

Volume 7/ January 2025

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



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## Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter

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### Department President Lynn Pierre

My family and I wish all of you and your families the very best New Year ever! We still have great things to accomplish in the New Year and having watched your past efforts, I know we are all up to it!

As you know, our National President, Brenda Bryant will be arriving here on Friday, January 10<sup>th</sup> for our Winter Conference. I know that you Auxiliaries and your Posts have been gathering diapers, wipes and Baby Baskets for her Special Project, Operation Bottom Cover. Thank you all in advance for your outstanding efforts.

Looking forward to January District meetings as I have made many friends in this huge group of selfless, supportive people. Being a part of this great State's

many mission focused members is truly one of the most rewarding parts of my life.

Let's make our programs bounce with fun, community connection and love as we continue to whole-heartedly support our Veterans and their families. God Bless you all as we enter this new year and add to our accomplishments.

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## 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](mailto:auxvfwarizona@msn.com) or [ArizonaVFWA@gmail.com](mailto:ArizonaVFWA@gmail.com)

\*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](http://www.vfwauxaz.org) under news/events for hotel and banquet information.

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

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

\*Some of the upcoming District meetings have changed locations. Please visit the Department website - [www.vfwauzax.org](http://www.vfwauzax.org). Click on the About tab and scroll down to District meetings for the complete list of dates and places.

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### Kim Sloan Department Secretary/Treasurer

Happy New Year!  
Wishing all of the Department of Arizona a healthy,  
prosperous 2025!



We have one more Secretary – Treasurer – Trustee Training on Saturday January 26, 2025, at 9:00 a.m. at VFW Post 769 Quartzsite.

I took some time off in December for the holiday. So, if you've sent in membership transmittals, I am working to get those caught up this month. Since we still have 230 annual members that have not paid their 2025 dues, I thought I'd better explain their status. Those 230 members are now considered lapsed, and they are no longer members in good standing. They may attend meetings if allowed by the President but cannot enter into

discussions and cannot vote.

I would suggest that when the Conductor checks the membership cards at the beginning of the meeting, that the Conductor remind the member that they will need to remain standing until the President acknowledges them, and the restriction regarding discussions and voting. If there is time, the member should be allowed to pay their dues before the meeting.

I would also suggest that the Secretary or Treasurer contact those members before the meeting to remind them of their lapsed status. Be kind and gentle so as to not embarrass a member.

Audits for the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2024 (Oct Nov Dec) need to be completed and approved by the Auxiliary by February 28, 2025. Treasurers – please send me a copy as soon as it's approved. Do not send to me until the Auxiliary has approved the Audit Report.

The Audit Report is to be read and approved or disapproved under Reports of Committees....Not under Report of Trustees. The Ritual states *"The Audit Report is called for after each quarterly audit and is the **ONLY REPORT** accepted by motion."*

Looking forward to seeing you at Winter Conference.

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## Chaplain Jeanne Hampton

It's a New Year and a time to reflect.

In Ecclesiastes it reads, "To everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven." Written by Solomon, as a reflection, an appreciation it is not in our hands. All things are in God's time.

### A Prayer to Share

Dear Lord, as we travel down this road on the journey set before us, please let us be guided to do Your will and understand Your time. Keep us in Your name,  
Amen

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## Americanism Rhonda Follett

Welcome to the year 2025. I wish all members across the State and beyond a wonderful and successful New Year.

The past few months, I have received many reports on the Americanism programs you all have been doing across the state. I thank you all for working so hard for this program.



We have covered many of the known holidays to celebrate and some of the

lesser-known ones. I want to thank all who reported on holding a function for Gold, White, Silver and Blue Star Families.

I would like to address the Patriotic Instructors in our Auxiliaries. As you know part of their job is teaching what Patriotism is to school students. But did you know it is also to teach our members both new and seasoned about the Traditions and Rituals of our Organization.

