

March 1, 2026

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



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Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter

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*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.

***All PAR's for this program year need to be completed by April 4th. Don't delay in getting your PARs completed!**



*Housing for National Convention in Reno is supposed to open on March 16th. If you are planning to attend, check the VFW National webpage - vfw.org around this time.

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



NDCM #15 Betty Decker

Greeting Arizona and New Mexico, it was a privilege to attend the Fall Conference in Arizona and the Mid-Winter Conference in New Mexico. It was wonderful to hear both Departments successfully receiving and passing information to their members.

Both Conferences and Council Meetings were informational and enjoyable. My sincerest thanks to President Brenda and the Arizona Officers and Chairmen as well as President Jeanette and the Officers and Chairmen of New Mexico for making me feel welcome.

Mid-Year Conference was a cruise to the Bahamas with a stop in Key West. The Council of Administration meeting got a little intense, mainly because I wanted my way and didn't always get it. The Audit and Budget were approved, and Standing Rules changes were approved.

The biggest discussion was for the Legacy Life Membership Report. A Motion was made to approve the ability now. The main reason for the motion presented at this Council, is due to the software taking 6 months to be created. It was stated that if they could approve the motion the software copy would be able to start creation and have it ready by time the Comrades software was able to link with ours. Clear as mud? Under discussion we learned that some changes were presented. Such as only one level instead of the 3 levels that the Comrades have. Due to all of this I motioned to Postpone the Legacy Life

Membership motion. It was seconded and approved. We will revisit Legacy Life Membership at the next Council of Administration.

I requested that the National Office provide us with a Fact Sheet on the Legacy Life Membership before our Department Conventions so that we have more information and can get an accurate understanding.

Our next big events will be the respective Department Conventions. I hope to attend in both Departments but in case I can't I know you will have great Conventions.

President Brenda Kinghorn's Message

2026 Mid-Year Conference was a blast! Our honor representing Department of Arizona Auxiliary in Florida. National Auxiliary President Lois Callahan picked a cruise from Ft. Lauderdale, Florida to Key West to a very small island of Bimini.



Could you imagine having a luncheon on a beautiful island with approximately 40 other Department Presidents. President Lois hosted a luncheon at an indoor/outdoor restaurant, First Flight Island Restaurant and Brewery. She spoke of Membership. Re-instate – Recruit – Revitalize – Retain. Thanking the Departments that have obtained 100% in membership and encouraging the Department to keep on growing. (Arizona is almost there!)

Along with the Presidents, Veterans of Foreign Wars National Commander-in-Chief, Carol Whitmore, Dan West, Adjutant General were in attendance. Commander Carol thanked all the Departments and their members for working side by side with their counterparts.

Seeing the President and the Commander standing together praising the Departments, on their work, taking care of veterans and their families, was inspiring! I felt so proud, listening to them talk, thinking about Department of Arizona Auxiliaries, and what we are accomplishing in our year so far.

On board the ship, a 2-1/2-hour, National Council of Administration, (COA) was held in the theater. The sea of Department presidents' shirts was extraordinary. Afterwards, Sr Vice President Melissa Martin and I met up with the National Program Ambassadors to receive score cards on how Department of Arizona Program Chairmen, were reporting to them about how they are getting the information out to our members. We are doing great!! Keep reading the newsletter articles from your chairmen, on what the ambassadors want! Can't wait to find out where next year's National President's Mid-Year conference will be, because I am going!

The following year will be our own Department of Arizona member, Kim Harney's pick, when and where, she has her Mid-Year conference. If I know Kim, it is going to be great, so start gearing up!!!

About the Par reports: Do you know that all members of Department of Arizona Auxiliary, can log onto vfwauxaz.org and view the Par report spread sheet for all auxiliaries? See what months might be missing. The auxiliaries are

doing an outstanding job. Only a couple of auxiliaries are missing several months. Let get all caught up before March. If you see a month missing and believe that the month has been reported, just resubmit. The deadline is April 4th to get all your PARs turned in.

