

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



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Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter

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President Bambi Johnson's Message

October has gone by in a whirlwind of outstanding Auxiliary events and District meetings! I am so thrilled with how the District Presidents have been bringing fresh interest and ideas to District meetings. During the month I was able to visit three District meetings and each one brought fun and information on our Programs to our members.

District 3 rocked their School of Instruction with the use of Resources in Malta, giving printed handouts of Program information and shared the idea of attending teachers' meetings and doing flag education with a 13 Folds of the Flag ceremony. What a great way to build relations with educators and share Scholarship info!

District 7 - Their School of Instruction included handouts, interactive

skirts and every member was given a raffle ticket for being in attendance. The inexpensive fun prizes kept everyone smiling! The District officers all had Team District 7 hats on and certainly showed their teamwork for an awesome meeting!

District 8 not only had a good turnout from their District, but was also well supported by the newest District 8 members. From a hilarious skit for Historian & Media relations to a great idea of using the Hospital Grant to help a facility by providing stockings for Christmas or other holiday decorations, they were fun and inventive.

At every District or Auxiliary meeting I have attended there are so many wonderful events that are announced. Please always forward your upcoming event flyers to the Department so any member who is interested can attend if they are in the area.

November kicks off with the Western Conference being held the first weekend of the month in Salt Lake City Utah. Each state of the Conference is given a Program to present, and Arizona is promoting Americanism. With the Western Conference having the Membership theme movie of John Wayne's True Grit, the Arizona members will be attending the conference in western attire! Be sure to watch both our Facebook page and our Department website for photos and information we will be bring back with us. Attending any of the Conferences is open to any member and is a wonderful way to learn new ways that other states promote the Auxiliary programs.

Our next MIT (Member Involvement Training) is November 18th and 19th in Bullhead City. We are doing a two day event to ensure we have a solid Secretary-Treasurer Training along with a ton of other good stuff! That part of the training is good for all members. As members we all have a responsibility to know how those positions should operate but also to encourage members to take new challenges which keeps our officers fresh. We like to change up each training a bit so even if you have been to an earlier one, you will always learn more and have good fun doing it!

Veteran's Day is one of our most active days for every Post and Auxiliary across the nation and I am greatly honored that I will be with Commander Schaeffler at the National Cemetery this year to lay a wreath for our departed Comrades. For those who have served, those that have fallen, those that serve today to defend our freedoms, the heart of the Auxiliary will always stand ready to assist and comfort any who are in need.



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

***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.

*There will be an **MIT/Treasurer's and MALTA** training on November 18-19th at Post 10005 from 9-3 pm.

***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 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.

Winter Conference Book Drive



This year for Winter Conference, Commander Bill and President Bambi are looking for a few good books!

Namely one's off of the National recommended Patriotism Thru Literacy book list.

We will be doing a book drive to collect books to donate in honor of National President Carla Martinez during her visit to the public library in Phoenix. The goal is for the teamed-up districts to go out and see if they can gather any of the books in their age groups and bring them to Winter Conference. You do not need to gather all of the books in your group. Whatever you can collect will be great. Please make sure that the books are new, not used. Get your Posts involved as this will be a joint project.

Commander Bill and President Bambi are looking forward to showing how much Arizona is actively engaging their youth. Below are the districts that have been grouped together and the age groups they have been assigned. I know that the state of Arizona can really make an impression on National President Carla with this book drive. We want to show that we are Banding together for our Veterans and our youth!



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 7968 - Media Project

VFW Post 7968 Auxiliary volunteered at the Apache Junction Unified School District

Student Wellness Fair on Saturday, Oct 14th, 2023. We purchased



and handed out 48 back packs and school supplies that were donated by members. Poppies, American Flags, and applications for Patriotic Art, 3-Dementional Patriotic Art, Illustrating America, Get Excited for the Red, White & Blue, Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen were also handed out to the students and parents. I provided our new Patriotism thru Literacy to the AJUSD District representative so she could compare it with the books we bought for them last year so we could buy different books this year. We also had applications for the Auxiliary and actually got a new member from this event. We forwarded pictures to our Media Chairperson and she posted them immediately on the Auxiliary and Post Facebook page.

*This event covered many of the Auxiliary's program and getting the information on Social Media is a great way for others to see what the Auxiliary is doing.



