November 1, 2026

UNWAVERING SUPPORT

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Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter

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Community Service Reporting: From MALTA to the Dashboard



Community service can now be entered by the Auxiliary President, Secretary or Treasurer in MALTA and will count toward their Post's totals in the VFW Programs Dashboard. This feature is the result of extensive collaboration between the VFW Auxiliary and VFW to help capture—and share—the work we accomplish together.

Here's how it works:

1. Auxiliary President, Secretary or Treasurer submits in MALTA. The report starts as Pending. Use the Community Service Best Practice Guide to determine what qualifies.
2. The Post reviews it. A red Action toolbar in the Post's Programs Dashboard flags reports needing attention. The Post Adjutant, Quartermaster, Junior or Senior Vice Commander, or Commander can approve or reject them. Approval changes the status to Submitted.
3. The Department gives final approval. The Department Adjutant or Quartermaster approves or rejects the report and may also approve on behalf of the Post. Final approval immediately credits the hours and dollars to the Post's dashboard totals.

Need a correction? If rejected at either level, the submitter receives an email and MALTA notification explaining why. Correcting and resubmitting returns the report to Pending and restarts the process.

Communication makes it work! Auxiliary members should notify their Post when submitting. Posts must check the dashboard regularly—even if they use another reporting method—to keep these reports moving.

Give it a try today!



President Melissa Martin

Hi Y'all!

I hope everyone is doing alright. Now that it's finally cooling down, we can get outside and work our programs. Remember to work with your post to do a project, including a post and a district joint project.

I have visited 2 districts and I'm very proud of the work that the Auxiliaries are doing. Keep up the good work.

With the holidays just around the corner don't forget we have a lot of Veterans that don't have anywhere to go for a holiday meal so host a meal for them so they feel happy that someone cares.

I'm sure some of you have heard about the competition between myself and state Commander Deuce Brandt. Here's to scoop: whoever gets the most money donated for DPAA by Winter Conference, gets to put a pie in the face of the other. I sure hope I'm not the loser...I really don't want a pie in my face.

Hope to see everyone at western conference November 6th- 8th right here in Arizona. All the details can be found by clicking here.

Treasurer Kim Sloan



November is the month for giving thanks, and I want to take a moment to express my gratitude to this wonderful organization for giving me purpose and to all my comrades, brothers, and sisters who share a love for our mission. We may not always agree on the best

way to serve, but one thing is certain—we keep showing up, working together, and serving those who need us!
That is what makes our organization so special. And, of course, I must give a special thank-yous to my blood sisters, who keep me grounded and reminds me where I came from!

Membership Dues Reminders
Dues notice postcards have been mailed to all unpaid 2027 annual members. I've already received a few calls from members who needed help paying their dues online. Online payments are quick and convenient, and they are a big help to our Auxiliary Treasurers!

If you receive a postcard back marked with an incorrect address or as undeliverable, please take a moment to contact that member. This is a great opportunity to update their mailing address and remind them that their current dues are still due. A little follow-up can make a big difference in keeping our members connected!

Third-Quarter Audits
The third-quarter audits for July, August, and September should be completed and ready for approval at your November meeting. Thank you for taking the time to keep our records accurate and up to date!

A Friendly Reminder About the Dues Fund
As I review the audit reports coming in, I've noticed that some Auxiliaries are carrying a balance in the Dues (National and Department) Fund. I'd like to take a moment to clarify how this fund should be handled so we can all stay on the same page.

Only annual member dues ($20) and Life Member fees should be deposited into this fund, and the fund should be brought to a zero balance at least quarterly.

Here are a few important reminders:
- New members: Once a new member is accepted and their payment has cleared the bank, the application is sent to me with a check. That payment should be recorded as a debit from the Dues Fund.
- Annual members: When an annual member pays their dues, only the $20 National and Department portion belongs in the Dues Fund. When you process the dues in MALTA, that amount should be debited from the fund.
- Life Member Per Capita: The Life Member Per Capita should not be deposited into the Dues Fund.
- Online payments: When a member pays their annual dues online, National sends the Auxiliary its portion of the dues. That deposit should not be recorded in the Dues Fund.

I know there are a lot of details to keep track of, and I appreciate all the time and effort our Treasurers put into making sure everything is handled correctly. Please reach out if you have questions or need a little help!

Presidents: Please Remember to Countersign Checks
Presidents, please remember that you are required to countersign all checks. I understand that life sometimes gets in the way and schedules don't always cooperate. If you find yourself in a situation where you cannot countersign a

check, please give me a call so we can work together to find an appropriate solution.

Thank you for your attention to this important responsibility!

