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UNWAVERING SUPPORT



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Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter

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Department Announcements

Fall Conference survey went out for member input. Please help out the Department by completing it. If you missed the email, click [here](#) to access the survey.

*Western Conference is November 5th - 8th in Phoenix. Information can be found [here](#).



MEET OUR MASCOT!

HER NAME IS...

Butterfly BABS

Thank you to everyone who submitted names and voted in our Mascot Naming Competition!

Butterfly Babs will be our mascot for this year!

Small Butterfly. **BIG Impact!**

You'll see Butterfly Babs in all of our newsletters with fun and interesting information, tips, reminders and more! So keep an eye out for her throughout the year!

INFORMATION ★ INSPIRATION ★ INVOLVEMENT ★ FUN



President Melissa Martin

Hi Everyone,

I'm so excited about how well our MIT went and it was awesome that the comrades joined us for some great training. I hope you all got a lot of new ideas and information to help your Auxiliaries succeed.

Fall conference was probably the best one I have ever been to. It was very well organized and full of a lot of new information and scenarios to learn how to deal with different problems that can occur in our Auxiliaries

and Posts. I hope you all use the tools that were given to you, so we have successful auxiliaries and posts around our state.

I hope we have a big turnout for Western Conference since this time it's in our state and we give as much support as needed to make it one of the best western conferences.

I will be traveling around the state to do my official visits and hope to visit with as many of you as possible to hear feedback and just get to know as many members as I can.

Thank you all for all you do for our Veterans.

Treasurer Kim Sloan

Happy Soon-to-Be Fall!

With cooler weather just around the corner, I thought this would be a good time to check in and talk about some basic questions and reminders that have come up over the last couple of months.

These may seem like simple things, but paying attention to the details helps our Auxiliaries run smoothly, keeps us accountable, and—most importantly—helps us serve our members and veterans well.



Presidents and Auxiliary Checks

Presidents at the District and Auxiliary levels need to remember that checks must be countersigned by the President.

As President, you need to know what is happening within your Auxiliary. Before signing a check, ask yourself:

- Was this disbursement approved by the Auxiliary?
- Is there a motion or other documentation showing that approval?
- If it was not approved, why is the Treasurer disbursing Auxiliary funds?

Being a countersigner is more than simply signing a check. It is one of the ways the President helps provide financial oversight and accountability for the Auxiliary.

Investigating Committee — No Exceptions!

The Investigating Committee needs to sign all membership applications. No exceptions!

The committee has an important responsibility. It is their job to carefully investigate the facts provided on the application and verify the applicant's eligibility.

The committee should see proof of the eligible veteran's honorable service unless the veteran is a member of the VFW Post to which the applicant is applying for membership.

If there are questions or concerns about an application, hold the application until the next meeting so the matter can be properly addressed.

Remember, it is not the responsibility of the Investigating Committee to require proof of the applicant's relationship to the veteran. Their responsibility is to investigate and verify eligibility according to the membership requirements.

Recruiters, Secretaries and Treasurers — Please Check Those Applications!

Recruiters, Secretaries and Treasurers: Please make sure membership applications are complete, accurate and legible before they are submitted.

When I have to call an applicant because:

- the date of birth is cut off,
- the address cannot be read,
- the name is not legible, or
- important information is missing,

it creates an unnecessary delay in processing the membership.

Yes, we can call the applicant and get the information—but wouldn't it be better to get it right the first time?

Take a moment to review the **COPY** of the application that you are sending in. A few extra seconds at the beginning can save a lot of time later.

Annual Membership Cards — A Great Opportunity to Connect!

Annual members will no longer receive a membership card in the mail.

Let's turn this change into an opportunity to connect with our members!

Show your annual members how to:

- Log into MALTA;
- Download their membership card to the wallet on their phone; or
- Print their membership card if they prefer a physical copy.

The Print Card feature in MALTA has also been corrected and now produces a one-sided card.

Instead of simply telling a member, "Your card is in MALTA," take a few minutes to sit with them and show them how to find it. That little bit of assistance can make a big difference—and it is another opportunity to engage with our members.

Second Quarter Audits

Second Quarter audits—April, May and June—were due to the Department Treasurer by August 31.

Treasurers, please make sure your Audit Report has been submitted.

District Presidents, please confirm with the Auxiliaries in your District that their Audit Reports have been submitted.

Quarterly audits are one of the requirements for maintaining an Auxiliary, so this is an important responsibility.

Communication With the Department- A quick reminder about who to contact. Please note that I am no longer the Department Secretary.

