

Volume 1/ July 2024

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



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Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter

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Due to National Convention happening in the latter part of July and into August, the August newsletter will not go out until August 8th. Sorry for the inconvenience.



President Lynn Pierre's Message

Welcome to the 2024-2025 VFW Auxiliary year!

I congratulate Past Commander Bill Schaeffler and Past President Bambi Johnson on a strong, well-planned year following a start fraught with a great deal of replanning and organizing. They worked together as the dedicated team they are and pulled it out. What an amazing feat!

The Department of Arizona VFW Auxiliary is among the best in the world, and I am so honored to be a part of it. I look forward to the many exciting and fun

events to come and the dedication provided by all our members to our mission of supporting our Veterans and their families.

This year's convention was a great event providing opportunities for networking and making new friends while celebrating last year's accomplishments. I would like to address an issue brought forward on which we are presently working. There was much discussion regarding the lack of criteria for awards. We are presently compiling the desired criteria for everyone to see and will be sure to get the completed listing out to all members just as soon as possible. We certainly recognize all the demanding work that every member, Auxiliary and District has done and want to be sure you are fully informed about what the goals and expectations are as communication is truly the key to our future success.

The second issue is the importance of certificates for completed projects. We are again working on a method of doing that and will keep you all informed.

The VFW Auxiliary Department President Special Project this year is Suicide Prevention. While we have made some huge strides toward that goal, there is so much left to do. Fund raisers will be donated to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, a national group with local representatives. Please watch for event information that will be coming out to keep people informed and involved.

Again, I treasure time with each and every one of you. Please contact me if you have issues or questions, you would like us to address, and my ongoing goal is to keep everyone as well informed as possible.

My platform this year is "Families for Veterans." We are one huge and awesome family, and our working together will be the very best way to support and aid our Veterans and their families.

Please have fun this year and I look forward to visiting with you all!

PDP Bambi Johnson's Message

This year's Convention showed that our auxiliaries have definitely been hard at work all year!! We had 31 auxiliaries that were awarded the Outstanding Auxiliary Award. Johnnie DeBoard, as our Chief of Staff, was very proud to hand out Healthy Auxiliary Citations to more than half of the state.



I apologize that we did not announce in advance that we were not giving our citations to auxiliaries for turning in a special report for each program. The last couple of years, I had received a lot of comments that the paper citations were not viewed by the comrades very well. It was my hope that auxiliaries would be better honored and respected if they received a wooden plaque for they efforts. Please reach out to our new Department President and let her know your preference for this year.

I would like to thank the all the Arizona members, the Dept. officers, District

Presidents and the Dept. Chairmen for the outstanding work done in our state this year. Also, a big shout out to our wonderful youth volunteers and pages who keep us both excited and well cared for during the convention. A special thanks to Amy Timbes and Betty Anderson for working so hard at the very successful basket raffle!

An extra special to Kim Sloan and her assistants, Kim Harney & Chrissy Harlan. Behind every successful convention, they are the team that makes it all seem to flow smoothly.

I am looking forward to another great year from Arizona members with the leadership of President Lynn and her new team! Let's keep Arizona active and excited!



Department Announcements

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

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

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

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

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

***Resolutions** to be addressed at the National Convention in Phoenix on July 25th - Tuesday's Business Session from 8:30 - 1 pm in Hall 1 & 2 of the Convention Center. The resolutions can be found on www.vfwauxaz.org behind login/national convention

*Parts of the National Convention will be **live streamed** through your MALTA account. Click [here](#) to see the convention agenda - sessions that will be live streamed will have an LS after it.



The Red, White and Blue National Anthem Singing Contest -
Our Department had three winners in the two levels of this competition whose videos went on to National. Matthew C sponsored by Auxiliary 9399; Apache Junction won 2nd place overall at the National Level. He will receive a Visa gift card and his video will be shown at the National Convention

