

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

Arizona VFW Auxiliary Newsletter

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President Bambi Johnson's Message

September has been a very exciting and productive month!

Every year the National organization holds the C.A.F.E. **C**elebrating **A**merica's **F**reedom **E**vent at a location chosen by the National President. This year President Carla chose the Golden Spike National Historic Park in Utah to celebrate the Transcontinental Railroad

which joined our country from east to west. This not only opened a much-needed quicker expansion of our country westward, but as telegraph lines were laid along with the track, communication was now as fast as a telegraph operator could tap out messages.

I was honored to be escorted in the parade of flags by Past Dept.

President & current Chief of Staff, Johnnie DeBoard and Dept. Conductor Jeannie Hampton. Our National Council 15 representative Chrissy Harlan, and Dept. Americanism Chairman, Lori Schaeffer, assisted and escorted other Dept. Presidents for the parade as needed. Our Dept. Secretary-Treasurer Kim Sloan assisted where needed and brought her grandson John, who was invited to be part of the recreation and help drive in the Golden Spike which finished the rail line! The Celebration of America's Freedom Event is a wonderful event every year and I hope see even more of our members attend each year! The picture below is of the Department Presidents at the CAFE.



September brought so many opportunities for us to show our commitment to our veterans, their families and our communities. Arizona did **NOT** disappoint! While I was able to visit some of the Auxiliary events being held throughout the state, thankfully so many of you have shared through social media, which I admit, I kind of stalk you on, LOL.

This month I am paying tribute to all of you that have participated in sharing yourselves with others through:

- Birth of the America Flag
- Patriot Day honoring 9/11 and our First Responders
- Prisoner of War and Missing in Action Day
- Gold Star Mother's Day
- Flags & Flowers Challenges
- Youth Support & Back to School events
- Adopting Teachers & Classrooms
- Assisting with Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen Scholarships
- Joint Post & Auxiliary Themed Membership Drives

All of these things and so much more, show our communities who we are! In so many ways, the general public sees us as who we are by our actions outside of our Post homes. Great job everyone! Here are just a few of the items I found on social media to share with you...



We tried a few new things this year at our Fall Conference. We held our first ever Friday evening Council of Administration (CofA) and attendance was approximately 70 members! Saturday our VFW and Auxiliary Chairmen brought us both education and humor for our Programs thru skits and member interaction. Didn't they do a wonderful job of teamwork? Where but in Arizona could you see a talking potted Buddy Poppy? We had 133 Auxiliary and VFW members who earned a President's coin for recruiting one Auxiliary member and 11 joint membership drive "Swag Bags" were awarded.

The Banquet began with a very moving Prisoner of War – Missing in Action ceremony and we were all emotionally overwhelmed with our guest speaker, Air Force Veteran Thomas Kirk Jr. who was a Prisoner of War for over 1,964 days in North Vietnam. He shared his capture and inner strength to survive and return to his family. Nothing brings home more, that our Prisoners of War and Missing in Action, are more than a number, more than a name, than hearing their stories in person.

As we had held the CofA on Friday night, we were able to do a half day Member Involvement Training (MIT) on Sunday morning, and we had more than 90 members in attendance! This particular MIT, being only a half day, was devoted to hands on training with lots on member interaction. Members showed their use of the National Member Resources during our Resource Game, learned how to do a promotional video and post to social media, left the training with digital

briefcases loaded with Auxiliary materials and quizzed the Chairmen for helpful hints on Programs.

Keep up the awesome work and smile your brightest smile – it is contagious!



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



Department News

***Western Conference** is Nov 2nd- 5th in Salt Lake City. Conference and Hotel Registration is now open. Deadline is Oct 16th. Cost of conference is \$175.00 and hotel is \$139.00.

*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.

*Click [here](#) to see flyers for the events above or go to www.vfwauxaz.org under news/events to see the flyers

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

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.

* **The Sandy Coor #1433 Auxiliary** hosted a Women's Veteran Day Tea at the Post in recognition of Women Veteran

Appreciation Day. Beautiful invitations were mailed to the homes of women veterans, and we received 81 RSVPs for Sunday, the 11th of June. Preparations began several months ago, and elegant salads were all prepared by the auxiliary (California chicken salad, ambrosia, pasta salad, charcuterie board, and fresh fruit. The sweets table was beautifully arranged by desserts from the Pink Tea House.

