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VFW Auxiliary Arizona February Pinpoints

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President Melody's Message

Happy Valentines Day!

What a race this year has been and here we are in the home stretch for reporting. Now is the time for Auxiliaries to look at the Arizona Circle of Excellence and get those last-minute projects done and reported. The Circle of Excellence must be completed by March 31, 2021.

This issue is chalked full of good ideas from the Program Chairman to assist

auxiliaries with completing the programs and new ideas that will help us serve our Veteran and their Families and Communities.

Congratulations to all of the Auxiliaries that have made 100%! Thank you all for your hard work in meeting this goal. For the Auxiliaries that have not made 100% not to worry we have a plan. The Department Officers held a small roundup to brainstorm on ways to help you achieve 100%. In the next few weeks, Department Officers will be contacting Auxiliary Treasurers to see how they can assist auxiliaries in reaching the 100% goal.

Lastly, I want to offer my sincere condolences to the members who have lost loved ones and dear members of their auxiliaries. May loving memories of them bring you peace, comfort, and strength.

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

Melody

Message from Chrissy Harlan Past Department President

Thank you to all of my VFW and VFW Auxiliary family for the love you have expressed to me and my family at the loss of my soulmate and husband Gary. Words cannot express how much your cards, calls, emails, Facebook posts and prayers have meant to us. You have proved once again that we may not be related by blood but we are truly a family.

Gary loved the VFW, VFW Auxiliary and all of you. He was proud to serve as a Post Commander, All State District 5 Commander, National and Department Scouting Team for several years as well as many other National and Department Chairmanships and he always supported the Auxiliary. Gary was dedicated to playing TAPS at services for veterans which is something he started doing while still in High School. I pray that our younger generation will pick his legacy.



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary - Department of Arizona
2020-2021
Project Report

Project – Auxiliary

(Program)

(Auxiliary #)

Legislative Bambi Johnson

Wow! Only one month left in our Program Year! It seems to have arrived so fast...maybe because we have been losing track of our days without our normal events. This year we have all been challenged to complete our goals without our regular tools, such as Convention and Winter Conference

training, big membership drives, and events.

These things have forced us to embrace new methods and ideas to reach existing and potential members and work with our communities. Auxiliaries

across Arizona have stepped up and worked within these new concepts to help our veterans and communities.

To date, I have only received Special Project reports from only a handful of Auxiliaries, and I know based on the items I have seen posted on just Facebook, that you have been doing so much more!

The other item with a fast-approaching deadline, March 31, 2021, is the National Legislative Award for Auxiliaries. This Award is based on what your Auxiliary did to educate your members on the legislative process and I will be using your Project Reports to nominate your Auxiliaries for this Award. If you need some guidelines or materials that you could share at an event or your meeting, please contact me and I would be happy to share items and ideas with you!

With so many changes in our Nation's Capital and its leaders, we must stay focused on our Legislative Goals of enriching the lives of our veterans through getting important bills passed. The more you know about the process, the stronger you will be as a veteran advocate!

VFW and Auxiliary Special Plates

The VFW and Auxiliary Special License Plate Bills have dropped in both the House and the Senate. The bills are being heard in committees over the next few weeks. If you have a Request to Speak (RTS) account please sign

into your account and show your support for all of the bills. If you do not have a RTS account you can contact Melody Judd and she will be happy to give you the committee members contact information to call or email in support of the bills. Below are the bills with the bill numbers.



VFW License Plate - SB1143 veterans of overseas conflicts plates
Primary Sponsor(s): Senator Wendy Rodgers, R-District 6

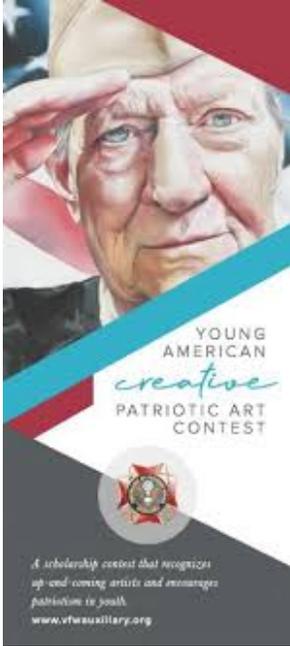
VFW Auxiliary License Plate - SB1312 veterans; special license plates; design
Primary Sponsor(s): Prime Sponsor Senator Sonny Borrelli, R - District 5

VFW License Plate - HB2472 special license plates; veterans; design
Primary Sponsor(s): Representative Richard Andrade, D-District 29

VFW Auxiliary License Plate - HB2473 veterans; special license plates; design
Primary Sponsor(s): Representative Richard Andrade, D-District 29

Scholarships Jeanne Hampton

National Continuing Education Scholarship
National Continuing Education, for Auxiliary Members,



their Spouses, sons/daughters, is due to National by February 15, 2021. If you plan to continue your education (or change career direction) or have an immediate family member who is considering, please apply for this National Grant.

