

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter

[Visit our Website](#)



Department President Lynn Pierre

So very proud of Arizona and our ability to work together with our VFW Comrades. The Winter Conference saw us all participating in our National President, Brenda Bryant's special project, Operation Bottom Cover.

Our Veteran and Family Support Chairman, Becky Baldwin reported 132 cases of diapers (over 2000), 150 cases of wipes (about 2000), car seats, bassinets, baby hats, diaper bags and a variety of bibs, bath items and blankets. What an amazing job! Thank you all for your amazing support of our Veterans and their families.

Membership is flying. As of January 29th, the Department of Arizona was at 100.11% with our paid dues. We are in second place in the Western Conference behind Idaho. What an awesome accomplishment! We will keep you posted. Please keep getting out there while remembering to keep your present members involved and rewarded.

My Department President Homecoming is scheduled for March 22, 2025, at VFW Post 9399. Cocktails at 4, dinner at 5. We are planning a Luau with whole, roasted pig and all the extras. Live music, games and much fun to be had. Tickets are \$25.00. See the information below under Announcements for more information for the Homecoming.

District meetings have been such fun. Getting to visit old and new friends is one of the most enjoyable and rewarding parts of my journey. Delegate selection and input is coming up as well as elections. Let's remember to ensure that **ALL** Auxiliary members are invited to attend District Meetings for their own involvement, fun and learning. This can be another great retention tool.

Lastly, please remember to care for you and yours. While we all work incredibly hard for support of our Veterans and families. We sometimes forget to take time for ourselves. Put some "Me" time in those busy schedules and thank you for continuing to be kind and caring to each other.



Department Announcements

*Have questions, concerns or just need some information? The Department has two emails where you can get the answers you are looking for. **Email:** auxvfwarizona@msn.com or ArizonaVFWA@gmail.com

*2/15 - There will be a Celebration of Life for PDC Larry Williams at Post 9399 starting at 3 pm

*2/22 - There will be a Celebration of Life for District 3 & Post 1433 Commander Stephen Franklin at Post 1433 starting at noon.

*3/22 Department President Lynn's Homecoming will be at VFW Post 9399. Cost is \$25 per ticket. Click [here](#) to view the flyer.

*4/5 - Department Golf Tournament starts at 6 am. This tournament benefits the youth. See the flyer at www.vfwauxaz.org under news/events

*Sr. Vice President Brenda Kinghorn's pins and shirt for next year are now available for order. The order forms are on the Department webpage - www.vfwauxaz.org under Resources/Forms

*Western Conference minutes are now available. Go to the Department webpage - www.vfwauxaz.org and log in and then click on Western Conference

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



We are so close to 100%! We are currently in first place in the Western Conference at 99.81% as of 1/24/2025. Department has decided to make the year-end membership drive a challenge and sweeten the deal with the possibility to win money for your auxiliary.

From January 1st thru February 28, 2025, there will be two different opportunities for your auxiliary to win money.

First, the auxiliary with the highest percentage of paid continuous annual members between January 1st and February 28, 2025, will win \$125.00.

Second, the auxiliary with the most new or rejoin members between January 1st and February 28, 2025, will win \$125.00.

Even if you are already at 100%, there is no reason to stop there. The more, the better. We are only 22 members (as of 1/24/2025) away from hitting this magic percentage as a department. Let's reach out to everyone and see just how many more members we can get in this challenge to round out the year.

Good luck to everyone and let's see what we can do!



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

January 14, 2025

OFFICIAL RULING – Property Ownership

At the 2024 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky, the **VFW Auxiliary National Bylaw, Article IX, Sec. 920 – Property Ownership** was passed. To resolve any confusion, I have made this official ruling on the interpretation of this Bylaw.

As stated in **Sec. 920, B., *For the purposes of these Bylaws, personal property is defined as tangible and intangible property that is moveable, even if a small amount of disassembly is required to move. C., For the purposes of these Bylaws, real property is defined as land and permanent structures on the land.*** Therefore, be it known that:

