

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



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VFW Auxiliary Arizona January Pinpoints

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President Melody's Message

Happy New Year!!

I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas with family making many wonderful memories.

Before we ride into the new year, I would like to commend all the members of Arizona for their

dedication and hard work to continue to serve our veterans, their families, and your communities. This past year has brought challenges that none of us had even dreamed of, but together we are figuring out this new way to carry on the work of the auxiliary. Thank you!

If did not know this, I will let you all in on a little secret, Department Commander Jeff and I talk every Tuesday at 9 am. Why do I tell you this, one of the biggest problems that keep coming up is communication or should I say the lack thereof. Communication keeps us all on the same page. Presidents on all levels should be communicating with their Commanders, even if it just a quick “How are you doing?”.

As we ride into the new year, we are all looking forward to a new season of hope, healing, and productivity. Many of us are at our best and happiest when we can work on projects that benefit others - there are so many ways we can continue to do this and make 2021 better for our Veterans, their Families, and our Communities.

Please read and share the Pin Points at your meetings. Your Department Chairman articles are full of ideas to assist you in working on our program goals. There is also great information and resources on the Department website.

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

Melody

IMPORTANT NOTICE:

ALL Auxiliaries MUST complete at least one project, activity, or donation that benefits veterans by April 30, 2021. If not, the Department MUST submit a request for a suspension by that date. If you need assistance with reporting please reach out to me or PAR Chairman Kim Harney.

**Chaplain
Johnnie DeBoard**

Happy New Year!

Have you looked at the qualifications for the circle of excellent lately? One of the qualifications is to recognize the Blue, Gold, White and Silver Star Families.

What do these colors mean?

Blue: Represents a family member serving in the armed forces.

Gold: Is when that service member dies during conflict.

Silver: Is when that service member is wounded in action.

White: Is when that service member lost their life to suicide.



There are many ways, even with the crazy times we are in, to recognize these families and let them know that we as a Veterans organization are here for them. Have a luncheon; if you have more than allowed split your group. Send invites with a certain day and time. Have it in a park or community center.

How do you get the names of the families? If you have a local paper put an article in asking for names and addresses of these families be sent to you at your post. Make sure you explain who you are and why you are asking for this information. Contact your local recruiter they might know of local families as well. If you are unsure, contact me and I will help you.

Johnnie DeBoard 928-202-1581 or johnettegibson@yahoo.com



Chief of Staff Donna Ventola

Happy New Year Team Arizona. This month's topic is about extension materials and the 3 R questionnaire.

One way you can help is to talk to the VFW Bachelor Posts and encourage them to start an Auxiliary. Share with them "Why having an Auxiliary can boost your Post" power point presentation, which is on our website. Also, on our website is "Ten top reasons for your Post to have an Auxiliary:

My National Chief of Staff/Extension Ambassador, Gloria Dobbie tells us to "remind Post members how the Auxiliary cares and serves Veterans, service members, their families, and the community at large.

Having an Auxiliary in your Post can increase membership and participation, can serve more Veterans, active-duty service members, and their families. Auxiliary and Comrades can help each other with their events, dinners, and work together as a team.

A VFW Auxiliary can be the best asset that a Post will ever have. The more hands will make light work, also the VFW Auxiliary members are passionate about helping Veterans, active-duty service members, and their families.

If a Bachelor Post that you have spoken to shows an interest in having an Auxiliary contact me and I will contact our Department President and our Department Secretary/Treasurer and we will do everything we can to help them with this goal. Contact us, so we can get started!!

During the 1st quarter Farm and Ranch report, I talked about the 3 R's questionnaire. This form is a good way to Reconnect with your members and to Rejuvenate and Revitalize your Auxiliary. The information on those questions can provide important information about your members, who doesn't want that?

Get that questionnaire form out to **ALL** of your members in any way that you can and make sure you get it back. You can hand them out at meetings, email them, some auxiliaries have designed the form that can be completed and submitted back to the President online, or even call members and ask them the

questions over the phone.

Remember Presidents once you get the questionnaire back from your members, I would like you to send me a summary of those answers. Please don't send me all of your member's questionnaire.

Presidents on the form where it says "Member Name" please put your Name as the President, where it says "Membership number" please put your Auxiliary number and "Email" please provide that for me so that I can email you back. Once I receive your summary questionnaire, I will email you back to confirm that I have received it.

Remember the summary is due to me by January 3rd.

I am looking for those Project Reports. 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 what Team NORA says "No One Rides Alone"



2020 -2021 Chief of Staff Donna Ventola

3 R's *Reconnect, Rejuvenate and Revitalize*

Reconnect with our members ~ Rejuvenate our members ~ Revitalize our Auxiliaries

Please complete this section with your current information

Member Name: _____ Membership #: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Please attach a separate sheet with your answers/comments to the following questions.

