Volume 11/ May/June2025

Unwavering Support



Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter

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Department President Lynn Pierre

It is my great honor to have served 2024-2025 with all of you. Not only have you pulled off some of the most innovative ideas ever, but you were hugely successful in supporting our Veterans and their families. From Honor events like Flags and Flowers and Wreaths

Across America to family events such as Operation Bottom Cover, our Veteran and Military families are very well taken care of, and I am so proud of what you have all accomplished.

My Special Project - Suicide Prevention -Guitars for Vets, has gained some great footing. With the help of both VFW 9399 and VFW 7968 Posts and Auxiliaries, we were able to present Guitars for Vets with over \$2000.00 from the night of my Luau. I am forever thankful for such a great effort. Guitars for Vets provides not only music and guitar lessons, but an outlet for networking and therapy. The equipment the Veterans utilize for classes is then gifted to them upon graduation. For those of you who are not aware, our VFW National Home has utilized these classes for some time now.

All of our programs are extremely important, and I Thank each and every one of you for your super efforts again this year. Your dedication is nothing new. Finally, I would like to wish our President Elect, Brenda Kinghorn, the very best ensuing year ever. Keep doing what you do. I just love my VFW Family!



Department Announcements

*This is the last newsletter until July. In July, a recap of Department Convention awards and introduction of the new program chairmen will be featured. Stay tuned.

*Resolutions and Ritual changes to be presented at National Convention in Ohio in August will be posted on the Department Webpage - www.vfwauxaz.org behind log in under National Convention. Look for those by the beginning of the week.

*The webpage is undergoing renovations. Things are being taken down or moved for the new year.

If you need something and can't find it, please let Kim Harney know at emma32680@hotmail.com

*There is a new PAR for next year. Auxiliaries will not start using it until after convention. Please keep track of your April and May activities so that you may start recording them in June.

*6/5-6/7 - Department Convention. Info on the hotel and banquet tickets are under News/events. Don't wait to get your room!

*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

Tentative Schedule

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA DEPARTMENT CONVENTION SCHEDULE

June 4, 2025 thru June 8, 2025

Wednesday June 4, 2025

DRESS: Casual

9:00 am Post Colors Practice (Scouting America Troop 007) Salon A

10:00 am Convention Committee Meeting Executive Boardroom

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm Registration Lobby

3:00 pm Ritual Practice - PDP Chrissy Harlan Salon C

All Department Officers, Patriotic Instructor, Color Bearers, Flag Bearer, Banner Bearer, MusicianAssistant Conductress, Assistant Guard, 2024-2025 District

Presidents

7:00pm Practice for Joint Memorial Service Salon B

VFW and VFW Auxiliary Department Officers, Color Bearers

2024-2025 District Commanders and Presidents

Dress - Casual

Thursday June 5, 2025

DRESS: Officers, District Presidents, Ritual Team – Official Look Members and Guests - Patriotic

8:00 am - 10:00am Registration Lobby

9:00 am JOINT OPENING SESSION Salon B

Department Commander Jim McCormick Department President Lynn Pierre

State and Local Government Representatives

Director Arizona Veterans' Services

Introductions of other organization representatives

Auxiliary Scholarship Awards

VFW Auxiliary – Outstanding Auxiliaries Address by VFW PNC Dwayne Sarmiento Address by VFW Auxiliary PNP Sandi Kriebel

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm Registration

12:00 pm ADJOURN (Lunch on your own)

2:00 pm AUXILIARY FORMAL OPENING Salon C

Dress: Officers, District Presidents, Ritual Team - Official Look

Members and Guests - Patriotic

Thursday June 5, 2025 continued

Welcome Districts 8,9,10 Presidents

Tribute – Past Department Presidents and 35+ year Members Sr. Vice President Kinghorn

Cross of Malta

Roll Call of Officers and Chairmen

Ritualistic Opening Ceremony

Escort of National Representative PNP Sandi Kriebel

Presentation of 2024 Convention Minutes Secretary Sloan

Convention Rules and Regulations

Financial Report Treasurer Sloan

Official Communications Secretary Sloan

First Credentials Report Credentials Chrm. Dallas Emery

RECESS

5:00 pm VFW and VFW Auxiliary Joint Memorial Service Salon B

Friday June 6, 2025 DRESS – Red Shirt Friday!

