

VFW Auxiliary Department of Arizona District 5

August 29, 2026

The District 5 meeting was called to order at 10:35 following a joint meeting with multiple community partners presenting programs. The meeting was called to order by District 5 President Melissa Lilly at VFW Post 5990 Marana with 23 members present.

Opening ceremony was held. There were no official National or Department officers or guests present.

Roll Call of Officers

President Melissa Lilly	Present
Sr. Vice President Valerie Jordan	Present
Jr. Vice President Paula Serrato	Present
Treasurer Wanda Phares	Present
Secretary Kim Sloan	Present
Conductor Peggy Welch	Present
Guard Tim Harper	Present
1 Yr Trustee	vacant Pro Tem Toni Johnson
2 Yr Trustee	Deborah Huchinson
3 Yr Trustee	Sylvia Hartsfeld

Roll Call of Auxiliaries

Tucson Auxiliary 549	President + 7
Catalina Auxiliary 4903	President + 3
Avra Valley – Marana Auxiliary 5990	President + 7
James E. “Greg” Beeson Auxiliary 10254	President + 2

Roll Call of Past District Presidents

Chrisy Harlan	Present
Kim Sloan	Present
Pam Spencer	Absent
Brenda Price	Absent
Toni Johnson	Present
Donna Ventola	Present
Marie Monsen	Absent
Carol Gerving	Absent
Anita Hess	Present
Crystal McCarthy	Present
Paula Serrato	Present

Presentation of Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The Minutes of the April 2026 meeting were approved as distributed.

Official and Other Communications

The following items were distributed to the Auxiliary Presidents and announced by the Secretary:

- National President's General Orders No. 1
- National Citations for Auxiliaries
- 2026-2027 National Joint Special Project – Funding DPAA
- Outstanding Auxiliary Checklist
- Department of Arizona Fall Conference Memo, Flyer and Agenda
- District 5 Meeting Schedule
- Flyer for Arizona Center for the Missing in Action POW/MIA Ceremony

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer Phares presented the Treasurer's Report which will be filed subject to audit.

Beginning Balance	General Fund	\$4,901.13
	Total Receipts	\$ 858.50
	Total Disbursements	\$ 300.00
	Ending Balance	\$5,459.63

Presentation of Bills

None

Unfinished Business

Election/Installation of 1 Yr Trustee

Kim Sloan nominated Tasha Rodriguez (Auxiliary 5990). Tasha Rodriguez was elected by acclamation.

Department Conductor Crystal McCarthy installed District Sr. Vice President Valerie Jordan and 1 Yr Trustee Tasha Rodriguez.

New Business

PDP Chrissy Harlan moved to amend Standing Rules to delete #6 and #7; Seconded by Alison McHose; Motion Carried.

PDP Chrissy Harlan moved to add a new Standing Rule as #6 that the District will hold a 50/50 Raffle with tickets as \$1 for one, \$5 for six; Seconded by Paula Serrato; Motion Carried.

Department Conductor Crystal McCarthy moved that the District get a Debit Card; Seconded by Department Jr. Vice Becky Baldwin; Motion carried. In order to meet the requirement of the National Bylaws the Treasurer will email monthly copies of the monthly bank statements for approval.

Department Conductor Crystal McCarthy moved that the District Treasurer obtain a Zelle account to be used for deposits only; Seconded by Allison McHose; Motion carried. In order to get a Zelle account, the Treasurer will create a gmail account to register with Zelle.

Reports of Committees

Department Conductor Crystal McCarthy and Department Jr. Vice Becky Baldwin reported on the Gold Star Family event.

There were 13 Gold Star Families present and the remaining veteran's families were represented on a Tree of Honor. All District 5 Auxiliaries were represented.

Every Post and Auxiliary from District 5 donated and after paying all the bills there is \$432.11 left over for next year's event. The Veteran's Charities of Pima County (Post 549) covered the cost of beverages for the event.

The 2nd Quarter Audit Report was read by Pro Tem 1 Yr Trustee Toni Johnson who moved to accept the Audit Report; Seconded by Valerie Jordan; Motion carried.

School of Instruction

President Lilly provided each Auxiliary with a 3 ring binder with program promotional items. Allison McHose spoke about understanding eligibility and community events/festivals and the recruiting opportunities. Auxiliary 10254 will be voting on three new members they recruited at a recent community event.

Auxiliary 549 Chaplain Irene Knecht reported on the importance of staying connected with members – she sends birthday cards with flyers about upcoming events.

Multiple members spoke about importance of carrying membership applications including VFW membership applications. Crystal McCarthy included a sheet with information for potential members to use at big recruiting events and that sheet is also on the Department website. New members need to be shown how to access MALTA, especially annual members so that they can access their membership card. VFW Post 10015 is still working on a potential Auxiliary.

Mentoring – Allison McHose reported on the importance of initiating new members into the social aspect of membership.

VFW Post 12222 is hoping next year to start process of starting an Auxiliary.

Reports of Auxiliaries

All District 5 Auxiliaries reported on upcoming events.

Auxiliary 4903 reported on an event that they are participating in at the Pima Air & Space Museum on October 24. If other Auxiliaries want to participate all are welcome. Lots of discussion on ways to participate.

Announcements

Auxiliary 549 President Paula Serrato reminded the members about ordering wreaths for Wreaths Across America.

PDP Toni Johnson has tumblers that can be ordered to benefit the Arizona Center for Missing in Action.

Department Fall Conference – September 4-6, 2026 @ JW Marriott Tucson

Closing ceremony was held and the meeting was closed at 12:05 p.m. The next District Meeting will be October 24, 2026 at VFW Post 2767 San Manuel with joint meeting at 10:30.

KIM SLOAN
District 5 Secretary

Accepted as Distributed/Presented

Accepted as Corrected