

March 15, 2026

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



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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.

National Convention Housing will open on Wednesday, March 18th. Go to vfw.org, click on media/events and scroll down to National Convention. There will not be hotels assigned to Departments this year. The VFW Auxiliary National will be at the El Dorado hotel. Don't wait to make your hotel reservations!!

Patriotic Art Entries

MARCH 31, 2026 - Deadline for student's artwork to be delivered to the sponsoring VFW Auxiliary

APRIL 15, 2026 - Deadline for 1st place winning student entry from each sponsoring Auxiliary to VFW Auxiliary Department of Arizona.



Auxiliary 1st place winning entries **MUST** be received by close of business on April 15.

First place winning entries may be mailed or hand delivered to:

VFW Department Headquarters
6423 South Ash Avenue
Tempe, AZ 85283
Phone: 480-941-5258
ATTN: Irene Nowacki, Schol Chrm

Please note that the office is open Monday - Friday 8:00 - 3:00
Make sure that delivery is made only during that time.

OR

First place winning entries may also be mailed or hand delivered to:

VFW Auxiliary Department Headquarters
ATTN: Kim Sloan, Department Secretary
326 E. Burrows St.
Tucson, AZ 85704
Phone: 520.307.7940

Whichever delivery method you use - make sure you are able to track the delivery and require a signature on delivery.

Please pay special attention to the additional items required for the 3D art submissions - Photos!

Deliveries received after April 15 will automatically be disqualified.

Please contact me if you have any questions.

Irene Nowacki
immalick@hotmail.com
480.695.1500



Americanism Heather Lyn

Hello Arizona,
As members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary, one of our most heartfelt responsibilities is to promote patriotism and

love of country in our communities.

Americanism isn't just a program — it's a living expression of our pride, our gratitude, and our shared values as Americans.

This month let's take time to reflect on what it means to be an American, and how we can demonstrate that pride every day — in our schools, neighborhoods, and events.

Here are a few creative ways to incorporate Americanism into your Auxiliary programs this month:

1. Host a “Stars & Stripes” Community Event

- Set up a flag etiquette demonstration — invite a local Scout troop or JROTC unit.
- Provide small American flags and distribute them with handouts on proper flag care.
- Include a brief patriotic ceremony and recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Auxiliary Outreach Amy Bennett

[#AuxiliaryOutreach](#) and
[#az2526outreach](#) or [#az2526AuxiliaryOutreach](#)



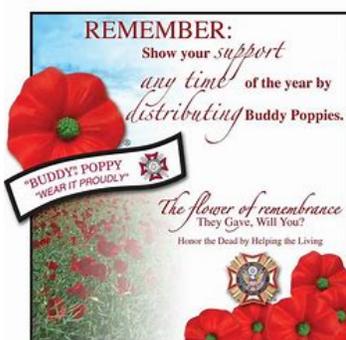
This year is “March”ing along so quickly! This is a very important month for reporting!

I want to find the BEST representation of Auxiliary Outreach for the State of Arizona to show off all of our work through the year, but I need your help to do it!

Please remember that the **deadline to submit to me at amyaz@cox.net for the National Citation submission by March 31st.** Here is the form [auxiliary_outreach_aux_aw.pdf](#) that can be found on <https://vfwauxaz.org>. It is also available in Malta under Member Resources for Auxiliary Outreach.

Here is a quick link to additional suggestions from National: [Auxiliary Outreach – VFW Auxiliary National Organization](#) and a great reminder of what it's all about: [AUXILIARY OUTREACH](#)

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



Buddy Poppy/National Home Peggy Welch

We are having a great year with the Buddy Poppy/National Home Program! The Department of Arizona Auxiliaries have had some seriously impressive and creative promotions of the Program in your communities. As we wrap up the year, be sure to check the MALTA website,

malta.vfwauxiliary.org, for the National Citation Award forms and the rules for your Buddy Poppy Displays. Each Auxiliary President has an email with the National Citation forms for Buddy Poppy and the National Home. They will also be receiving an email with the display contest rules and entry form this month. So far, I have received Citation Award entries from Auxiliaries 720 and 6306. Way to go!

Our National Ambassador, Sandra Jeffries, states in her recent Blog, "I just want to remind each Department of my goal for the Buddy Poppy. This year we are sailing around the nation looking for creative ways to educate our members on how to partner with the VFW for joint Poppy drives and/or fundraisers, and how to split the proceeds. I have been receiving many pictures of events, now I need each state to send me more detailed information on combined events. Remember, when you distribute Poppies, you are honoring the dead by helping the living."

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

Historian/Media Paulette Marshall

Oh my, where has the time gone? Now is the time for all auxiliaries to get their best programs into the appropriate program chair! Yes, we have the hashtags, and our chairs are doing their best to use those to see your activities, but if you email your program chair directly with a detailed description of the Who, What, Where, Why and When. Our jobs are to get as many Arizona Auxiliaries as possible nominated for those awards at National Convention in Reno.



I know everyone has been working the programs even if you are not getting them into PARs, so please find a person in your group that can get those recorded.

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



Hospital Amy Timbes

Well, we meet again. Thank the Lord! It's 5 o'clock in the morning and here I am reading over the 10 hospital grant applications that I approved. As well as the other reports I've received during the year.

