

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

VFW Auxiliary Arizona April Pinpoints

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President Melody's Message

Thank you to Commander Jeff and all of the VFW and Auxiliary Members who attended events during the National President's visit in Tucson. National President Sandi enjoyed meeting and visiting with all of you.

Elections are this month for Auxiliaries and Districts, I hope you have all have been talking to

members about the opportunity to serve as an officer and using the Building on the Auxiliary Foundation to educate members on the duties and responsibilities of each office.

I had a member tell me this weekend that they thought they did not have enough experience to serve as an officer, I suggested that she start small and run for Auxiliary Guard or Conductress. The member told me that was another member's job. Sometimes in an Auxiliary, it is easy to fall into the habit that members take the same officer positions year after year. When this happens other members get left behind and then the Auxiliary wonders why they've lost members and nobody wants to step up as an officer. I challenge all Auxiliaries to open up officer positions to new members and mentor them when they are elected. By doing this, we keep members engaged in the working of the Auxiliary.

Please keep our members and their families in your prayers who are ill or have lost loved ones.

Remember No One Rides Alone, Be Kind, Be Encouraging, Stay Safe, Stay Strong, Stay Healthy.

Melody

Department Secretary/Treasurer Kim Sloan

Below are District, Department & National Delegate Instructions and Forms. This information is also on the Department webpage - vfwauxaz.org under resources/secretary



2021 – 2022 District Delegates and Alternates Instructions

- **Review Bylaws Sec 303**

Delegates and Alternates to Districts shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Auxiliary held not less than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the District Convention at which the District Officers are to be elected.

All District Conventions this year will be held in April, so Auxiliaries should elect their Delegates and Alternates at the March Auxiliary meeting.

- **Number of Delegates and Alternates**

National Bylaws state that the number of Delegates and Alternates may be set forth differently in the Department Bylaws. Department of Arizona Bylaws call for one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate for every ten (10) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Auxiliary at the time of the election.

EXAMPLE:

On the night Delegates and Alternates are to be elected, MALTA shows the Auxiliary has 102 members in good standing.

102 divided by 10 = 10.2 (.2 is fraction thereof and so you round up to 11)

Therefore the Auxiliary would elect 11 Delegates and 11 Alternates

- **Election**

Delegates and Alternates are elected by the members – they are NOT appointed. Most Auxiliaries have more Delegates/Alternates than attend Auxiliary meetings. Note that members do not have to be present to be elected as a Delegate or Alternate. The membership should consider those members who may not be able to attend Auxiliary meetings but do attend District meetings. All Delegates and Alternates must be members in good standing of that Auxiliary (life members or current annual members).

- **District Composition Members**

The Auxiliary President has his/her own vote at the District meetings and should be listed at the bottom of the form AND as an Alternate in the right column.

Any Past Department President, District Officer or Past District President that is a member of your Auxiliary has their own vote at District meetings/convention. They should be listed at the bottom of the form and should be considered for election as an Alternate.

If the Auxiliary President is the only Delegate or Alternate at a District Meeting, he/she may choose to vote as a Delegate rather than as Auxiliary President. In the example above, the Auxiliary is entitled to 11 votes (each Delegate has one vote) plus the President's vote. But if the President chooses to vote as a Delegate (which he/she may do if all of the Delegates are not present) he/she would cast 11 votes instead of just the President's vote.

- **PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION – If you have a large Auxiliary consider attaching list of Delegates and Alternates to the Delegate form.**

- **Submit to District Secretary**

The Auxiliary Secretary is responsible for sending the names of the Delegates and Alternates to the District Secretary. This list should be sent immediately after election.

2021-2022

District Delegates and Alternates

District **Auxiliary** _____

PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION

Delegates		Alternates	
1		1	
2		2	
3		3	
4		4	
5		5	
6		6	
7		7	
8		8	
9		9	
10		10	
11		11	
12		12	
13		13	
14		14	
15		15	
16		16	
17		17	
18		18	
19		19	
20		20	

USE SECOND SHEET IF NECESSARY

The following District convention composition members have their own vote.

NAME	OFFICE
	Auxiliary President
	District Office - District President
	District Office - (insert office)
	District Office - (insert office)
	Department President
	Past Department President
	Past District President
	Past District President
	Past District President

2021-2022 DEPARTMENT Delegates and Alternates Instructions

- **Review Bylaws Sec 304**

Delegates and Alternates to the Department Meetings and Convention shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Auxiliary held not less than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the Department Convention.

Auxiliaries should elect their Delegates and Alternates at their April or May meeting.

- **Number of Delegates and Alternates**

National Bylaws state that the number of Delegates and Alternates may be set forth differently in the Department Bylaws. Department of Arizona Bylaws call for one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate for every ten (10) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Auxiliary at the time of the election.

EXAMPLE:

On the night Delegates and Alternates are to be elected, MALTA shows the Auxiliary has 102 members in good standing.

102 divided by 10 = 10.2 (.2 is fraction thereof and so you round up to 11)

Therefore the Auxiliary would elect 11 Delegates and 11 Alternates

- **Election**

Delegates and Alternates are elected by the members – they are NOT appointed. Most Auxiliaries have more Delegates/Alternates than attend Auxiliary meetings. Note that members do not have to be present to be elected as a Delegate or Alternate. The membership should consider those members who may not be able to attend Auxiliary meetings but do attend the Department Convention. All Delegates and Alternates must be members in good standing of that Auxiliary (life members or current annual members).

- **Department Composition Members**

The Auxiliary President has his/her own vote at the Department Convention and should be listed at the bottom of the form AND as an Alternate in the right column.

The National District Council Member, any Department Officer and Past Department Presidents, that are members of your Auxiliary have their own vote at Department Convention. They should be listed at the bottom of the form and should be considered for election as an Alternate. They will need to notify the Credentials Chairman if they are voting as a Delegate or voting their own vote.

