

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



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VFW Auxiliary Arizona May/June Pinpoints

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President Melody's Message

What a Ride this year has been!!

I think Chief of Staff Donna Ventola's message in her Farm and Ranch Report is spot on about this year! She wrote "A year ago, none of us had any idea what these last 12 months would bring. Or even imagine that we would experience a

pandemic, like COVID-19. Thank you for all your efforts over this past year, and continuing efforts. A year which has had uncharted waters, however one which showed us how teamwork, devotion, and determination matter.”

I would like to thank the Department Officers, Chairmen, and most of all the members of this great organization - all of you stepped up in a big way, thinking outside the box to serve our veterans, their families, and our communities during the past year.

We have learned a lot this year and found new tools to help us with our work, like zoom and phone conferencing to connect us and keep us moving forward. It is my hope that we continue to embrace new tools and resources to reach out to our members and communities.

I look forward to seeing all of you at State Convention in Tucson!!

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



VFW National Convention Update

Baltimore Convention Center has been operating as a field hospital during the pandemic

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (April 29, 2021) – The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) has announced that the coronavirus pandemic has made it impossible to hold its 122nd VFW National Convention at the Baltimore Convention Center in Baltimore, Maryland, July 31-August 5, 2021, as originally planned.

“While the VFW is disappointed that our national convention will not be held in Baltimore as anticipated, I appreciate Baltimore Mayor Brandon Scott and his team for reaching out to us, and for their professionalism throughout a difficult and complex situation,” said VFW National Commander Hal Roesch. “As an organization that has successfully adapted to the ever-changing pandemic situation, we are looking into alternative locations and will make additional information available as we have it.”

In a meeting with VFW leadership and Mayor Scott’s office, city officials expressed their regret and hope the VFW will consider Baltimore for future events.

“I want to thank the VFW for their keen partnership and commitment to public health. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced everyone to make some tough decisions, but our brave veterans remind us that leadership demands courage and the obligation to always do what’s right. Baltimore is a beautiful city that has played a significant role in writing the story of America. While I regret VFW will not experience the culture and history of Baltimore this summer, I am hopeful that our city will remain a desired destination for future events,” said Brandon Scott, mayor of the city of Baltimore.

Anyone who made room reservations directly through VFW Housing will automatically have their reservation cancelled, but any members who made room reservations independently will need to call their hotel and cancel their reservation.

For alerts and up-to-date information on the 122nd VFW National Convention, visit vfw.org/Convention.

-vfw-

About the VFW: The Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. is the nation's largest and oldest major war veterans organization. Founded in 1899, the congressionally chartered VFW is comprised entirely of eligible veterans and military service members from the active, Guard and Reserve forces. With more than 1.5 million VFW and Auxiliary members located in over 6,000 Posts worldwide, the nonprofit veterans service organization is proud to proclaim “NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS” than the VFW, which is dedicated to veterans' service, legislative advocacy, and military and community service programs. For more information or to join, visit our website at vfw.org.

Media Contact: Randi K. Law, communications manager, rlaw@vfw.org

2021-2022 National Officer Announcements

[Jean Hamil - Announcement for National President](#)

[Jane Reape - Announcement for National Sr Vice President](#)

[Carla Martinez - Announcement for National Jr. Vice President](#)

[Ann Panteleakos - Announcement for National Treasurer](#)

[Brenda Bryant - Announcement for National Chaplain](#)

[Lois Callahan - Announcement for National Conductress](#)



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National Representative for Department Convention Ann Panteleakos



Ann Panteleakos

National Secretary-Treasurer

2020-2021

Appointed by National President Sandi Onstwedder and elected to the office of National Treasurer for the 2020-2021 Program Year, Ann is responsible for supervising the daily operation of the organization at National Headquarters in Kansas City. This includes administering financial affairs, clarifying Auxiliary policy and supervising ten staff members. She also serves as a liaison for the National Officers.



She is a Life Member of Albert J. Breault Auxiliary 1523 in Putnam, Connecticut. She has been actively involved in the organization since joining on the eligibility of her father, who served in the U.S. Navy from 1953 to 1957.

She has served this organization at the Auxiliary, District, Department and National level. As 2014-2015 National President, she led the membership under her theme **"Patriotism Begins at Home."** Ann encouraged members to increase membership recruitment and retention efforts and partnered with then-VFW National Commander-in-Chief John W. Stroud to raise nearly \$1 million for the VFW's National Veterans Service program.

In 2005-2006 she was elected Department President and she was named Outstanding Runner-Up President of the Year for her membership group. She has also served this organization as National Eastern Conference Chairman for the Mentoring and Publicity Programs and as Director for the Young American Creative Patriotic Art/Voice of Democracy Program.

Ann is a Life Member of the VFW National Home for Children, the Military Order of the Cooties Auxiliary (MOCA) and is an ancillary member of the Marine Corps League Auxiliary. She serves on the Board of Trustees for the VFW National Home for Children, the Board of Directors for the VFW Foundation and the Board of Directors for the VFW Retirement Plan.

Ann's family includes two adult children, son Tyler and daughter Nicole.

**Department Secretary/Treasurer
Kim Sloan**

Below are District, Department & National



Delegate Instructions and Forms. This information is also on the Department webpage - vfwauxaz.org under resources/secretary

2021 – 2022 District Delegates and Alternates Instructions

- **Review Bylaws Sec 303**

Delegates and Alternates to Districts shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Auxiliary held not less than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the District Convention at which the District Officers are to be elected.

All District Conventions this year will be held in April, so Auxiliaries should elect their Delegates and Alternates at the March Auxiliary meeting.

- **Number of Delegates and Alternates**

National Bylaws state that the number of Delegates and Alternates may be set forth differently in the Department Bylaws. Department of Arizona Bylaws call for one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate for every ten (10) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Auxiliary at the time of the election.

