

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



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Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter

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Department President Lynn Pierre

What a busy month we had in November!

Veterans' Day was amazing at many of our Posts and Auxiliaries. Our mission continues with great drive and persistence. You are all are to be commended.

In addition, I attended the Northern Arizona Healthcare Coalition Governor's Townhall with awesome information. Caretakers were a huge subject of discussion. For those of you who are unaware, the Elizabeth Dole Act was approved in the legislature with many more dollars coming to help improve Veteran and Caretaker Healthcare.

Our need for Buddy Checks on both Veterans and their caretakers is uppermost in our minds this Holiday season. A new CBOT (Community Based Online Technology) was approved for

Northern Arizona giving hundreds of rural and Native American Veterans and families access via telecommunications for healthcare. This is a giant step forward.

On December 7th, Pearl Harbor Day, I will have the honor of joining our Senior Vice Commander, Greg Harrell, in placing the Wreath at Wesley Bolin Park in Phoenix, for the Governor's celebration of this time-honored day in our history. Wreaths Across America is coming up on Dec 14th and I know we will be very busy with that activity.

My heartfelt wish goes out to all of you and your loved ones for a very safe, warm and Merry Christmas season!



Department Announcements

*The last **MIT** for this year will be Jan 25th at Lake Havasu Post 9401 starting at 9 am. The following day there will be a Secretary/Treasurer/Trustee training at Post 769 in Quartzsite starting at 9 am.

In order for your auxiliary to be awarded the Outstanding Auxiliary Award, one member from your auxiliary must attend an **MIT**. Don't miss out!

*Winter Conference is Jan 10th - 12th. The Auxiliary Council of Administration meeting will be Friday, Jan 10th. Go to www.vfwauxaz.org under news/events for hotel and banquet information.

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

*Battalion Family Fun Day at the Florence National Guard is on December 8th

President Lynn is still selling her shirts. The form is on the Department webpage - www.vfwuxaz.org under resources/forms.



National District 15 Council Member Chrissy Harlan

The weather here in Tucson is finally cooling off and it is finally beginning to feel like Fall.

I was honored to be the National Representative at the Department of Arizona Fall Conference. It was a great Conference with informative presentations, training and catching up with friends.

Then we were off to Hawaii for Western Conference. It was great to see so many from our Departments there. Family Feud was a hoot and harder than I thought it would be. I spent a few extra days there to see the sights as I know

some of you did. I hope everyone that was able to attend had a great time and learned something. Attending these Conferences gives us a great opportunity to network and share ideas.

Now we are speeding towards Thanksgiving, Christmas, our Voice of Democracy and Patriots' Pen Awards, and Winter or Mid-Winter Conferences. Where has the first half of the year gone? I look forward to attending the Winter Conferences in both Departments and listening to what the youth of our communities have to say.

This year's Mid-Year Conference will be held in Cancun, Mexico and I hope many of you are able to join us. As soon as I receive the information for the National Council Meeting, I will get it out to you. If there is anything you would like brought up at the meeting, please feel free to contact me at vfwkidsrus@gmail.com or at 520-906-7363.

During this busy holiday season, it is especially important that you each take care of yourselves. Eat well, rest, be kind, and find joy in every day. Thank you all for everything you do to help complete our mission and God bless each of you.

Secretary/Treasurer Kim Sloan



Thank you to all the members that have attended the Secretary – Treasurer – Trustee Training. I know that we never get to cover everything, but our goal is for these trainings to be member focused – no matter where the questions go – that's the road we follow. Thanks to Asst. Secretary Chrissy Harlan and Asst. Treasurer Kim Harney for participating and keeping the conversation engaging. The last Secretary – Treasurer – Trustee Training will be Saturday, January 26 at VFW Post 769 Quartzsite.

AUXILIARY CHECKS – Auxiliary Presidents and Treasurers

Checks must be signed by the Treasurer (Sec. 813C) and countersigned by the President (Sec. 810A).

