October 1, 2026

UNWAVERING SUPPORT

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Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter

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Department Announcements

*The Auxiliary Outstanding Tracking Sheet has a column for a joint project between the Auxiliary and the VFW. When you have completed this project, please email Kim Harney at kharney02@gmail.com so that the column can be marked green for your Auxiliary.

*Western Conference is November 5th - 8th in Phoenix. Information can be found here.

President Melissa Martin

Hello all, I hope this newsletter finds everyone happy and healthy. I can't believe we are already 4 months into our year, and the holidays are right



around the corner. For those auxiliaries that are doing trunk or treats it would be
beneficial to put information on all our programs out so parents can see our organization is about and what we do and how we can help our communitywith their projects.

Thank you to everyone who took our survey about Fall conference. Your feedback helps us to change or alter how we do things to better serve our Veterans and to format our conferences to give the most information out to all the Auxiliaries.

See everyone soon.

Treasurer Kim Sloan



Treasurers and Trustees - Bylaws Sec. 814 require audits to be completed regularly, approved by the Auxiliary and submitted to the Department Treasurer. Please make sure to get this done in compliance with the Bylaws. You have a month (October) to complete the audit and then it needs to be approved at the November Auxiliary meeting. Please don't put this off, get it done and off your plate!

Quarter: **Third**
Months Covered: **July, August, September**
Audit Completed by: **October 31, Annually**
Accepted Audit sent to Department Treasurer no later than **November 30, Annually**

Officers Dues – Any officer (at any level) who is an annual member must have their 2027 dues paid (or convert to Life Member) by December 15, 2026. This is a requirement for Outstanding Auxiliary! On December 16, the Department Treasurer will notify the Auxiliary President and Treasurer of their unpaid officers. If they are still not paid by December 31, the Department will pay the dues for those officers. This alleviates the need for the Department President to remove any officer not in good standing as of January 1. So let's work together to get them paid!



Secretary Chrissy Harlan

Congratulations to Auxiliary 2066 in Nogales for being featured in the National E -Newsletter. Want your Auxiliary to be featured there? Submit your photos to National Headquarters for possible future inclusion on their social media and/or in the E-Newsletter, please email no more than 10 from any project, fundraiser, hospital visit or event to info@vfwauxiliary.org with the subject line **Auxiliary in Action**. Additionally, they want your **Throwback** photos from 10 or more years ago and **Sunday Fun Day** photos featuring members having fun; they do not have to have been taken on Sundays.

Love Hockey and/or Football? Join us on November 14 to see the Tucson Roadrunners or on November 29 to see our own Arizona Cardinals play the

Washington Commanders. Contact The Department Adjutant Keith McDonald for pricing and ticket information.

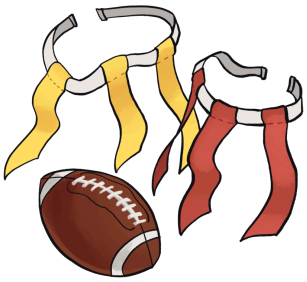
Did you know that a second grader named Weston was the First Place Winner in the K-2 Illustrating America Art Contest? Weston was sponsored by Auxiliary 1796 in Black Canyon City, Arizona. To see his art check out the September VFW Auxiliary Magazine online. Congratulations Weston and Auxiliary 1796.

Please take a look at the Department Roster on the Department website (vfwauxaz.org) and make sure the information for your Auxiliary is correct. The roster is behind login. Please email me at vfwauxazsecretary@gmail.com with any corrections. You will also find the Outstanding Auxiliary and District Tracking Sheets behind login.

Presidents, Auxiliary and District, you can find many resources in front of login on the Department website. There is a great info sheet there that lists all of the National Program Citations for this term. If you haven't been on the website in a while you should take a look.

Have a great October and Happy Halloween. Hoping we all get to see the Great Pumpkin!

Chief of Staff
Donna Ventola



Hello Team ARIZONA! Who is ready for some FOOTBALL?

Recognizing Warning Auxiliaries: Reading the Field Before the Big Play

In football, championship teams know that success isn't determined only by the scoreboard. Great coaches and players recognize warning signs before they become game-changing problems. They watch the line of scrimmage, study the formation, and adjust before the next play unfolds.
The same principle applies to our auxiliaries across the Department of Arizona. Healthy auxiliaries are the foundation of a strong team, but even successful organizations can begin showing signs that they need support. As leaders, it is our responsibility to recognize these warning indicators early and provide coaching, resources, and encouragement before challenges become crises.

Spotting the Yellow Flags

In football, a yellow flag doesn't always mean the game is lost—it means attention is needed. Similarly, auxiliaries may display early warning signs that call for guidance and support.
Some common yellow flags include:

- Declining meeting attendance
- Difficulty filling officer positions
- Reduced participation in programs and events
- Limited communication with members
- Incomplete reporting or missed deadlines
- Member burnout and volunteer fatigue

These indicators do not mean an auxiliary is failing. Instead, they signal an opportunity for mentoring, training, and renewed engagement.

When Yellow Flags Become Red Flags

If warning signs continue without intervention, they can evolve into more serious concerns. Red flags may include:

- Inability to conduct regular meetings
- Significant membership loss
- Financial management concerns
- Failure to comply with department requirements
- Ongoing internal conflicts
- Loss of connection to the mission and programs

Just as a football team cannot ignore repeated penalties, we cannot overlook these signs. Early action is always more effective than emergency recovery.

