
 Presentation of Colors Jr. ROTC

Sunday January 7

9:00 a.m. Council of Administration Meetings (VFW and VFW Auxiliary)

SPECIAL NOTICE – Department Commander Schaeffler and President Johnson’s SPECIAL PROJECT FOR WINTER CONFERENCE – Please bring books to donate to a local library for the Patriotism Thru Literacy program.

**Updated Information on the
Winter Conference Book Drive**

(this flyer can be also be found on www.vfwauxaz.org
under programs/youth or news/events)

Winter Conference Book Drive

Hello all! I hope that you are doing well and gearing up for the holidays ahead.

I just wanted to offer some clarification on our joint book drive for Winter Conference.

We will be donating these books to the Phoenix library, which is a main hub library that services smaller libraries across the state of Arizona. If we have duplicate books, GREAT! The more books, the merrier. This way when the books are needed, more than one copy will be available to be loaned out to other libraries and we reach as many youths as possible with our donations. These books will be donated in honor of National President Carla Martinez and the State of Arizona VFW and Auxiliary.

Please, if you can, bring your donated books Friday to winter conference since we will have the most available time with National President Carla on that day. We are going to be very busy Saturday with the conference and honoring all the youths that have entered the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen contests. Remember, this is a joint effort for both the VFW and Auxiliary so get your Posts involved. Let's make this the greatest book donation for our National President and the State of Arizona ever.



Districts: 1 & 6 - Pre-K - Preschool

Districts: 2 & 7 - 1st & 2nd Grade

Districts: 3 & 8 - 3rd & 4th Grade

Districts: 4 & 9 - 5th & 6th Grade

Districts: 5 & 10 - 7th & 8th Grade

See the link below or log into the VFW Auxiliary website.

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/Patriotism-Through-Literacy-Suggested-Books-2022.pdf>



Spotlight on Auxiliaries' Projects

Each month Auxiliaries' projects will be featured in the newsletter. These projects are randomly selected and hopefully will give Auxiliaries ideas on projects they can complete.



***Aux 10254** - On 12/16, three members of the Auxiliary delivered 402 wreaths to the Veterans Center on the Tohono O'odham Reservation in Sells,

AZ. The delivery was the result of several months of conversation and meetings with the Council of Nations, District 5 Auxiliary President/Auxiliary 10254 Treasurer Crystal McCarthy, Dept of AZ Auxiliary Americanism Chair Lori Schaeffler and Post 10254 Comrade John Johnson, who resides in Sells.

Mrs. Schaeffler arranged the donation from the extra wreaths at the Veterans Cemetery in Marana and Ms. McCarthy worked with the Reservation Veterans Center. Auxiliary members Nicci Pretti and April Kibler loaded wreaths and donated their time and resources to secure the delivery 45 miles to the Veterans Center where the cargo was unloaded in conjunction with the Tohono O'odham Fire Department Members. The Veterans Center hosted a ceremony on December 17 where they displayed the ceremonial wreaths and members spoke. This is the first time in the US that a Native Reservation has held a Wreaths Across America ceremony. We were blessed to have been a small part of making it happen.

Secretary/Treasurer Kim Sloan

Happy New Year! 2024 Here We Come!

ANNUAL MEMBERS

An Annual Member that has not paid their 2024 dues or converted to Life Member by December 31, 2023, is no longer a member in good standing. Thank you to all the Auxiliaries that got their officers' dues paid. They are now able to remain in office. Thank you to all the members that reached out for assistance to pay their dues or convert to Life Member using MALTA.



MALTA

If an Annual Member wants to pay their dues or convert to Life Member and use MALTA – the name on the debit/credit card must match the name on the debit/credit card or they'll get stuck in the payment process. So, if a member calls you for help, you'll know that this could be the problem.

The new Accounting Program in MALTA has one area that the Treasurer's need to be aware of.

When you're entering a receipt or a disbursement, the program lets you put in a description i.e.