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest

As Department Chairmen, we have been asked to focus this month on our National Program “Award”. For Scholarships, this is “The most outstanding promotion of the “Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest”.”

“If a picture is worth 1000 words”, let this Young American Creative Patriotic Arts, be a picture of Hope. Hope for America, Hope for our First Responders, Hope for our Veterans, Hope for those serving our Nation.

Every Auxiliary that promotes and submits their Project Report Form will receive a citation from National. A citation and \$25.00 will also be awarded to ONE auxiliary in each of the 4 Conferences for the Most Outstanding Promotion of Young American Creative Patriotic Arts Scholarship.

Suggestions for promoting the Young American Creative Art Contest are the use of newsletters, e-newsletters, flyers, social media posts, handouts, photos, links to videos, etc.

In brainstorming this idea and reading the current Blog by the Scholarships Ambassador on the VFWAuxiliary.org website – we need to look to other ways to connect with potential high school grade level artists. How about “Bookmans” in the greater Phoenix and Tucson area? Do they have a board to hang Young American Patriotic Creative Patriotic Arts scholarship information? Most of the youth who read Anime’ selections, are also interested in Art. How do we now encourage the Art to be Patriotic relevant? Michaels, JoAnns, Hobby Lobby – art stores- do they have a “Notice Board” to post applications? Check back regularly.

Your Voice of Democracy candidates are of high school age- same criteria for Young American Patriotic Arts- they may not be artists but may have peers who are. They may know the art instructor and pass along the information.

Libraries may be virtual- do they have a Blog of activities? School Principals, Guidance Counselors, Homeschool Groups. Newspaper reporters who may have run a Gold Star Mother article or Voice of Democracy/Patriot Pen notice. This may even be a “Community Interest” article they would publish if space permits- an at-home, socially distanced, Patriotic Activity for the young artists looking to continue their education with a Scholarship worth up to \$15,000.00 and \$31,500.00 in overall placement awards.

The Auxiliary Scholarships Program Report Form is due to the Department Chairman by March 31, 2021. The Young American Creative Patriotic Arts entry is also due to the local Auxiliary by March 31, 2021.

Department of Arizona Scholarships

The Department offers two scholarships - Merit Scholarship open to High School Seniors who are, or related to, an Auxiliary Member in the state of Arizona, and the Department of Arizona Education Grant, for Arizona Auxiliary members and/or their direct family members, who wish to continue their education. Both are due to the Department Chairman by April 1, 2021.



Voice of Democracy State Winners

1st Place – Joshua Gradwell – District 5

2nd Place – Megan Sinnett – District 1

3rd Place – Abigail Sanctuary – District 2

4th Place Daniel Yanez – District 7

4th Place – Alexandra Montbriand District 8

4th Place - Merlin D'Souza – District 10

4th Place – Hanna Horn – District 6

4th Place - Andromeda Lian – District 3

4th Place – Yash D. Wadweker – District 4

Patriot's Pen State Winners

1st Place – Abigail Walters – District 2

2nd Place – Sebastion Lomell – District 1

3rd Place – Jake Martinez – District 5

4th Place – Shelby Dewitt – District 6

4th Place – Candence Johnson-Ashly – District 8

4th Place – Mitzia Gastelum – District 7

4th Place – Angela Luna – District 1

4th Place – Patryk Grabies – District 3

4th Place Tanya Trejo – District 4

**Department
Secretary/Treasurer
Kim Sloan**

Points to Ponder

I am struck with the need to remind the Auxiliary Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers that they need to work



together as a team.

You are the leadership team for your Auxiliary.

In this trying time, it's been a challenge to be leaders.

So let's look at some leadership traits that the team can share:

*Keep your ego in check and be humble enough to learn from others.

"Pride makes us artificial and humility makes us real." Thomas Merton

*Strive to learn something from everyone you meet. *"Let the improvement of yourself keep you so busy that you have no time to criticize others."* Roy T. Bennett

*Strive to spread positive energy. If you find yourself reacting negatively, step back and reassess the situation. *"Focus on an ocean of positives, not a puddle of negatives."* Kevin Ansbro

*Set realistic goals for the Auxiliary and strive to meet them – write them down and share with your team. *"Goals are not only absolutely necessary to motivate us. They are essential to really keep us alive."* Robert Schuller

* Strive to be kind and promote kindness in others *"Just imagine how different the world could be if we all spoke to everyone with respect and kindness."* Holly Branson

* Be realistic about time management. *"Lack of direction, not lack of time, is the problem. We all have twenty-four hour days."* Zig Ziglar

* Be patient when plans change and you need to adapt. *"Action and adaptability create opportunity."* Garrison Wynn

Some Reminders for Secretaries:

*District Secretaries – send me copies of meeting minutes.

