

The Missouri Yellow Brick Road

March/April

General Orders

Vol.6

President's Message

Spring is just around the corner. I know we are all wanting to put winter in our rearview mirrors and drive happy down the yellow brick road.

I am so proud of all the work all of you have done and continue to do for our Veterans and their families. The cold has not slowed you down, but have you reported it?? I certainly hope so. The chairmen for our great programs need to know what is being done by each and every one of you. Remember you can and need to report as soon as possible. Keep them busy and let's get the dashboard green.

April 15 is the last day to report your activities and to complete everything for the All-State award. When you send in donations, please get them in the mail prior to April 15th so the Department Treasurer can give you credit. Remember, it does not matter how large or small the donation is. Just make that donation.

My special project is Hospital. The four medical VA centers have specified what they want and need for their Veterans. You can designate if you want that donation to go to a specific hospital.

Did you throw away all your old membership applications? Only use the one that has a revised date of January 1, 2026.

Speaking of membership, I am so proud of how well that has gone this year and the hard work you have done for this. Membership is the backbone of our organization. Without it, who would stand up for those deserving Veterans we love.

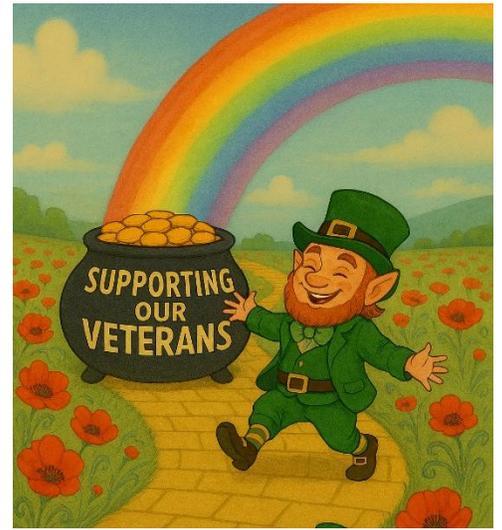
We all have a difference of opinions. Before it becomes an issue in the Auxiliary, ask yourself:

- Is the truth being said?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will what we are doing bring good will?
- Will it be beneficial to ourselves, our organization our community, and most of all our Veterans?

Let petty differences go. Work for the common good of our Veterans.

This year will be over before we know it. Let's keep the momentum going and finish stronger than before so we can be **"THE REASON A VETERAN SMILES TODAY"**. We can all do this!

Patti Burge - Missouri VFW Auxiliary President



Calendar of Events

March 17, 2026 - St Patrick's Day

March 31, 2026 - Deadline for Illustrating America Contests and the Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest to Auxiliaries

April 1, 2026 - April Fool's Day

April 15, 2026 - Last day to submit reports for this year.

April 16 - May 1, 2026 - Website will be closed for maintenance.

April is the month for elections. Make sure to elect all your Officers. If there are any problems, or if you need help, please contact Department President Patti so that she can send assistance. We want all our Auxiliaries to be healthy.





**VFW Auxiliary
Department of Missouri
AMERICANISM**

March / April 2026

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As we transition from Winter into Spring, our National Americanism Ambassador Diana Russell-Milton reminds us that some holidays are distinctly patriotic while others give us the opportunity to express our American pride. She asks that we continue to demonstrate our patriotic spirit in every season and honor the meaning behind every holiday.

Patriotic Holidays

- March 3 – Star Spangled Banner Day
- March 13 – K9 Veterans Day
- March 21 – Rosie the Riveter Day
- March 25 – Medal of Honor Day
- March 29 – National Vietnam War Veterans Day
- April 5 – Gold Star Spouses Day
- April 15 – Purple Up Day (part of Month of the Military Child)



National Americanism Program Award

Don't forget to submit your auxiliary entry for the National Program Award. It is due to the Department Chairman by March 31, 2026.

- Most outstanding activity and/or event displaying or educating others about proper ways to display and respect the American Flag.



Remember to take the time to recognize those in your community when you see them promote patriotism. Create a certificate, gather several auxiliary members and go into your community and recognize these patriots, and don't forget to take pictures! You can find the following fillable certificates available online at vfwauxmo.org.

- Americanism Participation Certificate
- Patriotic Appreciation Citation
- Respect for the Flag Citation Sports/School

Always ***“Be the Reason a Veteran Smiles Today”***, as we travel ***“From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Our Veterans – Who Keep Us Free”***.

