

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter

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President Lynn Pierre's Message

Our Arizona team has done it again! Our sincere congratulations to all the Chairpersons who won awards for the 2023-2024 year and a huge standing ovation for our Junior Past Department President, Bambi Jonson, and her Circle of Excellence due to all you committed and resolute members!

As we continue to care for our Veterans and their families, I have seen many Memorial Day and 4th of July Celebrations conducted with zest! While attending both District 6 and District 9 meetings, I continually find many committed members anxious to proceed with our Programs and meet our goal of supporting our Veterans. Such a joy to meet with you all as I travel the State and enjoy watching your planning and zeal displayed while constantly producing innovative ideas.

At the National Convention, we were given a new QR Scan Code to be utilized in our membership drives. I have included a sample of a flyer (at the bottom) that was created by the Treasurer of VFW Auxiliary 9399 as a membership tool. What a fantastic way to get the word out in your local paper, in social

media, on tables at your events and even to place out in your communities as we participate in our Auxiliary Community events. This code makes it easy for anyone to simply use their camera to scan and receive information on the VFW Auxiliary, a membership application and other useful information! In addition, I have heard ideas of putting this scan code on the back of a T-shirt to be worn during Auxiliary Outreach events! Have fun with it!

Our first MIT (Membership Information Training) was held in Eagar, Arizona, on August 17th and what a remarkable success. Well attended with much group participation, we learned a great deal! On Sunday, August 18th, Kim Sloan presented Treasurer/Secretary/Trustee training where many of us were presented with great visual aids and an impressive learning experience. We felt this was such a needed experience and we will present again on Sunday of the Fall Conference. Please plan on attending!

My Special Program this year is Suicide Awareness. If you are doing anything new or special to promote awareness and prevent suicide, please let me know by email, text, or send me pictures. This is still one of our most important concerns regarding our Veterans and their Families and we hope to promote not only education on recognition and treatment options, but a greater understanding of the entire sad epidemic.

Lastly, our Program Chairpersons are working hard to be sure that your program reports are recorded appropriately. Please remember that your reports go automatically to our Program Coordinator, Melissa Martin, who then forwards them to the correct Chairperson. It is then up to them to verify that your reports qualify for that program and advise Kim Harney to mark them complete on our website worksheet. Please be patient, you will get credit for everything you do for our Veterans and their families.

Superstition Mountain Auxiliary to Post 9399
133 N Saguaro Dr, Apache Junction, AZ 85120
Membership Chairman: Bambi Johnson
Wzzrd2@hotmail.com
(480) 318-2131

Join us
SUPPORT
VETERANS
and their families

Do You fit in the circle around your VFW eligible veteran?
If so, contact us to join the best family veteran support
organization in America!

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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

*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.

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.

Western Conference minutes from 07.2024 are now available. They are behind log in on the Department webpage - www.vfwauxaz.org.

Secretary/Treasurer Kim Sloan



Let's talk about the quality of applications that you're using. It's embarrassing to me to know that an Auxiliary is recruiting members and asking them to complete an application that they can't even read. Please start taking some pride in what you're giving to a new member applicant. They need to be able to read the Obligation that they're signing! Some applications are so bad, that I can't read the printed parts. Please make the effort to print some of the application forms in MALTA or order the Membership brochures. They're free! And they are much nicer to give to a new applicant.

I've been unable to process applications for multiple reasons:

- Missing Date of Birth
- Missing credit card CVV codes
- Missing signatures – bottom of the application was cut off
- Missing veteran information / veteran not VFW qualified

This is now September 1 and all audits need to be completed, approved by the Auxiliary, copy sent to me.

We had a great group at the first Secretary/Treasurer/Trustee Training. Unfortunately, we did have to go thru the training pretty quickly, but I know that all of those in attendance learned something. Please let me know if there is something in particular that you would like covered.

We will have a Secretary/Treasurer/Trustee Training at Chloride Post 2190 on September 21 starting at noon.