1. What is best way to stay in contact with you?
2. Do you follow your Auxiliary on social media like Facebook, Twitter, Instagram?
3. What do you enjoy most about being a member of the VFW Auxiliary?
4. What type of events are you more likely to participate in at your Auxiliary? (such as - military support events, Auxiliary programs, games like bingo/slingo, fundraisers for local charities, community outreach events)
5. Are you more interested in social events (such as weekly dinners)?
6. Of the events your Auxiliary is currently hosting, which is your favorite?
7. What are your current interests/hobbies?
8. How can your Auxiliary benefit from those interests/hobbies?
9. Is there some way your Auxiliary can get involved in your interests/hobbies?
10. What Auxiliary programs interest you?
11. Do you attend the Auxiliary monthly meetings? If yes, what do you like about coming participating in the meetings?
If no, what is keeping you from participating?
12. If the Auxiliary regularly offered the option of participating in the meetings by teleconferencing (participating by phone) or teleconferencing (participating by video) would you be more likely to participate?

Please mail/email/deliver this copy with your answers to the Auxiliary President.
President's Address
Email

Mentoring for Leadership Chrissy Harlan

Our Auxiliaries are faced with many challenges as we start a new year. COVID-19 restrictions being the biggest challenge, but we are ready to meet these challenges by refocusing on our members and their wants and needs.

Start the year fresh by hosting a Mentoring for Leadership Event which can be in person, virtual or a hybrid event. Involve as many of your members as you can.



Good planning will lead to a successful event. When setting a date and time for your event keep in mind members that may work, those that are caregivers, members that may not be able to drive at night or have transportation issues, etc. There is no way to please everyone but do all you can to include every member.

The Department Chief of Staff, Donna Ventola, and I have been working with you on the 3R's Form. Use the information you obtained on the responses to plan the agenda for your event. See what programs the members seem most interested in and mentor on them. A short session on duties of the Officers especially Treasurer and Trustees may entice members to step up into positions at election time. "Building on the Auxiliary Foundation" is an awesome resource for this.

Now choose your Mentors. Ask people that are well versed in the subjects you will be mentoring on. Current and previous officers and program chairmen are a great place to start. Use as many Mentors as you can as you lose the audience's attention if they hear the same voice for too long.

Lastly, keep the individual sessions short and make sure you leave time for questions and answers.

I look forward to hearing about your Mentoring for Leadership Events.

Mentors are all around us. Who makes you feel confident, inspires, focused and is willing to share their experience? ~ Anna Letitia Cook



Department Secretary/Treasurer Kim Sloan

We recently sent out a dues reminder email to all the unpaid annual members that had an email address in MALTA. A small amount came back as undeliverable. Several responded that they didn't know how much the dues were or where to send them. I am happy to say that they all went online and paid their dues through MALTA.

We have created a lot of confusion about annual dues. **Our dues/membership year is the calendar year - January 1 thru December 31.** A member that has not paid their 2021 dues by December 31, 2020 is no longer a member in good standing.

The confusion arises in when we collect dues.

For 2021 – we started collecting 2021 dues on July 1, 2020 and collected those dues for 6 months until December 31. On December 31st, any member who has not paid their dues for 2021 is now considered lapsed and they are no longer a member in good standing. Lapsed members may not hold office in the Auxiliary.

Lapsed members have lost some of the benefits of membership (Cancer

Grants, etc). If they do not pay their 2021 dues by June 30, 2021, their membership will be terminated on July 1, 2021 and they will have to Rejoin the Auxiliary. The member would have to apply, provide proof of eligibility again and be voted on by the Auxiliary.

New members that are voted on and accepted by the Auxiliary between July 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021 are new 2021 members. After July 1, 2021 they will be new 2022 members.

Annual members may convert to Life Member status at any time, but they must do so before December 31, to avoid their membership lapsing. They can still convert to Life Member after December 31, but they have lost some of their benefits.

I am so proud of our Auxiliaries in how they are responding to the stresses and negativity created by the pandemic. The situation has raised questions that we never imagined we'd have to answer, but we are all working together on reasonable responses.

Most of the questions and problems that seem to be popping up revolve around Auxiliary officers not working together or VFW and Auxiliary leaders not communicating. If you're not communicating, working together will be impossible. Take a breath, count to ten and start talking. Explain what your needs and expectations are. Then start listening to the needs and expectations of the other person. Communication is a two-way street! We are here to help you!

Kim Sloan
Department Secretary Treasurer
Email: auxvfwarizona@msn.com
Phone: 520.307.7940

Americanism Vickie Rippel

Happy New Year! This New Year is going to be great!

