

Volume 1/ July 1, 2026

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



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Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter

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Department Announcements

*The **PAR** report is up and running. The form is behind log in. Please log in and get your Auxiliary PARs caught up and current.

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

***Fall Conference** is Sept 5-7, 2026. Stay tuned for more information on hotel and banquet.

National Convention will be held in Reno, NV on July 25-29th

***Resolutions and Ritual changes** to be addressed at the National Convention in Reno, NV can be found on www.vfwauxaz.org behind login/national convention.

*Parts of the National Convention will be **live streamed** through your MALTA account. Look for news from National on the National convention agenda - sessions that will be live streamed will have an LS after it.

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!

20

30

Football

Help Us
PLAN
Fall Conference
★ **2026** ★

 Share your ideas

 Help shape the agenda

 Make Fall Conference 2026 the best yet!

SCAN HERE!



 Scan the QR code to take our short **SURVEY!**

Your input makes a difference!
THANK YOU FOR BEING PART OF THE PLANNING!



**2025-2026
OUTSTANDING AUXILIARIES**

Nicky D. Bacon Auxiliary 285
Mohave Valley Auxiliary 404
Tucson Auxiliary 549
Corporal Ben Scott Auxiliary 769

Sandy Coor Auxiliary 1433
Casa Grande Auxiliary 1677
Santa Cruz Auxiliary 2066
Lt. Col. Joseph D. O'Hanlon Sr. Auxiliary 2357
William E. Hamilton Auxiliary 2364
Stanley A. Crews Auxiliary 3513
John M. Jackson Auxiliary 3632
Avra Valley - Marana Auxiliary 5990
Brig. Gen. Clifford H. Shuey Auxiliary 6306
Bert Black Jr. Auxiliary 7400
George T. Diehl Sr. Auxiliary 7968
Colo Gila Rivers Auxiliary 8242
Superstition Mountain Auxiliary 9399
Mt. Tipton Auxiliary 9833
White Mtn. Area Auxiliary 9907
James R. "Bob" Currieo Auxiliary 9972
Mingus Mountain Auxiliary 10227
James L. Stanfield Auxiliary 10386
Darrel D. Bommer Auxiliary 11014
Maricopa Auxiliary 12043
Buckeye Auxiliary 12098
Matthew James Broehm Auxiliary 12128

NDCM #15 Betty Decker

Greetings Auxiliary Members,

Congratulations to all Officers on your election. I hope with the new year that we will continue to improve as an Auxiliary, District, and Department. May your year be simple, easy, and fun.

I hope to see as many of our members as possible at the National Convention in Reno. We do have several resolutions that will come up for vote. You can view these resolutions on MALTA under Member Resources and National Convention. Please remember that MALTA will go down June 30th for several days. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email or text me.

Also don't forget your patriotic costume or clothes for the Rally. I hope to be able to walk with both Departments.

See you soon!



President Melissa Martin

Hi everyone! It was really nice to see you all at convention and I hope you had fun. I'm really looking forward to all the wonderful things happening this year. National convention is right around the corner. I hope to see some of you there.

MIT is coming up in August. Save the date of 8/14 thru 8/16 and come for some fun and learning. If you haven't RSVP'd, please do so as

soon as possible so enough food can be ordered for lunch. I will be coming to each district this year and look forward to talking with you all.

More to come in August !!! See you soon!!

Meet Your 2026-2027 Program Team

Every great team needs a strong coaching staff, and your 2026-2027 Department Program Chairpersons are ready to help you have a winning season!

Think of them as your cheerleaders, coaches, and biggest supporters. Their goal is to help your Auxiliary shine, promote our programs, and maybe even bring home a National Citation or two. Throughout the year, they'll be sharing ideas, tips, and winning strategies in their monthly newsletters to help make participation easy and rewarding.

Have a question? Need guidance? Looking for inspiration? Your Program Chairpersons are only a call, email, or message away. They are here to support you, celebrate your successes, and help your Auxiliary move the ball down the field.

Don't forget to visit the Department website throughout the year. You'll find program resources, reporting information, award and citation details, forms, deadlines, newsletters, and other tools designed to help your Auxiliary succeed. Be sure to check back often as new resources and coaching tips are added throughout the season.

Together, let's make this a championship year and score plenty of touchdowns for veterans, military families, and our communities!

Reach out if you need anything.



Becky Baldwin, Program Coordinator

Welcome 2026-2027 Chairmen!



Secretary Chrissy Harlan

I was honored to be appointed as Secretary for this Department and I look forward to working with each and every one of you.