If you have a Bylaws question, please send your question to Chrissy Harlan at: vfwauxazsecretary@gmail.com. If you have a Treasurer question, you may email me directly. Please know that I will copy Chrissy on the response when appropriate so that everyone has the same information and is aware of any issues.

Applications Sent by Email

If you scan and email applications to me, please remember that I will not review them until I receive the check for payment of the dues for those applications. So, you're not saving any time by emailing the applications ahead of the payment. You can simply send copies by mail with the check.

This keeps the applications and payment together and helps prevent unnecessary delays.

Membership — Take a Look at Your CMR

When looking at the CMR — Current Membership Report, take a moment to understand what the numbers are telling you.

Paid Total

The first column shows the Paid Total. This includes all of your Life Members as of June 30, plus any new members—Life or Annual—who have joined. As Annual Members pay their dues in MALTA, that percentage will increase.

Prior

The next column is Prior. This represents your ending membership number as of June 30.

Current %

The next column is Current %, which reflects your current membership.

Paid %

The next column is Paid %. This includes members who have paid their dues, as well as Life Members who passed away after July 1 or were reported after July 1.

Retention — The Column I Really Want You to Watch!

Finally, let's talk about the Retention column. This is the number I really want you to watch. Your Retention percentage tells us how many members we are keeping—and how many we are losing, for whatever reason.

Membership isn't just about recruiting new members. It is about keeping the members we already have. If your Retention percentage is telling you that members are leaving, don't just look at the number—ask why.

Are members being contacted? Do they feel welcome? Are they involved? Do they know what their Auxiliary is doing? Do they feel heard and appreciated?

Those are the questions that can help us move from simply counting members to connecting with members.

As We Head Into Fall...

Fall is a great time to take a fresh look at our Auxiliaries.

Let's make sure the paperwork is complete, the finances are being handled properly, applications are being investigated, audits are submitted, and—most importantly—our members are being connected with and cared for. The details matter. But the people matter most.

Let's use these reminders as opportunities to strengthen our Auxiliaries, communicate better, and continue building healthy, productive and positive experiences for our members.

Chief of Staff
Donna Ventola

Hello Team ARIZONA! Who is ready for some FOOTBALL?

The healthy Auxiliary toolkit = Building a championship team. Every winning football team has a solid playbook--- and every success Auxiliary needs a strong toolkit. A healthy Auxiliary is built on communication, participation and



compliance. Think of your bylaws as your rule book, your members as your players, and your officers as your coaching staff. When every player knows their role and executes the play, your auxiliary moves the ball forward with confidence. A healthy Auxiliary isn't accidental-- it's intentional, practiced and coached.

Using extension materials to grow your Auxiliary = Expanding the field. Great teams don't stay small--they recruit and expand. Extension is your recruiting game plan. Using extension materials effectively helps you establish new Auxiliaries and strengthen communication across Arizona. Every new auxiliary is another touchdown for our mission. Growth isn't just members--it's impact. The power of Good Job Awards = Touchdown Celebrations. In football, every touchdown is celebrated--and in the Auxiliary, every success should be recognized. Good Job Awards are your end zone celebrations!! Don't wait for the "big wins". Celebrate 1st downs, great assists, and strong teamwork. Recognition keeps your team motivated and ready for the next play.

Recognizing **Red Flag** Auxiliaries = Reading the field. A smart team reads the defense--and a strong Department identifies challenges early. **Red Flag** Auxiliaries are those in critical condition and need immediate attention. When you spot a **red flag**, don't sit on the sidelines. Step in with coaching, mentoring, and support. Turning around a struggling Auxiliary is like a 4th quarter comeback--it takes teamwork and determination.

Understanding **Yellow Flag** Auxiliaries = Caution on the Field. Championship teams are not built overnight--they're developed through consistency, mentorship, and teamwork. Strong Auxiliaries across Arizona are the backbone of our organization. When Auxiliaries support each other, the entire Department becomes stronger. Together, we don't just play the game--we win it.



Who **IS** that baby?

THINK YOU KNOW?

Here are some clues...

-  Is a program chair.
-  Loves to paint and do crafts.
-  Is not an Arizona native.
-  Was a member of the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls—
 and the first member to earn her Proficiency Pin for memorizing speeches!
- 

Answer on our DEPARTMENT FACEBOOK POST!

No prizes—just **GOOD FUN**, learning a bit about your Arizona team & bragging rights!

 The correct answer and the first member to guess correctly will be **IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER!** 

Let's celebrate our team, one baby photo at a time! 

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