

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



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Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter

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Department President Lynn Pierre

As the Holidays approach, I would like to wish you and yours, a happy and safe Holiday Season!

Recently, I have had the opportunity to visit Districts, 1, 2, 3, 5, 8, 9 and 10. These meetings were such fun, and the chance to visit with all you folks has been amazing. All were wonderful, welcoming, and rewarding. While visiting, I listened to some great ideas, feedback, and excitement.

District 10 asked those present who might be interested in positions for next year, explaining that anyone can do what we, the present officers, are doing. In so doing, they asked people who had a specific position in mind to walk up to where those positions sat. They then offered those people the chance to

shadow the actual position at the next District meeting to find out just what is that they do. This way, they can decide whether to run for that position at the April Convention. This was an enormous success in that it offers some mentoring, a chance to answer some questions and a huge opportunity for succession planning to include members from smaller posts who might otherwise not be recognized. They also included a New Member Orientation to help others realize what should take place to mentor and involve new members. Such a rewarding experience! Other Districts offered full schools of instruction on Programs. This gives all Auxiliaries a chance to meet their goals on every Program.

Please remember that Winter Convention is our National President, Brenda Bryant's visit. Her Special Project this year is Operation Bottom Cover. In the spirit of that project, we ask that every Post and every Auxiliary bring a carton of diapers, wipes, and a Baby Basket along with them to the Conference. On Sunday, January 14th, we will be doing an actual Baby Shower at the National Guard in Phoenix, offering those gifts. For those of you who may wonder, the gifts presented that day will be divided up and sent out to the other National Guard Units in the State so all will benefit. Your contributions will be so greatly appreciated.

Our MITs, (Member Involvement Trainings), have been well attended and involvement and feedback is so greatly appreciated. Kim Sloan has been offering special Secretary, Treasurer and Trustee Trainings on the second day, which is well organized and informative and is providing some great new helpful facts.

You all have some incredibly special projects planned. If there is something you would like me to attend, please give me as much advance notice as possible and I will make every effort to be there. There is nothing more rewarding than joining you all in supporting our Veterans and their families.

Again, please enjoy your Holidays and thank you all for being the warm, wonderful, diligent people you are.

National Response to Concerns from Fall Conference

In addition to the letter being in the newsletter, you may also find it on the Department website www.vfwauxaz.org behind log-in/national news.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

October 17, 2024

Lynn Pierre, Department President
VFW Auxiliary Department of Arizona
11063 E. Delta Ave.
Mesa, Arizona 85208-7653

Department Lynn,

The following concern arose at your Department Fall Conference that National District Council Member No. 15, Chrissy Harlan, attended.

Please have the following concerns and response read on the floor of the next Council of Administration Meeting:

Concerns:

- About providing their mailing list for a Veterans Yearbook project.
- That solicitation was approved through the National Organization.
- Solicitation was not approved by the Department Council of Administration.

Response:

Per the **VFW Auxiliary National Bylaws, Article IX Miscellaneous Provisions, Sec.910-Control of Mailing Lists**

- A. The names and addresses of the members of the Auxiliary shall be considered confidential and shall not be made available for commercial or political use.
- B. Nothing in this Section shall be construed as prohibiting the Auxiliary from soliciting its membership in support of the activities duly authorized and organized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Since letter B states – *“Nothing in this Section shall be construed as prohibiting the Auxiliary from soliciting its membership in support of the activities duly authorized and organized by the Veterans of Foreign Wars.”* We feel it is up to the Department Council of Administration to decide if they want to participate in this fundraiser. The Veterans of Foreign Wars used PCI in the past and has assured us that they are a reputable company. However, the decision to participate must be made by your Department Council of Administration.

Loyally,

Ann Panteleakos
National Secretary-Treasurer

AP:cb

cc: Chrissy Harlan, National District Council Member No. 15
Kim Sloan, Department Secretary-Treasurer

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Department Announcements

***MIT's** have been rescheduled. They are still from 9 am - 3 pm with lunch provided for a donation. Some weekends will have a Secretary/Treasurer/Trustee on the Sunday following the MIT on Saturday.

The flyer with the new dates is on the Department webpage - www.vfwauxaz.org under news/events and is also after the Secretary/Treasurer article.

