

December 20, 2025

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter

Visit our Website



Some of you have asked to be able to read all the articles in their entirety in one place. On our webpage - www.vfwauxaz.org under the Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter you can now find each month's articles all together. Click [here](#) to go directly there.



Americanism Heather Lyn

Hello Arizona,

As we are gearing up for Christmas and the New Year, busy with our daily lives, there are still many struggling with insecurities. Take the time to help at your local food banks or soup kitchens, it's a wonderful way to give back and help your community. We can also help families by inviting them to our Christmas celebrations and dinners at the Post or by sponsoring a family for Christmas. Whether it's gifts for the family or food items for them to prepare Christmas dinner at their home it will bring joy and something special to be remembered.

To read the rest of this article click [here](#).

Auxiliary Outreach Amy Bennett



Auxiliary Outreach 2025-2026
[#AuxiliaryOutreach](#) and [#az2526outreach](#) or
[#az2526AuxiliaryOutreach](#)

December is such a special and magical time of year! I hope everyone is thinking of ways to assist in your communities with so many festivities that need “helpers”!

As winter is upon us, consider reaching out to Salvation Army. They have opportunities throughout the State: [Volunteer Opportunities - The Salvation Army USA Western Territory](#)

There are many fun National Days in December: [National Holidays in December, 2026 | Days Of The Year](#)

Now is the time to think ahead to activities that you can do in January

To read the rest of this article click [here](#)



Buddy Poppy/National Home Peggy Welch

V F W
N A T I O N A L H O M E

With the holiday season upon us, we have new opportunities to increase awareness of Buddy Poppy and the VFW National Home. Always think of how you can distribute poppies and educate people about the Home. We have incredible ways to benefit the lives of those in our communities and our veterans.

Have you updated your Auxiliary PAR lately to include Buddy Poppy/National Home? Currently we are at 83% participation officially (86% unofficially) for the program. Certainly, more activities have been held supporting the program. How great would it be if AZ was at 100% by the New Year?! Let Arizona shine!

Here is a little history about the Pollett family and the beginning of the National Home to inspire you:

To read the rest of this article click [here](#)

Historian/Media Paulette Marshall

If you are anything like me, you're in full swing with activities at your post, tis the season after all. Christmas and New Year's upcoming, Thanksgiving just finished what a whirl wind of activities. Hopefully, you are sharing this all on

social media and letting the Veterans of your area know all the special things you are doing for them.

Our National Ambassador for Media Relations Kristin DiGiacomo, has a fantastic new Blog on MALTA about taking good pictures of people. She is reminding us of the rule of thirds. I highly recommend that you take the time to read her Blog if you could use a few pointers.



To read the rest of the article click [here](#)



Hospital Amy Timbes

Happy Holidays!

Sometimes I stress myself trying to think of NEW ways to help and entertain our veterans, but then it dawns on me that any motion is better than none.

Whether it's an old program with a new twist or just an old program that worked. Patients change and sometimes just need a distraction to pass the time. Remember, talking is one of the easiest ways to get people to share memories. Of course, I also know it's not easy for everyone to start a conversation with a stranger. Think about someone you have known that you wish you could have one more talk with and look at the veteran as a brother or sister. Maybe try even addressing them that way. Even take a note or two on how to start the next time. It will get easier.

Just wanted to remind you all again that there is a hospital grant waiting for you. Only 5 have been applied for this year. So, there's \$10,000 dollars waiting to be spent on our veterans. Honor Escort is part of the hospital program, how about getting your local EMTs or Fire Dept, Coroner's office a body flag? Respect for those who have given all.

To read the rest of the article click [here](#)

Legislative Becky Baldwin

ACTION CORPS WEEKLY

Since we kicked off our state-wide Action Corps push on **July 1, 2025**, Arizona has seen steady growth in both subscribers and members responding to Calls to Action.