Fall Conference – CofA will be on Friday night at the hotel, Fall Conference and Banquet on Saturday, MALTA, Ritual, Bylaws Training on Sunday at 9:00. Please bring your questions!

All officers! Please reach out to Department officers 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 Jeanne Hampton

"The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want".

Did you know the 23rd Psalm was not used for Memorial services until the beginning of the 1900s? "He restores my soul", "Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days

of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever". Instead of viewing the 23rd Psalm as an ending, possibly see it as comfort and uplifting.

A Prayer to Share

"Dear Lord, Guide us. You know our hearts. Lead us in Your ways, to do Your will, to become more like You. Let us see the opportunity to serve You in serving others. Keep us in your name. Amen."

Americanism Rhonda Follett

[National Ambassador's August Blog](#)

"Americanism is an unflinching love of Country; loyalty to its institution and ideals; eagerness to defend it against all enemies; undivided allegiance to the Flag; and a desire to secure the blessing of liberty to ourselves and posterity."



Happy September and you should have a lot going on this month.

1. Patriot Day Flag Ceremony with your Post.
2. Constitution Day - going out to the schools and helping to inform students of what our Constitution is about but keeping it lite with games and handing out such things as bookmarks or small Constitution Books. Etc.
3. Prisoner of War and Missing in Action Day (MIA/POW) Holding a Flag Ceremony and doing the Remembrance Table with your Post. Remember not everyone knows what the initials of MIA/POW stand for so be willing to explain to those who ask. I know we are all guilty of thinking everyone knows but that isn't always the case.
4. Don't forget VFW Auxiliary also has a Birthday this month on September 14th.
5. The VFW also has their Birthday this month on September 29th.
6. The US Air Force's Birthday is September 18th.
7. And a very special day is Gold Star Mothers/Family Day is the last Sunday of the Month, September 29th.

Our National Ambassador has a reminder to the Patriotic Instructor (which I happen to be for the Department of Arizona).

A few key things are Learn your VFW Auxiliary rituals and Traditions.

- See that the room the meeting is in is keeping with the Ritual (I just did this at our Last District Meeting. Very respectfully I addressed that the American Flag is always the tallest in the room and the Commander thanked me for letting him know) So don't be afraid to speak up.
 - Teach members to give proper Salute to the Flag.
 - Understanding the Federal Flag Code.
 - Study and learn about the lesser-known patriotic holidays and educate others Fly the American Flag.
 - Show your Pride always in our Country.
-

Donna Ventola



[National Ambassador's August Blog](#)

Hello Team Az! Let's talk about the auxiliary outreach program National award.

National will only be giving one (1) award out in each of the 10 Program Divisions. For Auxiliary Outreach each auxiliary will need to:

Create the most outstanding photo collage created by the Auxiliary of their VFW Auxiliary Outreach **partnerships** during the current Program Year.

The winning Auxiliary will get a citation and \$25 that creates the most outstanding photo collage.

Requirements:

- A collage must be a minimum of 5 pictures with no maximum, however the pictures must be able to show what the auxiliary is doing as outreach. **MIA= members in action**
- Entry form required and available on the Department website- under Auxiliary Outreach program tab
- VFW Auxiliaries must send the collage and the required entry form to me by **March 31, 2025**.

Please don't forget, to log in the Department website (vfwauxaz.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.

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

Buppy Poppy/National Home Jeanne Hampton

[National Ambassador's August Blog](#)



Imagine, being young, having children, on the brink of homelessness or suicide and not knowing where to turn. This is where we, as VFW Auxiliary Members, can help. The VFW National Home offers support- support in Childcare, Case Management, Education, Recreation and lends patient guidance to struggling families.