*Members attending via teleconferencing need to be listed in the minutes at both Auxiliary and District levels.

Some Reminders for Treasurers:

*If you can't read the application, then I can't read it either. When you make the copy that is destined to come to me, make sure the copy includes the Recruiter information and the applicant signature at the bottom.

*If an applicant is Affiliated, the application must show the veteran's VFW Membership number.

Some Reminders for Investigating Committees:

*New Member Applications - Verify the application is complete before you sign it. All information must be legible.

*Transfer Applications – While the bylaws do not require signatures of the Investigating Committee, get in the habit of reviewing them just like a new member application before the Auxiliary votes on all the applications. Make sure the application is complete and includes a copy of the member's current membership card.

**Hospital
Melissa Martin**

I hope all of the Auxiliaries are working on your Valentine for Veterans project. Every Auxiliary that participates in National Salute to Veteran Patients Week by sending or hand delivering Valentines to



veteran patients and sends a Project Report to me by March 31, 2021, will receive a National citation. I can't wait to see a picture of your Valentines'. We have received some very exciting news this week! The US Department of Affairs announced future sites for Fisher Houses and Phoenix VA was selected. As we learn more information we will update the membership.

We still holding a Diaper Drive for expecting families at the Phoenix VA Women's Center. If you want to send gift cards for diapers or diapers you can send them to me directly - my address is 202 South 83rd Place Mesa, AZ 85208. I have received some Hospital project reports but I don't have one from every Auxiliary. Remember it counts towards your Circle of Excellence checklist. I hope everyone is doing well and staying safe.

News from VFW Auxiliary VAVS Representatives

Region I Linda Thuringer

Due to COVID, the Prescott VA has implemented safety procedures, one of which is limiting volunteers on the hospital grounds. Last year the Voluntary Services Director retired and we're hopeful that a new Director will soon be in place. Our volunteers are anxious to get back to work!

Region II Melissa Martin

Our Auxiliaries are still busy collecting baby basket items for our baby shower! We were going to have a diaper drive at Winter Conference, but that event was cancelled.

So we're still looking forward to this event and need the Auxiliaries to dig deep and donate for this great project.

Region III Kim Sloan

I was asked to pass on to all the donating VFW Posts and Auxiliaries in Districts 5 and 7 – the Christmas Stocking project was a huge success! Patients and staff alike want you to know how much your thoughtfulness was appreciated.

Here are current needs for patients:

\$25 Taxi vouchers/coupons – These are needed for patients that don't qualify for VA transportation but come to the Emergency Department and then need rides home. Suggestions are VIP Taxi, Triple AAA Taxi and Discount Cab. ED social workers will administer the vouchers/coupons.

Snacks for Surgery Clinic – these are snacks for patients having outpatient procedures and these snacks are not provided by the hospital Food Services Dept.

Non-perishable crackers (cheese, peanut butter), granola bars, sugar free apple sauce, instant oatmeal, cereal, etc. (include individual wrapped utensils). Let me know if you or your Auxiliary would like to work on this project and I'll get you a more comprehensive list.

Here is the most exciting news!!!! We are all aware of the heartbreaking issue of food insecurity in our community. Food insecurity is a common problem among veterans – some veterans either don't have food or don't have money



to buy food and don't know where their next meal will come from. Two of the social workers at the VA have seen this first hand and so they are starting the Patriot's Pantry! We can't wait for them to let us know that this project is up and ready. Veterans will be able to pick up a bag of food once a month. We are very close! So start collecting NON-PERISHABLE food items. Soon we'll have a food item list so you'll know exactly what they need.

The Community Living Center which is the location of the garden project is in need of a couple more 8' self watering planters and a swing cover (approx \$400). Let me know if you'd like to fulfill these wishes. They are using Walmart gift cards for bird food – patients enjoy watching the birds.

National Salute to Veteran Patients is February 14-20, 2021. We are aiming for 100 small Valentine bags for the patients. The list of goodies requested is below in the flyer.

SPECIAL NOTE – If you have not applied for a Hospital Grant, there are a couple of “needs” above that would qualify for a grant. Consider getting 2 or even 3 Auxiliaries together for one item.



2021 National Salute to Veteran Patients

February 14- 20

National Salute to Veteran Patients is a week-long tribute to Veteran patients and is observed the week of **Valentine's Day** and is intended to: **Pay tribute to Veterans. Help us celebrate this very special event by contributing to Valentine's Day Goodie Bags for our patients. Below are some ideas to contribute!**

- \$5 or 10 Gift Cards
- Baseball Hats
- No-Slip Socks
- Face Masks
- Hand-Sanitizer
- Backscratchers
- Chapstick
- Valentine's Day Cards/Letters



Your donations are very much appreciated!

