

Volume 2/ August 2024

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter

[Visit our Website](#)



President Lynn Pierre's Message

It is such a thrill to see the many events already planned by all our members, Auxiliaries and Districts this year!

My very first event as Department President was to attend the amazing Women Veterans' Tea with gorgeous decorations and great food, and the ladies I had the opportunity to meet were amazing. I heartily

thank Lois Moore and Sheila Eiler for the invitation to join the group as a speaker. It occurred to me as I participated that we, as auxiliary members do not realize how many female veterans are among us and must remember to thank them for their service as they too have been in service to our Country since the Revolutionary War.

As "Families for Veterans" is what we do, I have chosen Suicide Prevention as my special project for this year. I have the honor of working with Lt. Colonel (Retired Army) Dana Allmond, who is the Arizona Governor's Cabinet Executive Officer for the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services. We are compiling some great ideas to support the Prevention of Suicide among Veterans and their families and will be getting more information out to everyone soon. This is a continuing mission that always needs our support. As a staunch supporter of teamwork, I wholeheartedly suggest working

projects as a District rather than one Auxiliary at a time. This not only supports the Programs but, allows even the smaller Auxiliaries the opportunity to complete projects with less effort and, while working as a team, it is always much easier to “man the volunteer stations” and be more successful. The benefits of networking are unlimited!

The District Meeting schedule for Arizona has been compiled and I am so excited to go out to meet with members and make new friends. Please remember your officers are here for you. Do not hesitate to talk with us about wonderful things, concerns, and/or unique events we need to be attending or aware of. This year will be great fun and, as expected, will always support our mission of love and support for all veterans and their families.

NDCM #15 Chrissy Harlan

The 2024 VFW Auxiliary National Convention is in the Record Books now. It was great meeting up with old friends and making new ones.

Congratulations to Bambi Johnson and Beth Miller and both Departments for joining the Circle of Excellence. Both Departments worked hard to achieve this award.



During the Convention 15 Resolutions were presented to the members to vote on Bylaw changes. I will only go through a few of them here but if you have questions on the others, they should be on Malta under Member Resources soon. You can also always contact your Department Presidents or myself if you have questions.

The resolution to expand our membership eligibility criteria failed. Had it passed it would not have been approved by the VFW due to our Charter regulations. We were told that the VFW is working on ways to expand our eligibility so hopefully by this time next year we may have other options. The VFW did approve a Resolution to make Purple Heart Medal recipients eligible regardless of any other service medals.

The Resolution to allow District Dues up to 75 cents was amended to \$1 and passed; the Resolution regarding electing National Council Members was tabled in order to find better wording; and the Resolution concerning Treasurer’s Reports in a 3 Ring Binder passed. The most contentious Resolution was regarding deleting the requirement to profess a belief in God. After much emotional discussion the vote was almost 50/50 with 1306 votes in favor of removing the language and 1377 against. For whatever reason there were 91 abstention votes.

During the National Council of Administration Meeting, I asked several questions regarding the 2023-2024 Budget. My main concern was with the overages in travel for the National President and her Documentarian. Having

spoken to the Arizona and New Mexico Delegates, we agreed these overages were a large issue. I spoke on the Council floor about member perception and accountability. I asked the Council to vote against approving these overages but the motion to approve them still passed. I did what I could and hopefully it put the National Organization on notice that we are paying attention and that they may not get away with overages again.

At the 2023 Convention Council Meeting at MID Year, I moved to have all the National Council of Administration Documents, with the exception of Disciplinary Actions, on Malta for ALL members to review and the motion passed. Members of both Departments were telling me that they were not on their Malta pages, so I asked why they were not up. I was told by the National Secretary that the Approved Budget is under Member Resources. It was the intent of the motion that the proposed budget and Minutes be there as well, so we need to present a new and precisely worded motion at the Mid-Year Conference in 2025.

Thank you to all the members from New Mexico and Arizona that were at the National Convention and talked with me. My love to you all and I look forward to seeing you again soon.