EXAMPLE:

On the night Delegates and Alternates are to be elected, MALTA shows the Auxiliary has 102 members in good standing.

102 divided by 10 = 10.2 (.2 is fraction thereof and so you round up to 11)

Therefore the Auxiliary would elect 11 Delegates and 11 Alternates

- **Election**

Delegates and Alternates are elected by the members – they are NOT appointed. Most Auxiliaries have more Delegates/Alternates than attend Auxiliary meetings. Note that members do not have to be present to be elected as a Delegate or Alternate. The membership should consider those members who may not be able to attend Auxiliary meetings but do attend District meetings. All Delegates and Alternates must be members in good standing of that Auxiliary (life members or current annual members).

- **District Composition Members**

The Auxiliary President has his/her own vote at the District meetings and should be listed at the bottom of the form AND as an Alternate in the right column.

Any Past Department President, District Officer or Past District President that is a member of your Auxiliary has their own vote at District meetings/convention. They should be listed at the bottom of the form and should be considered for election as an Alternate.

If the Auxiliary President is the only Delegate or Alternate at a District Meeting, he/she may choose to vote as a Delegate rather than as Auxiliary President. In the example above, the Auxiliary is entitled to 11 votes (each Delegate has one vote) plus the President's vote. But if the President chooses to vote as a Delegate (which he/she may do if all of the Delegates are not present) he/she would cast 11 votes instead of just the President's vote.

- **PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION – If you have a large Auxiliary consider attaching list of Delegates and Alternates to the Delegate form.**

- **Submit to District Secretary**

The Auxiliary Secretary is responsible for sending the names of the Delegates and Alternates to the District Secretary. This list should be sent immediately after election.

2021-2022

District Delegates and Alternates

District **Auxiliary** _____

PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION

Delegates		Alternates	
1		1	
2		2	
3		3	
4		4	
5		5	
6		6	
7		7	
8		8	
9		9	
10		10	
11		11	
12		12	
13		13	
14		14	
15		15	
16		16	
17		17	
18		18	
19		19	
20		20	

USE SECOND SHEET IF NECESSARY

The following District convention composition members have their own vote.

NAME	OFFICE
	Auxiliary President
	District Office - District President
	District Office - (insert office)
	District Office - (insert office)
	Department President
	Past Department President
	Past District President
	Past District President
	Past District President

2021-2022 DEPARTMENT Delegates and Alternates Instructions

- **Review Bylaws Sec 304**

Delegates and Alternates to the Department Meetings and Convention shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Auxiliary held not less than thirty (30) calendar days prior to the Department Convention.

Auxiliaries should elect their Delegates and Alternates at their April or May meeting.

- **Number of Delegates and Alternates**

National Bylaws state that the number of Delegates and Alternates may be set forth differently in the Department Bylaws. Department of Arizona Bylaws call for one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate for every ten (10) members or fraction thereof in good standing in the Auxiliary at the time of the election.

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On the night Delegates and Alternates are to be elected, MALTA shows the Auxiliary has 102 members in good standing.

102 divided by 10 = 10.2 (.2 is fraction thereof and so you round up to 11)

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- **Election**

Delegates and Alternates are elected by the members – they are NOT appointed. Most Auxiliaries have more Delegates/Alternates than attend Auxiliary meetings. Note that members do not have to be present to be elected as a Delegate or Alternate. The membership should consider those members who may not be able to attend Auxiliary meetings but do attend the Department Convention. All Delegates and Alternates must be members in good standing of that Auxiliary (life members or current annual members).

- **Department Composition Members**

The Auxiliary President has his/her own vote at the Department Convention and should be listed at the bottom of the form AND as an Alternate in the right column.

The National District Council Member, any Department Officer and Past Department Presidents, that are members of your Auxiliary have their own vote at Department Convention. They should be listed at the bottom of the form and should be considered for election as an Alternate. They will need to notify the Credentials Chairman if they are voting as a Delegate or voting their own vote.

If the Auxiliary President is the only Delegate or Alternate at the Department Convention, he/she may choose to vote as a Delegate rather than as Auxiliary President. In the example above, the Auxiliary is entitled to 11 votes (each Delegate has one vote) plus the President's vote. But if the President chooses to vote as a Delegate (which he/she may do if all of the Delegates are not present) he/she would cast 11 votes instead of just the President's vote.

- **PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION – It is acceptable to print the list and attach it to the Delegate form.**

**2021-2022
DEPARTMENT Delegates and Alternates**

Auxiliary _____

PRINT OR TYPE ALL INFORMATION

Delegates		Alternates	
1		1	
2		2	
3		3	
4		4	
5		5	
6		6	
7		7	
8		8	
9		9	
10		10	
11		11	
12		12	
13		13	
14		14	
15		15	
16		16	
17		17	
18		18	
19		19	
20		20	

USE SECOND SHEET IF NECESSARY

The following convention composition members have their own vote.

NAME	OFFICE
	Auxiliary President
	National District Council Member
	Department President
	Past Department President
	Past Department President
	Department Officer
	Department Officer
	Department Officer
	Department Officer

Buddy Poppy/National Home

Connie Hargreaves



Well, my year as "Buddy Poppy /National Home" chairman is coming to an end. I want to thank all those Auxiliaries that got their Project Reports in! It is inspiring to see what you all did during the "Year of the Pandemic!"

Let us not forget to continue supporting "Buddy Poppy" and National Home in May and June. They have once again had to cancel their Jr. Vice Commander and President's training program due to COVID19 restrictions which also means there is still no fundraising till the numbers come down more.

May and June offer some wonderful opportunities to educate and promote "Buddy Poppy" and National Home.