If the Auxiliary President is the only Delegate or Alternate at the Department Convention, he/she may choose to vote as a Delegate rather than as Auxiliary President. In the example above, the Auxiliary is entitled to 11 votes (each Delegate has one vote) plus the President's vote. But if the President chooses to vote as a Delegate (which he/she may do if all of the Delegates are not present) he/she would cast 11 votes instead of just the President's vote.

- **PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION – It is acceptable to print the list and attach it to the Delegate form.**

**2021-2022
DEPARTMENT Delegates and Alternates**

Auxiliary _____

PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION

Delegates		Alternates	
1		1	
2		2	
3		3	
4		4	
5		5	
6		6	
7		7	
8		8	
9		9	
10		10	
11		11	
12		12	
13		13	
14		14	
15		15	
16		16	
17		17	
18		18	
19		19	
20		20	

USE SECOND SHEET IF NECESSARY

The following convention composition members have their own vote.

NAME	OFFICE
	Auxiliary President
	National District Council Member
	Department President
	Past Department President
	Past Department President
	Department Officer



NOT ACCEPTED BEFORE APRIL 1, NOR AFTER MAY 31



of the Current Calendar Year

**NATIONAL CONVENTION
OFFICIAL DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES**

~~DO NOT SEND THIS FORM IN IF NAMES HAVE BEEN INPUT ONLINE~~

TO: National Secretary
VFW Auxiliary
406 West 34th Street, 10th Floor
Kansas City, Missouri 64111

FROM: AUXILIARY NO. _____ DEPARTMENT OF _____
AUXILIARY NAME _____
CITY AND STATE _____

Per Section 305 of the National Bylaws, "Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention shall be elected at the last regular meeting in April; one for each fifty (50) members or fraction thereof in good standing on March 31. The VFW Auxiliary Secretary shall provide the names of the Delegates and Alternates to the National Secretary, along with their membership ID number, within thirty (30) calendar days of the day of election" and no later than MAY 31. The Auxiliary Secretary is asked to input his or her Auxiliary's Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) online in MALTA via use of their respective membership ID number(s) and to print out a copy of the Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) for his or her records.

This is to certify that the Delegate(s) and Alternate(s) listed below were duly elected to represent our VFW Auxiliary at the upcoming National Convention on _____ based on the total VFW Auxiliary membership as of MARCH 31 in the MALTA System.

ID Number and Name ARE REQUIRED to complete this form.
TYPE or PRINT NEATLY each Delegate's or Alternate's ID NUMBER and NAME.

-DELEGATE CREDENTIALS WILL BE ISSUED AT CONVENTION SITE UPON CHECK-IN.-

DELEGATES		ALTERNATES	
ID NUMBER	MEMBER'S FIRST AND LAST NAME	ID NUMBER	MEMBER'S FIRST AND LAST NAME
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____

(Auxiliary Secretary) (Address) (City, State & Zip Code)

NOTE: This is a listing only. (NO CHECKS ARE TO BE INCLUDED WITH THIS FORM.)



**Buddy Poppy/National Home
Connie Hargreaves**

March has come and gone, thank you to all those Auxiliaries that sent in your Project Reports. Award forms have been forwarded to National; Auxiliary

Presidents be watching for the citation in the mail to share with your Auxiliary.

A reminder that poppy displays need to be at the April District Conventions for

judging. March was also the time some of the Districts held their Poppy Contests. Congratulations to the winners who will be coming to Department Convention in June. We look forward to not only judging but seeing all the winners. Hopefully, you have made it hard for our judges to pick a winner!

This Easter Sunday, if you are hosting a brunch, maybe have a centerpiece of a basket with eggs and a "Buddy Poppy". Put your name on a Poppy with a donation to have a chance to win one of the Centerpieces. Or have Poppy corsages available to pin on or put on the wrist. Funds collected can be used for a drawing for Life Membership to The National Home for Children.

April showers bring May flowers, let us start planting for Spring! Flowerpots, flower plots, wall garden with plenty of space for Poppies. Donations can be collected, and names placed on petals of those wounded or fallen in a war or Veteran who has passed. What a great way to bring awareness that the red poppy is in remembrance of those who have spilled blood on foreign soil. Set out the Flanders Field brochure; educate and honor. What a better way than by having a springs garden.

March was Read a Month, let's take that into April as well. Ask a Veteran to read a book, record a video and upload it to the National Home website. April is also the month we elect new officers. Please encourage your members to step up not only as officers but as chairpersons for our Programs. They can work and learn from the outgoing chairperson or officer and together come up with some great ideas for future endeavors as well as educating the community and members on what we do to support Veterans and Veteran families.

Continue to have poppy drives at local businesses where approved, at the Post, and most of all at the Flag raisings and special events. Attach poppies to handheld flags, include in cards, have the Flanders Field brochure out where members and guests can pick up and read.

Get the poppy stickers from the VFW Store and attach to any handouts, bottled water, booklets, use them to hold napkin and silverware together, attach them to the back of envelopes on any correspondence. Encourage your chaplain to include on an envelope when mailing out Birthday, get well, thinking of you or thank you cards.

At your meetings, consider drawing a name and giving a Life Membership to the VFW National Home Membership. Great idea to do when initiating new members and using it as a teaching moment about the VFW National Home. Do not forget to hold a fundraiser for National Home for Children, hold a bake sale, have a dessert stand after a meal that members can purchase a dessert after their meal.

In your standing rules, have the auxiliary approve a one-time donation to National Home based upon a monthly sum, become a "Home Front Hero". \$10.00 month would be \$120.00.

Do not forget to use the Amazon Smile Program, purchase a brick or a Lifetime National Home Membership. Lifetime memberships to National Home are \$50.00 and make a wonderful gift.

There are two types of life memberships:

- 1) VFW and VFW Auxiliary members and organizations are eligible to become Life Members. Life Members may vote for the trustees who represent their National Home District and approve any proposed changes to our bylaws and

articles of incorporation.

2) Any individual or organization wishing to support the National Home's mission can become an Associate Life Member. Associate Life Members do not have voting privileges.