- Auxiliaries may own personal property, **per Sec. 920, A.**
- When personal property is placed in a VFW Post building, there shall be a clear understanding of who owns the property, how it will be used and disposed of if the VFW Post and/or VFW Auxiliary goes defunct.
- This understanding shall be in writing and signed by both the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary.
- Any items without a clear, signed statement of ownership and usage, will be the property of the VFW Post.
- Items donated to the VFW Post prior to the Bylaw change, are the property of the VFW Post, unless there is a previously signed document stating otherwise.
- Additionally, the Auxiliary may not charge the VFW Post rent to use items purchased by the Auxiliary that are kept at the VFW Post building (e.g., tables, chairs, etc.), unless a written agreement exists between the VFW Auxiliary and the VFW Post for the rental of these items.
- Any shed or building purchased by the Auxiliary and placed on the VFW Post property shall belong to the VFW Post and not the Auxiliary. The VFW Post as owner pays the taxes and insurance on such property. Any ad valorem tax or any other taxes are the responsibility of the owner of the property.
- The exception to this is that Auxiliary specific and/or Auxiliary branded items (e.g., Auxiliary Charter, Auxiliary Flags, Color Bearer Flags, Auxiliary Banners, Auxiliary Plaques, Auxiliary Awards, etc.) remain the property of the Auxiliary.

The goal is teamwork. We encourage all VFW Auxiliaries and VFW Posts to work together. Clear communication is the key.

By Order of

Brenda Bryant
National President
BB:AP: cb

UNWAVERING SUPPORT FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

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WWW.VFWAUXILIARY.ORG • INFO@VFWAUXILIARY.ORG

Kim Sloan Department Secretary/Treasurer



Let's review some questions that have been asked recently:

1. **Social Media**

Whatever your Auxiliary presence is on social media (Facebook etc.) the Auxiliary must approve that presence. You are using the Auxiliary name on these sites and anything posted there can come back to the Auxiliary. So, make sure that you have approved it, and you should really have more than one administrator. This ensures continuity and/or ability to shut down the site if necessary. It also ensures more control of the content.

2. Any activity that uses the Auxiliary name whether it's social media (above), soliciting for donations or holding a fundraiser to name a few, **MUST** be approved by vote at a membership meeting. This ensures that the membership is aware of and approves the action. A funny example would be doing a fundraiser at a less than reputable establishment.... One that we would not want associated with the VFW Auxiliary or one that conflicts with our mission.

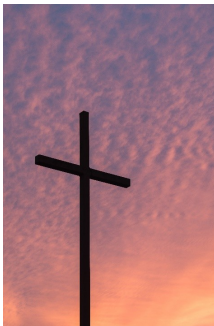
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

Applications are now caught up thru the end of January. I've seen a great deal of improvement in completed applications and correct eligibility information. If you have applications that have been submitted to Department but not processed, please contact me so I can pull the application and explain the issue with the application.

DELEGATES

Since we only deal with election of delegates/alternates once a year, there is always some confusion. So, every year we send out instructions. Those will go out later this month. One thing that we always stress – if you have a member that will be attending any convention - the District, Department or National, consider electing them as a delegate.

As always – I'm a phone call away!



Chaplain Jeanne Hampton

February 3rd marks the 82nd Anniversary of “4 Chaplains Day”- a less traditional Veteran Day to recognize. The 4 Chaplains were soldiers of different faiths- When the USAT Dorchester was struck by a German submarine torpedo their actions of helping others to safety in lifeboats and giving up their own life-saving vests while praying and giving encouragement will forever endure.

[Four Chaplains Day](#)

A Prayer to Share

Dear Lord, please allow us the strength and courage to remember we are all in this lifeboat, Your Lifeboat, together. Guide us through the storm to the other side, wherever that safe harbor may be, in Your Name. Amen

Americanism Rhonda Follett

I hope everyone has a beautiful Valentine's Day with the one you love. If you are having a party, please try and include some of our Programs into the event.



I have not had any updates from our National Ambassador, so I would like to

remind you to honor our Veterans in different ways: send Valentines cards to home bound Veterans, take "Be My Valentine" to Veterans in Veterans Homes and other facilities who care for our Veterans, as well as candy hearts or other items that are permitted. It always pays to call ahead to make sure that candy and other items are acceptable.

Our next Flag raising isn't until May 26th for Memorial Day. Please plan an event that you could use small American flags. Go and volunteer at cemeteries to help place flags. I did this last year for the first time, and it was amazing the feeling I received learning the proper way to place the Flag and also remembering to step back and say the Veteran's name and give a heart salute.

Remember to send your reports in by March 31st so they can be recorded as well as you getting proper recognition by the Department of Arizona. I will have all your reports corrected by this month, showing that all the Auxiliaries who have submitted reports are properly accounted for. I am sorry for my misunderstanding about how the report worked.

Remember the lesser-known Veterans Holidays such as the Militaries Birthdays.

Have a wonderful February! Stay warm and healthy.



Auxiliary Outreach Donna Ventola

Hello Team Az! This month's article is about utilizing materials on the department website.