Chrissy Harlan
National District 15 Council Member



Department Announcements

***MIT's** are currently being scheduled. So far, we have the following:

***8/17 & 18** (MIT & Treasurer's Training) - Eagar - 8987; ***9/21** - Prescott - 541; ***11/16** - Apache Junction - 9399 & ***2/22** - Lake Havasu City - 9401

All MIT's will be from 9 am - 3 pm with a lunch provided. Look for the flyers on the Department webpage - www.vfwauxaz.org under news/events

*Click [here](#) to look at the **District Corner** to find all the upcoming events around the state.

***Fall Conference** is Sept 27-29, 2024. Click [here](#) to see how to get your banquet tickets and hotel information.

Connie Hargreaves is running for VFW National Home Trustee # 11. Read her brochure at www.vfwauxaz.org under news/VFW National Home or under member-log in/Department News

Secretary/Treasurer
Kim Sloan

Here is a recap of the voting results on the Resolutions considered at National Convention:



Resolution #1 Amend Eligibility Requirements: **Failed**

Resolution #2 Allow Treasurer's Records to be kept in 3-ring Binder: **Passed**

Resolution #3 Recognition of Past District Presidents: **Passed**

Resolution #4 District Dues Amended to read "not to exceed \$1": **Passed**

Resolution #5 Allow Non-Affiliated Auxiliaries: **Failed**

Resolution #6 Delete "Profess a belief in God" from Auxiliary obligation: **Failed**

Resolution #7 Department Audit Committee Members: **Passed**

Resolution #8 National District Council Member Vacancy: **Tabled**

Resolution #9 Terms of Office: **Passed**

Resolution #10 Payments received via credit or debit card: **Passed**

Resolution #11 Number of Elected Trustees completing an Audit: **Passed**

Resolution #12 Duties of Musician: **Passed**

Resolution #13 Define VFW and Auxiliary Property: **Passed**

Resolution #14 Travel Expenses for Dept President, Secretary, Treasurer Amended to add Budget: **Passed**

Resolution #15 Delegates to National Convention: **Passed**

I participated in a discussion group with Department Secretaries and Treasurers. Those Department Secretaries and Treasurers specifically discussed the chain of command and implemented direction to the National Staff that questions from District or Auxiliary Treasurers will be referred back to the Department Treasurer for first response.

Some of the other items discussed were:

- Credit Card issues – looking for way to more safely process applications with credit cards
- Continuing to improve on the MALTA Bookkeeping App
- Utilize the new mobile app
- Creating system to track veteran name for members (Ineligible VFW Mbrs)
- Bonds – Errors on Amounts

District and Auxiliary Treasurers –

Audit Reports for 2nd Quarter (April, May, June) 2024 are due to Department Treasurer by end of this month! Go to www.vfwauxaz.org behind member log in/ treasurer to see the updated Audit sheet.

District Secretaries – Copies of the minutes of District meetings should be forwarded to Department Secretaries asap. I need those minutes to give the Auxiliaries credit for attending that District Meeting. Go to www.vfwauxaz.org behind member log in/secretary to see the updated District meeting sheet.



Chaplain Jeanne Hampton

There just could not be enough praise for this document: [2024VFWChaplainHandbook.pdf \(vfwpa.org\)](https://www.vfwpa.org/2024VFWChaplainHandbook.pdf)

This month, in searching, three things came immediately to the forefront:

1) Most all cultures understand prayer to a Higher Being. It is quoted, "And it came about that while He was praying in a certain place, after He finished, one of the disciples said to Him, Lord, teach us to pray" Luke 1:11

2) "Our collective prayer offered by one person, and if done well, everyone will mentally participate in the prayer"

Tips-

- a) Speak slower
- b) Speak naturally
- c) Enunciate
- d) Hold your prayer at eye level.... you are reading to the people, not the table
- e) Observe thought and sentence units
- f) Practice
- g) ...Emphasis on words, the phrasing and expression

3) In this world of chaos, the words shared in this document as given by George Washington, Veteran and one of the Founding Fathers of our country, in 1790:

"May the Father of all mercies scatter light, and not darkness, upon our paths, and make us in all our several vocations useful here, and in His own time and way everlastingly happy."