January 18th is Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. lived his life serving others. Following his example, millions of Americans serve on Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service. At our children's schools, at a local shelter, lending a hand to help our neighbors, or replacing a neighbor's American flag. We bring to life his vision of neighbors working together to build a better future.

Community Flag Education

It is such a great feeling to see our U.S. Flag flying. Our Flag is a living symbol of national pride and the freedoms we hold dear. We need to reach out to our communities and teach others about our Flag's history, respect for our Flag, Flag etiquette, and how to properly retire the Flag. Ways to do this include:



- Recognize businesses and individuals in your community who display the Flag. Patriotic certificates are available from the VFW Store and online at vfwauxiliary.org/resources.
- If you see a tattered or worn-out Flag flying, offer to exchange it for a new one.
- Host a Flag exchange at your Post Home or another location in your community.
- Businesses and/or individuals can trade their tattered or worn-out Flag for a brand-new one.
- Provide a community flag disposal receptacle to collect Flags that should no longer be displayed.
- Invite members of your community to a Flag retirement ceremony so they can learn how to properly retire the Flag.
- Make bookmarks with the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance to give out at Patriotic Ceremonies, or take the bookmarks to your local library. Here is the link to the bookmark to print. <https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/The-National-Anthem-Pledge-Bookmarks-.pdf>
- Hold a “Formal Flag Folding Ceremony” to teach members and the community what the 13 Folds of the Flag mean.

This is what the 13 folds mean:

1. The first fold of our flag is a symbol of life.
2. The second fold signifies our belief in eternal life.
3. The third fold is made in honor and tribute of the veteran departing our ranks, and who gave a portion of his or her life for the defense of our country to attain peace.
4. The fourth fold exemplifies our weaker nature as citizens trusting in God; it is to Him we turn for His divine guidance.
5. The fifth fold is an acknowledgment to our country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, “Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right, but it is still our country, right or wrong.”
6. The sixth fold is for where our hearts lie. It is with our heart that we pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.
7. The seventh fold is a tribute to our armed forces, for it is through the armed forces that we protect our country and our flag against all enemies.
8. The eighth fold is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day, and to honor our mother, for whom it flies on Mother’s Day.
9. The ninth fold is an honor to womanhood, for it has been through their faith, love, loyalty, and devotion that the character of men and women who have made this country great have been molded.
10. The 10th fold is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of our country since he or she was first-born.
11. The 11th fold, in the eyes of Hebrew citizens, represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies, in their eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
12. The 12th fold, in the eyes of a Christian citizen, represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in their eyes, God the Father, the Son, and Holy Ghost.
13. The last fold, when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost,

reminding us of our national motto, "In God We Trust."

For more information about Flag Etiquette and the U.S. Flag Code visit:
<https://www.military.com/flag-day/flag-etiquette-dos-and-donts.html>



Legislative Bambi Johnson

With the elections over and new legislators being sworn in, now is a perfect time to make contact and begin establishing a good

rapport with both the new and current legislators.

If you need help finding your legislators, go to

<https://votervoice.net/VFW/Address> and enter your home address. The site will list your federal and state legislators and their contact information.

A good way to start building that advocate relationship is to send them an email, introducing yourself, and explain the importance of having their help on veteran issues. Congratulate the new or re-elected lawmakers and thank them for their support for veteran causes.

You can include a copy or a link to our VFW Priority Goals Brochure

([https://www.vfw.org/-](https://www.vfw.org/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Advocacy/PriorityGoalsBrochure.pdf)

[/media/VFWSite/Files/Advocacy/PriorityGoalsBrochure.pdf](https://www.vfw.org/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Advocacy/PriorityGoalsBrochure.pdf)) and invite them to sign up for ActionCorps (<https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>) so they can keep up with the items of importance to their veteran constituents.



With the Request to Speak Program being reopened for new people to sign up and speak directly when a bill is being considered, please have interested members click on the signup sheet on our website, under programs-Legislative, and send me the completed form, so you can be entered at the state capital.

Our Auxiliary License plate bill will hopefully be brought and passed this year along with several other important veteran issue bills both on a state and federal level. Now is the time to be heard!

Youth Co-Chairs – Carolyn Quinton & Stephanie Quinton



Definition of Youth: The period between childhood and adulthood.

Definition of Activities: 1) The condition of which things are happening or being done,

2) A thing that a person or group does or has done, 3) The state of being active.

Contact a sports team (through your local school), Boys & Girls Club, Scout Troop, Home-school Group, Community Youth Centers/Clubs, Church Groups. Some of these groups are required/asked to do a community service project. Have the group do a virtual "Red White and Blue Scavenger Hunt". Send out a list of items that might be in anyone's house, yard, and/or neighborhood. and have them take a picture of the items they find and email them to a designated address. Make sure you give them a deadline.

