

February 6, 2026

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



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Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter

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*The **National CAFE** will be at the Vietnam Wall in Washington DC on February 28, 2026. Registration is open on your MALTA account. This will be the last CAFE for the near future, so come join other Auxiliary members at this National site. To see the flyer click [here](#). Hotel information is provided by the VFW. Click [here](#) to access that page.

*Incoming President, Melissa's pin and shirt forms are on the Department website under Resources/Forms. Shirts must be ordered by April 15th if you

wish to have them by convention. Pins must be ordered by April 1st and only those ordered will be sold.

*Department Convention is set for June 11th thru 14th. Click [here](#) for hotel information and [here](#) for banquet information.

*The **PAR** report is up and running. The form is behind log in at www.vfwauxaz.org. Please log in and get your Auxiliary PARs caught up and current. PARs should be completed through Dec. You can check the tracking sheet on www.vfwauxaz.org behind log in. If you think you have turned in one and it is not marked off, please contact Melissa Martin at newfoundfreedom3@msn.com



President Brenda Kinghorn's Message

HAPPY FEBRUARY!!

Where did January go?!

I would like to send out a huge thank you to all the attendees to the Winter Conference, held in Tempe, on January 9th through the 10th.

Doug Kinghorn, Paulette Marshall (Department of Arizona Auxiliary Media Chairman) and I greeted the National VFW Auxiliary President, Lois Callahan, at Sky Harbor on Friday morning. We proceeded to lunch and then off to Wesley Borlin Memorial Plaza, downtown Phoenix, to meet up with several auxiliary members from different areas of Arizona. We toured the memorials for several hours and then to the Capital building.

Friday evening, there was a VFW and Auxiliary member no-host social. Afterwards, the Council of Administration (CofA) was held with a sea of Red Shirts "Remember the Troops" in attendance. We had set up two different backgrounds for pictures, one (1) with a desert landscape scene and the other, mountains with snow caps.

Saturday morning, at the start of the joint meeting, we had a special guest, 10-year-old, Noah Baiza, singing the National Anthem. Commander Greg Harrell, Junior Vice CiC, Glenn Umberger Jr., National President Lois Callahan and I, presented Noah with a "Certificate of Appreciation" for his patriotism.

Auxiliary Legislative Chairman, Becky Baldwin, VFW Chairman Jim Eilers and Nedra Sealy, spoke on Action Corps and gave an update on the Major Richard Star Act. The VFW handed out several awards. Auxiliary Membership Chairman, Crystal McCarthy, handed out a slew of awards to the members for their participation on making Department of Arizona Auxiliary membership grow.

Auxiliary Scholarship Chairman, Irene Nowacki, handed out collection boxes, for National Callahan's Special Project, Continuous Education for Auxiliary members. At the banquet, we handed a giant check, written out for over \$7,700.00, so far collected from Department Auxiliaries and VFW members.

There was a great show of members from all Districts, showing the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen winners, that we all are so proud of them. The banquet hall was overflowing with VFW and Auxiliary members, rooting their district winners on.

National President Lois sent a thank you card.

"Please express my gratitude to the members of the Department of Arizona. Arizona is a shining example of how joy and teamwork, make the dream work. Thank you for all the work on all programs, especially membership and a special thanks for the amazing surprise of \$7,730.00. Again, Thank you!!"

February is for Love and Chocolate! Let's see the parties, decorations and handouts from all the Auxiliaries. Making crafts galore, to send to the VA hospitals, clinics, and nursing homes. Don't forget to add a poppy!

We hope to see a lot of Department of Arizona Auxiliary members at the Mid-year conference in Florida, next week and C.A.F.E in Washington DC at the end of this month.

Kim Sloan Secretary/Treasurer

Just a few notes from Department Secretary Treasurer as we keep moving along....

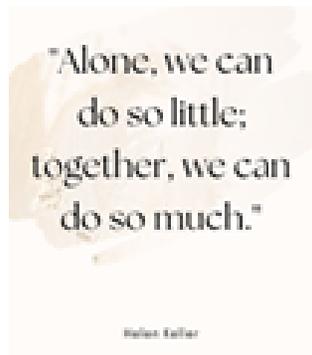


- On the new application form –In Section H - Payment Method and Amount. Check the box for Annual or Life Membership. Check the box and put the amount paid whether Cash, Check or Credit Card.
- On the Membership Summary – show a -0- for members that are using credit/debit card payments.
- The Application must show that the member was Accepted or Rejected and the Meeting Date.
- Copies of 4th Quarter 2025 Audits (October, November, December) are due to me by end of February.
- Investigating Committee members may **NOT** use a stamp for signing applications.
- Treasurers and Presidents may **NOT** use a stamp for signing checks.
- Trustees may **NOT** use a stamp for signing Audit Reports or any documents associated with an audit.
- Computing Life Member Fee – use the age the member became or will be on their 2026 birthday.
- Audit Reports are to be read, and a motion made to approve it under Committee Reports. Audit Reports are **NOT** read under Reports of

Trustees.