*Winter Conference is Jan 10th - 12th. The Auxiliary Council of Administration

meeting will be Friday, Jan 10th. Go to www.vfwauxaz.org under news/events for hotel and banquet information.

*Thanks to Nancy Schatz for making an instruction sheet on how to sign in to the Department log in and how to activate your MALTA account. Click [here](#) to view the instructions or go to www.vfwauxaz.org under resources/forms.

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

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

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

*There is a new National **Cancer Grant** form available. Click [here](#) to access the new form.

*National Ambassador's Blog articles can be found under the different programs on the Department Website www.vfwauxaz.org. This month read the blogs for Buddy Poppy/National Home, Chief of Staff and Historian.



Membership Standings

Department of Arizona... We are so close! We are currently at **91.42%** in membership. We need **940** more new or rejoin members to hit **100%**. Even though this sounds like a long shot, we can do this!

Look at your membership rosters. Can you reach out to more annual members to see if you can reignite their love for this great organization and ask them to become a life member? Or do a "**Calling Tree**" and see if you can contact those members that have let their membership lapse.

We all want what is best for our veterans. The more members we have, the more we can do for them now and in the future.

We currently have 5 auxiliaries that have hit 100: 285, 2066, 8807, 9399 & 12098.

26 auxiliaries that are in the 90 percentile and 21 auxiliaries that are in the 80 percentile.

Can we as a department hit 100% by the end of November? **YES, WE CAN!!**

Keep up the good work and lean on each other. Let's grow this organization together.

Secretary/Treasurer Kim Sloan

So, in the spirit of Thanksgiving – I'm going tell

you why I'm grateful to have each of the
Department Officers in my life –
President Lynn – I'm grateful for her calmness
when dealing with issues
Sr. Vice President Brenda – I'm grateful for her
reminding me to look for the good in everyone
Jr. Vice President Melissa – I'm grateful for her
reminding me about priorities
Chaplain Jeanne – I'm grateful to her for always
being there, no matter what the needs
Conductor Becky – I'm grateful for her gentle reminders that my way is not the
only way
Guard Irene – I'm grateful for her demonstrating balance in our obligations
Chief of Staff Johnnie – I'm grateful for her practical perspective
Asst Secretary Chrissy – I'm grateful to her for being my sounding board
Asst Treasurer Kim H – I'm grateful to her for being my mentor



So, what are you grateful for this Thanksgiving? Let the people in your life know why you are grateful for them.

Now back to work....

Please see the **revised MIT schedule** and the revised Secretary Treasurer Trustees schedule after this article. We have to keep revising the schedule to handle calendar conflicts with Post/Auxiliary events.

Membership Date of Birth corrections – please email me the member's name, membership number, DOB shown in MALTA and the correct date of birth and I will get it corrected.

Following up on **Membership Application issues** –

Recruiters and Treasurers – I'm getting applications with lots of personal documents – copies of Drivers Licenses, birth certificates, death certificates, marriage licenses. Those are documents that we normally do not need to show proof of eligibility. Please STOP asking for those documents. When an applicant completes the application and signs under the obligation, they are affirming that the information including the relationship is true and correct. You do not have the right to ask for proof of that relationship.

The most prevalent items missing on applications:

- Credit Card CVV code
- Date of Birth

Another current issue is outdated applications and credit card information. If an application and the credit card information/signature is older than 3 months, have the applicant re-sign a new current dated application. We will not process cc's older than 3 months. This only affects new or rejoin Life Member applications.

Before you put those application copies in the mail or send them to me via email.... LOOK at the copies you're sending. Is any part of that application cut off? Neglecting to check those copies creates confusion and delay as they cannot be processed. The most common items cut off – dates of birth, email addresses and credit card signatures.

We are still working on coordinating the National Guard Baby Shower at Winter Conference. More on that in the next newsletter!

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!

Revised Schedule 10.18.2024 Revised

MIT – MEMBER INVOLVEMENT TRAININGS

MIT – November 16, 2024 VFW Post 9399 Apache Junction

Secretary / Treasurer/ Trustee Training – November 17, 2024 VFW Post 7968 Apache Junction

MIT – November 23, 2024 VFW Post 3513 Scottsdale

Secretary / Treasurer/ Trustee Training – November 24, 2024 VFW Post 3513 Scottsdale

MIT – January 25, 2025 VFW Post 9401 Lake Havasu City

Secretary / Treasurer/ Trustee Training – **January** 26, 2024 VFW Post 769 Quartzsite

Auxiliaries do not need to attend every MIT – Although they are open to all Auxiliary and VFW members so you can participate in more than one.