The website is VFWAUXAZ.org which you will find helpful information for this program, and actually **ALL** of the programs. It probably won't have everything on there that you are looking for but the information will put you in the right direction. The information on there will help your Auxiliary have a successful project(s).

Please don't forget to look over the VFW Auxiliary Outreach Guide that National put together for us. It's not very long, about 3 pages but there is quite a bit of information for you. It has a section on what does and does not qualify, it also gives examples of both and frequently asked questions.

Also on the website is a list of Auxiliary community outreach ideas. It's not all of the ideas but enough to get you started and get you on the right path. There is also a 1 pager of 5 basic steps to a successful Auxiliary Outreach project which I presented at the MITs. I hope these materials on the Department website under the programs tab is helpful in any way.

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 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.

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.

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.....

Buppy Poppy/National Home Jeanne Hampton

Celebrate Good Times!

Congratulations to Auxiliary 12128 (Williams) for winning the "Centennial Life Membership" drawing at Winter Conference. All Auxiliaries who reported having done *something* to recognize the VFW National Home in this Centennial Celebration Year were included in a raffle for ONE Centennial Life Membership- as chosen by their Auxiliary members. Centennial Life Memberships will continue to be available through December 31, 2025- what a way to be included in the time in history!

My gratitude, to Irene Nowacki and Kim Sloan for including VFW National Home shirts in the Auxiliary baskets that were recognized for having made 100% in Membership prior to the November 30th! Giving back Department funds to the Programs and Veteran families we serve!

Looking for a great way to mark 100 years of the VFW National Home? [100-Year Anniversary Book - VFW National Home](#) museum worthy, the history, the families, celebrities, Presidents, events and activities- a walk-through time from the beginning to present. What a great way to share with your community the VFW National Home.

As we round the corner into Spring have on hand the VFW National Home eligibility information to share at Stand Down Events, Veteran Resource Fairs, National Guard or Marines Family celebration days. As was learned attending the Baby Shower for the National Guard the weekend of Winter Conference- putting the information into the hands of those serving, with the message- "this may not affect you right now, but please leave it at a work station or on a message board for other young families that may be struggling", brought about conversation to open the door for 3 families to ask for assistance. Let them know the VFW Auxiliary Program mission goes beyond 4 walls- we serve **OUR** Community. [Promotional Material Order Form - VFW National Home](#)

Has your Auxiliary done something exceptional to educate your Community about the VFW National Home's Centennial Celebration? Look to the National Citation on MALTA, under Member Resources view Buddy Poppy/National Home Award #2. Complete the form and send it to me to sign as the Chairman.

If you have ever wished to visit the National Home but just didn't see it possible, this summer at the VFW National Convention in Columbus, Ohio bus tours are being planned to visit the VFW National Home. Stay tuned for more



information as the plans for National Convention are announced.

Buddy Poppy

Let's get started on Buddy Poppy Displays! It is already February. We are in sight of the finish line for this Program Year and District Conventions. With the National President's "From our Roots to Our Branches" theme, or Special Project "Operation Bottom Cover" many fun ideas come to mind.

Rules for Buddy Poppy Displays from last year:

<https://vfwaz.com/uploads/Documents/Reports%20&%20Forms/2023-2024BuddyPoppyRules.pdf>

Buddy Poppy Display Entry Form (from last year)

<https://vfwaz.com/uploads/Documents/Reports%20&%20Forms/2023-2024PoppyEntryForm.pdf>

Ordering Traditional Buddy Poppies (would always suggest through your VFW)

<https://vfwaz.com/uploads/Documents/Reports%20&%20Forms/BuddyPoppyOrderForm1.pdf>

Ordering Tin Buddy Poppies

<https://vfwaz.com/uploads/Documents/Reports%20&%20Forms/TinTabBuddyPoppyOrderForm2.pdf>

Buddy Poppy Chairman's Guide (a must read) [Buddy Poppy Chairmans Manual.pdf](#)

"Aside from the Cross of Malta the Buddy Poppy is the most visible symbol of our great organization". Read that line again.

How did your Auxiliary educate your community about the Buddy Poppy? Complete the VFW Auxiliary National Citation and let us all know how proud you are of the Auxiliary's accomplishments. MALTA, Member Resources, Buddy Poppy, Award #1.



Chief of Staff Johnnie DeBoard

What are some things you are doing to get members involved? Are you using the healthy auxiliary questionnaire? Where can it be found? In Malta under Extension and Revitalization.