- May Day or Loyalty Day, May 1st – Put Poppies on the ribbon, utilize a May Pole, set out a table with a donation jar and information on National Home. May 1 is a day set aside "for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States and the recognition of the heritage of American freedom". Hand out May baskets of poppies and goodies. Great way to send home pamphlets.
- National Day of Prayer, May 6th - Place Poppies on a table, do a display with praying hands.
- Mother's Day, May 9th – Honor all Mothers with a breakfast or lunch, have the Comrades serve them the meal, wrap silverware in napkins with poppies. Great time to honor military Gold Star, Blue Star, Silver Star, and White Star Mothers.
- Armed Forces Day, May 15th – Honoring those who are currently serving; prepare a homemade meal, and invite those serving or their families. Let them know about the opportunities for their families at National Home and those who help families while their spouse is away. Tell people about how the one thing has remained constant: The National Home's commitment to honor our nation's veterans and active-duty military by providing help and hope for their children and families. Give away a Life membership to National Home. Set up a display of Flags and include Poppies and Membership applications to National Home. Remember, you do not have to belong to the VFW or its Auxiliary to become a Life Member at National Home, and what a great way to promote the National Home to the community.
- National Poppy Day, May 21st - The red poppy is the nationally recognized symbol of sacrifice that is worn by Americans since World War I to honor those who served and died for our Country in all wars. Present everyone with a Poppy, set a centerpiece made of Poppies on the tables and bar along with donation containers. Have a desert day; red velvet cupcakes with a poppy for a \$3 donation. The dessert can be sold at all meals starting the week before and ending with a raffle on Poppy Day.
- Memorial Day, May 31st – Perfect Poppy Day, attach Poppy and Dog Tag, place a giving tree, or create a tree of Poppies on a wall, put out Poppy Coloring Books, red poppy tags with a poppy on it to place on a

tree or to make a tree on the wall. Place names of those who have passed for a small donation.

- Flag Day, June 14th – Place a poppy on a stick flag and hand it out at the flag-raising, have a poppy can or jar for donations. Maybe have Betsy Ross presenting the flags.
-

One last thing!! Did your Auxiliary President do a great job? How about saying thank you by purchasing a Life Membership to National Home or a Brick at the National Home?

Please remember those that have given their all, their families, and friends. Remember to wear red on Fridays and to always tell members, and the community about our Active duty and Veterans and what they do to keep us free. Remind them we must never forget!

Thank you all for making this year a success through all the obstacles COVID19 threw at us!



Auxiliary Community Outreach Kim Harney

“Be the Difference”

Three simple yet very powerful words that also fit our Community Outreach Program.

According to Steve Gutzler who is the President of Leadership Quest, a Seattle-based leadership development company, there are 10 high impact qualities of difference makers:

- Think of others first
- Think beyond your self-interest
- Build a fire of passion and compassion
- Build a team that compliments your gifts in order to multiply your impact
- Be positive, optimistic, and contagious
- Be active not passive
- Stand out by serving
- Treat each day as God’s gift to you
- Be a difference maker
- Fall back in love with what you do

As we head into a new reporting year and begin planning our year full of projects; in your meetings ask your members how your auxiliary can “Be the Difference”. How can you help to improve the lives of others – not just our veterans and their families but everyone around us.

We can show others that live in our community what a great organization the VFW Auxiliary is and that we can “**Be a Difference**”.

Youth Co-Chairs – Carolyn Quinton & Stephanie Quinton



As this year comes to an end, please remember that libraries are open all year. Our youth can be learning and exploring all year.

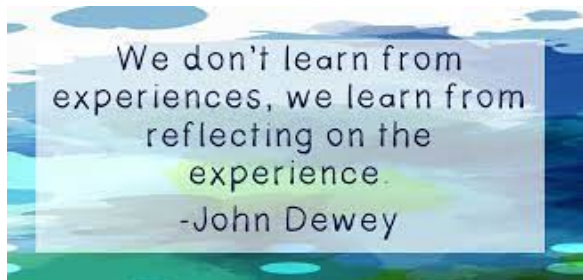
Your Auxiliary can get started on next year's activities and reaching out to youth groups to promote Youth Activities and let us pray that the year gets better! Keeping our Youth involved in activities that we, as an Auxiliary, do, even in this pandemic, will show them that we care and support our youth and we will help them meet their goals they have for their future.

As we move closer to a new school year and hopefully a better year when all students are back in their chairs; we can visit schools and again and start working with our youth who deserve our wisdom, knowledge, and creativity.

We would like to thank all Auxiliaries for having us as your Youth Activities Department Co-Chairs. It has been a very hard, difficult, frustrating, exhausting, productive, and fun year to say the least.

We enjoyed reading all the project report entries that came in. Even in this difficult year, our Auxiliaries have come through with flying colors. It was very hard to pick just a few entries for awards but all who submitted will receive a citation.

“HONORING THE PAST WHILE EDUCATING THE FUTURE”



Chief of Staff Donna Ventola

Saddle Up Team Arizona.
This month's topic is Reflect and Celebrate the Year.

May is the month to reflect, celebrate and prepare to transition to a new program year.

Reflect- take a few minutes to reflect on your Auxiliary year. As you reflect, ask yourself this, do you feel good about your contribution and attitude towards the Auxiliary and its members? Never lose sight to be a positive contributor to the success of your Auxiliary.

Celebrate- as you reflect on the past year, it's time to also celebrate the many accomplishments made, no matter how small they are.

- Acknowledge the excitement of growth in your membership and

- encouraging someone new the opportunity to be a valued member.
- Share the success of your awesomeness projects which projected a positive image of the Auxiliary.
- Celebrate the many opportunities you were granted to create a positive experience or change affecting our Veterans, families, active duty, and communities.
- Spend a few minutes at your meetings to celebrate your members and their accomplishments.
- Take time to celebrate the many years of service the dedicated individuals gave to the Auxiliary.
- Celebrate you, if it wasn't for you there wouldn't be the Auxiliary.

