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Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter

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President Bambi Johnson's Message

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. I am sure that many of you were spending time with those who were either in need of assistance or just some company and conversation.

We held a MIT Member Involvement Training in Bullhead City in November that was well attended, including our Arizona State Commander Bill. Lots of good feedback regarding the content and great interaction of the members. We always try to keep these fresh and fun!

We are expecting to hold two MIT meetings in February, which will focus on Auxiliary election processes from Auxiliary through National

levels with information on delegates. Another focus will be to assist any Auxiliary that needs assistance on sending in final PARs and Special Project Reports.

Our Winter Conference is coming up the first weekend in January and time is running short, so we make your hotel reservations and purchase your Banquet tickets! The Banquet is such a special event in the lives of our student finalists and their parents for the Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy Scholarships.

The Winter Conference is also when National Auxiliary President Carla Martinez will be making her Official Visit to Arizona to visit with our members. We have a separate flyer coming out which will explain in more detail what we have planned while she is here, including an honorary Aisle of Flags and hopefully a Flags and Flowers event. We will also have President Carla's picture taken during the Conference with all of the books that are brought to the Conference for the Arizona Joint Book Drive...hope you are donating lots of books!

This time of the year not only can be quite hectic, it can also be stressful. We all try to spend time with family, friends, working on programs and keeping our smiles in place through it all. Be kind to all you encounter and keep a watchful eye on those individuals that are alone or seem depressed, a smile and thoughtful gesture goes a long way!

Have a wonderful Christmas and safe New Year holiday. See you at Winter Conference!



The District Corner and flyers will no longer be featured in the newsletter. They are located on the webpage www.vfwauxaz.org under news/events. Be sure to check out all that is happening around the Department.

News

***National Guard Muster** is on Dec 3rd in Sloan Park in Mesa starting at 10:30 am. Volunteers are needed.



***Uniting to Combat Hunger Grant** is open from Oct 1 thru June 1, 2024. The form is available on the Department webpage - www.vfwauxaz.org under programs/veterans and family support or resources/forms.

***Winter Conference** is Jan 5-6th in Phoenix at the Hilton Phoenix Airport.

***National President's visit** will be Jan 5-7 during Winter Conference.

***Department MIT's** will be held on 2/3 at Post 9399 in Apache Junction and 2/24 at Post 6271 in Benson. Both trainings will be from 9-3 pm. The flyers are on the Department webpage - www.vfwauxaz.org under news/events.

***Department President and Commander's Homecoming** will be a joint event on April 6th at Post 9399 in Apache Junction. Event begins at 5 pm and cost is \$25. Click [here](#) to see the flyer.

***Department Convention** is May 29th - June 2nd at Loews Ventana Canyon in Tucson.

*Go to www.vfwauxaz.org under news/events to see the flyers for the conferences/convention mentioned above.

*Irene Norwacki is running for **Department Guard** at the 2024 Department convention. Click [here](#) to read her brochure.

*Department of Arkansas Kim Davis is a candidate for **National Guard** at the 2024 National Convention in Ky. Click [here](#) to read her letter and brochure.

*National President Carla, Department President Bambi, Department Commander Bill and Kim Harney's **shirts** are available to order. Click [here](#) for the order forms.

JANUARY 5-7, 2024

Winter Conference

National President Carla Martinez's Official Visit
**Voice of Democracy / Patriot's Pen
Awards Banquet**

Friday Afternoon January 5 Flags and Flowers

Exact Time and Location to be determined. All VFW and VFW Auxiliary members are invited to participate in "Flags and Flowers" event at a local cemetery.

Friday Evening January 5 Aisle of Flags

5:00pm – All VFW and VFW Auxiliary members are invited to join National President Martinez at the USS Arizona Memorial Gardens at Salt River (7455 N. Pima Rd., Scottsdale). Department, Districts and Auxiliaries are asked to bring their large American Flag and Auxiliary Banner for the Aisle of Flags.

Saturday January 6

9:00 a.m. Winter Conference

Welcome MC Jim McCormick

Pledge of Allegiance and Opening Prayer

Opening Remarks – Cmdr. Schaeffler and President Johnson

Introduction of Special Guests – Cmdr. Schaeffler

National Representative National Sr. Vice CinC Al Lipphardt

Introduction of Special Guests - President Johnson

National President Carla Martinez

Special Presentations

Major General Chrystal Vietnam 50th Anniversary Commemoration

Chuck Byers Transportation for Veterans

Mike DeRosa VFW Foundation

VFW and VFW Auxiliary Membership Awards

VFW National Convention Volunteer Awards

Sharpen Your Communication Skills – Becky Baldwin

Training on how people communicate differently, how to recognize those communication methods and skills to communicate and engage with others more effectively.