Americanism Lori Schaeffler

Upcoming Patriotic Holidays include:

November 10 – Marine Corps Birthday:
Thank a Marine!

November 11 – Veterans Day: Do you know we have many Auxiliary members who served and we need to also honor

them; Our Department President Bambi Johnson served in the United States Army, Our National President Carla Martinez served in the Navy (Carla is a Dual Member), Toni Johnson, Valerie Jordan, Jan Snyder, Linda Sprague, Lori Witz, Aimee Miller, and William Schaeffler Jr. All these members served but are Auxiliary members as they did not deploy.

Today we **Thank you ALL**, and we salute you. We **honor ALL** Veterans. No amount of words can express our gratitude towards you for leading and protecting us. Happy Veterans Day and many blessings to you. Thank you for dedicating your life to the country and protecting our freedom.

Veterans Day is a great opportunity to say “Thank You” to all our veterans and their families. On Veterans Day (November 11), there will be hundreds of parades held across the country. Many of you will participate by having a float or marching in a parade, passing out American flags, having an information booth or hosting a “Buddy” Poppy Drive. Many Posts and Auxiliaries will be hosting free meals for veterans – how awesome!!! On Veterans Day, it is a great opportunity

to say “thank you” and share the wonderful work your VFW and Auxiliary does in your community throughout the year. I personally believe that every day is Veterans Day and every day is a new opportunity to reach out to our Veterans and their families.

What can I do so I can make a difference??

- Make a meal and deliver it to local veterans.
- Deliver thank you cards to VA hospitals or nursing homes.
- Remember the veterans from your Post Home that can't get out to the Post.
- Have you considered working with other programs and maybe adopt a family for the Holiday Season and show the community that we care.

November 26 – Thanksgiving Day:

We have much to be thankful for, including our Veterans!!! Make an extra Thanksgiving Dinner and deliver it to homebound veterans or the elderly. Remember for many of our Older Members this could be the year of “firsts” for them. Invite them to the events at your Post or if your able to your home. They need and want to feel our VFW Auxiliary love. You can also collect items to make a Thanksgiving dinner such as canned goods, stuffing, a turkey, etc. and donate them to a family/school in need.

Host a community Movie Night with snacks.

Have a fall “Ole School Festival”, the ideas are endless. Once you get families inside your doors and they realize that there is things for the whole family can do, look at that you have just broken down one of the biggest barriers that stops people from just showing up. Partner up with youth veterans and family support, youth etc..

Wreaths Across America

“Serve and Succeed!”

“There are many ways to serve your community and country, and just as many definitions of success. We hope through focusing on those stories of success we will help change the dialogue around what it means to serve your country.”

ALL LOCATIONS NEED DONATIONS TO HONOR ALL VETERANS

DEC 16TH

December 16th at 10am across the nation at over 3900 locations, we will honor our Veterans by placing a Remembrance 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 must be passed on to the leaders of the future.

Remember

Sponsor a veteran’s wreath in honor of or in memory of a loved one who served in our armed forces. You can also sponsor and allow us to designate a recipient among the millions of heroes who rest in honored glory.

Honor

Volunteer with us as we honor our Veterans throughout the year. From laying wreaths locally to leading a sponsorship group or coordinating a ceremony location, there are many ways to get involved!

Teach

Invite your network of friends, family, coworkers and organizations to join us as we strive to honor every Veteran. As the scope of our mission grows, so too does the need for support. Help us to spread the word! 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. Do you know there are over 30 locations in AZ that participate in this program!? Is there a cemetery by you that does not participate? Do you know that you can sign up that cemetery to participate and coordinate throughout your community?

If you are interested in getting involved check out www.wreathscrossamerica.org
You can look for a location in your area.

Auxiliary Outreach Melissa Martin

It is so exciting to see all the great projects the Auxiliaries are doing around the state.

Some other really good ideas are checking with your local meals and wheels programs to see if they need help delivering meals, supporting various walk events by serving as a timekeeper, event spotter and water station volunteer.

Everything that is Auxiliary outreach must be voted on in your meeting and put into your minutes with a few exceptions which are in the event of a natural disaster and your community or other places around the United States need food, clothing, blankets, water or other resources



they don't have access to can be voted on after the fact.

