

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter

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President Bambi Johnson's Message

This has been such an amazing year for Arizona!

We had our first time ever First Place National winner of the Voice of Democracy. We had our District Presidents and Department Chairmen coaching our Auxiliaries and members to successful outcomes for all of our programs. Our Department Officers were all over Arizona working with our members in any way they could. What a great team – Officers – Chairmen - Members!

Thank you all for the work you put in and for being there for each other. Succeeding in our Mission's work is only accomplished when we work together with kindness and respect.

It has been my honor to serve the members this year as the Department of Arizona's President and although my year is coming to a close, I will continue to do all that I can for the Mission of our organization, our veterans and our communities. It has been wonderful to visit so many of our members during my travels this year and I certainly felt very welcome during those visits.

Thank you to the Department Officers, Chairmen, District President & all Arizona members. The success of Arizona belongs to all of You! Thank you also to my many Mentors over the past years and my Jim.

I am sure you all will join me is wishing our in-coming President Lynn Pierre and all the Department Officers for 2024-2025, our very best!

I hope to see you all at the Department Convention.



The District Corner and flyers are located on the webpage www.vfwauxaz.org under news/events. Be sure to check out all that is happening around the Department.

News

*3rd Annual Day of Service - May 4th

***The VFW** has joined with country singer John Rich in the "**Return the Favor**" Campaign. Click [here](#) to learn how you can help spread the word about this.



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.

***National announcements** for candidates are on the webpage- www.vfwauxaz.org under log in/member log in/national news.

***National resolutions** for National convention are on the webpage - www.vfwauxaz.org under log in/member log in/national convention

***National Sr. Vice President** Brenda Bryant's shirt is available to order. Click [here](#) for the order form.

***2024 National CAFE** is at the VFW National Home on 9/7/2024. Registration is open from 6.1 through 8.7.24. The cost is \$40 which includes transportation and lunch. Register on your MALTA account. Hotel information is on the Department website - www.vfwauxaz.org under news/national.

***2024 Western Conference** will be in Honolulu, Hawaii from Oct 31st - Nov 3rd. Registration is due by Oct 16th. Click [here](#) for more information.

***2025 Aux Mid-Year** will be at an all-inclusive resort in Cancun from Feb 1st- Feb 6th. Click [here](#) for more information.

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



* **Department Sr. Vice** Lynn Pierre's order form for her shirt is now available.

The Department is trying something new this year - pins must be ordered ahead of time. This way we know exactly how many to order and hopefully this will save money.

Click [here](#) for the form and remember to get your order placed so you don't miss out!

Department Convention

It's time to start thinking about Convention. This year it is **May 29th - June 2nd** at Loews Ventana Canyon in Tucson. Click [here](#) to see the convention flyer. Room reservations close on **May 7th** so don't delay!



AUXILIARIES ARE ASKED TO DONATE A BASKET FOR THE ANNUAL DEPARTMENT RAFFLE HELD AT CONVENTION.

If your auxiliary is able to donate, please bring your basket to the raffle area at convention on either Wednesday, May 30th or Thursday, May 31st.

Tentative Schedule

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
DEPARTMENT CONVENTION SCHEDULE
May 29, 2024 thru June 2, 2024

Wednesday May 29, 2024

- 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm Registration
3:00 pm Ritual Practice - PDP Chrissy Harlan Salon A
All Department Officers, Patriotic Instructor, Color Bearers, Flag Bearer, Banner Bearer, Assistant Conductress, Assistant Guard, 2023-2024 District Presidents
- 5:00 pm Youth Volunteers Meeting – Parent/Guardian required to attend with youth volunteer. Salon A
- 7:00pm Practice for Joint Memorial Service Salon B and C
VFW and VFW Auxiliary Department Officers, Color Bearers
2023-2024 District Commanders and Presidents