Items to include in your list: Something Red, Something Blue, American Flag, A Star, Something Historical, Find Someone Who Can Sing the National Anthem and say The Pledge of Allegiance, A Red, White, or Blue Flower. Have a "prize" for the most items found: 1) Hand out a certificate to each student participating (similar to the Auxiliary "Good Job" Award), 2) Gift card for the group from Subway, etc., 3) Put the best pictures of each item together in an album (like Walgreen's – only about \$8) and present it to the group. Another scavenger hunt idea is to ask family & friends for non-perishable, non-expired food items and take a picture of it altogether and have them send it to you and then acknowledge it with a certificate/prize as mentioned above and take the items to your local food bank. Put an article in the newspaper about the event.

This can all be done while social distancing.

Illustrating America

Open to all students, including home-schooled students, in grades 1-8 at time of local entry and an U.S. citizen or U.S. National. It will be judged on patriotic themes and techniques. Students must attend school in the state of the sponsoring Auxiliary. The contest consists of three grade divisions: 1-2, 3-5, and 6-8. The Department first-place winner in each grade division will be forwarded to Auxiliary National Headquarters.

There are National awards for first, second, and third place in each grade division. The first, second, and third place in each grade division will be displayed at the National Convention. Please see the brochure and entry form at vfwauxiliary.org/what-we-do/youth-activities for more details on requirements. Entries need to be turned into the Auxiliary by March 31, 2021. Auxiliaries need to send their winning entry to the Department Chairmen by April 15, 2021.

WE ARE:

"HONORING THE PAST WHILE EDUCATING THE FUTURE"



Hospital Melissa Martin

Happy New Year!! I hope everyone is doing well and safe.

What a crazy year we've had with so many of our events being canceled this last year and now our Winter Conference too. We were going to do a diaper drive at the Winter Conference but since we won't be able to see each other all the

auxiliaries can either send them to my home if you already purchased them or you can send me a gift card and I will go and purchase diapers when the VA starts accepting donations again. My address is 202 S. 83rd Place Mesa, AZ 85208. Also, if any Auxiliaries have held baby showers and have collected items to be donated I am currently trying to find a storage facility that would give me a discount so I can collect these items and store them until I can deliver them to the VA.

National Salute to Veteran Patients

The week of February 14 (Valentine's Day week) is our opportunity to say "thank you" to our Veterans in our communities at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical centers, outpatient clinics, domiciliaries, and nursing homes.

The purpose of the National Salute to Veteran Patients is to:

- Pay tribute and express appreciation to veterans.
- Increase community awareness of the role of the VA medical center.
- Encourage citizens to visit hospitalized Veterans and to become involved as volunteers.

This Valentine's Day, we are not able to visit our Veteran's for "Valentines for Veterans" in the VA Nursing Homes Medical Centers, Outpatients Clinics, and Nursing Homes. I would like Auxiliaries to still find ways to send and drop off Valentines to our Veterans at these facilities.

A renewed spirit of hospital volunteerism can begin this week with "Valentines for Veterans," so let us share the love!

Auxiliary need to send me a Project Report for "Valentines for Veterans" by March 31, 2020, to receive a citation from National.

Historian/Media Brenda Kinghorn

As Historian and Media Relations Chairman it is my responsibility to be the memory keeper and collector of events in written and digital formats, including photographs, memorabilia, print news, audio and/or video clips, and social media posts for the Department.



Being able to share the wonderful works of our Auxiliaries and Members who post to Facebook to the Department Facebook Page informs the public and community know about our National Programs and the work we do for our Veterans, their Families, and our Communities.

Below are step by step instructions so that I can share Auxiliaries post to the Department Facebook page.

Steps to allow your post to be shared on Facebook through your computer or laptop browser.

1. Open Facebook on your browser and go on your profile page.
2. Go on the post which you want to make shareable.
3. Move your cursor to the three dots on the top right corner of the post. Click on it.
4. A small pop-up menu will appear. Click on 'Edit Post.'
5. Move your cursor to the bottom of the post, where the audience button (2 figures) is. Click on it for the drop-down menu.
6. Edit the audience settings to 'public.'

7. Click 'Save.'

Steps to make your post shareable while creating it.

1. Open Facebook on the browser or application.
2. Create a post.
3. Move your cursor to the audience button (2 people). Click on it.
4. Edit the audience settings to 'public.'
5. Move the cursor to the 'Publish' button. Click on it.

If your Auxiliary posts photos of projects you have done on Facebook, take a minute and do a Project Report and send it to each Program Chairman that the project covered. Don't wait until the end of the year.