**NOTE: No food or items that are fragile, breakable, contain glass and/or sharp objects.
No items usually provided to patients such as toiletries, blankets, pajamas.**

COVID-19 Restrictions – No Used Items

All donations must be delivered no later than February 12, 2021

Deliveries must be scheduled in advance - call Voluntary Service 520-629-1822.



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

[Treasures4Teachers.org](https://www.treasures4teachers.org)

Treasures 4 Teachers is an organization based in Tempe, Arizona that collects recyclable items for teachers in Arizona to use in their classrooms. They are looking for clean, safe, and interesting donations that will support local teachers and students while at the same time preserving our environment.

Below is a partial list of items that are ACCEPTABLE or UNACCEPTABLE:

ACCEPTABLE

Arts & Crafts School Supplies
Container/Bags
Electronics/Industrial
Household items (cardboard tubes, magazines, etc.)
Toys
Packing material (peanuts, bubble wrap, etc.)

UNACCEPTABLE

Plastic grocery bags
Small appliances
Bedding
TV's
Anything broken
Shoes/socks

Check out the website, <https://www.treasures4teachers.org/>
they have the whole list.

(A student had to give up her shoe for a pencil – check out the story online)

These are items that will help out our teachers with classroom projects, whenever that will be. They also have a thrift store. Contact your Youth groups and have them collect a box of these items and then contact <https://www.treasures4teachers.org/> to find out where you can drop off these items. Our local Woman's Club is taking these donations.

I can email you the list if you would like. Contact me at:

Carolynquinton15@gmail.com

Let's not forget about the Program Award for Youth Activities:

The Award is for the most outstanding promotion of the Get Excited for the Red, White & Blue! National Anthem singing contest.

Let's see how creative everyone can be.

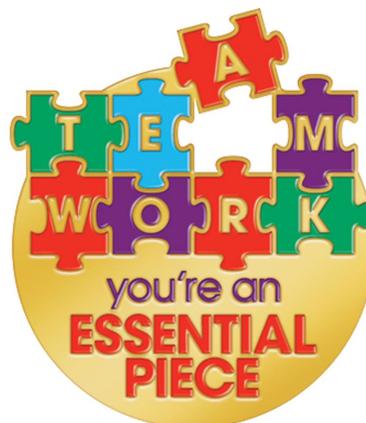
WE ARE:

“HONORING THE PAST WHILE EDUCATING THE FUTURE”

**Chief of Staff
Donna Ventola**

Saddle Up Team Arizona. This month's topic is about Traits of a Healthy Auxiliary and the Essentials of an Auxiliary.

Implementing a program to ensure your Auxiliary achieves and maintains good health is a good start. Also implementing a mentor program for all members is another way to achieve good health.



Communication is key; the more we communicate, the more we reconnect with our members. Below are some traits of a healthy Auxiliary:

- * **Commitment**- a strong commitment to the Auxiliary provides a base of volunteers and the opportunity to assist those in need
- * **Appreciation**- reward your members with a simple gesture of thanks and strengthen the bond of a volunteer to the Auxiliary
- * **Time**- recognize the value of a volunteer's time. Some members may have more time available to volunteer but that doesn't mean those with limited time are not valued.
- * **Communication**- a member is more likely to volunteer and invest the time necessary to work on a project(s) if there is open communication.
- * **Common interests**- the more the members have in common, the more they are apt to work together, develop common goals, find opportunities to get together and plan future projects.

There are 5 Essentials of an Auxiliary, these are the basic:

- *Your Auxiliary should hold at least ten (10) meetings a year, and have a quorum of five (5) members in good standings. (see section 210 and 212)
- *Dues shall be paid on at least ten (10) members by February 1 of the current year (see section 207)
- *Up-to-date with submission of quarterly audits by Trustees (see section 814)
- *Officers elected, installed and reported to National Headquarters no later than June 30th
- *The offices of President and Treasurer MUST be bonded by August 31st of the current year (see section 814)

Membership remains a significant source to the success of an Auxiliary and maintaining good health.

Don't forget there is a Chief of Staff and Extension Program award- it's for one member in each of the four Conferences who has assisted in revitalizing/rejuvenating a struggling Auxiliary and utilized Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation in their efforts, you will get a \$25 VFW Gift Certificate.

Any member at any level of the organization can be nominated by the revitalized/rejuvenated Auxiliary. Nomination form (required) is available on our website under Chief of Staff Program tab. Nomination forms are due to me by March 31, 2021.

