

# The Missouri Bridge

2024-2025

General Orders

November/December

## Ant Hills in Action Ideas

- **Veterans & Family Support** – Homeless Backpacks
- **Americanism** – Teach a Church youth group the Pledge.
- **Auxiliary Outreach** – Volunteer with the local Football Boosters Club
- **Buddy Poppy** – Make a Poppy display for Convention.
- **National Home** – Make a Nation Home info poster.
- **Chief of Staff** - Make & give out New Member Packet/Bags
- **Historian** – Record the Auxiliary events with photos & a story then share it on Facebook.
- **Hospital** – Volunteer for Bingo at the Veterans Home
- **Legislative**- Sign up High schoolers for the Action Corps
- **Membership** – Hold a fundraiser for Life Membership Giveaway and pay Life Memberships for active members.
- **Scholarship**- Promote our Continuing Education Scholarship & PNP Scholarship during the meeting.
- **Youth**- Involve them in all our projects, remember the Homeschooled Children for our Illustrating Art Contest
- **MALTA Training** – Sign Members into MALTA
- **Reporting** – Teaching members to submit Online Reports

### Ask Amy

Can I be removed from my elected office if I don't pay my dues? Yes, please see the following bylaw for more of an understanding.

### **Sec. 109—Members and Officers—Rights of**

**B. No officer may be relieved of their office except for the following reasons:**

**1. Non-payment of dues prior to December 31. Once relieved from office, the member may not be re-elected or appointed to any position until the member's dues are paid.**

Janet asked, Amy, can my Auxiliary just change the meeting time, because Julie cannot make it in time? Janet, no they cannot. They must follow the bylaw below.

### **Sec. 210 -**

**B. A change in the regular monthly business meeting date, time, or location shall be approved by a two thirds (2/3) vote of the Auxiliary members present at such meeting.**

**1. Notification of such change shall be sent to all of its Auxiliary members, the National, Department, and District Secretaries within ten (10) calendar days.**

## **Auxiliary Calendar**

### **District Meetings**

D2 Post 4956 November 2 @ 11am  
D6 Post 4195 November 3 @ 12pm  
D7 Post 534 November 2 @ 10 am  
D8 Post 5331 November 3 @ 12pm  
D18 Post 4107 November 2@10am

### **Department Meetings & Events**

\*Winter Council of Administration Meeting & VOD Banquet

**February 7 & 8, 2024** @ the Marriott St Louis Airport, St. Louis

\*National Home Trip

**October 25-27, 2024**

### **National Meetings & Events**

\*National Mid-Winter Event

**February 1-6, 2024 Cancun**

## **Operation Bottom Cover**

**Donations were over the top!**

**VFW & Auxiliary Cash**

**Donations of \$16,488.50 !**

**VFW & Auxiliary filled the Department Box truck with Diapers & Wipes!**

**Thank You, Missouri!**

## **Ways & Means Winter C of A Baskets**

Districts – 9, 12, 14, 15, 17, & 18

### **Silent Auction Items**

Districts- 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, & 8

### **Grab Bags**

Every Auxiliary Send/Bring 3 Bags.

### **Questions, Please Contact**

Briana Borts

660-437-5514

vfwaux2591@gmail.com



## Tech Tips

FreeConferenceCall.com

### To use FreeConferenceCall.com

You can use your email and password to create a free account.

### Host a conference:

Log in to your account, click Host, and provide participants with the meeting's dial-in number, access code, and online meeting ID. You can also use the desktop app to join the audio portion of the meeting.

### Join a conference:

Use the dial-in number, access code, and host PIN to join the conference. You can use the desktop app or Web Viewer to join. Add video conferencing and screen sharing. Download the collaboration tool to your computer to host online meetings. Participants can join online meetings with Web Viewer.



**988** SUICIDE & CRISIS  
LIFELINE

### All-State Auxiliary Award Reminders

- ✓ Attend District Meeting
- ✓ Officers Dues paid by December 15, 2024
- ✓ Plan a Joint Event with the VFW that will benefit Veterans.
- ✓ Report Projects on Website
- ✓ 990's filed with the IRS.
- ✓ 101%+ Membership in current Percentages for Max Points



### Chief of Staff Janet Barlar

#### Extensions, Mentoring & Revitalization

I used to think that to be a good mentor, you had to be one of our seasoned long-time members. I no longer believe that. A good mentor is someone that can lead by example. They are knowledgeable about our bylaws, our traditions, and a thorough understanding of our Programs. A good mentor is enthusiastic, creative, and not afraid to think outside the box. Above all else, a good mentor is kind, understanding, and nonjudgmental! Ask yourself, are you a good mentor?

Please remember your members that are no longer able to attend your auxiliary meetings during this holiday season. A phone call, a card, or maybe even a visit, goes a long way to let them know that we are thinking of them and that they are still an important part of your auxiliary!

#### Treasure/Secretary Corner

**Secretaries** can find the Secretary cheat sheet on the website. This is for taking notes and then you transcribe them into your minutes.