7:30 – 8:30 am APPC (Auxiliary Past Presidents' Club) Santa Rita

8:00 - 11:00 am Registration

8:45 am Parade of Past Department Presidents

9:00 am RECONVENE

Welcome District 4,5,6,7 Presidents

Presentation to the VFW Convention President Pierre PNP Kriebel

Brenda McCormick

2025-2026 Program KickOff Sr. Vice President Kinghorn

Escort of Department President Lynn Pierre

Friday June 6, 2025 continued

Escort of VFW Commander McCormick and Guests

Nominations for 2025-2026 Officers

Program Awards

Veterans and Family Support Chrm. Becky Baldwin

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN

1:00 pm Program Awards

Chief of Staff Healthy Auxiliary Citations Chief of Staff DeBoard

Americanism Chrm. Rhonda Follett

Auxiliary Community Outreach Chrm. Donna Ventola

Buddy Poppy/National Home Chrm. Jeanne Hampton

Media Relations Chrm. Lori Schaeffler

Hospital Chrm. Amy Timbes

Legislative Chrm. Connie Hargreaves

Membership Chrm. Irene Nowacki

Scholarships Chrm. JaNice Robertson

Youth Activities Chrm. Stephanie Quinton

Second Credentials Report Credentials Chrm. Dallas Emery

RECESS 15 minute Break

Candidate Forum / Meet 2025-2026 Officers and Program Chairmen Salon C

Saturday June 7 2025

DRESS: President Pierre's Shirt or Patriotic

7:00 - 8:00 am Registration

8:00 am Flag Raising - VFW Riders

Saturday June 7, 2025 continued

9:00 am RECONVENE Salon C

Welcome Districts 1,2,3 Presidents

Address by VFW Auxiliary National Rep

Presentation of National Resolutions PNP Sandi Kriebel

Presentation of Floor Officers

Presentation of Pages and Youth Volunteers

Presentation of Department President's Love Gift Chaplain Hampton

Final Credentials Report Credentials Chrm. Dallas Emery

Presentation of Department Bylaws PDP Harlan

Nominations and Elections of 2025-2026 Department Officers

National Representative's Address

Department President's Address

Ritualistic Closing Ceremony

ADJOURN

All 2025-2026 Officers including Historian, Flag Bearer, Banner Bearer, Asst. Treasurer, Asst. Secretary, Asst. Conductor, Asst Guard and District Presidents to be installed must be present at the installation.

4:30 pm Joint Installation of 2025-2026 VFW and VFW Auxiliary Officers Salon B

DRESS: Business

5:00 pm No Host Reception

6:00 pm Department Commander's and President's Banquet Salons B and C

Sunday June 8, 2025

DRESS: President Kinghorn's Shirt or Patriotic

8:15 am Photos – all 2025-26 Department Officers, District Presidents and Program Chairmen

Salon C

9:00 am VFW Auxiliary Council of Administration Meeting Salon C

Kim Sloan Department Secretary/Treasurer

Please remember to send in your Department delegate list with a check prior to Department convention. If you can't get them in before then, please bring your delegate list and check to convention.



2025-2026 DEPARTMENT Delegates and Alternates Instructions

• Review Bylaws Sec 303

Delegates and Alternates to the Department Meetings and Convention shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Auxiliary held not less than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the Department Convention.

Auxiliaries should elect their Delegates and Alternates at their April or May meeting.

Number of Delegates and Alternates

National Bylaws state that the number of Delegates and Alternates may be set forth differently in the Department Bylaws. Department of Arizona Bylaws call for one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate for every ten (10) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Auxiliary at the time of the election.

EXAMPLE:

On the night Delegates and Alternates are to be elected, MALTA shows the Auxiliary has 102 members in good standing.