Closing Remarks Department President Johnson
 National President Carla Martinez
 Department Commander Schaeffler
 National Sr. Vice CinC Lipphardt

Programs – All VFW and VFVA Chairmen

Noon Lunch on your own

4:00 p.m Student Photos (Open to only Students, Parents, Department
Officers, District Commander and President)

5:00 p.m. No Host Reception

6:00 p.m. Dinner and Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Awards
Presentation of Colors Jr. ROTC

Sunday January 7

9:00 a.m. Council of Administration Meetings (VFW and VFW Auxiliary)

**SPECIAL NOTICE – Department Commander Schaeffler and President Johnson's
SPECIAL PROJECT FOR WINTER CONFERENCE – Please bring books to donate
to a local library for the Patriotism Thru Literacy program.**

**Updated Information on the
Winter Conference Book Drive**

(this flyer can be also be found on www.vfwauxaz.org
under programs/youth or news/events)

Winter Conference Book Drive

Hello all! I hope that you are doing well and gearing up for the holidays ahead.

I just wanted to offer some clarification on our joint book drive for Winter Conference.

We will be donating these books to the Phoenix library, which is a main hub library that services smaller libraries across the state of Arizona. If we have duplicate books, GREAT! The more books, the merrier. This way when the books are needed, more than one copy will be available to be loaned out to other libraries and we reach as many youths as possible with our donations. These books will be donated in honor of National President Carla Martinez and the State of Arizona VFW and Auxiliary.

Please, if you can, bring your donated books Friday to winter conference since we will have the most available time with National President Carla on that day. We are going to be very busy Saturday with the conference and honoring all the youths that have entered the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen contests. Remember, this is a joint effort for both the VFW and Auxiliary so get your Posts involved. Let's make this the greatest book donation for our National President and the State of Arizona ever.



Districts: 1 & 6 - Pre-K - Preschool

Districts: 2 & 7 - 1st & 2nd Grade

Districts: 3 & 8 - 3rd & 4th Grade

Districts: 4 & 9 - 5th & 6th Grade

Districts: 5 & 10 - 7th & 8th Grade

See the link below or log into the VFW Auxiliary website.

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/Patriotism-Through-Literacy-Suggested-Books-2022.pdf>



Spotlight on Auxiliaries' Projects

Each month Auxiliaries' projects will be featured in the newsletter. These projects are randomly selected and hopefully will give Auxiliaries ideas on projects they can complete.

*Aux 8242 made a special visit to the Veterans Home to donate candy for Trunk or Treat for Halloween. All local schools were invited to attend this event. They then made a second delivery of



Halloween candy plus art supplies and a Nintendo, Switch that had been requested by the residents. The picture below is of the supplies donated.



Secretary/Treasurer Kim Sloan

As we celebrate the upcoming holidays, I want you all to know how much I appreciate everything you do for the VFW Auxiliary.



Unfortunately, stress is a burden we all have at this time of the year and I want to apologize in advance for the additional stress I'm going to put on the officers. There are some items that need your attention this month.

- Audits for the 3rd Quarter 2023 were to have been completed, approved by the Auxiliary and a copy to me by end of November. I still have more than half of our Auxiliaries that have not completed this requirement. Please make sure to get those audits to me asap.
- District Secretaries – Please send me copies of the District Minutes as soon as possible after the meeting. This is how we update the Outstanding Auxiliary tracking sheet which you should also be checking to make sure that if an Auxiliary was represented at the District meeting, it is reflected on the tracking

sheet.

- Treasurers – All Auxiliary officers must have their dues paid by December 22. A report will be run the next day and dues for any unpaid officers will be paid by Department and a bill sent to the Auxiliary. An officer that has not paid their 2024 dues by the end of the year cannot hold office as they are not a member in good standing. This is also a requirement for the Department in order to receive the Circle of Excellence award.
- Applications are starting to decline in quality (as far as handwriting). As you know, if you can't read it, then I probably can't either. Take the time to make sure it's legible!
- The new Auxiliary Bookkeeping Application is up on the website. Only Treasurers can access the application itself but the Bookkeeping Application Training Video and MALTA Bookkeeping Application User Guide are both linked on the Department website – www.vfwauxaz.org behind log in under Treasurer. In my opinion these are tools that Trustees need as they will assist them in properly completing an audit. The more the Trustees know about the duties of the Treasurer, the better they will be prepared to assist.
- There is also a new feature under Treasurer's Duties. If the Auxiliary votes to change their annual dues amount, the Treasurer can enter the new dues amount in MALTA and show when it will be effective. Since National Dues are going up to \$10 starting July 1, many Auxiliaries are already considering raising their dues to cover the additional amount.