**Treasurer's** – please send a Distribution Form with your checks. You can find it on the Missouri website under Treasurer's Resources. **Please, file your 990 they are Due!**

**Trustee Zoom Trainings** will be held **November 13 and December 4**. Please see the fliers on the website and with the Promotional Material.



Wishing you all a Happy Holiday Season!  
Always,  
Amy Jo Lett- Department President

# AMERICANISM

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2024

Sandy Prichard



## Dates to Remember

Nov 5<sup>th</sup> – Election Day  
Nov 10<sup>th</sup> US Marine Corps B-day  
Nov 11<sup>th</sup> Veterans Day  
Dec 7<sup>th</sup> Pearl Harbor Day  
Dec 13<sup>th</sup> US National Guard B-day  
Dec 20<sup>th</sup>- US Space Force B-day

## Education

Visit Program Materials on  
Department Website

Reach out to other auxiliaries  
who keep receiving honors for  
their work

Stay informed about Post  
activities and volunteer

## Contact

573-576-6317  
Sandyprichard52@gmail.com  
936 Carolina Place  
Jackson MO 63755

## Patriotic Instructor

Thanks to National Americanism Ambassador Katlyn Burks for the  
following

### Key Things to Remember:

- Practice and learn our VFW Auxiliary Rituals and Traditions
- See that the room is in keeping with the Ritual
- Teach members about the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance
- Understand the Federal Flag code

Did your Auxiliary do anything on October 26<sup>th</sup>, Day of the Deployed? This day honors all service members who have been deployed, are sacrificing or have sacrificed their lives to defend our country. This day also honors their families and the sacrifices they made during the deployments for their family members to service our country.

### Personal message

Happy Thanksgiving and Merry Christmas

I know we all have a lot going on at home and our Posts, but please do not forget our Veterans homes and nursing homes. Veterans that don't get to live with their families can really miss the atmosphere of home. Send cards, send treats, send socks and mostly send love.

Love to all my Post and Auxiliary Brother and Sisters





## DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI AUXILIARY OUTREACH November/December 2024

Kim Rudy  
605 Boys Street  
Monett, MO 65708

2024-2025 Auxiliary Outreach Chairman  
Phone 417-393-5371  
[krudyauxoutreach2425@gmail.com](mailto:krudyauxoutreach2425@gmail.com)

### **OUTREACH definition: out reach *noun* / 'out rēCH/ 1. the extent or length of reaching out**

The Auxiliary Out reach program is all about REACHING OUT to the groups, churches, schools and other organizations in your community to see what YOU (both as an Auxiliary and as an individual) can do to MAKE A DIFFERENCE by volunteering your time to help them.

For the approaching holiday seasons, remember "Thanks for Giving" to your community. Research to see who in your area will be providing dinners or pantry items for home cooked meals for those in need and volunteer your cooking, serving and cleaning skills to help out, remembering to wear your Auxiliary identifiers.

As Christmas (or any other observed December holidays) approaches, check with your local Goodwill, Salvation Army, shelters hospitals, etc. to see if there are programs they are doing that you can be a part of to help shop, wrap and/or deliver gifts, and assist in putting together food baskets or clothing donations for those in need.

Do you have a church in your area who may be hosting a blood drive? Offer to help register donors, serve snacks and donate to the cause yourself. This time of the year, the blood banks run low.

Contact the organizers of your local holiday parades: Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving and/or Christmas to see if they can use help in the parade lineups, shuttling people, judging entries, etc.

Remember to keep these things in mind when participating in and reporting your Auxiliary Outreach project:

- The project must be voted on by the membership. If this is a recurring volunteer project, put it in your standing rules.
- Wear your Auxiliary shirts, pins, hats or anything else that will identify who you are.
- 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. **You DO NOT report any monetary values in Auxiliary Outreach. This is a VOLUNTEER program.**
- If you have a recurring project that is multiple times a month, you may accumulate those hours and report them one time at the end of the month. In your description, please include the dates that your Auxiliary or member participated in.
- Be creative and descriptive when reporting the project. Did something fun and unexpected happen? Report it so you will catch my eye!

**Together we can make ourselves an asset to our community!**

REPORT, REPORT, REPORT **ALL** your volunteer efforts at  
[www.vfwauxmo.org](http://www.vfwauxmo.org)

**Everyone have a safe, fun, enjoyable end to 2024!**

Department of Missouri VFW Auxiliary  
General Orders  
November/December 2024

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



**“A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.” ~ Marcus Garvey**

**Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!**

**Thank you** to everyone that made ornaments for our Fall “Buddy”® Poppy Display Contest. There were so many wonderful ornaments and I’m sure the Veterans will LOVE them.

**Congratulations** to our adult division ornament winners

1<sup>st</sup> place ornament winner, Kenzie Phillips from Auxiliary 4288 (District 6)

2<sup>nd</sup> place winner Janice Johnson also from Auxiliary 4288 (District 6)

**Congratulations**, also, to our youth division ornament winners

1<sup>st</sup> place Brooklyn H sponsored by Auxiliary 5077 (District 9)

2<sup>nd</sup> place Lori McFalls and class sponsored by Auxiliary 6133 (District 9)

**Thank you** to everyone that donated items to take to National Home (items for goody bags, prizes for games, kitchen towels/potholders or monetary gifts). Thank you, the kids loved all their goodies.