Both member types receive a membership certificate and wallet card.

Life memberships can be purchased by using Visa, Mastercard, or Discover Card.

Become a Life Member or an Associate Life Member and create a lasting bond between yourself and the mission of the National Home.

**Auxiliary Community
Outreach
Kim Harney**



Thank you to all the Auxiliaries who participated in this program for the 2020-2021 year. With Community

Outreach being a new program and the difficulties/restrictions with COVID-19, this easily could have been a program that many Auxiliaries decided not to deal with. But Arizona is not that way. You stepped up in your communities by donating supplies, food, water, gave out dinners, hosted blood drives, made and donated masks, helped clean community cemeteries, and put together Boo bags for Halloween distribution. As always Arizona Auxiliaries made a difference in the communities we are a part of. You did a great job sending in Project Reports. These reports will be used for awards to be given out at Department Convention in June.

April is the time to take a deep breath and get ready for our new year. Since this is only the second year for this program, I thought it would be a good time to review some guidelines for the program.

Community Outreach -

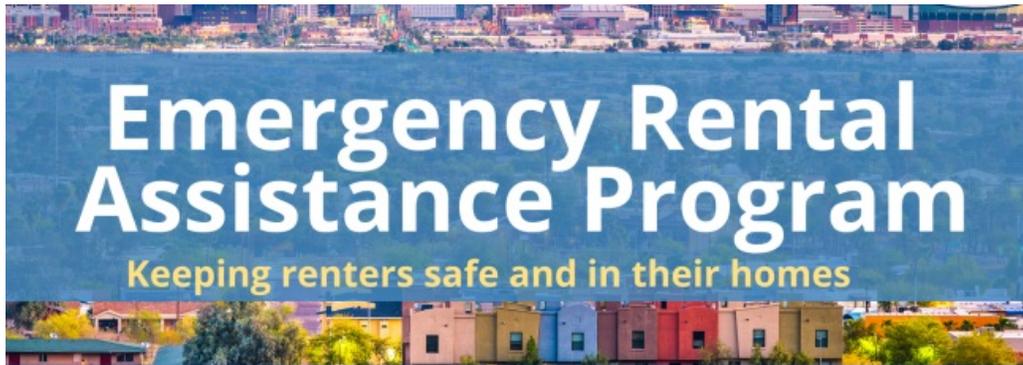
- * is for projects NOT AFFILIATED with VFW or VFW Auxiliary Programs
- *are projects that occur in the community and not at the Post.
- *participation must be approved by the Auxiliary and recorded in the meeting minutes prior to the project.
- *while you are volunteering wear VFW Auxiliary attire such as a shirt, hat or name badge.
- *count only the number of members and number of hours of service.
- *No money is reported. (Monetary donations can be recorded thru your local post community service program.)

Start discussing in your meetings ways that you can help out in your communities for the upcoming year. Maybe folks not in your Auxiliaries have ideas of things that need to be done in the community. Every idea is a good one.

Auxiliary Community Outreach is service we do every day. Our communities need our help; we can make a difference. Good luck with your projects!

Below is a flyer on Emergency Rental Assistance Program. If you are unable to

apply online, call Gayle Randolph at 602-390-4953 and she will be happy to help.



Emergency Rental Assistance Program
Keeping renters safe and in their homes

Renters and landlords in the twelve Arizona counties listed below may apply for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program using the program portal. Renters and landlords can receive up to \$3,500 per month in rent and utility assistance. Applications will be accepted through the program's expiration on December 31, 2021 or until funding is exhausted. Eligibility is based on the renter's address and ability to meet the following criteria:

- The renter's household income is less than or equal to 80% of the Area Median Income;
- The renter or a member of the renter's household is eligible for unemployment insurance benefits OR has experienced a financial hardship as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic; and
- The renter is at risk of homelessness, housing instability, or unsafe living conditions

Renters and landlords in the counties listed below can apply online at des.az.gov/ERAP

Counties Served:

- Apache
- Cochise
- Coconino
- Gila
- Graham
- Greenlee
- La Paz
- Mohave
- Navajo
- Pinal
- Santa Cruz
- Yavapai

*Renters residing in cities and counties other than those listed above are encouraged to contact their local jurisdictions for similar programs. Once it is launched, the ERAP portal will also direct renters living outside these counties to their respective programs.



**Youth
Co-Chairs – Carolyn Quinton &
Stephanie Quinton**

Our Auxiliaries have highly creative members! The program reports we have received so far, show/tell just how creative everyone can be.



For the most part, the chairpersons have used the “Partner Up” idea to combine several programs. The use of this idea shows that members are thinking outside the box and looking at what events they are doing and how wide range just one event can go to include several programs.

There is not much of the school year left even though most schools are back in session. All youth will be trying to catch up and graduation will be on the minds of a lot of the students.

So, we would like to say that even though this year has been extremely difficult, everyone came through with flying colors for creativity. Please keep up the good work and remember, “this too shall pass”.

Those that have not gotten your reports to us, please do so quickly. Thank you.

“HONORING THE PAST WHILE EDUCATING THE FUTURE”

Chief of Staff Donna Ventola

Saddle Up Team Arizona. This month’s topic is about Nominate, Elect and Install Officers.

Now is the time to review the election procedures and turn to our resources for guidance, allowing members to nominate, elect and install their future leaders.



You are encouraged to be familiar with the election procedures outlined in Article VIII- Officers that is in the Podium Edition, Bylaws and Ritual.

Here are some key bullet points:

- **Section 801 - Eligibility**

Any member in good standing shall be eligible to hold any office in the Auxiliary or District.

- **Section 802- Elective Officers**

Elective officers shall include a President, Senior Vice President, Junior Vice President, Treasurer, Chaplain, Conductor/Conductress, and Guard.

- **Section 803- Appointive Officers**

If you have an interest, speak with the incoming President making him/her aware of your desire to serve your Auxiliary or District.