Income - John Doe Dues \$ 30.00

Disbursement - Jones Rental Chairs/Tables for Memorial Service \$100.00

But when you print out the monthly Treasurer's Report, the program does not show what that income or disbursement was for, so as Treasurer you'll still need to keep a record to supplement your

Treasurer's Report and to provide to the Trustees for the audit.

DUES

MALTA has a new feature for showing annual dues amounts. Many Auxiliaries will be raising their dues to cover additional National dues which start with payments of 2025 dues. If the Auxiliary voted to raise their annual dues to \$40 (example) starting with 2025 dues year, the Treasurer can go into MALTA and change the new dues amount and the effective date. Then if an annual member logs into MALTA before that date, they will be charged the current amount, but if they log after the effective date, MALTA will charge them the updated amount.

OFFICIAL LOOK

Please see the diagram in the Bylaws Book of Instruction page 33 about the placement of the collar pins. I know you see VFW members wearing their collar pins at an angle. That is not the way that the Auxiliary is to place those pins if they are wearing the official blue blouse. The pins are to be placed parallel to the bottom of the collar. If you are serving with the VFW on a color guard team and NOT wearing the official blouse, you should wear the pins as instructed by the Color Guard Captain.

DEPARTMENT BYLAWS

The Department President has appointed a committee to review and present proposed changes to the Department Bylaws at Department Convention. One of the proposed changes is an increase to Department Dues for annual members and Department Members at Large. A copy of the proposed revised Bylaws will be posted to the website and distributed to the District Presidents at the upcoming Council of Administration meeting for discussion. They will not be voted on until Department Convention, but in the interest of transparency, this is something that we believe should be shared in advance.

Please contact me if you have any questions or need assistance!

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

If you have a young family member
(must be related to a VFW or Auxiliary member)
between the ages of 10 – 15

And

They would like to volunteer at the 2024 Department Convention

Please contact the Department Secretary – Treasurer Kim Sloan
at 520.307.7940

They must be accompanied by an adult who will be at convention and
responsible for the young person when not “on duty”.

Unfortunately, we do not cover any of the costs for these volunteers.

We just want to expose them to the joys of volunteering and getting to
know more about the VFW Auxiliary which they may want to join.



Americanism Lori Schaeffler

What an amazing WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY we had across our state. 12 new locations were added bringing our state to 71 locations, I do not have the exact number laid but I will know that final total by Winter Conference. Great job everyone honoring our Veterans. For the first time

Native American Veterans were honored on the reservation. In September, District 5 President Crystal McCarthy and I met with Native American Vet Center in Sells AZ. We did so well with donations that we were able to donate them 375 wreaths so they could see what the program means to the families. We hope that next year they will be their own location. One of my friends tagged me on FaceBook that her grandfather was honored with a Wreath literally in the middle of nowhere. So, it does make an impact to the families, Makes all the hard work worth it for the families.

This is why we and you should support POW/MIA -

Answers do come for the families. Don't give up!

Many of you have heard Bill and I talk many times about the Prisoner of War/Missing in Action bracelet we wear of Capt. Ronald Forrester. Karoni (our good friend and his daughter) spoke at our fall conference couple years ago.

He was part of Operation Linebacker on 12/27/72 better known as the

"Christmas Bombings", that did get both sides to the negotiation table. Capt. Forrester and Jim Chipman were shot down and declared Missing in Action. Earlier this year Jim Chipman was identified and laid to rest in Utah 11/11/23.

On 12/08/23 my dear friend called me to tell me that morning she received the call from USMC Casualty Dept letting her know that they positively identified her Daddy.

If you read VFW Action Corp, this was in the 12/18 edition: Marine Corps Capt. Ronald W. Forrester, 25, of Odessa, Texas, was assigned to Marine All-Weather Attack Squadron 533, Marine Attack Group 12, 1st Marine Air Wing. He was killed in action on Dec. 27, 1972. Services in his home state will be 2/2/24 in Austin TX. His Interment will be at Arlington when a date becomes available in the summer.

The Flag Code, which formalizes and unifies the traditional ways in which we give respect to the flag, also contains specific instructions on how the flag is not to be used.