An Auxiliary must have a member attend at least ONE MIT for Outstanding Auxiliary consideration.

All sessions start at 9:00 a.m.

Lunch will be provided at the MIT's only for a minimal charge

Secretary / Treasurer/ Trustee Trainings are NOT part of the MIT and are open to all Auxiliary and VFW members. Lunch will not be served. Those sessions will run from 9:00 a.m. to approximately noon.



Chaplain Jeanne Hampton

Recently, there have been a couple of tremendously humbling experiences that have made me just stop, completely and “Be still”.

In reading through an Inspirational book given to me, the page opened to “Thankful Hearts”. It goes on to read, “Often in prayer, we use this direct communication with God to simply check off all our requests- good health, guidance, forgiveness...without remembering to thank Him for his presence in our lives and the blessings He gives us.”

During this time of Thanksgiving, let us be still and be thankful.

A Prayer to Share: Dear Lord, Thank you. Thank you for the strength to continue in all You put before us.

Amen

Americanism

Rhonda Follett



While you are all working on parade floats, parties, etc., for Veterans' Day, please remember your special awards available in the Americanism Program information online at the National site.

This year, an award is available for the most outstanding activity and/or event educating about lesser-known Patriotic holidays. There are several of these holidays, such as K-9 Veterans Day - March 13th, Gold Star Spouses Day - April 4th, Gulf War Recognition Day - April 1st, National Women Veterans Recognition Day - June 12th, and Constitution Day - September 17th. There is always a way to celebrate these days and remind people in your community that they are important.

There is also a "Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Certificate of Appreciation" online under the Americanism program that can be presented at school sports events for showing respect for the Flag and the National Anthem at those events. Incredibly special and greatly appreciated.

One of our Posts did an event we would like to share with others. Arrangements were made with a local ice cream shop for the community youth to come up to the Auxiliary Stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance. They were then awarded a little Gold Ticket which entitled them to a free ice cream and an "I Pledged" sticker. The children really enjoyed this, and the parents were so proud. Program was completed for both Youth and Americanism and the event was well worth the time.

Do not forget about Wreaths Across America Day on December 14th. This is a yearly event that honors Veterans, active-duty military, and their families by placing live wreaths on headstones. Please do whatever you can to be a part of this humbling ceremony.

What ideas do you have to celebrate Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day on December 7th? Use your Flags and whatever ideas you have to commemorate that.

Lastly, please remember to work on the Flags needed for Honor Escorts. Every Veteran is entitled to the final escort when they pass and hospitals, paramedics, funeral homes, and assisted living homes need those flags and education.

Thanks for all you do and Happy Holidays to you as they approach. Stay safe, busy, and involved.



Auxiliary Outreach Donna Ventola

Hello Team Az! This month's article is about ways to find and establish partnerships and also building partnerships.

How do you find and establish partnership

opportunities?

- Ask your members, friends, family and even Post members what other groups they belong to and maybe already spend time volunteering with.
- Prepare a letter to send to organizations that do community events, be sure to include your contact information, include POC, phone number, email, and mailing address.
- Create a flyer that you can post out in your community, social media: Face Book/twitter/Instagram.
- Look in your local newspapers for upcoming events, check local community bulletin boards to see if you can post your flyer.
- Maybe check the city/county/neighborhood calendars, and or websites.
- Another place you could look might be Face Book, the internet or word of mouth.
-

Steps to build Partnerships:

- Set goals- it's important to know what you're looking for when developing a new partnership. Increase your visibility, expand your reach in the community. It's also essential to ensure that your goal & your partner's goal & mission harmonize together.
- Look within your own community to build partnerships, you don't have to reinvent the wheel or search far & wide when you are looking to build community partnerships. Some of the potential community partnerships can be right in front of you, among your volunteers and donors.
- Determine the parameters of the partnership- you should review the goals that you set at the start. Keep in touch with the community partners throughout the process as well as sharing resources. Building a relationship takes time, it's not going to come together overnight.

Please don't forget, to log in the Department website (fwauxaz.org) and fill out the project report. Please remember that Auxiliary Outreach **cannot** be combined with any of our other programs.