**Thank you** to everyone that went on the National Home trip – I hope you had an amazing time and that you brought back loads of information to share with your Auxiliary.

**Don’t forget the cards!!** The National Home will be celebrating 100 years of helping veterans and their families this year and they would love to receive birthday cards from all over. Make a trip to your local school, teach them about the National Home and have the kids get creative with some birthday card making.

**Don’t forget!** Our Winter C of A will be here before we know it! Our “Buddy”® Poppy Display Contest is: “MO on the move” poster contest explaining the history of the “Buddy”® Poppy.

## **Fun facts about the Buddy Poppy/ National Home Chairmanship-**

- Madame Anna E Guérin, founder of the American and French Children's League, spoke at servicemen's organizations and always requested the same thing: whenever possible, wear a silk red poppy flower to honor the fallen.
- In August of 1922, the poppy was adopted as the official memorial flower of the VFW.
- From 1940-1961 there were "Buddy"® Poppy Girls. Some of these Buddy Poppy Girls autographed photos of themselves to distribute to Posts for selling the poppies. **Does your Post have one of these autographed photos?**
- Take a **field trip to "Flanders Field."**
  - Post/Auxiliary 2210 believes they have one of the cannons from Flanders Field. They hope to soon have a mural behind it on their wall.
- In November 1925, the Board of Trustees had their first annual meeting. At that meeting, the groundbreaking ceremony was held for the first building at National Home. That building was financed by the VFW baseball trust fund.
- In 1957 the National Home had 29 cottages and 200 children living there. The Department of Michigan Auxiliary donated money to build a housemother's cottage where they could go on their day off to rest without children. When Mr. Charles Henry, Manager of the Home was asked why a housemother needed time away from the children when some were their own, he replied, "Mothers could do a better job if they could have a day each week of relief from the worry and frustrations of taking care of a large family, be it their own or others."
- The original Welcome Center structure at the National Home was paid for by a baseball game and careful investments. In 1922, the New York Yankees were playing the Giants in the World Series. The game was called due to darkness and both fans and writers said it was collusion to make more money on another game. Judge K. M. Landis, then commissioner, ordered the money be turned over to charity. Past Commander-in-Chief Tillinghast Huston, at the time was a part owner of the Yankees. He was able to secure \$20,352.10 of the proceeds for the VFW and it was turned over to the National Home. The money was then invested and 25 years later they had the \$60,000 needed to build the Administration building.

**"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 November-December

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

### Extension



**Our roots run deep, and our foundation is strong, now we need to continue to grow and branch out!**

### Extension

Have you contacted unaffiliated posts and explained the importance of having an Auxiliary? If you have an unaffiliated Post that has expressed an interest in establishing an Auxiliary, please let Department know ASAP. It's important to establish new Auxiliaries to help carry out our mission of helping veterans and their families.

### Revitalization

At the Council of Administration meeting, I asked those in attendance, how many had used the **Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit**, and to my surprise, almost everyone raised their hands. Keep up the good work! There are wonderful resources to use in MALTA. Check them out! Another great tool to use is the **Member Engagement Form**. It's a good form to have new members fill out and should be in the New Member packet. At an Auxiliary meeting, take a few minutes and have the members in attendance fill out an updated form. Our interests change over time and we want to make sure we have the most current information on our members when we are looking for volunteers for our projects.

With the holidays right around the corner, I encourage the Auxiliaries to contact members that aren't attending meetings to see if there is anything they need. Have they been ill? Do they no longer drive at night but would like to attend meetings if they had a ride? Or do they feel not needed? It's so easy to do a wellness check with just a phone call and with this small gesture, you are letting them know they are still in our thoughts and important to us. Everyone wants to feel needed!

**REMEMBER, GREEN is the color you want to be!!**

# Mentoring

I now have all our District Mentoring Teams in place except for two and those will be set up by the end of the month!! Thank you, District Presidents, for doing this!!

These teams not only help the Department financially, but more importantly, they could help an Auxiliary having problems. It is **extremely** important that we get help to an Auxiliary that may be struggling early before the problems become major! That's why the District Presidents official visits are so important! These visits will let both the District and Department know know if an Auxiliary might be showing subtle "yellow caution lights". This would be the time to send in a member of the Mentoring Team to help before the problem becomes major and the Auxiliary possibly face suspension.

Are you mentoring in your Auxiliary? If so, please let me know how your Auxiliary is using Mentoring so I can share with everyone how you're using it. **Sharing Is Caring!**

## REMEMBER:

**C** - Catch the member when they first join.

**A** - Ask them to participate.

**R** - Remember what it felt like to be new.

**E** - Engage them in a Program that fits them.

Please don't hesitate to call or email with any questions or concerns!