Followed by the prayer: "Let us go forth into the world in peace and dedicated to Your service, O Lord. Let us hold fast to that which is good, render to no person evil for evil, strengthen the faint-hearted, support the weak, help the needy and the afflicted, and honor all people. May your good hand of blessing be upon us and remain with us always, Amen."

Peace be with you all in your work for Veterans and their families.

Americanism Rhonda Follett

"AMERICANISM IS AN UNFAILLING LOVE OF COUNTRY, LOYALTY TO ITS INSTITUTIONS AND IDEALS. EAGERNESS TO DEFEND IT AGAINST ALL ENEMIES; UNDIVIDED ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG; AND A DESIRE TO SECURE THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY TO OURSELVES AND POSTERITY."

This is the definition of Americanism which was originated by the Commander-in-Chief of the Grand Army of the Republic.



By celebrating together, we help to unite one another and fortify our culture. We do this in the observance of holidays we as a military-centered service organization find the most important to keep our mission front and center.

Below are upcoming patriotic holidays:

- Constitution Day and Citizenship Day on September 17th This is a wonderful day to go to our Schools and inform the students of our Constitution which was signed in 1787.
- I think most of us Recognize POW/MIA on the third Friday of September each year. This is to honor all those who were Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action.
- Day of Deployed is observed on October 26th. We honor all our service men and women who have been deployed in service to our country and to honor their families who have made sacrifices while they are deployed.



Auxiliary Outreach Donna Ventola

Hello Team Az! What is Auxiliary Outreach?

Outreach- (verb) an act of reaching out, the act of extending services, benefits, etc.

Auxiliary Outreach is all about service. Service work done by an auxiliary member, or entire Auxiliary as a whole, that benefits others and help other organizations be successful with their event.

This program reminds us that what we do today for others, is how we will be remembered in the future. By us donating our **TIME** is an effort to improve our community and serve a purpose greater than ourselves. There is **NO** limit to what we can achieve by working together as **TEAM AZ**. Team work makes the dream work.

Auxiliary Outreach can help many different groups: senior citizens, animals, homeless and the environment just to name a few.

Many of us participate in Auxiliary Outreach not because it's on our check list or to get an award, but because we like and or enjoy helping others, improve our community, personal growth, new skills/experiences and yes make us feel good inside.

Yes, our success will be ours if we properly plan, promote and complete each project. Positive, effective promotion of our organization will increase public awareness and recognition.

Please don't forget, to log in the Department website (fwauxaz.org) and fill out the project report which is behind log in.

I am always available to help, and of course come out to support and lend a

Buppy Poppy/National Home Jeanne Hampton



I am so excited to be the Buddy Poppy / VFW National Home chairman for 2024-2025. My goal is to share ideas, both tried and true, and some fresh ideas for promoting both the Buddy Poppy and the VFW National Home.

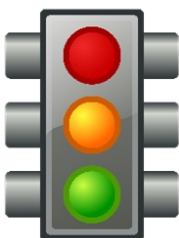
I know that we're all used to standing in front of the grocery store giving out poppies. But do most of the people accepting them really know how and why the poppy came to be such a symbol of sacrifice. There is a video under the Member Resources, Buddy Poppy National Home - "*The Veterans Behind the Buddy Poppy*". If your Auxiliary is having a Buddy Poppy Drive, consider taking a laptop and have this video playing for everyone to see.

Children love flowers – teach them about the Buddy Poppy by handing out one sheet coloring pages with crayons. They will enjoy coloring and hearing someone read the story.

Consider handing out Buddy Poppies at other gatherings. You may not be able to collect donations, but you can still distribute Buddy Poppies and bring awareness to adults and children. Do you belong to other clubs, sororities, fraternities, Kiwanis, Toastmasters? Use that connection to bring awareness. Schools are always looking for groups to volunteer at sporting events and school activities. Bring poppies to share and start the conversation.