102 divided by 10 = 10.2 (.2 is fraction thereof and so you round up to 11) Therefore the Auxiliary would elect 11 Delegates and 11 Alternates

Election

Delegates and Alternates are elected by the members – they are NOT appointed. Most Auxiliaries have more Delegates/Alternates than attend Auxiliary meetings. Note that members do not have to be present to be elected as a Delegate or Alternate. The membership should consider those members who may not be able to attend Auxiliary meetings but do attend the Department Convention. All Delegates and Alternates must be members in good standing of that Auxiliary (life members or current annual members).

· Department Composition Members

The Auxiliary President has his/her own vote at the Department Convention and should be listed at the bottom of the form AND as an Alternate in the right column.

The National District Council Member, any Department Officer and Past Department Presidents, that are members of your Auxiliary have their own vote at Department Convention. They should be listed at the bottom of the form and should be considered for election as an Alternate. They will need to notify the Credentials Chairman if they are voting as a Delegate or voting their own vote.

If the Auxiliary President is the only Delegate or Alternate at the Department Convention, he/she may choose to vote as a Delegate rather than as Auxiliary President. In the example above, the Auxiliary is entitled to 11 votes (each Delegate has one vote) plus the President's vote. But if the President chooses to vote as a Delegate (which he/she may do if no other delegate or alternate is present) he/she would cast 11 votes instead of just the President's vote.

2025-2026				
DEPARTMENT Delegates and Alternates				
Auxiliary PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION				
1		1		
2		2		
3		3		
4		4		
5		5		
6		6		
7		7		
8		8		
9		9		
10		10		
11		11		
12		12		
13		13		
14		14		
15		15		
16		16		
17		17		
18		18		
19		19		
20		20		
USE SECOND SHEET IF NECESSARY				
The following convention composition members have their own vote.				
	NAME		OFFICE	
			y President	
			Il District Council Member/Nat. Officer ment President	
			partment President	
			partment President	
		_	President	
De			ment Officer	
		Departr	ment Officer	
			ment Officer	



Auxiliary Outreach Donna Ventola

Hello Team Az. What a great year! I have received over**100** program reports; many Auxiliaries did multiply reports for this program. You really stepped up and got into your community and lend a helping hand or two.

This year has been an amazing year for us. Even though the program year has ended, that doesn't mean we stop working our programs. Keep lending a hand or two. It's never too late to get out there and partner up with a local entity to make your community a better place.

Isn't that what Auxiliary Outreach being all about? Selflessly giving your time, no money, no gifts, no planning, not being in charge - just be there to lend a helping hand or two.

I want to take the opportunity to recognize and thank all of you for an amazing and outstanding year for the Department of Arizona Auxiliary. It was amazing to see all the Auxiliaries go out into their communities and make a difference with those partnerships. I am sure that you have formed a bond with those partners for future opportunities for our Auxiliary Outreach program or any other program for that matter.

Thank you all again for all of the hard work and dedication you put into all of the programs this year and making this a successful year and I know you will continue doing an excellent job next year. It was a pleasure and an honor to be your chairman for Auxiliary Outreach.

HOWEVER, I will see you all in June (\$\frac{4}{5}h_-8^{th}\$) at the Department Convention in Tucson at the Loews Ventana Canyon.

Buppy Poppy/National Home Jeanne Hampton

Centennial Celebration of the VFW National Home and Buddy Poppy Education- What did your Auxiliary Report:



Of the 45 reporting Auxiliaries in the Department of Arizona with a total of 134 Reports- this is what was **REPORTED**:

- 11,921 Buddy Poppies were used
- 15 Auxiliaries included the "Buddy Poppy Story"
- 2 Auxiliaries (3 x each) included the use of the Buddy Poppy Coloring Books
- 1 Auxiliary added the QR Code for the Buddy Poppy on a tag to the Buddy Poppy
- 7 Auxiliaries reported on their Buddy Poppy Displays
- 11 Auxiliaries reported distributions- 3 with their VFW Posts, 1 more than once
- Unique use: 1- attached to a handmade dog-tag for distribution, 1 crocheted a Buddy Poppy Blanket used for a raffle for the VFW National Home, 1 used the Buddy Poppy bookmark, 1 Buddy Poppy tablecloth, 1 Buddy Poppy Charm, 1 used the Buddy Poppy with their "worry worms", 2 Auxiliaries reported using Buddy Poppies on a parade float.