Remember to check with local Firefighters to see if they need assistance with fire safety and prevention classes, or maybe helping the Red Cross with a blood drive. They always need help getting people registered or handing out juice and cookies. You can also check with your local homeless shelters to see if they need any help with serving a holiday meal.

Also, whatever you can't use as Auxiliary Outreach can be put on a form and given to your post so they can report it.

Keep up the good work guys.



Buddy Poppy & VFW National Home Connie Hargraves

What a fantastic Fall Conference!

Members left with a smile on their face after watching the great skits the VFW and Auxiliary Program chairmen

prepared to instruct attendees about their programs. It was great to see such ingenuity.

Pictured above are the first winners of a special Poppy Pin that three Auxiliaries were lucky enough to have been drawn after posting their Poppy events/drives drive on Facebook and including the requested #poppiescount in their post. President Bambi Johnson drew Auxiliaries 7968, 8807 and 3584. **Congratulations!**

But wait! Another contest is happening with the drawing for Poppy Pins at Winter Conference in Phoenix. Let me know in an email that you submitted a life membership application to National Home. For each one you submit, you'll receive an entry for a chance to win!

Order forms for "Buddy" poppies are available and on www.vfwauxaz.org under Programs/Buddy Poppy-National Home. Please work with your VFW's to make their requirements when you order as we are a team for our Veterans.

Swap idea: when you send out birthday, get well or thinking about you cards, include the new metal Poppies which reminds Veterans that "We Will Never Forget". This does not affect the cost of mailing. What a great and easy Poppy drive. Also, they can be attached to brochures or set on the event table for a choice at flag

raising, stand downs or community events. Traditional poppy's start at \$125 + shipping for 500 and the new metal poppies start at \$60 + shipping for 500.

This year the remodeling of the Welcome Center at National Home is the Joint Special Project of the National VFW Commander and Auxiliary President. It is a needed remodel not only to be more inviting to visitors but as a Mini Store for items that may be needed by residents and to help keep them from making the return trips into Eaton Rapids, Jackson or Lansing for something they forgot or ran out of. This will be for basic needs for food and beverages and also provide a small retail area for National Home gift items. Please consider making a donation for this project or holding a fundraising event in support of their Special Project.

The Christmas wish list is also out and is posted on www.vfwauxaz.org under Programs/Buddy Poppy-National Home. **Swap Idea:** Place a bin for members to donate or do a fundraiser to raise funds so the kids at National Home have a grand Christmas or have items to purchase to give to their family.

On the third Thursday of the month, members are invited to participate in a zoom meeting from National Home where information and topics from the home are discussed. You can receive the zoom link by registering with Sue Alverson, at salverson@vfwnationalhome.org

Also the National Home is prepping for its 2025 Centennial. Now would be the time to support the National home with a 8 x 8 brick in the Centennial Garden for the unbeatable price of \$500. There is only a limited amount of time to act and leave a lasting memory in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and place in history. It is an exciting time for the 100th Anniversary Century Celebration. More will be happening as the 100th anniversary gets closer. To order a brick visit <https://donate.brickmarkers.com/vfwnationalhome>

Military Makeover with Montel will be doing a 30 minute special on the National Home on Lifetime on 11/15 at 7:30 am est with a re-air on 11/22. Set those DVR's! Click [here](#) for more information.

**Chief of Staff
Johnnie DeBoard**

Program activity reports, also known as PAR's are important for our organization. The National Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary uses all that information to do the annual Auxiliary fact sheet.



The Auxiliaries are asked to do them monthly or quarterly. Some have asked why do the questions change yearly; the reason for this is because the questions coincide with the questions asked from National and the Department President uses these reports to do the year-end report.

Any Auxiliary member can fill out the program activity report. Talk to the President before you just do the report as we don't want it duplicated. Where can you find the program activities report? It's on www.vfwauxaz.org under site members only, then 23-24 program activities report. The easiest one to complete is google doc however, you can print and fill it out to email or snail mail. This can be filled out in less than 10 minutes. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to myself or any of the line officers.