We have several new Treasurers and I want to thank some Treasurers for volunteering to help them. This is an excellent way to mentor!

The Department Bylaws are being reviewed and updated for presentation and approval at the 2024 Convention. We will have a draft to present at the Winter Conference.

So here are a few tricks to help deal with the stress I've now caused –

- Exercise! Walk the dog! Walk the kids/grandkids!
- Get Quality Sleep! There is no shame in going to bed when your body tells you to!
- Practice Mindfulness / Meditation/ Relaxation! OOOOMMMMM!
- Spend time with family and friends who bring you joy! The operative words are "Bring you joy"
- Eat Well and enjoy those adult beverages in moderation!

And call me if you need a shoulder or need help or just want to vent!

Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays!

YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

If you have a young family member
(must be related to a VFW or Auxiliary member)
between the ages of 10 – 15

And

They would like to volunteer at the 2024 Department Convention

Please contact the Department Secretary – Treasurer Kim Sloan
at 520.307.7940

They must be accompanied by an adult who will be at convention and
responsible for the young person when not “on duty”.

Unfortunately, we do not cover any of the costs for these volunteers.

We just want to expose them to the joys of volunteering and getting to
know more about the VFW Auxiliary which they may want to join.



Americanism Lori Schaeffler

[National Amabassdor's Blog -
November is a BIG Month](#)

This December 7, we remember the world changing event known as Pearl Harbor Day or Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. As President Franklin Roosevelt said as he declared war "A day that will live in Infamy". On National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day, take a moment to remember the 2,403 victims tragically lost in the attack and remember the defining moment when brave young American men and women rose up to defend our nation, help liberate the world from tyranny and become “The Greatest Generation.”

I hope in January you will come to the National Presidents visit during Winter Conference. We will be taking her to **USS Arizona Memorial Garden at Salt River** on Friday Evening. If you have never been it is pretty amazing to see.

Wreaths Across America “Serve and Succeed”

Have you thought about getting involved? It means so much to the families to know that their loved ones are remembered during the busy holiday season and that they are not forgotten.

“SAY THEIR NAMES”

Did you know that from Sea to shining Sea, the same exact words are spoken at the same exact time each year? I think this is very **AWESOME** and it shows a United Nation honoring our Veterans.

On December 16th at 10am (AZ) and across the nation we will honor our Veterans by placing a Wreath on their grave and teaching our younger generations about the value of their freedoms, and the importance of honoring those who sacrificed so much to protect those freedoms. We need to work to create opportunities to connect “the Greatest Generation” with the “Generation of Hope”.

The inspirational stories of our World War II Veterans and our Vietnam Veterans must be passed on to the leaders of the future. If you are interested in getting involved check out www.wreathscrossamerica.org. You can look for a location in your area.

Partner up with all your programs because Americanism is in every single program and is promoted daily in our community. Thanking a Veteran for their service, giving assistance to those hospitalized, replacing a flag at your neighbor’s home or local business, teaching our children about paying it forward by filling out cards for deployed soldiers or just taking cookies to that neighbor who just needs to know that we do care.

I challenge each of you to continue thinking outside the box! Don’t just check that box to meet you “goals” that National has put out. Let’s go above and beyond. Look for a veteran and their family who may need some help and offer some assistance. Have you thought of Adopting a family this coming Holiday Season?? Please don’t just look for families with little kids, everyone chooses the children. There are many teens that might need a jacket or jeans or new pair of shoes.

As you are out looking at Christmas lights, look for American Flags in your neighborhood or at local businesses that are not looking so healthy and offer to replace it. Remember those people in your communities who display their Flag and acknowledge them with a certificate so they can be recognized and appreciated.

In closing Department VFW Commander Bill Schaeffler and our family wishes you and your family a Merry Christmas and prosperous new year! **PLEASE** do not forget to continue doing those buddy checks and making sure your Auxiliary and Comrades are OK and

continue being the best American you can be as we stay true to our
Red, White and Blue!

