

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®

VFW Auxiliary Arizona November Pinpoints

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Happy Thanksgiving



President Melody's Message

Thank you to all of the Comrades and Auxiliary Members who attended the Fall Conference. I would especially like to thank the Chairmen from the Auxiliary and the VFW for the outstanding training by working together and sharing important information about the VFW and Auxiliary Programs.

I would like to also thank the membership for your generous donations to the Department Food Drive benefiting the Lake Havasu Food Bank. You donated \$1,125.00 and filled two pick-ups with food. Thank you again!

In 2019, when I decided on the theme for the 2020-2021 year, I had no idea of its impact. This year we have been called upon to support not only our members, but our communities to make sure no one rides alone. We have shown that our mission of serving veterans and communities is more necessary every day. With the holiday season upon us, I know we will be continuing the mission of serving together. With the holiday season upon us, let's continue to reach out to our members, who may be alone. If your Post is having a Thanksgiving Dinner, invite them or offer to take them dinner. If you are a member reading this and are alone, reach out to other Auxiliary

members. Let's watch out for each other and make sure that "No One Rides Alone".

Happy Thanksgiving,
Melody



Department Commander Jeff Eiler

To my Brothers and Sisters of the VFW Dept. of Arizona Auxiliary,

It is my Honor to serve as the Department Commander for the VFW. As I travel the state visiting with all of you the welcome everyone has given me is humbling. The road to get to this point has been long and extremely rewarding!! I have gained so much in this journey with knowledge from all of you as well as lifelong friendships.

As an organization, the VFW and our Auxiliary are a strong fighting force for our Veterans and their families. Our joint efforts make this team stronger and the stronger we are the more we can do. I thank you ALL for all your efforts and ask you to keep moving forward through these difficult times. Eventually, things will return to what we are all used to.

In closing, I want to make one thing perfectly clear. I as well as the National Commander supports the Auxiliary and the work all of you do every day! I will not tolerate any bullying of an Auxiliary or any of its members by any Comrade or post. Should I be made aware of an issue by our Department Auxiliary President, it will be investigated fully and dealt with to the best of my ability. Thank you again for all you do!!

With Honor
Jeffrey Eiler STS1/SS USN Ret.
VFW Dept. of Arizona Commander 2020-2021



IN MEMORY OF

It is with great sorrow the Department informs you of the passing of Past Department President Berneice Welch. Berneice was Department President from 2002-2003. She will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.



News from the VFW
National Home for Children

As your representative on the Board of the VFW National Home for Children, I wanted to reach out and update you on the National Home.

I hope that you are all safe, healthy and secure in the midst of this pandemic. As we all know, the impacts of COVID-19 are being felt by everyone in some way or another and some more than others. Despite the challenges we are all facing, the National Home remains committed to providing quality services and resources to our military and veteran families.

At our recent Board Meeting, the Trustees discussed a number of concerns and received updated information. Financially the Home is on better footing than it was earlier this year. While donations had been rising, when the pandemic hit, donations started to trend downward. We are grateful to the donor of a large bequest and we received a PPP loan. Both of those items have helped to keep the “lights on” at the Home. Most of the employees that had been furloughed are back to work although some of the staff are still working remotely. Our investment managers are closing watching the stock market as we expect some impact when the results of the presidential election are announced.

The resident families are all moving forward with their programs, while case managers are adjusting how they interact with the families.

We have a 3-bedroom, 2 bath home available for sponsorship. If that is something that your Department would like to consider, give me a call and I’ll get the sponsorship package out to you for consideration.

I am reaching out to you to help the Home in a more unusual way. We are looking for corporate sponsors from your states to help us to continue our mission of serving military and veteran families. If you have a corporation in your state that you would like to see become one of our sponsors, please send me that information and we will contact them.

In November, VFW Posts and Auxiliaries and National Home members and donors will receive our Fall Appeal – donations are being requested for the **Family Support Services Fund**. These donations will directly support the families that we serve, supporting programming cost incurred helping our military and veteran families meet their individual and family goals. Please consider sending your donations for this fund. We are always grateful to those who respond to our appeals.

As always, I thank you and your members for your continued support. Please reach out to me if there is a question or concern regarding the National Home that I can help with.

KIM SLOAN

District 11 Trustee representing Alaska, Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, Pacific Areas, Utah and Wyoming

Email: auxvfwarizona@msn.com

Phone: 520.307.7940

Americanism Vickie Rippel



Call to Action! Vote!

Voting is a solemn patriotic duty. Here are a few reasons why voting is so important to America's democracy.

