

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



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VFW Auxiliary Arizona March Pinpoints

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President Melody's Message

Hello from the Trail! I was blessed to spend the weekend with wonderful members who are working tirelessly for our Veterans, their Families and Communities. Sometimes when you are on a trail ride you need to stop, rest and take a deep breath and that is what I did last night. So from Seligman, Arizona I am asking all of our members to stop and take that deep breath as we enter the last stretch of this year's trailer ride. If we don't take care of ourselves, then we cannot continue the mission of serving our Veterans and

Communities.

This issue of the newsletter is chalked full of ideas from the Department Chairmen to help auxiliaries complete the programs. We have two important events coming up – National President Sandi Onstwedder’s visit to Arizona and the Department Convention. Flyers are included in this issue. Also included is information on opportunities for Auxiliary Community Outreach. St. Mary’s Food Bank in Phoenix needs volunteers to pack food boxes. The White Mountain area is going hold the White Mountain Veterans Tribute, Labor Day weekend to benefit Walking Down Ranch and White Mountain Veterans. Currently they are asking for donations of small American Flags. If you have American Flags that you can donate for this event please contact me.

A few reminders:

- March 31, 2021 is the deadline to send your Project Reports to the Department Chairmen.
- Elections at the District and Auxiliary levels will be in April - start talking to those members who would like the opportunity to serve as a officer. Start mentoring them using the Building on the Auxiliary Foundation to educate them on what each officers responsibilities are.
- Don’t forget to elect your District and Department delegates at your April Auxiliary meetings. Arizona Bylaws call for one delegate/one alternate for every ten members. If you have any question call myself or Department Secretary-Treasurer Kim Sloan.
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Please keep our members and their families in your prayers who are ill or have lost loved ones.

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

Melody



Sandi Onstwedder

National President

2020-2021

Sandi Onstwedder of White Cloud, Michigan, was elected National President of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) of the United States Auxiliary for the 2020-2021 Program Year.

A Life Member of Renner-Lobker Auxiliary 3306, she joined on the eligibility of her brother, who served in the U.S. Navy from 1963-1967.



She has served the organization in several capacities including Auxiliary and District President, and as Department (state) President she earned Outstanding President of the Year for her membership group. On the National level she has served as Director for the Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen and Americanism/Patriotic Instructor Programs and Big Ten Chairman for the Veterans & Family Support and Community Service Programs.

Sandi spent 35 years working as a Literacy Skills teacher. She served as Summer Director of VFW Camp Trotter in Michigan for 11 years and six years on the Michigan Freedom Foundation Board of Directors. She is a member of the American Legion Auxiliary and the Military Order of the Cooties, and holds Life membership in both the VFW Camp Trotter and VFW National Home for Children. In her spare time she enjoys exploring the great outdoors.

Sandi and husband Charles' family includes five children, 16 grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren.



SADDLE UP AND GALLOP ON OVER

for

**VFW AUXILIARY NATIONAL PRESIDENT SANDI ONSTWEDDER
VISIT TO ARIZONA**

MARCH 28 - 29 2021

All events require an RSVP except visit to the mission.

March 28th - Visit Mission San Xavier del Bac Mission
Lunch VFW Post 5990 - Dinner VFW Post 549

March 29th - Coffee with 162 Air Guard Command Staff
Sightseeing and Lunch in Tombstone - Dinner at VFW Post 6271

Hotel: Four Points by Sheraton Tucson Airport
7060 South Tucson Boulevard, Tucson, Arizona
Reservation Number: 1-520-746-0271 Group Code: VFW
Room Rate: \$95.00 plus tax - Breakfast Included

SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE



DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	APPROPRIATE DRESS
Sunday 3.28.2021	10:00 am	Visit to Mission San Xavier del Bac 1950 W. San Xavier Rd., Tucson	Business Casual
	12:00 pm	Leave Mission San Xavier del Bac for VFW Post 5990	
	1:00 pm	Lunch hosted by VFW Auxiliary 5990 15850 W. El Tiro Rd., Marana	Business Casual
		RSVP VFWA 5990 President Judy Hubbard 520.401.4008	
	5:00 pm	Dinner hosted by VFW Auxiliary 549 8424 E. Old Spanish Trail, Tucson	Business Casual
		RSVP VFWA 549 Sr. Vice President Anita Hess 520.571.8256	
Monday 3.29.2021	8:30 am	Coffee with 162 nd Air Guard Command Staff RSVP to Kim Sloan 520.307.7940 ANYONE WITHOUT A MILITARY ID MUST EMAIL COPY OF DRIVER'S LICENSE TO KIM SLOAN <u>PRIOR TO MARCH 24, 2021</u> BACKGROUND CHECK WILL BE REQUIRED FOR BASE ENTRY.	Business
	1:00 pm	Sight Seeing and Lunch in Tombstone Dinner hosted by VFW Auxiliary 6271 233 E. 5 th St., Benson	Business Casual Business Casual
		RSVP VFWA 6271 President JoAnn Wisner 360.608.9427	
Tuesday 3.30.2021	4:30 am	President leaves for Airport Transportation provided by Hotel	

Department Secretary/Treasurer Kim Sloan

DISTRICT CONVENTION DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

All Auxiliaries are asked to review National Bylaws Article III Auxiliary Delegates Section 303. All of the Arizona District conventions will be held in April, so District Delegates/Alternates need to be elected not less than 30 days prior to the District convention.



DISTRICT CONVENTION DATES / LOCATIONS
District 1 April 18 at VFW Post 8242

District 2	April 10 at VFW Post 1709
District 3	April 24 at VFW Post 1433
District 4	April 25 at VFW Post 3513
District 5	April 24 at VFW Post 10015
District 6	April 10 at VFW Post 1704
District 7	April 17 at VFW Post 9972
District 8	April 18 at VFW Post 9401
District 10	April 18 at VFW Post 1677

Depending on the Auxiliary regular meeting date, you may have elected last month but if not all Auxiliaries should elect their District Delegates/Alternates at the March meeting and forward to the District Secretary.

Department Bylaws allow for 1 Delegate and 1 Alternate for every 10 members based on the membership on the date of election of delegates. The Districts do not have convention registration fees.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

Review National Bylaws Article III Sec. 304 regarding Delegates and Alternates to the Department Convention which will be start June 17. Again, check the calendar to determine when those Delegates/Alternates need to be elected but make sure the election is done and list sent to me no later than the May 1. Department Bylaws allow for 1 Delegate and 1 Alternate for every 10 members based on the membership on the date of election of delegates.

The Auxiliary must also send in Registration fee of \$4 for every Delegate whether they are attending convention or not, and \$4 for every Department officer that belongs to that Auxiliary and \$4 for every Past Department President that belongs to that Auxiliary.

The April issue of the newsletter will include the Delegate / Alternate forms for the District and the Department conventions, and instructions for their completion. Those forms and instructions will also be on the Department website.

NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

Review Article III Sec. 305 - those Delegates and Alternates are to be elected at the April Meeting based on Membership as of March 31. There are no delegate fees for National Delegates and the Secretary will be tasked with entering the Auxiliary delegates and alternates in MALTA.

Audits thru March 31, 2021 must be completed, accepted by Auxiliary and a copy forwarded to me by May 31, 2021. I know that some Auxiliaries have had difficulty getting the Trustees together for an audit, but now the we're able to meet at least in small groups, everyone should be getting their audits caught up. **Failure to complete all the audits thru March 31, 2021 will result in the Auxiliary being denied voting rights at both the Department and National conventions.**

Many of the VFW Posts in Texas have sustained damage to their Posts during the recent weather events. If you would like to donate to help those Posts, send your donation to VFW Department of Texas, PO Box 14468, Austin, TX 78761. They will allocate and distribute the funds as needed.

Membership Applications must be complete before they are sent to me and that includes:

- VFW Membership ID for Affiliated Applications

- Veteran VFW Eligibility information

Transfer Applications

- Must include a copy of the applicants current membership card.

Look more information on Department Convention in the next issue of this newsletter.