Now is a good time to give your members the questionnaire, email it to members that aren't coming to the monthly meeting. When your member fills it out hopefully you will learn why they aren't attending the meetings. Once you receive them back, go through them look at what your membership is saying. If possible, act on what they are saying. They may have ideas of what can be changed to get more involvement whether it is at a meeting or an event.

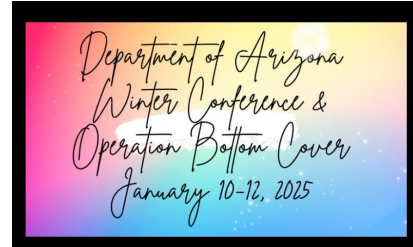
Have you made a welcome package for new members? Give welcome packets to all members. Although they may have been a member for years things change and if they know what they are they may start to get involved again. What are some things that you are doing or have done to get members involved? This is a question I am asking **ALL** members. Please email me with your answers, let us share our ideas to help grow our organization for the

better of our Veterans and community. In the subject line please put auxiliary involvement.

Are you giving out good job awards? Let me know how many you have given out and why. Good job awards can be given by anyone who sees someone doing a good job. Although we don't always do things for recognition it is nice to be thanked. When someone is thanked, they are more likely to help again. If someone asks to volunteer to help out, find something for them to do. Never ever say we got it or no. Once you do that it will be harder to ever get them to offer help again.

Historian
Lori Schaeffler

What an incredible Winter Conference, Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen Banquet!



We are truly in awe of our future generation's phenomenal speeches. Good luck students on your way to National!

Saturday Morning was the Comrades and Auxiliaries meeting together for some awards and training and words from our National President, Brenda Bryant and Past National Commander Tim Borland.

Sunday morning, we hosted a heartwarming baby shower for Arizona National Guard soldiers who are expecting and those who have little ones. The soldiers and their families were deeply grateful and touched by the Auxiliaries' kindness. We assured them that we are here for them for the long haul and if they need anything in the future, they can always reach out to us.

Operation Bottom Cover was a resounding success, thank you Brenda for bringing this to our doorstep. I personally look forward to doing this again.

I made a video of the weekend's pictures that was sent on to the National Ambassador. Click [here](#) to view the video.



Hospital
Amy Timbes

Can not believe we are already a month into 2025. Did you make a New Years resolution? Sticking to it? Just kidding.

Two things I want to talk to you about. First only 12 hospital grants have been submitted to date out of 48 potentials. Surely you could find a way to provide something helpful or just provide some extra happiness with \$250. If you don't have something of your own merge your funds on the One Step Stepper that District 1 is working for in Yuma. They could probably use the help. Secondly. Who. What. When. Where. Why, How many people worked and How many people benefited. So much love goes into your efforts please brag

on your auxiliary. Every moment spent on our veterans is priceless. And I'm looking for those new ideas. Remember the contest? I challenge you to revisit your program material. I was reading the Joyful Noise Letter, yes that's the name, and it recommended making and leaving behind notes with fun jokes, fun facts on one side and a positive reinforcement on the other. We could just place them on tables, hand them out. Use your imagination or copy from your OMG calendar.

Did anyone use the tray card idea? I still can send that program. Just ask. Did anyone work on educating people on the Honor Escort program? Not mentioned in any report so far.

I recruited 3 volunteers this year, but I know there are more already volunteering than I am aware of. We need **MORE**. So many needs in our communities, so little time.

GUESS WHAT Valentines for Veterans this month and I will expect a report from all 48. Pretty please!!!

HAPPIEST OF VALENTINES DAYS



VAVS REGION 1 Prescott

The first of the year sees a few changes at the VA nationwide and locally. Myhealthvet.va.gov is NOT going away—it's moving to VA.gov. Veterans and supporters should download the VA.gov app, then use their id.me login to access and create your account on VA.gov. If the Veteran is having problems signing up, they can visit tech help in building 154 (the old library) on the Prescott VA campus from 0730-1600 weekdays (walk-in only, no appointments). They will need a cell phone and Veteran ID for the sign-in. In addition the Veteran can call the VA's general number-928-445-4860-and use ext. 6458 to reach tech help.

The VAVS office is specially requesting donations of large-size men's shoes (size 10 and above), as there is an unexpected demand for such large sizes. They're also requesting items including plants for the greenhouse, which is gearing up for Spring growing. Volunteers are needed in Food and Nutrition, Veterans Transportation and the Mailroom.

The Prescott VA had two recipients of the Centenarian Recognition Program—over 600 were recognized nationwide. There are several campus projects for 2025: new picnic tables, window coverings for the CLC, new landscaping around the Ft. Whipple Museum. Renovation on the Officers' quarters for homeless Veterans is beginning under management of US Vets. The Canteen is hiring and hopes to be up and running in the next few weeks.