*Voting is a demonstrated way to engage in civic responsibility that hopefully brings the common good to all citizens.

*Voting is a commitment to do right by our country, its citizens, and our children now.

*Voting involves critical thinking and healthy discourse for a democratic society to flourish.

*Voting is about citizens participating in our democratic society, regardless of the party, you're affiliated with.

Let's never forget that **"we the people"** are our government; we are the ultimate keepers of our government in America's democracy.

Veterans Day, Wednesday, November 11th

Veterans Day is a time for us to pay our respects to those who have served. For one day, we stand united in respect for our veterans.

This holiday started as a day to reflect upon the heroism of those who died in our country's service and was originally called **Armistice Day**. It fell on Nov. 11 because that is the anniversary of the signing of the Armistice that ended World War I. However, in 1954, the holiday was changed to "Veterans Day" in order to account for all veterans in all wars.

We celebrate and honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good.

Promoting Patriotism in Our Communities

Below are links to the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance bookmarks. Print them on card stock, cut them out. Drop them off at your local library, senior center, and your schools to promote patriotism in the community.

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/The-National-Anthem-Pledge-Bookmarks-.pdf>

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/The-National-Anthem-Pledge-Bookmarks-2.pdf>

Auxiliary Community Outreach Kim Harney



Fall is in the air and the holidays are quickly approaching. We are all trying to do the best we can with the way things are right now. How can we help our communities with the current restrictions? How do we want to be perceived by our communities? We can no longer wait for the community to come to

us. We need to be proactive and present ourselves to the community. As we start to plan how to help others during holidays, we must get creative in our thinking.

As our Auxiliaries began to think of how to help the community, we need to remember that no project is too small nor does it need to be a huge undertaking. Some ideas may include: 1) cleaning out our closets – go through your closet and items that you haven't worn in the last 6 months put them in a bag to donate to local charities; 2) when shopping pick up a few extra non-perishables that can be dropped off at the local food bank; or 3) on your next walk, take a plastic bag with you and pick up trash you see while walking.

In addition to these, you may encourage members to reach out during the holidays. Check with your shelters and see if they need additional items; are your members creative – is there something as a group that you could make to donate to others or maybe your local school could use items. The list is only as short as we make it – the sky's the limit for ways we as an organization can help our communities.

Remember during these times, that some of us are more blessed than others and as human beings, now is the time to try and pass those blessings on to others that may be in need of them.

Buddy Poppy/National Home Home Connie Hargreaves



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

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.
2. Amazon Smile: If you're 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 us in their legal will! You can support the VFW National Home for Children forever without paying a cent today using our free will-writing tool. It's an easy way to protect the people and causes you care about the most, and help the military and veteran families living here for many years to come.

As we continue to spend a lot of time at home, what better activity than putting

together one of these 150 piece puzzles (see above picture) featuring a beautiful scene of the VFW National Home for Children! They can be purchased at the [VFW National Home for Children Gift Shop](#) for only \$15 and proceeds from all sales go to help the military and veteran families living at the National Home.

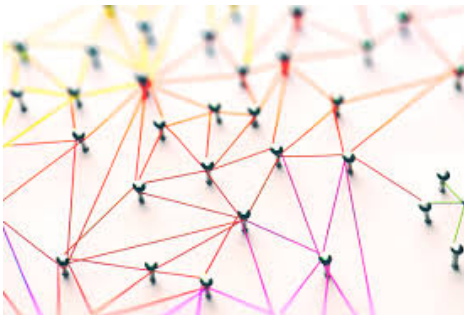
It is time to start fundraising or thinking about donating to the Christmas Store at National Home. Watch for an update for VFW National Home whether it be cash donations or the wish list.

With Thanksgiving and Christmas around the corner, place a “Thinking of You Buddy Poppy Tree” in the Post. Place a small Christmas tree or a tree on a foam board. Let members and guests place a poppy with the name of a Veteran they are thinking about at this time of year on the tree. Make sure to have a donation canister nearby.

Hold a dinner for Veterans, who live alone, present them with a “Buddy Poppy” Corsage or boutonniere. Bring a meal to someone who is shut-in. Just a way of ensuring no one is alone during the holiday season., maybe spend a few extra minutes or share a meal with them.

Pearl Harbor Day is December 7th, Place a Buddy Poppy on a toy soldier, hand them out at your Flag raising ceremony or make a “Buddy Poppy Ship” if you provide a lite lunch. Have an envelope for people to place a donation to win the “Ship”.

