

The Missouri Bridge

2024-2025

July / August

Program Pickins

As we are Jumping into **Action in our programs**, I wanted to highlight the things we are working on and projects that your Auxiliary can do. In our **Americanism** program Sandy is asking us to promote less common patriotic holidays, like Purple Heart Remembrance Day on August 7th. Kim is encouraging volunteering with a Backpack program to assist with the filling of the backpacks for **Auxiliary Outreach**. Brandy is spreading the word about our **National Home** Bus Trip October 25th, 2025, and our **Buddy Poppy** Patriotic Ornament Contest for the Fall C of A meeting on Sept. 28th. **Chief of Staff** Janet continues to speak to us about, retaining our new members. Have you seen the **Membership** videos on our Facebook? Vicki is encouraging us in creative ways to reach 85% by August 15th, 2024. **Historian** Stephanie is keeping us updated on our Facebook page with all kinds of informative Posts. Is your Auxiliary posting? Karen is asking for \$20 Walmart cards for **Hospital!** Monica is currently working on Missouri **Legislation** for Veterans and & signing people up for Action Corp Weekly. Jenn is walking her way to donations to support **Scholarships** in our Department. Lori is promoting working with our **Youth** and Patriotism Through Literacy program. Complete Program information is found at vfwauxmo.org.

Ask Amy

Sue from an anonymous Auxiliary asks:
Amy, is it okay for the VFW Commander or any other VFW member to sit in on the Auxiliary meeting? & How many meetings do we have to hold every year?

Hello, Sue from an Anonymous Auxiliary.

Thank you for reaching out to ask. **The answer is No.** Only Auxiliary **members in good standing** are allowed to be in the Auxiliary Meeting. However, anyone can address the Auxiliary before the meeting begins or the Auxiliary can stop the meeting and let the VFW or non-member guest speak. Continuing the meeting only after all non-members have left the meeting room. Each Auxiliary is required to hold a **minimum of ten meetings per year**. Sec, 210 A in the VFW Auxiliary Bylaws. Email questions to moamyjo2425@gmail.com.

Auxiliary Calendar

District Meetings

- #2 Post 2025- July 13 @ 10am
- #3 Post 4055- July 13 @ 12pm
- #5 Post 5789- July 14 @ 1pm
- #6 Post 3118- Aug 4 @ 12pm
- #7 Post 2175- Aug 10 @ 8:30 am
- #8 Post 4282- Aug 11 @ 12 pm
- #9 Post 2866- July 14 @ 12 pm
- #12 Post 2365 July 13 @ 12 pm
- #14 Post 3404 July 21 @ 12 pm
- #15 Post 3127 July 21 @ 12 pm
- #17 Post 4958 July 21 @ 12 pm
- #18 Post 5366 Aug 3 @ 10 am

Department Meeting

Fall Council of Administration
Sept. 27-28, 2024
@ Courtyard by Marriott, Columbia

National Cafe Event

September 7th 2024
@ VFW National Home

National Home Bus Trip

October 25-27, 2024

All-State Auxiliary Award Reminders

- ✓ Installation Report – June 1, 2024
- ✓ Bonded by- July 30, 2024 need a motion to pay in the minutes
- ✓ Financial & Membership Report to Commander within 30 days of taking office.
- ✓ Attend Department SOI & share info with the Auxiliary.
- ✓ Attend District Meeting
- ✓ Plan a Joint Event with the VFW that will benefit Veterans.
- ✓ Report Projects
- ✓ Audit - Due August 31, 2024

Project Suggestions

Have you started planning your projects for the year?

Heritage & Honor:

VFW Auxiliary’s Fair Booth Holds Second to None

VFW Auxiliary Post #0000 located in Sometown, Missouri.

Veterans & Family Support Chairman Darla will be promoting Suicide Prevention and the Map Program at the Auxiliary booth this Thursday - Saturday. She will be offering a raffle ticket for chance to win a POW/ MIA Flag if you fill out a membership application to Join the Auxiliary! While Mom & Dad are filling out applications the Kids can work on an entry for the Art Contest. The annual Buddy Poppy Drive will happen during the Saturday morning Parade. While folks register to Vote or are working in the Buddy Poppy Craft area, Karen will also be teaching people to make aprons for the Veterans Homes. So, President Kim plans to help at the Partners for Parks Booth from 2-4pm Friday volunteering her time. You should stop and look at her new gray Auxiliary shirt she wears to let everyone know she represents the VFW Auxiliary.

We covered every program with this one sample project! Teamwork is the key! What is your Ant Hill planning to do? Are you advertising your projects on Facebook and other media?