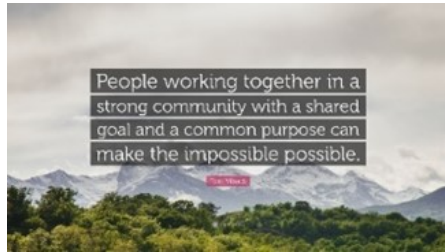
The following is a reminder from the National Ambassador -

- Practice and learn our VFW Auxiliary rituals and traditions
- See that the room is in keeping with the Ritual
- Teach members about the proper salute to the American Flag
- Educate members on the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance
- Understand the Federal Flag Code

Upcoming Holiday's for the New Year: February 17th is President's Day; May 17th is Armed Forces Day and May 26th is Memorial Day.

Continue sending the reports and I will be in contact with some of you for more pictures for the collage for our National Ambassador's final report.

I hope to see many of you at the Winter Conference in January.



## Auxiliary Outreach Donna Ventola

Hello Team Az! Happy New Year!!!

This month's article is about what qualifies and doesn't qualify. I will give you examples on both. Remember this is just a few, not limited

to only these. You can always look on the Department website under community outreach tab for the "VFW Auxiliary Outreach Guide" to help identify what does and doesn't qualify.

### EXAMPLES THAT COUNT:

- **1<sup>st</sup> responders** (Police/Fire/EMT): working with local Police Dept. helping with child ID kits, local Fire Dept. helping with fire safety and prevention, local EMT, helping them with a CPR training.
- **Local library**: reshelving books, working the information desk
- **Animal Shelter/Humane Society**: walking animals, cleaning kennels, groom/wash animals, sort out toys/donations/food supply.
- **Soup Kitchen/Food Banks**: sorting food into boxes, sorting out donations, serving food, cleaning, set-up/take down tables and chairs
- **Environment**: plant trees, plant flowers, pick up trash, pull weeds.
- **Health**: volunteer at walks/runs by helping with registration table, manage the water stations, be a timekeeper, direct runners to where they need to be.

### EXAMPLES THAT DON'T COUNT:

- Donating money to a charity
- Donating or collecting items/goods to an organization
- Dropping food/items at a homeless shelter

- Doing repairs/maintenance to the Post
- Flying an American flag
- Working with the Post to serve breakfast/lunch to the public
- Walking at the walk-a-thon
- Cooking food for your neighbor or Post/Auxiliary member

Please remember you are there helping another organization and helping their event to be successful. You are donating your time and doing physical labor. This is one opportunity to possibly show how the local VFW and Auxiliary care about the community.

Please don't forget, to log in the Department website ([fwauxaz.org](http://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.....

**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



"We may never pass this way again..."

In 2024 the Buddy Poppy celebrated its 100<sup>th</sup> year, the VFW is currently recognizing 125 years and in 2025 the VFW National Home will celebrate its Centennial year. If your Auxiliary were to place an item in a time capsule to be opened 100 years from now, what would that be? How would your Auxiliary mark this place in time?

For 100 years the VFW National Home first served orphans, widows and disabled Veterans and now is a comprehensive support system for Veteran families. We have an opportunity to continue this mission and join in the festivities. January 7<sup>th</sup> will be the first celebration- did your Auxiliary send a card to be part of this historical event?

February 8<sup>th</sup> will be the "Gala" Celebration, a Black Tie/Formal event. [100th Anniversary Celebration Gala - VFW National Home](#) Consider holding a "Black Tie" Valentine's event with a fundraising activity for the VFW National Home. Possibly a "blind auction" with the items "all dressed up" in black and white could add to the occasion. Mardi Gras is right around the corner- another potential date to hold a "Gala" event for the VFW National Home.

Has your Auxiliary requested the FREE VFW National Home information? [Promotional Material Order Form - VFW National Home](#) Simple to use, the items are shipped directly to the Auxiliary but **DO** plan to put those requested items **INTO** the hands of Veteran families who could use the information the most. A display in the corner of the VFW Post is just that. Information **OUT** in the community to persons who may be eligible is what is needed.