Take this opportunity to let the media know about Buddy Poppy’s, place articles in your Auxiliary News Letters, Post Bulletins, and on Facebook. Place Buddy Poppy stickers on To-Go containers, any items going to schools, events, keep out in front of the community. Have brochures out, put brochure information on Facebook.



Chief of Staff Donna Ventola

Saddle Up Team Arizona.

This month’s topic is about ways to re-connect with your Auxiliary members and

revitalize and rejuvenate your Auxiliary.

One way is to continue to openly communicate with all of your Auxiliary members. This would be the time to identify any new issues that have surfaced. Once good communications are established, and the issues have been identified and addressed, members will be working together much smoothly.

Another way is to utilize the RU Healthy Checklist, using this checklist is to be sure all deadlines are met. It’s also a good tool to double check yourself, you never know you might have skipped one by a mistake.

Find ways for each member to serve in your Auxiliary; match volunteer opportunities with your member’s interest(s) and abilities. Member

engagement is a key to keep your Auxiliary healthy and revitalized.

Encourage members to attend District and Department meetings. This is a great way for members to learn more and get ideas to take back to their auxiliary, and rejuvenate the idea(s).

Encourage members to recruit new members and mentor current members. We have accepted many new members, but we need to pay close attention to retaining our continuous members. By doing so, we create balance in our membership. Having both experienced and new members provide auxiliaries with an opportunity for development and growth through mentoring.

Another way to re-connect with your members is have them fill out the 3 R questionnaire; you can hand it out at your meetings, snail mail it to members or email it to them. Auxiliary 549 (District 5) converted the questionnaire to a fillable pdf version so that it could be emailed out. They also created a link in their newsletter; all the member has to do is just click on the link, then download the form and fill it out and hit send. The questionnaire goes to the President, where she will tally the questionnaire and send the data to me.

Personally, ask members to participate in the planning and execution of auxiliary events, fundraisers and volunteer opportunities. Not sure what to do or where to start or need a fresh idea on an event? Here are a few ideas:

- *Host a family board game tournament, or trivia night or family game night
- *Host a gingerbread house decorating party, auction the houses off with the proceeds benefiting our program(s)
- *Host a chili cook-off or salsa contest and invite members of your community to be tasters.

Partner Up: Legislative- Find out who needs transportation to voting booths and offer to drive them there. Then give out Good job cards or certificates to all who helped. Ask people in your community if they need help filling out the mail in ballots.

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

Zoom Meetings – Etiquette and Best Practice

With Auxiliaries and Districts holding meetings and Auxiliary Members attending virtually, here are some tips on etiquette and best practices for video conferencing and online meetings. We hope these tips help to ensure a positive experience for all your participants.



Tips for the Host

Schedule the meeting 30 minutes before the start of the actual meeting. This allows the host time to help participants log in, check video, check microphones, etc.

The host of the meeting should be at the meeting site or the host must be able

to turn over the hosting duties to a co-host who is onsite for the meeting. This will help coordinate the members on video.

Video conferencing works best with two laptops or laptop/phone on-site at the meeting. One laptop for the host or meeting administrator to use to monitor who is on video, recognize when virtual members have questions or want to speak; and a laptop or phone to place in front of the President's station for anyone who would like to speak during the meeting. Require in person members that want to speak to do so from the President's station. This ensures that virtual members can see and hear them.

Test all of your technology ahead of time to make sure the cameras and microphones are working.

Allow meeting attendees to join 15 minutes before the start of the meeting so that they can test their equipment.

The host is responsible for monitoring the virtual participants to see if they would like to speak. The host may need to repeat the comments of the virtual participants for the in person members in attendance.

Tips for Meeting Attendees

Test your equipment to make sure your camera and microphone are working properly.

Speak upon entry to the meeting to let the host know you are attending.

Mute your microphone when you are not speaking. This will help eliminate any feedback or background noise. If you're not sure how to mute your microphone, contact someone ahead of time to learn. It's difficult to teach someone how to use their equipment when there are other items that need the attention of the host.

Participate in the meeting Ritual – Stand for the Pledge of Allegiance and the prayers. Virtual attendees do not need to stand to address the President, as this causes noise and may require cameras and microphones to be adjusted. If you want to speak, physically raise your hand or use the "raise hand" feature that is available in the participant panel. Again, it is up to the host to see that you want to speak, bringing it the attention of the President.

Virtual attendees may make motions, second motions and enter into discussions. You have the same rights at the members in the room.