Not everything you do is asked in the reports. However, your Auxiliary should be filling out the Auxiliary to Post Community service form. Everything your auxiliary does should go in this report form and given to the appropriate person on the Post side; usually the adjutant. The Auxiliary to Post Community Service Report form is used by the National VFW to do their yearly fact sheet and if you look at the top it says the Post and Auxiliaries have done. This form can be found on www.vfwauxaz.org under resources then forms.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving everyone.



Form for Auxiliary to turn in to Post RE: VFW Community Service

Auxiliary to Post # _____

Date From: _____ Date Through: _____

Auxiliary Programs that count

- Americanism
- Auxiliary Outreach
- VFW National Home for Children
- Hospital
- Legislative
- Scholarships
- Veterans & Family Support
- Youth Activities

	# of members	# of hours	# of miles	Donations
Americanism				
Auxiliary Outreach				X
VFW National Home for Children				
Hospital				
Legislative				
Scholarships				
Veterans & Family Support				
Youth Activities				
Total Auxiliary Community Service Information	0	0	0	0

Auxiliary Programs that do not count for VFW Community Service - Extension & Revitalization, Buddy Poppy, Historian & Media Relations, Mentoring for Leadership, and Membership. Work for your Post Home also does not count.



Historian/Media Nancy Schatz

Happy November all...the holidays are quickly approaching and with that lots of opportunities for taking pictures and memorializing the happenings at your

Auxiliary!! There are many events and parades taking place for Veterans Day—take lots of pictures and submit project reports! Also, if your Auxiliary is doing something special at your Post for Thanksgiving, be sure to capture those too...memories are so very important, and pictures always help keep those memories alive!

Have you decided on who will be the subject of your 3–5-minute video? Make sure you ask them if they will participate and give them some time to look over the questions you have developed so they can be prepared and can think about them. Program citations are very special and something that is relatively easy to do for Historian/Media Relations. Practice taking a video of a family member or your pet, so you are comfortable with how to do it; the presentation I gave at the Fall Conference outlining how to take a video is on my page at the Department website...check it out and if you need some help, reach out to me! Also, once you have done your video if it's too large to send you can always download the application wetransfer.com to help get it to me.

Thank you to all that have already submitted project reports...I have really enjoyed reading them and seeing all the amazing things you are doing! Most importantly, please do not wait to send them to me. I know you are all super busy, but if you get it done it will be one less thing to think about having to do.

Wishing you a very special Thanksgiving and let me know if you need some help in any way...I'm here for you! Nancy Schatz;
mtnnan2@gmail.com; 760-221-0549.

Hospital Denise Williams

Good morning everyone,

Hope you had an awesome time at the Fall Conference? I know I did, also learned a couple of new things. I want to personally thank everyone for attending the Conference.

VA MISSION Act

VA's new urgent care benefit and how it will provide more choices for Veterans.

The Veterans Choice Program (VCP) is the name of a Federal program started in 2014 to quickly expand access to care for Veterans. VCP ended on June 6, 2019. The VA now has what is known as the Mission Act. **The VA MISSION Act** is the name of a Federal law that established a new community care program, among other provisions.

The MISSION Act will **strengthen the nationwide VA Health Care System by empowering Veterans with more health care options**. “The changes not only improve our ability to provide the health care Veterans need, but also when and where they need it,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie.

Click [here](#) to read more about this new health care options available to our veterans.

I want to thank everyone for turning in their projects report. You guys have really some awesome projects. Remember takes pictures for your Historian, to put in their books. Plus, pictures speak a thousand words as they say.

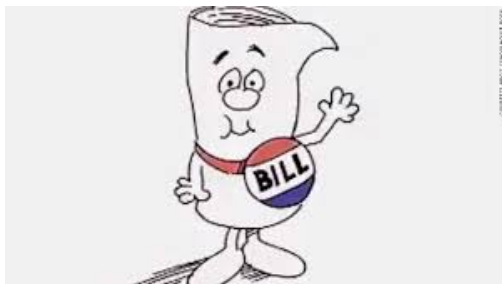
I also want to thank everyone for turning in their Hospital Grants application, wonderful ideas too. Don't forget there are three steps when turning them in. I know for sure you took the first step. Here are the three steps.

1. Email completed Application to Department Hospital Chairman.
2. Complete the Project
3. Send completed Project Report to Department Hospital Chairman
Hospital Chairman Denise Williams Email: develdwilliams@msn.com

After completing the three steps you are good to go. Remember I'm here if you need anything. I try to get back to everyone as soon as I can.