Thursday May 30, 2024

- 8:00 am – 10:00am Registration
- 9:00 am JOINT OPENING SESSION Salon B and C
Department Commander Bill Schaeffler
Department President Bambi Johnson
State and Local Government Representatives
Director Arizona Veterans' Services
Introductions of other organization representatives
Auxiliary Scholarship Awards
VFW Auxiliary Circle of Excellence Auxiliaries
Address by VFW Representative National Rep
Address by VFW Auxiliary National Chaplain Donna Mills
- 12:00 pm - 2:00 pm Registration
- 12:00 pm ADJOURN (Lunch on your own)
- 2:00 pm AUXILIARY FORMAL OPENING Salon A
Welcome District 1,2,3 Presidents
Tribute – Past Department Presidents and 35+ year Members Sr. Vice President Pierre
Cross of Malta
Roll Call of Officers and Chairmen
Ritualistic Opening Ceremony
Escort of National Chaplain Donna Mills
Presentation of 2023 Convention Minutes Secretary Sloan
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	Convention Rules and Regulations	PDP
	Financial Report	Treasurer Sloan
	Official Communications	Secretary Sloan
	First Credentials Report	Credentials Chrm. Dallas Emery
	RECESS	
4:00 pm	VFW and VFW Auxiliary Joint Memorial Service	Salons B and C
<u>Friday May 31, 2024</u>		
7:30 – 8:30 am	APPC (Auxiliary Past Presidents' Club)	Salon A
8:00 – 11:00 am	Registration	
8:45 am	Parade of Past Department Presidents	
9:00 am	RECONVENE	
	Welcome	District 4,5,6 Presidents
	Presentation to the VFW Convention	President Johnson, Chaplain Mills, National Home Trustee Sloan, Lori Schaeffler
	2024-2025 Program KickOff	
	Escort of Department President Bambi Johnson	
	Escort of VFW Commander Schaeffler and Guests	
	Nominations for 2024-2025 Officers and Western Conference Guard	
	LUNCH ON YOUR OWN	
1:00 pm	Program Awards	
	Chief of Staff Healthy Auxiliary Citations	Chief of Staff DeBoard
	Veterans and Family Support	Chrm. Jeanne Hampton
	Americanism	Chrm. Lori Schaeffler
	Auxiliary Community Outreach	Chrm. Melissa Martin
	Buddy Poppy/National Home	Chrm. Connie Hargreaves
	Media Relations	Chrm. Nancy Schatz
	Hospital	Chrm. Denise Williams

Legislative	Chrm. JaNice Robertson
Membership	Chrm. Becky Baldwin
Mentoring For Leadership	Chrm. Doug Kinghorn
Scholarships	Chrm. Keith Doris
Youth Activities	Chrm. Irene Nowacki

Second Credentials Report	Credentials Chrm. Dallas Emery
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RECESS
15 minute Break

Candidate Forum (if two or more candidates for any office) Salon A

Saturday June 1, 2024

7:00 – 9:00am Registration

8:00 am Flag Raising – VFW Riders

9:00 am	RECONVENE	Salon A
	Welcome	District 7, 8, 9, 10 Presidents

Presentation of Floor Officers

Presentation of Pages and Youth Volunteers

Resolutions and Bylaws

Presentation of National Resolutions	National Chaplain Mills
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Department Bylaws	PDP Stephanie Morris PDP Chrissy Harlan
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Presentation of Department President’s Love Gift	Chaplain Martin
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Final Credentials Report	Credentials Chrm. Dallas Emery
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Nominations and Elections of 2024-2025 Department Officers and Western Conference Guard

Address by VFW Auxiliary Chaplain Mills

Department President’s Address

Ritualistic Closing Ceremony

ADJOURN

All 2024-2025 Officers, District Presidents to be installed must be present at the installation.

4:30 pm	Joint Installation of 2024-2025 VFW and VFW Auxiliary Officers	Salon A
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5:00 pm No Host Reception

6:00 pm	Department Commander’s and President’s Banquet	Salon B and C
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Sunday June 2, 2024

9:00 am	Council of Administration Meeting	Salon A
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National District Council Member #15 Chrissy Harlan



It is hard to believe that the 2023-2024 term is almost over! The year has gone by so quickly.

My adventures this year included attending the National Convention in my home state, the Department of Arizona Fall Conference, the Department of New Mexico Mid-Winter Conference and the National Mid-Year Conference. All 4 events were interesting, inspiring and enjoyable. I met many awesome people and made new friends.

As we head into our Department Conventions, I am taking this opportunity to thank Department President Beth and Department President Bambi for all the hard work you do. You both mentored and motivated our members to continue our mission of supporting Veterans and their families as well as our communities. I also appreciate all the hospitality you and your respective Departments showed me.

I wish you all successful and educational as well as fun conventions. I am sorry I am unable to attend both conventions but unfortunately, they are the same weekend this year. I will be attending the Department of Arizona Convention as I have other responsibilities here and I know those of you in New Mexico will be inspired by your National Representative National Conductor Kim Harney.

I look forward to representing you all for another year and hope to see many of you at the National Convention in July.



Hello, All Auxiliary Past President Club members!

Please see the correction below on the dues amount.