Baseline (7/1/25)

- Subscribers: **13,924**

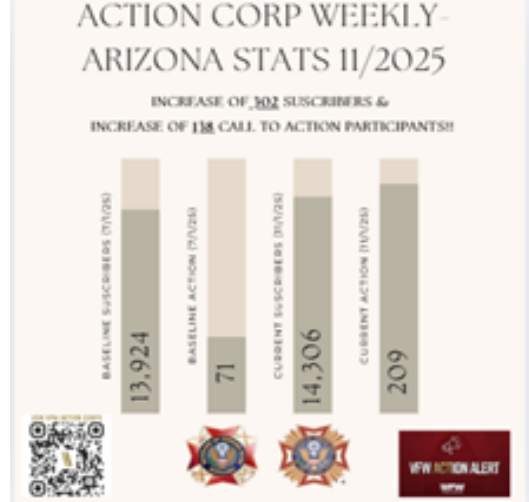
- Call to Action participants: **71**

Current (11/1/25)

- Subscribers: **14,306**
- Call to Action participants: **209**

That's an **increase of 302 subscribers** and an impressive **increase of 138 members taking action**—nearly tripling our participation in just a few months!

To read the rest of this article click [here](#)



Membership Crystal McCarthy

Auxiliaries in the Wild – Membership Highlights

Our Auxiliaries have been out roaming the state like bright little beacons of service, showing Arizona exactly what our members' commitment to veterans *looks* like. Here's a peek at 2025 (all found on social media through the #AZ2526Membership tag) — a trail of community footprints, handshakes, open conversations, and plenty of good energy:

- **Aux 8807** teamed up with the *Tonto Basin Chamber of Commerce* to spotlight the Auxiliary and strengthen community partnerships.
- **Aux 2066** staffed a table at the *Santa Cruz County Job Fair & Community Expo*, sharing membership information with job-seekers and families alike.
- **Aux 9907** hit *Show Low Days* and even mixed it up with **Miss White Mountain Apache Queen, Shavaughn Titla** — a crown-worthy moment for membership outreach.
- **Aux 769** jumped in to help their Post put on a **Young Kidz Concert**, later giving heartfelt kudos to their volunteers and Comrades on Facebook.
- **Aux 8242** showed their support at the *Yuma Police Department Annual Event*, hosting a table that cheered on the Special Olympics community.
- **Aux 10254** connected with neighbors and reminded them that their dedication to veterans endures — even in challenging seasons.
- **Aux 3632** marched proudly in the **Tempe Veterans Day Parade** and then kept the momentum going with membership outreach at Tempe Beach Park.
- **Aux 1433** passed out water and shared who we are at the *Out of the Darkness Walk* supporting the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

It's been a bold, beautiful start — and the second half of the year is ready for even more footprints in the sand.

To read the rest of this article click [here](#)

Scholarship Irene Nowacki

Greetings! I hope that you all had a wonderful and blessed Thanksgiving. Weather it was with family, friends or complete strangers.



Hopefully you have all had the opportunity to meet and congratulate your Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen winners from your areas. Winter Conference will be very exciting to be able to showcase those that won. Remember, National President Lois Callahan will be visiting us then also.

To read the rest of this article click [here](#)



Veterans and Family Support Ray Williams

Our Holiday Mission of Support and Connection

The holiday season is envisioned as the most joyful time of the year, a season pictured with celebration, warmth, and gratitude. However, for many veterans, service members, and their families, holidays can also be a period of stress, loneliness, financial strain, or emotional difficulty. A vital role we hold is to ensure these individuals are supported, remembered and connected.

As VFW Auxiliary members, part of our mission is to make sure these individuals are supported, remembered, and connected with through meaningful action by us.

Veterans & Family Support is part of the foundation of this great organization. I challenge all of you rise to the important task of supporting this part of our mission. During these holiday months, its importance becomes especially clear.

While some of us gather in celebration, others face seasonal challenges that aren't always visible. Many of Arizona's veterans live far from family, struggle with mobility issues, or face PTSD, depression, or anxiety that can be intensified. There only family close by might be you or other post members. Think of the Gold Star families, often navigating this season with a mixture of cherished memories and renewed sorrow. For them, the empty chair at the table is a powerful reminder of sacrifice.

To read the rest of this article click [here](#)

Youth JaNice Robertson

"If you can read this, Thank a teacher. If you can read this in English, thank a Veteran"- a quote attributed to the 33rd President of the United States, Harry S. Truman, WWI Veteran of the National Guard and US Army.



As we turn the corner into a New Year, what an inspirational way to bring to light "Patriotism through Literacy" the reading "book" program supported by the National VFW Auxiliary to share patriotism with Youth. Suggested books, some written by Veterans and Auxiliary Members, for youth, divided into categories for grades Pre K to 12. [patriotism_through_litera.pdf](#)

To read the rest of this article click [here](#)

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