Where do we find those Veteran Families: Stand Down/Veteran Resource Fairs, Veteran Family Fun Days, College Veteran Counsellors. A quick Google search for 2025 Arizona Veteran Stand Down events [Arizona Veterans StandDown Alliance - Arizona Housing Coalition](#) Opportunities around the state to interact with Veteran Families who may be eligible for the VFW National Home. Share the VFW National Home Helpline: 800.313.4200. Show support by wearing the VFW National Home logo while representing the information: [Shop - VFW National Home](#)

Looking for another way to support the VFW National Home? There are 34 items on the National Home Amazon Wish List with prices starting below \$10. Pssst, there are diapers and wipes on the Wish List, too [Amazon-wish-list-instructions-1.pdf](#) Read step #10 to make certain **YOUR** Auxiliary is noted for the gifted item(s).

### **Buddy Poppy**

It is never too early to start thinking about the Auxiliary's Buddy Poppy Display. Art takes time. Even if considering the National President's "From our Roots to our Branches" theme, or the "Operation Bottom Cover" Special Project so many precious ideas to "mark this place in time".

Currently, there are no known updates to the Buddy Poppy Display Contest Rules. Same 3 Categories: 1) Public Promotion, 2) Memorial or Inspirational, 3) Artistic or decorative. From last year: [20232024BuddyPoppyRules.pdf](#) Please do be aware when your District may hold their Buddy Poppy Display contests.

Until then, consider adding Buddy Poppies to Valentines for Veterans, Spring Activities and upcoming celebrated Veteran events like Vietnam Veteran Day. Support your Post- ask if you may order your Buddy Poppies through the VFW to help them with their "All State" checklist as it is part of their criteria. Or to order directly: [BuddyPoppyOrderForm1.pdf](#) (Please note it does state "order 8 weeks prior to function date")

Looking forward to your reports, celebrations and how your Auxiliary shared information about the VFW National Home and the symbolism of the Buddy Poppy with your community!

From Flanders Fields, "The torch; be yours to hold it high".

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**Chief of Staff  
Johnnie DeBoard**

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone is off to a great 2025.



I want to reiterate what I have wrote on the last couple of months as I feel it is important. Communication being very important. Are you communicating with your members and comrades? If not, you need to start and 2025 is a great time to start.

I know you will not get along with everyone, but you must respect them. When you respect someone, communication will be easier. Remember we all joined this organization for the same reason and that was to support our Veterans and their families. Listen to other ideas, support and help them make those ideas reality.

If you have low attendance at your meetings, are you talking to the members to ask why they aren't attending? Are you exploring your options? I hope every auxiliary has an increase of members at their upcoming meetings.

I am really looking forward to seeing all the new and returning faces at Winter Conference. Remember every member can attend.

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## Historian Lori Schaeffler



Here's to an incredible Christmas and a New Year that exceeds your wildest dreams!

As we all know, every one of our Auxiliaries **MUST** have done an event for Veteran and Family Support. When you do this, please don't forget to post pictures of that amazing event on Facebook and tag me. That way I can pull and forward you events to Facebook and other Social media. This is so very important for our support numbers and our basic mission. If you are one of those groups who recognize the need for "after holiday" parties, please share those ideas. What a great way to get past those post-holiday blues.

**THANK YOU** for everyone who shared pictures of Wreaths Across America. Throughout Arizona over 76,000 wreaths were laid. Give yourself a hand! That is a great accomplishment and so many veterans were honored.

Did you know that at the Winter conference and VOD/PP banquet our VFW National President Brenda will be here. Sunday there will be a baby shower for her Special Project Botton Cover. Please remember to bring your gift and or basket.

Are you doing a local Voice of Democracy/Patriot Pen banquet?? Remember to take pictures, did you contact local media so they can share these young patriots' accomplishments?