Don't multitask! It may be tempting to check your inbox or carry on a side conversation during the meeting, but don't do it. It is rude and distracting to both the virtual and in person attendees. More importantly you might miss out on key information or an opportunity to give input.

Do make eye contact with the camera and speak clearly when speaking.

Most of all remember this is an Auxiliary or District meeting so have fun!



Historian/Media Brenda Kinghorn

Tips to Take Great Pictures with Your Smartphone

Smartphones have changed a lot in the last 20 years. Some are very simple and others are more advanced. Our phones are always with us so it's often much easier to capture life's important memories on your phone than to bring along a big, fancy camera. However, the camera on our smartphone is only as

good as we know how to use it. For that reason, it is essential we know how to use the camera to take good pictures.

As many of you upgrade or change phones every few years, know that you need to learn how to use the new device, including the camera. If you want to learn how to take good pictures with your smartphone, here are some tips and links to help you learn different techniques.

How to Take Good Pictures with Your Smartphone:

1. Understand your device when taking a photo with your smartphone.
2. Adjust your phone photography to the subject.
3. Apply best practices and photo tricks to phone photography.

Here are several links to help you take great pictures using different types of phones. Click on the links below the type of smartphone you have and learn some new techniques.

iPhone

*Ten Tips for Taking Great Photos with Your

iPhone: <https://www.imore.com/ten-tips-taking-great-iphone-photos>

*How to Shoot on iPhone: <https://www.apple.com/iphone/photography-how-to>

*How to Take Photos with Your iPhone: <https://www.dummies.com/consumer-electronics/smartphones/iphone/how-to-take-photos-with-your-iphone/>

Android (brands include LG, Samsung, Motorola, Nokia, Sony, Google Pixel and more)

*10 Android Photography Tips for

Beginners: <https://www.androidcentral.com/10-android-photography-tips-beginners>

*How to Take Pictures on Android: <https://www.wikihow.com/Take-s-on-Android>

*How to Take Pictures with an Android

Phone: <https://www.dummies.com/consumer-electronics/smartphones/droid/how-to-take-s-with-an-android-phone/>

Capturing the Best Picture:

When capturing your picture, it's important to keep a few details in mind:

*Think about the format the picture is intended for (e.g.: Facebook, website, newspaper, etc.).

*Hold your hands steady; this will help keep your subject in focus.

*Never be afraid to take lots of pictures, as you never know what memories you'll most want to remember.

Once you have taken pictures, post them to your Auxiliary's Facebook page. If your Auxiliary doesn't have a Facebook page, start one! It's free and a great way to share photos of your Auxiliary in action in your community. Make sure to put your Auxiliary's events and everything your Auxiliary is involved within the community on the page. Share these pictures on your personal Facebook page and encourage other members to do the same. Everyone needs to know what your Auxiliary is about!

*2020-2021 NATIONAL HISTORIAN & MEDIA RELATIONS AMBASSADOR BLOG

Hospital Melissa Martin

Department of Arizona VFW Auxiliary Hospital Grant

The purpose of this grant is to benefit veteran patients in VA Medical Centers, those utilizing VA Clinics, or residents of State Veterans' Homes, rehabilitation facilities, or homeless programs sponsored by the VA. Other types of care facilities will be considered on a case by case basis.



Contact Veteran Care Facilities to see what needs they may have. Past Hospital projects included branches for a VA Clinic, Clocks for Veterans rooms with large numbers that the Veteran can read, music cd's, books on cd's and cd players that veterans can check out and listen to.

If your Auxiliary has a large Hospital Project consider teaming up with other Auxiliaries in your area for the project.

\$250 is the maximum amount that will be disbursed per Auxiliary per year. A Project Application and Project Completion Report is required - including receipts for total funds spent, pictures, volunteers, and the number of veterans served. That application and report must be sent to the VFW Auxiliary Arizona Department Hospital Chairman Mellissa Martin immediately following the completion of the project/donation. Copies of the receipts for purchases are to be sent to the Department Treasurer Kim Sloan. The Hospital Grant Application can be found on the Department website under Programs-Hospital and Resources-Forms.

WOMEN VETERANS

The Center for Women Veterans is sharing recent news stories that may be of interest to women Veterans, military women, and their supporters weekly. Share the stories with Women Veterans in your Auxiliary or Post Newsletter and on social media. To read the stories go to VAWomenVets.org. Sharing Women Veteran Stories is a way to bring awareness to issues Women Veterans are Facing.