2023-2024 Outstanding Auxiliaries

Corporal Ben Scott Auxiliary 769
Lt. Col. Joseph D. O'Hanlon Sr. Auxiliary 2357
Colo Gila Rivers Auxiliary 8242
Matthew James Broehm Auxiliary 12128
Sandy Coor Auxiliary 1433
Buckeye Auxiliary 12098
Phoenix Memorial Auxiliary 720
Stanley A. Crews Auxiliary 3513
John M. Jackson Auxiliary 3632
Joseph Monfort Auxiliary 9400
Tucson Auxiliary 549
Catalina Auxiliary 4903
Avra Valley - Marana Auxiliary 5990
James E. "Greg" Beeson Auxiliary 10254
William E. Hamilton Auxiliary 2364
Fort Reno Auxiliary 8807
White Mtn. Area Auxiliary 9907
Barney Figuera Auxiliary 6271
James R. "Bob" Currieo Auxiliary 9972
Cochise Auxiliary 9977
Gila Valley Auxiliary 10385
Mohave Valley Auxiliary 404
Eddie May Auxiliary 7061
Victor H. Meliza Auxiliary 9401
Chloride Auxiliary 2190
James L. Stanfield Auxiliary 10386

Darrel D. Bommer Auxiliary 11014
Casa Grande Auxiliary 1677
George E. Truman Auxiliary 3584
Sgt. J. D. Wadkins Jr. Auxiliary 3713
George T. Diehl Sr. Auxiliary 7968
Superstition Mountain Auxiliary 9399

2023-2024 Outstanding Program Awards

Americanism

James E. "Greg" Beeson Auxiliary 10254
James R. "Bob" Currieo Auxiliary 9972
Avra Valley - Marana Auxiliary 5990
George T. Diehl Sr. Auxiliary 7968
Sgt. J.D. Wadkins Jr. Auxiliary 3713
William E. Hamilton Auxiliary 2364
Tucson Auxiliary 549
Fort Reno Auxiliary 8807

Auxiliary Outreach

Tucson Auxiliary 549
Colo Gila Rivers Auxiliary 8242
James R. "Bob" Currieo Auxiliary 9972
James L. Stanfield Auxiliary 10386
George T. Diehl Sr. Auxiliary 7968
Superstition Mountain Auxiliary 9399
Buckeye Auxiliary 12098 Darrel D. Bommer Auxiliary 11014

Buddy Poppy/National HomeNicky D. Bacon Auxiliary 285

Corporal Ben Scott Auxiliary 769
Stanley A. Crews Auxiliary 3513
Barney Figueroa Auxiliary 6271
Colo Gila Rivers Auxiliary 8242
James R. "Bob" Currieo Auxiliary 9972
James E. "Greg" Beeson Auxiliary 10254
Colorado River Valley Auxiliary 10005

Hospital

George T. Diehl Sr. Auxiliary 7968
Colo Gila Rivers Auxiliary 8242
Sandy Coor Auxiliary 1433
Superstition Mountain Auxiliary 9399
James L. Stanfield Auxiliary 10386
Lt. Col. Joseph D. O'Hanon Sr. Auxiliary 2357
Gila Valley Auxiliary 10385
James R. "Bob" Currieo Auxiliary 9972

Legislative

Avra Valley - Marana Auxiliary 5990
Corporal Ben Scott Auxiliary 769
Darrel D. Bommer Auxiliary 11014
George T. Diehl Sr. Auxiliary 7968
James E. "Greg" Beeson Auxiliary 10254
Mohave Valley Auxiliary 404
Sandy Coor Auxiliary 1433

Media Relations

Sandy Coor Auxiliary 1433
William E. Hamilton Auxiliary 2364
Stanley A. Crews Auxiliary 3513
George T. Diehl Sr. Auxiliary 7968
James R. "Bob" Currieo Auxiliary 9972
Colorado River Valley Auxiliary 10005
Avra Valley - Marana Auxiliary 5990
James E. "Greg" Beeson Auxiliary 10254

Membership

Corporal Ben Scott Auxiliary 769
Sandy Coor Auxiliary 1433
Santa Cruz Auxiliary 2066
Barney Figuera Auxiliary 6271
George T. Diehl Sr. Auxiliary 7968
Superstition Mountain Auxiliary 9399
James R. "Bob" Currieo Auxiliary 9972
Matthew James Broehm Auxiliary 12128

Mentoring

Sandy Coor Auxiliary 1433
Stanley A. Crews Auxiliary 3513
Barney Figuera Auxiliary 6271
Darrel D. Bommer Auxiliary 11014
Matthew James Broehm Auxiliary 12128

Scholarships

Sandy Coor Auxiliary 1433
Stanley A. Crews Auxiliary 3513
George T. Diehl Sr. Auxiliary 7968
Colo Gila Rivers Auxiliary 8242
Superstition Mountain Auxiliary 9399
James R. "Bob" Currieo Auxiliary 9972

