

January 15, 2026

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



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Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter

Visit our Website



Work hard, play hard, enjoy every moment you've got, and remember that waking up every morning is a gift worth celebrating so embrace the day with gratitude.

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 and Happy New Years. It was so great to see so many of you at Winter Conference.

Did you get a chance to talk to our National President? Did you get any information you didn't know or have a question you were able to get answered? These events are for us to connect with others around state to share ideas, build friendships and help our veterans and their families all over the state.

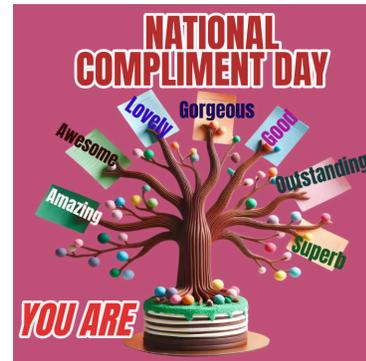
To read the rest of this article click [here](#).

Auxiliary Outreach Amy Bennett

Happy 2026! A new year brings new beginnings! Consider volunteering in your own City. Each City has a link to activities and events where volunteers are needed.

Most cities have a special event on **January 19th for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**, so check in with your local library or City Hall to learn more about where a helping hand may be needed for this special day.

January 24th is National Compliment Day which was created in 1998. [Compliment Day, January 24 Holiday. Say Something Nice.](#) Be sure to compliment someone in your Auxiliary when they are set up for success in their auxiliary attire and ready to help at an approved Outreach activity for with your Auxiliary!



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



Buddy Poppy/National Home Peggy Welch

Happy New Year!

2026 is off and running and it's time to start thinking seriously about your Buddy Poppy

Display for the Department and National VFW Contest. Displays must be submitted first at the VFW Department of AZ Convention.

There are 3 categories and you may have an entry for each category. The rules are as follows:

Category 1: Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign (window, booth, parade or poster displays, sales promotion, etc.)

- Displays must be designated for public exposure and must bear a message soliciting a donation for and wearing of the VFW "Buddy" Poppy.
- At least 1 of the Poppies used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.
- The display must have been on display in a public place for a minimum of 3 days and the public place must fill in the official entry form for verification.

Category 2: Memorial or Inspirational Displays (wreaths, memorial tablets or plaques, patriotic or devotional themes)

- Displays must be designated to honor the dead, to inspire devotion to God and Country, or to dramatize the activities supported by "Buddy"

Poppy.

- At least 1 of the Poppies used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.

Category 3: Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies (Post Home display, table centerpieces, corsages, pictures, plaques, models, scenes, hats, novelty pieces, etc.)

- Any display not meeting the qualifications for Categories 1 or 2 shall automatically be entered in Category 3.
- At least 1 of the Poppies used in the display must be in its original form and color, with label attached.

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

Historian/Media Paulette Marshall

Forget the resolutions for 2026. Resolutions are easy to break, instead make commitments, pledges or oaths, keep them simple, nothing beyond your actual abilities. For example, my commitment for 2026 is to live the motto of “we wear Red on Friday to Remember Everyone Deployed”.



Simple, impactful and attainable, so I can challenge each of you to share with me your RED Friday gear. Tag me, email me and show me so I can share.

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



Hospital Amy Timbes

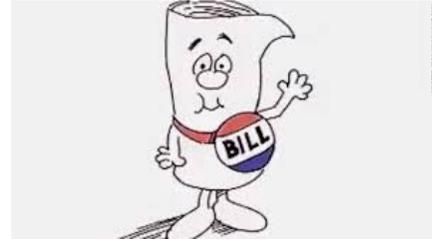
Greetings Sisters and Brothers,

Having just completed the busiest season of the year and completed 2025 we need to plan this year. Holidays are great but there are many more non-holidays to consider. Visiting people is always uppermost on my mind and we need no excuse beyond assuring our veterans they are not forgotten. Conversation is the cheapest treat we can provide.

Speaking of cheap, there are many of you who have not applied for your hospital grant this year. That's \$250 times a bunch of auxiliaries, around 12,000\$. The rules are simple and on every form. Read it carefully and apply now. Amazon Haul is another site with discounted materials, and the wish list is kept up-to-date to give you some ideas. Remember local facilities have wish lists too. Ask. You might be surprised by what items they actually need and want.