Transition- we can not lose sight that we still have work to be completed for the 2020-2021 program year. Membership continues to still need our attention and we must not give up the task of reaching out to those members that have not renewed their membership or reaching out to those potential new members. We can always mentor those individuals that have volunteered to hold any office or chairmanship for the ensuing year. Offer guidance, assistance, and support.

Remember the installation report is due by June 30th. It is required to supply the information for the following officers- President, Senior Vice, Junior Vice, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, Conductor/Conductress, Guard, and all 3 Trustees.

Congratulations to all that will assume office in the ensuing year. I hope you have an amazing year and accomplish great things.

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**



The new reporting year has begun. **READY, SET, GO!**

READY - Now is the time to start mentoring on our programs. You may not have all the details yet as all of that information may not have come down the ladder but the basics about each program is a great way to start.

SET – Have a round table planning meeting to explain the programs, plan events on your calendar, backdate those events so they can be advertised at the appropriate time, and get volunteers to lead the projects/events. A good example of a planning meeting can be viewed on the Department website, www.vfwauxaz.org. Under Resources look for VFW Auxiliary Mock Planning Meeting. Encourage new ideas, keep an open mind, and encourage new ideas. We all learn new things from each other.

GO – Get your Officers Installed, your Committees/Chairmen/Project Leaders appointed, and get a great start on 2021-2022!

Peace is not when everyone agrees. It is when we can respect our disagreements and still play in the sandbox.



Scholarships Jeanne Hampton

What an accomplishment this year has been! We have worked alongside our VFW Comrades for the success of Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen, looked for unique ways to recognize those student entries, as well as how to promote the VFW

Auxiliary Scholarships National- Continuing Education and Young American Creative Patriotic Arts, and Department of Arizona Merit and Educational Grant information out to students and Auxiliary Members.

You did it! And, the amazing way it was done- Flamingo saddlebags, blood drive information table, Community Family Fun Festival event information table, back-to-school backpack drive-thru, First Friday events, canvassing Schools, Facebook, social media, newspapers, contributing to the National and Department Young American Creative Patriotic Arts Escrow Funds, every one amazing. Though COVID19 may have broken our hearts and kept us apart, it did not break our spirit of hope. Thank you.

It has been an honor to be invited and to serve as Scholarship Chairman for the Department of Arizona. Challenging with so many unknown factors. Watching the way those challenges were met has been inspirational.

The new Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen topics have been announced- Voice of Democracy, for students grades 9, 10, 11, 12 **"Where do We Go from Here?"**, and Patriot's Pen, grades 6, 7, 8 **"How Can I Be a Good American?"**. Please begin to promote these Scholarships. Many schools will be continuing with summer school studies. Though this VFW Auxiliary Scholarship year has closed, on the horizon are new opportunities to reach out and share information.

The Department of Arizona entries for Young American Creative Patriotic Arts will be on display at the Department Convention in June. Please view the amazing talent of these high school students. Consider ordering the past winning entry 3 x 5 cards from the VFW Store to use as promotion of next year's Scholarship information.

Take a moment, too, to become more familiar with the 3 VFW Auxiliary Scholarships that are a benefit of being a member or related to an Auxiliary member.

An especial shout-out to one 6th grade instructor at Kingman Academy of Learning, who begins each school year by giving examples of Patriotism to her students- in song, in symbol, in political events (voting), in Military Service and Veterans, in citizenship. In reading over the more than 98 Patriot's Pen entries, from this one instructor, she inspired them, but each of the 6th-grade students wrote of their idea of what Patriotism was to them. Thank you, Mary Scheidegger.

Please remember to thank the Auxiliary members, the students, the instructors, the parents, and the comrades who inspire us to continue in service to Veteran Programs.

So thankful to have never ridden alone. Thank you.

Veterans and Family Support **Lynn Pierre**



May is the month of the Military Caregiver. Please remember, those folks who care for others suffer their own kinds of stress. There are many ways we can help care for them. Sometimes just being a good listener will do it! Other times, we might be able to give them a couple hours of “respite” care – care for their loved one and give them a few hours off. Bring them a meal or deliver a gift card inside a Thank You note. Something that simple may be enough to brighten their day.

Military Assistance Program (MAP) Funds can be a huge help to those of us who work with Family Readiness Groups (FRGs). If you support a Troop, consider adopting them. For guidelines on adopting a unit, please see our Arizona Department web page at vfwauxaz.org. Click on Programs tab then scroll down to Veterans and Family Support.

Mental Wellness and Suicide Prevention are paramount in our endeavor to assist our Veterans. PLEASE get out the Veterans' Crisis Line via social media, newsletters, media releases and any other way you can. The number is, 1-800-273-8255. Confidential support is available 24/7 and 365 days per year. Also, support for deaf and the hard of hearing is available. Hint: store the helpline number in your phone so you always have it ready if someone is in need.

Purchase the Suicide Awareness Pin at the VFW Store and wear it always. It can start a conversation which may lead to help for someone. If only one person ever asks about it, it will be well worth the wearing. An average of 22 military folks take their own lives every day – we must do something to get this number down to nothing!

Remember, Unmet Needs can help in a crisis. For those folks who are having difficulty with every day life, this can be a huge help. A grant of up to \$1,500.00 can be a huge help in bridging the gap between providing meals,

paying a mortgage or replacing a car part that prevents a veteran or family member from getting to work. Please provide them with the website to get this assistance: www.vfw.org/assistance/financial .

You have all done such an amazing job of getting the job done throughout a hugely tethered year. You thought outside the box and came up with ways to continue our much-needed support for our veterans and our families and I am so very proud to be a member of the VFW Auxiliary Department of Arizona!