They are:

- The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing. It is flown upside down only as a distress signal. The flag should not be used as a drapery, or for covering a speaker's desk, draping a platform, or for any decoration in general. Bunting of blue, white and red stripes is available for these purposes. The blue stripe of the bunting should be on the top.
- The flag should never be used for any advertising purpose. It should not be embroidered, printed or otherwise impressed on such articles as cushions, handkerchiefs, napkins, boxes, or anything intended to be discarded after temporary use. The flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform, except that a flag patch may be used on the uniform of military personnel, fireman, policeman and members of patriotic organizations.
- The flag should never have placed on it, or attached to it, any mark, insignia, letter, word, number, figure, or drawing of any kind. The flag should never be used as a receptacle for receiving, holding, carrying, or delivering anything.
- When the flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other object; it should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag, it should be folded neatly and ceremoniously. The flag should be cleaned and mended when necessary. When a flag is so worn, it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country, it should be destroyed by burning in a dignified manner.

Have you thought about asking your community to attend flag

retirement and how to properly retire a flag? Many people I have spoken to didn't know there is a proper way to do so. How about your Cub Scouts? Many need this badge but they need to be asked to assist you. Maybe your Auxiliary could help out with the Flag Retirement ceremony that Derek is hosting in Coolidge on Jan 3rd. See the note in the news section above for more information.

Important dates for January

January 15 Martin Luther King JR Day

January 16 Desert Storm Begun

January 27 Signing of the Vietnam Peace Accord (1973)

PSST.... IF YOU SEND ME EMAIL, PLEASE MAKE SURE IT IS TO MY GMAIL ADDRESS. IF YOU SENT TO MSN, I DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO THAT ACCOUNT. Please send your report to stickwoman90@gmail.com.

Auxiliary Outreach **Melissa Martin**



I hope everyone had a blessed holiday season and I am looking forward to seeing everyone at Winter Conference.

I've gotten some really good project reports and hope you all keep up the good work out in your communities. Remember, it doesn't matter what type of community you live in big or small, rural, suburban or urban, all communities need help with something.

When doing these projects, you should be dressed in Auxiliary attire such as a shirt, hat or name badge. Other organizations may come to these events and possibly start a relationship with us for future Auxiliary Outreach projects. When we participate in Auxiliary Outreach, we become better citizens of our community.

Just remember you all have the ability to go out and help in your communities no matter how small your Auxiliary. It only takes a few members to make a difference.



Buddy Poppy & VFW National Home **Connie Hargraves**

Hello 2024, goodbye 2023. What a great time to start fresh and get ready for your Programs.

Three months left to send in your project reports; one for Buddy Poppy in conjunction with another program (don't forget to use #poppiescount on Facebook and Instagram) and one for educating members and community on VFW National Home.

Winners for the National Home Life membership contest will be announced at Winter conference CofA (Council of Administration) January 7th, you have until the 4th to let me know you sent in a life membership for a VFW or Auxiliary member or a member of your community. Remember only VFW/Auxiliary members have voting rights.

Other ideas to support VFW National Home:

- Home Front Hero, monthly donation that goes to general fund and can be used creating budget, recurring gift.
- One time Gift
- Tribute Park
- Centennial brick
- Tribute Brick
- Your Post/Auxiliary
- Outstanding volunteer
- In remembrance of a Veteran
- Thank you for still serving (Past Commander or President of Post or Auxiliary)

Want to hear more about the National Home, please take the time to watch

<https://www.facebook.com/vfwnationalhome/videos/178601828657848/>

Or go to <https://www.facebook.com/vfwnationalhome> to view other informative videos on our VFW National Home.

Visit your community groups and bring information on our National Home, post the video on your Post/Auxiliary pages or your timeline to let people know about the History and what our National Home does. Let Veteran families in your area know of this help available to them, and how we make sure they receive a "Hand up not a Hand Out" in preparing them to move on their own.

New programs at the National Home: 1. Guitars for Vets, 2. Heroes to Hives program, journeyman beekeepers, 3. Once a month the Resource Center has "Cup of Joe", 4. They have added a Veteran Service Officer resource, 5. Paint night for Veteran Spouses, 6. Greenhouses.