Ways & Means at Fall C of A

- **Baskets**
Districts- 2 ,3, 5, 6, 7,& 8
- **Silent Auction Items**
Districts – 9, 12, 14, 15, 17, & 18
- **Grab Bags**
Every Auxiliary send/bring 3 Bags

Scan to Email App for your Phone



Adobe Scan (Free)

This app can scan a document from your phones camera automatically turning it into a PDF and easily attaches to your email to send. No reason for a late audit with this helpful app. You can download this app from your App store for free.

Secretary/Treasurer Corner

New Treasurers need to fill out the 8828-B. You can find it on our website. Send it to the IRS and a copy to Department Treasurer.

Bond - The bond for the President/Treasurer is due by July 31st. Make sure to make a motion at your July meeting so that it is in the minutes.

Incorporation thru the State of Missouri is due August 31, 2024. You should receive a postcard. You can pay for two years.

Audit- The April, May, June audit is due by August 31.



Department President Amy Jo Lett

**DEPARTMENT OF MO
VFW AUXILIARY**



CONFERENCE

SEPTEMBER 27 - 28



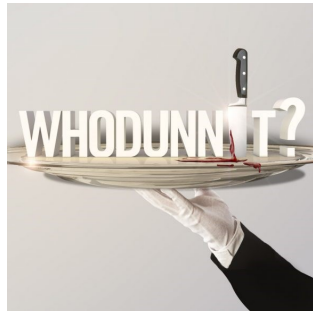
COURTYARD COLUMBIA

3301 LEMONE INDUSTRIAL BLVD

\$129/NIGHT UNTIL 9/13

573-443-8000

Click hotel name for link



2024 Commander Ric DePontee & President Amy Jo Lett's Homecoming Banquet



Saturday, 9-28-24 at 6:00 PM, Courtyard By Marriott, Columbia, MO

You are attending a mystery dinner. Lord Heathcliff is a very rich man and he is celebrating his marriage. Put on your best jeans and dress them up with a fancy top. The more jewelry you have on the better. Bring out your minks or boas and best hats. It's A Twisted Swanky Affair!

Dinner Menu

Down Home Buffet

Chicken fried steak and gravy.
Mashed potatoes,
creamy macaroni and cheese,
country style green beans,
Courtyard salad,
warm dinner rolls with butter and
fresh strawberry shortcake.

This is NOT a Gluten Free meal.



Please Indicate Quantity

_____ X \$30.00 \$ _____ Total

Down Home Buffet

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| Note: Tickets for multiple reservations will be placed in one envelope, in the name of the first person listed above. | |

► *If paying by credit card, please complete all information below:*

A 3% Convenience Fee Applies with Card Payments

Type of Card: Visa ___ MasterCard ___ Discover ___ American Express ___

Card# _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ Expiration Date ___/___

Name as it appears on credit card: _____ Verification # _____

Billing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Authorized Signature _____

Email Address: _____

Send Completed banquet form and payment to Department of MO VFW, 3401 Knipp Dr, Jefferson City, MO 65109 or email hqangela@movfw.org. Forms MUST be received at Department NO LATER THAN 9-13-24



Flag Etiquette at Parades

When an American Flag passes:

- Stand up.
- Remove your hat.
- Place your right hand over your heart.
- Stop any conversation you are having.

Note: It is not necessary to salute every American Flag that passes.

- If the Flag is carried by an honor guard or in a group with other flags, stand up and salute (veterans) or pay respect to the Flag.
- Do not salute small hand-held flags carried by parade attendees and participants. Teach your children to respect our nation's Flag. If they are given a small Flag, please do not throw it on the ground or in the street

JULY/AUGUST 2024

AMERICANISM

Sandy Prichard

573-576-6317

Sandyprichard52@gmail.com

JULY 4TH WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO YOU?

Independence Day!! Yes, our freedom is celebrated on July 4th. A national holiday marked by patriotic displays. Hope you will take pictures and post them to your social media pages and tag me in them. If your Post and Auxiliary has a picnic or firework show for the Veteran's please let us know on the Department of Missouri Facebook page. Let's spread the happiness.

#AuxAmericanism: please use this on our FB posts.

At our office we decorate a lighted tree with patriotic ornaments and our customers love it. I will post pictures on FB.

Showing Proper Respect to the Flag

- During our Ritualistic meeting, the President will say "Salute" when the flags enter and leave the room, as well as when we say the Pledge of Allegiance and sing the national anthem. Salute the Flag by placing the palm of the right hand flat over the heart.
- During Auxiliary meetings, the heart salute shall be used at all times where the salute is used.
- A member who is also a veteran may use the military salute.
- When the Flag is displayed AND the national anthem is played and/or sung, all present should face the Flag and salute.
- When the Flag is NOT displayed and the national anthem is played and/or sung, all present should face the music and salute.
- Members should stand when the Flags are moving.