I am loving your pictures and ideas. For those that have tagged me **THANK YOU. REMEMBER** in order to be eligible for a National Citation we need The

Most outstanding promotion of the VFW Auxiliary Programs to the community through any social media sources. Snap those Pictures **AND TAG ME.**

Happy New Year and Thank you for assisting and honoring our Veterans all year long!

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## Hospital Amy Timbes

Hope your holidays were blessed with love and happiness your own family as well as your brothers and sisters in the Veterans of Foreign Wars and Auxiliary.

As we make resolutions for the New Year, I hope you will add a little time each month for our veterans in facilities in your area. **A FEW** minutes from **MANY** equals **MANY SMILES**. And remember reporting those visits, big and small, reinforce our commitment and power in congress.

You might consider reviewing both the national and department program books to refresh our goals and generate some new ideas. I have included a link to [The Many Faces of Hospital Volunteers](#). This explains it better than I ever could. Please listen for your education and enjoyment.

Fun Fact: The Carl Haydn VA Hospital in Phoenix averages 13 babies born every month.

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## VAVS REGION 3 SAVAHCS Tucson

Thank you to all the Auxiliaries that donated to the Christmas Stocking event at SAVAHCS (Southern Arizona Veterans Administration Healthcare System) and those who participated in the stocking stuffing and those who showed up to help with the stocking distribution.

Monica Oxford is the new CDCE (Center for Development and Civic Engagement) will be speaking about the volunteer opportunities and donation requests at the District 5 meeting in January. The required Annual Joint Review was completed last month and one of our goals is to increase the number of Auxiliary volunteers at SAVAHCS. If this is something you're interested in, give me a call.

We have a VAVS meeting on January 29 and Deputies Brenda Price and Valerie Jordan will be representing the Auxiliary. Along with you, I'm looking forward to hearing about upcoming plans and events.

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## Legislative Connie Hargreaves

Goodbye 2024, a most hectic legislative year.



Welcome 2025! Let's make it a new beginning for Veterans!



This last year of 2024 was a wonderful time for Veteran legislation, yes you read that right. There were many Posts and Auxiliaries that hosted candidate Meet and Greets and Candidates Forum with all candidates being given equal opportunity. Many bills were passed both in the state and federal branches. Unfortunately, we are still fighting for many and lost some battles like the Guard Act which would protect Veterans from attorneys (Claim Sharks).

Some bills made it through the House of representatives and are stalled in the Senate, the Major Richard Star Act, and the Elizabeth Dole Caregiver Act. **UPDATE: ELIZABETH DOLE ACT PASSED DEC 17.**

The NDAA (National Defense Authorization Act) did pass with some major changes and possibly many changes coming from the new regime who take over January 20<sup>th</sup>.

Hopefully some of the changes will help Veterans get VA services faster. Investing in a range of national security initiatives, the legislation outlined key benefits for military personnel and strategic improvements across various infrastructures. Of interest is benefits for Arizona is investing in a range of national security initiatives, the legislation outlined key benefits for military personnel and strategic improvements across various infrastructures. Junior troops will receive a pay raise, expansion of basic needs allowance, more barracks and improvements for existing barracks and other quality-of-life provisions in the bill include allowing service members to seek some specialty health care without Tricare referrals, requiring pay for on-base child care workers to be competitive with the private sector, and making it easier for military spouses to transfer professional licenses between states.

We welcome the new 2025 Legislative members, incumbents and newly elected officials. Looking forward to seeing how the future of the committees will be formed with the addition and in some cases filling of positions which were lost in the 2024 elections. I hope your Auxiliaries sent a Christmas card or thank you for your support to those that are leaving office. Please take the time to send out Welcome cards to the elected officials that are coming back or are new. Include the new 2025 Priority Goals when you do. Again, welcome your elected in all offices including City, County, Commissions, State and Federal levels to meet with your members so we can continue to Advocate for our active duty, Veterans and their families to get the best possible help from our Country.

### **DOES ADVOCACY WORK?**

Yes, it does!!