VFW National Home

- 11 Auxiliaries used VFW National Home information
- 1 made a QR Code to share information
- 2 Auxiliaries reported Health & Happiness
- 2 Auxiliaries purchased a National Home Memorial Brick

- 2 Life Memberships to the VFW National Home
- 3 Centennial Life Memberships to the VFW National Home
- 8 Auxiliaries reported sending a Birthday Card to the VFW National Home
- 1 Auxiliary reported sending gifts to the Santa Store at the VFW National Home
- Total monies reported sent to the VFW National Home \$4590.46

I know the Auxiliaries **DID SO MUCH MORE!** Thank you for what **YOU DID** report! It does matter! It is because of the VFW, VFW Auxiliary, the Cooties and all your work- the VFW National Home continues to support Veteran Families.

Two huge take-aways from visiting the VFW National Home for the Celebrating America's Freedom Event: 1) The stained-glass window in the chapel, circa 1941-1946 depicting Jesus and children; the caption "Suffer the little children to come unto me". Stunning! 2) Two little girls, no more than 5 years old, sitting side by side in a playground, quietly playing, with 300 "strangers" roaming the campus. At no time in my life had I that same security to give to my children. God Bless the VFW National Home and keep it as a sanctuary.

Thank you, Department of Arizona Auxiliaries, for an incredible year.



Chief of Staff Johnnie DeBoard

The 2024-2025 year is coming to an end; I would like to express how much I have enjoyed being your Chief of staff. I hope each of you are proud of what you have accomplished. I know I am proud of all of you. Don't stop working our programs

there is always something that needs done.

Elections are done and hopefully all positions are filled. If they aren't, talk to your members about what needs to be filled and what needs done in those positions. You may be surprised at the number of members wanting to get more involved.

An idea for your auxiliary, have a planning meeting right after Department convention. Make sure at least one member from your auxiliary goes to the Department convention. The more members that go the more information you will probably get. What one doesn't hear another may.

At this planning meeting:

- Get committees together
- Talk about what was learned at convention
- Help any member needing help getting into MALTA
- Make sure all members know how to get on the Department web site
- Talk about events you can do to involve the community
- Plan an event for each month using at least one program.
- Remember you can work on multiple programs in one event

Share ideas with each other

Good luck and best of wishes for a successful new year.

Hospital Amy Timbes

Hope you are having a blessed day. Was just rereading some materials and noticed something interesting. The current year, Lynn Pierre used the dolphin which they call the sentinel of the ocean as her symbol. Now Lois Callahan refers



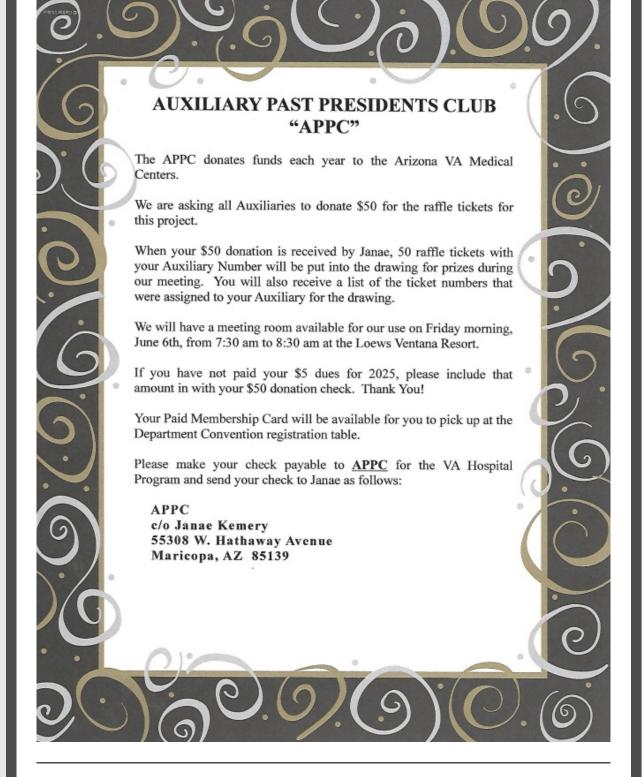
to the sea and the incoming hospital chair refers to the ocean caring for the waves. It is obvious that from Apache Junction to Kansas City. Mo and beyond we are all on the same mission. That mission is to improve life for every veteran and their families.