Right now, I have only three applications for the National Hospital award. You only have until the end of March to submit to me so I can submit to National before end of April. If you are not familiar with this look in the hospital program

on department website. It is all about creative ways to interact with and provide happiness to veterans in hospitals (VA and Non-VA facilities). Please look back on the year and describe whatever you think might apply. Never know you might be the only auxiliary that did it over the top.

By the way, why didn't your auxiliary put in for a grant. Don't need it? Can't spend it? I promise you there are veterans in facilities out there that need it. It only takes a few minutes and can get to me in a second. So far valentines made from jeans from 10254 caught my attention, thousands of girl scout cookies being devoured is a hoot and Gabe, I think guitars for the music therapy is outstanding too. So many great things are happening out there. We want to share those so others can follow suit.

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

Legislative Becky Baldwin

As we move into March, I want to highlight an exciting opportunity for our Auxiliaries to be recognized for your hard work and dedication to our veterans — the **Legislative National Program Award**.



🏆 Award for Auxiliaries 🏆

We are looking for the **most outstanding activity and/or event** focused on creating **thank-you notes and cards to veterans** that include links to: **VFW Action Corps Weekly & VFW Priority Goals**

This is a meaningful way to both thank our veterans and connect them with important legislative information and advocacy efforts that directly impact their benefits and quality of life.

📌 What You Need to Do 📌

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



Membership Crystal McCarthy

🍀 Lucky to Serve – Lucky to Belong 🍀

March is the month of green, gold, and good fortune — and I can't help but think how incredibly lucky we are. It's, also, the perfect time to talk about recruiting — because who wouldn't want to be part of something this meaningful?

When you talk to potential members, don't start with the rules. Start with the heart.

Tell them we are:
Lucky to serve our nation's heroes.
Lucky to stand beside one another.
Lucky to be part of something that truly matters.

Invite them to see it in action. Bring them to a project. Let them feel the energy in the room. Let them meet the members who laugh hard, work harder, and care deeply.

Sometimes recruiting isn't about convincing — it's about sharing what already makes us proud.

And don't forget: look at your own circle. Family members, friends, coworkers, neighbors. There are eligible people who just need someone to say, "You'd be amazing at this."

Across this state, our members are showing up in big and small ways every single day. From hospital visits and community outreach to membership drives and creative fundraisers, you continue to prove that service isn't just something we do — it's who we are.

And that? That's pure gold.

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

Scholarship Irene Nowacki

Thank you all for your due diligence in getting your entries to me on time for the [Young American Creative Patriotic Art contest](#) and [3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contests](#).



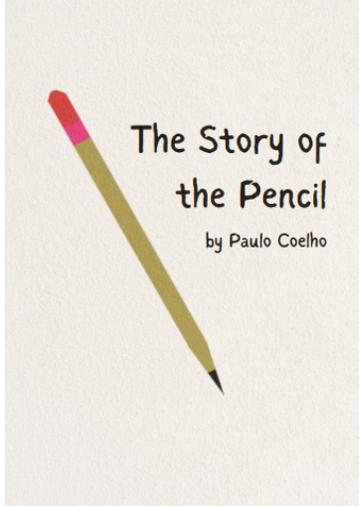
We have a few more weeks to get the last of them in. Please make sure that they are packaged correctly and securely to limit any damage during shipping. I am super excited to be able to see all the entries and have the honor to judge these. Department Convention will be an exciting time to reveal who the winners are in each contest.

Don't forget, we still have our very own [Department of Arizona VFW Auxiliary Educational Grant](#) and [VFW Auxiliary Merit Scholarship](#). These are **due to me by April 1st, 2026**. Let's get our auxiliary members some much needed help for their academic future. The department has budgeted for this, so let's give the money to those that need a little extra help. These applications are available on the department website www.vfwauxaz.org under the Scholarships.

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

Veterans and Family Support Ray Williams

Dear Brothers and Sisters,



I recently watch an old video from our National President, and it inspired me about for myself and the Auxiliary's mission. She was speaking about the story of the pencil. I found the story was attributed to author Paulo Coelho and it is the following:

The Story of the Pencil

by Paulo Coelho

A boy was watching his grandmother write a letter.

At one point he asked:

'Are you writing a story about what we've done? Is it a story about me?'

His grandmother stopped writing her letter and said to her grandson:

'I am writing about you, actually, but more important than the words is the pencil I'm using. I hope you will be like this pencil when you grow up.'

Intrigued, the boy looked at the pencil. It didn't seem very special.

'But it's just like any other pencil I've ever seen!'

'That depends on how you look at things. It has five qualities which, if you manage to hang on them, will make you a person who is always at peace with the world.'

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

Youth JaNice Robertson

Well, the time is getting closer to the end of the Program year. I hope everyone has had a good time with all of the programs. I have seen so many wonderful things on Facebook that the Auxiliaries and members have been doing every day. Please email me directly at Bells_Whistles@hotmail.com with the wonderful things you have done with our youth and include photos.



Below are the criteria for the National Citation in the Youth program:

Awards for Auxiliaries:

1. Most creative and/or unique activity and/or event of the VFW Auxiliary working with a youth group.

• Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most creative and/or unique activity and/or event of the VFW Auxiliary working with a youth group.

Entry form is required and available on the Department website, under the Youth Program [25-26YouthNationalAward.pdf](#)

VFW Auxiliaries must send the completed required entry form to the Department Youth Activities Chairman by March 31, 2026, for judging.

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

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

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