Back in 2021, an all-black woman Six Triple Eight Battalion received the Congressional Gold Medal. Starting in 2018, a group of Veterans, their families and a Senator from Iowa presented a bill to award the 855-member battalion the Congressional Gold Medal. They were advised there was no way it would happen, and in 2020 COVID hit but in 2021-22 the VFW and Auxiliaries and their families with encouragement from the legislative chairs in the Auxiliary nationwide started writing letters. Well, with letters coming from Arizona and the numerous ones from other states, that bill passed. WOW, less than 4

years, with being told probably wouldn't happen, the voices were heard. I was privileged, along with 3 other Auxiliary members to attend the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to Major Fannie McClendon at Tuskegee Airmen Museum.

Well, ASU University, just hosted the **Six Triple Eight movie premier, honoring the legacy of WWII women's battalion** which was attended by 104-year-old retired Maj. Fannie McClendon who has now been immortalized in a new World War II movie called Six Triple Eight about an all-black, all-female women's battalion she was part of. Don't worry if you missed the premier, it started showing on Netflix on December 21<sup>st</sup>.

**ADVOCACY WORKS!!** Don't be afraid to talk with your elected, write to them, attend meetings, host Meet and Greets, get the word to them about our Veteran family. The only thing we want to remember is to not endorse a particular candidate. Be **PROUD** of our ability to advocate for veterans - join the Action Corps Weekly. Encourage friends to join. They do not have to be a member of the VFW or Auxiliary to join this newsletter, which comes out once a week with updates on what is happening in Congress on bills affecting us.

Also, periodically, when there is an action alert on a bill coming up for vote they'll send an email requesting you help by a click of a button. Your voice is what they need to hear. Let's use this ability.

May 2025 bring peace, happiness, health and joy to you and yours.

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## Membership Irene Nowacki

Happy New Year! I hope that you all had a memorable Christmas and New Years with family and friends.

I would like to shout out and recognize the 8 auxiliaries that hit the 100% membership deadline by November 30<sup>th</sup>. All applications that were processed by the cutoff date of November 30<sup>th</sup>, were accepted. These auxiliaries will be the recipients of the membership goodie basket at Winter Conference.

**285, 2066, 3713, 8807, 9399, 10227, 12098 & 12128.**

Now it's time to hit the ground running. This is the start of crunch time. How is your auxiliary doing with membership? Do you need help? If we all work together, regardless of what auxiliary we belong to, we can hit 100% Department wide. We are so super close to this goal.

Right now, the Department of Arizona is at 94.89%. The finish line is right there! However, there is no reason to stop at the line. We can reach far beyond it. Keep engaging the public and informing them about the auxiliary. Tell them about what we do for our veterans and our communities. Ask them if they need help with anything they have going on. Show them that we work with everyone. Small and large businesses. Schools and local community facilities. Possible members are everywhere. Now let's go out and get them. **WEST IS THE BEST!**

Now is the time to gather those valentines and have your membership fill them out. Better yet, hold a membership drive and have the public fill them out. Multiple programs at once. Hospital counts for the veterans' valentines that are filled out and delivered to facilities that house veterans. Remember there are other places than just the VA. Local group homes and living facilities have veterans in them. Then you can run the gambit with all the other programs that you showcase in your membership drive.

This month's challenge is to have veterans' valentines filled out at your next membership drive. Get the youth involved with this also. Send them to local schools and ask them to fill them out with messages from the heart. Also send goodie bags filled with information about the auxiliary. You never know if someone is eligible unless they see the qualifications. Have your membership QR code ready and available too. Let's do this together!

See you all at Winter Conference!

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## Scholarships JaNice Robertson

Wow where did this year go?  
January? What a busy month!



I am excited to be going to Winter Conference. Big thing this year is **Voice of Democracy** and **Patriot's Pen**. Who will the winners for the Department of Arizona be this year? Last year's National winner of the Voice of Democracy was from Arizona, can we do it again? I can't wait to hear what our students have written on the themes they were given this year. See you all there.

Have you talked to any of your members do they want to return to school in 2025?