Diaper Drive at Winter Conference

I would also like to ask that each Auxiliary bring one pack of diapers to the Winter Conference on January 9th and 10th, You can give them to me and I will deliver them to the Phoenix VA Women's Department. They are always in need of diapers. (All sizes Needed)

If your Auxiliary participates in this event, you can check "yes" on the PAR for "Hosted or participated in an event for Women Veterans Health". It is the last row under Hospital.



Tucson

Remember and Honor All Veterans Honor and Cherish Our Hospitalized Veterans

The VAVS Committee met recently to discuss the current status of the Southern Arizona VA Health Care System (SAVAHCS – aka Tucson VA Hospital). While volunteers are being slowly brought back in to SAVAHCS, there is a continued need to keep everyone safe. Those volunteers that are being invited back need to be able to wear masks the entire time they are on hospital grounds and they must commit to an 8 hr volunteer shift. This will limit exposure for patients, staff and volunteers. The staff is working on thanking volunteers during a virtual recognition and working with other staff for Thanksgiving and Christmas holiday celebrations. While we would love to present gifts in person, this year the staff will give the patients gifts from the various organizations and wish them a happy holiday from us.

The VA Director gave a general update in and staff from the Blind Rehab and Bldg 60 units gave reports on their units.

Most of us are aware of the Blind Rehab Unit and its ongoing care of veterans with varying stages of vision loss. James Arnold spoke eloquently about the need to encourage these veterans to live their lives to the fullest and giving them the tools to do that. Lesa Lemons reported on an exciting gardening project for the patients in the Protected Unit (Dementia) of Bldg 60.

Here are items that are requested in these areas for the patients:

Blind Rehab - Bldg 60 Protected Unit

Games (without moving pieces – like Trivial Pursuit)

Gardening Project Volunteers

Gift Cards to Gardener Supply

White T-shirts Med-3XL – Tye dye Projects

Amazon – Dementia Support items

Modeling Clay (must NOT need to be fired)

Crafts

Gift Cards for Meals

Model car kits, bird houses, leather kits

Now let's talk about **Christmas gifts** for the patients. It was decided that each organization would donate a particular item – and I would like the VFW Auxiliary to donate games (small travel games, card games, board games). **The deadline for getting the gifts to the VA is Friday December 18.** When you're ready to deliver your gifts, contact Mandy Martell in Voluntary Services (520.792.1450 X 6990) and she'll arrange to meet you.

PLEASE DO NOT ATTEMPT TO JUST "DROP THEM OFF". Voluntary Services Staff will make sure to take lots of pictures for us!

Looking forward to keeping you up to date on SAVAHCS activities. The next meeting is in January. Any questions just give me a call or email.

KIM SLOAN, VAVS Representative

Phone 520.307.7940 Email auxvfwarizona@msn.com



Legislative Bambi Johnson

Election Time! Number one, **VOTE!**

Number two – Wear your “I Vote in Honor of a Veteran” sticker. If you need to print some, go to <https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/I-Vote-in-Honor-of-a-Veteran-Sticker-Template-A.pdf>

The challenge given at Fall Conference was to wear your sticker and find someone NOT in the organization to wear the other. If the person you share with has a veteran in their immediate family, you have a talking point for membership. If they say they do not know anyone, remind them of the many historic military members who have shaped our country, i.e.: George Washington, General Omar Bradley, President Eisenhower, and even the Confederate General Robert E. Lee. These men were some of the most influential veterans of the United States and reminding the public of that can get them thinking about the importance of all veterans!

With so much emphasis on this Presidential election, we much remember to **BE KIND**. Whatever the outcome is of this election, our Priority Goals will remain the same.

Our mission, through our National Programs, is that we assist the VFW to pass or block legislation that impacts veterans and their families, provide nearly a million volunteer hours in the VA medical system, conduct patriotic programs with thousands of students and offer hundreds of thousands of dollars in scholarships for our nation’s youth.

Get to know your local representatives. Every level from your School Board Members, City Council Members through State Legislature, to your National Representatives in Congress, have influenced our veterans and their family's lives. Local government has direct involvement with your Post homes and finding ways to work with them that can have a positive effect on your Post and Auxiliary events and fundraisers. With good communication with State Representatives, we can bring issues such as Veteran and Auxiliary license plates to reality to raise funds statewide. National representatives are our voice in Congress to the nation to assist us in enhancing the lives of our veterans, both in and after their service.

Stay informed, be engaged, and encourage others to do so also.

Membership Ray Williams

November is here and we Arizonians are preparing for the holidays and winter. Winters here are so diverse with snow-covered mountains in the north to tropical temperatures in the south. Do you want snow, scarves, cold? Arizona has it! You want to be in a swimsuit, by a pool, sipping on a beverage with an umbrella in it? Arizona has it!