Don't forget the crisis line that also connects them with local programs and where to get help through case management. Case management is a collaborative process of assessment, planning, facilitation, care coordination, evaluation, and advocacy for options and services to

meet an individual's and family's comprehensive needs through communication and available resources to promote quality, cost-effective outcomes. That number is 800-313-4200.

Don't forget your PAR reports, have you promoted VFW National Home, their Helpline, purchased Life memberships, Tribute Bricks. These should be done monthly.

Our Auxiliary members were busy distributing Buddy Poppies these past two months; please get your program reports in and fill out your PAR reports. Did you do a Poppy drive, with or without your Post, how many Poppies were distributed and finally whether you are participating in the Poppy display contest. Fill out your PAR and send in a Program report so you can receive a National Certificate.

Ways to complete a poppy distribution.

- Valentine cards with a poppy included.
- Have youth color Valentine poppy for veterans.
- Send with a Birthday card, get well, thank you or thinking of you card.
- Set on your dining table with canister, wrap your silverware and use a Buddy Poppy around them.
- Visit local organizations and talk about the Buddy Poppy
- Hand out the Buddy Poppy story and coloring books at any events or in schools.
- Ask local businesses to place a Buddy Poppy can with poppies on their counters.
- Make items to brighten up a patient's room!

Check out the links below for more information on your Buddy Poppy Displays: [Buddy Poppy Chairperson Guide 2023 \(PROOF3\) \(azureedge.net\)](#)
[VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS OF THE UNITED STATES](#)
[\(vfwauxiliary.org\)](#)

Please check out [vfwauxaz.org](#) for chairman programs. There is always lots of information and more links to help you complete your programs. It is a useful tool for everyone.

May your New Year be blessed and fruitful and continue your service to our Veterans and families. Your support is always appreciated.

Thank you!

Chief of Staff
Johnnie DeBoard

Now that the holidays are behind us,
I'd like to know what you think of New

Year's Resolutions?

Are you the type of person that makes a resolution and sticks with it, or are you like most people who have the best of intentions, but they fall by the wayside pretty quickly. Instead of or in addition to doing New Year's



Resolutions for yourself, how about if we start resolutions for our Auxiliary?

Resolution #1 - Our Auxiliary will strive to be more inclusive of all the members of the Auxiliary.

Resolution # 2 - Our Auxiliary will talk about ways the Auxiliary can improve.

Resolution # 3 - Our Auxiliary will do one more project in every program than we did last year.

Resolution # 4 - Our Auxiliary will be open to new ideas.

Resolution # 5 - Our Auxiliary will communicate better with the Post Members.

Notice that these are Auxiliary resolutions, things for you to work on a group. If we are more inclusive of all members, we have a better opportunity to grow and get new ideas -See Resolution #3.

If we are open to improving the Auxiliary, membership will follow, and new ideas will flow. It's hard to make changes! But it's even harder to see Auxiliaries struggle to survive with only a few members.

If we challenge ourselves to do more projects, we may get some new ideas. Big or small, the challenge is to get some new ideas. How about starting a discussion in the Auxiliary about other interests or hobbies the members have? Those may be things that can be worked into an Auxiliary project.

Let's work on being better communicators with our VFW comrades. Respect and communication go a long way in helping to promote a sound partnership.



Historian/Media Nancy Schatz

[National Ambassador's December 2023
Blog - Resources that Help](#)

Happy New Year 2024 to each of you!

Hope your holidays were amazing and filled with lots of great times, as well as

good family and friend happenings. Also, hope you were able to participate in sharing some of your holiday festivities with our Veterans and their families!

There were lots of great events taking place across our state that were posted on Facebook. Does your Auxiliary have a Facebook page? Did you post any fun times taking place at your Auxiliary? It's a wonderful way to keep your members informed of happenings at your Auxiliary. You can do a page for just the Auxiliary or a joint page with the Post...either way, be sure to use it as a tool to keep your members knowledgeable and engaged!