Americanism Vickie Rippel

Keep Americanism Alive

It is our responsibility as Auxiliary members to keep Americanism alive! How you ask? There

are many ways to do this, including:

- Practice with both new and seasoned members Flag etiquette, e.g. how to properly display the Flag, retire the Flag, or stand and salute for the Flag.
- At the end of each meeting, gently remind members what patriotic holiday is next.
- Teach the youth of America. Set up a day and time to instruct youth on Pledge of Allegiance, “The Star-Spangled Banner,” even how to fold or retire the Flag.
- Recognize members of the community who promote America’s patriotic traditions and show honor and respect to our Flag. A simple “thank you” and a citation goes a long way!
- Use social media to share information about patriotic days. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Snapchat, and YouTube are the most used.

Information and brochures can be found at https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/Patriotic-Holidays-updated_2020.pdf Please download and distribute!

May 1: Loyalty Day is a day set aside for the reaffirmation of loyalty to the United States and for recognizing the heritage of American freedom. Loyalty Day originally began as “Americanization Day” in 1921 as a counter to the Communists’ May 1 celebration of the Russian Revolution. On May 1, 1930, 10,000 VFW members staged a rally at New York’s Union Square to promote patriotism. Through a resolution adopted in 1949, May 1 evolved into Loyalty Day. Observances began on April 28, 1950, and culminated May 1, when more than five million people across the nation held rallies. In New York City, more than 100,000 people rallied for America. In 1958, Congress enacted Public Law 529 proclaiming Loyalty Day a permanent fixture on the nation’s calendar

May 7: Military Spouse Appreciation Day- On Military Spouse Appreciation Day we honor the contributions and sacrifices made by military spouses. Their commitment and support help to keep our country safe. America's military spouses are the backbone of the families who support our troops during mission, deployment, reintegration and reset. Military spouses are silent heroes who are essential to the strength of the nation, and they serve our country just like their loved ones.

In celebration of Military Spouse Appreciation Day, the armed forces have special events and programs to inform, honor, and recognize military spouses around the world. Events range from spouse appreciation luncheons to educational workshops, and spouse employment fairs that pay tribute to military spouses

Read more: <https://militarybenefits.info/military-spouse-appreciation-day/#ixzz6tMuPeBSt>

May 8: Victory in Europe Day (commonly known as V-E Day), marks the formal acceptance by the Allies of World War II of Nazi Germany's unconditional surrender of its armed forces, therefore marking the end of World War II. On April 30, Adolf Hitler, the Nazi leader, committed suicide during the Battle of Berlin. Germany's surrender, therefore, was authorized by his successor, Reichspräsident Karl Dönitz. The act of military surrender was signed on May 7 in Reims, France, and on May 8 in Berlin, Germany. Upon the defeat of Germany (Italy having already surrendered), cheers could be heard throughout the world. In the United States, the victory happened on President Harry Truman's 61st birthday, and massive celebrations took place in Los Angeles, Chicago, Miami, and New York.

May 15: Armed Forces Day is a day to honor Americans currently serving in the five branches of the U.S. military as well as the National Guard and Reserve units. Led by the effort of President Harry S. Truman to establish a single day for Americans to thank the nation's military members for their service to our country, Armed Forces Day was created on August 31, 1949, following the unification of the armed forces under the U.S. Department of Defense. First observed on May 20, 1950, the day was designed to replace separate Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard Days, but the separate days are still observed, particularly within their respective services.

May 31: Memorial Day is a day to honor the men and women who died while serving in America's Armed Forces. Originally called "Decoration Day," it originated after the Civil War to commemorate those who died in the war by decorating their graves. It was declared "Memorial Day" by federal law in 1967, by which time the remembrance had been extended to honor all Americans who died while serving in America's armed forces. Many people celebrate Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries and memorials; volunteers place American flags on every grave in national cemeteries. Memorial Day, May 30 (traditional), is a day sacred to all war veterans. America's collective consciousness demands that all citizens be reminded of the deaths of their fellow countrymen. By honoring the nation's war dead, we preserve their memory, and thus their service and sacrifice. All U.S. flags should be displayed at half-staff during the morning hours. At noon, they should be raised back to full-staff.

June 14: Flag Day celebrates the adoption of the flag the official symbol for

the United States: our Stars and Stripes. This day was first recognized by Congress on June 14, 1777, which became known as Flag Day. The U.S. flag has 13 stripes: seven red and six white. A blue field with 50 stars is located next to the staff in the upper left corner of the flag. It extends from the top to the lower edge of the fourth red stripe. The stars are arranged in alternating rows of six and five representing the 50 states of the United States. The stars do not represent any given state. The colors used in the flag give special meaning to the flag: Red for valor and zeal; white for hope and cleanliness of life; and blue -- the color of heaven -- for reverence and loyalty.

Legislative Bambi Johnson

SUCCESS AFTER SERVICE.

Think about what we are trying to accomplish with the Priority Goals that are set each year. We are trying to ensure that each person who stepped forward for our country in the name of freedom through their military service, is given the best possible of Success After Service.



During the Spring 2021 Legislative Conference, held March 1-3, 2021, the four top priorities were discussed during this virtual event.

1. **Veterans' Benefits:** Toxic Exposure: A comprehensive reform bill is needed to cover a range of diseases associated with toxic exposure, which can be caused by both environmental and airborne sources. Currently, they are only adding diseases piecemeal as new claims are brought.

Although Agent Orange Presumptive Diseases (Bladder Cancer, Hypothyroidism, and Parkinsonism, have been included by law as of December 2020, the claims are still "On-hold" until the VA finishes guidelines on how to process these claims. Hypertension and MGUS (Monoclonal Gammopathy of Undetermined Significance) need to be added as Presumptive diseases.