Department of Missouri VFW Auxiliary
Buddy® Poppy/ National Home
March/ April 2025-2026

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As we march through the final months of the program year, it's time to celebrate the incredible work we've done—and to gather our courage to finish even stronger! Like Dorothy and her companions traveling the Yellow Brick Road, we've encountered challenges, but we've faced them with unwavering strength and heart. Just like the **Cowardly Lion**, who discovered the courage he always had within him, we too have shown our strength in ways big and small. And now, as we make one final push, **it's time to reflect on the power we hold to make a difference.**



The Buddy® Poppy Program: A Symbol of Sacrifice and Service

The **Buddy® Poppy** is more than just a flower—it's a symbol of sacrifice, remembrance, and the enduring cost of freedom. As Auxiliaries, we are entrusted with ensuring that our communities understand what this tiny red flower truly represents. Every poppy we distribute tells a story of sacrifice, of the men and women who gave their all for our country, and the families that continue to bear the weight of that sacrifice. It is our mission to ensure the meaning behind this simple flower is shared, remembered, and honored.

This year, the **“Poppy Valor” Award** will be presented to the Auxiliary in each membership group **that demonstrates the most outstanding activity and/or event conducted with their VFW Post to educate their community about the Buddy® Poppy.** This award isn't just about the distribution numbers—it's about the creativity, the impact, and the partnership. It's about the Auxiliaries who use the Buddy® Poppy to make a difference, who embody the spirit of remembrance and service.

As we move into the final stretch of the year, let's **keep our energy high and our hearts full of courage**—just like the Cowardly Lion! Here are some ideas for March and April to continue spreading the message of the Buddy® Poppy:

- **Partner with a Local Business & Your VFW Post:** Set up a table with the history of the Buddy® Poppy, explaining who assembles them and how donations help Veterans and their families. Invite your community to stop by, learn, and donate. This is a great way to educate and engage local businesses and the public while raising awareness.
- **Sponsor an Easter Egg Hunt:** Team up with a local business and your VFW Post to sponsor an **Easter Egg Hunt** for the community! This fun, family-friendly event can be a great way to bring people together while educating them about the Buddy® Poppy and the VFW National Home. Include educational materials about the VFW National Home and how it helps military families. You can even hide small poppies in the eggs as a fun and meaningful touch. This event will not only help raise awareness but also show the community how the VFW and Auxiliary are dedicated to making a difference.
- **Create a Large Poppy Display:** Work with your VFW to create a large, eye-catching Buddy® Poppy display at your Post or local library. Add educational signs explaining the meaning behind the Buddy® Poppy and how it supports our Veterans. You can also provide **poppy flowers** where people can write the name of their Veteran and add it to the display. This will give everyone a chance to honor their own

heroes and contribute to a powerful visual reminder of the sacrifices made by our Veterans. A display like this can spark conversations and deepen the community's connection to the cause.

- **Social Media Campaign:** Use your Auxiliary's social media platforms to share stories, facts, and images about the Buddy® Poppy and the VFW National Home. Highlight the critical services offered, and encourage people to donate or volunteer. Use hashtags, images, and call-to-action posts to inspire support and raise awareness.

The VFW National Home: A Lifeline for Families

The **VFW National Home** represents hope and healing—a place where military and Veteran families find support, stability, and a future full of possibility. It's not just a building; it's a lifeline for those who need it most. We must continue to spread the word about the National Home, ensuring that more families know where to turn when they need help.

This year, the **“There's No Place Like National Home” Award** will be presented to the Auxiliary in each membership group that demonstrates the most outstanding activity and/or event to raise awareness and educate their community about the National Home. The award celebrates those who help their community understand that the VFW National Home is **not just a place—it's a sanctuary and a lifeline for families who need it most.**

Just like Dorothy and her friends, each of you brings something vital to the table, and together, we can continue to make a lasting impact. Let's finish this program year with courage, heart, and a dedication to making a difference. There's no place like the VFW Auxiliary, and no place like the VFW National Home. Here are some ideas for March and April to continue spreading the message of the VFW National Home:

- **Host an Informational Event or Open House:** Partner with your VFW Post to host an event where your community can learn about the VFW National Home's services. Share information about how the Home supports families and how the community can help. This is a great opportunity to educate and engage people on a deeper level.
- **Social Media Campaign for VFW National Home:** Share the story of the VFW National Home on social media. Post facts, success stories, and information about the **Stock the Store** initiative. Use hashtags and images to spread the word and encourage donations.
- **Fundraising for the VFW National Home: Remember to support our National Commander-in-Chief and National President's Joint Project—Stock the Store.** Organize a fundraiser to support the VFW National Home and help fill its store with essential items for the families who call it home. These items may include clothing, toiletries, and other necessities that help the families thrive. Whether it's a silent auction, dinner, or donation drive, every contribution counts. Let's channel our courage and generosity, just like the Cowardly Lion, and show our community how we can give back.