- **Section 804- Election**

This section outlines the process for all levels to conduct their elections according to the level in which they have an interest to serve as an elected or appointed officer.

- **Section 806- Installation**

This section outlines the installation ceremony for all levels

- **Booklet of Instructions**

Read the election of officers

Read election procedure, two or more candidates

Read election procedure by acclamation, one candidate

- **Ritual- Installation ceremony (all levels)**

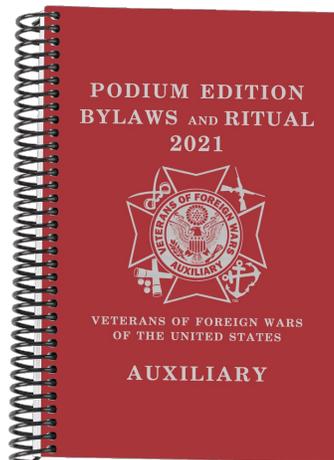
Read nominations and elections of officers

Study installation of officers

Here are some additional resources to help your Auxiliary nominate and elect strong leaders:

- Be certain nominations are Brothers/Sisters who are willing to assume the responsibility of the office they are seeking
- Consider those members who have voiced an interest in holding an appointed office
- Encourage members to assume a role with the Auxiliary as you prepare for the ensuing year.

Thank you for all you have done and for all you will continue to do. Remember what Team NORA says “No One Rides Alone”



Mentoring for Leadership Chrissy Harlan

Officers are to be elected this month. Do all of your members know the Duties of the Officers? Can we expect them to take an office without knowing what the expectations are?

Using the By-laws Article 7 Officers, mentor the membership on who is eligible to hold office, what officers are elected and which ones are appointed, and how an election is to take place.

Section 810A through 824 state the duties of all officers on all levels of the organization. Mentor the members on the duties of each office on the Auxiliary level. For fun maybe throw in the duties of an officer on the District, Department, or National level.

Guidebook 1 of Building on the Auxiliary Foundation deals with all Officers with the exception of Treasurer which is addressed in Guidebook 5. These guidebooks give more day-to-day scenarios that help explain the duties.

Presidents, I suggest that you try to limit your agenda so you have time to

mentor the members on the Duties of the Officers and hopefully get good officers that know what is expected of them and that are committed to the office and the auxiliary.

If you cannot see where you are going, ask someone who has been there before.

~ J. Loren Norris

Scholarships Jeanne Hampton



For the Auxiliary, the finish line of this unprecedented year is finally in sight.

Your entries for the Department of Arizona Merit Scholarship and Educational Grant have been sent to me. Thank you for your entries.

You have received the VFW Auxiliary National Young American Creative Patriotic Arts entries in your wonderful, important, capable hands. Please look to the Scholarships "Patriotic Arts Helpful Hints". This explains ALL of what is necessary: from the student, on the application, necessary signatures, use of the United States Flag in art, and shipping the art. This link is: <https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/Patriotic-Art-Helpful-Hints.pdf>

Walk the student through to make certain the process is completed- essay of 250 words or less, must be included with original art and application- tips for each line are in the above-referenced document.

April 10, 2021, is the deadline for VFW Auxiliary and District judging to be completed.

April 15, 2021, is the deadline when the VFW Auxiliary and District winner are due to the State Scholarship Chairman for judging.

Carefully package and ship the art and supporting documents to me at:

Jeanne Hampton

30300 N. Basin Road

Box 223

Meadview, AZ 86444-0223

If your Auxiliary has chosen their winning entry and has more than one entry, please share with neighboring Auxiliaries. Allow each of these students the opportunity to shine- Share. Let another Auxiliary sponsor an entry.

No matter how it is shipped, the above should put it in my hands. PLEASE include a note regarding the sponsoring Auxiliary number and a CONTACT person's information- I WILL respond as to having received the art item(s).

Before we close the books on this year, let's give a "leg up" to the next year so hopefully, they will have a head start instead of catching up. Every April, the *new* topics for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen are announced. Be ready to take advantage of any opportunity to put this information into the

hands of the grade-appropriate students, Patriot's Pen grades 6 – 8, and Voice of Democracy grades 9 – 12, to begin their original essays in the new school year.

The National winners from the 2020 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen will be announced April 1 at 7:00 pm CDT. I pray the Department of Arizona placed proudly, and did well, because of YOUR efforts.



Veterans and Family Support Lynn Pierre

Combining Programs is a great way to close out our year. Here are some helpful ideas to help you all do just that. After you have looked at all you have accomplished throughout this most difficult, pandemic-filled year, you will be amazed at how much we have accomplished!

Since it's difficult to get out in public, or into our Hospitals, how about getting our children/grandchildren to sign or make cards for the VA Hospital or Home Veterans? You will have a combined Youth Program and Veteran and Family Support. You can also enclose Poppies in those cards and include your Buddy Poppy Program.

For those of you who have not finished your 100% drive, how about scheduling a blood drive at your facility in combination with a membership table/calling tree effort to get the remainder of your folks renewed or gain new members. Also, while doing so, recognize your Veterans and your members who give blood. You have now have a Community Event that covers Community Outreach, Membership, and Veteran and Family Support.

There are many ways to combine efforts and accomplish our goals. Once again, let us remember our Caretakers. Sending a Spa Basket with bubble baths, spa products, and Poppies contributes to our Veteran and Family Support and Buddy Poppy Programs.

For those of you who have not had the chance to send care packages for our Canine Veterans, please go to packagesfromhome.org and look up the list of their needs. Over 7,900 dogs are serving our Country overseas who need our help just as much as the active military we have sent those packages to. Let us take care of them too.

Now, of course, here is an introduction to our Women Veteran caring. We have been allowed to utilize the Hospital Grant to gather items of need for our females in the Women's Veteran Centers. You can utilize Amazon to ship items directly to these folks to help support them as well – diapers, cribs, bottles, blankets, and all those things we needed when we raised our families. Let us make use of that grant and get them what they need to raise healthy babies and continue their road to a successful life.