Wreaths Across America placed 2100 wreaths at the Prescott National Cemetery in December. Equine Services and NAVAHCS is requesting for funding the equine assisted services, which acts as a tool for Veteran therapy. The program will work with Whispers with Horses program and coordinate with the Salt Lake VA, which developed the program. Heroes and Horses in Prescott and Wind Horse Wellness in Chino Valley will provide certified

specialists and ranch space and horses respectively. The program is scheduled from April 1 through November 30. The program is all developed but needs donations to pay for it.

PTSD Awareness Month is June. Plans are in progress. National Recovery Month is September. The VAVS office is requesting donations for t shirts, thank-you gifts for Veterans, funds for the BBQ, gift cards and raffle items.

Other happenings: NAVAHCS blood drives March 4, May 6, July 8, September 9, November 4. Branch birthdays Army- June 14 (recognized on station June 13) Coast Guard, -August 4, Air Force - September 18, Navy - October 13 (recognized on station October 10) Marines- November 10, Space Force December 20 (recognized on station December 19) and Vietnam War Veterans' Day, March 29.

VAVS REGION 3 Tucson



New Mom Baby Baskets

The Women Veteran's Health Clinic is looking for organizations and volunteers to provide maternity baskets or stuffed diaper bags for soon to be Veteran moms receiving care at the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System. The clinic would like to provide new mothers with baby and maternity items. All donated items must be new. You may bring donations to the Volunteer Office, Building 58. Please call the office before bringing your donation. Thank you for your support of this very special program!



For Baby

- * Receiving Blankets
- * Booties/Socks
- * Onesies
- * Baby Powder
- * Wipes
- * Diapers
- * Pacifiers
- * Burp Cloths
- * Bibs
- * Baby Shampoo
- * Baby washcloths/towels
- * Toys/Rattles
- * Bottles
- * Bottle Brush
- * Nail Clippers
- * Hats
- * Thermometer
- * Baby Books
- * Baby Music
- * Hand mittens
- * Knitted, Quilted or Crocheted Blankets (3'x3')

For Moms

- * Breast Pads
- * Nipple Cream
- * Body Lotion
- * Bath Salts
- * Herbal Tea
- * Baby Sling/Carrier
- * Belly Butter
- * Nursing Covers
- * Slippers
- * Candles
- * Disposable Cameras
- * Baby Picture Albums
- * Gift Cards
- * Beauty Products for hospital stay



For more information please contact:

The Southern Arizona VA Health Care System
VA Voluntary Service (9-135)
3601 S. 6th Ave, Tucson, AZ 85723
(520) 629-1822

www.tucson.va.gov/giving/



HUD/VASH &



VETERANS HOMELESS PROGRAM NEEDS LIST

HUD/VASH



- Start-up Kit through: *Target
*Walmart *Dollar Store
 - Startup kit includes:
Household goods, pots,
pans, brooms, and
garbage cans + bags,
Nonskid mats.
- Toilet paper *Cleaning
Supplies* Lysol Multi-Purpose
Paper towels Tide pods
- Toiletries: Shampoo,
Conditioner, Bodywash Razors,
& shave Cream
- Microwaves
- Dish Sets of 4
- Silverware
- Coffee Makers
- Toasters
- Lamps with Bulbs
- Shower Curtains* Rods* Hooks
- Towel sets
- Vacuum Cleaners
- New Full-size *sheets* Mattress
Cover* Pillows (10)
- Beds with New Mattress and
encasing.
- Bicycles



Homeless Program

- Thrift Store Vouchers
- Underwear – All Sizes:
 - Boxers & Briefs
- T-Shirts- Long & Short sleeve
 - All sizes except small
- Sweats: Shirts & Pants-
 - All Sizes: Mostly in need
of Medium & Large
- **Backpacks:** The Large the
better!
- Food Boxes:
 - MRE's
 - Canned Fruit, Veggies,
Soup, Chili, Stew
 - Crackers & Crackers
W/Peanut butter
 - Tuna
 - Vienna Sausage
 - Chips
 - Beef Jerky
 - Nuts or Trail Mix
 - Dried Fruit
 - Shelf Stable Milk
 - Gatorade/ Gatorade Mix
 - Bottled Water
- Dog Food- Wet or Dry



Contact Tucson CDCE at TucsonCDCE@va.gov or call
520-792-1450 x11822 to donate.