I know you are accustomed to working with Kim as the Secretary and Treasurer but the two of us have been working together for a long time and will do our very best to make this a smooth transition. Kim has graciously agreed to be the Assistant Secretary to help and advise me.

My new email address is vfwauxazsecretary@gmail.com. Please use this address moving forward. Please keep in mind that I also run a small business. I do not have my email open all day everyday so if you need a quicker response, please send a text to 520-906-7363 and let me know you sent something that is a priority. That is also my cell phone number that you can call at any time. If I do not answer please leave me a message.

At the last Council of Administration meeting, we voted to sign a contract with American Income Life Insurance Company. Every member of our Auxiliary in this Department will automatically have a \$3000 Accidental Death benefit

FREE of charge. You are also entitled to a Legacy Will Kit, Health Services Discount Program and a Child Safe Kit. We will get an informational flyer up on the website shortly and I hope they can do a short explanation a MIT Training Camp. If you would like to decline this FREE benefit, you must email Kim Sloan at auxvfwarizona@msn.com no later than July 31, 2026 to be removed from the mailing list for this program.

My deepest gratitude to Becky Baldwin and Crystal McCarthy for all of their efforts in putting the new Department Officers and District Presidents on the website. President Melissa gave them an idea and they really took it to the next level. If you haven't checked it out, please go in and take a look. Becky is working on updating the website and you may find that some items have been moved. If you have trouble finding something please let her know.

Thank you all in advance for your understanding as I take on this new challenge. I am here to help you with whatever I can.



Chief of Staff Donna Ventola

Hello Team Arizona!!

I'm Donna Ventola, a proud life member of Auxiliary 5990 Avra Valley-Marana, Arizona. I joined in 2010 under my father, a Vietnam veteran. I have held many positions and chairmanships at the Auxiliary level, District level and Department level.

I am proud to be **YOUR** Department of Arizona Chief of Staff; I am honored to welcome you to a new season of service. Like a winning football team, our VFW Auxiliary succeeds when every member works together, supports one another, and stays focused on our mission of serving veterans, service members, and their families.

Our playbook begins with the Establishing New Auxiliaries, Maintaining Current Auxiliaries, and Mentoring-Encouraging members. These essentials keep our team strong, help us grow, and ensure we continue making a positive impact throughout Arizona.

Just as successful football programs expand by developing new teams, we must work to establish new Auxiliaries and bring the VFW Auxiliary mission to more communities. At the same time, we must maintain our current Auxiliaries by encouraging participation, supporting programs, developing leaders, and celebrating accomplishments.

A championship team also invests in its players. Mentoring and encouraging members are essential to our future success. Experienced members can help guide new members, share knowledge, and build confidence. When we create a welcoming environment and recognize contributions, we strengthen our bench and develop future leaders.

As we move forward this year, I encourage every Auxiliary to focus on the Five Essentials, support growth opportunities, and invest in mentoring fellow

members. Together, we can move the chains, score big for our veterans, and make this a championship season for the Department of Arizona.

See you in the END ZONE !!!!

Membership Bambi Johnson

Hello Department of Arizona!

I am Bambi Johnson, a Life member of Superstition Mountain Auxiliary 9399 in Apache Junction, and very excited to be your Membership Chair for the 2026-2027 year.



The strength of our organization is the hearts and willing hands of our members. With the three Rs (Recruit, Retain, Rejoin) we can increase our influence on how our legislators view and support items to benefit our veterans and their families.

At this year's MIT in August we will be focusing first on Recruitment with tips for how to approach potential new members, and secondly on tips to either bring in those members as Life members and how to convert Annual Members to Life Members.

When Malta reopens, please have your Secretary or Treasurer print your membership list and bring to the MIT. Lets work together on ways to convert those Annual members to Life.

As we progress through the year, we will have challenges shown in the newsletter to help you work with the three Rs to growth and strengthen our Auxiliary!



APPC

Auxiliary Past President Club
2026 President Donna Ventola

Members of the APPC, I am excited to inform you that I got permission from our Department Commander Deuce Brandt and Department President Melissa Martin to host a fundraiser in support of Arizona VA Medical Centers, raising funds and awareness for the men and women who have served our nation.

As we discussed and voted on, please bring your unused gift cards to FALL and WINTER conference and give them to either myself or Toni Johnson. We will be selling tickets at both CONFERENCES and the Department convention. Tickets will be 6 for \$5.00 or an arm length for \$20.00 We will be pulling the winning ticket at the 2027 Department Convention.

Proceeds from the fundraiser will help provide comfort items, recreational activities, and additional support services that enhance the quality of life for veterans receiving care at the Arizona VA Medical Centers.

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

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