I'm very proud of each and every one of the Auxiliaries and their members. I can tell they have been really working hard, it shows it.

Keep up the good work you are doing.
Thank you for making Team Arizona look awesome.



Legislative
JaNice Robertson

LEGISLATIVE
Be an Advocate – Be Informed –
Be Engaged

Wow! Here it is November

already. Where has the year gone?

I have received a few reports from our Auxiliaries, Thank you. Looks like we are going to have a great year.

Remember our National President Carla Martinez's theme for the 2023-2024 year is: **Banding Together For Our Veterans**

In saying that please remember VFW Auxiliary members are instrumental in aiding the VFW to pass or block legislation that impacts Veterans and their families. In reading your reports I have

noticed many of the Auxiliaries and Posts working together. **Great Job!**

Pay attention to the bills that are before Congress and urge them to pass legislation.

Legislation to watch:

· **Not Just a Number Act, S. 928**

To direct VA to incorporate benefit usage data into its annual suicide prevention report, and to examine moving the office of suicide prevention to the enterprise level at VA.

· **Guard VA Benefits Act S, 740 / H.R. 1139**

To reinstate penalties for charging veterans and survivors unauthorized fees relating to claims for VA benefits.

· **TAP Promotion Act, H.R. 3933**

To require accredited representatives from national, state, and local organizations to be included in TAP (Transition Assistance Program) classes.

These are just a few of the bills that are before the men and women in Congress. If you want to know more about these bills, contact me and I will send you the information. They work for us, so let's make sure they hear our voices.

Remember RTS (Right to Speak) that Past Department Commander, Tom Judd spoke of. If you can find that kiosk at the State capital sign up and let our voices be heard. Or talk to your Representatives.

Report:

No. of members who voted.

No. of members who worked at a polling station.

No. of members who transported vets/members to polls.

(Remember, this can also be reported for Americanism)

JaNice Robertson 928-580-8872 or bells_whistles@hotmail.com

Membership Becky Baldwin

How do you retain your membership?
The biggest way is appreciating your members and remember that you all are volunteers!

Ideas to show appreciation to your members.

- Celebrate Membership Anniversaries! 5 years, 10 years etc.

“

Appreciation can make a day,
even change a life. Your
willingness to put it all into
words is all that is necessary.

MARGARET COUSINS

GRACIOUSNOTES.COM

- Celebrate Birthdays even if it is “just a card.” That card could mean the world to some.
- Ask members what their interest are what brings them joy, you may find a talent you did know about
- Say “thank you” and mean it!
- Don’t leave appreciation up to the president.

Members who feel appreciated stay involved, help where needed and may be the next leaders.

Show your appreciation and include appreciation when you talk about all the great benefits that are available when someone joins the VFW Auxiliary.

*** Reminder, we will be having our second award show at Winter Conference. Awards will be given to Auxiliaries for Best Picture in the “Membership Benefits” category!

Get with your team, set up membership benefit event, take pictures and send in a Membership Project Report by **1/3** to be eligible for this award!!



Mentoring for Leadership Doug Kinghorn

National Ambassador's October 2023 Article
- [Goals Determine Direction of Mentoring Relationship](#)

November is here. It’s time to get out to your events.

At the Fall Conference, we had a Mini MIT (Member Involvement Training). The topic was what the Auxiliary members expect from the leaders of your Auxiliary. The members replied:

- **Being at the meetings early.** Be ready to greet members as they come in. Welcome them to the meeting. Hand out the “Welcome Cards” found on the Department Web page - www.vfwauxaz.org under “Mentoring for Leadership” program)
- **Approachable.** Smile and ask if the members have any questions from the last meeting, or need help on a project that they are working on.
- **Be Respectful.** Leaders should answer questions with courtesy and if you don’t have the answer, tell them you find out the correct answer and get back to them in a timely manner. The

following though is just as important as any other characteristics of Leadership.

- **Follow though.** A Leader who demonstrates, paves the path for futures leaders.
- Don't be afraid to delegate to other members for a project that the President needs help with.
- Integrating new ideas and asking members for inspirations for that idea.
- Help Motivate all members.
- When a member has a suggestion for a new project, please bring it to the Leadership before the meeting, so that the leaders have time to discuss.