DEBIT CARD – The Auxiliary may have ONE (1) Debit Card as set forth in Sec. 813A Paragraph 6.

Trustees – please make sure that you are safeguarding Auxiliary funds by doing your required duties of monitoring the checking account and the use of the debit card.

Recently the VFW and Auxiliary were offered an opportunity to volunteer regularly with the Arizona National Guard as part of the Soldier and Family Readiness Group. This would be a great Veterans and Family Support project. Make sure that it's approved by the Auxiliary, attend the required training and then build that relationship with National Guard members. Any questions? Contact Derek Hulsebus at 602.370.1162.

SOCIAL MEDIA – Please review your posts on social media. If it contains any of the following, please do not post.

- Issues with the Auxiliary national website.
- Issues with the Auxiliary national website or MALTA system.

We can't advise or fix a problem if we don't know about it and social media is

not the way that I want to hear about a problem.

DUES NOTICE POSTCARDS went out last week so Treasurers should start seeing dues payments coming in. Please get those processed asap. I've had numerous calls from members wanting to convert their membership to Life. Please work with these members to get them converted – they can do it in **MALTA** using a credit card, or they can pay the Auxiliary and the Treasurer can process.

CANCER GRANTS – Question was raised about when a member is eligible for a Cancer Grant. The member must be a member for one year before applying. That one year mark starts when the member is entered in **MALTA** by the Department Treasurer and the member is assigned a membership number. It is **NOT** when the member signs the application. It is **NOT** when the Auxiliary accepts the applicant.

If your Auxiliary has ordered Podium Books, please be patient.... they are on backorder for everyone.

I encourage all our members to be kinder, gentler to everyone throughout the year but especially during the holiday season. It's a stressful time for many of our members.



HEY, YOU!



We Need Volunteers!

Be Part of Something Amazing!

Are you interested in being part of a support team for service members and their families? Join your Soldier and Family Readiness Group (SFRG) today.

Be part of the SFRG to create new friendships, boost morale, help with fun activities and make a difference!

Join us for our Training Tuesdays!

Virtual and in-person options available!

October 29th at 5:00pm

January 21st at 5:00pm

August 26th at 5:00pm

Email James Puglia to register today at:

James.v.puglia.civ@army.mil



DECEMBER

1. GIVE SOMEONE A HUG OR COMPLIMENT	2. LET SOMEONE IN FRONT OF YOU IN LINE	3. BUY A FRIEND OR COLLEAGUE COFFEE	4. HOLD THE DOOR OPEN FOR SOMEONE	5. GIVE A FRIEND OR LOVED ONE YOUR FULL ATTENTION
6. DONATE A CHRISTMAS PRESENT TO A CHARITY	7. TELL A JOKE TO MAKE SOMEONE SMILE	8. DO SOMETHING KIND FOR YOURSELF	9. HIDE A HAPPY NOTE FOR SOMEONE TO FIND	10. DONATE UNWANTED BOOKS TO CHARITY
11. TAPE SOME MONEY ON A VENDING MACHINE	12. SMILE AT A STRANGER OR 2, OR 15	13. GET IN TOUCH WITH AN OLD FRIEND OR RELATIVE	14. LET A CAR IN FRONT OF YOU IN TRAFFIC	15. WRITE OR SEND A THANK YOU NOTE TO SOMEONE
16. SMILE AND THANK SOMEONE WHO SERVES YOU	17. TELL SOMEONE YOU LOVE THEM	18. PAY FOR A STRANGER'S COFFEE	19. OFFER TO HELP SOMEONE	20. FEED ANIMALS (BIRDS, DEER, ETC.)
21. DONATE UNWANTED CLOTHES TO CHARITY	22. DO SOMETHING UNEXPECTED FOR SOMEONE	23. GIVE A TREAT TO YOUR POSTAL CARRIER	24. DO SOMETHING KIND FOR YOURSELF	25. REFLECT AND RECORD HOW MUCH JOY THIS SEASON BROUGHT YOU

ADVENT OF KINDNESS

Americanism Rhonda Follett

Well, here we are, and November has ended. I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. Now that December is upon us, I hope you have a very Merry Christmas and prayers for a New and Wonderful 2025. Never forget that our Veterans need our support, those who are on active duty and all those who serve our great nation.