2. **Veteran Health Care:** Telehealth is one of the best options for a veteran to receive VA care closer to home, and **ATLAS (Accessing Telehealth through Local Area Stations)** can expand the Telehealth options to our rural communities. These points of care offer both the technology and privacy for veterans to connect with VA health care.

Veteran suicide with regards to Covid-19. It will take time to assess how the pandemic has affected our veterans regarding loss of employment, isolation, food insecurity, housing, and financial insecurities. We must be even more aware of our veterans' emotional wellness to quickly align them with the resources to help them.

Women Veterans need the VA to expand women-specific substance abuse treatments & programs as well as increase education for its staff regarding cultural training, eliminating harassment and assault, and reduce the cost of

reproductive treatment to match what non-veteran women pay.

3. **Economic Opportunity:** The entire country has been hit hard with unemployment and our veterans have not been spared. We are asking that Congress add a fourth administration to the VA which would exclusively focus on economic opportunity benefits for veterans. We need a rapid retraining program to help those veterans whose military skills do not match up with civilian fields and put them on a path to educate and acquire high-demand occupations.

4. **Military Personnel & Retirement:** Dept. of Defense (DOD) retired pay and Dept. of Veterans Affairs (VA) service-related disability pay are different benefits earned for different reasons. Currently, military retirees that are less than 50 percent service-related disabled have to offset their retirement pay by the amount they receive for their disability. The Major Richard Star Act, if passed by Congress, would enable veterans discharged due to combat-related injuries to be entitled to DOD longevity payments AND VA disability payments without offset.

Program years start and end...the desire for **Success After Service** for our veterans is constant. Every day, each one of us has the ability to shorten the path to that Success. Keep your voice in those legislative ears so that they can have the combined voice of all of us, when they speak in Congress!



Hospital Melissa Martin

Hey Everyone! I can't believe we are almost done with this year's events. The state convention is just around the corner and it will be nice to see everyone again. The Hospital blog on the National Auxiliary website was really good

this month, so I'm going to share with you a little bit because she had some really good ideas.

For today, consider MIA is not "Missing in Action" but as it applies to our Hospital Program it stands for "**Missing in America**". Many of us have taken to looking for and finding our veteran patients right where we know they are going to be-- at the VA Hospitals, CLC's and veterans' homes we serve. Did you know, however, that most of our veterans receiving long-term care are **not** in a VA facility? **NOPE**, most are right around the corner from you in your local nursing homes, convalescent centers, and assisted living facilities. Most of our veterans in long-term care never see a person from the VFW Auxiliary's Hospital Program because they are not where we are used to finding them.

For a new season Spring, lets reclaim our veterans Missing in America;

- Contact your local nursing home.
- Contact your local memory care /convalescent center.
- Contact your local assisted living.

- Involve Auxiliary members who are too far from a VA facility to volunteer there (they are not too far from their own local nursing homes!)

I hope this gives us all some really good ideas to reach out to our Veterans. I am still doing a diaper drive and would like to see more diapers and other baby items brought to State Convention. See you all soon.

**Historian/Media
Brenda Kinghorn**



Wow! What a year. The pandemic did not hold us back.

The Auxiliaries of Arizona, with the help of Madam President Melody, Secretary/Treasurer Kim, Line Officers; Janae, Johnnie, Bambi, and Lynne along with Donna, Chrissy, and Kim Harney and Department Program Chairmen were all thinking outside of the box.

Handing out food boxes and dinners in drive-thru settings to Veterans and their families.

We were able to help the Posts get out the Scholarship entries and have local award ceremonies.

The VFW and Auxiliary License plate was stalled, we hit the Senate and pushed it through.

Because of the Auxiliaries retaining our members and receiving new memberships, DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA HIT 100% MEMBERSHIP!

We had Buddy Poppy assembly get together to help Disabled Veterans. Helped in the Communities with water, food, and school supplies. Educating the Youth of Arizona about Americanism.

Dropping off goodies and crafts to the nursing homes and supplies to Veteran mother's to-be.

Thank you for all the photos, flyers, and videos.



**Membership
Ray Williams**

Thank you to the Auxiliaries that achieved greatness this year. Greatness does not necessarily mean that you reached a particular goal but it means that you

did the best you could do.

We've achieved greatness because our members recognized the value of their

membership and because we've been able to recruit new members during a very difficult year.

Some Auxiliaries did well but we all struggled this year with COVID-19. Now is the time for us to be thankful for getting through the pandemic and start to look forward.

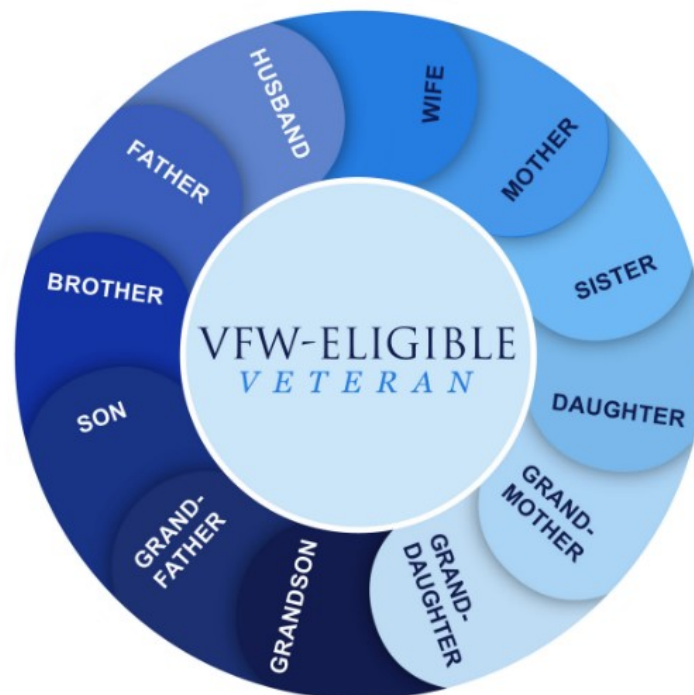
I challenge you all to communicate your gratitude to your members and thank them for their continued service to the VFW Auxiliary.