The meeting room was transformed into a chic tearoom. Red, white, and blue linens were used throughout, and every chair was covered and tied with a red sash. After months of preparation and an incredible investment of time and talent by the "Tea Team" the event was extremely well received. A video greeting from Governor Katie Hobbs was shown before hearing the Military Women's Memorial speaker and a short speech by Bambi Johnson.

The purpose was to make women veterans feel appreciated and there was a resounding agreement from all the attendees. The comments were that the event was elegant, the food delicious and arranged beautifully, the speakers were informative and fun, and the



camaraderie was astounding.

Fall Conference Membership Award

Auxiliaries that held a Membership drive with their Post earned a Swag bag at Fall Conference and were then entered for the Grand Prize. The first picture below is the Grand Prize basket. The second picture is of National Jr. Vice Commander in Chief Carol Whitmore, Membership Chairman Becky Baldwin and Aux 3584 President Sandy Graham whose Auxiliary won the Grand Prize.





Americanism Lori Schaeffler

Understanding Auxiliary Traditions for Patriotic Instructor

The Patriotic Instructor shall teach members the tradition of our Auxiliary, making sure all members understand proper procedures. The Patriotic Instructor

shall see the room is in keeping with the ritual and shall instruct members in the proper use of and salute to the Flag.

This year our National Ambassador has encouraged us to have the Patriotic Instructor read a Bio from one of our Missing in Action and briefly tell something about them . If you need one reach out, I have Bio's for all the Missing in Action from AZ from Vietnam Era.

AMERICANS will never forget; "Until they all come home."#saytheirnames #auxtribe

- The Patriotic Instructor may carry the Patriotic Instructor's Flag in events and parades.
- The Patriotic Instructor's Flag shall be placed on the floor level at all times and to the right of the presiding officer, between the President's and the Secretary's stations.
- Members of the Auxiliary shall rise and salute the Flag by placing the palm of the right hand flat over the heart, or use the Military Salute if a veteran.
- When Taps is played, all present shall stand, face the Flag and salute.
- When the Flag is displayed and the National Anthem is played or sung, all present should face the Flag and salute.
- When the Flag is not displayed and the National Anthem is played or sung, all present should face the music and salute.

It was awesome seeing everyone who held Patriot Day Events and honored our First Responders. We truly do live in the best country. I was truly in **AWE** and many times in tears when I saw how many of you honored our Prisoners of War and Missing in Action. You honored the families and their memories. **THANK YOU!** You showed they are #morethanletters; they are faces and names.

In Arizona, many of our students have fall break. This would be a great time to take them out to some of the landscapes and you would not believe how many memorials we have in this state!! How many different environments can you see in a one-day car drive? While the

weather is still gorgeous, I challenge you to get out and experience this country from her open roads...In other words; **MOTORIZED YOUR FREEDOM!**

Here are some suggestions for your "Motor 'Merica' Day Trippin'"

- Research your local historical sites and markers and visit them.
- Visit a local state or national park.
- Visit a big city and a small town in the same day, try to feel what makes them both tick.
- Walk around your State Capitol (Really take in the statues and monuments) Wesley Bolin Plaza in Phoenix has over 30 memorials in the park.
- Have a truly impressive bridge or dam nearby? Visit it! American engineering is a national treasure.
- Spend the day at the ballpark; how people play says a lot about who they are.

How's that Flag looking'?

As we know our very **HOT** sun fades our colors quickly. The Commander and I had to replace our flag three times due to the AZ storms. How many of you took up my challenge of replacing flags of your neighbors and businesses?

