

January 3, 2026

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Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter

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***Winter Conference** will be January 9-11th. Hotel and Banquet information is available on the Department website at www.vfwauxaz.org under news/departments events. You can also click [here](#) to go to the information. The banquet ticket price is now \$70. The deadline for the room reservations has

passed. Please check with the Department VFW to see if rooms are still available.

***Post 7401** in Chandler will be open on Friday, January 9th from 4 pm until closing. They will be having tacos for purchase. If you are at Winter Conference on Friday, drop by for food and socializing.

*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.

*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

*The Outstanding Auxiliary Tracking Sheet and The Outstanding District Sheet are both updated and on the Department website www.vfwauxaz.org behind log in. Please check on your auxiliary and district to make sure items you have turned in have been checked off. If you have questions, please email Kim Harney at emma32680@hotmail.com



President Brenda Kinghorn's Message

HAPPY 2026 NEW YEAR!

A new theme, starting out the new year!
MAGIC OF TEAMWORK!!

Commander Greg and I are so proud of the VFW and Auxiliaries working together to help our veterans and their families all around the State of Arizona. The districts, individual posts and auxiliaries, all coming together for my Special Project, "Blankets for Bryan", the events posted on the Facebook pages of the Posts and Auxiliaries are extraordinary! I am so honored that my special project was taken, and you all ran with it, with no hesitation.

I want to send out a sincere "Thank you" to all the VFW and Auxiliaries members that attended the Tailgate party and Membership drive at the Cardinals game on December 21st. We had so much fun with the comradery.

We also had the honor of holding the large American Flag at the opening ceremonies, with other entities across Arizona. The flag measures approximately 300 feet long by 150 wide, weighs around 1100 pounds.

Winter conference is coming and the National Auxiliary President, Lois Callahan will be here for her official visit.

She is arriving at Sky Harbor on Friday, January 9th, 2026, at 10:30am. All members are invited to come and welcome our National President and show her Arizona's support of her. She loves interacting with all members and she is extremely excited to be with us for several days. We will be going to the State Capitol complex, Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza, she loves the history of each state. (Approximately 12:30pm)

Reminder: Lois' Special Project is to increase the awards for the VFW Auxiliary Continuing Education Scholarship. Donations to the special project, cards, monetary gift or gift cards can be brought to the conference or donations can be made on Malta.

Everyone is invited to the Winter conference to show the winning students, of the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen, across the state that we support them all!

The 250-year anniversary, marks the United States 250th birthday, on July 4th, 2026.

Honor the Past, Shape the Future. 250 years of strength and resilience!

See you all at the Winter conference!!

Kim Sloan
Secretary/Treasurer

Welcome to 2026!



New Years Resolutions....how many we make and how many we keep and how many fall by the wayside. But I hope that we all resolve to be better, kinder, happier, satisfied! That resolution is easy for each and every one of us.

Looking forward to seeing our members at the upcoming Winter Conference. We will be having a special training on the new Membership Application on Saturday. Please bring your questions!

There seems to be some confusion on what a "Rejoin" is. That member has allowed their annual membership to lapse on January 1 and at that point they became a lapsed member and a member NOT in good standing. They have until June 30 to pay their dues. If they don't, their membership is terminated on July 1. If they want to continue their association with the VFW Auxiliary as a member, they have to "Rejoin". They have to complete the application process just like a "New" member - including filling out a new application, providing proof of eligibility and being accepted by the Auxiliary.

Let's talk about the office of Department Guard. We understand the commitment it was taken by the current Department Officers when they ran for Department office and as they continue in the offices until they reach Department President. The current officers are all committed to seeing that process to the end if they are elected. But we also understand that there may be members who would like to serve as a Department officer but who are not necessarily interested in continuing thru all the offices to ultimately be Department President.

So, we're going to try something new - allow the member that is elected to the office of Guard to fill that office for the 2025-2026 term without expectation that they will run for Conductor. They may decide to run for that office again or they may decide not to run again. That officer will still be expected to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of that office, such as serving on the Audit committee, attending Department functions, etc.

The other Department officers have announced that they will be running for the next office as they proceed up the "chairs" to Department President. Then next year, we'll have an election for Department Guard and Department Conductor. Again, the members running for those offices will do so with no expectations of moving forward. But of course, they may decide to run for a different office.