Our National Ambassador has placed a very big importance on all the Military Holidays. The ones we celebrate with dignity and honor each year and the ones we tend to forget.

She would also like the Patriotic Instructor to take on a larger role in our Auxiliary meetings. We should ask our instructor at our meeting to read aloud part of our National Bylaws or to remind us of Flag etiquette just to jog our memories on our role in teaching others.

I can tell you I have enjoyed your reports in the Americanism Program. Keep up the good work. I know you send me reports but also remember to let the Buddy Poppy Chairman know when you use a Buddy Poppy to decorate the flags you give out. It would count in both programs.

Remember the Winter Conference is coming up and we need to remember to bring all our diapers for the families to help "cover those bottoms". Let's all do our part and furnish as many as we can. Just another way to do something for the Veterans' families.

Have a very Merry Christmas and a very, very Happy New Year!



Auxiliary Outreach Donna Ventola

Hello Team Az!

This month's article is about suggested Auxiliary Outreach Partners. Listed below are some community partnerships, but not limited to these:

- Local Police Department/Sheriff's Department/Highway Patrol
- Fire Department/ EMT
- Parks-recreation Department/National Park Service
- Soup Kitchen/ Homeless Shelter
- Community Library/ Food Bank
- Humane Society/Animal Rescue Group
- American Red Cross
- Community Run/Walk
- Senior Centers
- Habitat for Humanity
- Salvation Army thrift store
- Local libraries

I am sure there is more partnerships out there in your area, the list above is just a few that came to mind. If you can't find any, the Auxiliary Outreach National Ambassador shared a resource with us, which is www.volunteermatch.org. All you have to do is enter in your zip code and fill in your interests, and that is it. You will get a response back with a list of places in your area to reach out to.

The purpose of this program is to find ways and means to be active and visible within our local communities. To help other organizations outside of the VFW Posts and Auxiliaries that benefit our communities. Please remember you are there helping the other organization and this is one opportunity to possibly show how the local VFW and Auxiliaries care about the community. Remember the other organization is in control of the event, you are there donating your time and physical labor.

When Auxiliary Outreach was created, it was intended to cover what was not already included in another Program. If the hours/event can be reported to another program, they it would go to that program. When filling out your report for Auxiliary Outreach I want you to say to yourself—can this fall under or fit under any of our other programs if the answer is **YES**, then it's not Auxiliary Outreach, if the answer is **No**, then you have to see if it meets the requirements. One good resource is the National Outreach Guide.

When posting pictures on social media please use our hashtag **#Auxiliaryoutreach**. In the description, please include your auxiliary number, city/town and the state. Let's flood social media and show why Arizona is the best in the west.

Please don't forget, to log in the Department website (fwauxaz.org) and fill out the project report. Please remember that Auxiliary Outreach **cannot** be combined with any of our other programs. Describe the event in as much detailed as you can, like you are telling us a brief story. Use up all of the lines that they provided for you, the number of words is unlimited.

HOWEVER, I am always available to help, answer questions of course and lend a helping hand or two. Please stay tuned for next month's edition.....

NOTE* If you would like to bring your photo collage for the National award to Winter Conference, so you don't have to mail it to me, I will take them.**

Buppy Poppy/National Home Jeanne Hampton

VFW National Home -

There's no place like home for the Holidays!
In the most recent Buddy Poppy/National Home Blog, Ambassador Jodie Hollinger states: "Many people have inquired about what the National Home needs, and my first response is **FAMILIES!** The dedicated staff at the National Home is doing an amazing job supporting the families that live there, but eventually these families transition out and move on."