Describe the event as much detailed as you can, like you are telling us a brief story. Use up all of the lines that they provided for you, the number of words is unlimited.

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

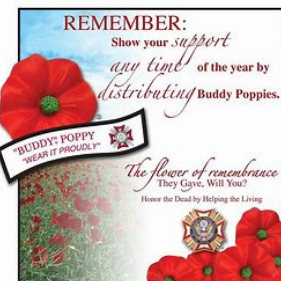
Interview with a Buddy Poppy

*First, thank you for taking a moment on this brisk November morning to share your story.

BP: Thank you for having me.

*What is the origin of the "Buddy Poppy"?

BP: Very simply put, in 1915, during the height of WWI, Lt. Colonel John McCrae had just buried a close friend on the battlefield at the loss of 6,000 soldiers. When he looked up, all around, through the mortar fire, pits, death, red poppies still bloomed as if to add hope while marking graves. Soon after he



penned, "In Flanders Fields". In 1918 distributions began. In 1922 the VFW held a nationwide poppy "sale" ahead of Memorial Day. In 1923 Poppies were made by disabled Veterans and Veterans in need who spoke of their "Buddies" while assembling the poppies. In 1924 the VFW trademarked the name "Buddy Poppy".

*That's quite a history! Is there a special accomplishment from the Buddy Poppy you would like to share?

BP: Since the Buddy Poppy Program's inception, funds from the sales of Buddy Poppies have assisted Veterans Programs. From early on until today, 1.5 cents of every Buddy Poppy sale goes back to the Department, 1 cent to VFW National Veterans Services and 1 cent to the VFW National Home. In fact, in 1940, during the Great Depression, the VFW and Auxiliary knew they could help the struggling VFW National Home and raised \$62,440.54 by selling Buddy Poppies.

*Do you have a favorite Buddy Poppy Child?

BP: It would be easier to pick a favorite star in the sky.

*How is the Buddy Poppy Child chosen?

BP: Since 1930 a child, who resides at the National Home, has been given the opportunity to represent the VFW National Home. They write an essay about their eligible Veteran and family life at the National Home and present the essay to members of the National Home Staff. Other considerations include presentation, availability, school grades. [Buddy Poppy Child Promotes National Home for 94th Year - VFW National Home](#)

*How many people have served as the Buddy Poppy - VFW National Home Representative since the Program's inception?

BP: There has been a total of 95 Buddy Poppy Representatives, 3 children have served 2 terms, so 92 different persons have served.

*A question from the audience-How do you feel about Buddy Poppies in colors other than red?

BP: The Anniversary Buddy Poppies in Silver and Gold- what better way to commemorate a milestone for a VFW Post! The beautiful handiwork on Buddy Poppy displays makes me proud! Labor intensive, hand painted- the green to demonstrate the grass beneath the "crosses row on row". The blue and white for bravery and purity of our United States Flag. The skin tones demonstrating Military service member sacrifice. I couldn't be more honored than to see the Buddy Poppy represented in so many artistic ways.

*Is there anything you would like those who distribute the Buddy Poppy to know?

BP: How amazing it is to see, after more than 100 years, the ingenuity, integrity, love, and generosity continues to remember "Honoring the dead by serving the Living". On behalf of a simple silk flower and a grateful nation, it is an honor to be a symbol of appreciation for your loved ones' faithful service.

VFW National Home

As was presented at Fall Conference, let's get the information about the VFW National Home to those who can use this most- Veteran families. Thank you, all, for taking the FREE VFW National Home information supplies: [Promotional Material Order Form - VFW National Home](#) These can be ordered for your Auxiliary's event.

In a conference setting, everyone's eyes glaze over when the VFW National Home is spoken about. Why is that? Because it doesn't apply to them....but it does. Because of your eligible Veterans Military service, a family member **CAN** apply to the National Home. [Get Help - VFW National Home](#)

Yes, we are in November- this is a great time for the Auxiliary to “plan” giving to the VFW National Home for the Children’s Christmas- each year the National Home has a venue for residents to shop for family members. Please view the “Santa’s Shop Wish List” at VFWAuxAZ.org under Buddy Poppy/National Home. Gifts for Santa’s Shop need to be sent by December 6th.

Also, the VFW National Home Amazon Wish. Click [here](#) to view the list.

Hint: There are baby diapers on the Wish List.