We hope to talk about this more at the Winter Conference Council of Administration meeting on Friday night. Please feel free to ask questions of any Department officer.



Chief of Staff Bambi Johnson

Happy New Year Arizona!

People around the world celebrate a new year with celebrations and anticipation for better things to come. It is why so many start a fresh year by setting resolutions and goals. You may choose to set personal goals or professional

goals, so how about thinking of your goals as an Auxiliary member?

We have talked about a lot of items that are in the Healthy Auxiliary Toolbox, such as the Checklist for To-Do and Deadlines, the Phone-Text Trees, Member Questionnaire and a Performance Improvement Plan.

So, at your next meeting let's start the New Year with some great resolutions! Ask each member in attendance to write down

1. Write down one item our auxiliary needs to improve on
2. Write down how many members you would be willing to send an email or text message to at least once a month. 10 – 15? Do you need help to set up group text or email groups?
3. Would you be interested in any Auxiliary level positions or assistant positions?
4. Are you on social media on a regular basis?

From the answers to a few questions like the ones above, under the Good or the Order, your auxiliary could decide on a Performance Improvement Plan to both strengthen and enlarge your Auxiliary.

How can you get your Plan started?

- Your secretary can help share lists for the phone or text trees.
- Members can work alongside existing officers for future positions.
- Social media members can get training on how to share Auxiliary work utilizing the hashtags.

Membership Crystal McCarthy

Membership Snapshot: So Close We Can Taste It!

Let's start with the big picture—because it's a great one.

- 20 auxiliaries are at 100%+
- 6 auxiliaries are sitting right at 100%
- 13 auxiliaries are between 95%–100%
- 7 auxiliaries are between 90%–95%
- Only 2 auxiliaries remain under 90%

Even bigger? **ALL 10 districts are above 96%**, and **3 districts are already at 100%+!** That doesn't happen by accident—this is the result of consistent effort, follow-up, and strong leadership at every level.



As we head towards the end of the program year, Department officers will reach out in January to Auxiliary Presidents whose auxiliaries are still under 100%—so please don't be surprised. Take a moment now to have a plan in place and let us know how we can help support you in crossing the finish line.

Beachcomber Challenge Success 🐢🐢🐢

A huge congratulations to the **4 auxiliaries (9399, 9401, 9972, 10254)** that **completed the Beachcomber Challenge** and earned their **\$50 Department award**. This challenge proved something important:

👉 *Former members do come back when we reach out.* 👉

When we reconnect, re-invite, and remind them why they joined in the first place, they return—and many reengage in meaningful ways. This is membership growth done right.

💪 ➡ One Week. One Final Push ⬅️ 💪

Right now, the Department is sitting at **99.39%**. With **just one week** before the **National President arrives for Winter Conference**, we are *within reach* of 100%. This is the moment to lean in, make the calls, send the texts, and finish strong.

No matter what—**keep going**. You'll get there and every single renewal matters.

Simple Ways to Close the Gap

If you're working with annual members who haven't renewed yet, try these proven approaches:

- 📞 **Personal contact matters** – a quick phone call or text goes a long way
- 📅 **Offer easy payment options** – members can:
 - Pay through **your local Treasurer**
 - Renew **online through MALTA**

- 🚀 **Remind them of the “why”** – supporting veterans, their families, and our mission
- 👥 **Assign a small renewal team** – many hands make light (and fast) work

We are *right there*. The numbers show it. The dedication shows it. Let’s take this final step together and welcome the National President knowing Arizona showed up, followed through, and hit 100%.

🚀 **We’ve got this. One week. Let’s finish strong.** 🚀

🔔 **SMALL CHANGE, BIG IMPACT: New Membership Application** 🔔

Only the NEW membership application will be accepted in 2026.

➡️ All older versions must be destroyed and will no longer be accepted.

Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with the new form before using it. When completing applications, double-check that the phone number AND email address are clear and legible—this is critical for processing and follow-up.

✓ **Enhanced security:** New Members can now keep their credit card information private, providing added protection for both the member and the Auxiliary.

✓ **Available now:** The new application is ready to print or order directly from the National website.

This update strengthens security, improves accuracy, and helps ensure a smooth transition into 2026. Thank you for helping keep our membership process current and secure.

AN OCEAN OF ELIGIBILITY



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