

September 1, 2025

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Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter

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*The **newsletter** will now come out twice a month. On the **first**, it will have announcements, and messages from President Brenda Kinghorn, NDCM #15 Betty Decker, Sec/Treasurer Kim Sloan and Membership Chairman Crystal McCarthy. Then on the **15th**, the newsletter will have all the program chairmen promotions for that month. We hope you like the new format.

*President Brenda Kinghorn's **homecoming celebration** will be on September 13th in Show Low. Cost of the ticket is \$25. Hope to see you there. Click [here](#) to see the flyer.

***Fall Conference** is Oct 3-5, 2025. Click [here](#) for the agenda, banquet and

hotel information.

*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. April, May and June should already be completed.

*The question was asked at MIT about using the \$ sign in the PAR. This is not possible on the form. Simply put the amount in the blank for the money. Also, you will no longer be able to put a zero (0) in as an amount on questions. If you do not have an amount to put in the question, please leave it blank.



President Brenda Kinghorn's Message

Happy Labor Day!!
WOW!!! Where did August go??

Bring in September with celebrating, marking the end of summer and honoring the American Labor movement. Grandparents' day is also in September, honor them at the post and schools!!

A Survey was emailed out last month about the Department Newsletter. **We heard you.** Starting the first of this month, the newsletter will have articles from the president, administration and membership update. Two weeks later, a second newsletter will be emailed with the Program Chairmen's news article.

A survey will be emailed out again in January after Winter conference to get your thoughts on how you like the new format. Please look for it and respond.

Department of Arizona was represented by several members during the week of August 8th through 14th, at the National Convention in Columbus, Ohio. A lot of information, trainings, meetings, and swapping ideas with other states to bring back to our Auxiliaries.

Congratulations to our very own, Kim Harney on her installation as National Junior Vice President.

National Auxiliary President Lois Callahan has a very positive attitude and a vision for the Auxiliaries for her year to grow membership. She put it out to her Department Presidents to challenge their Auxiliaries. Department of Arizona is up for the challenge!

Reinstate!
Recruit!
Revitalize!
Retain!

This year, we decided to have One (1) Member Involvement Training, (MIT) where we asked the membership to attend a 3-day event, with fun activities, information on programs, swapping ideas for the betterment of the

Department. We feel it was a great success, after suggestion cards were filled out and read.

The weekend of August 22nd to 24th, was the Department of Arizona's **Member Involvement Training (MIT)**, held at Embassy Suites in Tempe. Friday night was sponsored by Humana, with Bingo and prizes. Friday night attendees received a raffle ticket, to be entered into a drawing for 1 free night stay, at the Fall Conference, in October, at the BlueWater Casino, in Parker. 5 lucky attendees' tickets were drawn. Congratulations!

Saturday there were approximately 170 registered for the MIT. The members were assigned colored name tags with corresponding tables. Where they met members from other auxiliaries and swapped ideas. Department line officers, program chairmen, and past Department presidents put on a Mock Round Table Auxiliary meeting. The members in attendance were asked to spot errors in the proceedings and hold up a stop sign to halt the meeting and tell the officers what the error was.

Next on the agenda, was the Program fair. Each Program Chairmen had a table set up in the hallways with their program information and handouts during their presentation and having a Q & A session. The members that had the same-colored name tags, stayed together and moved to the different chairmen's presentation.

We broke for lunch, sponsored by Humana. After lunch, Humana did a presentation, thanked everyone for a fun, informational weekend. Finishing with the Chairmen 's program fair. Chief of Staff, Bambi Johnson and Deputy Chief of Staff, Doug Kinghorn did a presentation for **Extension and Revitalization** on how to spot an unhealthy auxiliary and how to get healthy. Where there was a great response from the members from their presentation.

Next up, I had my presentation, with the help of the Department line officers, "**The Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation**", which from the book we had members from the audience, come up and start the building of the foundation pyramid. Line officers proceeded to add their block position and explain what the definition of their title. As you can see, we are all members of this organization!

Sunday, we went over Malta, Treasurer/Secretary, Outstanding Auxiliary award check off sheet and finally answering questions that the membership had.

Peggy Welch, Chairman for **Buddy Poppy/National Home**, put on a game of Jeopardy, three members from the audience, played the game. With providing the questions for the answers, it was so much fun and educational!

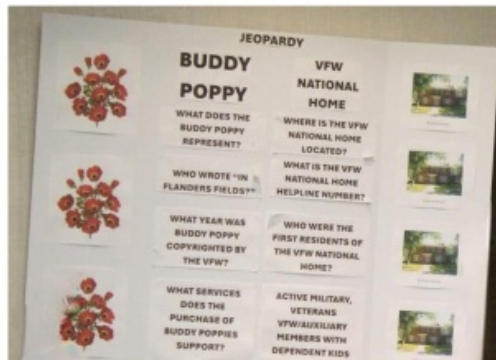
Media/Historian, Paulette Marshall, had to reinvent the Department's Facebook. Please go to **VFW Auxiliary Department of Arizona**, and request to join. This way, as members of the Department of Arizona VFW and Auxiliary, can see what we all are doing across Arizona.