Our diverse State reminds me of our organization. As with Arizona, the VFW

Auxiliary is diverse, there is a place for you! Members are what this organization needs to exist. It is common to think that more members make the organization stronger. Our National Membership Chair, Marilyn Malick talks about the 3 I's (Invite, Include, Invest). Of course, recruiting new is important, however, it does not stop there. Like living in Arizona, you may like lakes, mountains, deserts, urban areas, rural areas, the VFW Auxiliary has a place for you. SEEK your passion out. This is the "Include" in the Chair Malick's three I's. The last of the three I's is Invest. I look at this as mentoring each other. It could be a new member mentoring a member with membership seniority on their interest. I am sure the Auxiliary can assist a member to utilize their interest in the organization.

The Holiday season is usually a time to reflect on our past year and our lives. To roll into the new year with a "clean slate and perspective". While we are reflecting I ask that you reconnect with current members, to reestablish connections as Auxiliary members. Let's get our members together and start accomplishing great things for the VFW Auxiliary. Reach out to members, spark their interest by telling them about our programs. There is a member out there that wants to be found. New members are vital to keeping this organization functioning, reach out to nonmembers, get them excited to join and volunteer.

I will continue to mention, there are excellent resources available such as www.vfwauxiliary.org, www.vfwauxaz.org, and www.malta.vfwauxiliary.org to aid you in learning about the VFW Auxiliary.

Department has sent postcards to remind members to continue their annual membership. Reconnect with these members, remember Invite, Include, Invest.

Happy Holidays and thank you for being a member of this great organization.

DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA SCOREBOARD **As of October 31, 2020**

National: AZ was 26th at 85.31% (National 84.35%)

Department of AZ: top 3 districts

#1 District 1 – 91.49%

#2 District 7 – 91.42%

#3 District 2 – 86.27%

Department of AZ: top 3 Auxiliaries

#1 Auxiliary 1760 – 111.11% 🤖

#2 Auxiliary 40 – 100.00%

#3 Auxiliary 9972 – 98.49%

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.*



Mentoring For Leadership Chrissy Harlan

Why are some of our members inactive and disconnected?

Some possible causes are inability to attend meetings so they don't know what is going on, they don't know how to participate, and they no longer feel welcome or appreciated.

First, I am going to address a member's inability to attend meetings. Some of these members may have a lot to offer in the way of Mentoring due to their previous experience in the Auxiliary. They may have ideas to help with programs and advice for officers and chairman. Zoom and other virtual meeting platforms may help with this issue. If they have been inactive for some time, they themselves will be Mentored at the meeting during the Reports of Committees and learn what is new and changed from their days of being active. Consider having a Zoom Mentor that would stay on the call after the meeting to answer questions those members may have. Emailing out the Minutes of the meetings will also keep members up to date on what the Auxiliary is doing.

Last month when I wrote about Mentoring new members, I suggested that they be given a copy of the Program Overview. Giving ALL members a copy of the Program Overview will Mentor them on all the programs (except Community Outreach). If members know the basics about the programs and the Chairmen report on the programs at the meeting, they will be able to talk with the chairmen and offer ideas and help. They will feel encouraged to participate.

Unless your auxiliary has a “Mean kids that can’t play together in the sandbox” culture, in which case you need to involve the Department Chief of Staff Donna Ventola, these tips should help you use Mentoring tools to reconnect with all your members. As auxiliary sisters and brothers, it is all of our responsibilities to thank each other for what we contribute to the organization, no how large or small that contribution is.

If you do have a “Mean kids that can’t play together in the Sandbox” culture, you need to fix it immediately as it is a disease that can spread very quickly and kill your auxiliary. The first step is realizing that you have it, then talking to the officers, chairman and members about being more inclusive and welcoming. Here are a few tips:

- *Personally invite members to participate in events and attend meetings.
- *Use email and phone trees to keep ALL members up on what the Auxiliary wants to do.
- *Get the 3 R’s form into the hands of all the members. It lets them know you are interested in them.

Chief of Staff Donna will happy to work with you on other ideas to be more friendly and inclusive.

During this new normal of COVID-19 restrictions honoring our veterans for Veterans Day may look different. We still have service members serving in far off places, National Guard units are still participating in drills, veterans are still in the hospital and nursing homes. I suggest a card/letter making/writing campaign that you can involve all your members in. Solicit the help of those that cannot get away from home for whatever reasons. Finished products can be picked up by another member who can also visit with the shut in for awhile and thank them for their dedication to veterans.