Thank you to all of our Member Angels - those that stepped up and helped their fellow members by paying dues for those in need. Auxiliary Treasurers - be sure to let the Department Treasurer know how many Member Angels in your Auxiliary so she can send you Angel pins for those members.

Auxiliaries that reached 100% goal have received their pennants, Auxiliaries that reached over 100+% have received their streamers and both groups received monetary awards. Recruiters received their Recruiter coin and/or their Recruiter pin/rocker. We wanted to recognize those members and Auxiliaries in front of their members so these were handed out at District Conventions.

Department President Judd and I are so proud of all of you! You have proven that "No One Rides Alone".

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.*

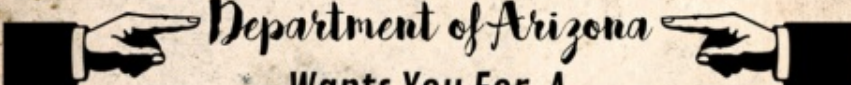
Program Activity Reports

Kim Harney

Thank you to every Auxiliary that turned in PARs during the year. It is important that as a Department we turn in our accomplishments on a yearly basis to National. It is the one way we are able to keep our non profit status. That information comes from the PARs you send in either monthly or quarterly.

I have enjoyed being the chairman for this program this year however, Melody Judd will be taking over this program for the 2021-2022 year. There will be small changes to the report that will be available after convention. For now, keep using the old one and she will keep track of your data. Her email is melodyfaye@frontier.com. Any reports that are sent to me will be forwarded on to Melody. There is no need for you to resend them.

WANTED

 Department of Arizona
Wants You For A

HOMECOMING HOEDOWN

to celebrate

COMMANDER JEFF EILER & PRESIDENT MELODY JUDD

Western Brisket & Rib Dinner with all the Fix'ens
\$25.00 per person - Children under 12 Eat for Free
Deadline to get tickets April 30, 2021

Saturday, May 22, 2021

From 11:00 am - 4:00PM - Dinner Served at High Noon
The Show Low Elks Lodge Pavilion
805 E. Whipple, Show Low Arizona

RSVP: Melody Judd @ melodyfaye@frontier.com

Send Checks to: Melody Judd, 381 N. 3rd Ave., Show Low AZ 85901



Arizona VFW & Auxiliary CONVENTION 2021

El Conquistador Tucson

(a Hilton Resort)
**Thursday June 17-
Sunday June 19, 2021
Reservation Code VFW**

Request special considerations (handicap, first floor etc...)

Room Rates: Standard Room \$94.00+

Casita Suite \$174.00 +

Junior Suite \$134.00+

Deadline for Reservations May 24, 2021

520-544-5000

Tentative Convention Schedule

TUESDAY JUNE 15, 2021

2:00 PM – 5:00 PM VFW Auxiliary District Presidents' Training

WEDNESDAY JUNE 16, 2021

9:00 AM – 12:00 PM VFW Auxiliary District Presidents' Training

1:00 PM – 4:00 PM REGISTRATION - VFW and VFW Auxiliary

THURSDAY JUNE 17, 2021

8:00 AM- 1:00 PM REGISTRATION - VFW and VFW Auxiliary

9:00 AM VFW and VFW Auxiliary JOINT OPENING

12:00 PM ADJOURN (Lunch on your own)

1 PM VFW and VFW Auxiliary JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICE

3:00 PM VFW AUXILIARY OPENING SESSION

FRIDAY JUNE 18, 2021

7:00 AM VFW Auxiliary Past President's Club Breakfast

8:00 AM - 1:00 PM REGISTRATION - VFW and VFW Auxiliary

9:00 AM VFW OPENING BUSINESS SESSIONS

(Nomination of 2021-22 Department Officers)

9:30 AM VFW AUXILIARY RESUME BUSINESS SESSION

12:00 PM LUNCH (on your own)

2:00 PM VFW AUXILIARY RESUME BUSINESS SESSION

5:00 PM PAST DEPARTMENT COMMANDERS CLUB DINNER

(Location to be announced)

SATURDAY JUNE 19, 2021

8:00 AM- 10:00 AM REGISTRATION - VFW and VFW Auxiliary

8:00AM FLAG RAISING AT MAIN ENTRANCE (VFW Riders)

9:00 AM VFW & AUXILIARY RESUME BUSINESS SESSIONS

SCHOOLS OF INSTRUCTION - ALL Service Officers,

Chaplains, QM's, Trustees, Inspectors & VMS

(30 minutes after business session)

5:00 PM DEPARTMENT COMMANDER & PRESIDENT

BANQUET - JOINT INSTALLATION OF 2021-2022

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

All VFW and Auxiliary members to be installed must purchase a banquet ticket

SUNDAY JUNE 20, 2021

10:00 AM

INCOMING COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MEETING



Commander & President Reception

Saturday June 19, 5:00 pm

\$38.00 pp (you must make a reservation by June 1)

RETURN THIS FORM TO DEPARTMENT HQ'S

Tickets will not be mailed. Pick up your tickets at the VFW registration table at convention.