This year will be quite a bit different from the past years. We will not have a room to hold the meeting in and due to the food costs being over the top, we will not be having a luncheon. With this being said, we will be meeting Friday, May 31st, @ 7:30 am in the main Auxiliary room before the Auxiliary meeting. At this meeting, we will have the reading of last year's minutes and the nominations and elections of officers for the 2024-2025 year.

We are humbly asking all auxiliaries in Arizona to please donate \$75.00 (or more if able) to the APPC so that we can cover our obligation, to meet the \$2000.00 that we have committed to give to our VA hospitals. Please either send checks made out to APPC in care of Ruth V. Malick @ 738 N. 97th street, Mesa, AZ 85027 ahead of the Department Convention or bring them Thursday morning to the APPC table and give them to Ruth Malick.

Dues are **\$4.00** per person and are due at the meeting. If you have already paid before the May edition of the newsletter was sent out, please bring the difference with you to convention. We are sorry for the confusion.

We will still be having a "Greenies" raffle for all auxiliaries. For every \$10.00 donated, your Auxiliary will receive 1 raffle ticket. Raffles winners will be pulled Friday morning by APPC President Janae Kemery. Prizes this year for 10 lucky auxiliaries will be \$100.00 GCs to Amazon. Please remember this is for past Presidents from all levels. Auxiliary, District and Department. If you need any other information, please don't hesitate to contact either Janae Kemery (602) 339-3192 or Ruth Malick (480) 695-6791.

Respectfully,
Ruth V. Malick
2023-2024 APPC Secretary/Treasurer
April 25, 2024



Secretary/Treasurer Kim Sloan

I look forward to seeing many of you at Department Convention! Please try to come! Even if it's just for a day!

ARREARAGES – Any Auxiliary that does not have their required quarterly audits submitted will not be able to vote at Department convention and if they are not submitted before National Convention, will not be allowed to vote at National Convention.

The Convention Agenda is printed in this issue of the newsletter.

We will have our Youth Volunteers again at this convention. They have a great time helping but are usually a little nervous. So please smile at them and make their day! I guarantee they will smile back.

July 1 National dues will increase to \$10. We will also consider an increase to Department dues at the Department Convention. It is unclear when that increase will take effect if it is approved, so please pay close attention on Saturday when we vote on this issue.

Please review the resolutions that will be presented at the National Convention. Even if no one from your Auxiliary is going to Kentucky, if you feel strongly about one or more of the resolutions let a Department officer know. We'd love to hear your opinion.

We had a Bylaws change last year to Sec. 806A- In order for a smoother transition to new Secretaries and Treasurers, they previous officers will remain in office until July 1. This will allow the previous Secretary and Treasurer to "close out their books" before turning them over to the new officer. The Audit for the quarter ending June 30 will be completed by the current Trustees and both the incoming and outgoing Presidents should be in attendance. The new officers will take over on July 1. It is expected that all the officers will handle the transition professionally and courteously.

There is a memo below from National on the dues increase starting July 1st.



VFW AUXILIARY

Unwavering Support for Uncommon Heroes TM

MEMO

DATE: March 26, 2024

TO: Department Treasurers
Department Secretaries

FROM: VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters

SUBJECT: Official Memorandum of Annual Dues Increase

Per the vote at the 2023 National Convention Delegates, starting July 1, 2024, the National Headquarters portion of annual dues will be increasing by \$5.00 for the 2025 dues year. For annual members associated with a local Auxiliary, the National portion of dues will be \$10.00 and for annual members that are Department at Large, the National portion of dues will be \$15.00

Due to this change it is **imperative** that each Auxiliary and Department review the annual dues amount that will be collected from continuous annual members for the 2025 dues year by June 30, 2024, in MALTA to determine if it should be updated.

If an Auxiliary is not charging enough to cover the increase of the National portion of annual dues for \$10 and Department portion of annual dues of \$?, it could result in the organization not receiving any membership dues when members pay their dues. Please note that National and Department portions will be paid first from annual dues and then the remainder will be the Auxiliary portion. Please see example below:

EXAMPLE: Currently Auxiliary XXXX charges a continuous annual member \$20 per year for dues. Of this \$20, the Auxiliary keeps \$10, the Department's portion is \$5, and the National portion is \$5. If an Auxiliary does not update their dues amount collected in MALTA by June 30, 2024, then on July 1, 2024, MALTA will still charge their annual members \$20 for dues. Of this \$20, \$5 will go to the Department, \$10 will go to National and thus the Auxiliary will only receive \$5 instead of the \$10 it previously received.