National Home Check List:

- Have you ordered your FREE VFW National Home Promotional materials? [Promotional Material Order Form - VFW National Home](#)
- Has the Auxiliary sent a card or note recognizing the VFW National Homes Centennial Celebration? From Sue Alverson: Cards and checks may be sent to: VFW National Home, 3573 S. Waverly Road, Eaton Rapids, MI 48822. Earmark checks for the 100th Birthday Celebration (Thank you, Carolee)
- Did you know your Veteran can be included in the VFW National Home Veteran Tribute Tree? "To honor a Veteran call 800.424.8360" and request a ribbon.
- VFW National Home Santa Shop- please send your items by December 6th [SantaShopGiftList2024.pdf](#) with shipping instructions.
- VFW National Home Amazon Wish List- only 39 items are listed-prices

begin \$8.00 [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

- Has the Auxiliary sent their Health & Happiness contribution? What seems like a small donation goes a **LONG** way to continue to support a nurturing, safe environment for struggling Veteran families.

Celebrating the Centennial Anniversary for the VFW National Home What has your Auxiliary done? For all Auxiliaries that report having contributed: A card, a donation, got the word out, raffled a Centennial Life Membership or 2 Life Memberships, shared information about the VFW National Home's 100th Anniversary before January 1st- will be included in a drawing for a VFW National Home Centennial Life Membership to be drawn at Winter Conference. "Checking my inbox, checking it twice" looking for **YOUR** report on what the Auxiliary has done to recognize 100 Years of Service to our Nation's Veteran families.

Buddy Poppy -

Wreaths Across America: [Wreaths Across America](https://www.wreathsacrossamerica.com) will take place on December 14, 2024. Be sure to include Buddy Poppies in remembrance activities. December 7th marks the 83rd Anniversary of Pearl Harbor. "A day that will live in infamy"- include Buddy Poppies when recognizing WWII Veterans and their family members. While visiting Veterans in hospitals or in home settings, include Buddy Poppies in the gift wrap. At Veterans Homes and Assisted living facilities- the residents love to decorate their doors- include Buddy Poppies in wreaths and holiday ornaments.

At a recent Auxiliary meeting, it was reported the Auxiliary had coordinated an activity with 3 Brownie Troops. Each Scout member was given a "goody bag" that included a Buddy Poppy. The Auxiliary member coordinating the event asked the Brownies, "Does anyone know what the Buddy Poppy represents?" One little hand, one little voice recited the representation of the Buddy Poppy "spot on". What we do in our communities matters. **THANK YOU** for all you do to keep the symbol of the sacrifice alive.

Merry Christmas to all!



Chief of Staff Johnnie DeBoard

Do you have a low attendance at your meetings? Do you wish more members would attend? Have you reached out to the members who are not attending and asked why? Have you tried using technology to increase your participation whether it be for your regular monthly meeting or a planning meeting? There may be reasons they can't attend in person but would if given the opportunity.

Did you know that you can use video conferencing or Skype? Who might need to do this and when.

- Members who travel for work
- Members who are deployed
- Members who have an emergency
- Snowbirds

- Members who are homebound
- Members living in assistance facilities

Although they aren't there in person, they may have great input. All members' voices matter. As you start the new year, you may want to add change to how you are doing things to increase your participation.

The guidelines for joining a VFW Auxiliary meeting with technology in in our bylaws **SEC. 210**

Have a Merry Christmas and happy and safe New Year!

Historian Lori Schaeffler



While we are all remarkably busy with our upcoming holidays, do not forget to utilize your local newspapers, radio stations and social media to get the word out regarding membership, volunteerism, and all those awesome community efforts we have been involved in.

There is always the downloadable press release form at vfwauxaz.org, under the Historian/Media Relations program tab. All the instructions are provided for submitting an article to your local newspaper and very few of them will refuse these articles.

We still need to get the word out to the communities regarding the Veterans of Foreign Wars, their Auxiliaries, and the efforts we make to support all veterans and their families.

December 7 is a day that will live in infamy. If your post or auxiliary does something in the community or at your post, please take pictures. Post them on social media. Let me know what is going on.