Scholarships Jeanne Hampton

Welcome to January 2021!

The meaning of "Resolution": 1) a firm decision to do or not to do, 2) the quality of being determined, 3) the action of solving a problem, 4) chemistry- the process of reducing or separating something into its components.

Scholarships- When someone bemoans to me, "How?", my knee jerk reaction is, "that is the question I have been asking since last February." Let's look at this from another perspective- three of the four scholarships available through the VFW Auxiliary, right now, are for MEMBERS or are benefits of VFW Auxiliary membership.

National VFW Auxiliary Continuing Education Scholarship- Members of VFW Auxiliary or directly related to, (spouse, son, daughter), at least 18 years of age, due to National VFW Auxiliary by February 15, 2021. Simple application, essay of 300 words or less, \$1000.00 granted to each of the 4 VFW Auxiliary Conferences.

Department of Arizona VFW Auxiliary Educational Grant- For Auxiliary Members in the State of Arizona wishing to continue their education. Simple application, current member, 300-word essay on what/why you are going back to school. The possibilities are endless! Due by April 1, 2021, to the Department Scholarships Chairman.

Department of Arizona VFW Auxiliary Merit Scholarship- for graduating high school Seniors, related to or a member of an Arizona VFW Auxiliary themselves, planning on furthering their education. This scholarship requires collecting records, references, the application, an essay about the student's goals, and a photo. The Merit Scholarship application is due to the Department Scholarships Chairman by April 1, 2021.

Reach out to the Voice of Democracy participants who entered essays to see if they would like to participate in the Merit Scholarship. Since they have an interest, or expressed an opinion about Democracy, quite possibly they are eligible to become a member of the VFW Auxiliary.

Young American Patriotic Arts- the only Scholarship opportunity not directly connected to membership, is open to any student in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12. Two and Three-dimensional art forms are now accepted. The array of materials and media is extensive. Please view the printable brochure at VFWAuxAZ.org. Please also consider purchasing the 2020 Young American Patriotic Arts Scholarship winning entries 3 x 5 cards through the VFW Store. Have on hand the November 2020 issue of the VFW Auxiliary Magazine showing the impressive work turned out by these students when promoting this program. Entries are due to the local VFW Auxiliary by March 31, 2021. The winning National entry for Young American Patriotic Arts is \$15,000.00 with a total prize awarded for the entries being \$31, 500.00.

Please consider a fundraising event to “increase the fund” for future Young American Patriotic Arts entries to be recognized for their work.

Auxiliary Resolutions for Scholarships Program

- 1) A firm decision- to get out there and speak to members and students about the available benefits of membership.
- 2) The quality of being determined- if covid has taught us nothing in this scholarship year, it has taught us determination.
- 3) The action of solving a problem- looking for alternate avenues instead of the obvious.
- 4) The process of reducing or separating into components- taking each scholarship and learning how it would best apply to the member/student who wishes to further their educational goals.

I am looking forward to your Scholarships Project Reports. I am very impressed with the Project Report I have received and all you have done.

An especial shout out to President Mary Mason of Auxiliary 9833 for being able to collect 80 Patriot Pen entries. You are amazing!

**Veterans and Family
Support
Lynn Pierre**



**SUPPORT
MILITARY
FAMILIES**

Here's wishing you all the most healthy, prosperous, and happy 2021!

I am so thrilled to see how many of us have been continuously finding ways to feed our hungry vets, care for our caregivers, and take care of our active military overseas! With all our current concerns regarding COVID 19, we still find ways to accomplish so much!

There is always a need to “Adopt A Unit” and it's so easy to do. If you have been working with a specific Unit or working with an FRG to plan outings for a unit, it may be time to consider Adoption! The easy to fill out the form can be found at VFW - AdoptAUnit. Gather your information and send this in. In doing so, you will be able to apply for a MAP request to get financial assistance for events for these worthy heroes and continue to do great things for them.

Also, we urge everyone to support our National President, Sandra Onstwedder, with her project: STARS, STRIPES, AND SUPPORT. You can donate as an individual or as an auxiliary:
Donate by mail by sending funds to the VFW Foundation earmarked for Unmet Needs – Hunger. Mail check to:
VFW National Headquarters
Attn: VFW Foundation
406 W. 34th Street, 9th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111

Unmet Needs Can Help in a Crisis

Unmet Needs provides grants (not loans) and referrals to other organizations to active-duty service members, veterans, and their immediate families to assist with basic life needs. This is just one of the benefits the VFW provides our military and veterans.