To update the dues amount charged in MALTA, there are two options:

1. The Secretary may update this amount when filing the Installation Report for the 2024-2025 year.
2. The Auxiliary Treasurer may update the dues amount in MALTA by clicking the Edit Dues Amount in MALTA under their Treasurer Duties tab and then clicking the blue button labeled Change Dues. Please note that the Treasurer has the ability to schedule the dues increase for the future and does not have to wait until June 30th to input this information.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact your Department Treasurer and/or Department Secretary.



Americanism Lori Schaeffler

As the 2023-2024 wraps up, I want to take the opportunity to recognize and thank all of you for an amazing and outstanding year for the Department of Arizona Auxiliary.

You knocked it out of the park for the "More than letters" campaign. Thank you, Linda Roloff, for showing us what an impact it has when we are saying Prisoners of War, Missing in Action, Killed in Action and by saying the whole name.

Crystal McCarthy took the challenge of Flags and Flowers from the young man at the National VFW convention and challenged many of us. She did not stop there though. She challenged the Department of Nevada, and I challenged the Department of Alabama. And then they challenged etc... etc... The challenge went viral across America and thousands of Veterans were honored by ☐☐.

In Arizona we laid 72,000 Wreaths across our great state. Almost 12,000 flags were given away to the community at parades, events and for our Veterans. That is outstanding!

May 4th, 2024 is the 3rd annual VFW Day of Service as part of the VFW's #StillServing campaign, which unites Veterans across America around a common goal — showing the nation the impact Veterans make in their communities. The Auxiliary can team up and do a community project with our children and other community members. Let's show the community that the VFW and VFW Auxiliary are willing to get our hands dirty and help out. Don't forget to go and register your event on the interactive day of service map and receive a special participation decal or find a local event to join in on and honor Veterans around the country by making a difference.

Armed Forces Day – Third Saturday in May. A day to pay tribute to the men and women currently serving in our nation's armed forces. The day was designed to replace separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard Days, but the separate days are still observed, particularly within their respective services.

Run for the Wall (RFTW) will be all over Arizona overnighting May 14th, 15th and 16th. They will have lunch in Needles CA and Blythe CA before crossing into AZ and they also go through the white mountains. They will be on Interstate 40 and Interstate 10, so watch out for motorcycles. These patriots will overnight in Williams, Flagstaff and Casa Grande. RFTW comes into Casa Grande 5/15 about 5pm for dinner at The Elks Lodge. The next morning 5/16 is the arrival into Marana Az at approximately 745 am. After morning briefing, they are off to Willcox for lunch. This is the 34th year for Run for the Wall. It has conducted its mission of promoting healing among all Veterans and their families and friends, calling for an accounting of all Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action (POW/MIA), to honor the memory of those Killed in Action (KIA) from all wars, and to support our military personnel around the world.

This mission is supported by thousands of citizens from communities like yours who come out to greet the riders, who provide donated gas and often times food, and most importantly demonstrate their patriotism and support. As riders work their way across America, whether from California to D.C or D.C. to Marseilles, IL., they visit towns and communities, Veteran organizations like the VFW and American Legion, VA Centers and hospitals, schools, Gold Star families, and civic organizations to help spread the word. They need your help to promote the healing of those who have answered our nations call; to help remind our legislators that we need the accountability that was promised; and most importantly, we need to NEVER FORGET those who sacrificed all for us. They'd love to have you come out to meet and greet the riders along the Route of RFTW. Rftw.us is the website and you can see if they are stopping near you. VFW National pays for fuel for all the riders as they stop in Kansas City on Midway Route, and you can count it on a PAR for Americanism and Veterans and Family Support. They would love to see you as they work their

way across this great country of ours, showing Patriotism is alive and thriving across America.

Thank you all for the hard work and dedication to our veterans and their families and their communities. I enjoyed seeing all of the Americanism reports and how much you involved the community and other programs in your projects. Many of you included our youth and as we know we need to teach our next generation that freedom is not free. Don't stop! We have much more to do and I'm excited to see you at State Convention and the new programs for next year. I know that you will love the new ideas we have in store for you.

Auxiliary Outreach Melissa Martin



Hi everyone, I can't believe our program year has ended. I'm so proud of all the Auxiliaries that got out in your communities and made a difference to those you partnered up with. I'm sure a lot of people in the community are impressed with all the things that they now know that our Auxiliaries can do for their communities and our Veterans.

I'm sure that most of you have formed bonds for future opportunities for our Auxiliary Outreach program. I can't wait to see you all at convention. I've really enjoyed being your Auxiliary Outreach chairman this year. Keep up the good work.



