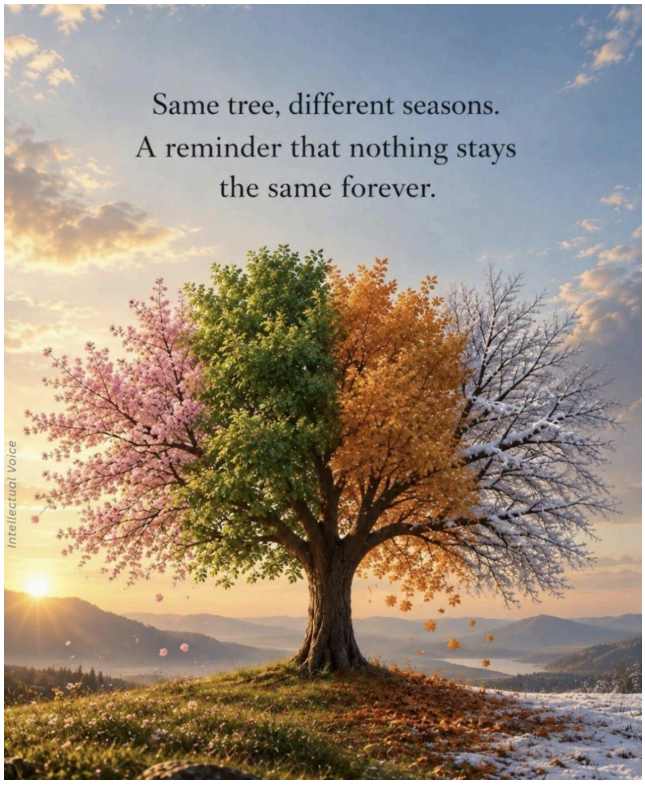
October 15, 2026

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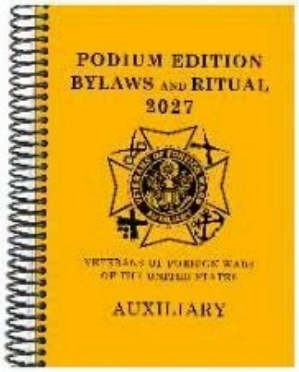
Some of you have asked to be able to read all the articles in their entirety in one place. On our webpage - www.vfwauxaz.org under the Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter you can now find each month's articles all together. Click here to go directly there.

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update

2027 By-laws and Ritual Book is now available in MALTA.

Podium Edition Bylaws & Ritual



Podium Book 2027

2027 By-laws and Ritual Book is also available for pre-order at the VFW Store .



Americanism
Christina Maiville

Happy October Auxiliaries! I want to start by saying thank you to all of the Auxiliaries for your hard work in September. Between September 11th, POW/MIA recognition, Gold Star recognition, and Suicide awareness.
September is a heavy month to get through. I greatly appreciate efforts by everyone to recognize those whose hard work often goes unnoticed behind the scenes. I'm looking forward to continuing to see everyone's pictures on Facebook as the busy holiday season is rushing towards us! Halloween, Thanksgiving, and Christmas are challenges in and of themselves then trying to add Americanism into the mix up the challenge level! Halloween is a great opportunity to dress up as your favorite Americana Icons like Uncle Sam or the Statue of Liberty whose birthday is October 28,1886.

To read the rest of this article click here.

Buddy Poppy
Raelene Lam



I am so excited for our Department of Arizona enthusiasm on sharing Buddy Poppies with everyone.

Most popular question at this point is when we will have access to the 2026/ 2027 Buddy Poppy Display form. I should have the answer soon, but to resolve the immediate issue use the previous year's form just to keep the information of your Auxiliary and/or Post Display in order. As soon as we have the new form, you can then transfer the information. I appreciate both your patience and determination to get moving with this program.

With Veterans Day around the corner, please do your best to include the Buddy Poppies in your festivities. Making centerpieces for your lunch, Boutonnieres or gifts made from the Buddy Poppies could be a fabulous way to share them with our state of Arizona.

To read the rest of this article click here



Historian/Media
Paulette Marshall

Well, it is time for the fun to begin! The “holiday” season is upon us, and we are all busy creating memories and doing excellent work for our Veterans with activities galore: Halloween, Veteran’s Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Years. Some are having Military branch birthdays, Stand Downs, Wreaths Across America, and so much more. Now is a great time to show off exactly how much we contribute to the success of this organization with our partners, the VFW Comrades. One Mission with multiple organizations working together to assist those who have signed on the line for all of us. Please be sure to be taking pictures, documenting, tagging, hash tagging and preserving the evidence of the mission.

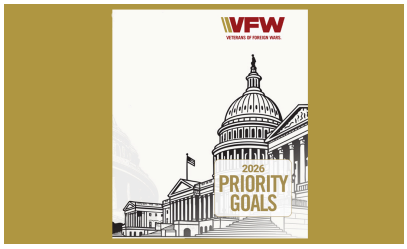
To read the rest of the article click here



Hospital
Pat Stinson

Welcome Fall and cooling off into the 90s!! What a wonderful time of year to go out and about. It's also a great time of year to think about what we can do for our veterans in our VA hospitals, VA homes and other facilities that help our veterans.
I am very pleased to have received several invitations to visit your district meetings. I am really looking forward to speaking with you all and answering questions. I am also going to ask you for some wonderful ideas to share with other auxiliaries on how to use the hospital grant.
Here is a great example of how our auxiliaries can work together with other organizations to help our veterans and utilize the hospital grant!