“LET’S GO. MEET THE CHALLENGE”

Auxiliary Outreach
Melissa Martin

[National Ambassador's Blog -
Follow the Five Basic Steps](#)



Hey everyone, hopefully you're all finding ways to help your community with holiday festivities. A couple of ideas would be helping your community with toy drives for needy children; helping with Christmas parties at your local Boys and Girls clubs, or helping to serve a Christmas meal at your local senior center. Your local food banks always need extra help during the holiday season with packing up holiday meal boxes for the community. Remember always make sure you vote for it in your Auxiliary meeting first and include that in your minutes.

In this month's blog from the Outreach Ambassador, Sandy Pinsonault she gives details on how to make your Outreach a success: Follow five basic steps in order to make your Auxiliary Outreach Program successful.

- 1) Find local groups and organizations that need assistance. Search local newspapers, nonprofit organizations in your community, websites, Facebook pages or ask your members what other organizations they belong to. Most organizations are short on volunteers; be eager to help them.
- 2) Ask what your Auxiliary can do to help them make their event successful. Do they need help setting up, tearing down, cleaning up? Manning stations, assisting participants, answering phones or serving?
- 3) Vote at your Auxiliary meeting to approve the activity. Once you have found an organization that needs your assistance, bring the activity back to your Auxiliary for approval. Have it in the minutes that one or more of your members will be participating. This can be a one-time event or a reoccurring event.
- 4) Form the partnership with the other organization. Be sure to show up on time and bring your "A" game. Wear your Auxiliary hat, shirt or pin. Be recognized as a volunteer from your Auxiliary.

5) Report the details.

At your next Auxiliary meeting, report the number of hours each member participated and how many miles it took to drive to and from the event.

Remember that you cannot plan the event, give money to the event or participate in the event. You are there to volunteer your time. If the event overlaps with another Program, it must be reported in that Program.

I hope everyone has a great Holidays and hope to see you all at Winter Conference.

AMAZON
wish list



Buddy Poppy & VFW National Home
Connie Hargraves

[National Amabssador's Blog - Exciting New Things Are Happening](#)

Thanksgiving is past, hopefully everyone had some scrumptious turkey or ham with all the fixin's. I received a lot of program reports that showcased Post/Auxiliary members and Veteran dinners with unique ways of using "Buddy" poppies. Parades were also a special event honoring Veterans.

Christmas is right around the corner. Let's continue remembering our Veterans who are alone in VA homes, nursing homes or those that may need additional support for the holidays. Like our National Home in Eaton Rapids, many have put out a wish list. Thank you to those of you who sent items to the National Home for the kids who earned credits to go in and shop for their parents, siblings, or close family members. I know they will be grateful for this opportunity.

Please remember to check out the VFW National Home Amazon Wish List or feel free to send items to National Home which can include needed supplies.

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/CEPQBFHDZG2?ref_=wl_fv_le
Amazon Wish List Instructions

1. Please look over our Amazon Wish List.
2. Select a gift and add it to your cart.
3. Check the "This is a Gift" box located above "Proceed to Checkout" button.
4. If you wish to purchase more than one item for the National Home, make sure to complete steps 2 and 3 for each gift.

5. When you are finished adding items, click “View Cart” to ensure your selected items and quantities are correct.
6. If correct, proceed to checkout.
7. In the “Other Addresses” section, be sure to choose “VFW National Home for Children Gift Registry Address” for “Use this address”.
8. ****Important****: Do not check the gift bag/box option in the “Gift options” section.
9. Please ensure “Gift Receipt” box is checked in the “Gift Options” section.
10. ****Important****: In “Gift Message,” please include your name, address, email address, and phone number so we know who this gift is from if you would like the National Home to send a gift receipt.
11. Click “Save Gift Options.”
12. Choose payment method and place order.

Other ways to help the National Home and recognize volunteers, a special person or veteran is to purchase a brick in their name, or give them a National Home Lifetime membership as a thank you. Please remember to drop an email when you do get a National Home life membership turned in for a chance to win a beautiful poppy pin. Thank you to the Auxiliaries who have already sent me an email.

2024 will be a big year for VFW National Home as they start heading towards 100 years! The Centennial Party, the remodel of the Welcome building and new mini store, events, parades, and fundraisers as they move to the Big 100 Birthday in 2025! Feel free to share ideas to help them have a great celebration and to move forward in helping Veterans and their families as they move forward.