Important Reminders:

- **Remember to Report Everything in Detail!** As we head into the home stretch, it's crucial to report every event, donation, and activity with the details that showcase the impact of your efforts. Include photos to make your reports stand out! This helps ensure your hard work is recognized and celebrated.
- **Fill Out the National Auxiliary Award Entries:** Don't forget to complete and submit the **National Auxiliary Award entries.** These awards are an important way to recognize the outstanding work of your Auxiliary and the dedication you've shown throughout the year.

“Be the Reason a Veteran Smiles Today” as we stand together “From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans – Who Keep Us Free.”



Department of Missouri

Chief of Staff

Extensions & Revitalization

March/April 2025-2026 Promotional Material

Janet Barlar- Wicked Witch & Broom Squad Boss

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“You can’t stop the wind, but you can steer the broom!!”

I can’t believe that we are on the downhill side of our year!! It has been a very successful year for us. I am looking forward to seeing you at Winter Conference of Administration meeting. Let’s hope the weather cooperates!!

EXTENSION

We have instituted two new Auxiliaries and have at least four more that have shown interest in starting a new Auxiliary! It’s not too late for any of my District Presidents to contact your Unaffiliated Posts and see why they DON’T have an Auxiliary. It could be as simple as they don’t know how to start an Auxiliary. I did a District visit to District 14. The District President, Betty Rinck informed me that there were two Unaffiliated Post that had contacted her and expressed an interest in starting an Auxiliary and wanted to know what they needed to do. Betty put together a folder for these Post with information she got from our website and MALTA. They were amazing!! It had our membership wheel, so they know who is eligible to join, membership applications, Top 10 Reasons to Have an Auxiliary, etc. I am going to ask Betty to make a folder for me, and then I will use it next year!! It is something every District President should have.

REVITALIZATION

My National Ambassador had an excellent blog with some very good questions we need to ask ourselves about our own Auxiliary. Does your Auxiliary need some “TLC”? Does it need some Revitalization? To revitalize an Auxiliary, it takes change. If revitalization is needed it means that members are feeling negative about things happening in their Auxiliary. Is it attendance at meetings, not getting new members or

lack of interest in the Programs? How about the same three or four members doing all the work all the time? If any of these sounds familiar, then it's time to start a plan to revitalize. I know that I have talked to many members about attendance, lack of participation, and the same people doing all the work. These seem to be very common problems! Things will not improve, if we don't address these issues and think "outside" the box. There are great tools on MALTA. Start with the **Healthy Auxiliary Toolkit**. I also recommend our Department Membership Engagement form. We need to be creative!! If we don't try, things will not change and we become stagnant!! If you need help, please don't hesitate to contact me!! I'm **VERY** good at thinking outside the box!!

MENTORING

As I have traveled across the state, the one thing that I have preached all year is to be **KIND** and **RESPECTFUL!!!** I have seen what happens within an Auxiliary when the members are not kind and respectful to one another. Cliques form and you can feel the tension and negativity within the Auxiliary. Nothing will tear an Auxiliary apart faster than this! I have said you don't have to like everyone, but you do have to be kind and respectful. Treat others the way you want others to treat you! As my Ambassador said, "EACH OF YOU ARE A MENTOR." Who are the mentors in your Auxiliary? Are they kinder, patient and soft-spoken or are they gruff, noisy, fast talkers? You're right, it's the first one! Be careful how you carry yourself in public. You want to project a positive image. As a mentor you are most effective when you praise in public and correct in private!

I hope everyone stays safe and warm! I'm a phone call away if you need anything!

Respect and Love,

Janet.



BE THE REASON A VETERAN SMILES TODAY

“Every moment is captured in one click.”

