

Hello everyone, Happy September! Kids are all back in School.

Just got back from the VFW National Convention in Columbus, Ohio and boy it was exciting. Hearing directly from the Ambassadors is always great to make sure we are all on the same page with our programs.

This newsletter I will share some Auxiliary SWAP ideas on how to work your program.

At our Department Convention, one of our youth helpers asked why we do not walk in the area by the bible (our sacred ground) and it was a very good question. How many of us know the answer? Shelley Pool from Auxiliary 769 thought this was a great way to honor youth who exemplify patriotism with a T-shirt. The shirt reads, "Dear Veteran Thank you for our freedom". Show our youth how important our Veterans are. It was presented to her Grandmother Angela Cummins-Hubbard from 3632 at our MIT this past weekend.

Auxiliary 10386 has a Brownie group they sponsor. When the Auxiliary visits the Brownies, they invite a Veteran to go with them to talk to the Brownies. An example of youth and veterans working together. Present the Veteran with an "Acts of Kindness" Certificate.

New to the Youth Program this year and can be used in so many situations are Act of Kindness Certificates. Not only can you use them to acknowledge youth being kind to Veterans and families, but you can also recognize Veterans being kind to our youth. Great for using in church, school, hospital, post or even at home. Let our Youth know that we see, hear, and appreciate all they do. [youth act of kindness cit.pdf](#)

Consider starting a program in your auxiliary once a month where the youth are invited to visit. Have a basket of books from the [Patriotism through Literacy](#) reading list in all age groups and have them read to our Veterans or have the Veteran read to our youth as "**Reading Buddies**". Use **#auxreadingbuddy** to promote what you are doing. This goes directly to National to let them know what we are doing. Or Volunteer to read to kids in the library from the list. If the library doesn't own the books from the list, suggest a fund raiser to purchase some Patriotism through Literacy books and donate them to the library. So many of our children are being left behind in education due to issues in reading and comprehension. If just one person in each auxiliary or post reaches out and helps one student, imagine the impact we can make in their lives.

Another SWAP shared at MIT: Print the R.A.P. cards out on sticker paper! Youth love their stickers. Have Random Acts of Patriotism cards on hand, whether they be business cards or stickers, so you can present Youth with the recognition they deserve.

Looking forward to seeing all you do #AZ2526Youth on social media!