Respect and Love,

Janet



**Helping Veterans by Bridging the Gap with Teamwork!**

## SOLD OUT EVENT!

Creating a Facebook event offers a robust platform for organizing gatherings and promoting events. It provides a centralized hub for sharing event details, inviting attendees, and providing updates. By leveraging these tools, you can effectively nurture your event and maximize its success.

As a Page, you can invite your followers, while your personal Profile allows you to extend invitations to your friends. Once people indicate their interest, they'll typically receive notifications when you post updates in the event discussion area. When a fan indicates interest in your event this also is posted in their newsfeed where their friends will see it. This helps maintain engagement and keeps your event top of mind.

Facebook events facilitate seamless communication and engagement among participants

## Capturing the Event

Have the MC or host remind attendees during the event that a group photo will be taken after the main activities. This will encourage guests to stay and participate. Capture the team's hard work by taking a group photo before or after the event setup. This is a great way to recognize their efforts. Emphasize the importance of visibility. Remind attendees that if they can't see you, you can't see them in the photo. Encourage them to move around freely without the need for time consuming staging. To avoid missed moments, take several photos. This will help ensure that everyone's eyes are open, mouths are closed, and smiles are captured. Pay attention to the background of your photos. Avoid clutter or distracting elements that can detract from the photo. Finally, for smartphones, avoid using digital zoom, as it can result in grainy images. Instead, take the photo at a normal distance and crop it later.

through comments, posts, and shared media. This can foster excitement and anticipation, ultimately driving increased attendance and a more enriching experience for everyone involved.

Unlike regular Facebook Posts that can get lost on the Page or newsfeed, events remain pinned to the top of your Page, making them easily discoverable for those seeking information. This ensures your event details are prominently displayed and accessible to potential attendees.

You can add additional hosts to the event. It will then appear on the added hosts' Pages, enabling them to invite their followers and create event posts, expanding your reach and engagement.

By utilizing Facebook events, you can effectively organize, promote, and engage with your audience, creating memorable and successful gatherings.



## Tips and Tricks

### Facebook Event Photo

Size event photos to 1920 x 1005 pixels, or a 16:9 aspect ratio. Keep info in the center to avoid it being cropped off on mobile devices.

### Facebook Photo Albums

Putting your photos into an album makes it much easier to find them later. Don't forget to label those photos for future members!

### Facebook Event Discussions

Make sure you turn these on so those interested in your event can ask questions or start conversations with friends.


### Boost Your Event




You can easily expand your reach by boosting your event. Just select how much you want to spend, your location and audience.


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Join the Historian/Media Relations  
Facebook Group  
[www.facebook.com/groups/mohistorians](http://www.facebook.com/groups/mohistorians)




<p>Karen Cypret 22222 Whiplash Lane Washburn, Mo. 65772</p> <p>417-342-7652</p> <p><a href="mailto:mohospitalvavs.kcypret@gmail.com">mohospitalvavs.kcypret@gmail.com</a></p>		<p>November/ December</p> <p>Doctors' Notes</p>	<p>Missouri Hospital VAVS 2024-2025</p> <p><b><i>“From Our Roots to Our Branches”</i></b> 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><b>Happy Holidays</b></p> 	<p>The Holidays are upon us! This is the time of year that we all go to the hospitals, veterans’ homes and nursing homes to give of our time and goods. What is your auxiliary planning this year? What is your Outstanding Project going to be during this time of year?</p>  <p>November 6<sup>th</sup> Election Day November 11<sup>th</sup> Veterans’ Day November 28<sup>th</sup> Thanksgiving Day December 1<sup>st</sup> First Day of Advent December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas December 26<sup>th</sup> Hannukah and Kwanza</p> 
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<p><b>Suicide Awareness</b></p> 	<p>Department President Amy Jo has as one of her projects Suicide Awareness. Get out in your community and let them know that 988 is the easy number to call for help. No one should feel like un-aliving themselves will fix things. The Holidays are the hardest times for people, it is called survivors guilt a lot of the time. Let us try to take some of that pressure off of their shoulders by listening to their cries for help and get them the help they need. Each person is precious.</p>
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<p><b>Crafting at Home</b></p>	<p>Have you thought about making homemade Greeting Cards? You can get your youth involved in this. Kids love to craft. People enjoy getting homemade cards. How about having a crafting party at your next District meeting making holiday cards for those who are in the hospital and homes? Don’t forget to report that also.</p>
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<p><b>Department Hospital Project</b></p>	<p>Our special project of \$20 Wal-Mart gift cards has been the topic of conversation at the Department CofA this past September 27-28<sup>th</sup>. We are making sure that the cards ARE in working order. Thank you to all who donated towards this fine project. We collected 148 cards and \$200.00 in cash donations. I’m blessed by the generosity of our members.</p> 
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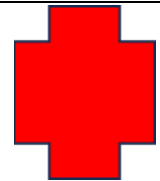
<p><b>Operation Bottom Cover</b></p>	<p>Our own National Presidents Brenda Bryant special project <b>Operation Bottom Cover</b> is still under way. This is to help get diapers and wipes to veterans and active service members.</p>
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Diapers and wipes are expensive, if there is one thing we can do to help young families, it is these items. Bring them to the Winter CofA also. We will make sure they get where they need to go.