POW

Prisoner of War

Not an acronym; a person

MIA

Missing in Action

Not an acronym; a person

EDUCATION

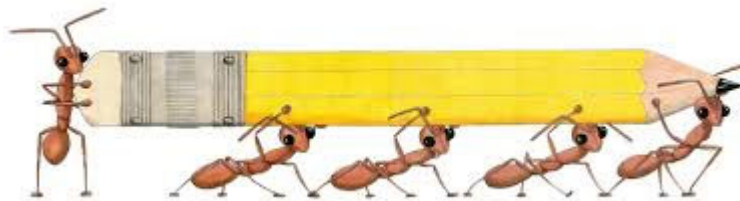
I hope everyone enjoyed School of Instructions and remember if you have any questions please reach out to any chairman or Amy Jo. The Ants are ready to assist you and your auxiliary.

EXPERIENCE

Share your experiences at your District meetings so that other auxiliaries can follow your lead and grow. Remember, District meetings are your own School of Instructions.

PRISONER OF WAR/MISSING IN ACTION REMEMBERANCE CEREMONY

- The single red rose in a vase is there as a reminder of the lives of each of the missing and their loved ones who keep the faith, still waiting for answers.
- The red ribbon tied around the vase shows our continued determination to account for the missing.
 - A lemon slice at each bread plate is to remind us of the bitter fate of those captured and missing in a foreign land.
 - A pinch of salt recalls the tears endured by those missing and their families who seek answers.
 - The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country, which was founded as one nation under God.
 - An inverted glass symbolizes their inability to share in the day's toast.
 - The chairs at each place stand empty to express their absence.





DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI AUXILIARY OUTREACH July/August 2024

Kim Rudy
2024-2025 Auxiliary Outreach Chairman
605 Boys Street
Monett, MO 65708
Phone: 417-393-5371
krudyauxoutreach2425@gmail.com

I hope that every one of you and your Auxiliaries have been working hard to get involved in your communities as this new year has gotten underway.

In the May/June material, I listed five steps for successful volunteering. Refer to those guidelines as you are planning and executing your Outreach projects.

Does your area have an Honor Flight? If so, reach out to the coordinators to see how you and your Auxiliary can help with the flights for our Veterans to Washington, D.C. You can volunteer to help with the pre-flight activities, the "Welcome Home" ceremonies as they return, or just provide cards and letters to the Veterans for the "Mail Call".

Contact your local organizations or churches to see what activities they have upcoming through the summer and help out with Vacation Bible School, back to school activities, working concession stands at sporting events, etc.

Remember to wear something that identifies you as an Auxiliary member while participating in these events and report your information at www.vfwauxmo.org

Department of Missouri VFW Auxiliary
Buddy Poppy/ National Home
July/August 2024-2025



Branda Young
1221 Schuchart Rd
Union, MO 63084
(636)234-1055
brandayoung.d9p@gmail.com

“Happiness held is the seed: Happiness shared is the flower.” ~John Harrigan

“Buddy”® Poppy Drives

- Now is the time to start planning your “Buddy”® Poppy Drives, if you haven’t already.
- Plan to work with your Post, if possible.



- See the Program Book Material for distribution tips.
 - Wear your Auxiliary branded clothing.
 - Contact your VFW Post to order Poppies.
 - Be sure to allow plenty of time for delivery (8-12 weeks).
 - Find ways to use the new tin Poppies.
 - Report your event as soon as the event is finished.
- Use as much detail as possible.
 - Be sure to add the amount of Poppies distributed in the “other” box.

CELEBRATE 100 years of the National Home helping Veterans and their families. The **CAFE** event this year is September 7th at the VFW National Home. Please check the website for more information.

VFW National Home Bus Trip

- October 25th-27th, 2024
- We co-sponsor the Halloween party with the Wisconsin VFW/VFW Auxiliary
- Our theme this year is “Hotel Transylvania.”
- **Needs (preferably small handmade items)**
 - Items for the goody bags
 - Prizes for games
 - Kitchen Towels, Potholders, etc.



Fall Conference “Buddy”® Poppy Display Contest

- Patriotic Ornament contest
- Ornaments will be donated to our Veterans in the Veterans Homes.
- There will be a Youth and Adult division for judging.

“HELPING OUR VETERANS BY BRIDGING THE GAP” WE CAN REACH “FROM OUR ROOTS TO OUR BRANCHES EXTENDING SERVICE TO OUR VETERANS”



Chief of Staff Extension- Revitalization July-August

*Janet Barlar
10865 C0 Rd 3310
Rolla, Mo. 65401
573-261-1948
baraux1953@yahoo.com*

What a fantastic Convention! It was good to see so many familiar faces and reconnect with my Auxiliary family, there's no better feeling! With that being said, **NOW** the real work starts.