Veterans and Family Support

Corporal Ben Scott Auxiliary 769
Sandy Coor Auxiliary 1433
Sunshine Capitol Auxiliary 1763
George T. Diehl Sr. Auxiliary 7968

Colo Gila Rivers Auxiliary 8242
White Mtn. Area Auxiliary 9907
James R. "Bob" Currieo Auxiliary 9972
James E. "Greg" Beeson Auxiliary 10254

Youth Activities

Chloride Auxiliary 2190
Avra Valley - Marana Auxiliary 5990
Barney Figueroa Auxiliary 6271
Brig. Gen. Clifford H. Shuey Auxiliary 6306
Buckeye Auxiliary 12098

Participation Plaques

Sunshine Capitol Auxiliary 1763
Bert Black Jr. Auxiliary 7400
Nicky D. Bacon Auxiliary 285
Dode Morris Auxiliary 1760
Black Canyon City Auxiliary 1796
Santa Cruz Auxiliary 2066
Brig. Gen. Clifford H. Shuey Auxiliary 6306
Colorado River Valley Auxiliary 10005
Freeman Sinclair Auxiliary 10726
Mt. Tipton Auxiliary 9833
Tracy P. McPherson Auxiliary 12043



Please join the Department of Arizona in thanking our youth volunteers for helping to make our convention run smoothly!

Madison Baldwin

Makenzie Baldwin

Savanna Baldwin

James Eiler

Aislyn Nowacki

Hunter Nowacki

Helena Sloan

John Sloan

Zoey Small



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

Secretary/Treasurer Kim Sloan

Welcome to the 2024-2025 Auxiliary year as we continue to serve veterans and families! Department President Lynn's theme certainly sums up what our mission is – *Families for Veterans.*



NATIONAL DUES INCREASE TO \$15 STARTING JULY 1, 2024 thru

DECEMBER 20, 2024

Auxiliary Treasurers! Starting July 1, any new Annual Member applications must include a check for \$15 – National \$10 and Department Dues \$5. Life member fees will not change. Any new annual member applications received after December 20, must include the increase dues amount... see below.

DEPARTMENT DUES GO UP TO \$10 STARTING JANUARY 1, 2025

Auxiliary Treasurers! Starting January 1, any new Annual Member applications must include a check for \$20 (National Dues \$10, Department Dues \$10)

Welcome to all the new Secretaries and Treasurers and welcome back to those who are continuing in those offices! I look forward to working with all of you.

The first thing the Secretaries and Treasurers need to do is log into MALTA:

- Secretaries need to confirm that meeting information is correct
- Treasurers need to confirm that dues amount is correct – remember dues increase above
- Secretaries need to confirm that the current 2024-2025 officer information is correct. If not, make the corrections. Changes to Treasurer must go thru Department so let me know if I need to make that change for you.

Here are some quick reminders for new and continuing officers:

- Auxiliaries – send me a copy of your quarterly Audit Reports as soon as they are accepted by the Auxiliary
- Districts – send me a copy of the minutes of every District Meeting AND a copy of the accepted Audit Reports
- Auxiliaries – Process donations to National Cancer Aid & Research, National Home Health & Happiness, National Patriotic Art, National Continuing Education and National President's Special Project – using MALTA, Make a Gift. Those donations will be debited directly from the Auxiliary account
- Donations to the VFW National Home – Arizona House should be sent directly to the VFW National Home
- New Life Memberships to the National Home and other donations should be sent directly to the VFW National Home
- Donations to Arizona Department Scholarship Fund should be sent directly to VFW Auxiliary Dept of Arizona, 326 E. Burrows St., Tucson AZ 85704

We are not creating a Department Roster this year but using a feature in MALTA to create the roster.

Asst. Secretary Chrissy Harlan will be doing that and posting to the Arizona Department website – vfwauxaz.org.

The National website – vfwauxiliary.org aka MALTA and the Department website – vfwauxaz.org are two completely different resources. The National website is your resource for all things National, the Department website is for all things related to Department. If you can't find what you're looking for i.e. Project Report form or Project Activity Report, those are reports that are special to Arizona, so they can only be found on the Department website.

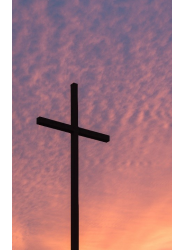
Member Involvement Trainings will be starting again soon. We hope to have a

separate day of trainings for Secretaries, Treasurers and Trustees in conjunction with the MITs, so watch for the flyer.