September 11, 2001- a date in our memories that cannot be forgotten. In working with a Kindergarten class, this is their parents' LIFE memory. As two generations ago it was the assassination of President Kennedy, the *where were you* moment of this generation is 9/11. Twenty-two, of 34 currently

occupied, housing units on campus of the VFW National Home are families of Post 9/11 Veterans. (8 are currently unoccupied- great time to reach out to a struggling Veteran Family and let them know about the VFW National Home: [Get Help - VFW National Home](#)

Make the opportunity to watch the video series on the [VFWNationalHome.org](#) web site on “Who We Help”. Listen to their stories. Learn it isn’t just the Veteran who is assisted by finding comfort, also their children- bonding them in a serene environment provided by YOU. [Stories - VFW National Home](#)

From the National Ambassador’s most recent Blog: At National Convention “Operation Red, White and Blue” was introduced to demonstrate the path of success for Families at the National Home:

Red Phase- New to the VFW National Home and setting goals for their future

White Phase- Progress and growth toward their established family goals

Blue Phase- Transitioning and preparing for a successful exit from the National Home Program.

How can you continue that mission- Several ways- Become a Homefront Hero, a continued donation that can be counted on in the National Home budget; look to the Amazon Wish List to provide simple home, recreational, educational items; become a Life Member of the National Home; become a Centennial Life Member; or purchase a Memorial Brick in honor of a loved one or to acknowledge a job well done. All these seem passive- they make a difference in lives. Stay up-to-date with the family activities at the National Home with their Blog-[Blog - VFW National Home](#)

Celebrate! The VFW National Home is looking to Celebrate the 100th Anniversary and National Ambassador Jodie Hollinger is requesting ALL Auxiliaries send a Birthday Card before January 1st so the cards can be on display at the January 7th 100 Year Celebration. Sue Alverson at the VFW National Home adds: “We also invite you to be part of this celebration by signing a birthday card and enclosing a gift. Each card will be displayed at the National Home, where residents can see your signatures. By signing the card and enclosing your gift, you are celebrating and helping to continue a legacy of hope, help, and healing to veteran families in crisis.”

Buddy Poppy- September is so full of Patriotic Activities to include the Buddy Poppy and the symbolism of Honoring the dead by serving the living. Remember to include the Buddy Poppy Story to help educate the community on the symbolism of the Buddy Poppy. Share Buddy Poppies on Patriot Day, Constitution Day, Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Day, Gold Star Family Day. Coloring pages of the Buddy Poppy are a gentle way to introduce the “Veteran” symbol to Youth. Whether you continue to use the traditional Buddy Poppy or metal please highlight what they represent.

Each Buddy Poppy purchased helps to provide not only for our Veterans’ services but passively, too, to contribute toward the financial success of the VFW National Home.

**Chief of Staff
Johnnie DeBoard**

WHO could be a great mentor?
A. me
B. you
C. everyone!



[National Ambassador's August Blog](#)

Our National Ambassador Betty Arnold asked if 5 of your officers vacated their positions, how would your Auxiliary survive? If you are practicing and teaching Recruiting, Mentoring and Communication, I believe your Auxiliary would survive. In fact, you will be soaring through the year with excellence.

Recruiting is an important part of growing an auxiliary and our organization. Without recruiting new members, your auxiliary will get stale and repeat the previous year whether good or bad. Without recruiting new members, your auxiliary will be at a red light. Challenge each of your members to recruit one new member.

Mentor new members and existing members. Find out members' likes and dislikes and ask about their hobbies. Those can change as a member understands our programs. Invite and encourage all members to attend Member Involvement Trainings and all meetings whether district or department. Let them know they are an important part of our organization and make all members feel as such.

Use the Auxiliary member questionnaire under resources in MALTA. This is a good way to know which programs this new member would be interested in. It may surprise you to know your existing members are interested in programs that they haven't been asked to help with. All members can be mentors even the new ones. The best way to start mentoring a new member is give them the new member packet. When updating the packet make sure all members have the updates such as new program information. With the right tools anyone can be a mentor.