Poppies make great bows and Christmas Decorations and is a great way to remember the Veterans that didn't make it home and those that stand ready to protect and defend in the future. Show how poppies can be fun as well! Please remember to also handout or have a Poppy Drive on December 7th, Pearl Harbor Day to honor those that lost their lives that day and as a reminder that although we may appear to be sleeping, we are still a lion in hibernation that does not like to be woken.

Have a very Merry Christmas and may your New Year be prosperous and healthy!

Chief of Staff
Johnnie DeBoard

Has your Auxiliary completed the Health Checkup for Your Member Questionnaire? **Why not?** Now would be

a great opportunity to do so. It's the end of 2023 so let's start 2024 off better.

The President can pass these out at your meeting, email them or snail mail them to all members. Remember you want to include every member. Appoint a

committee to collect the forms then do a simple report for the Auxiliary. You could be surprised at some of the answers; there could be some very useful tips given as well.



These are done with no names so the members can be very honest with their answers. Members may be surprised that there is another member who would like to get more involved with a particular program. You may find out why some don't come to meetings. Maybe they need a ride because they don't drive anymore. Maybe they would like to be put on the phone tree that was talked about in the newsletter a couple months ago.

Asking your members their opinion will make them feel valuable and they will probably get more involved. Share your ideas with the members.

If you have any particular subject, you would like more information on let me know so I can get that out to everyone. Have a blessed Christmas.



Historian/Media Nancy Schatz

Oh my...it's here...the holiday season! Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa, or whatever holiday you celebrate...it's that time!! And what does that mean—lots of events and festivities to take pictures and show everyone just what the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary is all about—helping veterans and their families!

Thank you for all the great Historian/Media reports you have been sending in...WOW!! It really is amazing just how creative everyone has been in tying together multiple programs to each event. I have been sharing many of your reports with our National Ambassador Diana Moore-Morris so she can see just how GREAT you all are!

In my November article I talked about how to receive a citation for this program by doing a 3–5-minute interview with a legacy (long-term) member...have you done one yet?? If you need help in coming up with questions to ask...please do not hesitate to reach out to me for

some help. I challenge all of you to do this video and receive the citation—and, for those that do, there will be a special recognition at Convention for the best interview, the best lighting, the most engaging member interviewed...and more! Remember, the deadline for submission is March 31, 2024!! So let's get started on it now...

And lastly, all Auxiliary members...don't wait to be asked to do this interview...reach out to your officers and program chair and tell them you have a story to tell—why not?! Make it something special and share your story for all to hear and remember. Just think you may be an inspiration to someone to get involved!!

Hospital Denise Williams

Happy Holidays Everyone,

This is the time of the year when our Veterans need us the most. With the holidays approaching us, some of our Veterans are forgotten.



It's very sad but true. They miss their families and friends during the holidays. Go by yourself or a group of friends go visit them and have lunch with them. While you there get involved play games, or sit back and listen to them, that's what they the need most. Sometimes that means more to them than anything else. Around the holidays are the loneliest times of the year. They wish they could be with their families and friends. Sure, some families and friends will visit them.

Then we have a lot with no one at all. It would be nice if each one of us could go visit at least one Veteran, but we all know that's impossible. So, let's get together and send cards to our Veterans. That is just like being there. At least they will know they are not forgotten.

This is the time of the year where we are asking for donations for our care facilities. They are seeking donations for our Veterans. They could use personal hygiene products, lap blankets and socks as well as many other items. They also like goodies; please make sure it's don't interfere with their diet restrictions. Check with your local care facilities to see what kind of donations they need. Remember if you haven't filed for your Hospital Grant this is a great opportunity. Remember when applying for your grant it is for hospitals and veterans caring facilities. If I ask for more information please send it to me. I'm trying to do my job to make sure we meet all the criteria.

Merry Christmas



VAVS Region 2

Below is the Christmas Wish List for patients at the Tucson VA.

We will have a Stocking Stuffing Party on December 19 at 9:00 with all of the organizations helping to stuff

stockings. If you have items to donate, please deliver them to the VA by end of business on December 12. This will give the staff time to determine which items need to be purchased.

While we can't celebrate with the patients as we have done in the past, the organizations will have a celebration after the stockings are all stuffed and hung by the chimney! Please plan on enjoying this time with other organization representatives.

Any questions?

Just give me a call or email!

Kim Sloan

520.307.7940

Auxvfwarizona@msn.com



2023 Holiday Gift Suggestions for SAVAHCS Veteran Patients

The holidays can be difficult for hospitalized and homeless Veterans. Below is a list of suggested items to donate as gifts for those Veterans. Please contact Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) (520-629-1822) prior to collecting items.