13th Annual C.A.F.E (Celebrate America's Freedom Event)-

Saturday, February 28th, 2026, at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC. Injunction with the start of the VFW Legislative Conference on March 2nd.



Kim Sloan Secretary/Treasurer

Auxiliary Treasurers -

When I enter a Provisional Member, you'll should get an email from me stating....

_____ has been entered as a Provisional Member. They have already received a text message and an email with a link and instructions to pay online. Please contact them and let them know to look for those contacts from VFW Auxiliary. And to please use the link asap to get their payment processed.

If an Auxiliary has any Provisional Members, the Treasurer will them listed under a new tab on their Duties page - It's the last tab on the right "Pending Members". Click on that to see which of your Provisional Members have not made their payments.

If they have not received the text or email, please click on the Edit button and have the member verify that the cell phone number and email are correct. If not make the correction, save, and then click on Resend Email. If the contact information is correct, have the member check their Junk/Spam folder.

You can have the email resent multiple times.

If they do not pay the appropriate annual dues or life member fee within 30 days, they will drop off the Pending Payments list.

When you see that they have dropped off the Pending Payments list, go into MALTA and confirm that they have been assigned a membership number.

If you do not find them listed in MALTA, they have been dropped for non-payment, and they will need to provide alternate payment to the Auxiliary, and the application will need to be resubmitted with a check to the Department Treasurer.

To date we have only had one Provisional Member that was dropped after failing to pay their appropriate dues or life member fee. If we work together to inform the Provisional Members, they are usually very appreciative and want to get their payment processed.

Auxiliary Secretaries - Delegate Lists

Now is the time to start thinking about Delegates to District and Department conventions. I was recently told that Delegates have to send a note accepting the election as a Delegate. Delegates are not officers, they are delegates. So

no, Delegates do not have to be present to be elected and do not have to "accept" the election as a Delegate.

The Instructions and Delegate Forms are included in this newsletter. There is nothing wrong with creating an Excel spreadsheet and attaching it to the Delegate form. They are also on the Department webpage behind login under Secretary.

Presidents -

It is critical for you to confirm that the Outstanding Auxiliary Progress sheet is correct. If there is an error, you need to let us know by March 31.

2026-2027 District Delegates and Alternates Instructions

- **Review Bylaws Sec 302**

Delegates and Alternates to Districts shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Auxiliary held not less than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the District Convention at which the District Officers are to be elected.

All District Conventions this year will be held in April, so Auxiliaries should elect their Delegates and Alternates no later than their March Auxiliary meeting.

- **Number of Delegates and Alternates**

National Bylaws state that the number of Delegates and Alternates may be set forth differently in the Department Bylaws. Department of Arizona Bylaws call for one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate for every ten (10) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Auxiliary at the time of the election.

EXAMPLE:

On the night Delegates and Alternates are to be elected, MALTA shows the Auxiliary has 102 members in good standing.

102 divided by 10 = 10.2 (.2 is fraction thereof and so you round up to 11)
Therefore the Auxiliary would elect 11 Delegates and 11 Alternates

- **Election**

Delegates and Alternates are elected by the members – they are NOT appointed. Most Auxiliaries have more Delegates/Alternates than attend Auxiliary meetings. Note that members do not have to be present to be elected as a Delegate or Alternate. The membership should consider those members who may not be able to attend Auxiliary meetings but do attend District meetings. All Delegates and Alternates must be members in good standing of that Auxiliary (life members or current annual members).

- **District Composition Members**

The Auxiliary President has his/her own vote at the District meetings and should be listed at the bottom of the form AND as an Alternate in the right column.

Any Past Department President, District Officer or Past District President that is a member of your Auxiliary has their own vote at District meetings/convention. They should be listed at the bottom of the form and should be considered for election as an Alternate.