Buddy Poppy & VFW National Home Connie Hargraves

What a year for Buddy Poppy and for our VFW National Home. All the Auxiliaries that sent in reports had fantastic Buddy Poppy Drives. They incorporated Buddy Poppies with other programs; many with all programs. It was great to see everyone embrace remembering those who did not make it home and educating our members and community with the Poppy story!

Please, next year, check out the requirements for the program awards. They often are directed at specific things like educating the community, working with a youth group, giving and event or promoting within the community not just the VFW/Aux.

I received a lot of feedback on favorite things like painting rocks, painting tiles, giving them to Veterans, placing them in various locations and encouraging finders to post where they found it, attaching cards with the rocks on what the poppy design represented, posting on Facebook, sending the activity to local newspapers, radio stations, schools or other organizations that you hid the rocks, it even inspired a VFW Painted Rock page on Facebook for all Auxiliaries nationwide to do the same.

I painted some rocks, ok, maybe it was hard to tell they were poppies but the House representing National Home was spot on, and I left one or two in 14 different states. I had a response back from 6 people in 4 states, one Facebook entry and that was from those I saw. Great program thanks for SHARING!

Another Auxiliary at their Lady Veteran luncheons had Poppies all throughout the decorations and gave out a Poppy pin to returning Lady Veterans. Not all the Lady Veterans were Auxiliary or VFW members, what a great recruiting tool and event to showcase what we do for Women Veterans and their families. How about wrapping Lollipops with "Buddy" Poppies and handing them out at a Community Festival. Handing out educational material on Buddy Poppies and National Home and attaching "lollipop with "Buddy" Poppy to the material being handed out.

"Buddy" Poppy drives at local businesses; one Auxiliary from Oct 14 to Nov 14 did a drive at Lowes, had a raffle and raised \$102 for National Home Welcome Center project. They did a Happy New Year basket, raised \$127 that was sent to National Home And a "Shop Local Basket" with items donated from Local Business raising another \$137 for National Home. Do a bake sale, decorate bake goods with homes, flowers, 4H animals like pigs and rabbits, and other projects the kids do at National Home.

One Auxiliary made homemade pillowcases for Veterans who were in Hospice, included with the pillowcase was a poppy, a thank you letter from Auxiliary President and posted the project on Facebook to share with other Auxiliaries; this project utilized the Hospital fund in the hospital program.

The #poppiescount contest had 8 auxiliaries sending in project reports utilizing this hashtag on Facebook, and "Buddy" Poppy and media. Win, win. Three posts won a Poppy pin for reading my article and participating.

11 National Home life memberships were sent in for the next competition found in my article. 4 poppy pins were awarded. Again, National Home education was the National certificate qualification, media, community education as they could be VFW/Aux members of non-members. Many attached Poppy sticker to the information on National Home brochure, applications!

Remember, it is the 100th Anniversary of the National Home in 2025. I would like to see many of the Auxiliaries do an event celebrating that monumental Anniversary, promote what the National Home does for Veteran families, including the Crisis Line and resources they provide. Encourage purchase of National brick, \$100, Life membership \$50, Centennial Life Membership \$100, and the Centennial Brick \$500 (limited quantity).

Thank you all again. I had a great time being your chairman for "Buddy" Poppy National Home this year. I hope you keep coming up with unique ideas for the coming year.

Chief of Staff
Johnnie DeBoard

Are you ready for the 2024-2025 year?

Here are a few ideas to help start off the year whether you are an officer or not. This is teamwork.



1. Communication is key, listen to whomever is talking to you.
2. Have planning meetings every month. Start planning 3 months out; this will allow for adjustments. Be prepared to pivot.
3. Look at the yearly calendar, what holidays or special days are coming up example (army birthday). Don't forget to include your own auxiliary meeting, District meeting, Fall conference, Winter conference and Department convention. Every auxiliary should be represented at each. Look at the National program book. You will get ideas from there as well.
4. Work together on projects make sure everyone knows who is filling out the project report and sending it in. Don't wait till the end of the year.
5. Have workshops: pick a topic such as the Department website www.vfwauxaz.org How do you get on? Click on log in/members only. Member Id# is your membership number, your password is your last name. Have a computer or phone available to show how it works. Everyone should leave knowing what's there and how to access it.
6. When responding to emails: pay attention. **DON'T CLICK REPLY ALL** unless asked to do so by the person sending the email. If the email requires a response from you click on reply, then answer and only the sender will see your response.



Historian/Media Nancy Schatz

Happy May Day to all...this writing will be my last as your Department's Historian/Relations Chair. I have truly enjoyed working with all of you and as I've stated in past articles...I

continue to be impressed by the work you are all doing and how wonderfully you are sharing this information with your members and the public!

