May/June 1, 2026

UNWAVERING SUPPORT

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Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter

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APPC Update!!!

This is your **final call** to secure your lunch for the APPC Meeting—don't miss out! 🥗

🚨 **Lunch orders & payments MUST be received by June 1, 2026 to guarantee a lunch.**
We will be pre-ordering, so if you want to eat with us, now's the time to get that payment in!

📬 **Please send all lunch orders and payments to:**
Toni Johnson
18451 W Avra Valley Road; Marana, AZ 85653

Good news!
✨ APPC Dues and 🎟️ Raffle Tickets can be paid at Convention prior to the APPC Meeting—so no stress there!

📍 **Meeting Details:**
📅 Thursday, June 11, 2026
🥗 Lunch served starting at 1:30 PM ⏰ Meeting will begin promptly at 2:00 PM
📌 Salon A, Loews Ventana Canyon Resort

🌟 We are excited to welcome a special guest from the **Tucson VA Blind Rehab Unit**, who will be joining us to share more about their impactful work with our veterans.

We're looking forward to a great meeting, good food, and even better company—just make sure you've got your lunch reserved!

See you soon! 💙 Becky- APPC President

Name: _____
Aux: _____
Contact (Email Or Phone):_____
Highest President Position Held: Auxilary District Department

Membership $5 **Lunch $10 (no orders after June 1st, 2026)**

☐ **Cobb Salad (Gluten Friendly)** Hard Boiled Egg, Bacon, Avocado, Tomatoes, Blue Cheese Crumbles, Romaine, Mixed Greens
Paired with Creamy Blue Cheese

☐ **Caesar Salad** Parmesan Cheese, Croutons, Romaine
Paired with Caesar Dressing

☐ **Greek Salad** Cucumbers, Tomatoes, Kalamata Olives, Red Onions, Feta Cheese, Romaine, Mixed Greens
Paired with Creamy Greek Dressing

Pick Your Protein:
☐ Roasted Chicken ☐ Buffalo Chicken ☐ Tofu ☐ Steak (+$1)

Dressings (change is you like something Direrent)
☐ Balsamic Vinaigrette ☐ Creamy Greek ☐ Creamy Blue Cheese ☐ Ranch
☐ Bbq Ranch ☐ Jalapeño Ranch ☐ Thai ☐ Caesar

*The **2026-2027 PAR** report will begin on May 1st. Please go in and record your activities you completed for April. There is also an activity sheet to show what you need for each program.

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*Department Convention is set for June 11th thru 14th. Click here for hotel information and here for banquet information.

*National Convention will be held in Reno in July. See the information below that was in the National E-Newsletter recently.

Every year, thousands of VFW Auxiliary and VFW Delegates gather to represent our combined membership of more than 1.3 million at National Convention.

Nestled along the Sierra Nevada Mountains in a high desert valley known as the Truckee Meadows, Reno was dubbed the "biggest little city in the world" in the 1920s. A century later, Reno is known as much for its live music and arts festivals as it is for its gaming outlets.

There are two ways to book your room:

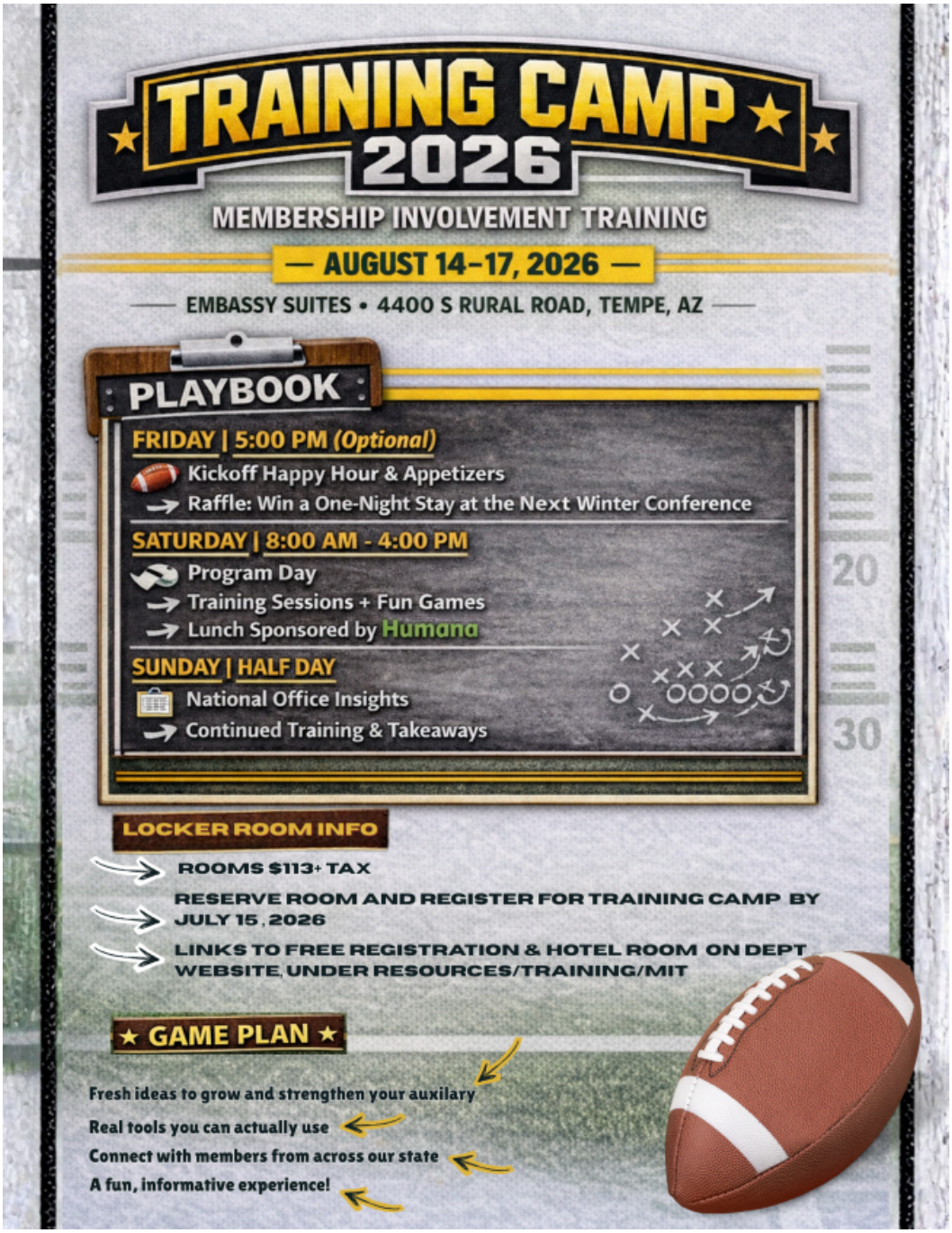
1) Online: **vfw.org/convention** - this is the quickest and easiest way to book a room and the VFW highly encourages all reservations to be made this way.

2) By phone: 800-223-7277 for all 3 properties
- Silver Legacy Resort (VFW HQ): 775-329-4777; Group Code: SRVFW6
- Eldorado Resort (Auxiliary HQ): 775-786-5700; Group Code: SRVFW6
- Circus Circus Hotel & Casino: 775-329-0711; Group Code: SRVFW6D

Reservations must be made by phone or online by June 15, 2026. Reservations received after this date will be subject to availability. Please note ALL Department guest rooms will be held in a general room inventory so that any Department can book at any hotel. This is to avoid empty rooms sitting there until the cutoff. If you choose to stay with your Department, the VFW advises that you make your reservation as soon as possible. If you have any questions regarding reservations, contact jgagne@caesars.com.

Don't delay, book your room for the
2026 National Convention in Reno, Nevada today!

Find more information here:
https://www.vfw.org/convention



President Brenda Kinghorn's Message

May is a critical high activity month for the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

Military Appreciation Month

- May 1st, first Day of Military Appreciation Month
- Silver Star Banner Day (honors wounded/ill veterans)
- May 8th, Military Spouse Appreciation
- May 13th, Children of Fallen Patriots Day
- May 16th, Armed Forces Day

Annual VFW Day of Service – Partner with the Post – Kicks off Saturday, May 2nd, all month. Showcases veterans banding together to make a difference in their communities by combining resources, gaining media support and dedicating the entire month to service. ("Buddy Poppy" drives, membership recruiting, fundraising activities and events, do not quality)
VFW headquarters has a list of 100 items to look over https://todaysvfw.org
Show the activities of the Day of Service on the Auxiliary Facebook page and websites.