Please remember to send the VFW National Home a Birthday Card from the Auxiliary before January 1, 2025, to be displayed during the January Centennial Celebration! (Then send a report for the Auxiliary to be included in the Centennial Life Membership drawing at Winter Conference).



Chief of Staff Johnnie DeBoard

Here comes the holidays and I know everyone has lots of things going on. But don’t forget about our business and staying healthy.

Is your auxiliary bonded? Have all officers been elected? Are all your audits done and approved? Are you working on all the programs? If you say no to any of these questions, then you are not healthy at the moment.

But you can become healthy again by getting them done. If you need assistance let me know, I will help you. Don’t sit at that red light, get moving. I really want all auxiliaries to be healthy this year.

Remember to let all members know they can go to Winter Conference which will be in January. Get your hotel and banquet tickets soon before the price goes up.

I am asking all the District Presidents to let me know if an auxiliary is sitting at a **RED LIGHT** too long. I can’t help if I don’t know they need help.

Please have a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Historian Lori Schaeffler



While you are all doing amazing things to support our Veterans, their families, and our communities, we are in major need of pictures, videos, and other social media forms of publication.

In November we honor our veterans that are living. I know that many of you will honor them at your post and in parades and such. **PLEASE** take videos and pictures. Please tag me and our Department President Lynn, so she can see

what you are all doing. Examples are Facebook, YouTube, Instagram, X, TikTok etc... and don't forget to send your department chairperson your reports.

The easiest way to share your events is to post pictures on social media- tagging me when you do so. This makes it so much easier for me to share your events with the entire State of Arizona VFWs and Auxiliaries and to pull pictures and/or videos for National Awards.

Many times, we get very excited about our events and planning, and we forget to take and post pictures. National is looking this year for the "most outstanding promotion of VFW Auxiliary Programs to the community through social media sources." An example of this would be the new video posted on Facebook recently by our own District 8, if you are looking for a sample. We do ask that you do your own. Keep it simple and make a plan of explaining our Programs to your community and let us know what you have done. But most of all have fun.

Not only does this effort pay off as your Project Report but it could qualify you for a National Citation. The idea is to let the public know what we are about, what our programs accomplish and what our mission is. With so many programs coming up this time of year, we are excited to see what you are all doing and cannot wait to see the photos of every event.

Placing an article in a local newspaper is also a great way to get our word out to your community. Do not hesitate to place an article on any Program out there and simply ask the newspaper to help schedule its release.

Anything different or unusual in supporting our programs is always exciting so feel free to create a fun situation while supporting a program and capture it by photo. (We would ask, of course, that you leave out those photos with people enjoying their cocktails).

Lastly, always remember, when photographing children, utilize the Release Form found on our department website, www.vfwauxaz.org before using those photos. Be sure the parents are okay with it.

Let's show the Community we are much more than the stigmatism everyone thinks that the VFW and Auxiliary are.

I am loving all your activity – keep going and enjoy every minute! Thank you all!



Hospital Amy Timbes

As we remember our Veterans in hospitals, assisted living homes and just plain stuck at home, let us think of ways to appreciate them over the Holidays. Our

Veterans love to be visited as those stays can be so long and boring, especially over the holidays.

Have we thought about advertising in local papers for Hospital Volunteers?

Maybe visiting the school counselors to ask about presentations for the Youth regarding volunteerism. Our Veterans would love nothing better than to be visited by our youth who might be willing to read to them, perhaps take a walk with them or listen to their stories. We always need to check with the facility you intend to visit regarding times and their specific rules, but time is the only commitment and would be so rewarding for those who decide to volunteer.

Many of us forget that we visit the hospitals and/or doctor's offices and fail to report these accomplishments. Just remember to make a note when you do that and report it to the chairmen. The numbers are so very important and needed every year.

If you are holding New Member Orientations, be sure to ask who might want to be involved in Hospital Visits or home visits. Remind them of the need to do Buddy Checks on people who may be at home and their Caretakers.

Huge celebrations are coming up for Veterans Day. Please do not forget to recognize those patients who are unable to participate in parades and parties that day. They so love to hear from us and know that someone still cares and appreciates them.

Most importantly, when we get someone to volunteer their time, please remember to recognize them. Hold a volunteer luncheon or tea, apply for Volunteer pins from the National Site for the number of hours they so graciously gave up. Not only is this rewarding but can be so much fun.