Patriot Pantry



Donors,

Thank you for your contributions to our Veteran community! The Nutrition and Food Services department has partnered with the Center for Development and Civic Engagement (formerly Voluntary Services) to tackle the issue of hunger amongst our Veterans. We are looking for donations to help provide food to Veterans in need. While we won't exclude non-expired shelf-stable food items, we are looking for some nutrition-focused items:

Criteria:

- Shelf stable: We won't have a refrigerator to store items and some of our Veterans don't have access to refrigeration
- Non-expired
- low sodium when available (less than 140 mg per serving), but not essential
- No added sugar when available, but not essential.

Priority Needs:

- Grocery store gift cards (\$10-\$20 amounts)
- Canned soups
- Canned fruit, fruit cups, applesauce
- Rice (brown, white)
- Pasta
- Pasta sauce
- Tuna
- Dry milk
- Canned meats (chicken, roast beef, turkey)
- Cereals (oatmeal, dry cereal)

GENERAL NEEDS:

Proteins

- Canned meats: chicken breast, turkey
- Canned fish/seafood: tuna, salmon, anchovies, baby clams, sardines
- Canned beans/lentils (all kinds and varieties, preferably "low sodium")
- Peanut butter, nut butters (unsweetened if possible)
- Nuts (peanuts, cashews, almonds, etc.; any kind/variety) – Individually wrapped

Fruits: in juice or water only (or dried!)

- all types/varieties
- Examples: fruit cups, applesauce, fruit sauces, canned fruits
- Dried fruits

Vegetables: Low sodium, all colors/types

- All types of canned ones
- Examples: carrots, green beans, tomatoes, beets, asparagus, etc.

Patriot Pantry



Starchy Vegetables

- Canned corn, peas
- Shelf stable dried mashed potatoes/potato pouches (i.e. Idaho Spuds hash brown cartons, dried mashed potatoes)

Milk: We are looking for all kinds: whole, skim, 1%, and non-dairy options

- Shelf stable milks (cow AND non-dairy options)
- Dry milk/creams

Grains: Whole grains, ready to serve/microwaveable, low sodium when possible.

- Brown rice, quinoa, white rice, etc.
- Cereals: oatmeal packets, boxes of cold cereal (lower sugar options preferred)
- Whole wheat pasta
- Mac n cheese
- Bread (whole wheat if possible)

Soups: Chicken Noodle Soup, Tomato Soup, Vegetable Soup, Potato Soup, Lentil Soup, etc

Sauces: Pasta Sauces: Marinara, pesto, alfredo.

Snacks:

- Crackers, Wheat Thins, Triscuits, Saltines, etc.
- Trail mix
- Granola bars
- Pretzels (no salt if available)
- Popcorn kernels and individual bags

Condiments:

- Individually wrapped items, NOTHING REFRIGERATED
- **Ketchup, mustard, relish, mayonnaise**

Miscellaneous/Non-food items:

- Grocery store gift cards
- Plastic ware: Forks, knives, spoons
- Anything we have missed? Reach out and we may be able to accept it ♦

Contact Tucson CDCE at TucsonCDCE@va.gov or call 520-792-1450 x11822

Open Volunteer Positions

As Of: January 2, 2025

******Subject to Change******

Advance Care Planning (ACP) Stuffing Envelopes & Folders – 5 Hours a Month

Ambassadors (pushing wheelchairs) – Various Locations All Shifts

Ambassador (Dispatchers) – Various Locations, Various Shifts

Barber (for inpatient Veterans in Community Living Center)

Concierge (Information desk) – Various locations, Various shifts

Drivers – Casa Grande, Sierra Vista, Tucson

Emergency Department – Assistant to charge nurse on duty (Evenings, Weekends)

Gardens - Community Living Center (Days/times vary)

Hospice – Companion (duty hours, evenings, weekends, and holidays)

HUD/VASH & Homeless Admin Assistant

In Home Visitor Program Volunteers/Compassionate Contact Corp

Inpatient Pharmacy Admin Assistant (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday)

Logistics – Equipment supply, scanning, inventory (weekdays)

Medical Records – Scanning, pickup/delivery Mon-Friday

Primary Care Patient Ambassadors/Liaison (mailings) Mon – Friday

Social Work Admin Assistant – Scanning and faxing records

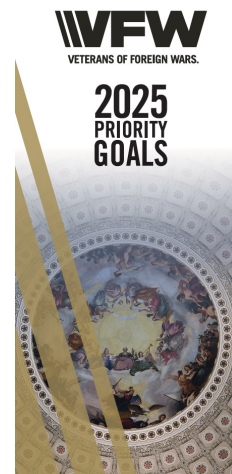
Tucson Vet Center – Reception/front desk Mon – Fri

Yuma Vet Center – Reception/Front desk Mon-Fri

Legislative Connie Hargreaves

February is here and along with it comes a new President, Donald J Trump, a new cabinet, (DOGE) Department of Government Efficiency, Republican narrow control in the House and Senate, new majority and minority leaders and many changes throughout our state or Arizona and Supervisor Districts. It was a different exchange of power with the pardons and the signings. Let's stay on top of our representatives on all levels.