Memorial Day – May 25th – Honor fallen service members of the U.S. Military.

Department of Arizona VFWA ended the 2025-2026 program year on March 31st. Thank you all for getting all the auxiliary PARs (Project Activity Reports) in. We are now calculating the end of the year totals for the National Fact Sheet.

The 2026-2027 Par reporting will open on the Department of Arizona website, vfwauxaz.org on May 1st. If March reporting was missed it can be added to April report.

Members, after you read my May news article, please put a flower on your Facebook page and tag me. If you do not have Facebook, text me a picture of a flower, at 928-205-1066. I want to see who is reading my article.

Kim Sloan
Secretary/Treasurer

25 Convention Minutes and Auxiliary Delegate fees can be accessed behind log in on the Department website at www.vfwauxaz.org. The minutes are under the Department Convention tab, and the fees are located under the Treasurer tab.

Recruiters -
If the application does not have a Recruiter listed, the application will be processed without the recruiter being given credit on the MALTA Recruiter List. This cannot be changed or corrected after the fact, so please recognize those members that are helping our organization grow.

You are all getting so good with sending in completed applications. We've had multiple applications showing the relationship as an "IN LAW". Really??? Show me in the Bylaws where we can accept an in law relationship. But those applicants want to join, they just don't get the relationship requirement. Help them to find an eligible veteran that they are related to that they can realize their dream of joining the Auxiliary. If they don't have an eligible veteran, invite them to volunteer with the Auxilary. Honor and appreciate them as a volunteer.

Secretaries - As soon as officers at District and Auxiliary levels are elected and installed, you need to input them in MALTA. Call me if you have any issues.

Secretaries - As soon as National Delegates are elected, please input them in MALTA. If you make a mistake or need help, just call me. With National

Convention being in Reno and so close to Arizona, we're looking forward to having a great delegation at convention.

This is a reprint of an old article but it's something that we need to keep talking about.
Let's talk about the office of Department Guard. We understand the committment 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 2026-2027 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 and election for Department Guard and Department Conductor. Again the members running for those offices will do so with no expections of moving forward. But of course, they may decide to run for a different office.

The tentative convention agenda is included in this newsletter. As you can see, it's been revised from years past. We're trying to give the members a little more down time to relax and enjoy time with friends.

Looking forward to seeing you next month in Tucson!

Department Secretary - Treasurer
Kim Sloan
Cell: 520.307.7940
Email: auxvfwarizona@msn.com

TENTATIVE VFW AUXILIARY CONVENTION AGENDA

Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday — Registration — Times TBD

Wednesday 4:00

Auxiliary Ritual Practice — Tentative Location
Salons J,K,L
All Officers and Ritual Team

TBA Memorial Service Practice — All Department Officers, Ritual Team, District Presidents

Thursday 9:00 a.m. Joint Meeting — Salons B and C
Dress Officers - Official Look
Members and Guests - Patriotic

Outstanding Auxiliary Awards
Outstanding District Awards
Patriotic Art Awards
Merit Scholarship Award
Continuing Education Scholarship Award

Thursday 2:00 p.m.

APPC Lunch Meeting — Salon A
4:00 p.m. Auxiliary Ritual Practice — Salon A

7:00 p.m. Memorial Service — Salons B and C
Dress Officers – Official Look
Ritual Team – White blouse, Dark Slacks

Friday 9:00 a.m. Auxiliary Opening Business Session — Dress – Red Shirt Friday!

Escort Past Department Presidents
Escort District Presidents
Cross of MALTA
Opening Ceremony
Roll Call
Convention Rules

Minutes, Financial
Auxiliary Program Awards

Friday Lunch on your own

Friday 1:00 p.m. Auxiliary Business Session Resumes

Finish Auxiliary Awards
Nominations
2026-2027 Announcement of Appointments
2026-2027 Program Kickoff

Saturday 9:00 a.m. Auxiliary Business Session Resumes — Dress – Department President's Shirt

	Visit VFW	Dept Pres, Nat Rep, Dept Sec
	National Resolutions	Review by National Representative
	Department Bylaws Amendment	
	Elections	
	Closing Ceremony	
Saturday 4:00 p.m.	Installation	Salon A All 2026-2027 Officers, Appointed Officers, District Presidents Dress – After 5 Attire/Cocktail
	5:00 p.m. Reception	
	6:00 p.m. Banquet	
Sunday 9:00 a.m.		
	Council of Administration Meeting	Salon A Dress – Department President's shirt

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Chief of Staff
Bambi Johnson

Wow, what wonderful year this has been here in Arizona! The Auxiliary reports have all been turned in and we are about to hold our Dept. Convention. I believe we are stronger as a state with each passing year.