Extension

We have to maintain our healthy Auxiliaries; it is equally important to continue to grow by increasing our membership and instituting new Auxiliaries. District Presidents please contact the Bachelor Posts in your Districts and discuss with them the possibility of establishing a new Auxiliary and the benefits of having an Auxiliary. I would also like for you to send an email to both President Amy Jo and me after you have contacted them and let us know their response. For more information on establishing a new Auxiliary, see Article II Auxiliaries, Sec. 202- Jurisdiction by Posts, of the VFW Auxiliary Podium Edition: Bylaws and Ritual. There are resources that may be used when making a presentation to a Post on our website and the National website under Extension-Revitalization.

Revitalization

Maintaining current Auxiliaries as Healthy Auxiliaries is the focus of Revitalization. The National Organization has developed many resources for members to use. These resources are valuable tools in helping Auxiliaries maintain their Healthy Auxiliary status and be more productive. These resources are:

- 1. The Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit**
- 2. *Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation***
- 3. 5 Essentials of an Auxiliary**

Starting now, all our Auxiliaries are healthy, and the Department is on the green level! I know that we can maintain the green level **all** year. I bought a stoplight for our Department Meetings, and I expect that light to be shining green at each one!! You might even see the stoplight pop up at District meeting and I know you want it to be green there also!

Mentoring

Mentoring helps broaden leadership skills and leadership provides guidance for mentoring members; they work hand in hand.

Through the mentoring process, offering the hand of friendship to a new member or even an older member who has been inactive for a while, can create a strong and vibrant organization. Providing a positive and organized meeting experience will leave members wanting to come back, especially when good communication and respect for each other are demonstrated.

I have asked each District President to establish a Mentoring program in their District and a Mentoring Team. I hope they will pass this information on at your District meetings.

My goal for this year is that every Auxiliary will have a Mentoring Program established within their Auxiliary and a Mentoring team. If anyone needs help with this, please let me know.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please email or call! I am excited to work with you and know this will be a successful year for our Auxiliaries.



Helping Veterans by Bridging the Gap with Teamwork!

EXTRA, EXTRA!

Read all about it, that's what we want our members and the community to do: read and learn all about our great programs, events and activities.

You can do this by becoming a seasoned reporter. Put on your investigative press hat and research all the Auxiliary Programs to understand their purpose and offerings.

The monthly program materials and the annual monthly guide from the program book will help you with this. Interview the Program Chairmen and/or Comrades to gain insider information. This will give you the perfect content for informative social media posts and local news articles.

The breaking story right now is the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen youth scholarships. With the due dates around 3 months away, you can help that program get the word out. Sample press releases are available on MALTA in the Scholarship section under Member Resources to help you out. Edit the press releases to meet your VFW Post and Auxiliary's needs.

Now make contact with your local newspaper. Ask for the Editor, Metro Editor or Columnist for where you want your article to run within the newspaper. Don't forget to find out when their daily or weekly deadlines are for future news stories too.

In no time you will be a pro!



Correspondent Resources

[Patriot's Pen Press Release](#)

[Patriot's Pen Winner Press Release](#)

[Voice of Democracy Press Release](#)

[Voice of Democracy Winner Press Release](#)

[Young American Creative Patriotic Art Press Release](#)

[3-D Art Press Release](#)

[Patriotic Art Winner Press Release](#)

[Illustrating America Press Release](#)

[Family Freedom Festival Press Release](#)

[Membership Drive Press Release 1](#)

[Membership Drive Press Release 2](#)

All of these can be found on MALTA, malta.vfwauxiliary.org, or on the Department website, vfwauxmo.org.

Getting the Word Out on Facebook

If you do not have a local print newspaper there may be a Facebook Page that acts as your local news source. Contact them to see if they will share your stories.


When posting on social media, don't stop at your own Auxiliary's page. Join your town's local community Facebook group(s) where you can share your breaking news reports. Typically, those groups contain the name of your town and the word Community or Happenings. Some groups even allow you to join and post as your Page.


Whether you are posting on your own Page or elsewhere, remember to post often. Everyone may not see your post the first time or they may need a reminder about a date coming up.

Have you ever checked your Page's insights? Doing some research by looking under the Content tab in the Meta Business Suite (<https://business.facebook.com>) will allow you to easily analyze the view the reach, comments, and reactions your posts are getting. Look for patterns to help you determine what is working and what isn't. Try to determine if your fans are checking first thing in the morning, during lunch hour, in the evening. Stay tuned for more tips!