As many of us have found, the pandemic does not keep us down. We continue

to think of ways to accomplish our goal to support our Veterans and their families.

Food insecurity is another huge drive this year. Many of you have conducted food drives for your community and your Veterans. Remember to provide some meals for those Veterans and their families stuck at home and unable to shop or cook. Sometimes just dropping off something for dinner can mean a great deal to them.

Our National President, Sandi Onstwedder, has asked us to contribute to her program on Food Insecurity: **Stars, Stripes and Support**. This project is especially important to our National President and we must continue to donate to this vital cause.

Donations are cumulative and citations will be awarded for the highest donation level reached. Donation Citation Award Levels:

- Platinum: \$1,000 or more
- Diamond: \$500 – \$999
- Gold: \$250 – \$499
- Silver: \$100 – \$249
- Bronze: \$25 – \$99

Donate by mail by sending funds to the VFW Foundation earmarked for Unmet Needs – Hunger. Mail check to:

VFW National Headquarters
Attn: VFW Foundation
406 W. 34th Street, 9th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111

By supporting this project, you can provide aid to these military families.

By the way, April 15th is so much more than tax day. It is also Military Children's Day. It is a day for the Military Defense Department of Education Activities Committee to wear Purple to thank all the military children for all their support and sacrifices.



Maybe, Auxiliaries could do a banner and a small celebration to thank those awesome kids who will someday be this Country's leaders. These kids have gone through so much without one of their parents and some will never see them again. Let's be sure to recognize them. Cake and ice cream is always a favorite. Please be aware of the occasional need for sugar-free treats as well.

I thank every one of you for working so diligently throughout a very difficult year to ensure that our Veterans, Active Military, and their families are cared for. You are amazing and show every day how tenacious a group we are.

Americanism
Vickie Rippel



April 2: Good Friday- Let us remember our brave servicemen and women who are suffering from PTSD and/or suicidal tendencies. They need our support every day. Let's show them, they are not alone.

April 4: Easter – Celebrate with egg-cellent activities for all ages. Ideas include: add an American Flag to your Easter wreath; place patriotic items in Easter baskets like American Flag stickers, Patriotic coloring books, a red, white, and blue stuffed animal; a book from Patriotism through Literacy suggested book list; and/or host an Easter egg hunt with red, white, and blue eggs.

Patriotism the Literacy link: <https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/Suggested-Book-List.pdf>

April 5: Gold Star Spouses Day – This day honors spouses of service members who died while serving in the U.S. Armed Forces.

An organization known as Gold Star Wives began operating before the end of the Second World War, and the Gold Star lapel button tradition was established in the summer of 1947.

All of this set the stage for Gold Star Spouses Day, which began as Gold Star Wives Day-the first of which occurred in December 2010. Two years later a Senate resolution codified Gold Star Wives Day, observed on April 5 each year. Later guidance changed the recognition to be more inclusive. Today the event is known as Gold Star Spouses Day, though many still use “Gold Star Wives Day” interchangeably with Gold Star Spouses Day.

Learn more: <https://militarybenefits.info/gold-star-spouses-day/>

April 22nd: Earth Day- Earth day is a day for all of us to remember the environment in our busy lives. A **day** that reminds us to continue to do the little things that help our environment. Things like turning off the lights, the conservation of energy, plant trees, recycle, reduce, and reuse. We can show our support by bringing our Communities together with an environmental project.

I would like to thank all of the Auxiliaries for their “ Americanism Projects Reports” I am very proud and honored to be your Department Chairman.

Legislative Bambi Johnson

If anyone thought that Covid-19 and social distancing was going to slow our Legislative progress...they underestimated the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary!



For the first time in history, leadership from the Veterans of Foreign Wars addressed Congress virtually for its annual veterans' advocacy hearing. The yearly testimony typically takes place in-person on Capitol Hill, hosting a large contingent of leaders from the VFW and its Auxiliary, as well as other veteran service organizations. However, Congress made the decision to move all of this year's hearings to an online, socially distant format out of pandemic safety concerns.

National VFW Commander Hal Roesch gave a powerful presentation for the following key legislative priorities: *Toxic Exposures and Other Environmental Hazards - Veteran Economic Issues - Veteran Claims and Benefits - Underserved Veteran Populations.*

Over a two-week period in March, our National Legislative Chairs of both the VFW and Auxiliary, were hard at work, using video conferencing, with our Congressional representatives. National VFW Chairman Jim Ellars, invited me to speak with a mix of eight different Senators and Representatives regarding some of our most vital veteran issues, which he sent me in advance as Talking Points.

While Priority Goals gives us the "bird's eye view" of current year Legislative goals, the VFW Talking Points (under Legislative on our Dept website [-vfwauxaz.org](http://vfwauxaz.org)) are a written outline of important facts and action items that you want to cover when you have the opportunity to contact a Legislator or their staff.

Reviewing items like the Talking Points and Action Corp articles will best prepare you when you have the opportunity to speak with or write to legislators. Be the best Veteran advocate you can be, by staying current and prepared for every opportunity to bring these important goals to success.

The following **"CALL TO ACTION"** message was sent out by our VFW National Commander-in-Chief Hal Roesch. He is asking each and every one of us to contact our Congressional Lawmakers at Capitol Hill to show our strong support to pass legislation to care for veterans — past, present, and future — who suffer after serving in hazardous environments during their service to our great nation...

https://heroes.vfw.org/page/76129/action/1?ea.tracking.id=2021MarchPetitionMEM1&&utm_medium=email&utm_source=engagingnetworks&utm_campaign=2021MarchLegislative1MEM&utm_content=2021+March+Annual+Legislative+Email+MEM+1&ea.url.id=5208801&forwarded=true



A quick update on Arizona items:

Hopefully, the VFW and Auxiliary License Plate Bills will have passed and have been signed into law by the 1st of April. If so, we will keep the membership updated as to when the plates will be released for an issue.