**VAVS Reps AND  
Veteran Homes  
Liaisons**

I have received a few Monthly Reports and I am seeing some great ideas and projects happening in our department hospitals and Homes.



You should have been evaluated by your home administration by now, if not, ask them when they are planning on doing that.

**Missouri Veterans'  
Home**

Warrensburg  
Veterans Home  
1300 Veterans Road  
Warrensburg, MO.  
64093  
Phone:  
1-660-543-5064

In 1988, demographics showed that a seventh Veterans Home should be built in West Central Missouri and on Sept. 26, 2000, Missouri Veterans Home – Warrensburg opened its door. In our nearly 23 years, we have served over 2,941 veterans and their families. Every year we look forward to hosting our family weekend Fall festival, transforming our chapel into a winter wonderland and cheering on the Kansas City football team. We offer a variety of activities and services to keep Veterans engaged, creating a sense of community at the Home. The Administrator is Jamie McCannon and the Volunteer Services is Latisha Koetting. The Dept. of Mo. Veterans' Home Liaison is Vickie McCarty.

**Online Reporting**



[www.vfwauxmo.org](http://www.vfwauxmo.org)

Online reporting is the only way to do any reporting. You can do that at [www.vfwauxmo.org](http://www.vfwauxmo.org) 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. As a reminder these are the things I'm looking for this year.

- How much money did you donate
- How many handmade cards did you complete
- Most Outstanding project

**Physicians' *RX***



Let's not forget our veterans when we get busy this time of year. I hope you have a wonderful holiday season. Merry Christmas, Happy Kawanza, Happy Hanukkah and Happy New Year!

Until next time, be safe and work, work like the ants, as a team.  
~Dr. Karen~





November/December 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](mailto:moaux8045@gmail.com)  
573.680.5738

## National Legislative Priorities


 **HR 8371** – Senator Elizabeth Dole 21<sup>st</sup> Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act. So Veterans, caregivers, and survivors can receive the life-altering and life-saving care and benefits they have earned and deserve.

 **Unaddressed Toxic Exposures** – Require VA to publicly post announcements, updates, and current statuses of research pertaining to presumptive conditions from service-connected exposures.

- Conduct oversight hearing to ensure VA’s compliance with the PACT Act for the ongoing evaluation of conditions associated with toxic exposures.


 **Exploring Alternative PTSD Treatments** – Provide funding to the Department of Defense and VA for innovative PTSD treatments currently used in the private sector.

- Direct VA to perform studies on alternative PTSD and other mental health care treatments.

 **Pass S 740/HR 1139 – Guard VA Benefits Act** – to reinstate penalties for charging veterans and survivors unauthorized fees relating to claims for VA benefits.

## Missouri Association of Military Organizations (MAVO)


Legislative Priorities for the upcoming 2024-2025 Legislative Year


 Fully fund the Missouri Veterans Commission (MVC)


- Yearly MVC must go back to general revenue to support the VSOs, state cemeteries and state veterans homes. \$50 million last year

## Missouri Association of Military Organizations (MAVO)

Legislative Priorities for the upcoming 2024-2025 Legislative Year

 Enhance real and personal property tax exemptions for 100% disabled veterans. Currently there is a tax exemption for veterans that are 100% disabled **and** are former prisoners of war. This narrow exemption provides assistance to very few Missouri veterans, change **and** to **or**. This would be a constitutional change.

 Support legislation that protects veterans from predatory actors who seek to profit from benefits that have been earned by those who serve our nation (Claim Sharks). MVC VSOs and their grant partners receive no payment taken from the veterans benefits.

 Support voting “no” on Amendment 2, which would allow the Missouri Gaming Commission to regulate licensed sports wagering. The reason is this will decline the revenue generated by the riverboat gaming and our posts gambling machines.



### Dates to Remember:

November 1, 2024 – All Saints Day  
November 2, 2024 – All Souls Day  
**November 5, 2024 – Election Day**  
November 11, 2024 – Veterans Day  
November 28, 2024 - Thanksgiving  
November 29, 2024 – Black Friday  
December 2, 2024 – Cyber Monday  
December 7, 2024 – Pear Harbor Remembrance Day  
December 21, 2024 – Winter Solstice  
December 25, 2024 - Christmas  
December 31, 2024 – New Year’s Eve

## Item of Interest

VFW Action Alerts- Of the total number of VFW and Auxiliary, family, and friends, only 360,000 are signed up. Of those only 1% are responding to these “Alerts” and acting. This is Grassroots Advocacy, and you need to “Make Your Voices Heard on Capitol Hill” at the national level.