Now's the time to reach out to your local schools, parochial school and even homeschoolers and houses of worship to see if there is a need for their Flag to be replaced! This could be your "in" to bring up the subject of how we might be able to help them with Flag education or provide them with patriotic materials for instructional use. You know that once you have helped them that's you're "in" to introduce the Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy contests. Deadlines are the end of this month. Partner up with your other programs and lets swap ideas

Please tag me in your events so I can forward them to the Americanism National FB Page. Did you know that there is an Americanism 23-24 Facebook Page? Lots of great ideas! Have you been Challenged yet for Flags and Flowers?? Well- you have now. This is moving across the United States, Click [here](#) to read the instructions on how to complete the Flags and Flowers challenge. It is also on the webpage - www.vfwauxaz.org under programs/Americanism.

If you would like Commander Bill to attend an event, please call VFW HQ and leave him a message.

VOLUNTEER



Auxiliary outreach is volunteer work performed by one member, a group of members or for the benefit of their community.

Projects can be done by the Auxiliary alone or with the VFW

post. Community outreach can help many different groups of people: children, senior citizens, people with disabilities, even animals or the environment.

Many people participate in volunteering in the community because they enjoy helping others and improving their community. There are numerous benefits to volunteering in the community, both for the member and the Auxiliary.

Some of the benefits of volunteering :

- Gives you a way to help others
- Helps improve your community
- Can be a way to meet new friends and possibly sign up new Auxiliary members
- Often results in personal growth
- Gives you a way to gain work experience and learn more about certain jobs

A few ideas - find out if your local nursing homes have a need for someone to come in a read to patients who are visually impaired; Help at a charity auction; take care of cats and dogs at an animal shelter; participate in the clean up of local parks and lakes or help sort donations at a homeless shelter.

Please remember that the Auxiliary outreach program is;

- For projects not affiliated with other VFW or Auxiliary programs
- Project must be approved by your Auxiliary and recorded in the meeting minutes prior to the project
- You need to report the hours and number of volunteers that were involved in the project on the PAR



Buddy Poppy & VFW National Home
Connie Hargraves

V F W
N A T I O N A L H O M E

August was a rush. Here's to September which was a time to honor and remember. Hopefully there were a lot of Poppies handed out and ideas to use them with your programs. I

received several program reports with #poppiescount used in the media posts and have verified them and others and congratulations to winners of the Poppy Pins at Fall Conference.

As of this writing the new metal Poppies are not at the VFW store yet or priced. Per my National Ambassador, the “Buddy” poppies can be ordered from the Department Quartermaster who has been getting them out in a timely manner. You can also help your Post purchase their quota by purchasing from your own Quartermaster. Please go to vfwauxaz.org under programs/Buddy Poppy for the new Poppy story video that was shown at Fall Conference.

Consider handing out the Poppy coloring book and a Poppy with the candy to Youngsters at Halloween. There is a project report for use of Poppy with another program. #poppiescount.

In August, my husband and I traveled through 18 states and were happy to finally be able to visit the National Home in Eaton Rapids, MI. What an enjoyable tour! I got to see the current building where they will be remodeling for the new market and gift store. It will be convenient for not only the visitors but the staff and families as well.

It was a rainy day driving to the Home from Jackson MI, roads were adequate, two lane with beautiful trees and flora but not an easy drive. Imagine if you’ve put in a hard day’s work and discover you forgot to stop and get something you needed to make supper or breakfast, or if your child says “Mom/Dad did you remember I need something baked for school tomorrow”? The Home is located 30-45 minutes from the major cities of Eaton Rapids, Jackson and Lansing and the renovation of the main building will improve the needs of the families and inspire visitors. Please join the VFW National Commander and the Auxiliary President by supporting their joint project to make this renovation happen!!

How can you help the National Home, you ask?

1. Join Homefront Heroes – this is a monthly donation starting at \$10 a month or whatever your Post/Auxiliary votes on, or what you yourself may want to contribute.
2. VFW National Home’s Brick Campaign lets you send a special tribute. Whether it is your name, in honor of a Past President, or Veteran or as a thank you to a special volunteer in your organization. See your Commander, President or Buddy Poppy National Home chair for further help and application.
3. Make a one-time donation.
4. Become a Life member for one time fee \$50. You do not have to be a VFW/Aux member to be a life member, but you do need to be a member to vote. What a great gift to honor a friend, relative or graduate.
5. Please forward me the name of any member/non-member who

signed up for Life Membership at the National Home and your Post/Aux # and your name for your chance to win a Poppy Pin at Winter Conference! This is for October 1-December 31st received by National Home.