The Department Chairmen are working hard, getting the message out to the membership that is requested from their National Ambassadors. Thank you to the Department Line officers, Past Department Presidents, District Presidents and all the members, for the past weekend.

Fall Conference is coming up, at **BlueWater Resort & Casino**, Parker, AZ. October 3rd, with **COA** on Friday night. Saturday, with the Conference programs with the Auxiliary and their VFW counterparts. We are going to have fun and education on both sides of the house for the programs. (More information on the Department Auxiliary Website, vfwauxaz.org under news/department events)

Remember – My Special project is “**Blankets for Bryan**”. Click [here](#) to see the flyer. Using [#blanketsforbryanaz](#), I can see what your auxiliary is doing for my project.

Thank you for all you do and continue to do.



Betty Decker

As we head into our new year, I want to thank everyone for their support. I am honored to be National District 15 Council Member. I hope to continue to learn and to bring your voices to the organizations.



If you were unable to attend National Convention please log into MALTA, under Member Resources you will find National Convention. Here you will find links to the Proposed Ritual Revisions, Resolutions, and Disciplinary Action guide for you to read through. These are the results.

- New Images - passed
- Floor Plans for the Memorial Service – passed
- Ritual Revisions – passed with amendments
- Article XI-Discipline – passed
- No 1. Deceased Life Members – passed
- No 2. NDCMs – passes
- No 3. Believe in God – passes
- No 4. Meeting Confidentiality – no vote without more information
- No 5. Suspension-Revocation District – passed
- No 6. – no vote
- No 7. Option B National Vacancy – passed
- No 8. Surety Amount – passed
- No 9. Dispensing Funds – passed with an amendment

With these changes we should all be looking to order the 2026 Podium Edition. Please note that you do not need to order the physical book unless you want to. National does place the PDF version of the Podium edition on MALTA. You can download it and save it to the files on your computer/tablet/phone.

I feel that I need to say a few things about our organization in regard to the changes of the ritual and resolutions. We do not always agree, but we are always working towards the same goal. Please keep this in mind when interacting with family, friends, volunteers, comrades, or any other individual that you might work with when helping our veterans and their families.

As Auxiliary members we are all very different with different things that we enjoy doing and that is what makes us perfect for the mission of helping veterans. Our veterans and their families are all very different. There is no right or wrong way of helping there is only the need, want, and ability to help.

Remember we support each other as we support veterans and their families. I am sure that you have all attended the MIT, apologies that I did not get to attend, I hope to see you all at Fall Conference.

If you have any questions, you can reach me at bldeck@live.com

Secretary/Treasurer
Kim Sloan

Congratulations to the winners of MIT Friday night drawing! These members will receive one paid hotel



night at Fall Conference!

Debbie Ennen Auxiliary 10005
Kelly Durst Auxiliary 3632
Pat Stinson Auxiliary 7968
Mike Virden Auxiliary 1760
Lee Goerke Auxiliary 4903

Bylaws Revisions

Here is a recap of the Bylaws Resolutions considered at 2025 National Convention.

Disciplinary Action

Important to note that members who have committed offenses recognized by the VFW Auxiliary **MAY** be subject to Disciplinary Action. The List is included in the Bylaws. NOTE that an Auxiliary may **NOT** run background checks on members unless it's for legitimate reasons such as employment.

DO NOT EVEN CONTEMPLATE FILING A DISCIPLINARY ACTION UNTIL YOU TALK TO DEPARTMENT SECRETARY OR ASST SECRETARY OR ASST TREASURER. Chances are we're going to help you find a different resolution.

Notice that I did not say to talk to the Department President. The President should not be involved in any way as the President is one level in the appeal process and should not have previous knowledge.

A DISCIPLINARY ACTION WILL TEAR YOUR AUXILIARY APART.

That is not to say it may be the appropriate action but don't do it without very serious consideration.

Auxiliary is responsible for all costs.

RESOLUTION 1 – PASSED

Your Auxiliary is at risk of having your Life Member Per Capita recouped by the National Organization if they can show that LM's have been deceased over 3 years and they have reason to believe your Auxiliary knew or should have known.

Please start looking at your membership roster now and try to confirm that members are still alive.

If deceased – MARK THEM DECEASED!!!! There is no advantage to keeping them on your roster.