Partner Up: Americanism and Youth- Ask your youth chairman if your adopted classroom, or your youth group(s) can make and sign Valentine's cards for all Veterans, include a small American flag with those cards. A card can put a huge smile on their face.

I am still looking for those Project Reports, you have until March 31, 2021 to send them to me. Remember, it's on our Website, VFWAUXAZ.ORG. Look under Resources and Forms. It's very simple to complete. Simply remove the text area and fill it with your own description of your project. Then attach 3 to 5 pictures and forward it to your Chairman. Remember, if you do this right after your event, then you can check it off on your Circle of Excellence.

Thank you for all you have done and for all you will continue to do. Remember



Buddy Poppy/National Home Connie Hargreaves

Well, Folks, we are now into February. Things may be getting better soon now that second rounds of Covid vaccine have been carried out and soon more will receive their

shots in the hopes of getting a handle on this virus! We can only pray.

While we are unable to move about as freely as we did, this is an excellent time to get working on your poppy displays! Keep bringing awareness to your Post by garnering help on your submissions.

There are three categories for you to compete in.

Rules Displays will be presented and judged in three categories:

Category 1. Public Promotion of Poppy Campaign (Window, booth, parade, poster displays, campaign promotions, etc.) Displays must be designed for public exposure and must bear a message soliciting a donation for and wearing of the VFW Buddy Poppy. At least one Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with a label attached.

Category 2. Memorial or Inspirational Displays (Wreaths, memorial tablets or plaques, patriotic or devotional themes) Displays must be designed to honor the dead, to inspire devotion to God and Country, or to dramatize the activities supported by the Buddy Poppy. At least one Poppy used in the display must be in its original form and color, with a label attached.

Category 3. Artistic or Decorative Use of Poppies (Post Home displays, table centerpieces, corsages, pictures, plaques, models, scenes, hats, novelty pieces, etc.)

Any display not meeting the qualifications for Categories 1 or 2 shall automatically be entered in Category 3. At least one Poppy used in the display must be in original form and color, with a label attached.

Don't forget to send in your Program Reports, I've only received 5 so far. There are two National awards each Auxiliary can qualify for. "Buddy" Poppy/VFW National Home for Children Award for Auxiliaries No.1 which is for Community Education and "Buddy" Poppy/VFW National Home for Children Award for Auxiliaries No. 2 and that is for Most outstanding promotion that encourages the purchase of a Life Membership to the VFW National Home for Children. These are due to Department Chairman by March 31st.

February offers many opportunities to promote the National Home and "Buddy" Poppy.

Several important dates-

Feb 14 – Valentine's Day – wrap cutlery in napkin and place poppy around it, create a centerpiece created out of poppies may be in a heart shape or a vase with a Rose, a Poppy, and a heart. If you have a Valentine dinner, place a

number under the chair, place an envelope on the table for a donation, have the donator put his name on a number, if that number is drawn, they get to take the centerpiece home.

Raffle off a stuffed groundhog decorated with Poppies and a Home.

Feb 15- President's Day – make a Poppy card, have members write their name and the name of the President they feel did a better job, the President with the most votes is the winner, place the names of those who chose the winning President in a basket and draw a name for life membership in the National Home.

Hospitals and Nursing Homes have restrictions on what you can provide or give to patients at this time. Please check with your local Veteran and Community hospitals on how you can put a smile on a veteran or regular patient face. Can we bring a Valentine card or a Thank you for Your Service card to a VA Home? Can you donate to a VA Home Store for Veterans to purchase a store item? It is National Salute to Veteran Patients Day the week of February 14th. Is there a VA home, a VA hospital, a Veteran receiving home health care? Find something that would put a smile on their face, while you at it, let the caregivers know you appreciate them too.

Let your community give you suggestions on an educational idea, do a word search game, give your members a questionnaire on both these programs, this helps you find out misconceptions and where to focus, talk to other community groups.

How to Support The VFW National Home During These Trying Times

In light of new uncertainty, our organization continues to serve the most vulnerable in our country, and your help is needed now more than ever.



There are multiple ways to support the VFW National Home for Children, and we want to help you figure out the way that works best for you.

1. **Give a cash gift:** Your gift will get put to immediate use to help the military and veteran families living at the National Home.
<https://www.vfwnationalhome.org/donate>
2. **Amazon Smile:** If you are shopping from home this week, please consider adding the National Home as an Amazon Smile partner. It costs nothing to you and is an ongoing help to our organization!
3. **Join the many people who have included the National Home in their legal will!** You can support the VFW National Home for Children forever without paying a cent today using their free will-writing tool. It's an easy way to protect the people and causes you care about the most and help the military and veteran families living here for many years to come.

Thank you for doing what you can!