Once again, thanks to all the Auxiliaries that have submitted their Historian and Media Relations reports so far. Keep in mind that the deadline for submission is March 31, 2024, and do not wait till the last minute to get your report submitted. I will be at the Winter Conference at the end of the week and available to any of you if you need some help in getting your reports completed and submitted.

And just as a reminder as I stated in last month's newsletter, to receive a National citation for this program you must complete a 3–5-minute interview with a legacy Auxiliary member. I challenge every Auxiliary to participate so you are eligible to receive special recognition at our Convention.

Have you done your video—will you be recognized for the best interview, the best lighting, or for the most engaging member interviewed? Please do not let this opportunity slip away! ...find your legacy Auxiliary member, come up with some questions and find a quiet place to do the interview. You can save the interview on a disc or SD card and bring it to me at the Winter Conference! I look forward to being able to recognize your Auxiliary in June!

Meanwhile, I wish you a marvelous upcoming year...
make it a GREAT one!

Hospital Denise Williams

[National Ambassador's December 2023
Blog - December Wishes Can Come
True](#)



Hope everyone had a fantastic holiday. We are halfway through the year. What an incredible year it has been.

Thanks everyone for their project reports and Hospital Grants. Remember on the Hospital Grants there are guidelines we must

follow. If I am not sure about the grants, I do ask others for advice.

Hospital grants must be a Veterans Facility, not one with Veterans residing in it. If it is a private facility, they should have money to pay for their own personal hygiene items. I am sorry but there are guidelines that need to be followed. The grants were impressive grants, I just could not approve them. I would love to approve all of them, I just cannot.

If anyone has any questions for me, I will be at the Winter Conference and will be happy to talk with you. ju If I do not have the answers that would be a wonderful place for me to find the answers. I am always willing to help everyone. Sorry if I did not get back to everyone, I have been having problems with my emails, as we speak, I am trying to reply to everyone.

Let us keep up the impressive work, remember if I do not have the answers, I will do my best to get them for we can figure out where to go from there. Hopefully I will see everyone at the winter conference, we are a team let show them that Arizona Rocks!

VAVS Region 3

Wow!!!! What an amazing group of volunteers we had at the Stocking Stuffing event. Ten volunteers from Districts 5 and 7! We filled over 110 stockings! Thank you to all the Auxiliaries that donated goods, we had small surplus of some items which the staff will use for other events.

The next big event is the National Salute to Veteran Patients which is the week of February 12 thru February 16. Notice that this includes Valentine's Day! We have a VAVS Executive Meeting and a full VAVS meeting this month. So I'll have more to share about SAVAHCS next month. In the meantime, have your members and youth groups start making valentine cards to share!

Any questions?

Just give me a call or email!

Kim Sloan

520.307.7940

Auxvfwarizona@msn.com

**Legislative
JaNice Robertson**

**Be an Advocate – Be Informed – Be
Engaged**



Happy New Year 2024!!!

Well, the new calendar year starts, and we are into the second half of our year. Hope everyone had a wonderful holiday.

Now with the holidays over we can concentrate on our Veterans.

In January the VFW will be sending out a new set of Priority goals for the 2024 year. Be sure to watch for the new goals.

Remember, the National Citation is for our Auxiliaries to host an activity and/or event that educates their community on Veteran Legislation issues. Now is the time to have town halls or host a meet and greet with their legislators. Find out who or what they can and are doing for our Veterans.

- Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that educates their community on Veteran Legislative issues.
- Auxiliaries must send program report to their Department Legislative Chairman by March 31, 2024, for judging.

By now some of you are being approached to work in the polls. I know LaPaz County is already asking for volunteers. If you have the time, be there at the polls or agree to drive Veterans to and from the polls. Find out who needs rides and get a schedule together. It is never too early to be prepared. Please report all the information to me.

Everyone is doing a great job this year. I am getting some very great interactions with our legislatures. Keep up the good work. Take pictures and send me your reports. If your Auxiliary has sent me as report and it does not show on the outstanding report, please get in touch with me to correct this.