Have you sent in your Health and Happiness donation yet, which is one of the Programs to get a National Citation? It's just .25 or more per member based on June 2023 membership status. Maybe you can move to include this in your standing rules.

Other citations are for the use of the "Buddy" Poppy in another program and an activity and/or event that educates the community or another Veteran Service Organization about the VFW National Home. Hopefully you all enjoyed what your VFW and Auxiliary chairmen did for their skits on the programs.

Remember #poppiescount

Chief of Staff Johnnie DeBoard

Have you activated your MALTA account? If not now is a good time to do so.

Membership chairmen please help your new members activate their MALTA accounts. There is a lot of useful tools for all programs under Member Resources that will help your auxiliaries work the programs successfully.



Do you ever wonder why it's always the same five people volunteering? Under Extension and Revitalization is the Healthy Communication phone/text tree. If the auxiliaries started using this tool, your participation level should start going up. Life gets in the way and people forget things that they really wanted to do. By using this communication tree, each member would only be contacting one member. Ask the members individually how they want to be contacted; they may even just want a reminder by email. I'm asking each auxiliary to use the tree for three months. Then let me know how it went.

This would be a great time of year to pass out the Healthy check up/member questionnaire. This can also be found under Extension and Revitalization. Pass it out to all auxiliary members at your meeting. Don't leave out the ones who missed the meeting - email or snail mail them. Once you get them back look at them; maybe get a committee together to look at them. Bring the results up at your meeting, talk about them, get the members involved. You may find you will increase your participation at your meeting if it was on a different day or time.

Whatever you do read them and address any issues you can.

If you need help just reach out to me and I'll be more than willing to help.

Remember: **I'm on your team.**



Historian/Media Nancy Schatz

National Ambassador's September 2023 article - [It Just Takes YOU!](#)

Can you believe it's almost Halloween!

Nancy Schatz here...2023-2024 Historian and Media Relations Chair...and welcome to the third newsletter for this year! Boy the months are just clicking by!

Wasn't the Fall Conference great...hope you all were able to attend and got a lot of great information out of the various training sessions held—I know I enjoyed each and every one!

As many of you are aware, there are a lot of great resources available to members behind the log-in for Malta...have you checked it out? I was looking over the information under the Historian/Media Relations tab last month and there is a wonderful Power Point presentation posted on how to promote your Auxiliary using social media. Whether it's the newspaper or Facebook, this presentation gives you all you need to know to get the word out! ...and that's what it's all about... letting people know what we/you are doing as an Auxiliary to help Veterans!!

Take a look and let me know if you need some help in getting it done...I'm here for you! Nancy Schatz; mtnnan2@gmail.com; 760-221-0549.

Hospital Denise Williams

National Ambassador's September 2023 Article - [Spread Awareness and Provide Feedback](#)



Good afternoon, everyone.

First, I want to thank everyone who handed in their project reports and Hospital Grants Applications.

Do you know you can team up with another auxiliary, it's doesn't matter what size the auxiliary is. That means a total of \$500.00 for the project -

\$250.00 each from the Department. Make sure when you apply for the Hospital Grant that you put you are teaming up with another auxiliary. Identify which one you are teaming up with by putting the other auxiliary number on the form.

There is a lot of stuff you can use the grant for, like activities you do with your veterans. One way you can find out what they may need is to go visit them.

Go there when they are doing activities, offer to volunteer to assist during their activity. If they are playing games, join in and play with them. Find out their interest and what they may like doing. Some places, they might have outside interest like gardening or cookout. Remember these places are most likely their home now. Buy plants for their rooms, hang pictures on the walls. For outside buy flowers or lawn ornaments and put outside their window for when they look out the windows, they see it. Make sure you get permission to do this before doing it, we don't want to offend anyone. Don't forget they also need lap blankets, hygiene products, combs, and brushes. We still have some that live at home, we need to check on them too.