“Mentoring isn’t an extracurricular activity, it’s vital for cultivating an enriching, inclusive community.”

~ Diana Olin

Scholarships Jeanne Hampton

We may have brought in the harvest but it is not time to allow the fields to go fallow just yet! There is still gleaning to be done.

Work with your VFW and District to



schedule getting your local winning scholarship entries to District for Judging by November 15. These entries represent our Youths' ideas on our Country and their views of Patriotism and deserve to be acknowledged. Please coordinate with your District a ceremony recognizing the entrants' efforts- for taking the time to write, speak, and complete their essay in the time-frame allotted with the uncertain education schedule that has been challenging for all of us. Please also look to the VFW Store for the many items available to recognize Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy entries, noting usually backpacks and water bottles are given at the Department winning entry level- when they take the tour of the Arizona State Capitol.

Opportunities to reach out to our students and parents continue to exist as we recognize our Mission to Serve Veterans with Veterans Day activities, recognizing community needs as we go into Thanksgiving and into the holidays.

One way to open the conversation is to offer a "Scavenger Hunt" with listed Veterans Day questions- Like why 11/11 at the 11th hour? What do the colors of the United States Flag represent? How many stars and stripes? Engage the Children (and likely their parents) in learning the history of our Veterans. Enlist they invite their parent(s) to participate. Offer the many aspects of Auxiliary Programs in Americanism, Youth and Scholarship available to any student of the age/grade level, available for viewing at the Vfwauxaz.org website. In this way, we are invited into the homes of our community and continue the work of leading as an example of Patriotism.

Please remember, in the waning hours as daylight lessens, to send in your completed Scholarships Project Report on how Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen were represented by your Auxiliary. Every bit counts! Did you contact neighbors, speak at a school, contact a local media outlet, scouts, Youth Leaders Association? Did you hold a fundraiser to "increase the fund" for Scholarships? Share your terrific ideas!

As we come out of Winter Break- the VFW Auxiliary Scholarships Program will kick into full gear- offering 2 at the National Level- Continuing Education and Young American Patriotic Arts, and 2 additional at the Department of Arizona level- Dept. of Arizona Continuing Education Grant and Dept. of Arizona Merit Scholarship. Please look over the criteria for these and have applications available as you may participate in Stand Down, Resource Fairs, VA Hospital, Poppy Drives, School Programs, Flag Raisings and Community oriented events.

Please contact me at scholarshipsazaux@gmail.com 602 540 7727 or by postal mail - Jeanne Hampton P.O. Box 223 Meadview AZ 86444.
I would love to hear from you!

**Veterans and Family Support
Lynn Pierre**

1000 Troop Boxes



We have a great new project to be a part of and it's so simple. The VFW, VFW Auxiliary, and Department of Corrections are working with Packages from Home, (based right here in Glendale, Arizona), to provide 1000 packages to our troops in need overseas.

It is a matter of going to the webpage, [Packages from home.org](https://www.packagesfromhome.org/), click on "Get Involved", then "Donate Supplies". You will see lists of items to donate and lists of items not allowed. There is even a list of dog supplies for our over 9,700 dogs presently serving in the armed forces in other countries. Please be sure to mark all your packages from the VFW Auxiliary, so they are included in this 1,000-package drive. Also, by participating in this drive, you are helping our National President Sandra Onstwedder's Project, Stars, Stripes, and Support as food insecurity is a challenge for military families. While thinking about what to donate, remember your own military families here at home and be sure to put things together for them as well. These are your Blue Star families and I bet if you ask around there are a few right there in your auxiliary you are not even aware of. Packages from home link to their webpage: <https://www.packagesfromhome.org/>

Helping Hands for Freedom

A new benefit has just been announced by Helping Hands. Please get the word out among your Auxiliaries and Gold and Blue Star families. Remember, you have your members of these groups, as well as many veterans who qualify. We are so very thankful for Helping Hands for considering our Veterans, Gold, and Blue Star Families for this assistance.

Helping Hands for Freedom has received a major grant to assist our Veteran and Gold Star/Survivor families with financial emergencies

These dollars are earmarked for Arizona veteran, military, and Gold Star families. They have funds available for rent/mortgage, utilities, car payments, insurance, medical bills, and other life financial emergencies. Funds will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis to those who qualify. If families qualify benefits will be paid within a few days directly to the company or person they owe. They do not pay funds directly to the family or Veteran. Normally, Helping Hands require at least one child 18 or under in the home but because of Covid-19, They are relaxing that requirement.