A second event coming up during the holidays is something that is near, and dear to my heart since Kim Harney bought it to our state. Wreaths Across America. Remember, honor, and teach younger generation, the value of freedom. Hopefully everyone has already purchased their wreaths to be placed on the veteran graves throughout the cemeteries in our great State and volunteers are ready to go. If you have never volunteered, I urge you to go to your local cemetery and see what it all is all about. You will not be disappointed. This is a huge event throughout the country. If you are looking for more information regarding how Wreaths across America came about and grown to this status, please go to wreathscrossamerica.org.

Also, in January, the mobile education unit will be here in Arizona if you would like it at your Post, please reach out to me. I can try to make that happen. I was very honored to do a radio interview explaining about Wreaths Across America and some other important Veteran issues which can be found on YouTube. It is an interview with Lifestyle Tucson with Frank Powers. Be sure to listen in for all the facts. Click here to [hear](#) the interview.

While all these efforts are so important, please do not forget the need for

pictures of everything you do. If you post on your Facebook, please tag me and I will be able to pick up those impressive pics. But when you do share, make sure you set it as public because I cannot share it to the Department page if you have made it for friends only.

Also, the most creative use of media is up for a national award this year so think about a recording of your own regarding reasons for membership, answers to the questions regarding why we do what we do and so on. Interviews are always a wonderful way to go.

Lastly remember our National Ambassador for Auxiliary Outreach is looking for a collage this year of all your outreach activities. We need a minimum of four to five pictures of actual activity by our members, not just pictures of the event itself. When you see your members participating at such an event, be sure to snap a picture and use it in your collage.

If you know of a veteran who will be alone during the holidays, I encourage you to invite them to your Post if you're having an event or to your home if you are willing to do that. Let's not leave our Veterans alone this holiday season. Reach out. And please remember that to some this is a year of (firsts) without their loved one.

Bill and I wish you and your family a Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah or whatever you may celebrate. May you all be blessed. Thank you again each and every one of you for all of your hard work you do for our Veterans and our community.



Hospital Amy Timbes

Greetings to my brothers and sisters in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. It's almost Christmas again. We've all been so busy the time flew by. And now with Christmas shopping to do, parties to plan, family to visit, we must

not forget our veterans.

Veterans become our worry and pleasure when they join the service. No matter how they get in they have made a commitment to all of us with their lives. And we in turn owe them our attention forever after. There are so many programs available, and we do lots to make them aware but perhaps the most difficult mission we have is to fill their needs when they are hospitalized long or short term. Not forgetting the families of these men and women, they too have made sacrifices, so all our lives are made better.

I spend a lot of time contemplating ways to help the long hours of recuperation or just survival after injury and age take a toll. We are few in number and that's a tall order. So, it is most important that we recruit others like us who can give a little time. The hardest part of this task is asking. We must talk to many about the need to find a few who are willing. Have you looked in your community for public forums where you can create a display for a chance to recruit? I found two people who already do hospital work just by mentioning the subject

yesterday. Think about how many patients **YOU** touch each month and multiply that by every volunteer we find.

Several auxiliaries have applied for hospital grants for wonderful things, but a lot more have yet to apply. Think about ordinary things that can pass the time like puzzle books, jigsaw puzzles, books (even kindle), coloring books, crayons, art supplies, colored pencils, DVDs, Legos, building blocks, fidget quilts, Joy for All pets with pet carriers, or journals. How about even daily calendars with fun facts or even inspirational quotes? You get the idea. We cannot be there all the time, and all these things help pass the day.

Last but not least, you need to share with all of us by reporting and also posting ideas we all can use.

Thank you for all your work, your dedication and your service.