We need to make sure all our Veterans are taken care of. Go visit them and bring them their favorite dish. Take a load off your feet and enjoy spending time with them. Watch a movie with them, or play a game with them. You might be their only visitor so make it enjoyable for them. Ask them if they need anything and if you can help them with anything.

You guys "ROCK"! You are doing an awesome job, so give yourself a pat on the back. I'm proud of being your Hospital Chairman this year. Keep doing a fantastic job; this year is just starting, I know we will have an amazing year this year I have an Amazing Team this year. I can't do this without all your amazing teamwork.



Legislative JaNice Robertson

National Ambassador's September 2023
Article - [Our Role as Legislative Advocates](#)

**Be an Advocate – Be Informed – Be
Engaged**

How do we help our members be engaged and where do we find the answers?

Everything you need to know is in **MALTA**.

Action Corps Weekly

- Learn what Action Corps Weekly is.
- Sign up for Action Corps Weekly
- Sign up sheet for your membership.

Malta – Member Resources – Legislative Program – Action Corp Weekly

Auxiliary Legislative Tools & Resources

- [I Vote in Honor of a Veteran Sticker Template A-To print, use Avery 5163 labels or equivalent](#)
- [I Vote in Honor of a Veteran Sticker Template B-To print, use Avery 5163 labels or equivalent](#)
- [VFW Auxiliary Guide to Contacting your Legislators](#)
- [VFW Auxiliary Guide to the Legislative Process](#)
- [VFW Auxiliary Involvement in Elections & Political Activities](#)

Malta – Member Resources – Legislative Program

Legislative Websites

- [National Archives – Legislative Branch: The Center for Legislative Archives](#)
- [The White House](#)
- [U. S. House of Representatives](#)
- [U. S. Senate](#)

VFW Legislative Resources

- [U.S. Legislative Progress of a Bill](#)
- [VFW Fact Sheet](#)
- [VFW Legislative Priorities](#)
- [VFW Priority Goals](#)
- [VFW Voter Voice](#)

If you have any questions or need any help, please contact me anytime. I am here to help. Help your members become involved and knowledgeable on the way our government works. Utilize MALTA often for all of our programs. There is so much valuable information listed there. If they have not signed up in MALTA as yet have a class instructing how to navigate through it.

Membership Becky Baldwin

National Ambassador's September 2023
Article - [Turn the Spotlight on and Recruit](#)

Congratulations to our Nominees and Winner of the Best Picture in the “Joint Membership Drive” which was award at Fall Conference on September 30th.



Now that we have recruited and signed up our members have we shared the benefits of being a member to them? How about what benefit we get by having them in our “production crew”? Do your legacy members know about the benefits? Membership is not all about the number you have but what is in it for them and for us!

In keeping with the movie Award show theme, 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!

Auxiliaries must plan a session either at a meeting or another day that shares with members the benefits that are available to them. Do your members know about the cancer grant? Insurance discounts? Travel discounts? All Benefits can be found in MALTA!

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

October is here, leaves are falling and Halloween is coming.
Engage, engage, engage!!!

Since starting this new Program season, your Auxiliary may have many new and some what new members that want to participate in the events the Auxiliary has coming up. Put the word out.

C.A.R.E.

C is Catch the member when they first join.

Catching the members when he or she joins, means not saying to yourself, “Surely someone will call or email the new people about the next meeting.” Guess what? Your new name is **SOMEONE**. Decide now that when a new member is recruited (or if a rejoined members comes back after some time off) that **SOMEONE** needs to contact that member and let them know they are important to the Auxiliary.

Now that the new member is signed in to the Auxiliary, the Recruiting member, should continue to educate, mentor, and invite their recruitee, or ask them if they want to help at the next event, so they

can see what needs to be done to help the veterans and families. **NO PRESSURE!!**

After the new member is sworn in, have everyone at the meeting introduce themselves and stay a little while after the meeting to talk with the new member and get a feel what they like to do. Do they work, do they have kids, grandkids, do they volunteer somewhere? **NO PRESSURE!!**

At the next meeting, catch newer members as they come in the door. Ask the member if they want to sit with you and help explain what is going on in the meeting or ask the membership to explain to the new members what is going on in the meeting. Yes...the meeting is scripted, but still have time for answering questions that come up.