Now that's an awesome goal. An impossible task without every one of us and more. Therefore, we need to focus on recruiting more than ever. More people equal more donations and more communication which effects every aspect of every program. Remember you can recruit members, non-members, youth, families, retirees even people living in retirement homes. Knitting, making cards, raising money, spreading the word about the many needs of the veteran community. A little from a lot makes a huge difference.

Whether thru email, text, Facebook share your ideas, new ideas but even old ones that worked but we have forgotten. Attend meetings, bring a friend, speak out.

Looking forward to seeing you all in June at convention. But remember our work continues one day at a time starting today.

Thank each and every one of you for your continued love and care for our organization and for our veterans.





Legislative Connie Hargreaves

I want to thank all the VFW Auxiliaries that have taken Legislation seriously and have sent in project reports and those who supported the program quietly. You all did a great job in advocating for our veterans and for the VFW programs and educating the community on why it

is important to take care of those who protected us.

Project reports were received from 37 auxiliaries out of 48, great job! From those reports I received 87 project reports in all, which made it hard to determine the most outstanding. They will be reported at Department

Convention.

I'd like to share ideas with you on how some of the Auxiliaries promoted Legislation not only to its members but to the communities and youth as well.

- Attend zoom meetings online or on Facebook.
- Host Town Halls, Meet and Greets or Forums at your Post. (Remember, no endorsements)
- Have a voter registration table at your events, provide Priority Goals.
- Donate or read to students at schools or libraries, suggested books.
- Have students vote by hosting an event on Constitution Day, (September 17) or on Veterans Days. Some ways to showcase voting is by providing a voting stand or handing out slips of paper for students to vote by choosing between two or more items.

Examples:

1. Which cupcake is better, Chocolate, Vanilla or Lemon? Of course, this would probably require a visual with the kids eating the candidates afterwards!

LOL	
2. Who is the best superhero?	Place an X next to your choice
Superman Wolverine	Captain Marvel
Soldier/Veteran Mom _	
Dad	
3. Include a resolution like, Eve	ery Thursday will be pizza day Yes No
4. Favorite Candy	

- Provide meals or handout Priority Goals at Groundbreakings to the attending dignitaries.
- Volunteer at a polling place or bring folks to polling place to vote.
- Used Action Corps weekly to see what bills are pending and utilize the voter voice action alerts to contact Senators and Representatives on your thoughts on those Veteran bills that are coming up. See updates on bills that have been passed or are pending by Click here to view VFWsupported bills in the 118th Congress.

Tips for Auxiliaries- get started now. 2025-2026 has started. Candidates will start jockeying for position- let them know the VFW Auxiliary means business on Veteran issues. FOCUS on Veteran issues- know what is on the ballot and what is in the VFW Priority Goals- WRITE to your representatives, be an advocate for Veterans and our Military.

ATTEND events where representatives are present- get photos and business cards, let your members know who they are and how to contact them. SPEAK to them- so many, ARE Veterans themselves.

REMIND them it is our "Honor" to serve our Veterans, but it is "their **DUTY**" to fulfill their part of the contract with our active-duty military and our Veterans after all our veterans honored their part with some giving the ultimate price.

Please consider joining the Veterans Caucus, contact your Arizona state representatives for information and signing up for the Right to Speak, which gives you another route to contact your representatives an how you'd like them to vote on upcoming bills and give your opinion as well as letting you track where it is at, if in committee or being presented on the floor.

Again, it was my pleasure to be your Legislative Chair and to provide you with tools to become a good advocate. All that Legislature does it does for all our programs down the line, so it is important to a voice and to be heard by those

who we hired by our voting to protect and help our Veterans and families. Let's help make Congress at the State and National level Honor the Contract with those who gave up or were willing to give up their lives and in some cases limbs or mental health to protect and keep us free.