I'm looking forward to National convention in Kentucky! Hope to see many of you there!

All officers! Please reach out to Department if you have any questions or problems. We are here to help you, but we can't help if we don't know there is a question or a problem.

Chaplain's Corner Jeanne Hampton



"This is the day the Lord has made. Be glad and rejoice in it."

We are faced with so many day-to-day challenges. Sometimes it seems easiest to just throw in the towel and let someone else deal with personalities, problems, conflict.

"This is the day the Lord has made."

How are you going to face what He has placed before you?

"Be glad and rejoice in it."

A Prayer to Share-

Dear Lord,

Bless this work you put before us.

Let us face today's challenges by Your will, in Your way.

Let all we do be in Your name. Amen

Recently the most amazing website and Chaplain's Handbook, from a former National VFW Chaplain, was shared. The information transcends all levels of what we do as the VFW Auxiliary.

Pour yourself a nice beverage and immerse yourself in being a

Chaplain: <https://movfw.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=76106>



Auxiliary Outreach Donna Ventola

Hello Team Az! Welcome to the 2024-2025 Auxiliary Outreach program.

This will be my 4th year as a Department chairman. I know we all are excited to dive in and start working on our programs. Maybe you have already started. I hope you enjoyed Program kick-off at the Department Convention. In this article I will go over what I presented.

What do you have planned that is considered Auxiliary Outreach? What is Auxiliary Outreach?

The VFW Auxiliary has always been about volunteering and helping others. We always have found a way and means to be more active and visible in our community. As Auxiliary members, we partner up with other organizations and that volunteer work and time needs to be counted and reported. Let's reach out and help with a lending hand or two.

Auxiliary Outreach is a Partnership! Volunteering is considered a selfless activity where one member or many Auxiliary members provide a service to help another organization or group to make their project/event successful. It's always good to help others, make new friends and form a bond with other organizations. Teamwork makes the dream work!!

Remember at Program Kick-off I talked about one word to think about when doing this program: **TIME**

T = Team- partnering with other organizations, building partnerships

I = Information/Involvement- gather as much information as you can about the event

M = Minutes/Members- vote and approve the motion and make sure it's in your minutes

E = Execute- REPORT, REPORT- please don't forget to send in your program project report once the event is done.

This year's program goals are:

- Building Partnerships
- Auxiliary participating in Outreach

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

Buddy Poppy/National Home Jeanne Hampton



It's a brand-new year with a lot to celebrate! The VFW National Home will have a year-long 100th Birthday Celebration! Events, ways to sponsor, information to share- get the word out!

Mark your calendars:

August 17- VFW Riders Day at the National Home

September 7- Celebrating America's Freedom Event (CAFÉ) at the National Home

September 9- District 11 (Arizona included) VOTE! For your National Home Trustee

October 26 – The Annual Life Members' meeting

January 7, 2025 – Birthday Party Celebration (Send a birthday card!)

February 8, 2025- Black Tie Event-consider a black-tie celebration fundraiser with your Auxiliary (Could be a formal OR blind auction with boxes wrapped in black "ties" (bows)

March 9, 2025- Pollett House Dedication/Ribbon cutting event

June 28, 2025 – VFW National Home 100th Birthday Party, Eaton Rapids, Michigan

August 9 – 14 VFW National Convention in Columbus, Ohio-day trips to the National Home.

This year the focus is not only on the 100 Year Celebration; it is on educating the public about the Buddy Poppy and National Home.

Centennial Life Memberships to the National Home are now available for \$100. For those Auxiliaries with an “Early Bird” Membership Program- consider giving away a Centennial Life Membership for the *new* Life or Convert-to-Life Members? The funds go directly back to the National Home, Arizona gains another National Home Life Member, it adds incentive to Convert to Life with the rising cost of an Annual Membership. [Centennial Membership - VFW National Home](#)

At the Department Convention Program kick-off, a packet of information was given to Auxiliary members. Included was a Thank You Card, Christmas Card, Birthday Card-idea builders for future projects. A check for \$100 could also be included in the “holiday” or birthday greetings, to recognize the 100 Years. Looking to the Amazon Wish List- at the various times of the year, the Auxiliary can support the requested items in time for back-to-school, 4H projects, individual household needs, and Christmas items.