Presidents, welcome everyone including the new members. Ask if anyone has any questions before the opening ceremony. Have a list of Auxiliary Traditions to handout at every meeting.

- Understanding Auxiliary Traditions
- Raps of the Gavel
- Attention & Parade Rest
- Showing Proper Respect to the Flag
- Showing Proper Respect for the Altar & Bible
- Addressing the President and Making a Motio

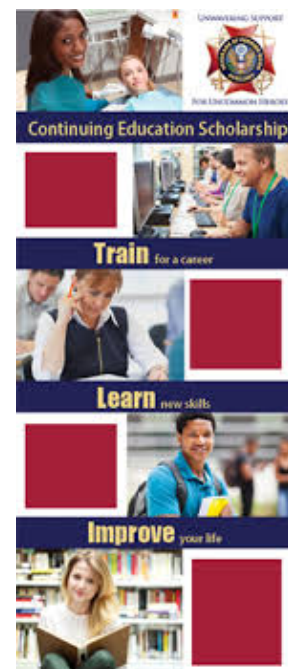
We are **ALL** Mentors, in some way. Help your fellow members and our Auxiliaries will continue to grow.

Scholarships Keith Doris

There are a number of different scholarships available through the VFW Auxiliary. These include:

CONTINUING EDUCATION – Due to National by Feb 15th

- For Auxiliary members in good standing, their spouse and children in need. Must be age 21 by February 15.
- Attending American college/university or vocational/technical school.
- \$1,250 to one winner in each of the four Conferences



YOUNG AMERICAN CREATIVE PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST – Due

to local Auxiliaries by March 31st

- Grades 9 – 12
- On canvas or paper
- 19 National Scholarships

3-DIMENSIONAL PATRIOTIC ART CONTEST - Due to local Auxiliaries by March 31st

- Grades 9 – 12
- Using paper, fabric, metal work, pottery, etc.
- 4 National Scholarships

HOW TO DONATE TO THESE FUNDS:

- Log in to MALTA. Click on “Make a Gift.”
- Select Patriotic Art

or

- Mail checks earmarked Patriotic Art to:

VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
Attn: Patriotic Art Scholarship Fund
406 W. 34th St., 10th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111



Veterans and Family Support Jeannie Hampton

Be Connected offers an absolutely amazing online training course: Military Veteran Resource

Navigation Training- the next event December 13 - 9 to 11 am [2023 Military/Veteran Resource Navigation Training Tickets | Eventbrite](#) 2 hours long- worth every second.

When we as caregivers, family members, support have a difficult time understanding the *why* service members do not reach out for their benefits- this gives very real time reasons. There are some eye-opening, heart-felt discussions shared.

Be Connected in conjunction with Arizona service organizations- VA, TriWest, Arizona Coalition for Military Families, AHCCCS, AZDVS and public resources uses a brilliant “online match tool” to connect the service member, or the family member/caregiver, with the help they need for their specific circumstance. By using the situation data- age of person reaching out, their need or need for another, branch of service, type of situation- immediate or long term- it offers a solution to assist- whether it be food, transportation, a car repair, help with utilities or a job – 866-4AZ Vets 866.429.8387

The VFW NVS- #Morethanletters [Veterans Affairs Benefits - VFW](#) Veterans of Foreign Wars -National Veteran Services- accredited

VFW Service Officers assist Active Duty, Veterans and their families receive the benefits earned through their Military Service – including: Crisis Management, PTSD, Compensation/Pension, Homelessness, Health Care, Vocational Rehab and Employment, GI Bill Educational Benefits, Home Loans, Life Insurance, Dependents and Survivors, Family Caregivers and finding a VA near them.

The more Veterans we speak with, the more it is learned how many have never reached out to apply for the benefits they have earned. Be the resource to connect them with an accredited Service Officer.