Our new 2025 VFW Priority Goals are out, you can find them



under <https://www.vfw.org/-/media/vfwsite/files/advocacy/prioritygoalsbrochure.pdf> . You can also see the Priority Goals on the Department Webpage - www.vfwauxaz.org under programs/legislative. Please note a few changes from 2024 - you can have your quartermaster order the new forms through their VFW Dashboard or you can print new copies.

Budget: They changed the top bullet point to read - Reform the dysfunctional federal budget process and added another point at the bottom to Modernize and reform VA and DOD programs that do not meet the needs of service members, veterans, and families.

Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs: the VFW added – Improve the accuracy of disability compensation claims related to sexual trauma.

Health Care: Removed Reform the dysfunctional community care program at the VA. The VFW took out the wording medical cannabis and replaced it with plant-based alternative therapies. They also added Eliminate Copayment requirements for preventive health care and medications.

Education, Employment, and Transition Assistance: Removed provide housing relief for surviving spouses.

Military Quality of Life changed to **Military Readiness:** Added - Enhance quality of life and health care programs that allow service members to focus on the mission. Changed Ensure that military housing is safe and free of toxic substances to safe and modern. Changed Protect and improve on-base quality of life and support programs to Enhance Quality of life and health care programs that allow service members to focus on the mission.

National Security, Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA remain the same.

Now that we have new elected officials in all aspects of our State legislative bodies, I encourage you to put together a cheat sheet, article, that you can post and hand out at your meetings.

Example: In Meadview, our Community News placed an article in their newsletter as to who was elected to the Board of Supervisors in Mohave County, when they meet, where they meet (including address) and how to bring to their attention a matter of concern and a reminder that this needs to be done at least 10 days in advance of their meeting. Since we have 5 supervisors and only one Supervisor for our District, they only posted his information with office telephone and Facebook page. Supervisors serve 4-year terms, no term limits. Arizona State Legislators Mohave County is LD30 with 2 Legislators and one Senator. Legislators serve for 2 years with a limit of 4 consecutive terms. After a one term break, they are welcome to run again. The article provided their names, Room # at the state capital, phone and email.

2025 Session Timeline:

Monday 2/10 is BILL Introduction deadline

Friday 2/21 is the Last day for a bill to get out of committees in its originating house.

Monday 2/24 is Crossover Week begins (most committee hearings are suspended)

Friday 3/28 is the Last Day for a bill to get out of committees in its crossover house (and last day to use RTS ((Right to Speak)) until a budget drops).

Tuesday 4/22 is the 100th Day of Session (the stated end goal; can be changed).

Monday 6/30 is the Last Day to pass a constitutionally mandated state budget.

Arizona Senator for Mohave County has one representative, same information as above as far as terms and contact information.

We have two Senators from Arizona, Senator Mark Kelly and newly elected Senator Rubin Gallegos. They serve six years and have staggered terms so they both do not run for office at same time.

US House of Representatives is identified by Districts, please let your members know who those representatives are and how to reach out. It is a great time to call, email, text or go to local events to meet your representatives and provide them with the new 2025 Priority Goals. Please do let your Department Auxiliary know of your activities and contacts through Project Reports and the Program Activity Reports (PAR) which have different notations or information needed.

Please do not forget about your City Council, Education, Hospital and State Controllers and State Government officials such as Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State and judges. The more information members have, the more effective we can be in advocating.

The VFW will be meeting with US representatives the first week of March. Please reach out to your Legislative chairs regarding VFW talking points and issues of concern to you. They will be attending meetings and talking with your congressional representatives while in Washington D.C.

Currently the bills coming up immediately are Lakin Riley, Major Richard Starr, the Guard Act (claim sharks) and mental health. Recently passed, the "Hello Girls" Congressional Gold Medal signed by President Biden Dec 31. SR815 and HR1572, the VETS Safe Travel Act, HR 7365, for severely disabled veterans to receive the TSA precheck security screening free, this includes the cost of the background check.