Join the Historian/Media Relations
Facebook Group




www.facebook.com/groups/mohistorians

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| <p>Karen Cypret 2222 Whiplash Lane Washburn, Mo. 65772 417-342-7652 mohospitalvavs.kcypret@gmail.com</p> |  | <p>July/August Doctors' Notes</p> | <p>Missouri Hospital VAVS 2024-2025 "From Our Roots to Our Branches" we are "Helping Veterans by Bridging the Gap" and "Giving our time and energy for our veterans in need."</p> |
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| <p>Department Hospital Project</p> | <p>Wal-Mart gift cards in the amount of \$20 is the project I have selected for the 24-25 year. It is common for residents in Veterans Nursing and other Nursing Homes to need money for things that are not provided with the services they receive at the homes. Veterans in hospitals are in need of the same. This will provide them dignity allowing them to have control over a small part of their lives. My goal is to have One Thousand (1,000) \$20 cards for our deserving veterans. It would be wonderful if we surpassed our goal. How many gift cards will your auxiliary purchase for our deserving veterans? Bring them to the Fall Council of Administration in Columbia September 27-28, 2024 and we will get them to the veterans' homes and hospitals.</p>  |
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| <p>Information on Veterans' Homes</p> <p>Mexico</p> <p>#1 Veterans' Drive Mexico, MO. 65265</p> <p>1-573-567-8106</p> | <p>Mexico opened its doors on April 8th, 1985 and is located in Mexico Missouri. Since its beginning, MVH-Mexico has prided itself on honoring our state's heroes by giving best-in-class care. Not only do we take care of each Veterans physical needs but we ensure their social needs are met as well by offering a wide variety of activities like Bingo, garden club, pet therapy, and so much more. Our Maintenance Staff has even built raised garden beds outside that many veterans utilize to grow their own vegetables. The nice walking trail outside gives Veterans an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors and the local baseball team practices at the fields adjacent to the Home. The Administrator is Aliesha Edwards and the Volunteer Services is McKenzie Rutherford. The Veterans Home Liaison for the Department of Mo. VFWA is Coletta Williams.</p> |
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| <p>Mt. Vernon</p> <p>1600 South Hickory Mt. Venon, Mo. 65712</p> <p>1-417-466-7103</p> | <p>Mt Vernon became the second Veterans Home in the state when it accepted its first Veteran at the old Missouri Rehabilitation Center in 1983. In 2004 the Home moved across town to its new 156,000 square foot building on land donated by the city. When you arrive at the property the Home welcomes you with a sign that proclaims "The Price of Freedom is Visible Here." The Administrator is April Cutbirth and the Volunteer Services is David Kloppenborg. The Veterans Home Liaison for the Department of Mo. VFWA is Nancy Williams.</p> |
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| <p>Veterans' Home Liaisons</p> | <p>Don't forget to fill out the Monthly Report each month with what you have been doing in our veterans' homes and hospitals. Send a copy to me (Dr. Karen) and a copy to Department Treasurer Jackie Davis. Keep a copy for your records. You can find this form on the Department of Missouri website.</p> | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Donations</p>  | <p>Please give generously and often to the hospital program. Put it in your standing rules to donate a pre-determined amount and then you can vote at any meeting to send another donation.</p> | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Unusual Holiday's</p> <p>They can be found Fun Holidays - Funny, Random & Weird Holidays (timeanddate.com)</p> | <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">July</td> <td style="text-align: center;">August</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2nd I Forgot Day</td> <td>3rd Watermelon Day</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9th Sugar Cookie Day</td> <td>9th Book Lovers Day</td> </tr> <tr> <td>21st Ice Cream Day</td> <td>23rd Ride like the Wind Day</td> </tr> <tr> <td>27th Take Your Pants for a Walk Day</td> <td>31st Eat Outside Day</td> </tr> </table> | July | August | 2nd I Forgot Day | 3rd Watermelon Day | 9th Sugar Cookie Day | 9th Book Lovers Day | 21st Ice Cream Day | 23rd Ride like the Wind Day | 27th Take Your Pants for a Walk Day | 31st Eat Outside Day |
| July | August | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 27th Take Your Pants for a Walk Day | 31st Eat Outside Day | | | | | | | | | | |
|  <p>Online Reporting www.vfwauxmo.org</p> | <p>Online reporting is the only way to do any reporting. Click members only, sign in with your auxiliary number and your password is your last name lowercase. Once there go to reporting and fill out EVERY part of the report. If things are missing you will be asked to resubmit the report to fill in what is missing. This makes it much easier to do the judging. It also shows up on the dashboard so your auxiliary will know that it's been reported. Please name the volunteers on each report. They can only be counted once a year not multiple times.</p> <p>Things I'm looking for this year are</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many \$20 Wal-Mart cards did you donate • How much money did you donate • How many handmade cards did you complete • Most Outstanding project | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Physicians RX</p>  | <p>This is an exciting beginning of our new year. Hospital is a program that is needed. Our hospitalized veterans, those living in veterans' homes and nursing homes deserve the very best we can do for them. Use the following when on social media #MospitalVAVS</p> <p>Until next time, be safe and work, work like the ants, as a team.</p> <p><i>~Dr. Karen~</i></p> | | | | | | | | | | |

2024-2025 "CRAFT-AT-HOME" VOLUNTEER PIN APPLICATION

Submit completed form to the Department Hospital Chairman by April 15, 2023

Karen Cypret 22222 Whiplash Lane Washburn, Mo. 65772 (471)342-7652

mohospitalVAVS.kcypret@gmail.com

Auxiliary Name: Aux.#: District #:

Auxiliary President:

Email Address:

Phone Number: (.....)