Involve all your members. Engage the Legacy leaders; with their experiences they can help with future leadership.

Look around your Auxiliary. Do you have past leaders? Ask them to help in have an activity and/or event that educates their Auxiliary members about how to train mentees while using and promoting VFW Auxiliary resources and learning materials.

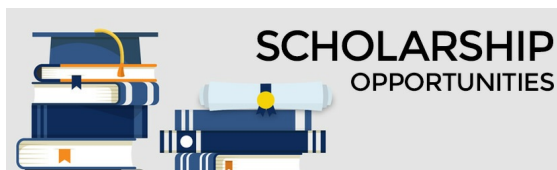
Mentoring for Leadership resource materials may be found in MALTA Member Resources.

- 2023-2024 National Program Book
- Mentoring at VFW Auxiliary: Relationship Building for the Future
- Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation

The National Mentoring for Leadership Ambassador is Francine Cornish. The link for her October blog "Mentoring for Leadership: Goals Determine Direction of Mentoring Relationship" can be found at the beginning of the article. Click on the above link to read her latest blog.

If any questions, please contact me. Doug Kinghorn, Chairman.

Keith Doris Scholarship



National Ambassador's October
2023 Article -

[Important Deadlines Are Upon Us](#)

Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen essays were due to the local VFW Post by October 31. Now is the time to finalize plans for presenting awards to the winners and I encourage you to work with your VFW on those awards. We may think that it's not much to write an essay, but all the young people that took the time to participate in

this program deserve to be recognized.

Take the opportunity to contact the teachers that had classrooms participate and thank them. They will be the teachers to stay in contact with for next year.

Let's move on to the VFW Auxiliary Department of Arizona Merit Scholarship. This is a program for high school seniors who are directly related to a VFW or Auxiliary member. Those applicants must complete the application and include all of the required items. We are looking forward to helping these young adults meet their dream of going to college or trade school.

We want to do the same for our own members that want to continue their education or start on a new career path. We can do that by supporting the Arizona VFW Auxiliary Educational Grant program.

Both the Merit Scholarship and Educational Grant Applications are on the Department website - www.vfwauxaz.org.

Make a couple of copies and display in your Post and hand out to your members at a meeting.



Veterans and Family Support Jeannie Hampton

National Ambassador's October
2023 Article -
[Recognize and Support Service
Members and their Families](#)

“It’s okay to take care of yourself”
At Fall Conference many Veterans shared very personal memories of what they continue to struggle with daily. President Bambi’s words, “It’s okay to reach out for counseling”, likely never had more of an impact and the topic of this month’s report- Caregivers.

When we consider the support roles each of us are in- do we ever really think about how it may be the actual Veteran as the Caregiver? We usually focus on someone taking care of them. On top of everything else they may feel isolated, alone, in need of some respite - someone is dependent on them for help.

Some Caregiver Resources:

- Through the VA: [VA Caregiver Support Program Home](#)

- Psych/Armor: [All Courses - PsychArmor](#)
- Elizabeth Dole Foundation Caregiver Support: [Respite Resources For Military & Veteran Caregivers - Hidden Heroes](#)
- BeConnected Match: [Be Connected: Help & Support for Arizona Veterans, Military, and families \(beconnectedaz.org\)](#)
- Explore the BeConnected Match Tool- it can be of benefit to Veterans, Active Duty, their families for most any need. 3,000 organizations in Arizona to assist.
- Military/Veteran Resource Navigation Training dates through 2024- online, 2 hours, [2024 Military/Veteran Resource Navigation Training Tickets | Eventbrite](#)

As was mentioned in the previous newsletter: Respite Vouchers for Caregiver Coalition offers up to \$1200 a year for eligible respite services. This may include: Training, Adult day care, emergency help, in-home care and education. [Respite for Arizona Family Caregivers - Meaning & Hope Institute \(meaningandhope.org\)](#)

Another way to learn about other Veteran Service Organizations and resources in your community is to attend Stand Downs/Veteran Resource Fair events. Anyone is welcome to go as a civilian and speak to the many “vendors” about the services they offer.