Congratulations to all the local City, County and State elected and to President Trump, Vice President Vance, members of Congress and the new Cabinet members. Remember our Veterans in all your thoughts and deeds and you work to support all who elected you no matter which party you represent and thank you to the returning members across the board, keep your Veterans in mind when promoting and voting for bills.



Membership Irene Nowacki

Thank you to all the Auxiliaries and Posts that helped to donate towards the baby shower for National President Brenda Bryant's program **Operation Bottom Cover**. We helped to supply many families of the National Guard with baby essentials that were needed. Just think, if we can gain members from just those families alone, what a huge jump we would have in membership.

It is celebration time. The National Home turned 100 years old in January! What did your auxiliary do to celebrate? Did you purchase a brick with your

auxiliary on it to commemorate the milestone. How about a lifetime membership for a new member. Or better yet, holding a membership drive that has a Buddy Poppy theme.

Have you ever thought of having youth volunteers helping you with your membership table? I am sure that you have members with younger kids that would be interested in helping to bring new members. The draw of kids to other kids is amazing. Utilize this to your advantage. I know when I have my own children with me at membership drives, they always seem to draw kids walking by in and they are always striking up conversations. What a great way to include them in your activities. This way they learn about how to become a member of the Auxiliary, and they can also help bridge that gap if you are not a fan of talking. Kids are great for that. Maybe they can be the QR code holder. Give them the power! The power to bring in potential members. Let them be the QR Superheroes.

The next challenge is inviting members with younger children to volunteer at the membership table and have them get involved. Kids can talk to kids and possibly get their parents to come over. They can explain the story of the Buddy Poppy to the other kids. Tell them about the National Home and how a membership in the Auxiliary can benefit them in many ways.

Do you know where your auxiliary is at for membership? Are you close to 100%? Make sure to ask your auxiliary president or auxiliary treasure to advise you of where you are at so that you know. If we all work together, we can hit out 100% goal together. Have an auxiliary close to you that is struggling a little? Offer to help them out. We still have time to all be at 100% and more!

Department of Arizona current standing – 100.11%
Western Conference current standing – 97.95%

Scholarships JaNice Robertson

Wow February already! Where is this year going?

Winter Conference was great. We had some amazing students win this year in the Patriots Pen writings and the Voice of Democracy essays.



We are coming to the final deadlines on our scholarships and grants.

DEADLINES FOR APPLICATIONS

- Continuing Education: Applications must be received at National Headquarters by February 15, 2025.
- Patriotic Art: Student entries must be submitted to a sponsoring local Auxiliary by March 31, 2025.
- Our Arizona Educational Grant has a deadline of March 31st, 2025, Send your applications to me.
- VFW Auxiliary Merit Scholarship- The binder is to be sent to me before March 31st, 2025.

Get all of your Project Reports sent in to me. There are still some of the

auxiliaries that have not sent me their reports. They are due to me by April 15th. I know we all do the projects let's be diligent and document what we do.

Happy Valentines Day!



Veterans and Family Support Becky Baldwin

Mission Success!!! Operation Bottom Cover was an amazing success, I started counted all the donations, then recounted, then humbly gave up counting as the number of diaper donations and wipe donations was getting closer to the thousands and let's face it, I did not get into this to do math. The National Guard reported that there was a total of 30 military families present at the baby shower on Sunday 1/12 and the diapers will be distributed to over 100 additional families (this is an estimate).

When you have doubt on if what you do matter remember the hard work that we all did, all the donations we contributed and all the bottoms that will be covered based on your generosity and dedication to helping military families. At the end of the day, this is why we are part of this organization and what a great organization we are!

Enjoy the pictures on our Facebook page and soon on the Department Website!



Youth Stephanie Quinton

Hope Everyone had a **GREAT** New Year!



Now we have gotten into the New Year and kids are back in school, we need to think about getting back in the schools and getting the kids into reading and helping with your Auxiliary. Also, try to get them working with our Veterans that are in the Hospital, Assisted living, or living alone by having them take time to read with our Veterans.

See if you can get some of your youth groups and go back to an Assisted living or those living alone and go over resident Veteran's New Years resolution list you hopefully were able to help them with and see where they are and see if there is more help you can assist them with. This could be multiple projects for you Auxiliaries.

Also continue to promote the Art Scholarships, and very I'm very happy to see all the Constitutional education our Auxiliaries did. Keep handing out those RAP Coin's/Cards. Your youth love these.

I see all our Auxiliaries are doing **GREAT** project with our youths, **GREAT** work. Have a **GREAT** New Year.



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

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