If the Auxiliary President is the only Delegate or Alternate at a District Meeting, he/she may choose to vote as a Delegate rather than as Auxiliary President. In the example above, the Auxiliary is entitled to 11 votes (each Delegate has one vote) plus the President's vote. But if the President chooses to vote as a Delegate (which he/she may do if no other delegate or alternate is present) he/she would cast 11 votes instead of just the President's vote.

- **PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION – If you have a large Auxiliary consider attaching list of Delegates and Alternates to the Delegate form.**

- **Submit to District Secretary**

2026-2027

District

Delegates and Alternates

District _____ Auxiliary _____

PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION

Delegates		Alternates	
1		1	
2		2	
3		3	
4		4	
5		5	
6		6	
7		7	
8		8	
9		9	
10		10	
11		11	
12		12	
13		13	
14		14	
15		15	
16		16	
17		17	
18		18	
19		19	
20		20	

USE SECOND SHEET IF NECESSARY

The following District convention composition members have their own vote.

NAME	OFFICE
	Auxiliary President
	District Office - District President
	National Officer (insert office)
	District Office - (insert office)
	Department President
	Past Department President
	Past District President
	Past District President
	Past District President

2026-2027 DEPARTMENT Delegates and Alternates Instructions

- **Review Bylaws Sec 303**

Delegates and Alternates to the Department Meetings and Convention shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Auxiliary held not less than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the Department Convention.

Auxiliaries should elect their Delegates and Alternates at their March or April meeting.

- **Number of Delegates and Alternates**

National Bylaws state that the number of Delegates and Alternates may be set forth differently in the Department Bylaws. Department of Arizona Bylaws call for one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate for every ten (10) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Auxiliary at the time of the election.

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On the night Delegates and Alternates are to be elected, MALTA shows the Auxiliary has 102 members in good standing.

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- **Election**

Delegates and Alternates are elected by the members – they are NOT appointed. Most Auxiliaries have more Delegates/Alternates than attend Auxiliary meetings. Note that members do not have to be present to be elected as a Delegate or Alternate. The membership should consider those members who may not be able to attend Auxiliary meetings but do attend the Department Convention. All Delegates and Alternates must be members in good standing of that Auxiliary (life members or current annual members).

- **Department Composition Members**

The Auxiliary President has his/her own vote at the Department Convention and should be listed at the bottom of the form AND as an Alternate in the right column.

The National District Council Member, any Department Officer and Past Department Presidents, that are members of your Auxiliary (in good standing) have their own vote at Department Convention. They should be listed at the bottom of the form and should be considered for election as an Alternate. They will confirm with the Credentials Chairman whether they are voting as a Delegate or voting their own vote.

If the Auxiliary President is the only Delegate or Alternate at the Department Convention, he/she may choose to vote as a Delegate rather than as Auxiliary President. In the example above, the Auxiliary is entitled to 11 votes (each Delegate has one vote) plus the President's vote. But if the President chooses to vote as a Delegate (which he/she may do if no other delegate or alternate is present) he/she would cast 11 votes instead of just the President's vote. The President may choose to vote as a delegate and forego her individual vote, if it is to his/her advantage to do so.

2026-2027			
DEPARTMENT Delegates and Alternates			
Auxiliary _____			
PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION			
Delegates		Alternates	
1		1	
2		2	
3		3	
4		4	
5		5	
6		6	
7		7	
8		8	
9		9	
10		10	
11		11	
12		12	
13		13	
14		14	
15		15	
16		16	
17		17	
18		18	
19		19	
20		20	
USE SECOND SHEET IF NECESSARY			
The following convention composition members have their own vote.			
NAME		OFFICE	
		Auxiliary President	
		National Officer	
		Department President	
		Past Department President	
		Past Department President	
		District President	
		Department Officer	
		Department Officer	
		Department Officer	

**Chief of Staff
Bambi Johnson**

We are coming up to the end of our program year, and I would like to receive some nominations for the Extension & Revitalization National Awards.