REELS

Have you completed a reel?
Have you finished the paperwork for Historian & Media Relations Award No. 1? Deadline is **31 March 2026, and it comes to me. Do not send this to National. No exceptions.**

If you are unsure how to make a reel, please refer to November/December 2025 promotional material that I put out.

Please remember once a reel is posted, it cannot be changed. You must delete it and start over if you want to change something.

We are approaching the end of the year, and yet, there is still work to be done. Let’s meet the deadlines, and “embrace the waves of change.”

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me.

How to Send a Reel –

So, how do I send a reel? I touched on this subject in the material that was put out in January/February 2026.

Ambassador Kristin told me and the other department Historians another way to do this when she sent out her information –

1. Locate the reel that you want to send.
2. Tap share: this often looks like a paper airplane or curved arrow below or on the righthand side of the reel.
3. Select “copy link” option.
4. Paste the link into an email and send it with the completed award form.



**Will you “Be the Reason that a Veteran smiles today”
as we stand together “From Sea to Shining Sea
Honoring Veterans – Who Keep Us Free”**

 <p>“Be the Reason a Veteran Smiles Today” by “Having a Heart For Hospitalized Veterans.”</p> <p>Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services Representatives and Deputies Promotional Material</p>	<p>The Brick Road to the Department of Missouri Hospital Program</p>  <p>March/April 2025-2026</p>	<p>Karen Cypret 2222 Whiplash Lane Washburn, Mo. 65772 417-342-7652 mohospitalvavs.kcypret@gmail.com</p> <p>“From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans – Who Keeps Us Free” we should be “Caring For Our Veterans Like the Ocean Caring For the Waves.”</p>
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FOLLOW THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD — REPORT, REPORT, REPORT!

The Tin Man is listening... and **we want to hear from YOU!**

Tell us about your **favorite part of the Hospital Program** and the moments that truly touched your heart. Whether you were a volunteer, worked alongside hospital staff, or served with a VFW Auxiliary team, **your story matters.**

💡 What moment gave the Tin Man his heart? 🌟 Which project or event shined like the Emerald City? Your stories help light the way down the Yellow Brick Road and highlight the amazing work being done in VA Hospitals across Missouri.

🎯 REPORT YOUR OUTSTANDING PROJECT!

Was there a project that made you proud?

One that showed compassion, teamwork, and heart for our veterans? Tell us what you did, who helped make it happen, and why it mattered.

📧 Share your stories, photos, or even a short paragraph—we would love to feature **YOUR heart in action.** Because every project completed, every act of kindness, and every smile shared proves what the Tin Man already knows... **Missouri’s Auxiliary has plenty of heart.**



Just a friendly reminder from the Tin Man:

As we follow the Yellow Brick Road toward judging time, the reporting site will *pause* on **April 15** while program activities are reviewed. Don’t worry—after a little polish and shine, it will be back up and running on **May 1!**

Thank you for helping keep our programs strong and our hearts (and gears!) moving forward.

As we walk this yellow brick road toward veterans’ healthcare needs, let us be ever mindful that they are more than deserving of our time and efforts by “having a heart for hospitalized veterans.” Until next time... Let us keep our hearts turned toward our veterans. Karen

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LEGISLATIVE
MARCH/APRIL 2026

“The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old, but on building the new”.
{Socrates} With the changing of the seasons, let’s start making changes for our Veterans. “There’s a certain sort of magic in life that is only manifested through change”, {Unknown}.

Let’s manifest the change of one of the many important laws that will benefit our Veterans: The Major Richard Star Act.

Understanding the Major Richard Star Act

The Major Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282/S. 334) amends Title 10 of the U.S. Code. This act permits medically retired veterans with less than 20 years of service and combat-related injuries to receive both their full retirement pay and disability compensation. An existing offset reduces retirement pay by the amount of disability compensation received.

In part, the VFW Priority Goals, insist that: “Congress must act now to end the policy of offsetting benefits, fulfill its promises, and prevent further harm to disabled veterans. The cost of full concurrent receipt is far outweighed by the moral obligation to honor their sacrifices. The VFW calls on the 119th Congress to pass legislation that will show them their service is truly valued. Every year of delay only deepens the financial and emotional toll on these veterans who have already given so much to this country. The VFW Urges Congress to: Pass S.1032 / H.R.2102, Major Richard Star Act, either as a standalone bill or via the National Defense Authorization Act for 2026”. We as an Auxiliary to the Veterans of Foreign Wars need to advocate for them and amplify to our congressman and legislators the importance of this bill, along with others. The 2026 Priority Goals are readily available at: www.vfw.org/LegislativePriorities.