Outreach Kim Harney

As we head into the last of this year's reporting, it is important to get the Project Reports turned in for activities your Auxiliary has completed this year. Judging for

Outstanding Projects will be based on these reports which are due by March 31st to the individual Chairmen.

There is a certificate for completing a Community Outreach Program that is sent to the Auxiliaries from National. The deadline to submit that to National is April 30th, so it is important to get your Project Report completed and sent to me so I can get the award form filled out and sent in to National.

Any project that does not fall under our other programs, falls under the Community Outreach Program. Below is a list of Auxiliaries with some of the projects they completed. A total of 11 Auxiliaries have turned in the Project report form with all eleven having the National form sent in for them to receive their certificate. Some of these Auxiliaries have completed more than one Community Outreach Project which is really great! If your Auxiliary has not yet completed this program, maybe these ideas will help your Auxiliary in determining what you can do to receive credit for completion of this program.

Projects completed:

Auxiliary 549, 7968 & 9972 – Purchased supplies and delivered them to the White Mountain Apache Tribe.

Auxiliary 5990 – Cooked and provided free meals to their community.

Auxiliary 9399 – Provided water to Big Horn firefighters.

Auxiliary 1433 – Put together and delivered food boxes to 5 families.

Auxiliary 10254 & 8242 – Made and donated face masks in their communities.

Auxiliary 3584 – Assisted their community in the cemetery clean up.

Auxiliary 10227 – Made and distributed Boo Bags for kids in the Prescott area.

Auxiliary 11014 – Participated in collecting and distributing bread in their community.

This is just a small sample of things being done by our Auxiliaries in their communities. If you are unsure if something you have done would count, feel free to call or email me. I am also here to help if you don't know what to do – there is still time for you to do something to help your community!

Mentoring for Leadership Chrissy Harlan

Wow, it's hard to believe it is February already! Our program year will be coming to a close in a few short months.

Thank you to the Auxiliaries and Members that have submitted Mentoring for Leadership Award forms. There is still time for those of you who have not submitted anything yet.

Mentoring for Leadership Award for Auxiliaries No. 1

Most outstanding use of a Mentoring for Leadership activity during an Auxiliary meeting.

- **Citation** to every Auxiliary that includes a Mentoring for Leadership activity during an Auxiliary meeting.
- **Citation and \$25** to one Auxiliary in each of the four (4) Conferences with the most outstanding Mentoring for Leadership activity during an Auxiliary meeting.

If you send me your project report by March 31, 2021, I will complete the nomination form for you and submit it to National Headquarters.

Mentoring for Leadership Award for Members No. 1

Citation to the Outstanding New Mentor in each of the 10 Program Divisions. Nominators are to send this form to their Department Mentoring for Leadership Chairman by March 31, 2021. You must complete the form provided on the [DEPARTMENT website](#) to nominate a New Mentor.

Please do not let your Auxiliary or any member that has started mentoring the Auxiliary or other members go unrecognized. Complete the Project Report and the New Mentor Nomination forms as soon as possible and get them in to me.

A lot of people have gone further than they thought they could because someone else thought they could.

~ Unknown



Americanism
Vickie Rippel

February 4: Happy Birthday to the USO– The USO was founded in 1941. They have helped troops both overseas and at home as well as families of deployed, wounded, and fallen military personnel. There are more than 250 locations worldwide with more than 30,000 volunteers. Many major airports have USO welcome centers for our troops when they come home. Find a location near you and

- *Send a patriotic birthday card.
- *Provide a box of candy or a sweet treat to thank volunteers.
- *Donate American Flags they can distribute to troops.
- *Volunteer or make a monetary donation.

February 14: Valentine's Day – Everyone loves to get flowers on Valentine's Day. Buy that special someone a red, white, and blue flower arrangement instead of traditional red roses. You can always be extra Patriotic and add an American flag, pin, or a charm for that special someone.

February 15: Presidents Day – Fly your Flag. Put together a Presidents Day matching game.

*Provide a list of famous quotes and a list of U.S. Presidents. They will draw a line from each quote to the matching President.

*Provide a list of presidential terms (e.g. 2001–2009, 1861-1865, and 1789-1797) and a list of U.S. Presidents They will draw a line from each year to the President who served during that term.

Send your Project Reports by March 31, 2021, for your Auxiliaries' most outstanding promotion of patriotic holidays in the community. Citation from National to every Auxiliary that promotes patriotic holidays in the community. Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four (4) Conferences with the most outstanding promotion of patriotic holidays in the community.

Veterans and Family Support

Lynn Pierre



There are two opportunities for Auxiliaries to receive citations from National. The first is promoting food insecurity among military personnel and their families. The second is to host an event or participate in an activity that supports the veteran and military caregivers. Auxiliaries will need to send the project report by March 31, 2021, to receive a citation.