The September article included a link- [Send Books to U.S. Troops \(aarp.org\)](#) This is an amazing program. Gather books of different genres, contact AARP Books for our Troops- suggested 20 paperback books in anything except “romance” and they will connect the sender with a “Troop” looking for books to read that may help them get through a tough time. (It also suggests “Children’s Books” as some like to read to their youth. What a fantastic way to include “Patriotism through Literacy”)

Respite Vouchers for Caregiver Support- Duet Meaning and Hope Institute along with Arizona Caregiver Coalition offer up to \$1200.00 a year for eligible respite services. This can include training, Adult day care, emergency help, in-home care and education: [Veteran-Respite-Vouchers.pdf \(azcaregiver.org\)](#)

Upcoming Events:

- Pinal County Veteran Stand Down- October 14- Coolidge [2023 STAND DOWN FLYER 3.0.pub \(azhousingcoalition.org\)](#)
- Lake Havasu City Veteran Stand Down- October 21st [Microsoft Word - StandDownFlyer \(vfwauxaz.org\)](#)
- Tucson Nam Jam – October 28 with Veteran Resources available
- [NamJam.png \(808×619\) \(vfwauxaz.org\)](#)
- 3632 Boxes for our Troops- November 18 [Boxesfortroops2023FLYERupdated8.17.pdf \(vfwauxaz.org\)](#) has an Amazon Wish List – their goal – 100 boxes for our Troops

Let’s continue to “Band Together for Our Veterans”- through the VFW Auxiliary Programs and supporting each other!

Youth
Irene Nowacki

School is back in session! Now is a great time to see if you are allowed

to go into your local schools and read books to them. Check with the teachers and explain to them about our Patriotism thru Literacy program to see what History they are planning on teaching and find a few books that will coincide with their teaching plans.



This is a great way for us to be able to reach out to the children in our communities and help them to learn about the rich history that we have and to explain why brave men and women step up to serve in the armed forces to not only help protect us but to keep our freedoms in place.

There are ways that you can connect many of our programs together while doing this. Bring in flags with a Buddy Poppy attached to them. If you are able to, you can give a little information on the Nation Home too. Ask if they know the Pledge of Allegiance and see if it will be ok to say it with them. If you see a child that is showing a Random Act of Patriotism, it would be a great time to hand them a RAP card or coin. See if they have any family members that have served in the military and talk a little about them. Maybe do a little voting exercise and have them cast their ballot for their favorite color. Hand out the flyers for Illustrating America and Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue. These can be found on MALTA behind log in for your printing pleasure.

Veterans Day is coming up soon and this would be a great time to see if you can get into your local schools and educate the youth on all of this. You never know what might become of it. Maybe a few new members from the children going home and telling their parents about us and what we shared at school.

Keep sending in your Youth reports. I have received some really great ones so far. Get creative with ideas on reading to our youth and passing out the RAP cards or coins. This is what National Youth Activities Ambassador Joyce Caldwell is promoting this year.

This year each Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that educates their community about Patriotism Through Literacy and utilizes the Random Act of Patriotism card (RAP) will receive a citation.

The most outstanding activity and/or event educating about Patriotism Through Literacy and utilizing the Random Act of Patriotism card (RAP) will win plaques.

I know that we can knock this program out of the park this year. Let's get out there and read to our youth and show them that their



VAVS

On October 27th from 5-7 pm the Tucson VA will be celebrating the 95th Anniversary Celebration of SAVAHCS! Click [here](#) to see the flyer.

Many of you may not know, SAVAHCS was previously known as the Tucson VA Medical Center, began its existence in an abandoned popular recreation spot, located about 13 miles north of town along the road to Oracle Junction. This recreation spot known as Pastime Park, featured at different times, a skating rink, bowling alley, dance hall, and a notorious roadside tavern.

By late summer 1919, the end of World War I (WWI) brought over three million Veterans back into society. An estimated 50,000 WWI Veterans suffered from debilitating respiratory ailments.

By December 1, 1918, nearly 6,000 Veterans were being treated for tuberculosis in facilities in Europe and the United States according to information written by Alex Jay Kimmelman dated January 12, 1988, which is also found in the "Journal of Arizona History," (Vol 31, No. 1, Spring 1990, pp 19-42.)