The Legislative tools are behind MALTA or at vfw.org under the Advocacy section. Sign others up for Action Corps Weekly and “PUSH THE BUTTON”. You + 2 = AMPLIFIED ADVOCACY. Find 2 new people to act and help. Email and call your lawmakers, then post a thank you message to those that support Veteran issues. Show the gratitude, amplify your concerns: loudly, professionally and respectfully. Tell them to “HONOR THE CONTACT”.

Use the QR codes and hashtags that are in the Legislative tools.

Don’t forget about the end of year award for the most outstanding activity and/or event to create thank you notes and cards to Veterans that include links to VFW Action Corps Weekly and/or the VFW Priority Goals. Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Must be turned in by March 31, 2026.



Let us “Light the way between Veterans’ families and legislators with a wave of Gratitude”, so we can “Be the reason a Veteran smiles today”.



March/April 2026
Membership Program

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WOW!! Where has this year gone! We are so close to the end of the year. We are growing a little bit every day. As I am writing this, we are at 11,899 paid members. Our paid percentage is at 99.30%. A friendly reminder, paid percentage includes members that passed away. Current percentage does not include members that passed away.

New Members

The National Ambassador of Membership wants to remind everyone that we are to use the new application as of January 1, 2026. If you have any old applications, please shred them or throw them away. I would love for us to have the paid percentage to be the same as the current percentage. Keep recruiting new members for this wonderful organization. Just remember that the Wicked Witch doesn't want this organization. The mean monkeys are being told by the Wicked Witch to convince prospective members not to join this organization. We don't want the Wicked Witch to think she is making people not to join.

Rejoin Members

I hope that all the auxiliaries are contacting members who haven't paid their dues as of yet. If they want to stay in this organization but unfortunately do not have the money to pay their dues, offer to pay their dues for them. That is why we have a relief fund. If the member says they do not want to pay their dues and do not want to be part of this organization, talk to them. Ask them why they feel that way. They might have had a problem with members in the auxiliary. They may have felt useless or not liked being asked to help out. The member might feel like they are being bullied by a certain member or members in the auxiliary. We do not need to be bullied. If you have a form, please go through the form with them. Please share the form with me so I can share it with other members.

98% Goal

National wanted us to be at 98%+ in Paid Percentage by February 28, 2026. I can tell you all as I am writing this, we are at 99.30%. We met the Silver Department Award. Our Department will receive a check for \$250. Our next goal is to be at 100%+ by April 30, 2026. I personally want us to be at that goal on or before March 31, 2026.



Remember, there is no place like Membership. There is no place like Membership.



DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI AUXILIARY OUTREACH March/April 2026

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2025-2026 Auxiliary Outreach Chairman
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Happy Spring! As this year is winding down, I want to thank each and every one of you for the wonderful Auxiliary Outreach projects you've done this year. Even though we are coming to a close to the year, it doesn't mean that we are done when it comes to working with our community. Use your Scarecrow brain to continue coming up with new organizations to work with and volunteer your time.

Remember to make sure that the Outreach events you are volunteering your time with have either been voted on in your meetings and/or are already in your Standing Rules.

- Report your projects as soon as possible following the event and include the number of members who participated and the total number of hours involved. Reporting right after the event will ensure that nothing is forgotten.
- Be creative and descriptive when reporting the project. Did something fun and unexpected happen? Report it so you will catch my eye! I need photos, too!

Outreach is best described as what we can do to help our community by not volunteering FOR, but volunteering WITH other organizations.

**Please ensure that you get your Outstanding Projects submitted
before the deadline!**

REPORT, REPORT, REPORT **ALL** your volunteer efforts at
www.vfwauxmo.org

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!!!

Let's have a wonderful trip down the Yellow Brick Road!

Kim Rudy

2025/2026 Auxiliary Outreach Chairman



BE THE REASON A VETERAN SMILES TODAY

FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA HONORING VETERANS – WHO KEEP US FREE



SCHOLARSHIP

DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI 2025-2026

“Glenda the Good Witch” AKA Danetta Wakefield

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March/April

Hello All!

I hope that all of you enjoyed the wonderful Winter Conference! At the time of this writing we are just a few weeks away from it. I know that I will have so much fun with our students and Roger, my VFW Counterpart, we will be playing games to get to know each other and will be touring the State Capital and a Military Museum. What a wonderful time I know we will have. I am so excited and I will tell you all about it later on.

