

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter

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President Bambi Johnson's Message

It has been a very busy time in Arizona since the National Convention. Auxiliaries around the state having been sharing program and event plans as well as sending items to the Dept. Program Chairman! Remember to do your project reports and sent to the chairman as you complete something.

So far, I have been able to officially visit a few of our District meetings and I can see that they are working to bring interest and member involvement to their meetings. I have enjoyed seeing the open interaction with members swapping program ideas and working programs as a District as well as individual auxiliaries. When I witness a great idea, I like to share it, so we can all benefit. One such idea was from District 5. They asked each Auxiliary to say what program they thought they excelled at and why they thought that....their examples became SWAP items for

everyone. Then they said what program they felt they struggled with....now they received great helpful advice and ideas from the others in attendance. Not only did this exercise bring forward new ideas, it also had Auxiliaries offering to visit each other to help and built a stronger relationship between members of the District.

Hopefully some of you will be at the Celebrating America's Freedom Event in Salt Lake City, Utah later this month. It is always a special time with members across the nation coming together to Celebrate our wonderful country and National President Carla chose her home state for this event with the location where the first continental railroad was completed.

The last Sunday in September is Gold Star Mother's and Family Day, which honors the mothers, fathers, and families of fallen military service members. It reminds us all, of the loss and suffering of military families. While some Auxiliaries are able to work with Gold Star groups in their area, not all areas have that connection. Consider doing an ad in your local paper or in local social media chat groups and thank those Gold Star Families. You may also explain to the general public what each military remembrance star means. Educating the public about the stars and their significance is a way of honoring those families as well.

With schools in session, I hope we are getting lots of school supplies to students, and Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy entries coming in. Our youth are our future!

Our first Member Involvement Training (MIT) was held in Show Low and we have gotten good feedback from attendees. We are always looking to enhance the training so we want as much feedback, positive and negative, so that each training can be better than the last one.

Our next MIT will be at Fall Conference. We decided to try something different and the Council of Administration will be Friday evening and a Mini MIT will be Sunday morning. This will give more Auxiliaries the opportunity to attend a MIT without any additional travel time or expense. Please plan on attending the Fall Conference for great program info and the Sunday MIT! See you there!

Membership

Our first award show is just around the corner at Fall Conference!

At The Fall "VFWA Oscars" Conference, awards will be given to the

Best Picture in the “Joint Membership Drive” Category!

Get with your Post, set up membership drives, take pictures and **send in a Membership Project Report by 9/27** to be eligible for this award!

Each “nominee” who submits a project report will receive a swag bag and walk the carpet on Saturday September 30 at Fall Conference and will be included in drawing for the Golden VFWA Oscar!



1 Auxiliary (at random) will be selected to win the Golden VFWA Oscar and a movie prize box.

Who will be nominated? Who will win?

See ya all at Fall Conference!!



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



Department News

*Due to Fall Conference, the **Oct newsletter** will not be sent out until Oct 3rd.

***Fall conference** is Sept 30th- Oct 1st at the DoubleTree Hotel in Tempe.

***Western Conference** is Nov 2nd- 5th in Salt Lake City. Conference and Hotel

Registration is now open. Deadline is Oct 16th. Cost of conference is \$175.00 and hotel is \$139.00.

*There will be an **MIT/Treasurer's and MALTA** training on November 18-19th at Post 10005 from 9-3 pm.

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

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

*Western Conference July 2023 minutes and audit as well as the August 2023 newsletter are on the Department webpage - www.vfwauxaz.org under member log in. Your ID is your membership number and the password is your last name.

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 2357** - VFS - On 10 August 2023 the auxiliary's adopted unit VMFA 225 Vikings held an event at the Oasis outdoor swimming pool for the Veterans and their families. The auxiliary supplied 80 pizzas and 100+ boneless wings, water and soda for 250 Marines and their families.

***Aux 5990** - Buddy Poppy, Youth and Americanism - On June 25, 2023, Auxiliary 5990 hosted a Patriotic Rock Painting Party. This was open to the community, youth, auxiliary and post members as well as their families. This was a free event that was organized by Auxiliary 5990 members to help spread Patriotic Awareness, Suicide Prevention Awareness, The Buddy Poppy Story and to just bring people together to enjoy an afternoon.

Guest were asked to paint 2 rocks, one to take with them to spread awareness of their choice topic and 1 to leave behind. The Auxiliary plans to donate the "left behind" rocks to the VA for their garden. We had a total of 5 youth that participated along side Auxiliary



members/Volunteers and were able to paint a total of 20 rocks.