VAVS Christmas Wish Lists

The first one is for the Phoenix VA and the second is for the Tucson VA. These lists are also on the Department webpage www.vfwauxaz.org under programs/hospital

2024 Wish List

CRRC (Homeless)

- Bus passes
- Gift cards (Walmart & Fry's)
- Walking canes
- Belts or Suspenders
- Work boots
- Dog items (leashes, collars, blankets and medium and large dog shoes)
- Bicycles, helmets and locks

COACH Program (Alzheimer/Dementia)

- Adult Coloring Books
- Packages of Colored Pencils
- Fidget quilts or toys
- Anything Veteran specific or branch specific
- Stuffed and/or electronic animals
- Lego kits with case for preschool age
- Lego building base
- Paint markers
- Magnetic building blocks
- Construction kits (Building toys)
- Fidget arm bracelets
- Fidget arm pillows
- Journals
- Weighted animals and/or blankets
- Plastic stop signs
- Pet carrier w/pet bed

Intimate Partner Violence Program(IPV)

- Gift Cards for food and other items (like Walmart or something similar)
- Gas cards (Walmart & Fry's)
- Bus passes
- Tracphones

Women's Program

New baby outfits (0 to 9 months)

New onesies (0 to 9 months)

Sports bras in all sizes

Hairbrushes/combs for women

Gas cards or Fry's gift cards

32nd St. Clinic(SW)

- Reusable Water bottles
- Homemade Blankets
- Bus passes
- Gift cards (Walmart & Fry's)
- Hygiene bags

Military Sexual Trauma (MST) Clinic

- Inspiring/affirmation coins or tokens [example: Rainbow Lotus Premium Affirmation Coin (thetokenshop.com)]
- Plastic storage bin for MST materials
- Felt fabric for grounding activities (grounding through the senses)

Community Nursing Home (CNH) Program

- Adult Coloring Books
- Fidget quilts or toys
- Anything Veteran specific or branch specific
- Stuffed and/or electronic animals
- VA specific coins
- Blankets/quilts in Red/White Blue colors or branch specific

PRRC (Psychosocial Rehabilitation and Recovery Center)

- Coffee snacks (donuts, cakes, preferably diabetic friendly {sugar free} cookies) [Gluten free]
- Snacks (individual packaging) chips, pretzels, nuts/trail mix, popcorn, etc.
- Challenge coins (VA or Military Branches themed)
- Gift cards (Fry's or Walmart) for essentials/gas/food items not given at food banks

HUD/VASH (Health and Urban Development VA Supportive Housing)

- Broom/Mop/Bucket
- Kitchen/Bathroom Cleaner
- Sponges/Cleaning Towels
- Laundry Detergent/Dryer Sheets
- Dish/Kitchen Towels
- Dish Soap
- Silverware
- Pots/Pans
- Dishes
- Cooking Utensils
- Toilet Paper/Paper Towels
- Shower Curtain with Rings
- Crock Pots
- Air Fryer
- Single Day Bus Passes
- Gift cards (Walmart & Fry's)

*APRIL
CASH DONATIONS
APPRECIATED*



2024 Holiday Gift Suggestions for SAVAHCS Veteran Patients

The holidays can be difficult for hospitalized and homeless Veterans. Below is a list of suggested items to donate as gifts for those Veterans. Please contact Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) (520-629-1822) prior to collecting items.

- \$10-\$15 Gift Cards
- New Baseball Hats
- New Non-Slip Socks
- Gloves/Scarfs/Hats
- Stress Relief or fidget Items
- New Pajama Bottoms All sizes & Genders
- Blue Tooth Speakers or headphones
- Small Hand-Held Flashlights
- Back scratcher, nail clipper sets
- Small Hand-Held Electronic Games
- Card Games, Crossword, WordSearch, BrainGames, Sudoku
- Compact Travel Games
- Sticker and Paint by Number Books,



Your donations are very much appreciated!

NOTE: No food or items that are fragile, breakable, contain glass and/or sharp objects.

No items usually provided to patients such as toiletries, blankets.

All donations must be delivered no later than December 13, 2024.



Legislative Connie Hargreaves

Happy Holidays! This is a time to devote to family, friends and enjoy this past year while waiting for 2025. May you have joy, blessings and wonderful Christmas as I hope your Thanksgiving was as well.