Communication is the key that holds everything together, also referred to as the glue. Without glue things will fall apart. We need to strive to communicate on all levels. I understand this doesn't happen all the time. Members who have been in the organization for many years sometimes forget not everyone knows what they know. We should all thrive to remember this and relay information. If at any time you feel the glue loosening up, you should speak up. Be courteous and kind when doing so. Ask lots of questions. We learned in school the only dumb question is the one not asked.

Remember everyone is watching you even when you don't know they are. You are the example whether an officer or not. We are all officers in training because you never know who will be or wants to be the next officer.



**Historian/Media
Lori Schaffler**

[National Ambassador's August Blog](#)

Many of us when we think of media automatically think of TV, radio, movies, newspapers or magazines.

In addition, there is social media sometimes referred to as digital media. These include email, websites, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube and Pinterest. Social media is vital to Auxiliaries sharing our news, events and projects. It allows us to keep our members, and our community informed on what we are doing for our Veterans and Families.

Social media allows us to reach many more people including the young about our activities and projects. Imagine you are in a meeting, and you decide on supporting the National President's special project "Operation Baby Cover" where your Auxiliary is going to collect and distribute diapers for military families. So far, only a handful of people in the room know about the project. Not very many!

Now your secretary sends out an email to all the members letting them know about the project. Your media person puts the word out on Facebook, which now reaches even more people including the community. Your project has gone viral!!

Does your Auxiliary currently have a Facebook Page? If not, consider creating one to enhance your reach!

Log into MALTA selected Member Resources, check under Historian and Media Relations to see more Media Tools and Tips.

Top 10 Reasons to Have an Auxiliary Facebook Page:

10. It's FREE! And easy to set-up and maintain.
9. Since it's FREE, it helps stretch your Auxiliary budget!
8. Your members are likely already on Facebook.
7. It provides direct line of communication with Auxiliary members.
6. It's a great tool to share short, frequent messages.
5. It's a way for those interested in your Auxiliary to find it online.
4. It's an excellent tool to use in recruiting new members.
3. It's a wonderful way to get younger/different members involved in your Auxiliary.
2. It's an easy way to share information about fundraisers, scholarship contests, stories about how your Auxiliary helps veterans and their families, and recruit volunteers to help with an event – just to name a few!
1. Social media – especially Facebook – is today's word-of-mouth.

When you send in your project report and have additional documentation such as newspapers articles or pictures, please reference that in your report but email the documentation to me in a separate email. Thanks.

**Hospital
Amy Timbes**

[National Ambassador's August Blog](#)

2024-2025 Arizona Hospital Grants



Every Arizona Auxiliary can apply for a Hospital Grant of \$250. There is only one rule about how the Auxiliary can use those funds –

The Grant must be used at a facility (hospital, clinic, nursing home,

assisted living residence, state retirement home) wherever veterans reside and have a need. It can also be used to help unhoused veterans.

It's pretty simple. Contact the facility and find out what the wish or need is. Fill out the Grant Request Form and email it to Hospital Chrm. Amy Timbes (thetimbesfamily@gmail.com). Once approved by the Hospital Chrm., they will forward to the Department Treasurer and check will be mailed to the Auxiliary Treasurer.

It's important that the Auxiliary not just give "stuff"— but also give of themselves. We encourage you to spend time at the facility and get to know not just the veterans but the staff. That connection is important in continuing to support them. Auxiliaries and the District can work together for big items.

Here are samples of what the grants were used for last year -

- Provide fun and entertainment - gift cards for Meta Quest programs
- Honor veterans - purchase flags and material for flag covers for Honors Escort program
- Fill the need - Feed unhoused veterans by supplying goods to restock pantry at veteran homeless shelter
- Confidence - Care for veterans by providing new shoes and socks to unhoused veterans transitioning to group home
- Fun and Entertainment – provide radio-controlled cars for retirement home
- Sound sleep – provide mattress covers, pillows, patriotic pillowcases and bedside lamps to new inhouse facility
- Stay healthy – provide hygiene items, provide specific items to Women's Clinic
- Smiles – provided gifts for hospitalized presents at Christmas
- Safety – provide prepaid Trac phones
- Calm and Comfort – provide interactive companion pets

Questions? Happy to answer!