Secretary/Treasurer Kim Sloan

At the Show Low MIT, we had a lively discussion on the proper way to make a motion to accept the Audit Report at the District and Auxiliary, whether it could be made as a "Committee" with no second

required or if it needs to be made by a member and seconded.

National Secretary Ann Panteleakos has responded to our inquiry. Refer to Sec 606C and 711C - both the Department and National organizations have an audit committee, therefore at those levels, the motion can be made on by a Committee member on behalf of the Committee and a second is not required.

Nowhere under Auxiliary or District is there a reference to an Audit Committee. The only reference is in the Ritual Page 30 when it calls for the Audit Report under Reports of Committees, Standing and Special. But that section also calls on reports of program chairmen which may or may not be a committee. And we don't make motions under that part of the Ritual other than the Audit Report.

Therefore, there should be a motion and a 2nd to accept the Audit report. The motion does not need to be made by a Trustee but can be made by any member in good standing. But the Audit Report must be signed by the Trustees that completed the audit.

The Gift guide and the National memo concerning Venmo can also be found on www.vfwauxaz.org behind member log in under Treasurer.

VFW Auxiliary Department of Arizona
326 E. Burrows St. Tucson, AZ 85704

DUES / LIFE MEMBER FEES

New Annual Members \$10.00 per member (send check with COPY of Application to Department Treasurer)

New LIFE Members Life Member Fee per list shown on application with COPY of Application to Department Treasurer

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION DELEGATE/REGISTRATION FEES

Send to Department Treasurer with Department Convention Delegate List. Department will send out instructions for completion of delegate list.

DISTRICT DUES – Send to District Treasurer

Send to District Treasurer when request received.

SUGGESTED AUXILIARY GIFTS (Donations)

DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA

Send to Department Treasurer

Scholarship Fund	\$30.00
Hospital Fund	\$30.00
Patriot's Pen Auxiliary Sponsorship	\$10.00
Department President Special Project	\$20.00
Department President's Love Gift	\$10.00

SUGGESTED AUXILIARY GIFTS (Donations)

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Cancer Aid & Research	\$2 per member based on June 30 membership – Pay thru MALTA
VFW National Home – Health & Happiness	\$.25¢ per member based on June 30 membership – Pay thru MALTA
VFW Auxiliary Patriotic Art (2D)	\$10.00 Pay thru MALTA
VFW Auxiliary Patriotic Art (3D)	\$25.00 Pay thru MALTA
VFW Auxiliary Continuing Education	\$25.00 Pay thru MALTA
National President's Special Project	\$10.00 Pay thru MALTA

SUGGESTED AUXILIARY GIFTS (Donations)

VFW NATIONAL HOME

Send DIRECTLY to VFW National Home

3573 S. Waverly Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

VFW National Home \$30 – Show for Operating Fund
Note that the Arizona House is well funded at this time and funds are being requested for the Operating Fund.

SUGGESTED AUXILIARY GIFTS (Donations)

VFW – National Programs

Send DIRECTLY to VFW National Quartermaster

406 W. 34th St. Kansas City, MO 64111

Veterans and Military Support	\$25.00
National Veterans Services	\$25.00



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

MEMO

DATE: August 14, 2023

TO: National Officers
National District Council Members
Department Secretaries

Past National Presidents
Department Presidents
Department Treasurers

FROM: Ann Panteleakos, National Secretary-Treasurer

SUBJECT: Clarification on accepting PayPal and Venmo

Recently National Headquarters has received many inquiries about the use of Venmo and PayPal to accept payments. The Bylaws specifically state in section 810A, 1st open bullet and section 813A, 8th open bullet: "An Auxiliary may vote to accept payment by credit and/or debit card." PayPal and Venmo are on-line payment systems and/or are considered to be a digital wallets. Since they do not fall into the category of debit and/or credit cards, they will not be allowed at this time.

However, this does not preclude any Auxiliary and/or Department from submitting a resolution to have this section changed. This resolution would then be voted on during next year's National Convention.

Please keep in mind that whatever is voted on will need to be audited. Be sure that the system/systems you put in the resolution has the ability to print a detailed dated report. [Please review Resolutions in the Bylaws and in Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation.]

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS: PLEASE DISTRIBUTE THIS MEMO TO YOUR AUXILIARIES AND DISTRICTS.

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WWW.VFWAUXILIARY.ORG • INFO@VFWAUXILIARY.ORG

Americanism Lori Schaeffler

*National Ambassador's August 2023 Blog -
[See & Celebrate America, It's Heroes](#)

[*Flags and Flowers Challenge](#)

I hope that you are all so excited about this year. The month of September we have many important dates that we can assist the Comrades on recognizing this month.