Buddy Poppy- Did you know...\$.01 cent from every Buddy Poppy purchased goes back to the National Home? Put this into perspective- there are 6,000 VFW Posts. If every Post purchased the “minimal” 500 Buddy Poppies, that is \$30,000 for the National Home. If the Auxiliary supports purchasing Buddy Poppies from their Post, it is a win/win. The more purchased, the more money that is contributed passively to the National Home.

Did you need more reasons? An additional \$.01 goes to NVS- National Veterans Services to assist with Service Officer duties to our Veterans and \$1.5 cents from every Buddy Poppy purchased goes back to your Department. 500 Buddy Poppies purchased = \$7.50 back to the Department of Arizona.

In the National Convention Buddy Poppy Display Contest Rules, “Posts that purchase over 250,000 Buddy Poppies may have more than one display in a category”, more than 250,000 Buddy Poppies? \$2500 to the National Home, \$2500 to NVS, \$3750 to their Department. Since the inception of the Buddy Poppy- more than 1 Billion have been distributed. Let’s raise those numbers!

When it comes to reporting, “expound” on “We wrapped Buddy Poppies on all the silverware sets for the dinner”- Why? What was learned from that? What does the Buddy Poppy represent? Was it just used as a decoration? Or were Buddy Poppies added to the Patriotic Celebration table to “Honor the Dead by Helping the Living”. Give the Buddy Poppy the recognition it deserves as a symbol of those who gave their lives for our freedom and democracy.

“In Flanders Field, the poppies blow,
Beneath the crosses, row on row”

Looking forward to a great year of celebration!



Chief of Staff Johnnie DeBoard

Things to remember as we start the New Year -

1. We are a team, it's not up to one person to do any one job. Work as a team, include the post as well, more will get done.
2. Vote on things the auxiliary wants to do. It's not up to just the President to decide what is to be done.
3. Treat people the way you want to be treated; you never know if someone is having a bad day. Be respectful.
4. When receiving emails, don't click reply all unless told to do so. Don't forward it to people it was already sent to.
5. If you are an officer or thinking of becoming one, read the duties in your podium book, ask questions, read Building on the Auxiliary Foundation.
6. Communication, Communication, Communication.
7. Look at the resources behind Malta.

Suggestions to be successful not necessarily in any particular order-

1. Within the first 3 months form a committee to look over the standing rules and make suggestions.
2. Have the members write down 2 to 3 things they would like to see the auxiliary do then talk about them, then act on them.
3. Share information with everyone e.g. All members are encouraged to attend Fall and Winter conferences as well as Department convention and the CofA's (counsel of administration). Any member can attend Western Conference and Mid-Year conference.
4. Make sure to have a welcome packet for new members. Sit with them after they have looked at it to answer any questions.
5. Give good job awards out. Any member can give them like the person who saw them doing a good job.
6. Ask the post what you can do to help them.

Legislative Connie Hargreaves

What an exciting time for Legislation for our
Veterans!



With this being a Presidential election year there is a lot of focus on Veterans, the border, health issues and much more. The candidates are out in force, trying to garner your confidence and vote. Now is the time for the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary to advocate for Veterans and Veteran programs.

Have you heard of **VET THE VOTE**? Let's get our veterans and family members on board working polling sites and in the elections department. Check out <https://vettthe.vote/> as all counties are in need of poll and election workers and many of these positions are paid. Veterans are well networked, easily mobilized and stand up to the call. Maricopa county alone

needs 3,000 poll workers with 2300 already on board.

Does advocating really work? Yes, it does. Before the last session of legislation ended in Arizona, we succeeded in getting the 25 million for a VA Home in Mohave County funded through 2028. **WOW!** The next step is to let the Veterans Administration know the ball is now in their court. With property available in Kingman to be donated, the elected officials must now show why this VA Home can be sustained and maintained. Everyone signing to have this project approved and started is of utmost importance in the coming months. Please sign that you wish the VA Home to move forward in Mohave County. If you wish a copy of this signature in support of form reach out to me at tlc3conniet@yahoo.com and I will be happy to email it to you.

The first deadline for returning this form to me with signatures is July 15th, another deadline will be determined after that meeting with VA Admin representatives.

A new Fisher House in Phoenix was also approved before the legislative session ended and work on Claim Sharks will again be raised in the next session, this is to lay groundwork on charges for the Veteran to receive proper compensation and that the attorneys are accredited and know Veteran procedures. Tom Judd already has "Model Legislation" to streamline and protect our Veterans and their families.