Mental Health and Wellness

Mental health issues for veterans and the military community are complex, often unseen, and affect more than just the service member or veteran. With more than 30,000 members in Arizona, the VFW and VFW Auxiliary are uniquely positioned to offer the support and educational base camps at our Post Homes in our communities all over Arizona.

Be Connected is a statewide program in Arizona focused on reducing deaths by suicide in Arizona's military and veteran population by connecting service members, veterans, and their families to support and resources.

According to the Arizona Violent Death Reporting System, the risk of suicide is 3x higher among Arizona veterans than non-veterans. The magnitude of this issue means it will likely not be addressed by a single system or organization. Be Connected brings together key stakeholders from across different sectors (military, government, community) to work together to focus on upstream suicide prevention and intervention. We are building upon the existing capacity of our community by layering on additional levels of coordination and support. Be Connected is more than a suicide prevention campaign. It focuses on providing the tools, support, and training for each person to make a difference in the lives of those around them by being trained and prepared to reach out or respond in a moment of need. By embedding support deep in our community,

we can collectively intervene earlier and more effectively.

To Find out more about the Be Connected Program or to schedule a training visit: <https://www.beconnectedaz.org/>

SWAP Idea - Melissa Kearney, Veterans & Family Support Chairman for the Department of Pennsylvania, mentioned cell phone recycling for veterans. She learned of Cell Phones for Soldiers, a Georgia-based 501(c)3 organization that recycles cell phones, tablets, and MP3 players. These electronics are wiped clean of all personal information and sold to be refurbished. If they are too old, they will be sold to a recycler who will strip the phone of its usable parts. Proceeds are then used to purchase prepaid international calling cards for troops and to provide one-time emergency funds for returning veterans in need.

Visit <https://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com/volunteeropportunities/> to learn how you can get involved, establish a drop-off site or start a cell phone drive in your community.



Historian/Media Brenda Kinghorn

Happy Valentine's day.
Here is hoping you and yours is staying safe.

Connect with members:

Prepare a monthly or quarterly newsletter or e-newsletter for your members. Give them ideas of how to help with Programs while they social distancing. Maintain an Auxiliary/Post Facebook page to share information. Recognize member anniversaries, birthdays and volunteer work.

Promote your Auxiliary's activities and events:

Use the VFW Auxiliary Publicity Guide. Use a fillable press/media release form for activities/events.

Send a Communications Award to local media for covering Auxiliary activities/events.

Did your Auxiliary **DO** or does your Auxiliary **HAVE PLANS TO DO** any of the following:

- *Educate youth about the Pledge of Allegiance (in-person or through video conferencing)?
- *Host a "Buddy"® Poppy Drive?
- *Partner with another organization to better your community?
- *Drop off items for hospitalized veterans at VA and non-VA medical facilities?
- *Participate in "Get out the Vote" efforts?
- *Contact members of Congress regarding veterans' issues?
- *Host a drive-by school supply pickup, trick-or-treat, Santa or Easter Bunny visit?
- *Fill stockings for homeless veterans? Participate in Wreaths Across America? Host food drives or donates food to a local food bank/food pantry? Donate gift cards so service members overseas can purchase items of their choice? Send Christmas or Valentine cards to soldiers overseas or hospitalized veterans? Donate books to your local library, school, or literacy organization?
- *Promote and participate in our youth scholarships and contests?

We know members and Auxiliaries are doing, plan to do, and have done things listed above, along with many other things not listed. However, did they send the Department Historian photos and a description of what they did? It's so important for members to take photos and keep a record of the projects they work on at home or in small groups in addition to photos at larger Auxiliary activities/events.

The who, what, when, where, and why of an event is so important to the story – and history – of the VFW Auxiliary. Take pictures (and write down who is in them), keep newspaper articles, or print out online news articles about what is going on in your community, your state, our country, and the world. Don't forget to post on social media of the wonderful things you are doing in the name of the organization.

Are you capturing your Auxiliary's history? If not, it is time to start.

2020-2021 National Historian & Media Relations Ambassador Per Nicole Koutz – January Blog

Membership Ray Williams

Let's get together! And get this done! We need to grow this organization! Let's not stop at 100%! Let's get to 101%!

To do that we need 602 annual members, new or rejoins! Let's get it done!

The following Auxiliaries need 10 or less just to get to 100%. We want to challenge these Auxiliaries to add one more to reach a 100%+ goal.



