

August 2026

#AZ2627ChiefofStaff

Hello Team Arizona!!

I just wanted to know how you liked the PROGRAM KICK-OFF at the Convention? I hope you enjoyed it just as much as we did. I heard a lot of members hooting, hollering and cheering us on--saw a bunch of poms poms up in the air rocking it like they just don't care.

I just wanted to recap my presentation that I did at the convention. Have you ever watched a butterfly emerge from its chrysalis? Its transformation is remarkable—and it reminds us of the journey every VFW Auxiliary takes. Auxiliaries don't become strong overnight.

They grow, adapt, and thrive through every stage of their life cycle.

The Egg - Foundation and Potential

Every butterfly begins as an egg, just as every Auxiliary welcomes new members joining, newly installed officers, a newly chartered Auxiliary, and fresh ideas and renewed excitement. We focus on orientation on Bylaws and structure, the mission of the VFW Auxiliary, understanding programs and responsibilities, and the Building of the VFW Auxiliary Foundation.

The Caterpillar - Learning and Growing

The caterpillar's job is to eat, grow strong, and prepare for what comes next. At this stage the Auxiliary trains and mentors' members, learning the Auxiliary Bylaws and National programs, developing leadership skills, and participating in meetings and projects. This stage members feed on knowledge, teamwork, encouragement, experience, respectful communication, and relationships.

The Chrysalis - Reflection and Transformation

Inside the chrysalis, change happens even though it can't always be seen. Auxiliaries evaluate what is and is not working, addresses conflict respectfully, verifying that the Auxiliary is operating according to the Bylaws, leadership changes, and help resolve issues using those Bylaws. Auxiliaries will focus on patience, honest conversations, unity, and embrace change while staying true to their mission.

The Butterfly - Leadership in Action

When the butterfly emerges, it is ready to fulfill its purpose. A healthy Auxiliary shines through confident leadership, strong engaged members, clear meeting

agendas, and working the programs. We focus on working with our VFW, following the Bylaws, encourage member engagement and communication, practices respect and teamwork, and celebrate successes, and inspire others to join the mission. Like butterflies that help pollinate flowers, thriving Auxiliaries spread hope, kindness, and service wherever they go.

Every Stage Matters

A butterfly cannot skip a stage of its life cycle, and neither can an Auxiliary. Growth takes time, commitment, and members who are willing to learn, lead, and serve together. As we nurture our Auxiliaries with kindness, communication, mentorship, and purpose, we create an environment where every member has the opportunity to transform into a confident leader. Together, we can ensure our Auxiliaries don't simply survive—they flourish, just like a butterfly taking flight.