- Provisional Members: Auxiliary Treasurers, if you have a member that paid by credit card, check your pending member tab in MALTA. That Provisional Member will drop off the Pending Members list when they either pay their dues/fee or they did not pay within the 30 days. Determine which occurred and then follow up as necessary.
- Treasurers – please look at the monthly Treasurer’s Report. Is it clear and are the entries transparent? Members should be able to read and understand what deposits came in and what money was spent for without having to ask for clarification.

Call me if you need me!
Kim Sloan 520.307.7940
auxvfwarizona@msn.com



Chief of Staff Bambi Johnson

Last month I challenged you to decide on a PIP (Performance Improvement Plan) at your auxiliary monthly meeting. Hopefully some of you have done that in January and if not, I hope that it will be on your agenda for February.

If you have completed a PIP, please have your auxiliary Secretary send me a copy of your plan. Most auxiliaries have common issues, and we can all benefit by sharing ideas for improvement. I will be sharing those special ideas in the March newsletter, so be sure to read that issue!

Also, we still have several unaffiliated Posts here in Arizona. Has your auxiliary reached out to see if you can assist them with any of their projects yet? The best way to help start a new auxiliary is to show by deeds the benefits of having an auxiliary.

This past weekend, at a district meeting I was able to put an unaffiliated Post Commander with an existing Auxiliary President to enable the Auxiliary to schedule events at the unaffiliated Post. The Post comrades will have their interested family members also working at the event so that they can see a successful auxiliary to work. This Post will be voting on approving the formation of an auxiliary at their February meeting.

If you have an unaffiliated Post that your members can offer to help, please do so! The following links from MALTA are available to share information to such Posts. Anytime a Post is interested, please forward them my contact info and I will be more than happy to reach out to them.

[*Why Having an Auxiliary Can Boost your Post-unaffiliated Post presentation](#)

[*Starting a New Auxiliary Card](#)

Western Conference

This year from Nov 6-8, the Western Conference will be held in Phoenix. If you have never been to this conference, now

would be a great time to attend as it is in our own backyard.



District 2 President Carol McElwain was asked by her district members- "Why would a member want to attend this? Is it not for Dept. and National officers?"

These questions were asked of Kim Sloan who is a Western Conference officer. The following is her answer:

"The conferences exist basically to regulate how members are put forth for National Office. On the Auxiliary side - the candidates for National Guard will all be from the Western Conference this year. Next year the candidates will all be from Southern Conference.

The Western Conference meetings are a good time to meet members from all of the various 15 states in the Western Conference. We also present programs to mentor the members.

I've heard complaints that it's just a party weekend, but we're working diligently to change that perspective. We want ideas from the members on what they'd like to learn, who they want to hear...."

If you think you might want to experience Western Conference, click [here](#) for more information.



APPC

June is coming in hot 🔥 and so is our Annual Auxiliary Past Presidents Club Meeting! We're busy planning and wanted to share a few important details to help you prepare.

Don't forget—APPC is open to presidents at every level!

APPC Meeting is set for Thursday, June 11,

2026 | 2:00 PM- Room to be determined at convention

Membership – \$5:

- Pay your membership by April 1st to be entered into our Early Bird Raffle. Memberships may be paid in advance or at the door.
- *Please note membership lanyards are not guaranteed for at-the-door payments.*

Event Raffle – \$50:

- Raffle tickets are available for \$50 (25 tickets). Tickets may be purchased in advance or at convention.

Lunch – \$10:

- Lunch orders must be submitted by June 1st.

Please select one of the following salads: Cobb Salad- Greek Salad- Caesar Salad

Please mail checks to:
Toni Johnson, APPC Treasurer
18451 West Avra Valley Rd
Marana, AZ 85653

If you have any questions, please email babyscooby76@gmail.com.
Please complete the information below and mail it with your check.
Thank you!

Name: _____
Auxiliary #: _____
Contact <u>Email</u> : _____
Contact Phone: _____
Highest President <u>President</u> : Aux District Department
Lunch Order:
Cobb Salad: Hard Boiled Egg, Bacon, Avocado, Tomatoes, Blue Cheese Crumbles, Romaine, Mixed Greens, Chicken or Tofu Paired with Creamy Blue Cheese Dressing (320 Cal) or Ranch (200 Cal)
Greek Salad: Cucumbers , Tomatoes, Kalamata Olives, Red Onions, Feta Cheese, Romaine, Mixed Greens, Chicken or Tofu Paired with Creamy Greek Dressing (210 Cal)
Caesar Salad: Parmesan Cheese, Croutons, Romaine, Chicken or Tofu Paired with Caesar Dressing (340 Cal)
Pick your protein: roasted chicken, buffalo chicken or tofu (included)

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

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