National President Sandi Onstwedder will be in Tucson on March 28-30, 2021. We encourage everyone to attend an event (see the itinerary) if you'd like to meet her. We are keeping all the events small to encourage safe distancing but the events are open to all our members.

Any questions? Contact me!

Kim Sloan

Department Secretary Treasurer

Email: auxvfwarizona@msn.com

Phone: 520.307.7940



Buddy Poppy/National Home Connie Hargreaves

Spring is in the air, well at least just around the corner!

Hopefully, your Auxiliary has decided on an entry or entries for the Buddy Poppy Contest Categories. The deadline is fast approaching to have your entries completed and ready for judging at your District Convention in April.

The rules governing the poppy displays for the year will be in accordance with the National Poppy Display Contest. All entrants will comply with these rules. Your entry will be judged by them. All Districts are requested to follow these rules as closely as possible when holding your display judging.

1. **CATEGORY 1** - Public promotion of poppy sales: (Window, booth, parade, or poster displays, sales promotion, etc. A. Display must be designed for public exposure and must bear a message urging the buying and wearing of the VFW Buddy Poppy. B. At least one (1) of the poppies used in the display must be in their original form and color, with labels attached.
2. **CATEGORY 2** - Memorial or inspirational displays: (wreaths, memorial tablets, or plaques, patriotic or devotional themes.) A. 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 Program. B. At least one (1) of the poppies used in the display must be in their original form and color, with labels attached.
3. **CATEGORY 3** – Artistic or decorative use of poppies: (Post home display, table centerpieces, corsages, pictures, plaques, models, scenes, hats, novelty pieces, etc.) A. Display not meeting the qualifications for Categories 1 or 2 shall automatically be entered in Category 3. B. Complete freedom shall be permitted in the use of poppies, poppy parts, or poppy labels, and in the use of dyes or paints in achieving the desired artistic effect. C. At least one (1) of the poppies used in the display must be in their original form and color, with labels attached.

The scoring of the displays will be in accordance with the National Rules. Originality – 25 points; Composition – 25 points; Neatness – 25 points; Poppy Story – 25 points; for a total of 100 points maximum. The Originality, Composition, and Neatness are self-explanatory, with the Poppy Story as outlined in the Buddy Poppy Story.

There will be a First, Second, and Third Place award in each Division Category. Category 1 displays must have been on display in a public place for a minimum of 3 days.

A report of District Judging must be sent to the Department Buddy Poppy Chairperson prior to the Department Convention. Any display not accepted at District level, or not entered in District judging will be ineligible for State Judging.

All displays entered and accepted at the District level will be accepted for Department judging during the Department convention.

Forms for judging and reporting results will be distributed to all District Commanders through Department HQ.

Poppies to be used in display contests are to be ordered from VFW Dept. HQ. There will be four (4) judges. Each judge will grade all categories and disciplines within the category. The decision of the judges and that of the Department Buddy Poppy Display Chairperson will be final. During the judging, the entire area will be closed to all except the judges to ensure impartial judging. Previous Department winners are ineligible.

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.

Here is an idea, March has the First Day of Spring, St. Patrick's Day, and Vietnam War Veterans Day; a great time to make centerpieces with a Spring or St. Patrick's Day theme with the poppies, and for Vietnam Veterans Day create a memorial or inspirational display with the Buddy Poppy contest in mind. Make corsages or centerpieces to raffle or request donations for. Make March a fun month for your Post/Auxiliary while teaching what the Buddy Poppy stands for. Have a volunteer or community luncheon and have a display of what the Buddy Poppy stands for. Win, Win!

Do not forget Vietnam War Veterans Day, have a Poppy tree, for a donation, place a Veteran name on the tree or have a display they can put a small poppy with a name or picture of a Veteran.

Spring is in the air! Take time to smell the flowers and of course the "POPPIES"!

National Home

What a heck of a year for the National Home, unable to do fundraisers, unable to do things as a group such as Christmas with Santa; it seems so strange to stand on a porch and see Santa drop off a package. What about giving out Valentines and candy, all with CDC guidelines and sanitizing.