## Legislative Resources

VFW Website: [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org)

MO VFW Auxiliary Website: [www.vfwauxmo.org](http://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](http://www.senate.gov)

US Representatives: [www.house.gov](http://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

November/December 2024

Promotional Material

Vicki Garcia – Membership Chairman

816-392-3220 \* [moauxgarcia5675@gmail.com](mailto:moauxgarcia5675@gmail.com)

1004 Lakeshore Drive, Odessa MO 64076

### MEMBERSHIP AT DISTRICT MEETINGS

Ideas to incorporate the membership program into your district meetings:

1. New member bags – have all participating auxiliaries bring items to put into these new member bags to assembly during the district meeting. All auxiliaries would bring a few bags with them to give to their new members.
2. QR Code Posters – Create posters during the district meeting that would highlight the Membership QR Code. These posters can be displayed at any event or at the post. Create laminated business card size versions of the QR code for members to carry with them.

### NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP AWARD CLARIFICATION

- PRESIDENTS are NOT limited in number of new recruits and are eligible for the national recruiter awards.
- TREASURERS on all levels are NOT eligible for the national recruiter awards.
- Recruiter number is NOT a required field on a member application. It will not be rejected if left blank.

### OFFICER DUES BY DECEMBER 31, 2024

Please make sure that your auxiliary officers have their dues paid by December 31, 2024. If an officer's membership lapses they are no longer eligible to hold office and will be removed.

### MEMBERSHIP GOALS

**95% BY NOVEMBER 15 \* 98% BY MARCH 1 \* 100% BY MAY 15 \*  
101% BY JUNE 30**

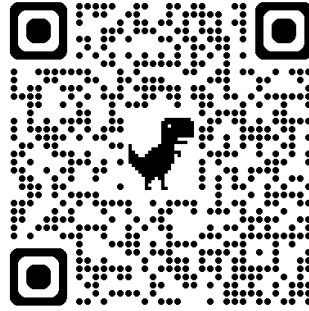
### G.A.P. MEMBERSHIP METHOD

Our National Membership Ambassador has asked us to “Get our Ask In Gear” and implement the G.A.P. Method of Membership recruiting. The Great Aunt Patsy method asks us to consider purchasing VFW Auxiliary Membership for our family members in lieu of Birthday gifts, Christmas gifts, Anniversary gifts, etc. If every member would sign up just 1 family member just think how we would grow. Increasing our ranks helps us to help our veterans even more!

## MEMBERSHIP QR CODE

National has created this QR code to simplify recruiting. This QR code can be used anywhere for anything with no restrictions. Consider making a poster with the eligibility wheel and the QR code to have at a membership drive table. The poster can also be displayed at the post or at other events.

This QR Code directs the user to the national website page that tells them about the history of our organization and what we do. There is also a link to our Fact Sheet, Membership Application and Membership Brochure. You no longer need to print out all this information or carry it around with you! If you would like me to send you an electronic version of the QR code, just sent me a request via email.



## #JUST1

Let everyone know how you are doing in recruiting new members. Any time you have a membership drive or event post it on social media. Be sure to use the hashtag #just1. If each of us would pledge to recruit just 1 new member this coming year our organization would double in size. Make use of the Just 1 Pledge Cards in your meetings. Have each member fill one out pledging to recruit at least 1 new member.

## EVERY TREE HAS IT'S PURPOSE

Our National President's Theme is "**From Our Roots to Our Branches: Extending Service to Our Veterans.** Just like there are different types of trees with different purposes; so is it that our membership serves all different purposes. Each type is no more or less important than the others and it takes them all to be "**Helping our Veterans by Bridging the Gap**".

**Fruit Trees** – Feed the members, these are the doers. These are the mentors and all that step up all the time to lead.

**Nut Trees** – Bring the energy and fun! Often challenging people but they are the ones that bring the great ideas!

**Ornamentals** – The NUMBERS! They may not attend any meetings but they may make occasional donations. All these numbers are important to the IRS and Congress when it comes to hearing our voice in our state and federal government when bills are introduced that pertain to veterans.

**Shade trees** – we all have them.

**Evergreens** – Our "Legacy" Members – they provide consistency and institutional memory.



## MISSOURI SCHOLARSHIP

November/December

Jenn Hoyt

Scholarship Chairman 2024 - 2025

Email: [Hoytauxiliaryscholar24@gmail.com](mailto:Hoytauxiliaryscholar24@gmail.com)

816 - 674-5157

Hello everyone, I hope you are enjoying your year. I can't believe we are already into November and December. Voice of Democracy and Patriots pen should already be judged at your post level and be to your district level for judging.

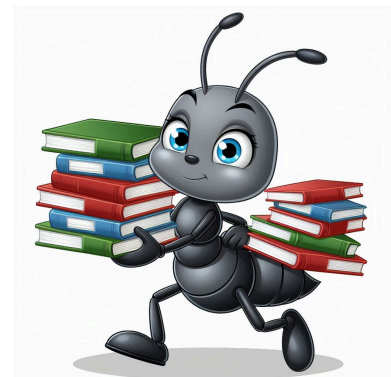
The next scholarship that I really want to touch on is VFW Auxiliary National Continuing Education Scholarship Application. It is a scholarship that sometimes gets overlooked. The VFW Auxiliary is pleased to present help to assist VFW Auxiliary members and their immediate family who wish to further their education by pursuing a college degree or a career direction at a vocational/technical school. Tell your Auxiliary members and talk this scholarship up.