Last month I gave a challenge to everyone to take the Civics 101 online course with the Sandra Day O'Connor Institute. Has anyone looked into that? Has anyone taken the course? Why I ask is that at the Department Convention there will be a surprise for everyone that takes this class. The only catch is you have to let me know that you are doing so. Please let me know. I would love to hear your thoughts on the class and if you learned anything new. Sadly, Sandra Day O'Connor recently passed away, but her legacy will live on.

Together we can make a difference in the lives of our Veterans, service men and women, and their families. We must remember they

have protected our freedoms. Now it is time for us to protect their rights and benefits. Remember to report to me.

Membership Becky Baldwin

Happy January! And Happy 2024!

If your Auxiliary is under 90% in membership a Department Line officer will be reaching out to offer support, guidance and to cheer you on as you strive to 100% Membership for this program year. Auxiliaries do not have to wait, if you need anything reach out to me or any of your Department Line Officers at any time. Department Chief of Staff Johnnie is a great resource as well.



Even though Christmas is over, I have made my list and checked it twice and we have a total of 15 Auxiliaries that are at or over 100%! There are 4 Auxiliaries at 99%, way to GO!!! This puts Arizona at a total of 96.99% as we move into 2024. Can we make it to 100% before March? Check out the Department Facebook Page to see who is in the 100% club and cheer them on!

As we move forward this year encourage members to transition to life, ask them what their passion is, invite members to a breakfast or teatime to get to know them. As always thank them for their dedication to the organization. As our Membership Ambassador has said the “show” is only as good as our “cast and crew” so let’s have the best!

Cheers to a New Year!



Mentoring for Leadership Doug Kinghorn

Happy New Year!!!

As Auxiliary and District line officers, have you talked to your membership about mentoring future officers and incorporating and respecting the Auxiliary’s past, embracing the present and planning for our organization’s future by pairing experienced Auxiliary leaders with members who wish to expand their knowledge of our organization.

Have a mentoring training session and showed the members how to

access the following:

- Auxiliary Member: [MALTA Membership System Training](#) (13 minutes)
- Auxiliary Member: [MALTA Membership System Virtual Tour](#) (3 minutes)
- Auxiliary Member: [How to Activate Your MALTA Account](#) (4 minutes)
- Auxiliary Member: [How to Convert to, and Pay for, a Life Membership with a Credit Card](#) (3 minutes)
- Auxiliary Member: [How to Pay Your Annual Dues Online with a Credit Card](#) (3 minutes)

Secretary Instruction

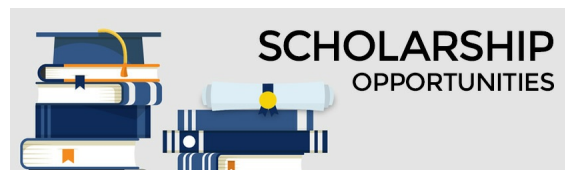
- [Form to Submit Delegates and Alternates for National Convention](#) (Fillable pdf)

Treasurer Videos

- Auxiliary Treasurer: [Payment Method Information Confirmation](#) (2 minutes)
- Auxiliary Treasurer: [Update and Confirm Dues](#) (2 minutes)
- Auxiliary Treasurer: [Pay Dues for Individuals of Your Auxiliary](#) (2 minutes)
- Auxiliary Treasurer: [Purchase a Bond for Your Auxiliary](#) (1 minute) – **Be advised there is NO SOUND with this video.**
- Auxiliary Treasurer: [How to Void a Transaction](#) (2 minutes)

Invite others from a different Auxiliary to help. We are all mentors in some way and would love to expand our knowledge. Write your project report, don't forget to add the names of everyone involved and take pictures!!

Keith Doris Scholarship



Our Post level winners for both the Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen Scholarships have been chosen and at our Winter Conference Banquet on January 6th, we will congratulate the Department winners and applaud all of the District first place winners! Every student that entered is truly a winner as they are on a wonderful path of citizenship with the encouragement of their parents and teachers.

These two scholarships are only part of the opportunities the Scholarship Program has to offer, and we must be keeping our attention on the deadlines for the upcoming awards. Are your calendars marked for the important dates? Our National Scholarship Ambassador Tina Hicks shared not dates with us but helpful tips on

reaching applicants in her blog which you can access [here](#).