The VFW National Home is celebrating its 100th anniversary on January 7, 2025, and holding a small celebration (the big celebration will be in June!). I challenge every Auxiliary to send a birthday card along with a donation of \$100 to the VFW National Home! The cards will be displayed for all to see!

National President Brenda Bryant has chosen the VFW National Home as the site of the CAFÉ (Celebrating America's Freedom Event) on September 7, 2024. The flyer for that event is on the Department webpage - www.vfwauxaz.org under news/event. This would be a great time to see the campus if you've never been there, or to visit it again. There are many exciting things happening on campus that the Executive Director and the staff want to share with all the members.



**Chief of Staff
Johnnie DeBoard**

WHICH ONE ARE YOU?

National Ambassador Betty Arnold is using the signal light approach this year.

We want all auxiliaries to be at the green light. What are some ways to be green? Bringing in new members and mentoring them. This could be any member. Don't forget to reinstate members. Does your auxiliary have a showing at the District and Department meetings and trainings? Encourage all members to go to auxiliary, district and department meetings and training. These are for **ALL MEMBERS** not just officers. Are the officers changing? Are you mentoring potential officers? Communication is key to effective mentoring. Use building on the Auxiliary foundation to help with this. Adjusting to change is a good thing. Stay in the right lane and adjust your speed if necessary.

Yellow is when you are starting to slow down for a red light. This could be for many reasons. You may need some assistance with new ideas to get back to green. Don't hesitate to reach out to myself or any officer of the Department or District. We don't want to see you hit that red light. We are here to help you go far and stay in the right lane.

Did your auxiliary get the red light? Although that's not what we wanted it's ok if you did. We are here to help figure out what happened and go again. The Department president will send in a mentoring team to help you get back on the road. We may just need to mentor the whole membership on how to change a flat tire and read a road map. Our goal if you get the red light is to bring you back with new tires, maybe even a new car.



Historian/Media Lori Schaffler

Unearthing the Past, Shaping the Future Lori Schaeffler and Crystal McCarthy

This month, we invite you to embark on a heartfelt journey of discovery. Our National President's platform this year is "From Our Roots to Our Branches" and our Department President's platform is "Families for Veterans". A wonderful way to bring these two themes together is to take an opportunity to sit down with a veteran (or two) and their family and delve into their remarkable stories.

Ask the Veteran the 5 W's:

- **Who** inspired them?
- **What** challenges did they face?
- **Where** did their journey take them?
- **When** did pivotal moments occur?
- **Why** did they choose to serve?
-

Ask the family members about life during and after their veteran served. A few sample questions are:

- What were some of the biggest challenges your family faced during the veteran's service?
- How did the community support your family during the veteran's service?
- Can you share a moment when the veteran's service had a noticeable influence on family decisions or dynamics?
- How did life change for your family when your veteran returned home?

- What advice would you give to other families supporting a veteran during service and when transitioning back to civilian life?

Capture these invaluable memories by writing an article or creating a short video. Use any documents and photos that they are willing to share with you. Are there letters that we can take quotes from? Are there photos of the veteran in uniform or in a location away from home?

Share your creation on social media, in a newsletter and in your locations. If you post on social media, please be sure to tag us at **#LegacyOf Service**, so everyone can celebrate and preserve these incredible legacies together. Any auxiliary submitting a veteran story by Fall Conference will receive entry into a drawing for a \$25 VFW Store gift certificate.

Let's honor our veterans by learning about their roots and sharing their stories with the world.

Hospital Amy Timbes



Hello Sisters and brothers. My name is Amy Timbes. I have been a life member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars since 2003, joining under my WWII father. My main interest has always been helping veterans live as well as possible whether providing transportation, resources or donating to the hospital.