### Eligibility:

- VFW Auxiliary member for at least one full year by the application submission deadline of February 15.
- The spouse, son and/or daughter of a VFW Auxiliary member that has been a member at least one full year by the application submission deadline of February 15.
- Applicants must be 21 years of age or older by the application submission deadline of February 15.
- Previous National Continuing Education Scholarship winners are not eligible.

Program Awards Administrator  
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters  
406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor  
Kansas City, MO 64111

Or email it to [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org)



## **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  
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  
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER***

Darla Nebel  
4736 Gorrell  
Bland, MO 65014  
[Shebe6787@gmail.com](mailto:Shebe6787@gmail.com)  
(573) 205-3454

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT AMY JO AND COMMANDER RIC PUT A NEW SPIN ON OUR FALL CONFERENCE - IT IS ONE I WILL NEVER FORGET.

***Missouri VFW & Auxiliary Joint Project***



**OPERATION BOTTOM COVER**

THANK YOU THANK YOU!!! I couldn't believe my eyes with the support for the MO VFW & Auxiliary Joint Project with the parade checks to the room full of diapers and wipes . Post and Auxiliaries across Missouri coming together for our enlisted men and women. We don't want to forget the Cooties and VFW riders.

**Missouri Veterans Service Programs**

Missouri Veterans Service helps veterans, service members and their families obtain the benefits they deserve - at no cost to the veteran. MSV provides a nationwide network of nearly 300 VFW Service Officers who help veterans navigate the Veterans Affairs system. Those VFW Service Officers recover more than \$1 billion annually in VA benefits for veterans and their dependents.

These highly skilled professionals assist all veterans, whether they are VFW members or not, in filing claims for:

- Disability compensation.
- Rehabilitation and educational programs.
- Pension and death benefits.
- Employment and training programs.

NVS/MVS also works to ensure veterans receive quality, timely and accessible VA health care, including:

- Hospital care.
- Outpatient care.
- Specialized health care for female veterans.
- Alcohol and drug dependency treatment.
- Medical evaluation for disorders associated with military service, exposure to Agent Orange, radiation, or other environmental hazards.

PLEASE CONTACT MO VFW VETERANS SERVICE OFFICERS

MIKE SCHROEDER

TROY WILLIAMS

EMAIL: [legislativechrm2@movfw.org](mailto:legislativechrm2@movfw.org)

Mike and Troy put their hearts into helping our veterans and families get their benefits.

As the holiday season approaches, let's check in on our veterans and families. Do you have an extra place at the table? Maybe go help at veterans' homeless shelter. Visit a veteran or spouse at a nursing home. Adopt a soldier's family for Christmas. Send a care package to a deployed soldier.

Our auxiliaries across Missouri have been doing such an awesome job!!

**HELPING OUR VETERANS BY BRIDGING THE GAP!!**





**Department of Missouri VFW  
Auxiliary  
Youth Activities**

**September / October 2024**

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

***“Highlight”***

**EDUCATION**

*“With freedom comes responsibility.” – Eleanor Roosevelt*

We have a responsibility to educate our youth about patriotism, love for country and our military and veterans who fought for our freedom.

A perfect time to do this would be National Young Readers Week November 11-15, or the month of December which is Read a Book Month. Talk with your local schools, home school groups, or libraries about coming in and working with the youth. Depending on the age group, you could:

- Teach the Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem
- Teach Flag and Parade Etiquette
- Educate on Patriotic Days
- Read/Donate Patriotic Books



Don't forget, you can find printable Pledge Bookmarks, Flag Etiquette Pamphlets, and a list of Patriotic Holidays on the Department website [www.vfwauxmo.org](http://www.vfwauxmo.org) under the Americanism program.

November 11<sup>th</sup> is Veterans Day and would be a great time to get youth involved in recognition ceremonies, parades and dinners that your Post or community may be hosting. You can teach them all about Veterans Day and give them an opportunity to meet and thank the veterans for their service. You could also have children pair up with a veteran “buddy” and have them read to each other. Make sure to print a Patriotic Youth Award for each of your participants!



Quick Update –

There was a change to the Illustrating America Art Contest.

- It is now REQUIRED for the student’s name and grade to be written on the back of every art entry.

There are new contest rules and entry forms available on the Department website, [www.vfwauxmo.org](http://www.vfwauxmo.org).



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.







# Trustee Training Invitation

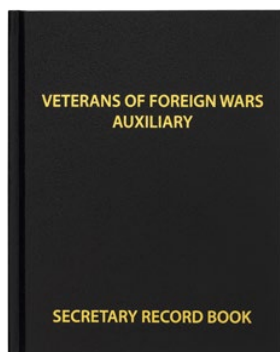
We are offering two zoom training for the Trustees of the Auxiliaries. This will give you instructions on what you need to do when auditing your Auxiliary Treasurer/Secretary Books.

Two Dates:     November 13, 2024  
                      December 4, 2024

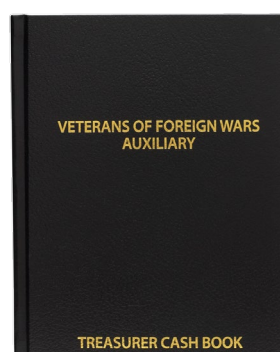
Time:            7:00 p.m.