Through Accessing Telehealth through Local Area Stations (ATLAS), the VA and Philips, one of two ATLAS Telehealth pod stations are being set up at the American Legion Post 12 in Wickenburg to help serve rural areas veterans.

Hopefully, with strong utilization of this site, more will come to Arizona. Please email me if you feel that your VFW should be considered as a future ATLAS site.

Hospital Melissa Martin

Hi everyone I hope your all doing well. I want to start by thanking everyone for doing such a great job with your Hospital Project Reports. There were a lot of very good ideas for projects as we all had to think outside the box.

My diaper drive is still going on through April so get me those diapers and other baby items as soon as you can so I can get them to the VA Hospital. I was also given a good idea that our Department President Melody Judd saw on the news. The Phoenix VA did a drive-thru baby shower and donated items to new mothers and moms to be. You could put a different twist on it and have people drive-thru and donate diapers and other new baby items for you to collect and send on to me. My address again is 202 S 83rd Place, Mesa, AZ. 85208.

Now that spring is here maybe you could think about going over to a Veterans home and planting some flowers for them to enjoy or helping them with some spring cleaning. Remember to protect yourself and the Veteran by wearing a mask while at their home.



The following is the latest blog from National Hospital Ambassador Linda Roloff.

MIA: Locate and Love

For today consider that MIA is not “Missing in Action,” but as it applies to our Hospital Program, stands for “Missing in America.” It’s easy to find something if it’s right where you think it’s going to be. A timely example would be the upcoming Easter holiday: If the beautifully painted eggs are right in the basket on the kitchen table, they’re nice and all, but the fun of hunting and finding those little treasures that are lost.

Most of us have taken to looking for and finding our veteran patients right where we know they are going to be – at the VA Hospitals, CLC’s and veterans homes we serve. Did you know, however, that most of our veterans receiving long-term care are NOT in a VA facility? NOPE. Most are right around the corner from you in your LOCAL nursing homes, convalescent centers, and assisted living facilities. Most of our veterans in long-term care never see a person from the VFW Auxiliary’s Hospital Program because they are not where WE are used to finding them.

For a new season, Spring, lets reclaim our veterans Missing in America:

- Develop a visitation schedule or program plan for a local facility’s veteran patients.
- Contact your local nursing home.
- Contact your local memory care/convalescent center.
- Contact your neighborhood assisted living and/or S.H.A.G. housing complex.
- Involve Auxiliary members who are too far from a VA facility to volunteer there (they are not too far from their own local nursing homes!)
-

Most of these places have an activities director who is going to be your new best friend. The activities director will help you estimate how many veterans they have in their facility, and what kinds of patriotic programs they'd like you to host (think Flag Day, Pearl Harbor Day, Memorial Day, you get the picture...).

All residents would benefit from our visits and are encouraged to take part but make a special fuss over the veteran residents! If all your Auxiliary has ever done for their Hospital Program is to "tote donations to Convention" to hand off to someone who lives closer to the VA Hospital, this is YOUR TIME TO SHINE!



Historian/Media Brenda Kinghorn

April Showers Bring May Flowers

National President Sandi came to our great State of Arizona at the end of March.

I took a lot of photos at her first dinner, meet and greet with auxiliaries, lunch, and visiting San Xavier Mission. Lunch and dinner at Post 549, 5990, and

6271. Coffee with 162nd Air Guard Command Staff. Sightseeing and lunch in Tombstone.

Some people do not do computers or struggle with different programs like PowerPoint. Below is a list of templates and websites that help people create newsletters and offer PowerPoint tips. Don't hesitate to ask someone to help including our youth – they are very knowledgeable when it comes to computers. Ask them to put a newsletter together for your Auxiliary or have them show how you can do it yourself.

Newsletter Templates

<https://templates.office.com/en-us/newsletter-tm02686615>

<https://www.layoutready.com/Microsoft-Word-Templates/Newsletters/Newsletter-Templates-Library.aspx>

<https://blog.learningtree.com/easily-create-newsletter-template-microsoft-word/>

<http://www.worddraw.com/>

Presentation (PowerPoint) Templates

<https://www.presentermedia.com/powerpoint-templates/templates.html>

<https://templates.office.com/en-us/templates-for-powerpoint>

<https://www.free-powerpoint-templates-design.com/free-powerpoint-templates-design/>

<https://slidesgo.com/simple>

Use templates to create eye-catching newsletters and presentations for your Auxiliary.

2020-2021 National Historian & Media Relations Ambassador Nicole Koutz's Blog

Membership Ray Williams

Congratulations to all the Auxiliaries that have met and exceeded membership goals! After the year we've had (pandemic) it's amazing to see how you have

succeeded!

While it's important that we recruit new members into our Auxiliaries, it's equally important that we keep our current members and work to keep the new members. There is an excellent video on the national website "Engaging Your Auxiliary's Existing Members". Please show it at your next meeting.



Log in to vfwauxiliary.org; click on About Us; click on Online Auxiliary Academy; click on tab Membership and Leadership; then the link to the video. Or you can download it: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AsRkDfrmP-M>

The video shows that engaging our members and treating them like a valued "customer" will keep them coming back. We need to keep them engaged in order to keep them excited about coming back to the Auxiliary.

Find out what your "customer" likes and wants and strive to make them happy. We all love our programs and projects, but members are not likely to volunteer to help if they aren't spending time with friends. Don't underestimate the downtime that we all need, time to just socialize and reconnect.

Not all members want to participate in programs, but all of our members joined for a reason. Find out their "why" and use that to keep that member engaged.

Keep members informed by finding out the best way to communicate. Not all communications need to be about the Auxiliary; members need to know that you care about other aspects of their lives and that sometimes it's ok for the Auxiliary to take a back seat when the member has other priorities.

Members that are not active right now, maybe your "go-to" person in the future. Keep them engaged.

Make sure that all members are being mentored. Auxiliary leadership may not necessarily be the best mentors, but they should be able to recognize and appoint good mentors.