Over the years I learned to ask what was needed rather than rack my brain hoping to help. Now I attend Voluntary Services meetings where they provide the WISH LIST. I would dream that each auxiliary would sign up at least an occasional volunteer to attend these meetings. Speakers relate wonderful stories about the items we provide and how they are assisting our veterans in life.

It would be beneficial to every member to peruse the information on both the Department and National websites detailing the opportunities for volunteers. It is also important to know the facilities that can benefit from our compassionate care.

As for me, being a total novice on this chair I will need your input Together we will have a successful year, impact many veterans and help pump up our political power in Washington by reporting the mega hours we spend on our endeavors.



VAVS Region 1 & 3

July VAVS Quarterly Meeting, July 17, 2024

The VBA Claims Clinic has moved—new location is at US Vets, 120 N Marinda St, Suite B Prescott, AZ 86301. Hours are 9 am to 2 pm. Walk-in dates are July 11, August 8 and September 5. Call 800-827-1000 with questions.

New program for the VA: the Centenarian Recognition Program. It's a special program designed to honor Veterans who are turning 100. Anyone may nominate a VA enrolled Veteran through the CDCE (VAVS) office.

American Legion Post 140 is sponsoring a car raffle to win a 2025 Subaru Forester. Raffle entry is \$100. For more information, visit www.post140.org/car-raffle.

Hope Fest AZ will host a celebration on September 14 at the Yavapai County Courthouse Plaza.. For more information about the 12th year for this event visit hopefestaz.com or call 928-641-HOPE.

Atlas Medical Systems presented information regarding its services to Veterans throughout Arizona. The outpatient center offers Veterans its wraparound service to enable Veterans with a multitude of conditions recover their lives. Based in Phoenix, the program will assist any Veteran in Arizona, transporting them to the facility at no charge. The program does not take donations. For more information visit www.atlasmeds.com.

UPDATES:

The Prescott VA is in need of: DAV drivers, VTS Scheduling and Warehouse volunteers.

Event Dates:

- August 24-ALR BBQ.
- August 4-Coast Guard Birthday.
- September 3-VA Blood Drive
- September 7-Suicide Prevention Poker Run
- September 14-Hope Fest
- September 18-USAF Birthday
- September 20-POW/MIA Day
- October 5-PGC Golf Tournament
- October 13-Navy Birthday
- October 14-Columbus/Indigenous Peoples' Day (Campus Closed)
- November 10-USMC Birthday
- December 20-Space Force Birthday

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Thuringer
VAVS Representative
VFW Auxiliary, Region 1

VAVS Region 3 Tucson

Quarterly CDCE meeting for Southern Arizona VA Health Care System was held July 31, 2024. Here are the highlights from that meeting!

MAKING A DONATION

The Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS) is very appreciative of the substantial contributions from many generous donors each year in support of Veteran Patient Programs.

Contact the **Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE)*** at 520-629-1822 for a current list of donation needs and to ensure a need still exists prior to making a donation

Needs for specialized programs are available in the CDCE Office, Building 58. These programs include **Patriot Pantry, PTSD and Substance Disorder Treatment, Homeless Program, HUD/VASH Household Starter Kits, and Fisher House.**

Thank you for what you do to serve our hospitalized Veterans and their families!

VAVS Volunteer Opportunities

- a. **Volunteer Assignments** – Kristina Blake, Volunteer Support Specialist, CDCE- Volunteers connect with others to be a part of something bigger than themselves.
- b. **SERVE Program** (Students Volunteering for Veterans) Highlights and Hour Updates – Kristina Blake, Volunteer Support Specialist, CDCE– This program is open to youth applicants ages 14-18. The **SERVE** Program is an eight week program, based on the area schools' calendars and summer breaks. The program is an opportunity for selected students to gain valuable work and life experience while serving our Nation's Veterans. There will be a limited number of youth placements available.
- c. **In-Home Visitor Program** – Cathi Starr, In-Home Visitor Coordinator: Reported that the homebound veterans enjoy the phone conversions. Currently 18 veterans are in need of volunteers to reach out. A Specific Application must be completed and approved. Contact Cathi Starr