To read the rest of the article click here



Legislative
Connie Hargreaves

TEAM VETERANS: GET YOUR GAME PLAN READY!
All right, team—bring it in!
Legislative Day is coming, and preparation starts before we take the field. Our mission is clear: help lawmakers understand the needs of veterans, service members, caregivers, and their families. Every member has a role, and every prepared voice strengthens our team.

STUDY THE PLAYBOOK
Start with VFW's Priority Goals. Learn the issues, review your talking points, and check the facts. Know who represents your legislative district and how to contact their office. Use our legislative training materials to build confidence and understand how an idea moves toward becoming law.

PRACTICE YOUR PLAYS

You don’t need a long speech. Practice a short introduction, explain one concern, share a verified fact or local example, and make a clear request. Stay respectful, listen carefully, and give legislative staff the same courtesy you give the lawmakers.

To read the rest of this article click here

Membership
Bambi Johnson



Engage new members with a solid plan during their first year as an Auxiliary Member.
The first 3 months are the most critical to show a new member that they are valued and appreciated.
They just paid to donate their time and energy to our cause and should receive an orientation on
programs and benefits and mentoring to help develop a feeling of commitment and belonging.

Be sure to utilize the New Member Orientation Checklist.

Within The First Week
Call or email the new member to introduce yourself. Offer your contact information should that new member have any questions. If your Auxiliary has a website or Facebook page, tell them about it so they can see what’s going on. Provide a calendar of upcoming events.

Encourage them to create a member profile in MALTA and give them instructions on how to load their card to their wallet.

To read the rest of this article click here





Scholarship
Alison McHose

Fall in Arizona - Scholarships and Cool Weather are On Our Minds!!

For those of us who have lived in areas where four seasons are the norm, the Arizona Fall feels different. Much cooler weather, accompanied by clouds in the air; residuals of monsoon season rains. The Fall in Arizona is a much-welcomed friend.

As we enter this period, we must be vigilant to follow up with contacts we have made to spread the word about our wonderful scholarship opportunities. Whether it be from visiting schools, to emailing family and friends, to speaking

before homeschool groups, we must continue to spread the word. As the October 31st deadline for the VFW's Voice of Democracy oral essay and Patriots' Pen written essay approaches, we must work hard to get the applications submitted. As the months progress, we will be involved in celebrating these applicants at ceremonies or dinners in our local posts, auxiliaries and districts across our amazing Copper State

To read the rest of this article click here

Veterans and Family Support
Irene Nowacki



Well, we have made it. The spooky season is upon us but do not fear, we are here to help.

Do you know of anyone that needs a little assistance. The **Auxiliary Rack Card** is a great source of quick reference information. Do you have Rack cards available at your events? They are printable on the VFW Auxiliary website or if you would like to purchase them in bulk, they are available through the VFW Store. It is a wealth of information for things ranging from VA Caregivers Support, Homeless Veterans Assistance, Care center for Women Veterans and so much more. Keep these little beauties handy for any instance that you may be speaking with someone that is in need.

To read the rest of this article click here

VFW National Home
Peggy Welch

Hello Team Arizona! We are four months into the season, and I am inspired to see that so many of you are working the program. We have many opportunities to Promote the Home and Educate on Eligibility. Our National Ambassador, Mary Anne Kreutz, shared an excellent idea for this activity. Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Events are presented for National Guard and Army Reserve personnel after their deployments. It is the perfect environment to start the conversation. For more information and dates in AZ contact usarmy.usarc.63d-rd.mbx.yellow-ribbon@army.mil.

StandDowns are another opportunity. Some locations and dates coming up are:

- Lake Havasu City StandDown, Saturday, Oct. 17th, LHC Aquatics Center
- Navajo County StandDown, Friday, Oct. 23rd, Ethel Berger Center
- Pinal County StandDown, Saturday, Nov. 21, HOHP Veterans Transition Center. Contact Arizona Veterans Stand Down Alliance for more details.
- VA Homeless Veterans StandDown, Sierra Vista, Oct. 23rd, contact Aly Paslay-Bennett, 520-241-0082, alyxandria.paslay-bennett@va.gov

Continue to Educate on Eligibility. Remember, Active Military with dependent children, Veterans with dependent children, and Adult Children with a parent

who qualifies for or is a member of the VFW or Auxiliary and have dependent children are eligible. Parents, widows, widowers and guardians of the children are also eligible. Do you know any members with children and families who are struggling? They may be eligible. It is worth mentioning and could give hope to a struggling family.

To read the rest of this article click here



Youth
Crystal McCarthy

Fall is here, and Trunk or Treat events offer a fun way to welcome families, connect with youth, and show our communities what the VFW Auxiliary is all about!

A few years ago, I heard an idea that has stuck with me: **an Auxiliary had a "trunk" for each program!** Imagine walking through an event where every decorated trunk introduces families to a different part of our mission. What a creative way to turn Halloween fun into opportunities for learning, service, and connection!

An Americanism trunk could feature patriotic decorations and a quick flag trivia game. Veterans & Family Support could invite children to make thank-you cards for veterans. A Scholarships trunk could introduce families to our contests, while **Youth Activities** could offer a simple craft and information about Illustrating America and your upcoming Lending Library. Reach out to your auxiliary and see how you could put this together.

BONUS: Give youth a role in the event, too. Invite Scouts, school clubs, youth groups, and members' children or grandchildren to help design decorations, create games, or run activities alongside adult volunteers. They bring imagination and energy—and gain a chance to practice teamwork and leadership.

Treats Beyond the Candy Bowl

To read the rest of this article click here



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