First, September is Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness month. Our Department President, Bambi Johnson and the State Commander, Bill Schaeffler every chance they get are speaking on this subject. As you all know it hit really close to our state. We need to do buddy checks, and make those phone calls to friends that you haven't heard from. Invite them out to the post for dinner, or take a walk with them. Let's get outside our doors and be there for each other. Let's engage with each other to bring that 22 down. We all care, let's show it. **PLEASE SHARE** the **988** Number if they need help, **PLEASE!**

Patriot Day, September 11th, the day to honor and remember the 2,977 lost that tragic day. America was changed forever that day. I personally wish America would remember how we all felt on 9/12/2001. Please let us recognize the Police Officers, Firefighters, EMT's. Partner up with other programs and do a ceremony and invite them to thank them for being there for our communities.

September 15th is **Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Day**.

This day is to honor those that were held as Prisoners of War or Missing in Action. Over the last couple of years at our Fall Conferences we have introduced you to some of our good friends that were held as Prisoners of War with Lori Piestewa with the 507th Maintenance Company in 2003. My goal was and still is to introduce you to the individuals and families as it's not just a name or a bunch of shortened letters. When you do your ceremonies this year, share a BIO from one of these families. If you need one email me, I have lot of them to share.

The focus this year is that #Morethanletters especially when referring to our Prisoners of War and Missing in action, killed in action etc... Many outside our organization do not know what POW/MIA or KIA means. Let's be the organization that helps those in the general public understand what the letters mean. I personally have had people ask what does VFW stand for? Believe it or not but not everybody knows. So, if we can be the organization that brings understanding of all these shortened letters to names and what they mean, well then, we have succeeded in what our Ambassadors goal is because it is more than a letter or number.

The last Sunday in September is **Gold Star Family Day**. It's a day for us as Americans to thank and express our gratitude for their families' sacrifice. Invite the families out and host a ceremony, If you have a Gold Star family in your community, please recognize them. Read the family BIO #saytheirnames.

In order to get a Citation from National, which is available to every

Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that educates their community that our VFW Auxiliary acronyms are "more than letters."

I have a challenge for every Auxiliary in the State. To the first five individuals that go out in the community and replace five tattered flags, at the Fall Conference I will have a small gift for you. Send me a picture via email or text stickwoman90@gmail.com or 520-490-7612 Lets clean up the flag poles in America.



If you were at Fall Conference a couple of years ago, you heard my dear friend, Karoni Forrester speak about her dad and his co-pilot Captain James Chipman (pictured left).

The following is from Karoni:

I wanted to share some awesome news: we have big news in the Forrester family. Over the past few months, the U.S. government has conducted two excavations of dad's crash site. The site is still open and there are additional Joint Field Activities (JFAs) being scheduled to complete the excavation. During the two excavations this year, osseous material (potential bone fragments) and two teeth were recovered as well as life support equipment (LSE) indicating at least one crew member was in the aircraft when it went down.

It was confirmed to be the right crash site when the team found the dog tag belonging to the pilot, Capt. Jim Chipman, along with a fragment of a credit card with my dad's name on it. While the credit card remains a mystery (he didn't need gas money!), the dog tag confirmed for us that Capt. Jim Chipman went down in his A-6A on 12/27/72. Today we learned the lab in Hawaii has positively identified both teeth as belonging to Capt. Chipman.

We still have a long journey ahead as DNA sequencing is being done in the lab on the osseous material recovered and there is more to excavate. We do not know if dad's remains are among the bone fragments recovered. The DNA process is tedious and takes 12-18 months at times. Each small fragment recovered must be tested.

The GREAT news is that Capt. Jim Chipman, USMC, is coming home after 50 years. Our hearts are with the Chipman family during this bittersweet time for celebration. It's been a long road for our families to get this far and we couldn't have done it without the love and support we've received from you all over so many years. Thank you! More to come...

Auxiliary Outreach Melissa Martin



*National Ambassador's August 2023
Blog - [Find Ways to Partner and Get Involved](#)

There are so many great opportunities out in our communities to help other organizations. Auxiliary Outreach is time given to help, not monetary. It is when one or more auxiliary members help another organization or group make their projects successful. Like most of our Auxiliaries, other organizations are short on volunteers.

There are lots of places to see find places in your communities that might need assistance;

- Look in local newspaper for upcoming events
- Check local community bulletin boards
- Check local and surrounding town and city websites for their calendar of events.

You can also work with your local police, fire and Emt's to see if there are any activities (Child ID kits, fire safety and prevention at local schools). If you know that your local food banks need help every week or even once a month, you can rotate a few volunteers so it's not always the same ones. Help at the library with a book fair. Most organizations are always looking for extra help.