The National Home provides help either by providing a home, education, financial management or helping with Crisis Management whether residing at Eaton MI or receiving help and counseling through a Management Counselor. Please consider helping by holding a dinner, raffle, or silent auction. How about offering a prize for participating in a word search game or trivia quiz? Get a local business to offer a gift certificate or item to the winners. How about purchasing a National Home puzzle, or life membership for someone who enters the contest? For just a dollar donation, fill out the game sheet for a chance for your name to be drawn for a prize and have several to choose from. Encourage community organizations to let you speak about National Home and or Buddy Poppy, give them the quiz after your talk and offer dinner at your post or next fundraiser to bring awareness to your community.

This year the National Home turned 96 in January. Have a dessert auction, celebrate 96 years of being there for Veterans and their families. Share the Birthday wish from Fred that was posted in the January 21st newsletter which can also be found at <https://www.vfwnationalhome.org/single-post/an-open-letter-belated-birthday-card-to-the-vfw-national-home-for-children>.

How to Support the National Home During These Trying Times

Considering the new uncertainty, this 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 them 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 is 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.

Help the National Home's future shine as bright as their past and present by becoming a Home Front Hero this year!

Want to make a consistent and lasting difference in the lives of military and veteran families? You can start today by committing to a monthly contribution to the VFW National Home for Children. As a Home Front Hero, you'll help ensure the seamless and consistent delivery of programs and services to their families, which include housing, counseling, tutoring, life skills, daycare, and

more.

-It's easy – Choose to have your monthly gift paid automatically from your credit card or checking/savings account.

-It's flexible – You determine the amount of your monthly donation. You can also email them to increase, decrease or suspend your gift at any time.

-It's eco-friendly – Save trees by switching to paperless, automatic donations.

-It saves money – Save the cost of a stamp with every gift you make.



Auxiliary Community Outreach Kim Harney

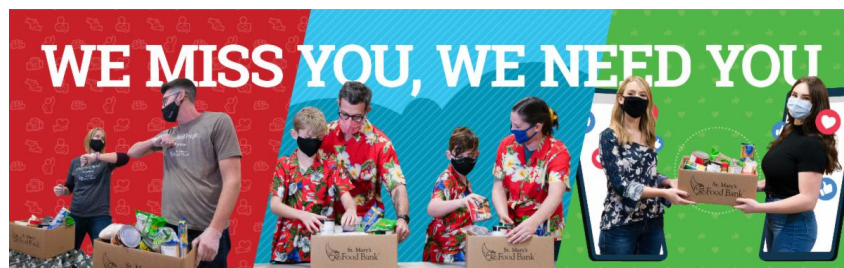
As we look forward to Spring arriving this month, there is still time left to finish up your Community Outreach Projects and get the report sent to me. If I receive your report by the 31st of March, I can get my report sent in to National for your Auxiliary to receive a citation for your hard work.

There are many things that can be done in your communities that allow for social distancing. Every little bit helps – just like adding drops of water to a bucket. Eventually the bucket is overflowing. No idea is too small.

Some ideas are: 1) continue to collect non-perishables for donation to the local food banks. Many families are still struggling with having enough to eat; 2) Spring time is a great time to de-clutter. Go through your clothes and see what can be donated; 3) call and check on Auxiliary members, family and friends – see if they need anything or if they are ok; loneliness has been hard during these times; 4) call your city and see if your Auxiliary can do clean up in parks or other areas; and 5) contact your local shelters to see if they need volunteers or items. All of these things can be done while being safe.

Please remember to take photos and send them in so they can be put on the website.

“Do what you can with all you have, wherever you are.” Theodore Roosevelt



To obtain more information on St. Mary's Food bank in Phoenix or to sign up to volunteer go to <https://volunteer.firstfoodbank.org/>

Youth Co-Chairs – Carolyn Quinton & Stephanie Quinton

This past year has seemed to go so slow because of the pandemic, but yet the Year-End Report deadlines are already here. March 31st is the date to have your reports to us.

There have been quite a few reports sent already, so thank you for that. Those that haven't sent them in, please so as soon as possible.