Always be open to new and progressive ideas. We are not the same organization that the founding members envisioned and in the years to come, we will not be the same organization that we are today. Embrace it!

VFW Auxiliary Eligibility Wheel



**Step- and adopted parents, children, siblings (and half-siblings), grandparents and grandchildren are considered the same as biological parents, children, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren and may join the VFW Auxiliary under their VFW-eligible veteran.*

ANNOUNCEMENT

All Program Activity Reports (PARs) from April 2020 through March 2021 are due no later than

April 15th.

This will allow for all information sent in to be tallied and sent to Department for the report that needs to be sent in to National.



Program Activity Reports Received From Auxiliaries As of March 31st

The form can be found on the Department website -vfwauxaz.org under resources/forms.

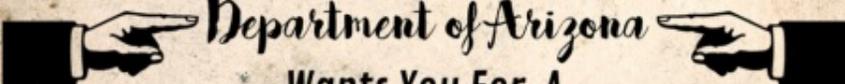
Remember that to make the Circle of Excellence, your Auxiliary needs to turn in completed PAR's.

If you need help or have questions, please email Kim Harney at emma32680@hotmail.com or call at 520-226-6363.

Program Activity Reports Received	2nd Q	3rd Q	4th Q	1st Q
	Apr, May, June	July, Aug, Sept	Oct, Nov, Dec	Jan, Feb, Mar
District 1				
769	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	J, F
1763	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	J, F
2357	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	
6790	A,M, J	J, A, S	O,N,D	
7061	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	J, F, M
8242	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	
District 2				
541	J	J,A,S	N,D	
6739				
7400	J	J,A,S	O, N,D	
10227	A,M,J	J,S		
12128	A,M,J	J,A,S	O,N, D	J, F
District 3				
40	A,M,J	J,A,S	O,N	
285	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N,D	J
1433	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N,D	J, F, M
3715				
12098	A,M,J	J,A,S	O,N,D	J, F, M
District 4				
720			N,D	
1760	A,M,J	J, A, S	O, N, D	
1796	A,M,J	J,A,S	O,N,D	J, F
3513	A,M,J	J,A,S	O,N	
3632	A,M,J	J,A,S	O,N,D	J
9400	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	
District 5				
549	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	J, F
4903		J,A		
5990	A,M,J	J,A,S	O,N, D	J
10254	A,M,J	J,A,S	O,N,D	
District 6				
2364	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	J, F
8987	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	J, F
9907	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	J, F
District 7				
6271	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	
9972	A,M,J	J,A,S	O,N, D	J, F
9977				
10385	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	J, F

Program Activity Reports Received				
	2nd Q	3rd Q	4th Q	1st Q
	Apr, May, June	July, Aug, Sept	Oct, Nov, Dec	Jan, Feb, Mar
District 8				
404	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	J, F
2190	A,M,J	J,AS	O,N, D	J, F, M
2555			N,D	
6306	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	J, F
9401	A,M,J	J,A,S	O,N,D	J,F,M
9833	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	
10005	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	J, F
10386			N,D	
10726				
11014	A,M,J	J,A,S	O,N, D	J, F, M
District 10				
1677	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N,D	J, F
3584	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	J,F
3713	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	
7968	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	J,F
9399	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	J, F
12043	M,J	J,A,S	O,N, D	J, F

WANTED

 Department of Arizona
Wants You For A

HOMECOMING HOEDOWN

to celebrate

COMMANDER JEFF EILER & PRESIDENT MELODY JUDD

Western Brisket & Rib Dinner with all the Fix'ens
\$25.00 per person - Children under 12 Eat for Free
Deadline to get tickets April 30, 2021

Saturday, May 22, 2021

From 11:00 am - 4:00PM - Dinner Served at High Noon
The Show Low Elks Lodge Pavilion
805 E. Whipple, Show Low Arizona

RSVP: Melody Judd @ melodyfaye@frontier.com

Send Checks to: Melody Judd, 381 N. 3rd Ave., Show Low AZ 85901



Arizona VFW & Auxiliary CONVENTION 2021

El Conquistador Tucson

(a Hilton Resort)
**Thursday June 17-
Sunday June 19, 2021
Reservation Code VFW**

Request special considerations (handicap, first floor etc...)

Room Rates: Standard Room \$94.00+

Casita Suite \$174.00 +

Junior Suite \$134.00+

Deadline for Reservations May 24, 2021

520-544-5000

Tentative Convention Schedule

TUESDAY JUNE 15, 2021

2:00 PM – 5:00 PM VFW Auxiliary District Presidents' Training

WEDNESDAY JUNE 16, 2021

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM VFW Auxiliary District Presidents' Training

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM REGISTRATION - VFW and VFW Auxiliary

THURSDAY JUNE 17, 2021

8:00 AM- 1:00 PM REGISTRATION - VFW and VFW Auxiliary

9:00 AM VFW and VFW Auxiliary JOINT OPENING

12:00 PM ADJOURN (Lunch on your own)

1 PM VFW and VFW Auxiliary JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICE

3:00 PM VFW AUXILIARY OPENING SESSION

FRIDAY JUNE 18, 2021

7:00 AM VFW Auxiliary Past President's Club Breakfast

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM REGISTRATION - VFW and VFW Auxiliary

9:00 AM VFW OPENING BUSINESS SESSIONS

(Nomination of 2021-22 Department Officers)

9:30 AM VFW AUXILIARY RESUME BUSINESS SESSION

12:00 PM LUNCH (on your own)

2:00 PM VFW AUXILIARY RESUME BUSINESS SESSION

5:00 PM PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS CLUB DINNER

(Location to be announced)

SATURDAY JUNE 19, 2021

8:00 AM- 10:00 AM REGISTRATION - VFW and VFW Auxiliary

8:00AM FLAG RAISING AT MAIN ENTRANCE (VFW Riders)

9:00 AM VFW & AUXILIARY RESUME BUSINESS SESSIONS

SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION - ALL Service Officers,

Chaplains, QM's, Trustees, Inspectors & VMS

(30 minutes after business session)

5:00 PM DEPARTMENT COMMANDER & PRESIDENT

BANQUET - JOINT INSTALLATION OF 2021-2022

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

All VFW and Auxiliary members to be installed must purchase a banquet ticket

SUNDAY JUNE 20, 2021

10:00 AM

INCOMING COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING



Commander & President Reception

Saturday June 19, 5:00 pm

\$38.00 pp (you must make a reservation by June 1)

RETURN THIS FORM TO DEPARTMENT HQ'S

Tickets will not be mailed. Pick up your tickets at the VFW registration table at convention.