Make sure that you vote at your Auxiliary meeting to approve the activity. If you know that your local food bank needs help the first Wednesday of every month vote on helping them through out the year that way its already approved for the future. You can include it in your Standing rules.

Can't wait to see how your Auxiliaries get out to help your communities.



Buddy Poppy Connie Hargreaves

*National Ambassador's August 2023
Blog - [What's Going On?](#)

[2023-2024 National Joint Special Project](#)

[VFW National Home - Centennial Garden](#)

[VFW National Home August 2023 Homenotes](#)

Well, what a great National Convention in Phoenix!! It was wonderful to see our Department President Johnnie DeBoard receive her Circle of Excellence and see all the National awards handed out to the Department Chairmen for their hard work throughout the year and to the Departments as well.

I met Lisa Jackson, the National Buddy Poppy/National Home Ambassador. She is hitting the ground running and is looking forward to seeing what her chairpersons will do in the upcoming year.

As you have already been told and/or read, it is being encouraged to use “Buddy” Poppies in every program, as well as utilize #poppiescount on all social media platforms. We **do not** report money coming in; we report what is handed out - how many poppies, distributed, or how many are used in a Poppy Display. Don't forget to send in your Project Reports and let me know you used #poppiescount in your social media about your event. Every time you send something in with #poppiescount utilized, I will enter you in the drawing for a Poppy pin (see picture above).

Thank you to those who have started sending in your project reports-

1. SWAP idea: smooth rocks, easy to paint, work with Veterans, members, YOUTH Groups, have a card with them about Buddy Poppy, paint a poppy, use #poppiescount, hide them, don't make it too hard to find, have anyone who finds it take a picture and post #poppiescount and #your auxiliary number. (i.e., #VFWAUX5990) They can choose to keep the rock or re-hide it. Send in the picture on Facebook to receive an entry for the poppy pin.
2. When putting Patriotic Art, Patriot Pen, or Voice of Democracy brochures in backpacks, add a poppy, poppy coloring book, poppy bookmark or add a sticker to a book to promote #poppiescount.

VFW National Home - this year they are focusing on strategic goals, helping Veterans families in distress, and putting together crisis information to refer people to help in various states as needed if they are not at National Home. Veteran families must have a minimum of one child, commit to the program, be able or want to move to Eaton Rapids and go through the application process.

The National Commander Veteran of Foreign Wars Chief and the National Auxiliary President have chosen as their special project this year to raise money to put in a commissary for the residents of the National Home. (See National Project link above).

The property and buildings are one hour from town and if after working or attending school families discover they have forgotten milk, bread or other grocery items needed, they would have to drive back another hour to town to get it or go without. With a small commissary in the community area, they can get home to family. If you live in a rural community where you must drive a great distance to shop, you'll understand this need.

Ways to help or donate to National Home -

- Home front Heroes – donate \$20 or any amount monthly, quarterly, semi-annual, or yearly from your Post and/or Auxiliary, these funds go to general fund.
- Donate to Health & Happiness – receive a citation from National for this.
- Amazon Wish List
- Tribute Brick, for ourselves, vote to give one to a special person in your auxiliary or to someone who did something extraordinary.
- Become a life member. Did you know anyone can be a life member? If you are not a VFW or Auxiliary member, you can become an Associate life member of the National Home. Great Christmas or Birthday gift, special gift, vote to purchase a membership for Volunteer or Teacher of the Year.
- Just send in a donation.

Chief of Staff Johnnie DeBoard

*National Ambassador's August 2023
Blog - [Looking for Red Flag Auxiliaries](#)



Establishing a New Auxiliary: There are steps and procedures to establish a new auxiliary; some set by the National Bylaws which are supplemented by Department Tentative Agenda for establishing a new Auxiliary. We have found that using this tentative agenda sets the new Auxiliary up for success and builds on a positive relationship between the VFW and the Auxiliary. Working together helps both sides succeed.

1. The VFW Post must vote by 2/3 majority of the members present at a stated meeting after giving written notice to all members prior to the vote. Then forward a copy of the minutes stating it was approved to the Auxiliary Department Secretary Kim Sloan at auxvfwarizona@msn.com

2. Department President Bambi Johnson will appoint an official organizer and team to work with both the VFW membership and the proposed new Auxiliary prospective members. Building this foundation takes 3-4 months. We want to give this new Auxiliary the foundation to

thrive and be successful and we do this by mentoring both the VFW and the Auxiliary on what it means to be a VFW Auxiliary, what it means to be a responsible member, the duties of the officers, reporting requirements, etc.