To date I have received year-end reports from most of our auxiliaries AND, I have received 15 videos submitted for a possible citation award. Thank you to everyone for participating in this program...**YOU ALL ARE AWESOME!!**

I look forward to seeing many of you at the convention in Tucson...where lots of awards and fun will be had by all!!

Hospital Denise Williams

Greetings everyone!

Wow this year sure went by fast. Words cannot say how proud I am of each one of you. I know not everyone turns in their year-end project reports, but I almost had a 100%. Thank you for all the hard work you do, keep it up and start reporting next year.



Maybe do one different report each month, so you do not have to hurry up and get them done at the last minute. If you really think about it, how many projects does your auxiliaries do every year. If more than three, that could be three reports. I know you can do this. I had some auxiliaries that went beyond their reporting, do not think it went unnoticed cause it did not.

I cannot believe how many kinds of activities you all have done. I know the Veterans felt the love that each one of you did. With the model cars and the comfort animals you got for them. Do not forget the warm blankets and all the hygiene items you gathered. Plus, the snacks you bought them. Everyone that took time out of your hectic schedules to visit them. Do not forget all those hours you volunteered to help them. Might not seem a lot to you, but for them they were memories they will remember for the rest of their lives. That you were available for them.

I want to thank you again for the impressive year you gave me. I am so honored to have been your Hospital Chairperson.

YOU ROCK!



VAVS Region 3

So happy to see so many of our volunteers at the Volunteer Appreciation BBQ. It followed the first in-person VAVS meeting that we've had in several years.

So, the big news from the VA is a new patient room tower where every patient will have a private room and bathroom. No more semi-private rooms. It will not add any more beds, just replace the rooms that we have.

YOGA – Do you know of a certified, licensed yoga instructor that would like to volunteer 1-2 times a week teaching yoga? If so, please contact Voluntary Services at the VA.

MOVE PROGRAM – The Move program works with veterans on weight issues, making healthy choices, lifestyle changes...all in an effort to help veterans feel better about themselves.

BLIND REHAB – Working on getting the Garden project back up and running. These patients are learning how to navigate in this world with little or diminished eyesight. In order to do that they need to get out in the world to practice the skills that will allow them to be more self-sufficient. They are in need of drivers to take these patients on outings like to VFW Post for dinners. They also like to go bowling, to museums and the movies. So,

donations of gift cards are needed.

COMMUNITY LIVING CENTER AND MEMORY CARE UNIT – They will be starting a baking group and are in need of baking supplies and Fry's Food Stores Gift Cards to buy supplies. They are also working on getting their gardening program back up and are in of gift cards to buy supplies. Gift cards for iTunes would be appreciated to provide some listening entertainment.

FISHER HOUSE – Looking for groups to come in a cook a meal!

We are always looking for volunteers! From manning the comfort cart to tram drivers, there is a volunteer opportunity waiting for you! If you'd like to check it out, call Voluntary Services for more information.

Any questions?

Just give me a call or email!

Kim Sloan

520.307.7940Auxvfwarizona@msn.com

Legislative JaNice Robertson

Be an Advocate – Be Informed – Be Engaged



**Wow! Great job everyone!
Thank you for all the reports.**

May is always the hardest month. Programs are over and the new ones are just starting. We are all getting ready for the Department Convention. (I hope to see everyone there) We are thinking of the end of school for some, vacations for others. Legislation goes on. Our job is not over. We must never stop advocating for our Veterans.

This is an election year. Get out there and meet the candidates, know what they will do for our Veterans. Find out what their ideas and goals are that they want to accomplish if they win the election? And make them accountable to those goals. Write those letters and make our voices count. Become familiar with the VFW Priority Goals that came out in January and share this information to everyone. Assist others with the voting process. Get out and **VOTE!** and help others get to the polling places.

Legislation is never done. Host the town hall meetings. Remember we cannot endorse any candidate on behalf of the VFW or Auxiliary – we must remain neutral, but by establishing a strong connection with our VFW and elected officials we demonstrate our commitment to the legislative process. After all, legislative rights are the reason the VFW and Auxiliary were formed. Join the chorus of voices that will ring out in legislators' offices this coming year and Be that Advocate!

Again, thank you all for the hard work you put into all of the programs this year and see you at the end of this month at Convention and **WE START AGAIN WITH THE NEW YEAR.**



Membership Becky Baldwin

[National Ambassador's April 2024 Blog - Get Ready for the Golden MALTA](#)

Can you believe we are only a few short weeks away from the biggest award show of all time?

