

Department of Arizona VFW Auxiliary Hospital Program 2026-2027

Patricia Stinson, Hospital Chairman

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I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to the State of Arizona Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliaries. My name is Patricia Stinson and I am a resident of Mesa, Arizona. I am a proud member and past President of VFW Post 7968 Auxiliary. I have the privilege of being the daughter of a Navy veteran, the wife of an Air Force veteran and the mother of an Army veteran.

Now that that's out of the way, we have started the year out right with a great day at the Phoenix VA Hospital. On July 1, 2026, six of our volunteers (along with volunteers from other organizations) served lunch to over 300 veterans and hospital staff at the Phoenix VA Hospital. This was to help our veterans celebrate the 250th birthday of our great nation.

One of my focus points of this year is to get more people get involved in volunteering to help our veterans. There are numerous ways to volunteer in the Hospital program.:

1. You can become a certified volunteer at any of our VA hospitals. This allows you to go into the patient areas of the hospitals and talk directly to the veterans. If there isn't a VA hospital or VA home in your area, you can check to see if there is a nursing home or hospital that serves our veterans.
2. I am also encouraging members to volunteer through their talents. If you like to sew, crochet, knit etc, you can make and donate many different things our veterans need. (Eg: port pillows for those going through chemo therapy, blankets for those who are confined to a wheelchair).
3. You can also share your love of reading with a veteran. The veterans also love getting cards for special days. As I mentioned at our kickoff at convention, go to google and find a different national day (Eg: national peanut butter cookie day) and send some cards for that day to veterans in the hospital or nursing homes.

Another of my focus points is our Hospital Grant. We have 48 auxiliaries in the Department of Arizona and only 15 auxiliaries applied for this grant.

This is FREE money for your auxiliary to use towards helping our veterans. The application process is very simple and the application is on our website at: <https://vfwauxaz.org>.

This is just a small sample of ways you can give back to our veterans. Please keep in mind to log your volunteer hours as they help us earn VFW Auxiliary awards! The simplest way to do this is to text me at 480-861-6696 or email me a plstin@yahoo.com. All I need is your name, auxiliary #, what you did and the hours you spent there. Thank you for all that you do for our veterans! Let's make this an amazing year!