We have many programs that need support. The following contains a **brief summary** of a few of **SAVAHCS Patient Needs/ Programs/Updates**

A comprehensive list of Patients needs is available. If interested in sharing with your Posts/Auxiliaries, please let me or Kim Sloan know and we can email them to you.

a. **SAVAHCS VSO & Community Partner Equity Listening Session** - Dr. Michelle Melton, Psychology– Tucson Vet Center has a new administrator. Vet Centers offer confidential help for Veterans, service members, and their families at no cost in a non-medical setting. Services include counseling for needs such as depression, post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and the psychological effects of military sexual trauma (MST). Vet Centers also connect Service Members, Veterans, and family members with more support in VA and the community. 877-927-8387 to find your nearest vet center

Program Manager

- b. **The Art of Healing** – Alejandra Lara, Suicide Prevention Coordinator
- c. **Mental Health Recreation** – Jennifer Zumwalde – Recreational Therapist 1 West & 95

To read the National VAVS July 2024 National Bulletin, go to
www.vfwauxaz.org under programs/hospital

Legislative Connie Hargreaves

So primary voting is complete, still waiting on all results, and then moving on to General election. You can check this out on your county website or the Secretary of State website.

Voter registration deadlines:



- **In Person:** 29 days before Election Day, or on the next immediate business day if the deadline falls on a legal holiday or weekend.
- **By Mail:** Postmarked 29 days before Election Day and received by 7 p.m. on Election Day.
- **Online: 29 days before Election Day, or on the next immediate business day if the deadline falls on a legal holiday or weekend.**
-

As of June 30, 2024 there were 11 statewide ballot measures on this coming general election, this does not include your local areas, so it is important you pay attention to your voter information booklet that comes out 30 days before each election.

You'll be hearing a lot about interacting with your representatives as well as signing up for Action Corps weekly. All VFW programs relate to the Priority Goals:

1. Budget
2. Health Care
3. Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs
4. Education, Employment and Transition Assistance
5. Military Quality of Life
6. National Security, Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA, (Prisoner of War and Missing in Action)

The VFW actively lobbies Congress and the administration on behalf of veterans. Monitor all bills, testifying at committee hearings and interacting with members from your local representatives to your congressional representatives.

Example of how bills affect our veterans is SB1172-21. This was almost lost because our Governor recommended these appropriated monies for a VA Home in Mohave County be returned to the general fund. This would fall under Veteran, Family Services, assistance. Had our members not helped in contacting their representatives this may have been lost but because many contacted their representatives on the state level, it was extended to 2028 in restricted funds. So now getting the VA Administration to decide on which donated property, we need to advocate with them to get a choice made, i.e. the signatures that the VFW and Auxiliary supports this endeavor. One person is a whisper, a thousand or more is a roar.

Your priority Goals can be found in MALTA under resources, programs, legislature or on www.vfwauxaz.org under programs, legislature. You can also find other good information to help you when planning your event or collaborating with your VFW Post connecting members with local lawmakers.

Again, the election process is a way for you as a veteran or family member to have a say in who is elected to office that would best support our veterans. Connect with candidates and elected' and let them know our goals and follow the progress of a bill through the stages of the process by going to www.congress.gov.

Want to speak at a hearing or your state level, go to <https://www.azleg.gov/group/request-to-speak/#:~:text=You%20can%20create%20an%20account,wishing%20to%20testify%20in%20committees>.

Please remember to go to any local events where you can meet, talk and ask questions of your candidates, now and in the future. If you're at an event and an elected official or candidate is mentioned, seek them out, give them your name and hand them our Priority goals.

Please check out the do's and don'ts of Advocating and if you have a candidate at your Post or sponsored event, make sure that it is not an endorsement of any candidate and if you campaign for a candidate, do not wear Auxiliary attire when campaigning.