Please take the time to check on local debates, meet and greet and anything else happening in your area regarding your candidates both local, state and federal. Host a meet and greet, a candidate forum, encourage your members to reach out to the candidates and promote.

Remember when advocating for Veterans the Do's and Don'ts:

DO's

- Attend candidate town hall meetings and other events and ask candidates where they stand on our issues.
- Set up voter registration drives /Get Out the Vote Campaigns on the local level.
- Provide carpool service on Election Day to help the elderly and disabled get to the voting booth.
- Support and work for your favorite candidates as an individual voting constituent.
- Wear your VFW cap at public events such as town halls, rallies, forums, or debates.

DON'Ts

- Don't endorse candidates on behalf of the VFW National Organization, Department, District or Post.
- Don't wear your VFW cap when actively campaigning for a candidate, such as soliciting donations or knocking on doors asking people to pledge their vote for a candidate.

Some sites to check out for vetting your candidates and for information on upcoming debates are

- <https://www.ballotready.org/>
- <https://www.fox10phoenix.com/election/arizona-congressional-district-8-republican-debate>
- <https://www.azcleanelections.gov/arizona-elections/debate-information>

- <https://azpbs.org/pressroom/2024/03/arizona-pbs-candidate-debates-part-of-az-votes-2024-initiative/>
- https://www.savedemocracyaz.com/?gclid=CjwKCAjw1emzBhB8EiwAHwZZxQdqKakUKK52oQX9Y2sC-LRfYLnUMXevRAU1zqDIPAZkyLmNm-bmaRoCPCsQAvD_BwE

Remember, your vote counts, let's get out and advocate for Veterans and our families.



Membership Irene Nowacki

Are you ready to plant those seeds? It is time to grab your gardening gloves and start planning your garden! This year we will be working hard to cultivate and grow our trees with branches that extend and reach far from our solid roots.

This year National President Brenda Bryant's Motto is "**From Our Roots to Our Branches**" and her symbol is the tree of life. Our strong roots are derived from our veterans stemming from all branches of service, our true reason for existing. From them we become a strong "trunk" that has branches that reach out everywhere to help in any way we can. This fits nicely with Department President Lynn Pierre's Motto "**Families for Veterans**". Just like a pod of dolphins stick together and help each other out, we need to nurture our trees and help them to grow. From those strong roots, we will create large Family Trees that serve each other.

National Ambassador Linda Roloff has set a lofty goal that I feel, with hard work from all, we can hit. Our Department goal this year is to hit 95% on or before 11/30/2024. The ultimate goal is to hit 101%+ by June 30, 2025. Our auxiliary's goal is to hit 100%+ in membership by 6/30/2025 to receive \$50.00 from National. All auxiliaries that hit 101%+ by 6/30/2025, will be entered into a one-time drawing to receive \$500.00. We will work together and help each other out to gain this goal. I know we can do it! Department awards will also be given for all auxiliaries that hit the following membership goals. 100% by 11/30/2024, will receive a membership program basket filled with membership promos and patriotic goodies to use at your membership drives. 100%+ will receive a \$50.00 VFW Store GC to help purchase items for your membership tables. 101%+ will receive a Membership Life Tree to show proudly with your awards.

Members that recruit 5-10 new members will receive Lynn's President coin. Anyone that recruits 10 or more will receive their membership rocker. We also want to reach out to our VFW Post members and help them with their membership goals. Let's work as a team and help to curb the last-minute strides to hit 100%. Please reach out to your Post Quartermaster and ask if you can help do a "Phone Tree".

This year Linda has created a QR Code that is an instant link to the National Auxiliary web page. As we move forward striving to find and gain younger members, the obstacles seem to be harder than ever. In these modern tech

savvy days, it seems that the younger generations don't really want to stop and talk to you. This QR Code will be a great opportunity to help bridge that gap. If they are in a rush, as they always seem to be, just ask them to snap a picture of the QR Code and they will have instant access to all that the VFW Auxiliary has to offer including all the different programs. The next time you plan a membership table, make sure to have the QR Code handy. You may even see them snapping a picture of it from afar. Let's start this year strong and reach out and help each other with our membership goals.

I am excited to see how all our auxiliaries do this year.

Scholarship JaNice Robertson

Welcome to the 2024-2025 Scholarship Program!