VAVS Region 3



What can you do to help?

The SAVAHCS Fisher House is operated on donations and is supported by an exceptional volunteer workforce. If you would like to become a part of our Fisher House family, there are many opportunities to do so. You can volunteer, donate, and spread the word to help bring awareness.



For more information on how you can help the Fisher House contact:

Southern Arizona VA Health Care System
Fisher House Manager
(520) 838-3680
Arizona.fisherhouse@va.gov



www.Tucson.VA.gov
www.facebook.com/VATucson
Follow us on Twitter @TucsonVA
www.instagram.com/VATucson



SAVAHCS 24-00-120

Southern Arizona VA Health Care System

SAVAHCS Fisher House



"A Home Away from Home"

Established March 2016, the first and only Fisher House in the state of Arizona. Providing temporary free lodging for the eligible loved ones of the inpatient Veterans.

Who Can Stay at the Fisher House?

Guest Eligibility Requirements

- Loved ones of a Veteran or Active Duty inpatients or those receiving extended episodic outpatient therapy.
- Reside more than fifty miles away.
- Be self-sufficient and able to independently care for themselves or be accompanied by a caregiver.
- Be able to stay in an unsupervised setting.

How Do I Arrange to Stay at the Fisher House?

Referrals

- Referrals to the Fisher House should be done in advance whenever possible.
- Referrals are completed by the social worker assigned to the patient who will conduct a screening to determine appropriateness.
- If a social worker is not assigned, screening may be completed by the patient's provider.
- All rooms are assigned on a first-come, first served basis.



Our Guests Will Experience

- A private bed and bathroom
- A communal kitchen
- A spacious, communal dining room
- An inviting communal family room and living room
- A communal laundry facility
- In-room telephone and TV/DVD player
- Wheel chair accessibility



SAVAHCS Fisher House Best Practices

- **Fully Stocked Kitchen**
We are able to stock our kitchen with generous donations from our Southern Arizona community members.
- **Prepared Meals**
Volunteer groups and individuals from our Southern Arizona community often prepare homemade meals in our SAVAHCS Fisher House kitchen or bring ready-made meals for our guests.

If you would like to be part of our SAVAHCS Fisher House guest experience there's no better place to volunteer than at a Fisher house.



Legislative Connie Hargreaves

[National Ambassador's August Blog](#)

WOW, July and August was a whirlwind of events in the Political Field, primaries are now over, and the field is narrowed. The Republican National Convention and Democratic National Convention are done and what a surprise on the Democratic side. Biden resigned, no citizen vote but electorates backed Harris who chose Governor Walz as running mate. Past President Trump gets shot and at his convention announces Senator J D Vance as his running mate. Debates scheduled, not scheduled, rescheduled with one confirmed for Presidential on ABC on September 10th. Please watch, hopefully some answers on what their platform is and how they will help veterans and veterans' programs. What learning experiences this election has become!



State of Arizona there is a tough battle going on between Kari Lake and Representative Rubin Gallegos. Please reach out to them, let them know about our VFW Priority goals, <https://www.vfw.org/-/media/vfwsite/files/advocacy/prioritygoalsbrochure.pdf> which can be printed or ordered from the VFW Store.

Don't know who your candidates are, check out

<https://www.azvoterguide.com/candidates/az-state/>

How can I find out VFW priorities and goals for elected officials

<https://www.voterve.net/VFW/home>

How have electees voted in Congress

<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/votes>

A little bit of research goes along way. The Arizona State Veterans Western Caucus restarts in September. This is a great group of elected officials who get together to talk about upcoming and pending bills in Arizona. Please contact to get on zoom list and see what is happening. nfinch@azleg.gov

Two bills recently put on Action Corps Weekly Action List are the Major Richard Starr Act and The Elizabeth Dole Veteran Healthcare and Benefit Act. So easy to contact your representatives in your area by registering for Action Corps Weekly and clicking on VFW Action Alert. This creates the letter and addresses your representatives automatically and sends an email to them. It also sends you notification of your letter being sent and to whom it was sent.