Although 17 facilities existed in the United States, Public Health Service officials concluded that with a return of over 250,000 Veterans who received disabilities because of military service during the war, their bed space would be gravely inadequate. Victims of poison gases did not cause tuberculosis, the damage it caused to the victim's lung cells left the patient susceptible to bronchitis, heart disease, and consumption of asthma. Many Veterans traveled around the country looking for the best treatment and climate for their condition. Between 1919 and 1928, over 3,500 of these Veterans were treated at the temporary facility located at Pastime Park.

Through the efforts of men such as Dr. Neill MacArtan, the first director at the temporary facility at Pastime Park and Orville McPherson, a civic booster, attention was brought to the needs of the Veterans being treated at the temporary hospital. Their efforts were joined by business and fraternal associations, church groups and social clubs. Eventually Tucson was able to provide medical services to the many Veterans coming here because of the climate and obtained federal funds to support this cause. Mr. Kimmelman stated in his history of the temporary Veterans hospital that the fiscal efforts of opening a VA hospital should not be underestimated. The hospital soon became Tucson's third largest employer.

Most of the Veterans arriving in Tucson were destitute as well as invalid. For them the tent city, known as Tentville or Bugville, existed about one mile north of the University of Arizona. To escape the terrible conditions found in Tentville, some Veterans began squatting at the abandoned Pastime Park. The unsupervised conditions at Pastime Park began to raise concern among local citizens.

According to Mr. Kimmelman's history, Mrs. Frances Blair, Executive Secretary for the local Red Cross, informed the Pacific Division of the Red Cross of the terrible dilemma these ill Veterans faced. She received approval from Dr. J. D. Long to search for suitable land. Her search led her to Pastime Park.

Another individual who greatly influenced the establishment of the temporary Veteran's hospital at Pastime Park was Dr. Neill MacArtan, a native of North Carolina. He served as medical officer on General Pershing's staff in 1916 and because he contracted tuberculosis, he was discharged from the Army. During WWI, he reenlisted as a foot soldier. After recognizing his abilities, he was commissioned as a lieutenant as a medical officer. In the fall of 1919, he received orders from Washington to proceed west to find a locale where the conditions favored the treatment of tuberculosis. He left his wife and a young son in North Carolina because he feared they might contract tuberculosis. His travels eventually brought him to Tucson and Pastime Park.

Dr. MacArtan and Mr. McPherson diligently worked together to find financial support. In early 1920, the immediate needs were renovating the buildings and obtaining medical equipment. Finally, with the efforts of Congressman Carl T. Hayden, Pastime Park received an initial grant of \$25,000 to develop quarters and obtain material. Equally important, the facility then came under the control of the U.S. Public Health service and became known as Veterans Hospital #51.

The initial hospital began with three existing buildings at Pastime Park. One brick building housed the boiler and two adobe buildings were used as a ward and a kitchen. Over the years, the facility grew to a total of 86 buildings. The staff included Dr. MacArtan, a head nurse, and two ward nurses. The facility faced great financial and negative publicity challenges. Then on February 9, 1922, Dr. MacArtan at the age of 40 passed away. By this time, the facility had reached its greatest level of development and remained this way until the new hospital opened.

Through the efforts of community leaders and organizations such as the American Legion Morgan McDermott Post #7, the Disabled American Veterans, the Chamber of Commerce, and businessman Albert Steinfeld's offer of 116 acres south of town as a donation for a

construction site. Congress approved a formal offer for a new hospital. The groundbreaking took place October 4, 1927. On August 28, 1928, Veteran's Hospital #51 opened its doors.

Arizona Past President Club (APPC)

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Ruth Malik and I have been discussing our next meeting at the Department convention in 2024. Since prices have been and continue to raise for everything we are looking at ways to lower the cost of the meal. We have talked about doing breakfast instead of lunch. It can be a regular breakfast buffet or a continental style buffet. If you still want to do lunch, I am sure we are all tired of eating lecture and chicken. How about we do a Mexican or Italian buffet lunch? Ruth and I hope this may be cheaper and we will be checking with the hotel. We also want to check to see what food members are allergic to. Please sent me your suggestions or opinions to my email, janaetrout@yahoo.com. Thank you.

Janae Kemery
APPC President

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.

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