Because we haven't had the ability to get out and do events, this is a great time to use the "PARTNER UP" with other programs.

When you "PARTNER UP" Youth Activities, Americanism, and Scholarship programs, that is one event that will produce 3 project reports. So, take a look at what you have accomplished through the year and see what other programs can be combined. Be creative.

Make sure you have explored all avenues to be able to present youth with any of the different awards that are available such as: Patriotic Youth Award; Youth Groups Supporting Our Veterans citation; and utilizing the Random Act of Patriotism (RAP) coins and cards. This is a very rewarding act on your part by handing this out to the many kids that says "Thank you for your service". Make sure that all of your members have these available. At each meeting have your members stand up and tell why they handed them out. Remind everyone to think about the youth around them and what they are saying to them.

"HONORING THE PAST WHILE EDUCATING THE FUTURE"



Chief of Staff Donna Ventola

Saddle Up Team Arizona. This month's topic is about Good Job Awards.

Any time of the year is a good time when we reflect on what and who, we have to be thankful for. It's a time when gratitude is the top of the mind and we give thanks for our Auxiliary members and their many contributions throughout the year.

When a member's efforts are supporting Auxiliary programs and activities are acknowledged, it creates positive experiences for the members, which may initiate them to go out and recruit members.

During any month, distribute the VFW Auxiliary Good Job or award, (which is on the website) or even creating your own is a wonderful way to extend the sentiment of thanks to your fellow members. Or use one of the following:

- Send a personal note of thanks
- Use social media to express appreciation
- Highlight a message of thanks in your Auxiliary newsletter
- Host a special social event

Take a minute to say thanks to a member and a Veteran today! Please utilize your Thank you and Good Job cards or certificates from our new rejuvenated website, and show your members you recognize their volunteer work. You can also create your own, the sky is the limit.

I am still looking for those Project Reports, you only have until March 31, 2021. 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.

Partner Up: Hospital- give your hospital volunteers recognition for their efforts. Create a "Special" card or certificate for all volunteers. Have someone at the hospital sign the certificate as well as the President. A card can put a huge smile on their face and go a long way.

Thank you for all you have done and for all you will continue to do. Remember what Team NORA says "No One Rides Alone"

Mentoring for Leadership Chrissy Harlan

If you have not completed a Mentoring for Leadership event during an Auxiliary meeting, please get it done this month and get the report to me.

Make your mentoring event FUN and INFORMATIVE. Try a By-laws Scavenger Hunt. Ask the members to have a copy of the VFW Auxiliary By-laws handy for the meeting. Prepare 5-10 questions pertaining to our By-laws and note where to find the answers. During Good of the Order divide the members into teams and pass out the questions (post on the screen if doing a virtual or hybrid meeting) then give the teams 5 minutes to find the answers in the by-laws. Review the questions and allow the teams to give the answers. Have small prizes or certificates for the team with the most correct answers. If you need a tie-breaker ask one final question and the team that finds the correct answer first wins. Presidents, if you need help getting started on your questions please call me and I can give you a few ideas.



Maybe try the game of "What's My Program". Have the PAR Chairman come up with a list of projects and have the members or teams compete to tell what program the project fits in. This can be run much the same way as the Scavenger Hunt. This game can be altered to "What's My Line (office)" or "Who Uses This". Presidents, I have ideas to help you with these games as well.

The Conductress can mentor on Auxiliary Traditions such as a proper Heart Salute, Parade Rest, etc., the Chaplain can mentor on the sacred space in the auxiliary room and showing proper respect when the Chaplain is on the floor, and all officers can mentor on what their respective responsibilities are. With elections coming up soon this might be very beneficial to members considering running for office.

I look forward to hearing what FUN and INFORMATIVE things you have done in Mentoring for Leadership.

"Mentoring is a brain to pick, an ear to listen and a push in the right direction."
~ C. Crosby



Scholarships Jeanne Hampton

Greetings Fellow Riders of the Storm,
It is time to reap what we have sown for the final harvest of Scholarships for the 2020-2021 year. All of the Scholarship Forms and criteria/eligibility are located on the website at VFWAuxAZ.org under Programs, under Scholarships.