3. A minimum of 15 new eligible applications must be on the charter application. Once the Auxiliary is instituted, transfer applications will be considered and voted on, dues are set, officers are elected, meeting date, time and location are set. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me. I'd be more than happy to assist you.



Historian/Media Nancy Schatz

Happy Fall Y'all!

Nancy Schatz here...2023-2024
Historian and Media Relations Chair...

and welcome to the second newsletter for this year!

I truly hope everyone that was able to attend the National Convention had an amazing time!! I sure enjoyed all the festivities...especially the end to the Patriotic Rally when our own Jane Reape took a pie in the face for such a worthy cause...even though she really had won the most money--great job Jane! The Convention was the perfect opportunity to keep your Auxiliary informed by posting your pictures on your Facebook page or website or putting them in your newsletter!! That's how you get the word out to your membership and keep them engaged and informed on what is happening!

How many of you will be attending the Fall Conference in Phoenix at the end of this month? I will be there and if you would like, reach out to me and we can make plans to get together and talk about your Historian program for this year--call or text me at 760-221-0549!!

Just to let you know, the 2023-2024 Historian/Media Relations Project Report Form is now available on the Department website - www.vfwauxaz.org under programs/Historian-Media. Please take a few minutes to print it out and once you have finished a project... send it to me so I can make sure your Auxiliary is properly recognized on the Outstanding Auxiliaries Monthly Progress Report.

Also, on the Project Form you will see what is required to receive a "citation" for this Program...a 3-5-minute video interview with a long-time Auxiliary member. If you need some help in coming up with interview questions, just call me and we will come up with them together!

Remember...I'm here to help you in whatever fashion you need...just call! Until next time...

Hospital Denise Williams



Hello Everyone,

First, I would like to thank the Auxiliaries who have already sent me their reports. I see you guys doing a fantastic job, keep up the good work.

Go on www.vfwauxaz.org under programs/hospital to look at all the programs and resources. I believe by doing this, it will help you to have a wonderful year. The website is very informative on all the programs and resources.

On my program site my goals are:

- Volunteer Recruitment
- Women Veterans Health Care
- Recognition and Support
- Honor Escort
- Valentines for the Veterans
- Celebrating Non – Traditional Holiday

The Hospital program isn't just for the Hospital, It's for Veterans in Assisting Living, Senior Living, or their private homes. We need to check on all our Veterans young and old. With the weather being hot outside, we need to make sure they stay hydrated and keep cool. If there is anything we can help them with.

Remember we do have a Hospital Grant that is on the Department webpage - www.vfwauxaz.org under programs/hospital that the Auxiliary can apply for to help with taking care of the Veterans. For instant, apply to use the Grant for flags for Honor Escort. Honor escort is when the Veteran passes away, a flag is laid over them to take to their designation, I feel like we should do this for the Hero they are.

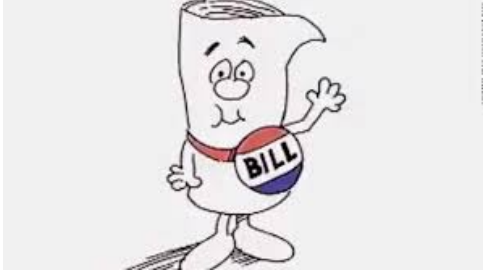
Pass out flags to local Hospitals and All the First Responders. I'm not saying only use the Grant for flags; you can also use it to buy hygiene products, water, and personal items.

Remember we are here for our Veterans.

If it weren't for our Veterans, we would not have our Freedom. Always thank a Veterans, no matter where you are. When I go to the Veterans Facility, I always thank Veterans. Sometimes I drop off snacks like granola bars and waters. We must remember their are some on diet restrictions.

All Veterans count young and old, go visit them. Sometimes we might be their only friend; they are lonely and missing their families and friends. There are circumstances where maybe their family can't visit, or no family. Everyone needs a friend.

If you need to get in touch with me, I'm here.



Legislative JaNice Robertson

Legislation, Such a very important part of our programs It is a large portion and a very confusing portion.

Breaking it down into smaller parts

sometimes helps.

Action Corps. Comes to our email every Monday and informs us of what is going on in National legislation, News on how and what the VFW is doing for our veterans and the Missing in Action reports. It is so great to hear when we have found one of our veterans so that their family can have some closure from so long ago. They find and identify WWII, Korea, and Vietnam veterans all the time. It is wonderful to know that they are finally home. Please make sure all your members are signed up for Action Corps. This is free and open to all patriotic Americans who care about the military and veterans' communities.