Winter Wonderland is on its way! October and November proved to be a hectic time for our elected. **WOW**, what a ride and no one was ready for the results. Did you get out and vote? Did you let all the candidates know what we wanted for our Veterans and their families? If you watched the debates on TV or

podcasts or various election websites, were you disappointed Veterans were not of greater importance? We got relegated further down the line by what are some very important problems facing us the next 2 and 4 years.

Thank you to all the Post/Auxiliaries that hosted forums and Meet and Greet and members who went to events around their area. Please forward a picture of you with your I voted sticker and fill out the project reports and Program Activity Reports to let us know that you voted, transported people to polling sites, worked the polling sites and how many letters, phone calls or in person contact you had in support of your Veterans.

Now our work begins anew. As we are ending 2024, there are some important bills still in place that we need to let those still in the office know to pass. Let's get out the 2024 Priority goals to the Senators and Representatives before recess. Send a **Thank you** (Christmas Card) to the ones leaving the office and encourage them to continue to support veterans. Let's also send a welcome note to the incoming elected and include the priority goals also. Your quartermaster can order if you are out. In January the 2025 Priority goals are coming out and you can again get to the officials in Washington to remind them that we will be contacting them many times to advocate for Veteran programs and help.

Recently the House passed the Elizabeth Dole Caretaker Act, but it is expected to stall in the Senate which would delay it considerable. Please watch or sign up for Action Corps weekly and watch for alerts and click on the call to action to send letters to your Senators. Take the time to write and encourage or if near their offices in your town, stop in and encourage them to vote yes. The Elizabeth Dole Act is an immense tool to help our Veteran caregivers who are mostly family members. It also addresses the problem for the spouses when their Veteran passes and they are once again facing loss of income. Yes, many caretakers must give up a job to take care of their veteran and then if the veteran passes once again face an income change. This bill is 246 pages long, so please let's advocate for this important bill.

Another bill still awaiting action is the Major Richard Starr bill which focuses on fixing the unequal way disability and retirement pay are handled. As this is a short month for Congress, it will be hard getting much accomplished going forward and into the transition period in January, but we need to keep our voices heard. Let our congressmen know we are watching the budget process which includes the NDAA (National Defense Authorization Act) which contains monies allocated to Veteran Bills and which is showing the Veteran Administration at a deficit.

Please check out Action Corps weekly for pending legislation and keep advocating for Veterans, veteran families and our active-duty personnel.



Membership Irene Nowacki

The Holidays are upon us. What better way to celebrate those in our family than with a lifetime membership to either the VFW or the VFWA. If you do not have any family

members that qualify, there are other options. One would be gifting a membership to someone that is struggling but would like to stay active in the organization. Helping to pay a portion of an annual member. You can be a membership, Angel.

Hold a membership drive during the holidays and make sure to showcase pictures of the programs that you have worked throughout the year so far. If you have an electronic picture frame, you can play short clips of things that your auxiliary has done to show what we do for our veterans and our communities. This would be a great opportunity to include those tech savvy younger members also. If you have recorded a video that explains what the auxiliary does and why, this would be a great time to play it.

Getting younger members involved with the membership process will benefit you all. Not only will they learn what is required to be a member, they will also have the opportunity to talk with prospective members. Something that we have all struggled with at some point in our VFWA time of service. Make sure that you have the QR code out and available to be scanned by passersby.

Department of Arizona, we are currently at 91.68%. We can do this! Together we can hit 100% and more. Don't forget, all the auxiliaries that hit 100% by November 30th will be receiving the membership goodie basket at winter conference that is filled with lots of items to help with membership drives, new member orientations and more. Congratulations to those auxiliaries that made this first milestone date. Let's see how many more we can have by winter conference in January. Just a reminder, National President Brenda Bryant will be here, and I would absolutely LOVE to hand out 100% membership pennants to all our awesome auxiliaries.

Right now, the National/Other Conference is in the lead with 99.81%.... but the Western conference is in first place in the states with 91.88% with the Southern Conference close behind. Can we pull off the win this year at National Convention? YES, WE CAN!!!

The push is on. Go Western Conference ... Go Navy!!