Lastly, do not forget those all-important cards. Have the Youth create holiday cards to be presented and have them accompany you to do so. Get some cards for visitors to your Post and to your Program Stands to sign and forward to the Veteran Patients. Everything you do for these folks will bring a smile to their faces and that alone is such a huge reward.

Enjoy the upcoming holidays and help our Veteran Patients enjoy them as well.

Thank You!

**Legislative
Connie Hargreaves**

Thank You for Voting!

If you have not voted, please get out to the polls on
November 5th!



What an adventure the last months have been during this election process. **Thank you to the many Posts/Auxiliaries that hosted candidate forums, Meet and Greets and events where the candidates had a chance to connect with our Veteran, member and community advocates.** Please make sure to get your program report into to me you qualify for the National Program of Most outstanding activity and/or event collaborating with the VFW Post connecting members with local lawmakers.

The more you learn, both about the candidates, the bills that affect our Veteran

community, the bills that affect our community and the propositions that have a far-reaching impact on day to day lives, the better equipped you are/were to vote for improvement in the lives of everyone. We are all connected to Veterans even if not related.

REPORTING – from National E newsletter

If you vote, your Auxiliary can count this under **Americanism** or **Legislative**. (Do not count it under both; that is called double dipping.)

If you volunteer as a poll worker on election day or during early voting days or if you help/helped people register to vote and/or held Get Out the Vote campaign, count this under **Legislative**.

If, at a meeting or gathering, you educate your fellow Auxiliary members or the general public about voting, including the importance of voting, how to register to vote, current legislation up for debate that concerns veterans or by inviting local candidate to speak, that could be counted under **Legislative**.

SHARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

We are asking again this year, if you receive an "I Voted" sticker, please share a picture of it to Facebook or Instagram using the hashtag **#VFWAuxVOTE** with your state. (You can choose to be in the picture or to just show the sticker, whichever you prefer.) You can also find an "I Voted in Honor of (Veteran)" template in Member Resources behind MALTA.

PLEASE SEND ME YOUR PICTURES OF "I VOTED" OR "I VOTED EARLY" OR LET ME KNOW YOUR FB PAGE AND I CAN GRAB THE PICTURES. I WOULD LIKE TO SEND TO MY AMBASSADOR A COLLAGE OF POST/AUXILIARIES THAT HOSTED MEET & GREETINGS, CANDIDATES OR FORUMS. I KNOW I HAVE A FEW AS WE HAVE BEEN VERY BUSY INFORMING OUR COMMUNITIES WHILE REFRAINING FROM ENDORSING CANDIDATES.

I will put the member in or the Auxiliary/Post in a drawing and there will be 6 tickets drawn for some great surprises when I receive your picture or FB date so I can pull them down. The "I voted" and the hosting of candidates will all receive a ticket in the drawing. National would love to make a collage of pictures featuring Auxiliary members from across the country! **Show America that VFW Auxiliary members care, VFW Auxiliary members VOTE.**

But! Our advocacy for our Veterans is not finished, there are over 100 bills being worked on for submission to the legislature in January. Right now, they are working on the wording and getting support for the next session in Arizona where the incumbents and newly elected will be busy in transition (some cases) and hitting the ground to get their bills accepted and presented.

The new VA in Yuma has been up and running, Flagstaff is finally taking applications for tentative opening in October. When they start getting residents, Mohave County VA will be next on the drawing. We need to make sure that this goes forward. This is now adding in our Veterans and Family support program.

Please get the below information and link to those families that are looking to relocate their Veterans to a more permanent situation for the Veterans' needs. Talk with those Veterans you know that may need a more permanent situation with their health needs.