Membership Applications
I'm happy to see that our membership applications are improving! Thank you for your continued efforts to get them completed correctly.
Please keep mentoring your members as they recruit new members. Take time to show them how to complete the application properly, review qualifying documents, and make sure all required information is included before submitting it. The more comfortable we all become with this process, the smoother it will be for everyone—and the better we can serve our growing membership!

Looking Ahead
I hope to see many of you at the Western Conference meeting! It will be wonderful to connect, share ideas, learn from one another, and continue working together for the good of our organization and the veterans and families we serve.

As we head into this season of gratitude, thank you for everything you do, for the time you give, and for the heart you bring to our mission. **We may not always do things the same way, but we are united in why we serve.**

Wishing you all a wonderful November filled with gratitude, friendship, and continued success.



Secretary Chrissy Harlan

I received the following by email:

I have a clarification request...

Currently, most secretaries include a copy of their bond in the Secretary Book. Per Section 814, E:4 it states: "A copy of both the President and Treasurer bonds shall be incorporated into the minutes each year."

Here is the question....should the copy be kept TWICE in the book? Or is once in the month it was purchased enough? What do you think? Where should a copy of the Bond be kept in the Secretary's Minute Book?

My answer was it could either be kept in the front for easy access and reference or in the month that the Bond purchase was approved.

The official answer from the National Secretary:
The member doing the official visit and the Trustees need to see the bond. It should be easy enough to find in the minutes attached to the month it was voted on. It does not need to be kept twice in the Secretaries book. The President also keeps the original.

The new podium book (2027) is now available to download through Malta. Log in and go to Member Resources. Then you just have to click on the Podium

Book and download it. You can also download the National Program Book and Building on the Auxiliary Foundation.

The link for Winter Conference hotel reservations is up on VFWAZ.org. Click on resources then on Conference / Convention information. As soon as we have the information on the banquet, we will get it on our website.

Sometimes in our busy lives we get to caught up on the little things that go wrong. As we enter November, the month of Thanksgiving, I challenge you to find something in every day to be thankful for. Today I am thankful for each and every one of you. You are a vital part of completing our mission. You are the gravy on the mashed potatoes, the stuffing for the turkey, and the whipped cream on the pumpkin pie! It is not complete without you.



Chief of Staff
Donna Ventola



Team Arizona, huddle up!

Spotting the "Red Flags" and Saving the Season

Team, wrap your hands around those laces, buckle your chinstraps, and listen up. We are deep into the season, we need to look at the game tape, analyze the field, and ensure our department is executing a flawless playbook.

Our mission in the Department of Arizona is simple: we are here to support our veterans, service members, and their families. But even the strongest teams can give up a turnover if they aren't paying attention. Let's talk about the "Red Flags" on the field—specifically, how to recognize when our local Auxiliaries are fumbling, running out of bounds, or on the verge of a costly penalty.

When an auxiliary starts hitting a rough patch, it doesn't happen overnight. There are clear warning signs. If we catch these penalties early, we can send in the coaching staff to repair the play. If we ignore them, we risk losing the franchise. Here is your scouting report on how to spot a "Red Flag" Auxiliary before they get sidelined.

The Scouting Report: 4 Major Red Flags on the Field

1. The Delay of Game (Zero Communication)

A healthy Auxiliary is huddling constantly. If an Auxiliary stops responding to District emails, fails to submit their required reports, or goes completely silent on Department check-ins, they are taking a delay of game penalty. When an Auxiliary cuts off the communication lines, it usually means the Auxiliary is overwhelmed or checked out.

2. Too Many Players in the Backfield (Internal Penalty Flags)

When you look at the Auxiliary, do you see teamwork? If an auxiliary business meeting has turned into a shouting match or a social gathering rather than focus on our veterans, and programs, is the team chemistry broken?

3. Fumbling the Roster (Declining & Disengaged Membership)

Look at the sidelines. Is the same handful of dedicated members running every single play until they drop from pure exhaustion? If the Auxiliary isn't activating new members, or if their membership numbers are dropping faster than a drop pass on a rainy Friday night, that Auxiliary is heading for a forfeit. We cannot win the game with only three players on the field.

4. Illegal Procedure (Ignoring the Bylaws & Financial Plays)

Every great game has rules. For us, that's our Bylaws, and Ritual. When an Auxiliary starts skipping audits, missing their financial obligations, or holding meetings without a quorum, they are running an illegal procedure. Financial disarray and ignoring administrative protocols is the fastest way to be on suspension.

The Ultimate Playbook: How We Secure the Win

If you spot one of these Red Flags in your Auxiliary, do not just sit in the bleachers and watch the fumble happen. We need an active intervention strategy to get our auxiliaries back into the end zone. Contact your coaches (mentors) for help.

1.Scout and Assess: First Quarter.

Don't rely on hearsay. Visit the Auxiliary in person. Sit in on a meeting, look at the dynamic, and review their administrative paperwork to see exactly where the breakdown is occurring.