Make Check Payable to VFW Dept of AZ

Mail Checks to: Veterans of Foreign Wars

6423 S. Ash Ave Tempe, AZ 85283

Dinner Selections

Roasted Sirloin Steak w/Demi-Glace and Sauteed Mushrooms

Chicken Verde w/Red Pepper Puree

Both include Mashed Potatoes and Creamy Spinach

***Dairy Free, Gluten Free and Vegetarian meals by special request*

Includes Mixed Green Salad, Lemon Cream Sheet Cake

NAME OF POST OR AUXILIARY - *Please indicate your choice of meal and quantity*

Roasted Sirloin Steak w/Demi-Glace and Sauteed Mushrooms

- Chicken Verde w/Red Pepper Puree*
- Dairy Free*
- Gluten Free*
- Vegetarian*

******DUE TO CURRENT COVID RESTRICTIONS TABLE SEATING IS LIMITED TO 8
SUBJECT TO CHANGE IF THERE IS A RISE IN COVID CASE NUMBERS**

**IF YOU WISH TO RESERVE A TABLE FOR 8 PLEASE SEND ONLY 1 CHECK "TABLE OF 8"
ALONG WITH MEAL SELECTIONS FOR ENTIRE TABLE
ALL OTHER SEATING IS FIRST COME FIRST SERVED**

Auxiliary Past-Presidents' Club
Auxiliary VFW Department of Arizona
Meeting – Friday – June 18, 2021

2020-2021 GREENIES (Outgoing Presidents on All Levels),

It's time to gather for **breakfast**, have some fun, take care of business, and welcome the newest batch of Past Presidents! The Annual Business Meeting will be held during the Department Convention in Tucson, AZ at the El Conquistador – Hilton resort.

During our last business meeting it was requested to plan a BREAKFAST.
MENU: Scrambled eggs with cheese and salsa, bacon, muffins with butter and preserves.
Coffee, Decaf coffee and hot tea.

The Auxiliary Past Presidents' Club or APPC, donates funds each year to the Arizona VA Medical Centers in Prescott, Phoenix, and Tucson. The VAVS Representatives will report during the meeting on how our funds were used to help our veterans.

All outgoing Presidents on every level are "Greenies" (so named because green is the official color for the APPC). Greenies are asked to make a special fundraising effort by first asking your Auxiliary to donate \$50.00 to the Arizona Past Presidents Club (APPC), selling raffle tickets throughout the year, and at Department Convention. Raffle tickets are 3 for \$1.00...so Auxiliary receives 150 tickets in their name for the \$50 donation. Greenies need to provide their own raffle tickets. Identify the tickets with either a name and telephone number, or Auxiliary number. Winners need not be present. Checks should be made to APPC and mailed to Debi Rankin, APPC Secretary/Treasurer – PO Box 5003, Apache Junction, AZ 85718-0018 – **Tickets & Money can also be turned in at convention!** Winning tickets will be drawn for prizes!

The APPC \$2.50 Dues, \$1.50 Project dues, and \$18 Meal = \$22.00 should also be mailed to Debi Rankin. **APPC Members can pay and pick up their 2021 cards in the registration area at convention and the card will allow entry to the APPC Meeting.**

Those not attending the breakfast can mail **\$4 for our project and dues** and Debi will mail the membership card directly to you. Please make sure you include your mailing address. You must pay for the luncheon by the **May 17th deadline** – we will not sell tickets at convention.

Bambi Johnson - APPC President
Dsr/BJ

Debi Rankin-APPC Secretary / Treasurer



**Purrfecting Care For Our Veterans
Department President Shirt 2021-2022**

**This is a Turquoise short sleeve polo shirt. Women's shirt is a V Neck style .
Men's shirt has three buttons down the front.**

ONE SHIRT ORDER PER FORM

Ladies Size		Quantity	Size	Price
Small to XL	\$24	_____	_____	_____
2X	\$25	_____	_____	_____
3X	\$27	_____	_____	_____
4X	\$29	_____	_____	_____
Men's Size		Quantity	Size	Price
Small to XL	\$24	_____	_____	_____
2X	\$25	_____	_____	_____
3X	\$27	_____	_____	_____
4X	\$29	_____	_____	_____
		Totals	\$	_____

Name: _____ Post / Auxiliary # _____

Email address: _____ Phone: _____

Paid Check #: _____

Send the completed form with payment to:
 Janae Kemery
 55308 W. Hathaway Ave
 Maricopa, AZ, 85319

Orders to be delivered at the Department Convention must be received by May 1, 2020.



**Shirt Fundraiser for Kim Harney's
Campaign for National Guard**

Ladies Size	Quantity	Size	Price
--------------------	-----------------	-------------	--------------

Small to XL	\$30	_____	_____	_____
2X – 4X	\$35	_____	_____	_____
Men's Size		Quantity	Size	Price
Small to XL	\$30	_____	_____	_____
XXL – 4X	\$35	_____	_____	_____

Totals \$ _____ (if you would like the shirt mailed, please add \$5.00)

Name: _____

Post / Auxiliary # _____

Email address: _____

Phone: _____

Mailing

Address: _____

Paid Check #: _____

Send the completed form with payment to:

Kim Harney

2562 San Ysidro Dr.

Sierra Vista, Az 85635

Questions - please email or call me at emma32680@hotmail.com or 520-226-6363