Also remember: **Veteran & Military Suicide Awareness**

Veterans Crisis Line (1.800.273.8255)

Veteran & Military Suicide Awareness Teardrop

Wear your Teardrop Pin and remember to have all those important phone numbers listed on your phone or, if you prefer, carry rack cards with you. They will provide all the necessary numbers for those veterans seeking the assistance of any kind. Find ways to get our information out to the veterans, even though many of them may be shut-in, there is always a way to communicate. They need to know that our Service Officers are available to help with benefits and they need to know how to reach them. You might consider getting rack cards, (or your own template) out to local merchants. Remember, they still must shop in some way. Perhaps the merchants would consider putting the information in their shopping bags.

Without our help, many vets have no way to receive assistance with their needs. Do not leave them out in the cold. Be creative and diligent. You would be amazed at how many folks in your community would be willing to help. Once again, we have done an awesome job of completing our mission, supporting our Veterans, so far this year – I know that drive continues due to your commitment and caring.



Membership Ray Williams

As of December 29, 2020, the Department needs **837** members to reach our goal of 101% Membership. It's not just a matter of maintaining our membership. We need to maintain and grow. Where are those members going to come from?

Even through the pandemic, all of our Auxiliaries are actively working on

recruiting new members. This is not an easy task with shutdowns and limited activities. Some Auxiliaries have been more successful than others, but the effort is there and all we can do is continue to recruit whenever and wherever we can.

Will we recruit 837 new members this year? Absolutely not, but most of that number are annual members that have not paid their 2021 dues. So, let's get those phone calls going! Part of the problem is we ask members to call but don't give them the tools they need to respond to members.

How would you respond to members when they say –

I'm not interested in renewing.

I can't go to the meetings.

I don't have time to volunteer.

I can't participate like I used to.

I don't have the money to pay this year.

I don't know anyone there.

I went to the VFW and nobody talked to me.

These are just a few of the responses you might get. The most important thing is to be prepared with your answers. Be sure to pick a person to call who is outgoing, friendly and empathetic.

- ***I'm not interested in renewing.***

I'm sorry to hear that. Can you tell me why?

- ***I can't go to the meetings.***

We understand that some of our members can't come to meetings. There are so many other ways you can help the Auxiliary.

- ***I don't have time to volunteer.***

We understand that everyone is doing the best they can. But there are many small things you can do to help the Auxiliary. Your membership helps us support veterans.

- ***I can't participate like I used to.***

We understand that everyone is doing the best they can. But there are many small things you can do to help the Auxiliary. Could you help us by calling a few members once a month just to check on them?

- ***I don't have the money to pay this year.***

We can help with that. Do you need anything else? Do you need help with food?

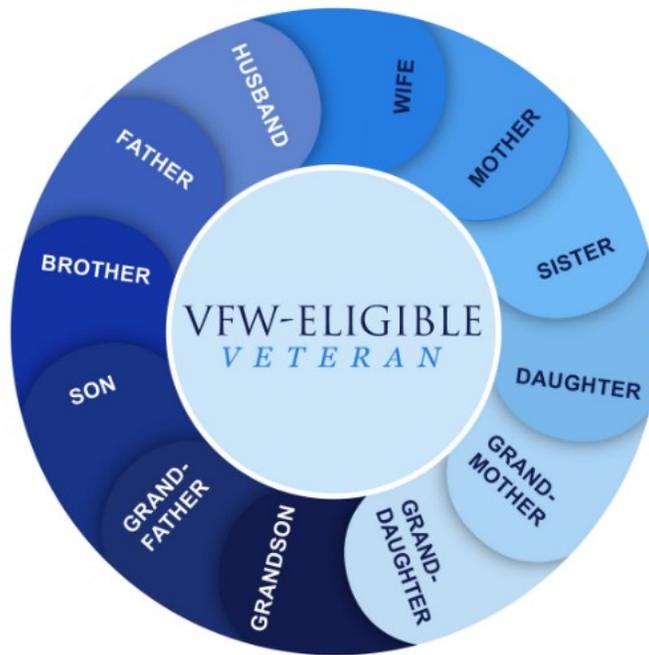
- ***I don't know anyone there.***

Well now you know me. Can I pick you up and treat you to the Auxiliary dinner on Saturday?

- ***I went to the VFW and nobody talked to me.***

I'm so sorry to hear that. There's a dinner this Friday, why don't I meet you there and introduce you to some of the other members.

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.*

Auxiliary Community Outreach Kim Harney



Volunteering over the holidays is easy, lots of organizations need our help; not to mention the time we spend volunteering at the Post or with our Auxiliaries. As we head into 2021, many of us are not sure where or how to volunteer. The fact that we are still dealing with COVID-19 makes volunteering extra hard.

I had this all in mind as I was thinking of what to write this month concerning volunteering. So off I went to explore the Internet to see what information I could find about volunteering during COVID-19. Turns out there is lots of information out there about how to volunteer during these unprecedented times we are in now. I am going to share some of what I found in my readings.