- **Continuing Education Scholarship** – The application must be received at National Headquarters by **February 15, 2024**. \$1,250 will be awarded to an applicant in each of the four Conferences.
- **Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest** – Entries must be to the local VFW Auxiliary by **March 31, 2024**. There will be scholarships awarded in the amounts of \$500 to \$15,000.
- **3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest** – Entries must be to the local VFW Auxiliary by **March 31, 2024**. There will be scholarship awards in the amounts of \$500 to \$2,500.

Additionally, Arizona offers two Scholarships each year.

- **Arizona VFW Auxiliary Merit Scholarship** – Entries must be received by the Department Scholarship Chairman by **April 1, 2024**. There will be one scholarship awarded in the amount of \$1,000.
- **Arizona VFW Auxiliary Educational Grant** - Entries must be received by the Department Scholarship Chairman by **April 1, 2024**. There will be one Grant awarded up to the amount of \$1,000.

How many of you have taken advantage of the Member Resources in Matla for Scholarships? Did you know that you can download Press Release templates for either all of our National scholarships or a Press Release for each individual scholarship? These releases word documents ready for you to customize for your Auxiliary and contact information and include links to the various scholarship entry forms. This is a quick and easy way to educate your community, while enlarging the pool of applicants.

You can also utilize these templates as a guide to write your own press release about the Arizona Department Auxiliary Merit Scholarship and Auxiliary Educational Grant, with information from our Department website at www.vfwauxaz.org under Programs, Scholarships.

Keep in mind that this year the National Scholarship Awards are based on educating the public about all of our scholarship opportunities and these Press releases are just one of the many ways to do that. A press release is not limited to just a printed publication but can also be digital by using on social media or read on radio...be creative!

Just a reminder that the Special Project Report for this program shows the criteria for what will be considered for the National Citations and award. Be sure to check the box if your special project qualifies.

- Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that

educates their community about scholarship opportunities through the Auxiliary

As always, please reach out to me or any of the Department officers if you have any questions regarding either the entry requirements or deadlines.

See you all at Winter Conference!



Veterans and Family Support Jeannie Hampton

Networking

How can we as the VFW Auxiliary serve the needs of the Veteran and Active Military community best while staying current? By networking with other organizations. Some of these have been gleaned from Auxiliary Reports, some from participating in organization meetings.

Be Connected -3000 Organizations together to help Arizona Veterans, Active Military and their families: [Be Connected: Help & Support for Arizona Veterans, Military, and families \(beconnectedaz.org\)](https://www.beconnectedaz.org) The match tool is amazing. It takes up to 200 different aspects to align the Veteran need with assistance.

Be Connected Navigation Training dates through 2024

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/2024-militaryveteran-resource-navigation-training-tickets-722928487567?aff=oddttdtcreator>

Auxiliary 9972 continues to invite active-duty military families from Fort Huachuca to VFW and Auxiliary sponsored events recognizing Veterans in the community.

Show Low Auxiliary 9907- holds dinners and Active-duty National Guard 1404 family picnic events. (Great way to use a MAP Grant)

From the Arizona Legislative Caucus and a report from Auxiliary 9907- Representative David Marshall spoke on the Pleasant Valley Veterans Retreat [Pleasant Valley Veterans Retreat – Come find hope, healing, and history at the Pleasant Valley Veteran's Retreat.](#)

Auxiliary 10254 reported on Base Camp- raises funds all year to help send Veterans to an equestrian therapy camp at the White Stallion Ranch in Tucson. A one-week retreat in a ranch environment. [HOME | Bcampinc](#)

JAVC- Jerry Ambrose Veterans Council in Kingman- a homeless Veteran rehabilitation program to help those who wish to get off the

street succeed, “A hand up, Not a hand out”. | [Veterans Helping Veterans \(javc.org\)](#) JAVC also sponsored the first Veterans Stand Down in Mohave County in 2013- and continues to organize Stand Down events today.