That's right **AUXILIARY PROGRAM AWARDS!**

I cannot wait to see who made Outstanding Auxiliary this year! What about outstanding project in each of the program categories? The suspense is unreal!

I still have a Golden Award ready to give out! Each Auxiliary who completed and turned in a Membership Project Report will be in the running for the Golden Membership Award!

Thank you all for making this year fun, exciting and filled with new ideas and remember just because we end a program year, our dedication to this organization and our membership is never ending.

Do not let a date on the calendar prevent you from doing the next greatest thing!

Mentoring for Leadership Doug Kinghorn

[National Ambassador's April 2024 Blog - Keep the Ball Rolling](#)



It has been a great year and your auxiliaries have set values, involved your members, engaged, and honored your Legacy members and used their experiences with the next leadership.

C – Catch the member when they first join.

A – Ask them to participate.

R - Remember what it felt like to be new.

E - engage them in a Program that fits them.

Keep in mind some of the Mentoring for Leadership basic principles: Set clear Program goals.

1. Establish the Program structure.
2. Recruit and match mentors and mentees.
3. Provide training and resources.
4. Monitor and evaluate progress.
5. Foster a supportive community.
6. Recognize and reward participants.

7. Seek feedback and adapt.

Use the guide to help your new members learn about our Ritual and the unique things we do at our meetings.

1. Entering a Meeting.
2. Raps of the Gavel.
3. Attention & Parade Rest.
4. Showing Proper Respect to the Flag.
5. Showing Proper Respect for the Altar & Bible
6. Addressing the President and Making a Motion

The goal to develop and maintain consistent practices across the organization, to train and equip leaders of today and tomorrow, and to strengthen the basic building blocks of the organizations: The Foundation.



Keith Doris Scholarship

[National Ambassador's April 2024 -
Think Outside the Box](#)

We have received our entries for the 3-D Young American Creative Art Project, Young American Creative Art Project, Merit Scholarship, and Continuing Education Applications and will be announcing the Arizona winners at our Department Convention. How exciting! The National winners will be revealed at the National Convention in Louisville.

While this will conclude the scholarships for the 2023-024 program year, the 2024-2025 themes for Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen Scholarships are already set. The theme for Voice of Democracy is "Is America Today Our Forefathers Vision" and Patriot Pen theme is "My Voice in America's Democracy". The applications are available, and we need to get these to our students, parents and teachers.

Although we have had a First Place Patriot Pen winner in the past, this year history was made when our own Sophia Lin, was awarded First Place for the Voice of Democracy Scholarship!

It has been my honor to serve this year as your Scholarship Chairman and I want to thank all the members who have worked so hard to bring information to our communities about these wonderful opportunities. I thank our Department President for the appointment and mentoring I have been given this by the Department officers and other Chairmen.

Again, thank you to all who helped make this a successful year and I know you will continue doing an excellent job this next year. See you at convention.

My name is Dara McGuinness, and I am a Program Manager for the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History. GLI is excited to work with

the [US Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Legacy Project](#) to commemorate Veterans and service members interred in VA national cemeteries and VA grant-funded state, territorial, and tribal Veterans cemeteries through the discovery and sharing of their stories. As a part of this grant, we are launching the [2024 War II: Portraits of Service Awards](#).



According to the National WWII Museum, only 167,284 WWII veterans were still alive at the end of 2022, just one percent of the sixteen million Americans who served during the defining military conflict of the twentieth century. As the WWII generation recedes into history, GLI believes that it is essential to instill in younger generations a deeper understanding of their service and sacrifice. The Portraits of Service contest aims to encourage students to commemorate their stories.

Students will create a biographical portrait of a WWII veteran. Portraits could include written reports, eulogies, videos, podcasts, poems, or songs. A teacher or guardian can submit student work on their behalf. GLI will offer **ten \$500 awards** to top submissions, and winners will be featured on our website. The deadline to submit is **Friday, May 3, at 8:00 am EST**.

We are reaching out to you in an effort to involve the students in your network in this commemoration of Veteran history in the United States. Please help us in our mission by spreading the word and sharing the award info: <https://www.gilderlehrman.org/veterans-legacy-program/student-contest>

Please feel free to email me if you have any questions or wish to learn more about the program.

Thank you!

Best regards,
Dara McGuinness



Veterans and Family Support Jeanne Hampton

[National Ambassador's April 2024 Blog -
This Program is Unity](#)

What an amazing year! Reports are still being received from Auxiliaries on activities taking place to support Veterans, Active-Duty and their families. Keep those reports and be prepared to send them to the incoming Veterans and Family Support Chairman when the website is updated. Remember, our new program year began on April 1. It just goes to show, the work continues. You are amazing!