List auxiliary members entitled to "Craft-at-Home" Volunteer Pin/Charms based on accumulated crafting hours for items crafted for VA Medical Center, Nursing Homes, Outpatient Clinics, Community or other Hospitals.

| Name | Location | Total Hours |
|------|----------|-------------|
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50 Hours _____ 100 Hours _____ 150 Hours _____

200 Hours _____ 300 Hours _____ 400 Hours _____

500 Hours _____ 750 Hours _____ 1000 Hours _____

2000 Hours _____ 3000 Hours _____ 4000 Hours _____

Number of First Time Sewers: Pins: Crafters:

NOTE: Please apply for charms when accumulated hours are earned by the volunteer.

First time sewers will receive the "Scissors" pin.

Auxiliary Hospital Chairman Signed: Date:

Auxiliary President Signed: Date:





July/August 2024-2025

Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF)
Bulletin
Department of MO Legislative
2024-2025 Promotional Material

Monica R Schroeder
6617 Hwy P
Westphalia MO 65085
moaux8045@gmail.com
573.680.5738

Legislative Chairman

 Present a report at each meeting. Give a brief description of current priority legislation that will affect our veterans, service members and their families. Report on the status of bills.

 Please report each event when it has been completed through online reporting. Mark the correct category and be sure you tell me in the description box what you did. Be specific and give details. If you utilized the materials from the National website, please tell me what you did with them. The more you tell me the better your chances for awards, this is how we determine who gets awards.

Why are Hashtags Important?


Hashtags are important on social media as they allow people to easily find your content. They can increase the amount of likes and shares which will increase your audience. Please let me know if you utilize a hashtag.


Why High School Students and the VFW Action Corps Weekly?

Who better to help us with our legislative goals than the youth! They are old enough to understand the issues and young enough to take advantage of the use of technology and social media. Contact your local High School for permission and a date for the event. Be creative about the promotions you take on the youth. Ask a young person to share the sign-up link for Action Corps weekly: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/register> on Snapchat. Be sure and have plenty of forms with you just in case they choose to sign up. You should also ask if you can register students to

VOTE. The student must be at least 17 ½ years of age and will be 18 years of age on or before election day. This should increase the number of voters educated on VFW endorsed Veteran issues and letter generated to our Legislators through the VFW Action Corps Weekly.

Dates to Remember:

 July 4, 2024: Independence Day

 August 6, 2024: Primary Elections



VFW Auxiliary Legislative Guidelines

In all Auxiliary political activities, we must remain neutral. Legislative activity is not the same as political activity. We support bills, not people or political parties. No Auxiliary space, which includes websites and social media accounts, should show favoritism towards a candidate, party or issues not endorsed by the VFW.

Grassroots Efforts in the State of MO

Grassroots support refers to the organic, bottom-up backing of our Veterans. This is deeply rooted in Post and Districts. It relies on the active participation of our Auxiliaries to dedicate their time and energy because they believe in the support of Veterans issues. Engagement is the cornerstone of any grassroots effort. It involves actively participating in or sponsoring local events, town halls and meetings, and engaging in public forums where our state legislatures will hear your voice in support of Veterans. Ask them the tough questions, fully funding of the Missouri Veterans Commission, support of bills by co-sponsoring, movement of bills through committees. This not only increases your visibility but also helps the community in understanding the efforts.

Legislative Resources

VFW Website: www.vfw.org

MO VFW Auxiliary Website: www.vfwauxmo.org

VFW Legislative Priorities:

<https://www.vfw.org/legislativepriorities>

VFW Legislative Priorities including VFW 2024

Priority Goals:

<https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service>

VFW Action Corps Weekly:

<https://www.vfw.org/actioncorpsweekly>

All Federal Bills Currently Supported by VFW:

<https://ssl.capwiz.com/vfw/issues/bills/>

Federal Bills: <https://www.congress.gov>

US Senators: www.senate.gov

US Representatives: www.house.gov

MO Senators:

<https://www.senate.mo.gov/Senators/Index>

MO Representatives: <https://house.mo.gov>

MAVO Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064617375512>

Action Corps

Sign up for Action Corps so you stay current on key legislation.