Auxiliary 8242- Yuma Right Turn for Veterans [WHAT WE DO - Right Turn for Yuma Veterans \(rightturnyumavets.com\)](#) Long term transitional housing in a group home setting to help homeless Veterans transition to a more stable way of life.

Auxiliary 549- Esperanza En Escalante- transitional housing for Veterans- supports them with necessary requested foods, school supplies, expectant mother supplies.

Auxiliary 1433 contributed a tote of items for recreational therapy to the Arizona State Veterans Home in Phoenix.

Arizona Purple Star pilot program- 4 schools supporting Luke Air Force Base military families. [Arizona Purple Star Schools military program launches \(azpbs.org\)](#) these Charter Schools understand how difficult it is for military children to adjust and transition when they constantly move. They set up peer mentor programs to help new students feel comfortable in a new environment.

“Legislation must be passed at the state level in order for Purple Star School designation. Such legislation has been written and proposed. If everything goes well, the governor will sign it into law in April during the month of the Military Child”.

VFW and Auxiliary 7061 Parker have been hosting for the past 4 years wounded Veterans and their families to a day of play on the water through Wake for Warriors- [About | Wake for Warriors](#)

CAWL - The Center for American War Letters brought to light by PDP Kim Harney, this collection tells of the true American War experience with handwritten (and email) letters from those who have served in the US Armed Forces. The collection offers a historical perspective of major world events: [War Letters Project | Chapman University](#)

The point being, the Department of Arizona Auxiliaries are out in their community, working with Veteran organizations, to better serve Veterans, Military, their families, our community. Banding together for Veterans!

Happy New Year!

Irene Nowacki



Happy and healthy New Year! I hope that you had an amazing holiday season. Time to kick off the new year with a bang!

Winter Conference is just around the corner and the book drive is going to be AMAZING! From what I have heard, we will have many books that will be donated in honor of National President Carla Martinez and the State of Arizona VFW and Auxiliary. Thank you for working together to make this happen and to all that participated in this project.

Saturday night at Winter Conference will be exciting as we celebrate those that entered the Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy contests. If you have not been to this event yet, please try to attend. These young men and women are awe inspiring. Some of them completely blow me away with their essays and their speeches.

We are not done yet though; we have a lot more to do. There is still time to gather entries from our youth for the Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue contest and Illustrating America Art contest. If you are fortunate enough to receive more than one entry for either of these contests, please be generous and share with other Auxiliaries that may not have been so lucky. We want to showcase as many youth projects and singing videos as possible. Since they took the time to do them, they should all be seen and heard. Everyone deserves a chance to possibly win.

Also remember to get out your R.A.P coins or cards and award the youth that are showing random acts of patriotism. Keep up the great work of getting out there with the youth and letting them know they are appreciated and that we enjoy teaming up with them.

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/Get-Excited-for-the-Red-White-and-Blue.pdf>

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/Illustrating-America-2023.pdf>

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/NEW-R.A.P.-Card-Printable-Template.pdf>

Are you holding off on doing your report until the last minute? Don't, get them written up and send them in. I would love to see reports from all the auxiliaries. As always, a reminder that to receive a National Citation, National Youth Activities Ambassador Joyce Caldwell is looking for Auxiliaries that hosts an activity and/or event educating their communities about Patriotism Thru Literacy and utilizing the Random Act of Patriotism cards or coins. Department plaques will be

given to the auxiliaries that submit reports that go above and beyond, have a wow factor and really stand out. From what I have received so far, it will be a difficult decision in the end. I cannot wait to see the reports come in.

See you soon at Winter Conference



Program Activity Reports

The PAR form can be found at www.vfwauxaz.org under Resources/Program Activity Reports as well as behind log in.

Login/Members Only, sign in and then click on Program Activity Report.

A black x means that the PAR was done using this year's form, and a red x means that the auxiliary used an old form from a previous year. For an auxiliary to receive the "Arizona Outstanding Auxiliary Award" they must use the current 2023-2024 PAR FORM.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary in Arizona | 326 E. Burrows St., Tucson, AZ 85704

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