- \$10-\$15 Gift Cards
- Baseball Hats
- No-Slip Socks
- Gloves/Scarfs/Hats
- Stress Relief Items
- Card Games
- Compact Travel Games
- Small Hand-Held Electronic Games
- Ear Buds
- Blue Tooth Speakers
- Small Hand-Held Flashlights
- Back scratchers
- Sticker and Paint by Number Books, Crossword, Sadako



Your donations are very much appreciated!

NOTE: No food or items that are fragile, breakable, contain glass and/or sharp objects.

No items usually provided to patients such as toiletries, blankets, pajamas.

All donations must be delivered no later than December 12, 2023.

SANDRA DAY
O'CONNOR
INSTITUTE
FOR
AMERICAN DEMOCRACY

CIVICS
FOR LIFE
Be your best citizen



Legislative
JaNice Robertson

Be an Advocate – Be Informed – Be Engaged

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

I hope by now everyone is getting their copy of the Action Corps Weekly in their emails and have helped all of your members to sign up.

But just signing up isn't enough, in one of the latest issue did you read it?

“House Subcommittee Hearing on Pending Legislation”

More importantly did you click to read further? Did you read the pending legislation that the VFW is supporting before the House of Representatives of the United States of America? By clicking on and reading what the articles say it shows we care.

Did you read about the **“SHARKS”**? Please do not feed them.

How about the 8 Veterans in the article

[VFW, SVA Announce 2023/2024 Student Veteran Fellowship Class](#)

Or who can tell me what:

[Army Cpl. R. V. Leo Short and Army Air Force Sergeant White S. Goings Jr.](#)
have in common?

This is why we get the Action Corps Weekly, to read it.

I also have a challenge for everyone. I just went back to school and learned more about **CIVICS**.

**SANDRA DAY O’CONNOR INSTITUTE for American Democracy
ANNOUNCES FREE, ONLINE CIVICS COURSES FOR ADULTS**

12 classes in all each takes about 10-20 minutes to take. I did it all in 4 hours with many interruptions. But I learned so much!

Go to <https://civicsforlife.org/civics-101>

You go at your own speed and can go back and recheck something if you did not understand. No grades, just simple knowledge on how our government works. It includes National to Local Government.

Hope everyone has a wonderful Holiday Season.

Membership Becky Baldwin

Live Action Auxiliaries in Motion!

I was fortunate to share with our Membership Ambassador many of the great “Live Action” membership shows you all been putting on!



As you know at Fall Conference, 11 Auxiliaries did joint Membership drives, but did you know what the members did? A recap: Teams attended community events, set up at local malls, invited the community to their post home, partnered up with neighboring auxiliaries, and much more! Share your membership drive ideas at your district meetings what worked for you what didn't?

Congratulations are in order!!!

Department of Arizona Membership is currently at 90.95% as of

11/9/2023!! Way to go!

Congratulation to Auxiliaries who already achieved 100% in Membership.

Auxiliary 7061
Auxiliary 8807
Auxiliary 12098

As soon as an Auxiliary achieves 100%, we will be posting congratulation on our Facebook page so keep an eye out we have 8 Auxiliaries sitting at 98-99%



Mentoring for Leadership Doug Kinghorn

Understanding Auxiliary Traditions

This guide is to help you learn about our Ritual and the unique things we do at our meetings.

Be sure to ask a fellow member if you have any questions!

Entering a Meeting

- At a local Auxiliary meeting, you will enter the meeting room and once the doors are closed, all members must show

a current dues card.

- At Department and National meetings, your card will be asked for at the door.

Raps of the Gavel

- One rap = Attention

- Two raps = Rise

- Three raps = Be seated

Attention & Parade Rest

- “Attention” in the VFW Auxiliary means hands at side, head up with eyes looking straight forward.

- “Parade Rest” means the left foot is moved slightly to the side while bringing the arms to the small of the back. Clasp the left thumb in the right hand. The head is bowed slightly during prayer.

Showing Proper Respect to the Flag

- During our Ritualistic meeting, the President will say “Salute” when the flags enter and leave the room, as well as when we say the Pledge of Allegiance and sing the national anthem. Salute the Flag by placing the palm of the right hand flat over the heart.

- During Auxiliary meetings, the heart salute shall be used at all times where the salute is used.

- A member who is also a veteran may use the military salute.

- When the Flag is displayed AND the National Anthem is played and/or sung, all present should face the Flag and salute.