New information has been sent out on HR 8560, the End Veteran Homelessness Act of 2024. You can read more by clicking this [link](#) to go to the webpage or go to www.vfwauxaz.org under programs/legislation.



Membership Irene Nowacki

Let's get this year started off on the right foot.... with a challenge!

I challenge all the Auxiliaries to contact their Post Quartermaster and set up a time to do a "Calling Tree". It is never too early to get a jump start on membership goals. The more we work together on this huge feat, the more it will benefit all of us in the end. Come up with a fun way of coming together and planning out your time. I would love to hear your ideas and how well they worked.

For those Auxiliaries that do not have a Post home, come up with a way to do a "Calling Tree" with your members. Show how valuable you are and how much you care to keep your members.

How many members did you contact as a whole?

How many members did you gain from doing this as a reminder to those that maybe let their membership lapse?

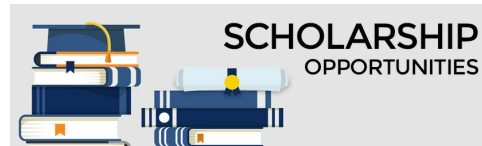
How many of those that you contacted appreciated that you reached out to remind them that their membership has lapsed? It is amazing how many members do not remember to renew their dues.

The more members you reach now, the easier and less stressful it will be later when the end of the year is approaching, and you don't have to scramble at the last second to get your numbers in. This way you have more time to reach out to new members. The more time you spend at membership tables or events to gain new members without the stress of waiting to the last minute, is a goal we all want. We want to get that information out on who we are, what we do and why we do it.

Make sure that when you do a membership table, to have the new QR code handy for those that are in a rush and maybe don't want to grab a handful of paperwork and would rather access the information electronically. As we move forward in a more electronic driven world, we need to bend and restructure our way of approaching the younger tech savvy generations. They are our future.

I think this challenge will not only get the Posts and Auxiliaries to work together collectively, but to also show each other that we are up to this challenge and care about our members and keeping them. We all know that numbers mean a lot on capitol hill and that we need our members to have that voice to keep fighting for our Veterans rights that they fought so hard for. Let's call everyone!

Scholarships JaNice Robertson



Okay Brothers and Sisters there are 2 different **Continuing Educations**. I know there has been some confusion between these two. **Any Question please call me 928-580-8872.**

From National it is a Scholarship:

This one is open any Auxiliary members who has been a member for at least one year, or their spouse or their children with a financial need. There is only one winner in each of the **4 conferences**.

The application is sent directly to National VFW Auxiliary in Kansas City and is due to them by the 15th of February. Last year's winner of our Western Conference came from Tucson AZ. So, let's have AZ win again this year. The awarded amount is \$1,250.00. Get the information out to all of our Auxiliary members. Let's show National that we can do it again.

From The Department of Arizona, it is a Grant:

One **Educational Grant** of \$1,000 will be awarded to the first-place winner. The Department of Arizona Auxiliary is pleased to present a \$1,000 grant to assist members who wish to further their education by pursuing a college degree or a career direction at a vocational or technical school.

Applicant must be a current member of an Arizona VFW Auxiliary AND must be 18 years of age or older. This is not for their spouse or children unless they are also members of the Auxiliary. This is a good membership tool as maybe the kids do not realize they can become members at the age of 16. Talk to the colleges, Foundation Coordinators, and see if any of the students might be able to join the Auxiliary under their grandparents or parents or even their brothers or sisters. This one is due to me by the 30th of April.

The **Arizona Merit Scholarship** is for 12th grade students only. A child or grandchild of an auxiliary member or if they can be a member themselves. They must fill out a binder with sheet protectors and sent to me by the 30th of April with the following information:

- Transcripts from 9-12 grades

- Letters of recommendations from teachers, friends, family, pastors, employers, camp counselors or anyone that may know their qualities.

- Any work records or volunteer records.

- Any awards they have received for past ventures.

- Copy of their College, vocational, or trade school application and acceptance letter.