I am JaNice Robertson. Life member of VFW Auxiliary 769 in Quartzsite AZ, District 1 Auxiliary President, and Department of Arizona Scholarship chairman. You can contact me anytime if you have questions or concerns about the Scholarship Program at 928-580-8872 or email at bells_whistles@hotmail.com (please note: there is an underscore between the "s" and "w").

I hope we all know that the first Scholarships we work on would be the **Voice of Democracy** (theme is *"Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?"*) and the **Patriots Pen** (theme is *"My Voice in America's Democracy?"*). These are the VFW's scholarships but as we all know the Auxiliaries work just as hard in promoting these scholarships. Both are due to the VFW by October 31st, 2024.

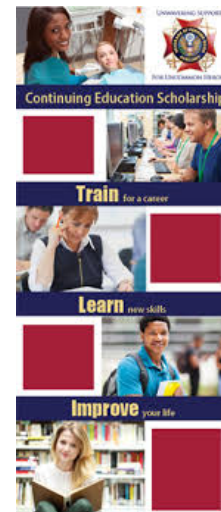
But we as an Auxiliary have 2 contests that seem to get very little participation. One is a National scholarship that is due February 15th, 2025. It is: **Continuing Education Scholarship** – This scholarship is for our members and their spouse and children.

What makes a member qualified for this scholarship?

- A member must have been a member for one (1) year by the application submission.
- Applicants must be in financial need to continue/return to college or vocational/technical/trade schools.
- Must be 21 years of age by February 15, 2025.

Applications can be found in MALTA Member Resources or ask your Department Scholarships Chairman. (ME!) Deadline to get the application into National Headquarters by February 15, 2025. There will be one (1) winner from each of our four (4) Conferences. This scholarship is worth \$1,250 for each Conference. This one has its challenges as we are going up against everyone in our Western Conference. The person has to be a member or a spouse or child of a member that has been a member for at least 1 year. **Very specific rules.** And they send the application directly to National in Kansas City. So, for our Auxiliaries we do not really get to track this one, but we do need to talk to all of our members to see if we have anyone that qualifies and encourage them to participate.

The other one is **Arizona's Educational Grant**. One Educational Grant of \$1,000 will be awarded to the first-place winner. The Department of Arizona Auxiliary is pleased to present a \$1,000 grant to assist members who wish to



further their education by pursuing a college degree or a career direction at a vocational or technical school.

Applicant must be a current member of an Arizona VFW Auxiliary AND must be 18 years of age or older.

This one is much easier to apply for as it is for Arizona members only and they must be at least 18 years of age. Go out to the colleges, vocational schools, and trade schools. They may not know they are eligible to be a member. So now you are recruiting membership as well as helping them with the possibility of a grant. Talk to your members, maybe they have thought that they would like to continue their education but did not have enough funds. This one is due to me by April 1st, 2025.

So, you have the year to help me get these grants and scholarships promoted. These 2 opportunities have been so neglected in the past. I hate to see the funds just sit there.



Veterans and Family Support Becky Baldwin

Welcome to the 2024-2025 Program Year!

I am excited to have the honor to serve my 3rd Chairman Year as our Department Veterans

and Family Support Chairman.

As mentioned at program Kickoff Veterans and Family Support is like 2 programs wrapped into one. Supporting our Veterans as well as Supporting our Families of Veterans. Each group has a specific set of needs to support them.

This year the Veterans and Family Support Ambassador wants to see us support Mental Health Awareness for our Veterans but also Mental Health Awareness for those Family Members. Take the time to call a family member check on them call a veteran check on them sometimes a simple how are you doing? How can I support you? Can go a long way in the lives of those we support.

Ambassador Kick off Blogs will be coming out shortly after National Convention. Be on the lookout to get more information on how you can support Veterans and Families.

Youth Stephanie Quinton

I'm Stephanie Quinton. I'm your Auxiliary Department of Arizona Youth Programs Chairman. I'm a member in Buckeye Post 12098. I joined in 2015 under my dad, a Vietnam Veteran Marine CPL Steve Quinton. I

have held many offices in my Auxiliary, the District and the Dept. I'm Auxiliary Treasurer, District 3 Conductor, and Arizona Department Color Bearer #1.



This year, I would like our Auxiliaries to concentrate on “Read to our Veterans”, and “Flag Education” in the schools. For the summer get your youth involved in any events you do. Maybe for Flag Day get your ROTC or Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts involved in a Flag retirement Ceremony or get your Auxiliary involved in a Back-to-school drive in your area.

Let's have a GREAT YEAR with our Youth.

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

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