Want to find out about the many pending legislations for veterans, service members and their families that still need to be acted on? Click on view pending legislation and it takes you to <https://voterve.net/VFW/bills>

Every program the VFW and VFW Auxiliary does started with legislation, especially the Auxiliaries most important Veteran and Family Support. Once the bill is passed and goes into effect, we work those programs and inform our members who utilize the education benefits, health benefits, housing benefits and so on. Even our Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen are from legislation teaching our young people about the legislative process.

GET OUT AND VOTE. YOUR VOTE IS IMPORTANT FOR OUR

BENEFITS. Encourage our Posts and members to get involved and meet our candidates. VOTE with a VETERAN in mind. We need to know our electees and help educate them on Veteran needs. Along with the Post invite candidates and incumbents to your post and ask about their stance on veteran affairs and bills. What type of Service background they know or have. Advise

them of problems encountered by Veterans and family members and inform them of the bills that are pending that the VFW supports. That a strong military is a necessity and the economy, medical and others needs of our service members and families.

There is still time to step up and work on the general election. They are reaching out to Veterans to be a part of the process. Whether warehouse and backup support, the election office or the polls, workers are needed and, in many cases, paid. Check out <https://vetthe.vote/> Maybe a couple of members could check it out.

Have a meal or event and encourage participation in your county, give out water bottles with Vote with your Veteran in mind and ask them who their Veteran would be. Hand out priority goals, list of pending legislation. Invite your city, county, state and federal elected officials or candidates.

September 17th is Constitution Day. Contact your school and hold a flag raising, do color pages, word searches, hand out constitution handbooks, students that say the Pledge of Allegiance receive a VFW certificate, students can read the preamble. Remember the grade level you are working with and plan accordingly. Invite veterans to participate, elected officials and teachers. Right on the heels of Constitution Day is Sandra Day O'Conner Day, the last Monday of September. Wow, learn the justice system. <https://oconnorinstitute.org/> Great resource for civics and elections.



Membership Irene Nowacki

[National Ambassador's August Blog](#)

So how did challenge #1 go? Were you able to get together with you Post and set up a time for a “Calling Tree”? Were you able to gain members that were not aware that their membership was due? Our membership is so very important to the longevity of our organization. The more we have the longer we will be here to help take care of those that served this country and risked everything.

Talking to annual members about the benefits of converting to a life membership is so important. Not only will they be saving money in the long run, but they will not have to worry about if they have paid their dues or if they have lapsed and they then have to rejoin. No one wants to walk in the doors of their local Post and be told that their membership is no longer valid because of not paying their dues.

When you do get ahold of your members and you find they are having troubles making ends meet and not able to afford their membership, think of offering a gift of their annual membership. As National Ambassador Linda said, step into the G.A.P. (Great Aunt Patsy method) Help them so they know that we care about them and their membership. Don't forget to also look inside of your families for possible members. Gift them their membership for the holidays or their birthday. Strive to keep up their membership every year, or even better,

gift their lifetime membership!

Putting together recruiting teams or committees is a great way to help get members also. Maybe work two to three events per year and see if you can make it a friendly competition to see which teams can gain the most new/or rejoin members.

These challenges that I am giving are not a requirement. They are just something to help give you ideas of things that you can do to get creative in your membership opportunities. Since we are talking about membership, the next series of challenges will incorporate some of the other programs. This way you can see how they all go together seamlessly. See what you can group together for maximum program bang!