These 3 awards get so little attention as we all work hard on the **Voice of Democracy** and **Patriots Pen** to assist the VFW and the 2 different **Young American Creative Arts** contests, let's not forget these other contests.

VFW Guide for Post Service Officers



Part 1: Benefits Overview



Part 2: Service-Connected Disability and Pension



Part 3: Health Care



Part 4: Memorial Benefits



Post Service Officer Training Presentation



Federal Benefits for Veterans' Dependents and Survivors

More On Our Service Officers



Service Officer Conduct and Responsibilities

Veterans and Family Support Becky Baldwin

What is one way to Support Veterans and their families? Supporting the VFW Service officer Program. You can donate directly on line at [VSO Donation](#), Districts and/or Auxiliaries that wish to donate will need to Contact the Department Quartermaster for instructions.

Did you know that the VFW has close to 1900 accredited Veteran Service Officers (VSOs). An accredited VSOs are trained experts that help veterans, and their families navigate benefits, including assisting in applying for benefits that are available. Benefits may include, disability compensation, education programs, death benefits, training programs and more. The use of a VSO is FREE of Charge to any Veteran and/or their family member.

Not only Does AZ have a Department Service Officer, but each post has what is known as a Post Service Officer (PSO), PSOs help veterans and families gather all needed documents and information that a VSO may need in helping to complete a claim or apply for benefits.

Would like more information? Visit [VFW Assistance](#)
Scroll to the right side of the page and review all available resources.

Youth Stephanie Quinton

Hi everyone, it's Stephanie Quinton your Department of AZ Youth Chairman.

I hope all is well this Summer. It's August and school is back in. It's time to get back in the schools and make those connections for your upcoming year.

A few suggestions for Aug- look into seeing if you can connect with community Organizations/Businesses that might be doing Back to School supply drives and see if you can help. Start getting your information about Scholarships to the schools, maybe set up Flag education in class.

Hope this was helpful, and all the reports I have gotten so far have been GREAT, keep up the good work.





Our Website, VFWAUXAZ.ORG, contains the Google form to be used for your regular reporting. This is the only form being used this year! You can find the form behind log in/program activity report. This is also where you can find the tracking sheet each month. Please take the time to look at the tracking

sheet to make sure you Auxiliary's PARs are being recorded.

Please remember that in order to be considered for the Outstanding Auxiliary Award, your Auxiliary must turn in 12 PAR reports.

We have made your reporting so very simple; it can be done in a matter of minutes! It is a new year and Program Activity Reports (PARs) are so very important!

This is the monthly or quarterly report every Auxiliary sends to provide numbers to the Department of Arizona, then, National, starting every year in April. Why are these numbers so important?

All these numbers are important because they demonstrate our Mission to support our Veterans and their families through our Programs. Every Donation, act of charity, Fund Raiser, Patriotic Festivity, etc., is what we need so desperately to hear about. When we compile all these numbers, they affect our ability to represent our Veterans and their families in the legislature to get and keep what is owed to them in Benefits, Support and Understanding.

Here are some examples that should be reported on your regular PAR:

- Providing Flag Education, Patriotism, POW/MIA and Star Family Recognition
- Supporting local Community Groups (hours and number of members)
- Poppy Distribution and Displays and National Home Education and Fund Raising
- Regular Newsletters or Emails to your Members as well as Mentoring Projects
- Members who regularly assist Veterans and/or their families with rides to the doctor, grocery shopping, well care visits, etc.
- Hospital work or donations, including Honors Escort Education
- Membership recruitment, retention, and appreciation
- Special Recognition Events
- Assisting the VFW with Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen Scholarships
- Donations and Fund Raisers for Scholarships (all)
- Any assistance or donations for Veterans and their families
- Books donated for Youth and support provided for "Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue" and Illustrating American Contests for Youth

This is not a complete listing of things to report, just a short listing to keep us from forgetting to report EVERYTHING!

If you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Brenda Kinghorn who is charge of PAR's this year. Her email is brendakkinghorn@gmail.com

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!