VFW Priority Goals. These reflect the resolutions passed by the VFW to strengthen and ensure an adequate VA system for millions of current and future veterans. The budget, health care, education, employment, disability, military quality of life and National Security. All focusing on our veterans. It comes out every January. Look at Malta under Resources and then Legislative. This is the VFW working for all of our Veterans.

Engaging with your elected officials Call, Write, Email them. Be brief. But please do communicate with them. Invite them to talk to your town hall meetings. Do not endorse or support an individual candidate. Be neutral. Ask intelligent questions to address the issues our membership supports.

Encourage all citizens to exercise their right to vote!

Educate yourselves on how a bill is passed. I am sure most of us remember School House Rock. Remember "I am a Bill". You can find it on You Tube - just google it. Yes, this is how an idea can become a law and this is how we as Patriotic Americans and Veterans can help those Veterans that need our help.

Membership Becky Baldwin

TAKE

1.....!

How Exciting was membership kick off at National? The glitz the glamor, joining the cast of amazing actors within this organization should be just as exciting!!



Now you recruited, Great, Now what? Ensure those members have a spot in your cast and crew! Do not want a cameraman that has no idea how to work a camera, or a writer who can not use a pen. Same with members find out what they are good at, what sparks their passion and “hire” or “cast” them for that role. Not everyone is a meeting buff, but some love to mail cards, or sew or make breakfast. Ask a casting director or a talent scout you are looking for what members and potential members can bring to the team.

Remember our first award show is just around the corner at Fall Conference! At Fall Conference awards will be given to the Best Picture in the “Joint Membership Drive” Category! Get with your Post, set up membership drives, take pictures and send in a Membership Project Report by **9/27** to be eligible for this award! Who will the red carpet be rolled out for this fall?

There are exciting new adventures as we move through this year, keep a lookout in our Monthly Newsletters, Fall and Winter Conference as we Invite, Include, and Invest in our future!

Mentoring for Leadership Doug Kinghorn

Relationship Building for the Future!

We all can be mentors. Everyone has a similar idea of what a mentor is. It's a person who befriended you and showed you the way in some area of your life. A teacher, sports coach, neighbor, camp guide, counselor, clergymen. In your job, starting at the bottom, a boss asked you to take classes to better yourself and you may have gone up the ladder with the help of a co-worker.



Have you helped anyone to better themselves? Are you willing to help new and seasoned Auxiliaries members to become leaders in our organization.

Past Presidents, Secretaries, Treasurers and so on, from Department, District and Local Auxiliaries have been mentors to all members.

During your Auxiliary/District meetings, ask the membership if any of them can help out at the next event, either at the post, in front of a business, farmer's market, community event and/or Family Freedom Festival. Make it fun and informative for the members and volunteers.

In the VFW Auxiliary, mentoring is an important part of maintaining the health and well-being of Auxiliary and for the organization as a whole.

We, as members of the VFW Auxiliary, are here to help each other and the community. We are a team in every aspect of the Auxiliary. Get excited to help your members and the community. Teach and show everyone, we are here to help and grow.

The Department of Arizona has a great website, www.vfwauxaz.org for the forms and information for help in Mentoring for Leadership.

During your Auxiliary meeting have a Mentoring event, take pictures and add the event to the minutes and send in the Project Report to the Chairman, email or snail mail.

When filling out the Project report for Mentoring for Leadership, take pictures of the members helping and mentoring other members and answer the questions, **WHO, WHAT, WHEN, WHERE AND HOW.

GOALS

Ensure a Positive Member Experience
Engage in Learning and Training Opportunities
Develop and Empower Members for Leadership Roles



Scholarships Keith Doris

Two Scholarships that the Auxiliary helps the VFW with are Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen; handing out applications, talking to parents and applicants, going to the schools and promoting on Social Media, and Newspapers.

Voice of Democracy Rules and Eligibility

The 2023-24 theme is: "What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?"

WHO CAN ENTER

The Voice of Democracy is open to students in grades 9-12 by the Oct. 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States, its territories, and possessions; or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. Foreign exchange students, students age 20 or over, previous Voice of Democracy first place state winners, GED or Adult Education Students are ineligible.

HOW TO ENTER

Record your original 3-5 minute (+ or – 5 second max.) audio essay on a flash drive, or other electronic device. You will submit the recording, typed essay and this completed entry form. Provide these items to your school/group competition or VFW Post for judging. You must be the sole author of your essay. The recording must be in your own voice and in English. No music, singing, poetry or sound effects are allowed. The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race, or national origin) although the recording & typed essay should be labeled with your name, to show ownership. Your Voice of Democracy entry must be submitted to a participating VFW Post by the Oct. 31 deadline.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Originality is worth 30 points: Treatment of the theme should show imagination and human interest.