The next challenge is to promote the QR code for membership. When volunteering, ask if you can wear the QR code on a pin, a hat or on your shirt. See if they will allow you to bring a printout of the QR code with you and post it where you will be. Don't forget to ask those that you are volunteering with if they have any eligibility in their families. It never hurts to ask those around you. You never know what you may gain from it. You scratch their back, and they scratch yours.

This year the Western Conference is being represented by the Military Branch of the Navy. That is right we are the sailors of the VFW Auxiliary. Ambassador Linda Roloff would like for all the Conferences to offer up some playful banter, like the branches of the military do with each other, to help cheer on each other to our goal of 100%+! If you have any friends in the other conferences, make sure that you reach out to them and let them know they are doing a great job and if you see that we (the Western Conference) are ahead of them in membership, to give them a friendly zinger for fun.

Please see the breakdown of the recruiter awards that are being offered this year. Click [here](#) to see the award sheet. Please keep in mind that Treasurers are not eligible for awards this program year. Make sure that you are filling out those applications correctly. We want to gain as many members as we can.

Let's make some waves and reach for our goal of 100%. Anchors away sailors!

Scholarships JaNice Robertson

[National Ambassador's August Blog](#)



Some kids went back to school in August, and some are going back this month. Before we know it, October will be here. School has just started, and the kids are busy getting used to new environments and teachers. Maybe even a new school. The rush is always on for these two scholarships. Let's get out there and promote these 2 contests this month.

Get with the Teachers, Guidance Counselors, Parents, 4-H groups, Scout

Leaders, Sunday School Teachers, JROTC groups and please do not forget the Home School Parent and Organizers. Let all of them know of the wonderful opportunities we have for kids of all ages. Get on social media. It seems that everyone seems to be on Facebook or tick tock or some other site. It is a modern world, and we have to stay up with the times to get to our future leaders.

This year's theme for **Voice of Democracy** is, "**Is America today, Our forefathers Vision?**". You need the completed form, and a head shot of the student. Give this to a VFW post before October 31st, 2024. First place at National is awarded a \$35,000.

The theme for **Patriot's Pen- "My Voice in America's Democracy?"**. This essay also needs to have the completed form, given to a VFW post before October 31st, 2024. First Place at National level \$5000.

We as an Auxiliary assist the VFW with these 2 scholarships. So Auxiliary, let's help our Comrades get as many students as possible to accept the challenge. "GET THE WORD OUT!" As my ambassador has told me.

When reading my scholarship Ambassador, Dina Hudson's blog, I came across disturbing information. With all of the high-tech applications out in the never-ending universe there is such a thing known as **(AI) or Artificial Intelligence** that can assist a student in their submissions. She has found a couple of sights that we can check for plagiarism and computer-generated work. Please share these sites with the VFW as we want to give all our students the same fair advantage. The hard-working participants should not place behind the unethical students that choose to do things the easier way.

Her favorites are: <https://www.zerogpt.com> to check for **AI.** <https://www.grammarly.com/plagiarism-checker> to check for **plagiarism**

If you know of others, please let me know so I can pass the word to all the scholarship chairmen.

- **National Continuing Education Scholarship, due** February 15, 2025, 18 years and older
- **Young Creative Patriotic Arts Contest**, This is two-dimensional art on canvas or paper. Open to grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 due March 31, 2025.
- **3-Dimensional Patriotic art Contest**, due March 31, 2025, **For** 9, 10 11 & 12th grades.
- **Arizona Merit scholarship, due** March 31, 2025
- **Arizona Continuing Education grant, due** March 31, 2025



Veterans and Family Support Becky Baldwin

[National Ambassador's August Blog](#)

September is National Suicide Prevention Month. The motto for this month is **#BeThe1To**, encouraging everyone to be the one to be there, help them connect, follow up, ask, keep them safe.... Sometimes it only takes one person to be that one that a person in crisis may need.