Our year is winding down and we will continue along the **yellow brick road** to get to the **Emerald City**. This does not mean we are done!!! We have much more to accomplish before we meet the “**Wonderful Wizard**” of Missouri.

We are approaching the deadlines for the **Young American Patriot Art** Contests. I cannot stress this enough; Auxiliary Chairman **PLEASE** make sure your contestants have **followed the rules** for their entries. There is nothing worse than having to disqualify art because the rules were not followed. If they bring it to you and you know it will be disqualified, **PLEASE help them try to make it correct if you can**. Sometimes it can be as simple as matting, and you can help correct this **NICELY**. **REMIND THEM TO TAKE A PICTURE OF THEIR ART. THIS IS A NEW REQUIREMENT FOR 3-D ART. I HIGHLY RECOMMEND INCLUDING A PICTURE OF ALL THE ART. DEADLINE IS MARCH 31, 2026** I will have **ALL** the art at the **EMERALD CITY**. **DISTRICT PRESIDENTS**, it will be **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO PICK UP THE ART BY 1:00 PM ON SATURDAY JUNE 13, 2026**. **ALL ART WILL REQUIRE A SIGNATURE OF THE PERSON TAKING THE ART.**

The **Missouri Past National Presidents Scholarship** will be the next scholarship that we will focus on. **Remember, this scholarship is ONLY for High School Seniors who are the Sister, Brother, Daughter, Son, Granddaughter, Grandson, Great Granddaughter or Great Grandson of a CURRENT Member of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary in the Department (State) of Missouri.** PLEASE, PLEASE send your letters in favor to keep this scholarship going. Send them by email or snail mail to Betty Arnold or I. Please make a special donation to the MPNP Scholarship to help fund this. We pay \$1,200 and \$1,800 to the winners. Those of you who have children in college know any amount is appreciated. Students have or buy books for their classes that can cost anywhere from \$50-\$150 or more for one book. **Let's keep this going in our state, it can bring in potential members.** I knew a member who was from the Webb City Auxiliary which was in my District who was a PNP Scholarship winner. She was also a Voice of Democracy winner. She joined the Auxiliary at 17. I learned her story when her son was our District Voice of Democracy winner. He did apply for the PNP Scholarship, but unfortunately he did not win. **Can you see how this Scholarship can help and in more than one program?**

I am looking forward to reaching the **Emerald City** where all the magic will happen as we hand out AWARDS for all your hard work this year. **I would like to thank you all for promoting this program that is so important for the youth of our state. Thank you for the encouragement that you all have given the entrants for all our Scholarships.** This will be the last material that you will receive from me. I must fly away for now, but you will see me in the **Emerald City** with our **"Wonderful Wizard"**.

"Be the Reason a Veteran Smiles Today" " From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans- Who Keep Us Free"

Glenda the Good Witch

AKA

Danetta



**Veterans and Family Support
Department of Missouri
MARCH/APRIL 2026**

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Celebrating Our Amazing Auxiliaries

A Heartfelt Shout-Out and Community Engagement Message

To our awesome auxiliaries: Thank you for an incredible year of dedication and service! As spring approaches, we are excited for the opportunities ahead to connect with our community and share the vital work we do for veterans and their families.

Spring Is on the Horizon

With warmer days in sight, it's the perfect time to get involved in upcoming craft shows, fairs, and local events. We encourage you to grab a spot at these gatherings and set up a table to spread awareness about our programs. Whether it's Veterans Suicide Awareness, Service Officers, Adopt-a-Unit, Unmet Needs, or the Military Assistance Program (MAP), your outreach makes a difference.

Promote Our Programs

- **Veterans Suicide Awareness:** Share resources to support mental health and prevent veteran suicide.
- **Service Officers:** Provide information about assistance available to veterans navigating benefits and services.
- **Adopt-a-Unit:** Help community members learn how they can support military units locally.
- **Unmet Needs:** Highlight how we assist veterans and their families facing unexpected financial hardship.
- **Military Assistance Program (MAP):** Educate others about our support initiatives for deployed service members.

You can find more details on these programs and helpful resources on MALTA, our organizational platform.