<https://form.jotform.com/azdvs/asvh-admissions-online-application>

Please familiarize yourselves with the 2024 Priority Goals

<https://www.vfw.org/-/media/vfwsite/files/advocacy/prioritygoalsbrochure.pdf>

Familiarize yourself with VFW Legislative Goals such as the Major Richard Starr Act, the PACT Act(still ongoing and changing as well as monetary shortfall), <https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/pact-act-and-toxic-exposure-information> and https://vfworg.cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Advocacy/2024NLSTalkingPoints_UnaddressedToxicExposures.pdf?la=en&v=1&d=20240903T133006Z the Elizabeth Dole Act,

https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Advocacy/2024NLSTalkingPoints_ElizabethDoleAct.pdf?la=en&v=1&d=20240903T132819Z Predator Claims act, https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Advocacy/2024NLSTalkingPoints_PredatoryClaims.pdf?la=en&v=1&d=20240903T132939Z and last but not least the pending bills still going through committees and the legislative process,

<https://voterveice.net/VFW/bills>

<https://voterveice.net/VFW/bills>

<https://voterveice.net/VFW/bills>

<https://voterveice.net/VFW/bills>

Remember that our legislative efforts are the roots of National President Brenda's tree! Be an active advocate for our Veterans and work together with our other programs to continue taking care of Veterans and their families.



Membership Irene Nowacki

Congratulations to Auxiliary 8807 that has already hit 100% for the year! For those that are on the edge of hitting 100%, Don't give up! You are almost there, and I know that you can do it.

You still have until November 30th to win the specialty goodie basket. This year's membership goals have been a bit harder than in the past to hit. However, if we get into this groove and try to get to 100% as early in the year as possible, then it will be easier in the years to come to hit this goal again and again. The Department of Arizona, that includes you all, has done such an awesome job on membership this year. You all deserve a huge pat on the back for sure.

The reports that I have received have detailed out some great opportunities that show that you are out there, actively searching for new and rejoin members. Our numbers are getting stronger and so are we. The Western conference is coming in hot and making waves. **Go Navy!!** At my last zoom meeting with our membership Coach Nancy, I was informed that the Western conference was in the lead for membership. Let's work hard to make sure that we pull off first place at National convention. It has been so long since the Western Conference has won. We **CAN** do this!

With that being said, the next challenge is about Legislation/Youth/Membership and an idea of how you can get youth, or anyone else involved with the voting processes and why we do what we do to raise awareness and get the numbers needed to be on capitol hill. Having a membership table that showcases the

Priority Goals that we fight hard for and a small voting booth for youths that can vote on their favorite kind of candy or color, etc. to give them a voice also. All our programs work so well together and can always be worked in tandem. This just might be the clinching information that will lead to a new member signing up.

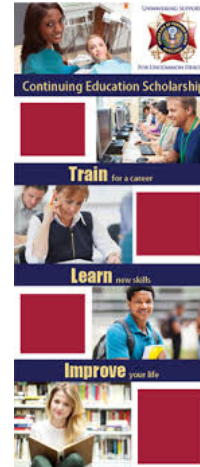
Remember to have that handy QR code up and available for anyone to take a snap of. It leads them to so much useful information and the possibility of gaining newer or rejoin members.

Keep up the excellent work and we will see if all that hard work pays off in the end of the program year.

Scholarships JaNice Robertson

This is the busiest time of the year until the end of year. Now is the time to get back with the schools and see how their projects are coming along. Remember to promote all of our scholarship opportunities.

Now that the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen are in the hands of the Post commanders, do not forget to get your winning applicant to the District Commanders so they may find out who will win their District. And get those winners to Tim Ogden at the Department level so he can figure out the winner of this year's contests. We will find out at the Winter Conference. We won last year at the National level; will we win again this year?



Please keep encouraging our youth with their **Young American Creative Patriotic Arts** projects.

- **Young American Creative Patriotic Arts**, this is two-dimensional art on canvas or paper. Open to grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 due March 31, 2025. All entries **MUST** be matted in white, if on paper. Original art please.
- **Young American Creative Patriotic Arts Contest 3-Dimensional Art.** This is our newest contest so let's get to promoting or better yet let's get participation in this contest.

Contact our members to see if any of them plan of continuing their education in 2025! Find out if they could apply for an Educational Grant. There are 2 different ones.

- **VFW Auxiliary National Continuing Educational Grant** - open to all VFW Auxiliary members who have been members for at least 1 year and their immediate family who wish to further their education by pursuing a college degree or a career direction at a vocational/technical school. Applicants must be 21 or older. This is a grant from National in the amount of \$1250. One winner will be awarded in each of the four conferences. The applications go directly to National and must be received by February of 2025.
- **Dept. of Arizona VFW Auxiliary Educational Scholarship**- open to any Arizona Auxiliary member due to me by April 1st, 2025. Are there any of you that want to go back to school to continue your

education? **Applicant must be a current member of an Arizona VFW Auxiliary AND must be 18 years of age or older.** Maybe we can get new members if they want to go back to school. The winner of this grant receives \$1000.