988lifeline.org Is a great resource- you can order material such as magnets, safety plans and more. You can order material FREE of charge. 988 is not just for our Service Men/Women, 988 is a national line for all mental health crisis, 988 has experts in many areas which may include but not limited to:

- Maternal Mental Health
- Attempt Survivors
- Loss Survivors
- LGBTQO+ Mental Health
- Black Mental Health
- Youth Mental Health
- Individuals with Neurodivergence
- Native American Mental Health
- Deaf and Hearing Loss
- Disaster Survivor
- Veterans & Service Members

988 also has individuals that speak wide variety of languages to ensure that they can connect appropriately with the individual in need. Help is available to individuals, but you can also get help for someone in need. Just let the counselor know when they answer.

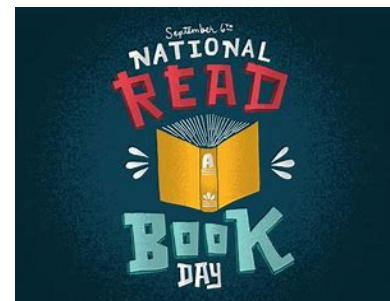
Do you want to do more? 988 is always looking for volunteers who are trained to help provide support to those in need.

The American Legion is focusing on **Be The One** and is partnering with Columbia University on suicide prevention training. This training is for those who want to learn more about interacting and responding with veterans who may be in crisis. The training is online, and the next dates are 9/5, 9/12, 9/19 and 9/26. If you are interested, click [here](#) to register.

Remember to **#Bethe1to** reach out and ask our Veterans AND our Auxiliary brothers and sisters how they are doing, check in and support where needed.

Youth Stephanie Quinton

[National Ambassador's August Blog](#)



I hope everyone's summer went well. Now that School is back in, a few things to concentrate on for September.

September 6th is National Read a Book Day. Get with your schools or library to see if you can assist with a reading activity. September is also Library Card Sign Up month. Get creative in getting not only the youth but adults to get a library card.

Get to the schools the scholarships that are at due end of Oct. Something else to think about doing as we have a major election coming up, is trying to get in the schools to educate our youth the importance of Voting. As always try

and do as many Flag educations as you can, and reading to/with our youth, and include them in as many activities as you can.

I have received MANY youth reports so keep up the Great work.

Congratulations to two young people who entered the Illustrating America Art Contest and won on the National Level. Austin is in 3rd grade and won second place. Dorothy is in 7th grade and won first place. Both were sponsored by Auxiliary 7968 in Apache Junction.

All the winners were featured in the Sept issue of the National VFW Auxiliary magazine.



SECOND PLACE

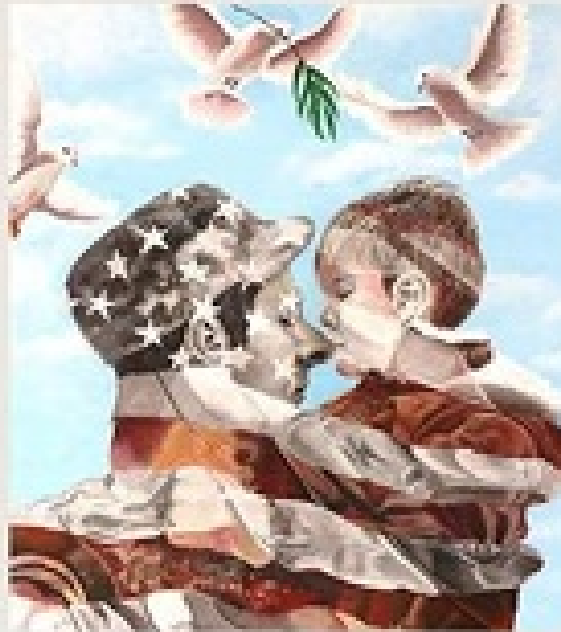
AUSTIN F.

3rd Grade

Department of Arizona

Sponsored by: Auxiliary 7968

GRADES 6-8



FIRST PLACE

DOROTHY Z.

7th Grade

Department of Arizona

Sponsored by: Auxiliary 7968



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

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

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