The Mentoring Teams have been working extremely hard with our Auxiliaries that began the year with challenges, and I am happy to report that not one was lost this year. Mentoring is a key ingredient in educating and encouraging members to participate in both programs and leadership.

We are currently working with several unaffiliated Posts that are desiring to form Auxiliaries and foresee those becoming a reality during this next program year. More and more unaffiliated Posts are realizing the value of the partnership of Comrades and Auxiliary members towards the success of our shared goals.

I also thank you all for the information that you posted this year on social media that allowed members not only in Arizona, but across the country to see how creative and hard working our members are!

I enjoyed working with the Mentoring Teams, Officers and most of all with all the members this year. You have all done an outstanding job and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Department Convention!

Membership
Crystal McCarthy

Membership Update – Let's Finish Strong

As of the writing of this entry, we have had great success—and it shows in the numbers:

- **414 new Life Members**
- **33 Life Members rejoined**
- **200 new Annual Members**
- **22 Annual Members rejoined**
- **10,572 Continuous Life Members**
- **831 Continuous Annual Members**

That brings our Department total to **12,072 members**.
That's something to be proud of!

Now, we're down to the final stretch—**just 2 months until the June 30 cutoff**—and we still have ***290 unpaid members*** to reach.

Presidents, this is the moment to make them a priority.
Pick up the phone. Send a text. Shoot an email with simple instructions on renewing through MALTA. These small touches have been proven to work—and sometimes, members are simply waiting to hear from you.

Get your members involved:

- Ask if they recognize names on the unpaid list
- Encourage personal outreach
- Consider organizing a **call tree**

And don't forget—if a member may be struggling right now, consider a vote to utilize your **Relief Fund** to help them stay connected.

Every single member matters. Every contact counts.

As always, I'm here—please reach out anytime with questions, ideas, or even just to talk through a plan. Let's bring this home strong.

The Raffle that Kim Harney was selling tickets for during the year is completed. The list of winners is below. Checks will be at convention. See Becky Kent if your name is on the list. Thank you to everyone for your support.

Raffle Winning Tickets	
Melissa Lilly (4903)	Will be delivered at Department Convention
Donna Ventola (5990)	Will be delivered at Department Convention
Ruth Malick (9399)	Will be delivered at Department Convention
Joyce Mitchell (9972)	Will be delivered at Department Convention
Crystal McCarthy (10254)	Will be delivered at Department Convention
Bambi Johnson (9399)	Will be delivered at Department Convention
Kerry Schrand (7968)	Will be delivered at Department Convention
Pat Stinson (7968)	Will be delivered at Department Convention
Cathy Treat (720)	Will be delivered at Department Convention
Morgan McHose (10254)	Will be delivered at Department Convention
Johnnie DeBoard (404)	Will be delivered at Department Convention
Heather Bullock (549)	Will be delivered at Department Convention
Melody Judd (9907)	Will be delivered at Department Convention
Jim Shanley (9400)	Will be delivered at Department Convention
Lydia Lagunas (3713)	Will be delivered at Department Convention
Irene Nowacki (9399)	Will be delivered at Department Convention
Anita Hess (549)	Will be delivered at Department Convention
Derek Hulsebus (3713)	Will be delivered at Department Convention
Jeff Maiville (12098)	Will be delivered at Department Convention
Lois Moore (1433)	Will be delivered at Department Convention
Amy Bennett (3632)	Will be delivered at Department Convention
Melissa Haws (9972)	Will be delivered at Department Convention
Jeanne Hampton (10386)	Will be delivered at Department Convention
Todd Edgar (285)	Will be delivered at Department Convention
Rachel Bru (IA)	Will be delivered at National
Marvie Wisniewski (IL)	Will be delivered at National
Tela Harbold (FL)	Donated back to Celebration fund
Betty Decker (NM)	Donated back to Celebration fund
Allen Kent, Jr. (9972)	Donated back to Celebration fund
Elaine Inskeep	Donated to Department Scholarship Fund
Bonnie Mazza	Donated to Department Hospital Fund

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

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