- The **National Continuing Education Scholarship** deadline is February 15<sup>th</sup>. This grant application is sent directly to National Headquarters. Requirements are they have to be an auxiliary member, their spouse or child and at least 21 years of age. The amount granted is \$1250 and one person from each of the 4 conferences receives this. You can get all information on Malta. Fill out the application and submit an essay of 300 words or less.
- We also have our **Arizona Educational Grant** with a deadline of March 31<sup>st</sup> where one winner will receive \$1000 to a college or vocational school. Requirements for this one is Applicant **MUST** be a member of an Arizona VFW Auxiliary and at least 18 years of age. 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.
- Next is the **VFW Auxiliary Merit Scholarship**. This is for those students that have it all together. They must be related to a member of the VFW or the Auxiliary They must have their transcripts for grades 9 through 12, all

letters of recommendations, articles on their activities in their community such as school and church, listings of their employment, a copy of their college or vocational school entrance letter, and a biography about themselves. All this in a binder with sheet protectors sent to me before March 31<sup>st</sup>.

Remember we still have the **Young American Patriotic Arts Contests** both in 3D and 2D. These are open to all students in 9<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

- Does your town or area have more Auxiliaries than high schools?
- Are you struggling to get entries for the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest and the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest?
- Would your Auxiliary be interested in sponsoring student entries from unaffiliated Posts?

If you answered **YES** to any of the above, click [here](#) for a unique opportunity to support talented students from around the globe!

Happy 2025. This new year **PLEASE** let's all remember our Veterans!

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## Veterans and Family Support Becky Baldwin

Veterans and Family Support is all about Support not only our Veterans but the families of Veterans as well. How often do you get asked for a resource or contact to help someone in need?

What do you do? If you are like me, you look around for a more adultly adult cause you have no clue and was not prepared.

To kick off the New Year, I want us all to have a resource list available in our phone to share when needed. Screen shot this list copy it, print it out do what you must but have it ready when you get asked, “do you know where we can get help for....”

There are several resources for family support for veterans, including:

- **Military & Veteran Family Helpline:** Call 1-800-313-4200
- **VA Caregiver Support Line:** Call 1-855-260-3274; For advice on being a caregiver, and to connect with a CSP team at your local VA facility
- **Veterans Crisis Line:** Call 1-800-273-8255 and press 1, chat online, or text 838255 for confidential support 24/7
- **Military OneSource:** Call 1-800-342-9647 or visit [militaryonesource.mil](https://militaryonesource.mil) for assistance, information, and support
- **Blue Star Families:** <https://bluestarfam.org/> A support resource for military spouses
- **U.S. Department of Labor:** <https://www.dol.gov/agencies/vets> A support resource for military spouses
- **National Military Spouse Network:** <https://www.nationalmilitaryspousenetwork.org/> A support resource for military spouses
- **Elizabeth Dole Foundation:** <https://www.elizabethdolefoundation.org/> A support resource for military spouses

You can also google “Veterans & Family Support Programs in XXX” add your

city and get local resources for you to have.

Project Idea for those willing to accept it- create a Veterans and Family Support Resource Binder to have available at your Post even in your Canteen for easy reference and availability. Not everyone will ask for help but having this available may encourage someone to get the help they need.

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## Youth Stephanie Quinton



Hope everyone had a **GREAT** Christmas!

Now we are getting into the New Year 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 New Year Projects.

For example: Take your youth groups and go to Assisted living centers or to those living alone and help the veterans to do a New Years resolution list. This will help get them on good path for the new year. This could be multiple projects for Auxiliaries. Also, continue to promote the Art Scholarships, keep handing out those RAP Coin's/Cards to your youth who love these.

I see all our Auxiliaries doing **GREAT** projects with our youth.  
**GREAT** work!

Have a **GREAT** New Year!

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## PARs (Program Activity Report)

Our Website, [VFWAUXAZ.ORG](http://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](mailto:brendakkinghorn@gmail.com)

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

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