

August 4, 2026

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Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter

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Department Announcements

***MIT** will be August 14-16 at the Embassy Suites in Tempe. See flyer below.

***Fall Conference** is Sept 5-7, 2026. Go to www.vfwauxaz.org. Log in and click on Dept Conventions and Conferences. There you will find the information for the hotel and banquet.

★ TRAINING CAMP ★

2026

MEMBERSHIP INVOLVEMENT TRAINING

— AUGUST 14-16, 2026 —

EMBASSY SUITES • 4400 S RURAL ROAD, TEMPE, AZ

PLAYBOOK

FRIDAY | 5:00 PM (Optional)

🏈 Kickoff Happy Hour & Appetizers

➔ Raffle: Win a One-Night Stay at the Next Winter Conference

SATURDAY | 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

📅 Program Day

➔ Training Sessions + Fun Games

➔ Lunch Sponsored by **Humana**

SUNDAY | HALF DAY

📅 National Office Insights

➔ Continued Training & Takeaways

LOCKER ROOM INFO

- ➔ **ROOMS \$113+ TAX**
- ➔ **RESERVE ROOM AND REGISTER FOR TRAINING CAMP BY JULY 15, 2026**
- ➔ **LINKS TO FREE REGISTRATION & HOTEL ROOM ON DEPT WEBSITE, UNDER RESOURCES/TRAINING/MIT**

★ GAME PLAN ★

- Fresh ideas to grow and strengthen your auxiliary
- Real tools you can actually use
- Connect with members from across our state
- A fun, informative experience!





President Melissa Martin

Hello everyone!

National Convention was so much fun. It was great getting to see some of the friends we have made from other states. We all need to congratulate Brenda Kinghorn and the Department of Arizona for achieving Circle of Excellence.

We are also very proud of our own Kim Harney for being elected to National Senior Vice.

Some really cool news: at the National C of A it was voted unanimous to purchase a new National Home House. It will be the VFW Auxiliary house. The National home is completely full and there are 10 families waiting for a house, so they are really in need of more houses.

Don't forget MIT is coming up soon Aug 14th thru the 16th. Then we will have Fall conference which is September 4th thru the 6th. Friday night will be our C of A. I hope to see many of the auxiliaries represented - remember that attendance is part of the Outstanding Auxiliaries Award.

Treasurer Kim Sloan

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP CARDS

- The resolution to stop mailing **ANNUAL** membership cards to new, rejoin and continuous members passed at the National Convention. There are numerous ways that Auxiliaries can help their members.
- Show/tell them how to log into MALTA on their phones and save their card to their wallet
- For New/Rejoin Annual Members - Print and mail cards with welcome packet
- For Continuous Members - Print and mail cards with short letter about Auxiliary activities



It is crucial to keep all members informed so that they know we value their membership.

LEGACY LIFE MEMBERSHIP Program

At the National Council of Administration meeting, it was approved that the Legacy Life Membership program will be brought before the entire membership at the 2027 National Convention. This will give all members a chance to make their voices heard.

AUDITS

Copies of Audits for the 2nd quarter are due to Department Treasurer by August 31. With changes in officers at year end, you may need some extra time. Extensions may be granted for extenuating circumstances.

TREASURER'S BOOKS

The Treasurer's Books are to remain in control of the Treasurer. Members may request to view the Treasurer's Books but those books must remain in control of the Treasurer.

In the extreme event that the Treasurer cannot attend an audit, the Treasurer may deliver the Treasurer's Books to the Trustees to complete the audit. Treasurer's Books contain personal member information which is not to be shared with anyone other than the Trustees for the purpose of the audit.

VFW REQUESTS

VFW members are not to be allowed to view the Treasurer's Books. Any VFW-related concerns involving the Treasurer should be handled through the chain of command and will be reviewed by the Department President.

Secretary Chrissy Harlan

I have just arrived home from the VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Reno, Nevada. As a Department we had 35 registered members at the convention. It was great seeing all of you. We had a fun and productive Convention and



Council of Administration meeting. Some of the Resolutions passed and some failed. We will be going over them on Sunday morning at MIT. Jeanette Garcia from the Department of New Mexico was elected National Guard.

Live streaming of the next National Convention was discussed at the Council of Administration meeting. The Cost to live stream the 2025 convention was just over \$21,000 and the price would have been higher this year. After several amendments were made the motion passed to live stream the 2027 convention with an access fee of \$100. The thought process behind the price was that many Auxiliaries and Departments hold streaming parties for their members so only one fee would be paid. A bit expensive for individuals.