Building a Winning Game Plan

Every successful football team relies on preparation, teamwork, and execution. The same approach can strengthen auxiliaries facing challenges.

When a warning auxiliary is identified, consider the following game plan:

Huddle Up

Open communication with auxiliary leadership. Listen first and understand the challenges they are experiencing.

Review the Playbook

Utilize National and Department resources, Healthy Auxiliary Toolkits, Extension materials, and training opportunities.

Strengthen the Bench

Encourage leadership development and identify future officers who can step into key roles.

Focus on Teamwork

Promote collaboration with neighboring auxiliaries, districts, and department leaders.

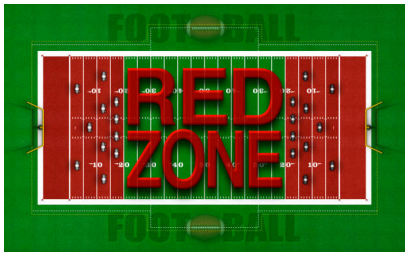
Celebrate Small Wins

Recognize improvements and successes along the way. Positive reinforcement builds momentum and confidence.

Every Auxiliary Matters

No football team wins a championship with only a few star players. Success comes from every member contributing to the team's mission. Likewise, every auxiliary is an important part of the Department of Arizona's success.

When we recognize warning signs early, offer support, and work together as a team, we create stronger auxiliaries, stronger communities, and a stronger Department. Together, we can build a championship team across Arizona—one auxiliary at a time.



Membership
Bambi Johnson

Is your Auxiliary in the Red Zone Yet?

At Fall Conference we unveiled the 2026-2027 Membership Banner that your Auxiliary can earn. In every football game, when a team gets into the Red Zone nearing their

goal, the excitement and momentum grows to put forth maximum effort to real that Goal Line. We want you to feel that same excitement and momentum with your membership goals.

Each Auxiliary that reaches the Red Zone at 95+% by Winter Conference will receive their banner. The Dept. President's Melissa's Football will be awarded if your Auxiliary reaches 100+% and the Golden Football Pin will be awarded at 102+%.

Let's look at which Auxiliaries are already in the Red Zone as of 9/29 and those Auxiliaries that have or are about to Score a Touchdown or Field Goal…..
These 12 Auxiliaries are between 95.1% and 98%:
8242 769 10726 9399 1677 3713 12098 9833 2357 9400 12128 549

These 4 Auxiliaries are between 98.1 and 100%
9972 6790 7968 9977 District 1

Auxiliary 8807 is 100% and just one member added would take them to 102.5%

Auxiliary 1763 is 101.69% and just one more new or paid annual would take them to 102.25%

Auxiliary 12043 is leading the Department at 106.25% !

Remember the first Arizona Membership Goal for Auxiliaries is November 30, 2026 and each Auxiliary at 95+% will have a ticket in the Drawing at Winter Conference for $100.

Have you turned in to your Just One Pledge Card to your Auxiliary so they are watching to see who fulfills their pledge by recruiting a new member? And Auxiliaries, please celebrate those Victories when a Just One Recruiting Pledge is achieved. Appreciated members are involved members!

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3 Simple Rules on PAR (Program Activity Report) Reporting

From the Fall Conference Feedback: 3 Simple Rules for PAR Reporting.

First, let us identify what has been "lumped" into believing it is PAR related. When looking at the Outstanding Auxiliary Tracking Sheet- the only thing noted from the PAR Report the Auxiliary submits is *if* the Auxiliary has participated in one of the Programs. Nothing else. Nothing specific. Did the Auxiliary report *something* to Hospital or Veterans and Family Support or VFW National Home, etc.?

When looking at the Outstanding District Tracking Sheet- this comes from several sources- none that are reported on the Auxiliary PAR Report. Did a member from each Auxiliary attend a Department event? That comes from the sign-in sheet at the Department Event- like CofA or Conference/MIT. Did the Auxiliary attend their District Meeting? Tthat comes from the District Secretary's Minutes that are submitted to the Department Secretary. Did the District President attend an Auxiliary Event/Function? That is reported by the

District President to the Dept. Chief of Staff. Did the District Recruit one *new or rejoin* Member? That comes from the Department Treasurer who looks over the membership applications.

Individuals being recognized for recruiting a *new* Member- that comes from the completed Membership Application as it is presented to the Department Treasurer.

3 Simple Rules on PAR (Program Activity Report) Reporting:
1) Know what is reportable- each Program requests specific information the Auxiliary has done FOR each specific VFW Auxiliary Program.
2) Identify the ONE Auxiliary Member who will submit the PAR Report for the Auxiliary each month (or quarterly) and how they will collect the information TO be reported from the Auxiliary Membership- Minutes, Reports of Committees, handed out forms/checklist…
3) Know where the report is located: VFWAuxAZ.org
LOGIN - Members Only Your Membership# is your User Name Your Last Name is your Password.
If the Auxiliary has an activity/Event that is over the top and meets the National Citation criteria- **PLEASE** forward the National Citation for that Program to the Department Chairman.

If you need further assistance PLEASE contact Jeanne Hampton- jeannehamptonpar@gmail.com 602.540.7727

The Department of Arizona cannot do it without YOU! Thank You!!!



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