National Young American Creative Patriotic Arts

The deadline date to have the National Young American Creative Patriotic Arts entries, from high school students grades 9 – 12, are due to the local Auxiliary by March 31st. Please make certain their application and up to 250-word, typed explanation of Patriotism expressed in art is completed. Contact information is exceptionally important when \$31,500.00 of scholarship money is on the line. Winning entries are due to Department by April 15, 2021.

Department of Arizona Educational Grant

Department of Arizona Educational Grant, for Members of any Auxiliary in the State of Arizona, is due April 1st, 2021. The pandemic has changed the career course for many. Please let your members know this is a benefit of membership in the VFW Auxiliary.

Department of Arizona Merit Scholarship

Also, the Department of Arizona Merit Scholarship, for a graduating high school senior, in the State of Arizona, related to a member of the VFW or Auxiliary or an Auxiliary member themselves. (There is still time to

become a member of the VFW Auxiliary for the student to qualify.) The Merit Scholarship does take a little more footwork by the student to complete the documentation portion. References, transcripts, community activity, and student biography are due with the application by April 1st, 2021 to the Department Scholarship Chairman.

Please keep those Scholarship Project Reports coming! For the Circle of Excellence, photos are no longer required. You did the work, please write down 2 sentences explaining your Auxiliary's activity promoting Scholarships in the State of Arizona. Did the Auxiliary do a fundraiser to help raise monies for the National Escrow Fund? There is still time. Use of Media? Events? Patriotic Days? Activity at Schools?

A super Shout Out! To Anna Mae Stafford of 9907- honest to goodness - developed photos, hours, number of volunteers, miles driven- AMAZING! Everyone deserves the same chance to continue to follow their dreams and pursue their education. Help light the path for them.

Thank you for being the beacon of light, in the storm, that has challenged even the roughest, most seasoned rider.

Veterans and Family Support Lynn Pierre

The holidays are over but our Mission never ends. We continue to support our soldiers/veterans and their families and many various ways.

Here's a new project I just learned about that may work for you and your Post/Auxiliary:



Donate a Phone - Cell Phones For Soldiers (CPFS) gratefully accepts any and all types of cell phones from any carrier.

Donate at: <https://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com/donate/#donatePhone>

Drop Off At- <https://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com/donate/#map>

Find a drop-off location near you to recycle your old phones.

Find a Location At- <https://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com/donate/#map>

Self-Paid

Thank you for taking the extra step to cover shipping costs for your donated devices! Not only is your device donation tax-deductible but so are the shipping costs.

CPFS will pay for your shipping if you plan to ship 10 phones or more.

Simply print this pre-addressed label and follow these shipping instructions:

Count the number of donated phones for your records.

Place the phones flat across the bottom of the box and layer them with newspaper or bubble wrap to avoid damage.

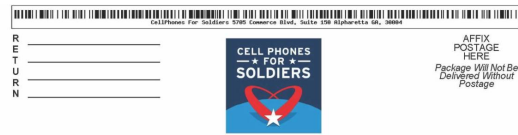
Keep batteries attached to phones. If there is no battery, place tape over terminal ends.

Due to federal shipping regulations, you must print a battery warning label for each package. Affix one label to the outside of each box.

You must affix postage (USPS) or a prepaid waybill (UPS, FedEx, DHL) for your package to reach us.

You will not receive an email confirmation when your package arrives.

Click here to print a donation receipt -



Ship To: **Cell Phones For Soldiers**
5705 Commerce Blvd
Suite 150
Alpharetta Ga 30004

Instructions: Attach this label to your package and drop-off at your local shipping location. This label may be used for UPS, FED-EX, USPS, DHL or shipping carrier of your choice. Thank You for paying the shipping costs. Our Troops and Veterans will benefit even more from your donation.

Note: If you would like a confirmation for your donation please include a written correspondence inside the shipment or email the tracking number of the shipment to: info@cellphonesforsoldiers.com. Please include your name and tracking number in the email.