Auxiliary Need for 100%

285 needs 1
541 needs 2
769 needs 10
2190 needs 4
2364 needs 8
3513 needs 6
3632 needs 6
3715 needs 10
7061 needs 4
7400 needs 4
9400 needs 9
9833 needs 5
9977 needs 6
10254 needs 3
10385 needs 2
10726 needs 4
12043 needs 7
12128 needs 1

If your Auxiliary is on this list, contact your Auxiliary Treasurer and consider “adopting” a member that cannot pay their dues. Be an angel and adopt a

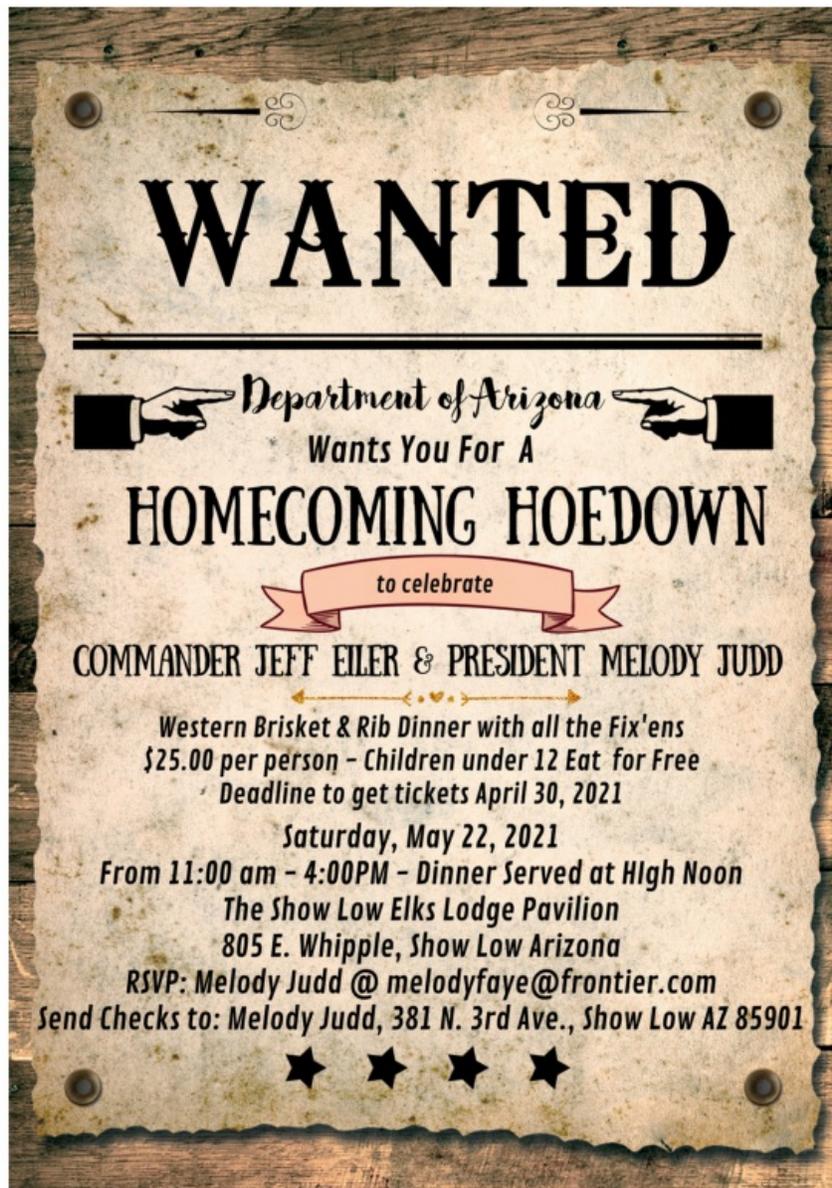
member! The cost is minimal and will help your Auxiliary to meet the membership goal and by meeting that goal, you're helping the Auxiliary meet other program goals. A portion of all annual members dues goes into the Auxiliary General Fund to help with programs.

The cost of the pandemic has hit us all. Some have been impacted more financially and some more emotionally. Let's work together as an organization and help all our brothers and sisters.

VFW Auxiliary Eligibility Wheel



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



ANNOUNCEMENT

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

April 15th. This will allow for all information sent in to be tallied and sent to Department for the report that needs to be sent in to National.



**Program Activity Reports Received From
Auxiliaries
As of Jan 31st**

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

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

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

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

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



Shirt Fundraiser for Kim Harney's Campaign for National Guard

Ladies Size

		Quantity	Size	Price
Small to XL	\$30	_____	_____	_____
2X – 4X	\$35	_____	_____	_____

Men's Size

		Quantity	Size	Price
Small to XL	\$30	_____	_____	_____
XXL – 4X	\$35	_____	_____	_____

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

Name: _____

Post / Auxiliary # _____

Email address: _____

Phone: _____

Mailing

Address: _____

Paid Check #: _____

Send the completed form with payment to:

Kim Harney

2562 San Ysidro Dr.

Sierra Vista, Az 85635

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