First and foremost, you must take care of yourself, no matter what type of volunteering you decide to do. Do the things that are recommended for you to stay safe.

Here are some ideas to help you continue you with your community volunteering:

1) If you can sew, think about sewing face masks to donate to healthcare workers and others in need such as the homeless population. Though many

have been doing this for many months, these items are still in demand.

2) Write letters or cards to boost the spirits of seniors in hospitals and nursing homes. Nursing home residents are feeling the emotional toll of isolation with no family or friends being allowed to visit. This would be a great activity for your youth groups to help out with.

3) Provide support through a virtual hotline. We as humans are social creatures. The isolation that many are going through has been very hard. People need to know someone cares and will be there to listen to them. You can volunteer through [Crisis Text Line](#) or [Suicide Prevention Lifeline](#).

4) Help deliver meals to the vulnerable populations. [Meals on Wheels](#) and the [Salvation Army](#) are two programs that are involved. Their websites can give you more information.

5) Run errands for your neighbors. Many of us may know people in our neighborhoods or friends or family members or our Auxiliary sisters and brothers that can't get out because of the virus. Offer to run errands for them.

I'm sure as you were reading many other ideas may have come to mind. The list is endless. We, as human beings now more than ever need to look around and see how to help each other get through this pandemic. We need to try and **"Make a Difference"**. Until things are back to "normal", please stay safe!



Buddy Poppy/National Home Connie Hargreaves

Welcome "2021"! My challenge to you is to bring back a more normal "Normal". Your Resolution #1 - Allow us to complete our mission, raise funds, and take care of our Veterans and families.

Buddy Poppy

It is time to start thinking about Poppy Displays. There were some great ones in the past years, but we would love to see Arizona get the "Top Buddy" position this year.

Resources-

- <https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/Buddy-Poppy-Chairmans-Manual-UPDATED-1.11.16.pdf>
- <https://vfwauxaz.org/uploads/documents/POPPYDISPLAYGENERALRULES.pdf>
- <https://vfwauxaz.org/uploads/documents/PoppyDisplayEntryForm.pdf>
- <https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/Buddy-Poppy-Display-Contest-rules.pdf>

ALL DISTRICT CONTESTS SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN APRIL.

The Districts should award prizes to their winner at their discretion. Each District entry will be allowed to enter in the Department Contest, in each of the 3 categories, however, they must remain in the same category and divisions entered in the District judging. Any person or group of persons (except professional display builders) may enter a display. The display must be entered by a Post or Auxiliary.

All entries at the National Display Contest must be approved and sponsored by the Department Headquarters. No other entries will be accepted by officials of

the National Contest. Department display contest winners will be announced at the Department Convention. Special forms will be given to those eligible for entry into National Competition. Do not take any entry to National without the proper forms as it will not be accepted.

Speaking of poppies, congratulations to all the Posts/Auxiliaries that worked their fingers to the bone to build poppies for National to fulfill back orders. I understand we all did fine work and got another Mission accomplished. I do not know about you, but the above picture is how I felt at the end.

Hand out Buddy Poppy Participation certificates to those who participated. Have a thank-you luncheon with prizes for those who helped, draw a raffle ticket for a surprise, or do a gift steal. A Life Membership to National Home or an Aluminum Life Membership card or items from the VFW Store would make great raffle items.

February 12, 2021, is the Chinese New Year, what a great way to do a countertop display of poppies as firecrackers, lanterns, dragons, and other Chinese New Year items. 2020 was the year of the Rat and it sure lived up to it. This year 2021 is the year of the OX, big and strong to get rid of the Rat. Let us see some great public promotions and artistic and decorative displays or posters.

When you're done make sure to send a Project Report to me, looking forward to seeing some interesting projects.

VFW Store has "Buddy Poppy" window stickers as well as "Buddy Poppy" rolls decals that can be put on anything you send out, give out, display, or even put on water bottles to remind people of the Poppy.

National Home

National Home has been on lock-down like forever it seems. They were unable to hold any of their annual fundraisers. Start 2021 by having a fundraiser for National Home. Have you held a meat raffle recently, do a favorite kid's meal as a fundraiser, peanut butter and jelly luncheon! You could also do chicken nuggets or mac n cheese, with a brownie. Have a lunch box nearby for donations.



Do a display on what National home does, surprising how many people do not know they have their own water department or fire station. Showcase the case management and the 4H program, the trail system, and dog park and add a picture of the Arizona House. I did a Lemonade stand display for Fall Conference Joint School of Instruction and then used it again at our Family Freedom Festival. The National Home has farm typesetting, do a display with that theme in mind.