As we salute all Veterans on Veterans Day remember to include those who may be homebound and caregivers. A friendly smile, hand-held flag, warm homemade meal (or cookies), and a Buddy Poppy may be exactly what they need to give them hope to continue. Going into the holiday season is a very difficult time when someone is feeling isolated and alone.

Last chance: Are you planning on going back to school for the Spring 2024 Semester? Sport Clips “Help a Hero” Scholarship applications is open until November 15- Up to \$5000.00 for the qualified Veteran/Service Member. [Student Veteran Support - VFW](#) Help to support this scholarship fund- donate from October 8th through November 11th

Locally- Auxiliary 3632 Boxes for our Troops annual packing event- November 18 at AL Post 2 in Tempe: [Boxesfortroops2023FLYERupdated8.17.pdf \(vfwauxaz.org\)](#) Accepting donations for postage, Amazon Wish List items and volunteer support.

Dog Tags 4 Life- Veteran Crisis 988 number information embossed on a Military style dog tag! [DT4Life.org](#) the website shows donation amounts to continue to get the word out!

Brought to our attention by President Bambi Johnson and PDP Kim Harney- an item Veterans, active duty and civilian will recognize.

Each Tag reads:
VETERANS CRISIS
LINE DIAL 988
THEN PRESS 1
YOU'RE NOT ALONE
DT4LIFE.ORG

From one of the founders, Robert "Check" Adamczyk:
"We don't "sell" the dog tags per se, but we do have a recommended donation of \$0.40 per tag which comes out to \$20.00 for 50 tags. We also have display boxes available with a recommended donation of \$5.00 per box. The donations are optional- as we would rather get the word out. The donations cover the expenses for production of the tags, boxes and shipping. No one at Dog Tags 4 Life is paid- it is 100% volunteer."

This organization is run by 3 Veterans – taking an active stance to prevent Veteran suicide. Please consider supporting their cause and getting a Dog Tag 4 Life into the hands of those who it may have impact! Contact: admin@dt4Life.org Turn around time for orders is approximately 3-4 weeks.

As we gather together with our families let us remember to include those who are on the front line for our freedom in prayer and Thanksgiving.

Youth Irene Nowacki

National Ambassador's October
2023 Article - [Are You Involved?](#)

Fall Conference was a blast!
Hopefully you were able to attend
and soak up all of the good information that was being shared.



Autumn is finally here and so are the cooler temperatures. The kids are back to school from their Fall break and Trick or Treating. Now is a great time to see if you can visit your local schools. Get the word out about the Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue singing contest and also Illustrating America contest. It is the perfect time of the year for the kids to get their creative juices flowing and create their vision of America in the form of art. Those Patriotic children might also be interested in singing our great National Anthem. Below is the links to these contests that can be printed out and given to the teachers to pass out to their students.

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/Illustrating-America-2023.pdf>

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/Get-Excited-for-the-Red-White-and-Blue.pdf>

So far, I have received some really great reports from many Auxiliaries. Keep up the great work. I love seeing all of the different ways that you are interacting with the youth in your area. Remember, they are our future! Please keep in mind that in order to receive a National Citation, you must cover the main focus points that National Ambassador Joyce Caldwell has laid out in the National handbook on page 67.

- Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that educates their community about Patriotism Through Literacy and utilizing the Random Act of Patriotism card (R.A.P.)

This year reading is a main focal point for Joyce and recognizing the younger youth with the R.A.P. card. Let's see how creative your auxiliary can get with promoting Patriotism Through Literacy. Below is the link to the suggested book list and the link to print out the Random Act of Patriotism cards.

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

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/NEW-R.A.P.-Card-Printable-Template.pdf>

Remember, all of this information is also available to you at any time on the Department webpage or the National webpage.

From my family to yours, I hope that you have a very blessed and Happy Thanksgiving.

Program Activity Reports

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

Auxiliaries have an option of what form they would like to fill out, PDF or Excel that is emailed to Lynn Pierre at Cherrieslp@gmail.com or use the google doc that Lynn gets once you have answered the question and hit the finish button.



Each month, the updated Monthly PAR recording sheet will be behind the login on the Department webpage at www.vfwauxaz.org. Go to 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.

Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary in Arizona | 326 E. Burrows St., Tucson, AZ 85704

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