As we roll into the summer months keep looking for the Veteran Resource Fairs in the cooler northern climate.
Listed Veteran Resource Events:

May 3- 10 AM – 2 PM Kingman Stand Down at the Mohave County Fairgrounds

May 15- 9 AM – 1 PM High Country Stand Down in Flagstaff at the Armory

August 17- 10 AM – 3 PM White Mountain Stand Down - Show Low City Gym

September 21-21 Yavapai County Stand Down 1040 Whipple Street, Prescott

These are amazing events to not only Volunteer but to Network with other Veteran Service Organizations. Why are we re-inventing the wheel when resources exist. Let's get our Veterans the assistance they need while working together in our community.

[Events | ARIZONA@WORK \(arizonaatwork.com\)](https://arizonaatwork.com) job skill seminars for Veterans.

Please keep an eye on Legislation affecting our Veterans. Going into this election year **DO** listen to what is being said by candidates. **DO** question their stance on Veteran issues. **DO** become informed on what the end result of their vote may be and how it impacts the VFW Priority Goals- Supporting the mission.

Burger King Franchise owners across the country have been supporting and contributing to the VFW Unmet Needs Program for years. According to the National VFW Newsletter, April 2024 "Burger King has agreed to shift support of Unmet Needs (which serves an Active-Duty population) to National Veterans Service.... leveraging support from Unmet Needs could assist many more Veterans with expansive support." This is a fantastic measure to ensure funds to assist Veterans applying for their earned benefits.

Remember to keep an eye on each other. Review the information on the Department of Arizona website for Veteran Suicide Awareness and support for those left asking the question "why". Buddy Checks are always a great way to visit and let someone know you care. Take a neighbor some homemade bread or a meal to put in the fridge. Your visit alone may make the difference.

Caregivers- take care of you, too. What happens to your Veteran if you become ill? Take time to refresh. **ASK** for assistance. Even time to go to church, a movie, a salon visit will help make you a better caregiver.

Thank you for reporting on the "We"- we worked with "Our Post", "Another Auxiliary", "Our District", "Department". Thank you for reporting on everyone who attended- Veterans, Media, Legislators, Active Duty, Youth, Community members. Thank you for representing, through your service and dedication, the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary.

Youth
Irene Nowacki

WOW! What a year it has been.

You have all worked so diligently and your reports show that. I would like to take this time to share



some of things that were done and the amazing reports that I have received. Hopefully this will help to give you some ideas for the upcoming program year that you can use.

- Collecting school supplies is always a great way to get out into your community and show that we care for our youth.
- Promoting Patriotism Thru Literacy is always a great way to reach kids of all ages and to help them understand what Patriotism is, and how we can continue it. Donating books off the National book list is just one way to reach kids in all areas. Wither they are home schooled, in a charter school, public school or beyond.
- Handing out RAP coins or cards to those young individuals that show the upmost respect to their country, flag and service men and women. Showing that we have seen them, and they we appreciate their respect, truly goes a long way.
- Kids voting. While this is more for Legislative, it also includes kids in the process. There have been a few reports that had voting boxes out that allowed kids to cast their vote, wither it be for a favorite color or favorite food. This is another chance to offer up those RAP cards or coins to show that we appreciate them taking the time to exercise their right to vote in our free country.
- Working with youth groups doing flag retirement ceremonies or even helping to run a carnival booth that benefits the youth group. The youth need to know that we are here for them, and we will support them in their endeavors.
- The ever-favored Trunk or Treat. There have been quite a few Auxiliaries that have had a trunk at their local schools or local trick or treating parades. Yet another great way to interact with our youth and possibly gain the opportunity to be able to work with them soon.
- Inviting youth groups to help serve a dinner that you have planned also gives them a chance to see what we do and why we do it. The more we invite the youth inside, the more they will gain the experience with the Veterans and the service work that we do.
- Holding an art day to help gain entries for all of the art contests that the Auxiliary offers is a great way to interact with the youth in your area and also let them know that we have these great contests that benefit them and us.

Keep these ideas in your back pocket for the next time you are having troubles coming up with something to do for your youth projects.

It has been an absolute pleasure to work with all of you this year. I wish you all the best for next year and beyond.

Program Activity Reports Brenda Kinghorn

As the Department begins to move to online reporting, this year the PAR form will only be available as a Google doc. When submitted, it will be sent to Brenda Kinghorn and Melody



Judd. You will get an email stating that the form was submitted and your answers. PARs may still be submitted each month or quarterly.

You may begin using the new form now. The 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.

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