Put a National Home for Children label around a water bottle along with a lemonade, orange, grape, or fruit punch stix. Have a donation jar nearby for donations.

[Become a Home Front Hero today!](#)

Struggling military families are facing so many challenges, your support of the

National Home is life-changing.

As a monthly donor and Home Front Hero, you will ensure the strength and longevity of all our programs and services. It's simple, secure, and convenient...

You determine the amount of your monthly donation.

You choose to use your credit card or checking/savings account.

You can email us to increase, decrease, or suspend your gift at any time.

[Start today](#) for as little as \$10 a month!

There are many ways to make a difference in the lives of struggling military and veteran families at the VFW National Home for Children.

- **Tribute Bricks**

Honor or memorialize someone or put your name or organization's name on a brick to be placed in a sidewalk at the National Home.

Build a "Brick Wall" at your Post, encourage members to buy a brick at National Home and when they get their brick certificate back put a brick on the wall at your Post, post it on your Facebook page!

- **Tribute Park**

Create a lasting tribute for a person or organization in a beautiful setting while helping build our permanently restricted endowment Fund

Give a gift in honor or memory of someone. A card will be sent to a family member or friend to notify them that a gift was made in honor/memory.

- **Gifts from your IRA**

If you are 70.5 or older, a gift directly from your IRA called a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a smart way to make a tax free donation to VFW National Home.

[Learn more about QCD donations and how they can make a big difference on your tax return here.](#)

Making Your Gift from you IRA

To ensure that your gift from your IRA is properly processed and that you are listed as the donor of record, please have all checks directed to the address below. It is very important that you also contact us at 517-663-7931 or narchambeau@vfwnationalhome.org to let us know to expect your gift. VFW National Home for Children

Attn: Nancy Archambeau

3573 S Waverly Rd

Eaton Rapids, MI 48827

Gifts of stock can help the National Home continue its mission of helping military and veteran families.

To donate shares of stock to the VFW National Home for Children, please contact Nancy Archambeau at 517-663-7931 or email narchambeau@vfwnationalhome.org for instructions.

- **Amazon's Wish List**

The National Home's Amazon Wish List is a great way to buy items that are needed for the day to day running of the National Home. You could buy something small like snow shovels or hand sanitizer or organize a fundraiser to purchase bigger ticket items like play sets for the nursery.

View [giving instructions](#) and our wish list on [Amazon](#).

- **Amazon's Smile**

Amazon has a great program that helps raise money for non-profits while people shop – Amazon Smile. Here's how it works:

1. Amazon Smile Foundation will donate 0.5 percent of the purchase price from your eligible purchases to the National Home.

2. [Go to Amazon Smile with the National Home already selected by using this link.](#)

3. Then log into your Amazon account and start shopping!

National Home Information:

For Donations Call 866-483-9642

For Help Call 800-313-4200

For General Information 800-424-8360

Monday - Friday: 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. EST

Remember to send in your Project Reports for National Home!



**Program Activity Reports Received From
Auxiliaries
As of Dec 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	
2357	A,M,J	J,A,S	O	
6790				
7061	A,M,J	J,A,S		
8242	A,M,J	J,A,S	O	
District 2				
541	J	J,A,S	N	
6739				
7400	J	J,A,S	O, N	
10227	A,M,J	J,S		
12128	A,M,J	J,A,S	O	
District 3				
40	A,M,J	J,A,S	O,N	
285	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N	
1433	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N	
3715				
12098	A,M,J	J,A,S		
District 4				
720				
1760				
1796	A,M,J	J,A,S	O	
3513	A,M,J	J,A,S	O,N	
3632	A,M,J	J,A		
9400	A,M,J	J,A,S		
District 5				
549	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N	
4903		J,A		
5990	A,M,J	J,A,S	O,N	
10254	A,M,J	J,A,S		
District 6				
2364	A,M,J	J,A,S	O	
8987	A,M,J	J,A,S	O	
9907	A,M,J	J,A,S	O	
District 7				
6271	A,M,J	J,A,S		
9972	A,M,J	J,A,S	O	
9977				
10385	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N	

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	
2555				
6306	A, M, J	J, A, S	O, N	
9401	A			
9833	A, M, J			
10005	A, M, J	J, A, S		
10386				
10726				
11014	A, M, J			
District 10				
1677	A, M, J	J, A, S	O, N	
3584	A, M, J	J, A, S	O, N	
3713	A, M, J	J, A, S		
7968	A, M, J	J, A, S	O, N	
9399	A, M, J	J, A, S	O	
12043	M, J	J, A, S	O	



Shirt Fundraiser for Kim Harney's Campaign for National Guard

Ladies Size

Small to XL

\$30

2X – 4X

\$35

Quantity

Size

Price

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