I look forward to working with and supporting next year's chairman and all the programs.

Membership Irene Nowacki

Department of Arizona, you have done an excellent job and pulled out all the stops.

Membership is never ending. We should always be looking for new ways to get information out about the VFW Auxiliary and what we do for our veterans and our communities.

I would like to share with you some of the things that were done this year to promote membership so that maybe you will have a little head start for next year's events.

- Offering to pay for the first \$50.00 of a lifetime membership.
- Becoming a membership Angel by paying for an annual member's fee for the year if they are unable to do.
- Working with your city/town on functions that will benefit both of you.
- Reaching out to family members that may not know if they are eligible or not.
- Holding Buddy Poppy drives at your local schools and sending kids home with packets full of all the materials including an application.
- Attending Stand Downs and handing out information.

There are many other ways to gain new and rejoin members. I know that you all had a great year with membership this year. Keep up the hard work, it all pays off in the end. Don't forget to invite your new members to attend all your events to show them the benefits of being an active member in this great organization.

It has been my pleasure to work with all of you this year. Hope to see you at the Department convention.



Scholarships JaNice Robertson

Well May is here, and the end of year is upon us, and I want to reach out to each and everyone and say **Thank you!** for all you have done getting the word out about our Scholarships. **Thank you!** for all the artwork I have been

given. Our students are very talented. You make my job difficult in choosing the winner of the Young American Creative Patriotic artwork. Good thing I have great people helping me.

Remember to get the 2025-2026 Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen applications out to the schools before the year ends so they have the summer to think about their essays. This next year the themes are the same for both of our scholarships and it is "How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support For Our Country?" It is never too early to get the information out. Information can be found in our website at VFWAUXAZ.org under scholarships and go to the end under National. New forms are there.

It has been my pleasure to be your Department Scholarship Chairman, and I look forward to seeing everyone at the Department Convention in June.

Youth Stephanie Quinton

Hope this Newsletter fines you all well. Now that we have finished our programs for the 2024-2025 year, it's time to start planning for 2025-2026 year.

I would like to take this opportunity to Thank you all for all the hard work you put in this year. There was a lot of education done in the schools and that's great to see. There were 14 entries for the Illustrating America Contest which were all great and very hard to choose.

This is a perfect time of year to host an event for Veterans, Reading to Children and Children Reading to Veterans. Check with your local libraries, community centers and schools to see if any events are being held and ask if you could join in and get the Veterans involved. See about partnering with the Post and/or hosting your own event. Just a heads up, April is Military Child Month so to plan for next year, let's start thinking of a project to do. Always keep trying to get to our Veterans that are in the Hospital, Assisted Living, or Living Alone and get our Youth Groups in your community and read to our Vet's.

Here is something still from the National Home to look into: https://vfwnationalhome.org/the-home-front/july-2024-edition-of-the-home-front/: On page 4, it shows VFW National Home Mike Wilson reading to one of the National Home resident youth- and captions "March is designated National Reading Month"

With the Youth promotion of "Youth reading to Veterans and Veterans reading to Youth"- this would be a lovely way to tie the two together.

So, this could be multiple projects for your Auxiliaries. Also continue to Promote the Art Scholarships for next year. Very happy to see all the Patriotic Education our Auxiliaries are doing. It was a **GREAT PLEASURE** to be your 2024-2025 Department Youth Chairman.

Keep handing out those RAP Coin's/Cards. Your youth love these. I see all our Auxiliaries are doing **GREAT** Project's with our Youth.

Keep up the GREAT! work.



There will be a new PAR for Auxiliaries to use in the 25-26 year. This form will be available after Department convention. Please keep track of your activities in April and May so that you can put them on your PAR when it comes out.

Our Website, <u>VFWAUXAZ.ORG</u>, contains the Google form to be used for your regular reporting. 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.

This is the 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.

If you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Melissa Martin who is charge of PAR's this year. Her email is newfoundfreedom3@msn.com

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

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