Content is worth 35 points: Clearly express your ideas in an organized manner. Fully develop your theme and use transitions to move smoothly from one idea to the other.

Delivery is worth 35 points: Speak in a clear and credible manner.

Patriot's Pen Rules and Eligibility

The 2023-24 theme is: "How Are You Inspired by America?"

WHO CAN ENTER

Patriot's Pen is open to 6th, 7th and 8th-grade students enrolled by the Oct. 31 deadline in public, private or parochial schools in the U.S., its territories or its possessions. Home-schooled students also are eligible. Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be

lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent residence (the application which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign exchange students or former winners that placed in the National contest are ineligible.)

HOW TO ENTER

Download and complete the Patriot's Pen entry form.

All essays should be typed in English with no color or graphics and 300 - 400 words in length (+ or - 5 word max). The essay must be contestant's original work and a product of the contestant's own thinking. The approach to the Patriot's Pen theme should be positive and clearly focused. Poetry is not acceptable. The body of the essay must not identify you in any way, (including, but not limited to your name, school, city, state, race, or national origin) Quotations may be used sparingly if plainly identified wherever used. A contestant's teacher, counselor or parent may check the essay for punctuation, grammar and/or spelling, but the content must remain the contestant's. Students can ask a teacher or youth group leader to supervise their progress in the competition. Your Patriot's Pen entry must be submitted to a participating VFW Post by the Oct. 31 deadline.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Knowledge of the theme is worth 30 points: You must show a thorough knowledge of the theme in your work. Demonstrate you have researched the issue extensively. Theme development is worth 35 points: Answer all relevant facts about the theme such as the who, what, where, when and why. Relate the theme to your own experiences. Clarity of ideas is worth 35 points: Write your essay in an easy-to-understand format. Leave your reader with a clear understanding of your explanation of the theme.

Reminder: Entries have to be submitted to the Local VFW Post by Midnight, October 31st, 2023.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Fall Conference.



Veterans and Family Support Jeannie Hampton

Be the Resource

September is Suicide Awareness Month –
988 Press 1

As Commander Schaeffler stated at the

District 8 Meeting- Even the Green Berets and Navy Seals call for **HELP** when they get in a ~bind~, **CALL FOR HELP!** You are not alone.

S.A.V.E.- Suicide Prevention-**S.** know the signs, **A.** Ask the question, **V.** Validate the response/listen, **E.** Encourage the person to seek assistance

[Training: VA SAVE - Suicide Prevention for Veterans - YouTube](#)

Available anytime through the Psycharmor site (full of resources for caregivers and Veterans) [VA S.A.V.E. \(psycharmor.org\)](#)

The coinciding PDF to have on hand: [VA S.A.V.E. Training One-Pager](#)

A great place to network and share Veteran Programs/Assistance/Stand Downs/Veteran Resource Fairs- some upcoming dates:

Willams Stand Down- Friday, September 8 [williams_standdown_-_September_8th_2023\[47\].pdf \(azhousingcoalition.org\)](#)

Yavapai County Stand Down Prescott- September 15-16 [2023_flyer.pdf \(azhousingcoalition.org\)](#)

Glendale Arizona Veterans Community Fair- October 7- at American Legion 29 hosted by Humana and Sanderson Ford [Arizona Veterans Community Fair presented by Humana and Sanderson Ford Registration, Sat, Oct 7, 2023 at 10:00 AM | Eventbrite](#)

Pinal County Stand Down Coolidge-October 14 [2023 STAND DOWN FLYER 3.0.pub \(azhousingcoalition.org\)](#)

Lake Havasu City Stand Down-October 21 [StandDown\[59\].PNG \(azhousingcoalition.org\)](#)

If your Auxiliary will be participating in other Stand Down events, please share the flier with PDP Kim Harney to have added to the Department Newsletter and webpage.

Read through the *Veteran and Family Support Program* in the *National VFW Auxiliary Program Book* in MALTA under Member Resources. The program is outlined and given an overview suggesting how the Auxiliary can focus their efforts best toward Veteran and Family Support. Have on hand the VFW Auxiliary "Resource Rack Card" to share. This provides assistance numbers and Veteran resources on one convenient flier. Also, add the *VFW National Home Helpline* to your contact list: 800.313.4200

From the most recent Arizona Veteran Caucus- Phoenix Tiny Homes, as Chuck Byers had discussed last Fall Conference, will be breaking ground on September 28th at 1803 E. Broadway in Phoenix, located down the street from the Phoenix VA Hospital. Each Casita has a bedroom, bathroom, kitchen area, washer/dryer and a doggy door. Look to future opportunities to help with requested items.