- **Dept. of Arizona VFW Auxiliary Merit Scholarship**- open to any High School student that is graduating in 2025- son, daughter, sister, brother, grandson, granddaughter of an Arizona VFW or VFW Auxiliary member. also due to me by April 1st of 2025. The Winner receives \$1000 for this scholarship. Talk to High School Seniors and Home schoolers. See if they want to apply for this year's Merit Scholarship.

Please send me your program reports. I know we all have been promoting our art contests and educational grants all year. Tell me what you have been doing so I can give you the credit you so deserve for all the hard work you have been doing

Happy Thanksgiving!



Veterans and Family Support Becky Baldwin

Did you Know that the National Award for Veterans and Family Support is “Most outstanding activity and/or event to increase awareness of suicide and mental health for veterans, military and their families”

How many people do you know that has diabetes? High Blood pressure? Arthritis? Wear glasses or braces? These medical conditions are commonly shared or talked about or mentioned in everyday conversations. Now think about how many people you know have depression? Anxiety? Panic attacks? Bipolar? Disassociation?

If you line these lists side by side, there will be a drastic difference as Mental Health tends to be still taboo subject. No one wants to share that they may have mental health conditions or that they need treatment. It is our job to create a safe environment where our family can talk freely about these as they do their bad knee, tennis elbow and high blood pressure.

Take a moment to think about what does increased awareness of these topics mean to your Auxiliary and your community. You know these people best and can tailor your message, event and/or activity to each of them.

By spreading awareness and making mental health an easy talking subject we are increasing awareness that it does exist, and we are here to support where we can.

Youth Stephanie Quinton

I hope everyone is well. A few ideas for

November.

- Get a Youth group and collect items to take to your local Food Bank to help for Thanksgiving.
- Have a youth group do some kind of art project and take them to local VA/Hospital for the Veterans.
- Get with your youth group and plan an event for Veteran's Day.
- Try and do as many Flag educations as you can.
- Reading to Veterans with our youth and include them in as many activities as you can.



Always Remember to keep some R.A.P. cards with you to give out to youth.

Keep up the Great work on your Youth Reports.



PARs (Program Activity Report)

Our Website, VFWAUXAZ.ORG, contains the Google form to be used for your regular reporting. This is the only form being used this year! You can find the form behind log

in/program activity report. This is also where you can find the tracking sheet each month. Please take the time to look at the tracking sheet to make sure you Auxiliary's PARs are being recorded.

Please remember that in order to be considered for the Outstanding Auxiliary Award, your Auxiliary must turn in 12 PAR reports.

We have made your reporting so very simple; it can be done in a matter of minutes! It is a new year and Program Activity Reports (PARs) are so very important!

This is the monthly or quarterly report every Auxiliary sends to provide numbers to the Department of Arizona, then, National, starting every year in April. Why are these numbers so important?

All these numbers are important because they demonstrate our Mission to support our Veterans and their families through our Programs. Every Donation, act of charity, Fund Raiser, Patriotic Festivity, etc., is what we need so desperately to hear about. When we compile all these numbers, they affect our ability to represent our Veterans and their families in the legislature to get and keep what is owed to them in Benefits, Support and Understanding.

Here are some examples that should be reported on your regular PAR:

- Providing Flag Education, Patriotism, POW/MIA and Star Family Recognition
- Supporting local Community Groups (hours and number of members)
- Poppy Distribution and Displays and National Home Education and Fund Raising

- Regular Newsletters or Emails to your Members as well as Mentoring Projects
- Members who regularly assist Veterans and/or their families with rides to the doctor, grocery shopping, well care visits, etc.
- Hospital work or donations, including Honors Escort Education
- Membership recruitment, retention, and appreciation
- Special Recognition Events
- Assisting the VFW with Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen Scholarships
- Donations and Fund Raisers for Scholarships (all)
- Any assistance or donations for Veterans and their families
- Books donated for Youth and support provided for “Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue” and Illustrating American Contests for Youth

This is not a complete listing of things to report, just a short listing to keep us from forgetting to report EVERYTHING!

If you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Brenda Kinghorn who is charge of PAR's this year. Her email is brendakkinghorn@gmail.com

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