Couple of websites to try –<https://www.findagrave.com> or <https://www.searchpeoplefree.com>

RESOLUTION 2 – PASSED

If a Department (Arizona) does not elect a National District 15 Council Member (in our case that will be 2027 convention) then the Department will be put on suspension, and the President will appoint a Pro Tem.

RESOLUTION 3 – PASSED

Delete in the obligation that an applicant/member must "Profess a Belief in God".

As you can imagine there was a lively discussion on this topic but it really came down to the mission of the Auxiliary is to help veterans. Delegates stated that they don't care about your religious preference as long as you are willing to work on the mission of the VFW Auxiliary; And the VFW does not require it of their members, and they are pretty adamant that the Auxiliary remove it.

RESOLUTION 4 – Postponed

As amended –

Divulging of VFW Auxiliary private business to non-members outside of the actual Auxiliary Business Meeting, shall not be allowed. Apparently, they just want something in the book that they can show members that are talking out of school.

RESOLUTION 5 – PASSED

If the Department President suspends a District -

This resolution requires the Department President to recommend the suspension to the National President.

RESOLUTION 6 – Not presented because Resolution 7 was presented and passed.

RESOLUTION 7 – PASSED

AFFECTS National Line

If vacancy occurs in Jr. Vice, Chaplain, Conductor or Guard, the National President will appoint a Pro Tem from the same Conference. Election would then take place at next convention with nominees from that Conference.

RESOLUTION 8 – PASSED

Currently bonds need to be 2x funds of Auxiliary.

Starting July 2026 – 1.25 average amount of all funds

RESOLUTION 9 – PASSED

All monies collected for Special Projects shall be forwarded to the designated program/project within that fiscal year UNLESS A MOTION AUTHORIZING A DIFFERENT TIME FRAME IS APPROVED.

So if an Auxiliary has a fundraiser for National Continuing Education Scholarship – those funds must be sent to National thru MALTA by June 30.

Department Funds are different as we have Standing Rules.

But Donations to National Home, National Veterans Services, etc must be sent by end of year.

Miscellaneous Items

CHANGE OF BANK ACCOUNTS

I misspoke at MIT - If you have changed banks or accounts – the Treasurer must enter the new information in MALTA.

MISSING AUDITS

The National Organization is encouraging the Department President to recommend suspension of any Auxiliary or District that is missing 2 Audits. So please stay on top of getting your audits completed and approved by the Auxiliary and sent to Department Treasurer.

3RD PARTY PAYMENTS – VENMO, PAYPAL, SQUARE

Auxiliaries may accept a payment of this type, but it must be:

- Approved by the Auxiliary.
- Account accepting payment MUST be in the name of the Auxiliary.
- Any fees associated with the account must be approved by the Auxiliary.

BONDS

The Auxiliary Bond is a Dishonesty bond – the Auxiliary must prove that the

President or Treasurer personally profited.

So if Suzy Jones takes money home from a fundraiser with intent to get it to the Treasurer next day and she gets robbed.....Bond will not pay.

Same for if Treasurer gets robbed on the way to the bank....bond will not pay.

APPLICATIONS

I'm still getting original applications instead of a copy. The Auxiliary must keep the original application in their files. If you send me the original application and there is a question about that membership you will not have a record of that application. Department only requires a COPY!

I have lots more to share and questions from the MIT that will be answered in the next issue of the newsletter.

Call or email if you have any questions.

Membership Crystal McCarthy

Hook 'Em, Reel 'Em In & Keep 'Em!

Membership is equally about signing up new folks and making sure every member feels valued and connected so that they want to keep coming back. Together we can grow stronger and keep our Auxiliary family thriving.



Here are the latest numbers from across our **10 Districts**:

- District 1: 93.76%
- District 2: 88.92%
- District 3: 79.81%
- District 4: 90.64%
- District 5: 86.86%
- District 6: 87.04%
- District 7: 92.93%
- District 8: 88.72%
- District 9: 83.19%
- District 10: 91.89%
-

Don't forget the Ocean's Four challenge! Get those tracking sheets into me by Sept 30th to earn \$50 for your auxiliary. Information can be found on the Membership page of the department website - www.vfwauxaz.org

Membership Eligibility Clarification

There was apparently a little confusion at MIT, so let's set the record straight. To be eligible, a person must fall into one of the recognized categories and have a direct line to a VFW-eligible veteran. An Auxiliary member cannot be substituted for that veteran.

The easiest way to remember eligibility is:

- From the veteran: two generations back (parents, grandparents)
- From the veteran: two generations forward (children, grandchildren)

- From the veteran: same generation in their **immediate** family (siblings, spouse)

Please also remember; **great grandparents**, cousins, nephews, aunts, and uncles are not eligible. In addition, any half, step or adopted member must fit into one of the above **eligible** categories but the application should not show relationship as half, step or adopted.

I apologize for any misunderstanding, and I am always available if you have questions.



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