To apply: <https://www.helpinghandsforfreedom.org/life-needsfinancial-assistance> which has the application and a list of the documents, we need to evaluate their situation.

Unmet Needs Program

Unmet Needs provides grants (not loans) and referrals to other organizations to active-duty service members, veterans, and their immediate families to assist with basic life needs.

Q.: Who is eligible to receive assistance?

A.: The applicant must be the service member, veteran, or eligible dependent listed under the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System (DEERS). The financial hardship must be due to one of the following:

1. Currently on active duty, whose financial hardship is a result of a current deployment, military pay error, or from being discharged for medical reasons.
2. Discharged on or after September 11, 2001, whose financial hardship is a direct result of your military service-connected injuries and/or illnesses.
3. Discharged before September 11, 2001, are on a fixed income that must

include VA compensation for service-connected injuries/illnesses and facing unexpected financial hardship.

Our veterans and our military families need us. Let us see what we can do to make their holidays and their lives, in general, more comfortable. Many thanks to you all for what you are already doing.

Youth Co-Chairs – Carolyn Quinton & Stephanie Quinton

Involve Youth in Fall Activities

Sports, Halloween, Veterans Day, and Thanksgiving offer opportunities for Auxiliaries to include our youth.



Halloween

Work with you're the athletic teams in your community and bring a canned good to a game. Donate the canned goods to your local food bank in honor of the team.

Have Auxiliary Members dress up and help kids enjoy a fun night if your auxiliary is participating in a truck or treat, drive-thru trick-or-treat parade. Include information about the Youth Contest. **Get Excited for the Red, White & Blue.** The singing contest open to youth ages 6 to 16 years at the time of local entry. And the art contest Illustrating America for students in grades 1-8. You can find the contest information and application for both contests under "Youth Activities" on the Department's website.

Honor our veterans on Veterans Day

Google "free patriotic coloring pages for kids" – you will be able to print many wonderful pictures. Ask kids to color the picture and write a note on the back. Add a Buddy Poppy to the picture. Take them to a hospital, veteran's homes, or assisted living facility in your area to be given to veteran patients and/or residents. Many of these men and women are not able to have visitors due to the pandemic; a coloring page and note would brighten their day! Arrange for the school choir to entertain veterans with outdoor performances. Patriotic songs could be sung at a local park or on the lawn of a veteran home or assisted living facility. Remember to ask schools, home-schoolers, and youth groups in your area to color pictures and to make cards for our Veterans.

Help those in need this Thanksgiving

Contact your local school and ask if there are families with children in need of assistance. Your Auxiliary could put together a meal or food basket for those families to be delivered on Thanksgiving eve. If your Post and Auxiliary have a Thanksgiving meal at the Post, invite families to join you and have youth activities kits available for the children with program information.

Promoting the Youth Program in Your Community

Create Flag Education or Youth Program Information using PowerPoint and send out to all the schools and home-schooled students or School District administrators. And don't forget to contact your local school PTO/PTA and send it to them also. There is a sample PowerPoint slide show on the



Program Activity Reports Received From Auxiliaries As of October 31st

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

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

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

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

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		
2190	A,M,J	J,A		
2555				
6306	A,M,J	J,A,S		
9401	A			
9833	A,M,J			
10005	A,M,J	J,A		
10386				
10726				
11014	A,M,J			
District 10				
1677	A,M,J	J,A		
3584	A,M,J	J,A,S		
3713	A,M,J			
7968	A,M,J	J,A,S		
9399	A,M,J	J,A,S		
12043	M,J	J,A,S		

DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS of the
UNITED STATES
and
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WAR AUXILIARY
2021 WINTER CONFERENCE
JANUARY 9-10, 2021

VFW
VOICE OF DEMOCRACY- PATRIOT'S PEN

**Sheraton Phoenix Crescent
2620 W. Dunlap
Phoenix, AZ 85021**

602-943-8200

Special Rate - Veterans of Foreign Wars Jan 9, 2021
\$109 + taxes per night

Deadline for Hotel Reservations – December 18, 2020

Tentative Agenda

Saturday

10:00am – noon (Return time is approx.) Students/Parent Bus to Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza

9:00am – noon VFW and VFW Auxiliary Conference

4:00pm Photos (Students, Department Officers, District Commanders and Presidents only)

5:00pm No Host Reception

6:00pm Banquet and Awards (Dinner – Beef or Chicken)

SUNDAY

9:00am VFW Department Council of Administration Meeting

0:00am VFW Auxiliary Department Council of Administration Meeting