Text “VFW” to 50457

Visit website: <https://voterveice.net/VFW/Register>

Scan the QR Code



“Helping Our Veterans by Bridging the Gap”
“From Our Roots to Our Branches Extending
Service to Our Veterans”



**Department of Missouri Membership
July/August 2024
Promotional Material
Vicki Garcia – Membership Major
(Chairman)**

816-392-3220 * moauxgarcia5675@gmail.com
1004 Lakeshore Drive, Odessa MO 64076



DUES LETTERS

If you don't already have your dues letters mailed out, please do it now! The faster you get those notices sent, the faster those dues will start flying in! Don't forget **annual dues have increased this year by \$5.00** so you will need to raise your dues unless your auxiliary wants to absorb the difference. Treasurers who collect dues directly from members will now be sending Jackie Davis \$13.50 per annual dues paid.

MEMBERSHIP GOALS

- 85% + by August 15, 2024**
- 90% + by September 30, 2024**
- 95% + by November 15, 2024**
- 98% + by March 1, 2025**
- 100% + by May 15, 2025**
- 101% + by June 30, 2025**

**MEMBERSHIP
MOMENT**

This section will be used to highlight membership recruiting ideas that we can all use to help us in our recruiting efforts. Be sure to check back with each promotional material release. If you have an idea, you would like to share email it to me and I will feature it here.

**Attracting Younger
Members with Families**

As our average member age rises it is important for the future of our organization to attract potential members who are young families. If your auxiliary is already doing this, please share those ideas with me. Make your post home family friendly. Offer one day a month for Parents' Day Out where they can leave young children at the post with adult supervision to have a few hours out on their own. Utilize older teenagers to help with this event. It can be as simple as having pizza and watching a movie to playing games and having a carnival.

MEMBERSHIP SQUADRONS

- Fearsome Fighters – Districts 6 & 9 – Meghan McGrath**
- Unity Flyers – Districts 3, 8 & 14 – Melinda Ross**
- Recruiting Raptors – Districts Non 1, 7, 15 & 18 – Jennie Rosales -Woflgeggher**
- Aim High – Districts 2, 5, 12 & 17 – Joann Hammuck & Judy Nortcutt**

Each time the promotional material is issued I will update you on the standings. Which Squadron will come out on top? Stay tuned!



**WEEKLY VIDEO
UPDATES**

If your auxiliary would like to be featured in the weekly membership update videos on Facebook be sure to email be photos and/or videos of your membership drives, new members, goal achievements or any other membership moment you would like to highlight. This is the chance for your auxiliary to shine and be seen by the entire Department.



MISSOURI SCHOLARSHIP

July/August

Jenn Hoyt

Scholarship Chairman 2024 - 2025

Email: Hoytauxiliaryscholar24@gmail.com

816 - 674-5157

Walk for Scholarships

July 1st starts our Walk for Scholarships. This year I feel we can all work together to raise money to build our scholarship fund. I want this to be fun and a way to challenge you and your Auxiliary to walk for education. One way your Auxiliary can donate is to participate in a Walking Challenge from July 1 to December 31, 2024. Your auxiliary can keep track of how many miles you and your auxiliary are walking. Each month you turn in your walking form to your District Scholarship Chairman and they can email it to me. I will have a form available that you can use to keep track each week of how many miles you walk and how much money you get from walking. I have attached the Track your Miles below.

[Track your Miles](#)

I will be keeping track of miles walked and how much money we have raised. Each month I will send out an email of how many miles have been tracked and how much money we have raised.



Resources

Some places that you can reach students are your town's festivals. If your auxiliary has a booth you can set up you can set out some information about our scholarships. Also, libraries and churches. In most libraries they have an informational board and you can ask to post the Scholarship material on the board. Visiting local church youth groups will also be beneficial to promoting the scholarship material. Include homeschooling groups in your area. I have attached a link to help reach out to the homeschool groups in Missouri <https://www.time4learning.com/homeschooling/missouri/local-groups-co-ops.html>

In August students are going back to school, that will be a great time to get into the schools to share the scholarship material to the counselors. Another place you can reach out to students is the before and after school programs in your school districts.

Reminders of dates:

Continuing Education Scholarships:

This is for members and their family members. The application must be received at National Headquarters by February 15

Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest Grades 9-12

Deadlines: Participating VFW Auxiliary – March 31

VFW Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contest, Theme: Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?

Grades 9-12 Deadlines: Entries to VFW Post – Midnight, October 31

VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest, Theme: My Voice in America's Democracy? Grades 6-8 Deadlines: Entries to VFW Post – Midnight, October 31

Missouri Past National President Scholarship Grade 12

The Department of Missouri offers two scholarships (\$1,800 and \$1,200) in honor of Mabel Tanner and Glenneta Vogelsang who served as National President to the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary. To qualify, students must be a high school senior and the sibling, child, grandchild or great-grandchild of a current Missouri VFW or VFW Auxiliary member. Send application, transcript, letter of recommendation, and a brief essay to the Missouri Scholarship Chairman by April 15, 2025.