**Make Check Payable to VFW Dept of AZ
Mail Checks to: Veterans of Foreign Wars
6423 S. Ash Ave Tempe, AZ 85283**

Dinner Selections

Roasted Sirloin Steak w/Demi-Glace and Sauteed Mushrooms

Chicken Verde w/Red Pepper Puree

Both include Mashed Potatoes and Creamy Spinach

***Dairy Free, Gluten Free and Vegetarian meals by special request*

Includes Mixed Green Salad, Lemon Cream Sheet Cake

NAME OF POST OR AUXILIARY - *Please indicate your choice of meal and quantity*

Roasted Sirloin Steak w/Demi-Glace and Sauteed Mushrooms

- Chicken Verde w/Red Pepper Puree*
- Dairy Free*
- Gluten Free*
- Vegetarian*

******DUE TO CURRENT COVID RESTRICTIONS TABLE SEATING IS LIMITED TO 8
SUBJECT TO CHANGE IF THERE IS A RISE IN COVID CASE NUMBERS**

**IF YOU WISH TO RESERVE A TABLE FOR 8 PLEASE SEND ONLY 1 CHECK "TABLE OF 8"
ALONG WITH MEAL SELECTIONS FOR ENTIRE TABLE
ALL OTHER SEATING IS FIRST COME FIRST SERVED**

Auxiliary Past-Presidents' Club
Auxiliary VFW Department of Arizona
Meeting – Friday – June 18, 2021

2020-2021 GREENIES (Outgoing Presidents on All Levels),

It's time to gather for **breakfast**, have some fun, take care of business, and welcome the newest batch of Past Presidents! The Annual Business Meeting will be held during the Department Convention in Tucson, AZ at the El Conquistador – Hilton resort.

During our last business meeting it was requested to plan a BREAKFAST.
MENU: Scrambled eggs with cheese and salsa, bacon, muffins with butter and preserves.
Coffee, Decaf coffee and hot tea.

The Auxiliary Past Presidents' Club or APPC, donates funds each year to the Arizona VA Medical Centers in Prescott, Phoenix, and Tucson. The VAVS Representatives will report during the meeting on how our funds were used to help our veterans.

All outgoing Presidents on every level are "Greenies" (so named because green is the official color for the APPC). Greenies are asked to make a special fundraising effort by first asking your Auxiliary to donate \$50.00 to the Arizona Past Presidents Club (APPC), selling raffle tickets throughout the year, and at Department Convention. Raffle tickets are 3 for \$1.00...so Auxiliary receives 150 tickets in their name for the \$50 donation. Greenies need to provide their own raffle tickets. Identify the tickets with either a name and telephone number, or Auxiliary number. Winners need not be present. Checks should be made to APPC and mailed to Debi Rankin, APPC Secretary/Treasurer – PO Box 5003, Apache Junction, AZ 85718-0018 – **Tickets & Money can also be turned in at convention!** Winning tickets will be drawn for prizes!

The APPC \$2.50 Dues, \$1.50 Project dues, and \$18 Meal = \$22.00 should also be mailed to Debi Rankin. **APPC Members can pay and pick up their 2021 cards in the registration area at convention and the card will allow entry to the APPC Meeting.**

Those not attending the breakfast can mail **\$4 for our project and dues** and Debi will mail the membership card directly to you. Please make sure you include your mailing address. You must pay for the luncheon by the **May 17th deadline** – we will not sell tickets at convention.

Bambi Johnson - APPC President
Dsr/BJ

Debi Rankin-APPC Secretary / Treasurer



2021-2022
AUXILIARY PRESIDENT
JEAN HAMIL



AUXILIARY PRESIDENT'S SHIRT
Order the president's shirt, available
only with the embroidery as shown.



- Embroidery included; No additional embroidery available
- 3.4 oz., 55/45 cotton/polyester
- Stain release finish
- Classic fit for professional appearance
- Split back seam with bias cut back yoke
- Straight collar, pearlized buttons
- Machine washable
- French blue
- Imported

7610 Ladies'
7611 Men's pocket
S-XL **\$56.00**
2XL **\$61.00**



Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

VFWSTORE.ORG

Order online:
vfwstore.org

Order by phone:
1.833.VFW.VETS
(1.833.839.8387)

Order by fax:
1.816.968.1115

Order by mail:
VFW Store
406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111

Item No.	Size	Qty	Price

Shipping & Handling	
Up to \$10.00.....	\$4.00
\$10.01 to \$25.00.....	\$7.00
\$25.01 to \$50.00.....	\$9.00
\$50.01 to \$75.00.....	\$12.00
\$75.01 to \$100.00.....	\$15.00
\$100.01 to \$200.00...	\$17.00
\$200.01 to \$300.00...	\$19.00
\$300.01 & Over.....	\$24.00

Product Total	_____
MO Residents only add 8.85% sales tax	_____
Shipping & Handling	_____
Total	_____

VFW Auxiliary # _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

CREDIT CARD MC Visa Discover AmEx

Card # _____

Exp. Date (MM/YYYY) _____

Signature _____



**Purrfecting Care For Our Veterans
Department President Shirt 2021-2022**

This is a Turquoise short sleeve polo shirt. Women's shirt is a V Neck style . Men's shirt has three buttons down the front.

ONE SHIRT ORDER PER FORM

Ladies Size		Quantity	Size	Price
Small to XL	\$24	_____	_____	_____
2X	\$25	_____	_____	_____
3X	\$27	_____	_____	_____
4X	\$29	_____	_____	_____
Men's Size		Quantity	Size	Price
Small to XL	\$24	_____	_____	_____
2X	\$25	_____	_____	_____
3X	\$27	_____	_____	_____
4X	\$29	_____	_____	_____
		Totals	\$	_____

Name: _____ Post / Auxiliary # _____

Email address: _____ Phone: _____

Paid Check #: _____

Send the completed form with payment to:
 Janae Kemery
 55308 W. Hathaway Ave
 Maricopa, AZ, 85319

Orders to be delivered at the Department Convention must be received by May 1, 2020.



**Shirt Fundraiser for Kim Harney's
Campaign for National Guard**

Ladies Size	Quantity	Size	Price
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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