The City of Glendale has contributed \$5 Million to “Veterans Community Project” a Tiny home Village built to simulate Military Housing- to help Active Service Members transition to civilian life with less disconnect. Each village has a community center that houses providers in a setting more familiar to military life. Their mission is to “house with dignity”.

The Kansas City, Missouri based company representative, Jason Kander explained, “20 Veterans a day die by suicide. 16 of these were not connected to Veteran Services.” In this community, Veterans are treated as those who have “served their country”. It is a 50-unit village. Tiny homes are set up with the bed facing the door, windows on 2 sides, everything in the home belongs to the Veteran. There are a few larger units- ADA accessible and it has been learned, Veterans will “reconnect” with family members as they become comfortable, therefore needing additional space.

Though the City of Glendale has contributed \$5 million, the village infrastructure comes in at \$8 to 10 million with operation costs at \$1.5 million a year. Something to consider as a long-term “Veteran and Family Support” project for Arizona’s future.

Do you know a Veteran or service member who is looking to further their education? Applications for *Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarships* are open until November 15 for the Spring 2024 Semester – Scholarships of up to \$5,000.00 will be awarded to qualified applicants. For more details visit: [Student Veteran Support - VFW](#) and support Sport Clips!

Another great idea is donating books to troops. Click [Books for Troops](#) to learn more about how you can donate to this worthy cause.

IMPORTANT: All paper issued checks through the Government will stop as of October 1, 2023- this includes checks for VA pensions, caregivers, etc.

https://www.caregiver.va.gov/support/CSP_Direct_Deposit.asp

A brief YouTube video on the changes and notes about being contacted by phone scams for this information: 3:45 (worth watching to answer questions)

For persons who do not have “electronic means of transfer” the VA will contact via text message, email or by postal mail to connect you with “next steps” for your VA funds. They **WILL NOT** call on the telephone to ask for your personal banking information. **IF ANYONE** does this try to collect all the information you can and call 1.800.MYVA411. VA Representatives are available.

[VA Payments Are Changing for Some Veterans and Dependents | EFT | theSITREP - Bing video](#)
[ICE Form 10-002- Exemption Form to apply for the waiver of using EFT – Electronic Fund Transfer](#)

Thank you for “Banding together for our Veterans” and all you continue to do!

Youth Irene Nowacki



I hope that you are all doing well and thinking about all of the wonderful ways that we can reach the youth in our communities with Patriotism thru Literacy.

If you were able to attend the National Convention that was here in Phoenix, you were able to see just how exciting it is for all of the auxiliary members across the nation to come together to celebrate all of the wonderful programs that we have.

This year, we had the opportunity to do a meet and greet with the National Line Officers and all of the National Ambassadors. I was lucky enough to speak with the Youth Ambassador twice. She is really pushing reading with our youth. She feels that reaching them thru literacy is one of the best ways to open up their young minds and teach them about our country’s history and why our brave men and women join the military to fight for our freedoms. See the link below for a suggested list of books.

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

She also would like for us to really utilize the RAP cards. Making sure that the younger children are being appreciated and noticed for doing something that is a Random Act of Patriotism. Maybe they are standing at a parade when the American Flag goes by, and they place their hand over their heart without being asked to do so. Or maybe they found a small stick flag on the ground, and they picked it up instead of leaving it behind. Let us not forget the youth in our areas. Let us make them feel wanted and needed as future members of our Post and Auxiliary. <https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/NEW-R.A.P.-Card-Printable-Template.pdf>

Let’s get excited for the Red, White and Blue singing contest is live and open! Do you know any little singers that just love to dance

around and belt out the tunes? Ask them if they would like to submit a video of singing the National Anthem. Get out there and see just how many kiddos you can get to sing their little hearts out.

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/Red-White-and-Blue-Singing-Contest-2023.pdf>

And let us not forget the Illustrating America art contest. There are three grade divisions that kids can enter. K-2, 3-5 & 6-8. Let's look for those creative kids out there that would love to showcase their talents.

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

Time to get this program year off to a good start!

Program Activity Reports

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



Auxiliaries have an option of what form they would like to fill out, PDF or Excel that is emailed to Lynn Pierre at Cherrieslp@gmail.com or use the google doc that Lynn gets once you have answered the question and hit the finish button.

Each month, the updated Monthly PAR recording sheet will be behind the login on the Department webpage at www.vfwauxaz.org. Go to 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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