From my family to yours, I wish you the very best this holiday season.

Remember that time spent with friends and family is timeless and the memories made will last forever. Be safe during this time and we will see you next year. Merry Christmas and Happy New Years.

Scholarships
JaNice Robertson



Hope everyone's Thanksgiving was all you wanted it to be. We have so much to be thankful for. Now we are in the Christmas Spirit and getting ready for the New Year. Let's roll up our sleeves and start working on our grants, contests and scholarships.

- **VFW Auxiliary National Continuing Educational Grant** open all VFW Auxiliary members (who has been a member of at least a year), their spouse, son, or daughter due by February 15th, 2025. Not sent out on date. It is an essay of 300 word or less describing their commitment to

their goal and how this grant will help in their obtaining this goal and answer all questions on application. Send to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters in Kansas City, MO

- **Young American Creative Patriotic Arts Contest** - Grades 9th thru 12th - 2- or 3-dimensional art and a typed explanation of the entry (250 words or less) Due March 31st, 2025. These need to come to me before by the 31st so I can get it to Department by the 15th of April
- **Arizona VFW Auxiliary Educational Grant** – Current member of an Arizona Auxiliary and must be 18 years or older. Essay of not more than 300 words on how this grant will help you attain your goals and answer questions on application. This is due to me by March 31st, 2025.
- **VFW Auxiliary Merit Scholarship – Eligibility** - Graduating high school senior Class of 2025, a resident of Arizona, son or daughter, brother or sister, grandson or granddaughter of a VFW Auxiliary member in good standing within or outside of Arizona. **Requirements** - Transcripts for grades 9-current grade 12, documentation to support extra-curricular activities, description of church activities, description of community service, description of employment, copy of college or vocational school letter of recommendations and a biography about you and your goals and what your relationship you are to the member of the VFW Auxiliary All this in a binders with sheet protectors sent to me before March 31st, 2025.

See you at the Winter Conference in January so we can see who has won the **Voice of Democracy** and **Patriots Pen** Contests for the State of Arizona.



Veterans and Family Support Becky Baldwin

Operation Bottom Cover is in full effect!!! On Sunday January 12th the VFW and VFW Auxiliary will be participating in a National Guard Baby Shower with National Auxiliary President Brenda Bryant.

We are asking that each Auxiliary with partnership with your Post bring diapers and wipes and baby baskets if able to attend the winter conference! What a great way to do a joint project but also to get your Veterans and Family Support Report completed. Diapers and Wipes and other baby items that are donated will be distributed throughout the state of Arizona, covering as many bottoms as possible.

Each district is assigned a size so we can get a nice variety. Sizes are assigned as follows -

- District 1 and District 10: Size 3 diapers and wipes
- District 2 and District 7: Size 2 diapers and wipes
- District 3 and District 6: Preemie or Newborn diapers and wipes
- District 4 and District 9: Size 1 diapers and wipes
- District 5 and District 8: Size 4 and wipes

According to Baby Central the best size of diapers to stock up on is Size 3. Size 3 diapers are considered the "longest-lasting" size due to the wider

weight range they fit. So, if you are not sure what size to get, get a pack of size 3!

Happy Holidays and see you all at the Winter Conference!

Youth Stephanie Quinton

Hope Everyone had a **GREAT** Veterans Day and Thanksgiving.

Now we are getting into the Christmas season and need to think about our Veterans that are in the Hospital, assisted living, or living alone and

get our youth groups in your community and do a Christmas project for those Veterans.

For example, my Buckeye Aux 12098 has teamed with our Girl Scouts and had them color bookmarks and we are getting Puzzle books and Pencils and candy bags and giving them to the Phoenix VA. We are using the Hospital grant for that. So, this could be a multiple project for you Auxiliary.

Also continue to promote the Art Scholarships. I see all our Auxiliaries doing **GREAT** projects with our youth.

Keep up the **GREAT** work. Have a **GREAT** Holiday.



PARs (Program Activity Report)

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

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

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