WWW.CELLPHONESFORSOLDIERS.COM

https://www.cellphonesforsoldiers.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Donation_Receipt_New.pdf

Mental Health and Wellness

The purpose of the project is to educate VFW and VFW Auxiliary members, veterans, and our communities about the important topic of mental health and wellness, and offer has proven tools to intervene on behalf of veterans in crisis.

Please check with your local Brain injury/Mental Illness Rehab Centers/Clinics for things they might need. Sometimes something as simple as an Amazon order for Reading Cards, (drop-shipped) can help more than you know. Many places are not allowing deliveries, but Amazon SMILE shopping can drop ship just about anything. It's simply a matter of making the phone call to determine the needs. With all our handicaps this year, you all have done so very well thinking "outside the box".

Please don't forget to take a moment to fill out those project reports and get them to your Chairmen. They are so important for your Circle of Excellence. Here's to hoping we get to see each other again very soon! Stay well.



Americanism
Vickie Rippel

March 13: K9 Veterans Day - Find out if you have a K9 (War Dog) memorial in your area and post a Flag or place a wreath (red, white, and blue of course) to

remember them. If there is not a memorial in your area, donate pet supplies to a local animal shelter or a veteran in need. Read more about military working dogs (MWD) and K9 Veterans Day: <https://militarybenefits.info/k9-veterans-day>.

March 17: St. Patrick's Day – Invite local veterans and youth to make red, white, and blue shamrock cards. Deliver or send the cards to homebound or hospitalized veterans. Add an American Flag to those beautiful St. Patty's Day wreaths you will display on your door or your window.

March 29: National Vietnam War Veterans Day – What can we do for our Vietnam veterans? Honor and respect them as we do all other veterans and service members. Send a thank you card with an American Flag on it to your local Vietnam Veterans of America chapter. Drop off some goodies to a home-bound or disabled Vietnam veteran, local nursing homes, VA facilities, or veterans outreach centers.



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.



**Legislative
Bambi Johnson**

The new 2021 Priority Goals are set, and our new 2021 brochure is available!

The Priority Goals are reviewed each year and revised with the most pressing needs of our military families each year. These Goals encompass the following six areas of focus: BUDGET - HEALTH CARE - DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS - EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRANSITION ASSISTANCE - MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE - NATIONAL SECURITY, FOREIGN AFFAIRS and POW/MIA

To view and print the 2021 Priority Goals, please see the VFW website at : <https://vfworg-cdn.azureedge.net/-/media/VFWSite/Files/Advocacy/PriorityGoalsBrochure.pdf?la=en&v=1&d=20210121T151925Z>

One of the several wins for our veterans already in 2021 is shown below. This Bill is an example of the important work that is done thru the Legislative Branch of our government. The united voices of the VFW, the VFW Auxiliary and those citizens that are dedicated to bettering the lives of our Veterans helped make this bill a reality! This one Bill encompasses so many areas that I strongly encourage every member to use the link, <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th->

[congress/house-bill/7105](https://www.congress.gov/bills/116/house/7105) to educate yourselves of these changes and enhancements for military families.

[Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 \(H.R. 7105\)](#): On January 5, 2021, President Trump signed into law this comprehensive veterans' legislation. It is the culmination of more than two years of bipartisan work, with input from our veteran service organizations, dozens of Senators and members of the House and our partners at the VA. It combines more than 34 separate bills to address veterans' needs across a wide range of benefits and services. The enactment of this veterans' legislation package satisfies a number of VFW resolutions and legislative priorities regarding women veterans' health care, disability assistance and memorial affairs and economic opportunity issues.

Lets all work together to ensure that 2021 is an outstanding year of advocacy for our veterans. Be Educated, be Involved, be Active!

Hospital Melissa Martin

I want to thank everyone for getting their Hospital Project reports to me. March 31, 2021, will be here before we know it and I would love to see everyone get their Circle of Excellence. Auxiliaries stepped up to the plate for National Salute to Veteran Patients week and sent a lot of Valentines. Thank you!