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

Legislative Becky Baldwin



Thank you to everyone who attended the Winter **Conference**. Your time, engagement, and commitment to legislative advocacy truly matter.

It was an honor to share updates alongside **Nedra and Jim**, and we appreciate the thoughtful conversations and questions that took place.

One thing to always remember: **legislative work never stops**. As we move forward and prepare for 2026, there are **four key focus areas** every member should keep in mind:

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



Membership Crystal McCarthy

New Year, Same Amazing Auxiliary

A new year is here, but our mission—and our momentum—haven't changed one bit. We're heading into the second half of the membership program year, and the energy

across the Department continues to be strong.

As we kick off the new year, it's the perfect time to **renew our resolution** to our veterans, our members, and each other. Over the next few weeks, I'll be reaching out to **all auxiliaries under 100%** to check in, offer support, and help problem-solve anything that might be standing in the way. You are not in this alone—we're in it together.

Let's keep building, keep reaching out, and keep showing why our auxiliaries are truly amazing. 2026 is waiting, and we're heading there strong.

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

❄️ ✨ Winter Conference Wrap-Up

Winter Conference was a huge success! Our National President, Lois Callahan, was truly impressed by the engagement, energy, and commitment shown across our Department—well done!

Let's keep that momentum going as we focus on bringing lapsed members back for 2026 and welcoming new members, so we continue to grow. 🍷 ✨

We're THIS CLOSE!!



Scholarship Irene Nowacki

Happy New Year to all!

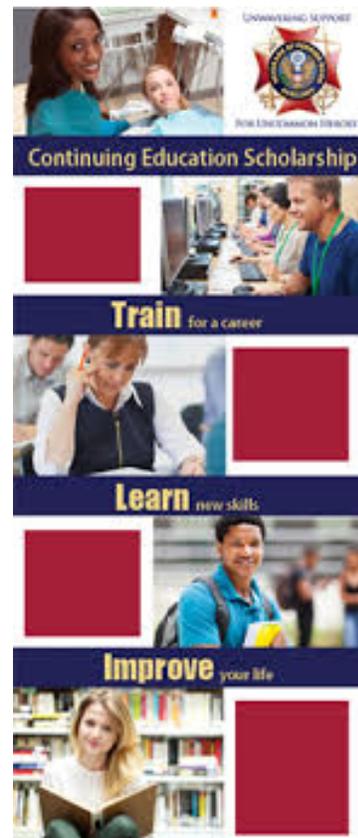
A huge shout out to all the Auxiliary and Post members that attended the Winter Conference this past weekend.

We did a collection for the Continuing Education Scholarship and presented National President Lois Callahan with a check from the donations made through MALTA and the cash donated on Saturday that totaled \$7730.00.

Lois was in tears over the generosity of the Department of Arizona. She informed me that this is the largest donation thus far that she has received from one single department.

Way to go ARIZONA!!!!

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





Veterans and Family Support Ray Williams

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I am inspired every day by the strength, resilience, and compassion that define our Auxiliary. We are a family that stands beside and supports our Veterans, our members, and our communities.

Our service does not end when a Veteran's uniform comes off—it continues for a lifetime. This is an obligation we accept as members: to ensure that no Veteran or family member ever feels alone on their journey through life.

At some point, many of us may find ourselves facing the path of becoming a caregiver. This is one of the greatest honors we can bestow upon a spouse, child or loved one; however, it can also be one of the most challenging and stressful responsibilities we will ever undertake. Preparation is key.

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

Youth JaNice Robertson

“Tell me about your picture”



If a youth can draw a picture- they can put it into words. Illustrating America, the VFW Auxiliary Youth Patriotic Art Contest, is in full swing. [Illustrating-America-Art-Contest-25-26.pdf](#)

Open to Youth in grades K – 8, art contests between K – 2, 3 – 5, 6 – 8th grades, due to the local VFW Auxiliary by March 31st.

When Illustrating America was introduced in 2017, it was the same year the Family Freedom Festival was introduced. Our Auxiliary used Illustrating America as one of the many Youth activities and used the Patriot's Pen theme that year “What makes America Great to You?” to invite children to color a picture.

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

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