- When the Flag is NOT displayed and the National Anthem is played and/or sung, all present should face the music and salute.

- Members should stand when the flags are moving.

Showing Proper Respect for the Altar & Bible

- Members will remain seated while the Chaplain opens and closes the Bible, provided the Colors are not at the Altar.

- Whenever the Chaplain is opening and closing the Bible, everyone should stop all movement and talking.

- Members will not cross between the President’s station and the Altar, as this is considered sacred ground symbolizing where our Comrades who have answered the final roll call are at rest. However,

when the Bible is closed, members may pass through this area.

Addressing the President and Making a Motion

- All remarks must be addressed to the President and not by one member to another. A member wishing to address the President will rise and say, "Mister/Madam President," but shall not speak further until he or she has been recognized by the President.

- Making motions is your right as a member. To make a motion, you should stand and be recognized by the President and then proceed.

Happy Holidays!!

Keith Doris Scholarship

Things are really humming along well here in Arizona! We have had a very good amount of entries for both Patriot Pen and Voice on Democracy scholarships! The judging has been completed and we are all anxiously waiting for our Winter Conference in January to celebrate our winners! Of course, every student that enters is truly a winner as they are on a great path to being an involved citizen.



Some other exciting news was that we now have the results of the Dept. Auxiliary Golf Tournament that was held in Show Low as a fundraiser for the Arizona Scholarship programs. Are you ready....we raised \$3,015.00! Wonderful result for our first attempt at doing one of these.

Now we start the new focus on our next upcoming scholarships.

- Continuing Education Scholarship – \$1,250 will be awarded to an applicant in each of the four Conferences.

Application Deadline to National Headquarters: February 15, 2024

- 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest – Scholarship awards of \$500 to \$2,500

Entry deadline to local VFW Auxiliary: March 31, 2024

- Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest – Scholarships awards of \$500 to \$15,000

Entry deadline to local VFW Auxiliary: March 31, 2024

Schools are not the only way to get Scholarship information into the hands of potential applicants. Put out flyers at community centers or

ask local groups if you can either set up a table to hand out information at their events. There are lots of different events throughout the holiday season. Always be ready to share information on all of our programs.

Happy Holidays!



Veterans and Family Support Jeannie Hampton

Wish Lists- as children we looked forward to compiling a Wish List for Christmas gifts. In reaching out to some local Veteran Service Communities- Jerry Ambrose Veteran Council- has now opened the Arnold Plaza in downtown Kingman to house up to 22 otherwise Homeless Veterans who wish to rehabilitate – receiving legal, medical, educational, health and job related assistance to put them “back on their feet” to be self-sustaining- had a laundry list of items to furnish the new rooms – bedding, lamps, cots and 2 AED Defibrillators- so excited to contact Auxiliaries with the possibilities of using a Department of Arizona Hospital Grant- consider contacting President Pat Farrell- President@JAVC.org

Also, locally- Kingman Veteran Villas- otherwise homeless Veterans, vetted by the VA, living in a neighborhood (similar to the idea presented by Kansas City -Veterans Community neighborhoods) of *new* homes what their needs may be. They can always use food to stock the pantry, cleaning supplies, each home has “at least one dog” and warm winter wear. Again, opportunities for Auxiliaries to reach out and examples of how we can help with what we have on hand.

Lois Moore, in a follow-up from an Auxiliary 1433 Veteran and Family Support Program Project Report- added 3 separate lists from those the Auxiliary is working alongside- Caregivers of Hospice patients- many of us know the long hours- filling them with interactive activities and sundry items can brighten their time with their loved one. Yuma, Auxiliary 8242 is working with a suicide prevention organization and “Right Turn” assists Veteran families with jobs and housing.

There are 5 VA Homes in Arizona: Phoenix, Tucson, Prescott, Yuma and Flagstaff- what are their needs for residents? By contacting the staff, they will likely be appreciative of help to bring holiday joy to someone who may no longer have family members or family is distant. There are 3 VA Hospitals- In the past they have asked for assistance with items long term patients could *shop* for themselves or family members. Please reach out to the Dept. AZ VA Hospital Representatives Kim Sloan, Melissa Martin, Linda Thuringer and Brenda Price to learn how to best serve in this capacity.

The VFW National Home- at a recent District 1 Meeting, each Auxiliary was asked to represent a VFW Auxiliary Program- the presentation on the National Home was *fresh*- amazing! It was from the perspective of someone who looked at the information for the first time- not only does the National Home have a “Wish List” for the residents to shop for family members they also have an Amazon List that for just a few dollars – items could be purchased and sent to residents at the National Home.