Online Reporting

When your Auxiliary is doing their online reports, please be advised to do a separate report for each scholarship you do. If you are promoting all of the program material it has to be in separate reports.

Veterans and Family Support
Department of Missouri
JULY/AUGUST

Darla Nebel
4736 Gorrell
Bland, MO 65014
Sheba6787@gmail.com
(573) 205-3454

Great way to start out our year. Amazing reporting such as meals to our homebound veterans & families, helping with a baby shower at the VA, taking veterans shopping & doctor appointments, kits for our homeless veterans, and many more.

Department President Amy Jo's theme is **"HELPING OUR VETERANS BY BRIDGING THE GAP!!"** so show me projects with VFW members & send me pictures.

I would love to be invited to an event when you are having one. I plan on setting up **Veterans & Military Suicide Prevention** tables throughout the year at different events. It is important to get the information out to the community. I will keep you posted on my adventures.



Missouri VFW & Auxiliary Joint Project:

OPERATION BOTTOM COVER

HELP OUR MISSOURI ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY FAMILIES BY DONATING DIAPERS & WIPES . BRING DONATIONS TO THE FALL CONFERENCE. SEND MONETARY DONATIONS TO JACKIE DAVIS - PLEASE EARMARK THEM FOR JOINT SPECIAL PROJECT.



HELPING OUR VETERANS BY BRIDGING THE GAP!!

MISSOURI
VFW & AUXILIARY
JOINT PROJECT

Operation Bottom Cover

The Auxiliary challenges the VFW
to Match our Donations of
Diapers, Baby Wipes & Ointment!



Donate New Packages of Diapers & Baby Wipes

All Sizes
Needed

Bring All Donations to
Fall Conference
September 27-28
Courtyard by Marriott
3301 Lemone
Industrial Blvd,
Columbia, MO 65201

Monetary Donations \$
Payable to: MO VFW Aux
Jackie Davis Secretary/Treasurer
3849 Hwy 47 W Troy, MO 63379
Earmark Bottom Cover

Help Our Missouri
Active Duty
Military Families
@ Ft Leonard Wood
Whiteman AFB
65 Armories
Ft Leavenworth

Questions Please Contact
Darla Nebel @ 573-205-3454



**Department of Missouri VFW
Auxiliary
Youth Activities**

July / August 2024

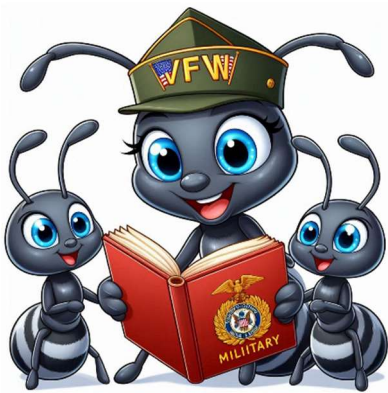
Lori Suiter
11703 E 37th St S
Independence, MO 64052
816-805-2245
lsuiter5576@gmail.com

Here we are halfway through the summer, and a new school year is upon us! Now is the time to begin reaching out to your local youth groups, schoolteachers and homeschool groups as they are planning activities for the coming year. Let them know what activities your Post and Auxiliary may need assistance with and encourage them to take part.

Consider holding a school supply drive and a patriotic back to school bash. You could have games and snacks, pass out school supplies that have been collected as well as a patriotic book. Have fun with it!

Independence Day is also fast approaching! Encourage your local JROTC and Scout Troops to participate in a parade or help serve a meal to veterans. Get them involved!

“Highlight”



Youth Reading to Veterans & Veterans Reading to Youth

*“Today a Reader, Tomorrow a Leader.”
Margaret Fuller*

Reading is an important part of our lives, no matter what the age, and is the foundation for all we learn. As an Auxiliary, we have not only an opportunity, but an obligation to teach America’s youth patriotism and American history. We can do this through books and personal stories!

- Partner with veterans within your Post home and host a day of reading. Have veterans read to the children, and children read to the veterans. A perfect day for this would be National Read a Book Day on September 6, 2024.
- When visiting or volunteering at a VA or nursing facility speak with the staff about setting up a time to have children visit and read to the veterans and residents. Not only would this give children practice at reading, but they would learn kindness and compassion, as well as hearing firsthand accounts of history from our veterans.

If you go to vfwauxmo.org under Youth Activities, you will find the Patriotism Through Literacy book list that has various patriotic themed books that are divided up by grade levels Pre-K through 12th grade. You can look for them at your local library or find them at the bookstore or online, but you are not limited to just these books.

As we involve our youth in ***“Helping Veterans by Bridging the Gap With Teamwork”***, let us never forget that ***“From Our Roots to Our Branches, Extending Service To Our Veterans”*** is the reason we exist.