During the year, members have stepped up to assist with the Unaffiliated Posts that are interested in forming a new auxiliary. Those members are the ones who should be nominated for the Member award available this year.



Awards for Members:

Citation and a \$25 VFW Store gift certificate to one member in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the best assistance to the Chief of Staff in establishing a

new VFW Auxiliary with the approval of the Department President. Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

President Brenda formed Mentor groups to assist each District this year and work with both the District Presidents and all members of their assigned Districts. Several of those District Presidents worked diligently to bring struggling Auxiliaries to a healthy status. Please use the entry form to nominate your District President if you feel that were instrumental in helping your Auxiliary to reach a better level!

Awards for District Presidents:

Citation and a \$25 VFW Store gift certificate to one District President or Official Representative in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the best assistance to the Chief of Staff with a struggling VFW Auxiliary by mentoring and maintaining a close relationship until the VFW Auxiliary becomes healthy, with the approval of the Department President. Use of MALTA Healthy Auxiliary tools and mentor training is required. Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources.

Both Awards need to reach National by April 30, 2026, so I would need them by April 15, 2026, to have the ability to review and select our Department entries.

All members have the responsibility to help their brothers and sisters in the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Mission. Let's show our appreciation by nominating those who put in the extra effort this year to be healthier and welcoming for new Auxiliaries to be formed!



Membership Crystal McCarthy

🍀 **March Membership Momentum** 🍀

A little luck, a lot of heart, and a whole lot of dedication — congratulations again to everyone who received awards at Winter Conference! Your commitment to this organization is pure gold. 🌈🏆 You make our Department shine brighter than any pot at the end of the rainbow.

Now let's talk about that pot of gold we're chasing... ✨

We are sitting at **99.94% CURRENT membership — just 7 members short.** Out of 11,902. SEVEN. That's not a mountain — that's a lucky shamrock waiting to be picked. 🍀

We are *right there*. This is the moment to lean in, reach out, and finish strong. If you're feeling stuck or need ideas, don't go it alone. There's plenty of Irish cheer and teamwork to go around. We can absolutely bring this home — to 100% and beyond! 💪🌈

March is the perfect time to spread a little extra luck. Sometimes that last renewal just needs a friendly nudge and a reminder that they belong.

🍀 **100% CURRENT MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT** 🍀

Because hitting the jackpot deserves to be celebrated!

Congratulations to the newest 100% achievers since Winter Conference! Your dedication and follow-through are worth their weight in gold. ✨

🏆 100% Auxiliaries: 769, 6739, 1433, 720, 5990, 9907, 2190, 9833

🏆 100% Districts: D3, D4, D6, D8

Let's keep chasing that rainbow together — our pot of gold is within reach. 🍀

A big round of applause to the Auxiliaries already using the new membership application. Thank you for jumping in and keeping everything accurate, secure, and up to date. That kind of leadership keeps our records as tidy as a well-stacked pot of gold. 🙌

🍀 ***Don't Forget the Gold at the End of the Rainbow...
RECRUITING!*** 🍀

While we're chasing 100% current, let's not forget to grow our garden of shamrocks, too. 🌱

Did you know that with the President's permission, an eligible guest may attend one meeting by invitation of a member in good standing? They're admitted after the Treasurer's report and presentation of bills — which means they get to see the heart of what we do without all the formal business up front.

What a golden opportunity. ✨

Inviting someone to sit in, listen, and experience your Auxiliary in action is one of the easiest — and most powerful — ways to show who we are. Let them see the laughter. The planning. The mission. The passion.

Sometimes all it takes is one meeting for someone to realize, "This is where I belong." 🍀

So extend the invitation.

Bring a friend.

Share your shamrock spirit.

You never know who might become the next bright piece in our pot of gold. ❤️

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

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