Thank you to everyone who supported and reported in the “Buddy Check” week October 16-20, and to everyone who sent cards and letters for Bob Braa’s Honor Flight Mail Call. Jean Braa stated he was just tickled with the response and received more mail than anyone else! And for those who have packed and sent “Boxes for our Troops”. (Deadline date to send boxes to APO addresses according to “VFW Action Corps Weekly Nov. 20- is December 15)

House Keeping-

*Books for our Troops continues <http://www.operationpaperback.org/>

*Be Connected Military/Veteran Navigation Training dates for 2024 – 2 ½ hour seminar depicting the difficult transition from Military to Civilian

<https://2024acmfnavigationtraining.eventbrite.com>

Please do take the advice to step away from the computer if you have anything that will trigger Post Traumatic Stress.

*Dog Tags 4 Life – DT4Life.org Veteran Crisis 988 Press 1 on a dog tag- to order admin@dt4life.org Look to the website for details- Veterans recognize dog tags- it may be the lifeline they need.

*Medicare Open Enrollment until December 7- plans change yearly- the call is free- it may be the difference in medicine or food for a Veteran family in need. [Welcome to Medicare | Medicare](#)

*Look to the Arizona Property Tax- Prop 103 % of Disability off Veteran Property taxes opening January 1- the Veteran applies at their County Recorder Office

God bless you and keep you this Christmas season. Thank you for all you do to brighten the lives of others.

Youth
Irene Nowacki

Tis the season to be thinking about gifts.

How about the gift of reading? Do you know of any youth that just love to get lost in books? This is a great time of year to see if you can get local businesses to donate books off of the Patriotism Thru Literacy suggested book list. Find a local public school, charter school, home school, youth organization or even a multigenerational center that caters to youth and donate them in honor of your Auxiliary/Post and even our National President Carla Martinez.



Let's not forget the other great contests that we have for youth. Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue. There is nothing better than listening to our budding youth belt out the National Anthem with all of their might. Wither it is at the ball game, playing and instrument, doing it acapella or with prerecorded music. Let's get them to show their true Patriotism and their love for this country.

Youth can be involved in everything that we do. Try to include them in any outside activities that you have planned. Make sure that you have R.A.P coins or cards on hand in the instance that you witness them doing a Random Act of Patriotism. Youth love to be recognized and awarded for doing good deeds.

Just a reminder, this year to receive a National Citation, National Youth Activities Ambassador Joyce Caldwell is looking for Auxiliaries that hosts an activity and/or event educating their communities about Patriotism Thru Literacy and utilizing the Random Act of Patriotism cards or coins.

Let's see those smiling happy faces light up with books this year. Take some time to sit down with the youth in your area and read to them or let them read to you.

I wish you a happy healthy holiday season. Filled with love, family and friends sharing the true meaning of the season. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Program Activity Reports Lynn Pierre

Here is a wish for you and all your loved ones for a Happy, Safe and Warm Holiday Season. Hoping for some

awesome memories with our Veterans and their families.

I wanted to thank you all for the efforts you are putting forth in completing your monthly or quarterly Program Activity Reports. The response has been so encouraging. Please continue this drive as it so very important to record all that we do to get our numbers to National for completed priority goals and to keep the power we have with the Legislature.

In addition, please remember to include **EVERYTHING** you do as an Auxiliary on the VFW Post Community Service Report to your Commander and Comrades. This is NOT “double-dipping”. They need all those numbers to add to what they are doing for Veterans to complete their annual support of our Veterans and families and our communities. The form for reporting this can be found on our Department Website at www.vfwauxaz.org. under each program and the resources tab.

While we have had some issues with the Google doc form coming through, if you are not certain yours is making it through to me, please utilize the PDF form or the Excel form and simply email it in or snail mail is still acceptable. I want to be sure everyone gets the proper credit for all their hard work.

Once again, the Department of Arizona is amazing and I am so very proud to be a part of it. Please enjoy the Holiday season and my very warmest wishes to each and every one of you.

Program Activity Reports

The PAR form can be found at www.vfwauxaz.org under Resources/Program Activity Reports as well as behind log in.

Login/Members Only, sign in and then click on Program Activity Report.

A black x means that the PAR was done using this year's form, and a red x means that the auxiliary used an old form from a previous year. For an auxiliary to receive the “Arizona Outstanding Auxiliary Award” they must use the current 2023-2024 PAR FORM.



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