Thinking Outside the Box to Connect with our Veterans; borrowed from the Department of Pennsylvania - If you live in an area that receives snow build a snowman for the residents of nursing facilities; play tic-tac-toe on the windows; or decorate windows on the outside for residents; place bird feeders and birdbaths for the residents to enjoy; or buy, send or deliver craft kits. Contact the nursing facilities beforehand to see what craft kits would be acceptable.

Another good idea is to use your Hospital grant to purchase diapers, and other baby items to be donated to Women veterans at the VA Hospital. One Auxiliary is using the grant to buy a crib and car seat and have it dropped shipped to the VA directly. You can also have stuff sent directly to me at 202 S. 83rd Place Mesa, AZ 85208.

I know this year the hospital program has been a real challenge due to not being able to visit hospitals and nursing homes but you're all coming up with some really good ideas to make it work.

Hopefully, we will all be able to get together soon.



**Historian/Media
Brenda Kinghorn**



Please send in your Project Reports to me by March 31, 2021.

What to include in the Historian/ Media Relations Project Report

- A. Picture of Auxiliary's monthly newsletter
- B. Picture of Auxiliary's Facebook
- C. Picture of Newspaper writeup.
- D. Picture of using Publicly Guide Book
- E. Picture of presenting a Communication Award to local media.
- F. Picture of Auxiliary's scrapbook.
1. Add your Monthly newsletter.
 2. Picture of your Auxiliary Facebook.
 3. News clippings.
- G. All the year's photos and write-ups, set in the scrapbook, to show **ALL** new members and/or prospective members.
-

Membership Ray Williams

By now the Department Officers have reached out to give some membership tips to those Auxiliaries that need a bit of a boost.

Those tips included -

- Having an effective Auxiliary Membership Team
- Using Talking Points
- Request assistance of the Chaplain
- Include contacting former members
- Consider paying dues for senior members or convert them to Life Member
- Consider a discount to convert to Life Member
- Ask members to become a Membership Angel by paying dues for members having financial difficulties



Treasurers – if you have Membership Angels in your Auxiliary let the Department President know. She will send them an angel pin.

They also touched on helping those Auxiliaries complete Project Reports and the Program Activity Reports. I think that too often we lose sight of the fact that Membership and Programs are tied together. Our members want to know that we are out in our communities helping not just veterans but others. By helping our communities, we are helping veterans. After all, veterans do not wear a big sign saying "I'm a Veteran." They are the people you pass in the street, meet in the store, greet as you walk your dog.

If members see that their Auxiliary is active, they are more likely to stay active themselves.

The Arizona Circle of Excellence has been revised and deleted the

requirement to hold a Membership Recruiting Event. The intent of this requirement was to have Auxiliaries hold a recruiting event in a public setting or at a public event. Some of our Auxiliaries have been able to have a recruiting event but most of our Auxiliaries and communities have been shut down to the point that they could not hold an event. So, we felt it was not fair to penalize those struggling communities. The revised form is on the Department website - vfwauxaz.org under Resources/forms.

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 Feb 28th**

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	J
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, F
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	J
1433	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N,D	J, F
3715				
12098	A,M,J	J,A,S	O,N,D	
District 4				
720			N,D	
1760	A,M,J	J, A, S	O, N, D	
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,S	O,N,D	J
9400	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	
District 5				
549	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	J
4903		J,A		
5990	A,M,J	J,A,S	O,N, D	J
10254	A,M,J	J,A,S	O,N,D	
District 6				
2364	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	J
8987	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	J
9907	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	J
District 7				
6271	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	
9972	A,M,J	J,A,S	O,N, D	J, F
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, D	J
2190	A,M,J	J,AS	O,N, D	
2555			N,D	
6306	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	J
9401	A			
9833	A,M,J	J,A,S		
10005	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	J
10386			N,D	
10726				
11014	A,M,J	J,A,S	O,N, D	J
District 10				
1677	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N,D	J
3584	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	J
3713	A,M,J	J,A,S		
7968	A,M,J	J,A,S	O, N, D	J
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

Small to XL \$30
2X - 4X \$35

Quantity

Size

Price

Men's Size

Small to XL \$30
XXL - 4X \$35

Quantity

Size

Price

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