Educate and Engage

Community education is at the heart of our mission. By setting up tables at local events and sharing information, you help ensure veterans and their families know about the services and support available to them. Your enthusiasm and outreach are key to making a lasting impact.

Thank You!

We deeply appreciate your hard work, passion, and commitment this past year. Let's continue building momentum into spring and beyond as we support and uplift our veteran community together.

Be the Reason a Veteran Smiles Today



DON'T FORGET TO GET YOUR ENTRY FOR THE NATIONAL AWARD TO ME BY MARCH 31ST

ALL ONLINE REPORTS ARE DUE BY APRIL 15TH



Department of Missouri VFW Auxiliary Youth Activities 25-26

Jennie Rosales-Wolfgeher--816-606-3306--5702 NW Raintree Ct, Kansas City, MO 64152
Jennierw.mo.youthchairman@gmail.com -- Auntie Em's Corner-Spring Edition-March/April

Well, spring's blowin' in like a Kansas twister, and I'm tickled to share all the good we've done this year with our VFW Auxiliary family. From art contests to veteran tributes, we've been busier than a rooster in a henhouse!

We're plum proud to host the “**Illustrating America**” **Art Contest** for our little ones in **grades K–8**. It's a fine chance for kids to show their love for this great land with paint, pencil, or crayon. The contest has **three age groups**, **K–2**, **3–5**, and **6–8**, so every youngster gets a fair shake. **National prizes** include **1st Place**: \$100 gift card, **2nd Place**: \$50 gift card and **3rd Place**: \$25 gift card. If that doesn't make a kid's boots dance, I don't know what will.

So, if your little ones are drawin' flags, eagles, or even patriotic chickens (true story!), get those masterpieces turned in. We'll be judgin' in April, and I can't wait to see the talent sproutin' up like spring wildflowers.

March & April Activities for Veterans:

We've been mighty busy supportin' our heroes: We've had quilt sew-ins, letter-writing drives, and even a pancake breakfast where the kids served our vets with big ol' smiles.

March 31: We're settin' up youth group events to honor veterans. Auxiliaries that host the most creative activities can win a **\$25 award** from National. Form is available online.

March 31: Deadline to submit art entries to the local Auxiliary.

April 15: Deadline to send Illustrating America art entries to the Department Youth Chair.

Wrappin' Up the Fiscal Year:

As we near the end of our fiscal year, let's tip our hats to all we've accomplished: We have worked with youth to send care packages to deployed troops, included youth in our visits to local VA homes and trained up the next generation of Auxiliary members and leaders. We've built bridges between generations, honored service, and kept patriotism alive in our communities.

So, let's keep our boots on the ground and our hearts in the mission. If you've got questions or need help gettin' those art entries in, holler at your local Auxiliary chair. And remember, it's not just about contests, it's about teachin' our kids what it means to love their country and respect those who've served.

Yours in service and sunshine, Aunt Em (A.K.A Jennie Rosales-Wolfgeher)

Roster Changes

March/April

District 6 Auxiliary 1894

Secretary Hanna Powell 13 NW 434th Road Apt A Clinton, MO 64735
662-242-4193 hannapowell18@gmail.com

District 8 Auxiliary 1831

Secretary Laurie Hawkins 214 Francis St Bonne Terre, MO 63628
573-915-2622 laurieyager2622@gmail.com

District 8 Auxiliary 2426

Treasurer Kathy Hopkins 104 N Trailwood Dr Desloge, MO 63601
573-701-8586 kathy_hop3@hotmail.com

District 9 Auxiliary 5327

President Mindy Gaeng 1614 Fairway Valley Dr Wentzville, MO 63385
314-486-5413 msgaeng@gmail.com
3rd Sunday 10:30 am

District 9 Auxiliary 5327

Secretary Christine Lindley 2153 Kaske Dr St Louis, MO 63125
314-278-5702 cdilindley4@gmail.com

District 9 Auxiliary 5327

Treasurer Christine Lindley 2153 Kaske Dr St Louis, MO 63125
314-278-5702 cdilindley4@gmail.com

District 9 Auxiliary 12243

Franklin County Resource Center - 500 Clark Ave, Union

District 18 Auxiliary 4107

President Anela Dice 22561 Gravel Rd Lebanon, MO 65536
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District 18 Auxiliary 4107

Secretary Katherine Detherage 288 S Adams Ave Apt 211 Lebanon, MO 65536
417-533-2526 vfwuaxiliary4107@gmail.com