2.Call a Timeout: Second Quarter.

Bring the auxiliary President and District President together for an honest huddle. Acknowledge the struggle without throwing blame and lay out the facts of what needs to change.

3.Send in the Special Teams: Third Quarter.

Provide direct mentorship. Ask the mentors to help with the struggling auxiliaries to help them clean up their books, organize their meetings, and steady the ship.

4.Execute the Recovery Play: Fourth Quarter.

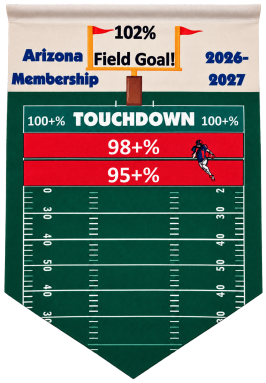
Focus heavily on membership drive and local veteran events. Re-engage the community to bring energy back to the auxiliary and fill the gaps in the roster with passionate new volunteers.

The Golden Rule of the Field: Service, Not Self. We don't throw a flag to penalize our members; we throw it to protect the integrity of the organization and keep the focus on the veterans who rely on us. Let's keep our eyes downfield, look out for our teammates, and tackle these issues before they tackle us. Let's drive it home for the win, Arizona!

Membership
Bambi Johnson

Arizona you are Rocking it!!!

Our Paid percentage as of October 28th is 95.26%!!



While the dues notices have just been sent out, we are already seeing results. Our first Membership Goal of the year is to reach 95% plus by November 30th and we are there already. More than half our Auxiliaries have met that 95+% goal at their Auxiliaries, with 6 at 100% or more and they will be entered into the Membership Goal Drawings as shown below.

Arizona Membership Goals for Auxiliaries

A ticket will be entered into a drawing for each auxiliary that reaches the goals listed below. The auxiliary with the winning ticket of each drawing will be given the amount shown below. The first goal drawing will be held at Winter Conference and the remaining goal drawing will be held at Dept. convention.

Goal & Deadline	Amount
95% + by November 30, 2026	$100
98% + by February 28, 2027	$200
100% + by April 30, 2027	$300
102% + by May 31, 2027	$400

Every Auxiliary in Arizona could be getting a Membership Banner at Winter Conference, if they are able to add at least one new member and retain their annual members. What are you doing to renew your annual members? Phone calls? Special events?

Be sure to open the mid-month newsletter to read how one Auxiliary & Post went from having 35 combined members at their monthly meeting to 93 in attendance by doing a Special event!

Winter Conference

January 8-10, 2027
Embassy Suites, by Hilton Phoenix Tempe
Reserve your rooms here: Winter Conference Room Link
or by scanning the QR Code below.

A Little Pin, a Whole Lot of Arizona Pride!

Let's celebrate **Kim Harney**, Arizona's *first-ever* VFW Auxiliary National President! Order your 2027–2028 pin and wear it proudly as we cheer her on for this historic milestone.

My 2018–2019 Arizona Department President pin
featured a patriotic heart, reflecting my love for our veterans and our country.
My theme as National President, "First to Serve Veterans and Families," is a special tribute to my dad, Allen "Gunner" Kent, VFW National Commander-in-Chief from 1994–1995, whose theme was "First to Serve."
My new pin features two hearts joined together — one for veterans and one for families — representing our commitment to serving both.
Carrying my dad's words forward while
continuing my own journey of service makes this year
especially meaningful to me. ~Kim Harney



★ 2027-2028 NATIONAL PRESIDENT ★

Kim Harney

PIN ORDER FORM



Name: _____ **Aux #:** _____

Email: _____

No. of Pins: _____ **@ $3.00 each = $** _____

PLACE YOUR ORDER BY
DECEMBER 1!

Email your order no later than December 1 to pick it up at the Department Convention in June 2027.

PAYMENT:

Due at pickup by check (payable to the Department of Arizona) or cash.

QUESTIONS?

Contact Kim Harney

520-226-6363

kharney@vfwauxiliary.org

Who's That BABY? It's Me!





Bambi Johnson

Past Department President
& Current Department Membership Chair

Same Girl... Bigger Purpose.

Q: What's something about you that most Auxiliary members would never guess?

A: When I was a young girl, I was too shy to even ring my neighbor's doorbell to sell girl scout cookies.



Q: What did you want to be when you grew up?

A: Scientist - I loved any laboratory classes.



Q: What's a funny quirk, hidden talent, or random skill you have?

A: I paint for stress relief.





Q: What's one thing you've done through the Auxiliary that you never imagined yourself doing when you joined?

A: When I was Dept Legislative chair I was able to speak directly with State and Federal Legislators regarding veteran issues which also gave me the courage to run and become a local elected official.



Different Chapters... Same Heart for Service



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

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