MIT (Member Involvement Training) is August 14 – 16 at Embassy Suites in Tempe. If you **HAVE NOT REGISTERED** and plan to attend, please let me know **ASAP!** Please do not decide not to come because you missed the registration deadline. We will fit you in if at all possible. The Friday night session is **NOT** mandatory to receive credit for Outstanding Auxiliary or District but Saturday and Sunday are.

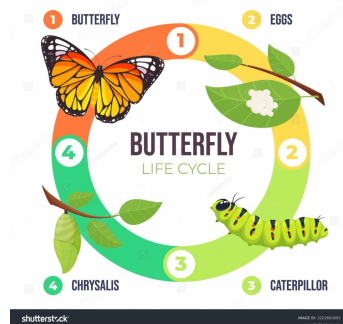
Fall Conference is early this year. It will be held at the Starr Pass Resort on September 4 through 6. The Chairmen for this event have really put a lot of work into making this an enjoyable and educational event. Please plan to attend. The Council of Administration meeting on Friday night and the Saturday sessions are required for Outstanding Auxiliary and District but the Sunday session is not.

At the VFW Auxiliary National Convention, we were reminded not to take information generated by AI as the gospel truth. Many inquiries have been received by our National headquarters staff that contained false information. Our Bylaws is the best place to get most of your questions answered. Every member should have a copy and they are available on Malta to look at for free.

Chief of Staff Donna Ventola

#AZ2627ChiefofStaff

Hello Team Arizona!!



I just wanted to know how you liked the **PROGRAM KICK-OFF** at the Convention? I hope you enjoyed it just as much as we did. I heard a lot of members hooting, hollering and cheering us on--saw a bunch of poms-poms up in the air rocking it like they just don't care.

I just wanted to recap my presentation that I did at the convention. Have you ever watched a butterfly emerge from its chrysalis? Its transformation is remarkable—and it reminds us of the journey every VFW Auxiliary takes. Auxiliaries don't become strong overnight.

They grow, adapt, and thrive through every stage of their life cycle.

The Egg – Foundation and Potential

Every butterfly begins as an egg, just as every Auxiliary welcomes new members joining, newly installed officers, a newly chartered Auxiliary, and fresh ideas and renewed excitement. We focus on orientation on Bylaws and structure, the mission of the VFW Auxiliary, understanding programs and responsibilities, and the Building of the VFW Auxiliary Foundation.

The Caterpillar – Learning and Growing

The caterpillar's job is to eat, grow strong, and prepare for what comes next. At this stage the Auxiliary trains and mentors' members, learning the Auxiliary Bylaws and National programs, developing leadership skills, and participating in meetings and projects. This stage members feed on knowledge, teamwork, encouragement, experience, respectful communication, and relationships.

The Chrysalis – Reflection and Transformation

Inside the chrysalis, change happens even though it can't always be seen. Auxiliaries evaluate what is and is not working, addresses conflict respectfully, verifying that the Auxiliary is operating according to the Bylaws, leadership changes, and help resolve issues using those Bylaws. Auxiliaries will focus on patience, honest conversations, unity, and embrace change while staying true to their mission.

The Butterfly – Leadership in Action

When the butterfly emerges, it is ready to fulfill its purpose. A healthy Auxiliary shines through confident leadership, strong engaged members, clear meeting agendas, and working the programs. We focus on working with our VFW, following the Bylaws, encourage member engagement and communication, practices respect and teamwork, and celebrate successes, and inspire others to join the mission. Like butterflies that help pollinate flowers, thriving Auxiliaries spread hope, kindness, and service wherever they go.

Every Stage Matters

A butterfly cannot skip a stage of its life cycle, and neither can an Auxiliary. Growth takes time, commitment, and members who are willing to learn, lead, and serve together. As we nurture our Auxiliaries with kindness, communication, mentorship, and purpose, we create an environment where every member has the opportunity to transform into a confident leader. Together, we can ensure our Auxiliaries don't simply survive—they flourish, just like a butterfly taking flight.

Membership
Bambi Johnson

Arizona Auxiliaries are off to an **AWESOME** start!



The Dept of Arizona is already at **91.5%** in membership, due to Life Memberships. We have been advocating for members to either join as Life Members or Convert to Life for the past few years and it has enabled us to begin each year with a running start towards 100%.

District 1 is currently the only District breaking 95% with a current total of 95.7%.

Additionally, the following Auxiliaries have reached 95%!

9977	95.28%
2357	95.56%
8242	95.85%
10726	95.91%
7968	96.43%
769	96.71%
12098	96.88%
6790	98.65%
9972	99.35%
8807	100.00%

We will be announcing some exciting Auxiliary Membership Award opportunities at the Membership Involvement Training coming up, based on information received at the National Convention. We hope to see at least one member for each Auxiliary there to get the details!

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

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