Who:             Any VFW Auxiliary Member

How:             Contact Jackie Davis at [vfwauxdeptmo@gmail.com](mailto:vfwauxdeptmo@gmail.com) to receive the zoom invitation. Make sure to specify the date you would like.



Please join us!





# Sr Vice Fundraiser

Department of Missouri

Our Senior Vice President Patti Burge has been given permission to hold a Fundraiser for her year.

She will be giving away this Welcome sign with 8 interchangeable magnetic icons. The sign is 9 inches by 52 inches and can be used indoors or outdoors. Sr Vice Patti will have two drawings. One will be at the Winter Conference, and one will be at the Convention. Tickets are \$1 or 6 for \$5.

Tickets and money are to be sent to:  
Department Treasurer – Jackie Davis  
3849 Hwy 47 W, Troy, MO 63379.

**\$1 for One**  
**\$5 for Six**

**Two Drawings**  
**Winter Conference**  
**Convention**





<b>Welcome Sign Raffle</b>	<b>Welcome Sign Raffle</b>
Name: _____ District: _____ Auxiliary: _____ Phone No: _____	Name: _____ District: _____ Auxiliary: _____ Phone No: _____
<b>Welcome Sign Raffle</b>	<b>Welcome Sign Raffle</b>
Name: _____ District: _____ Auxiliary: _____ Phone No: _____	Name: _____ District: _____ Auxiliary: _____ Phone No: _____
<b>Welcome Sign Raffle</b>	<b>Welcome Sign Raffle</b>
Name: _____ District: _____ Auxiliary: _____ Phone No: _____	Name: _____ District: _____ Auxiliary: _____ Phone No: _____
<b>Welcome Sign Raffle</b>	<b>Welcome Sign Raffle</b>
Name: _____ District: _____ Auxiliary: _____ Phone No: _____	Name: _____ District: _____ Auxiliary: _____ Phone No: _____
<b>Welcome Sign Raffle</b>	<b>Welcome Sign Raffle</b>
Name: _____ District: _____ Auxiliary: _____ Phone No: _____	Name: _____ District: _____ Auxiliary: _____ Phone No: _____
<b>Welcome Sign Raffle</b>	<b>Welcome Sign Raffle</b>
Name: _____ District: _____ Auxiliary: _____ Phone No: _____	Name: _____ District: _____ Auxiliary: _____ Phone No: _____
<b>Welcome Sign Raffle</b>	<b>Welcome Sign Raffle</b>
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<b>Welcome Sign Raffle</b>	<b>Welcome Sign Raffle</b>
Name: _____ District: _____ Auxiliary: _____ Phone No: _____	Name: _____ District: _____ Auxiliary: _____ Phone No: _____
<b>Welcome Sign Raffle</b>	<b>Welcome Sign Raffle</b>
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<b>Welcome Sign Raffle</b>	<b>Welcome Sign Raffle</b>
Name: _____ District: _____ Auxiliary: _____ Phone No: _____	Name: _____ District: _____ Auxiliary: _____ Phone No: _____
<b>Welcome Sign Raffle</b>	<b>Welcome Sign Raffle</b>
Name: _____ District: _____ Auxiliary: _____ Phone No: _____	Name: _____ District: _____ Auxiliary: _____ Phone No: _____

Send to Jackie Davis – 3849 Hwy 47 W, Troy, MO 63379





## **VFW Auxiliary Programs Project “Recipe” Instructions**

**Needed:** One “Recipe” VFW Auxiliary Programs Project “Recipe” from each Auxiliary – (can do more than one if you like, big or small, anything that works). We will put these together in a Project “Recipe” Book to share with all Auxiliaries.

Please do multiple Project “Recipes”. You can do one for each of the Auxiliary Programs if you like.

**What you can do:** Complete the VFW Auxiliary Programs Project “Recipe” Template on any of the programs that you do in your Auxiliary. Just follow the instructions or steps as indicated.

**What kind of projects:** Any project that your Auxiliary has or is currently doing to support the programs. It could be for one program or for several.

**Other information:** Please provide any tips that may help. Also include your fundraising ideas.

**Where to send:** Send your completed “Recipe” project by email to:

[moauxprojects@gmail.com](mailto:moauxprojects@gmail.com)

**Deadline – January 6, 2025**

**Let’s have fun with this! This is a great opportunity to share what we do in our Auxiliaries to help support our Veterans, their families, and our communities.**

## VFW Auxiliary Programs Project “Recipe” Template

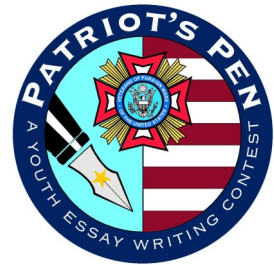
- **Project Title:** (Name of the project or event)
- **Program:** (Program it would be reported to)
  
- **Ingredients:** (List of resources needed for the project, such as materials, volunteers, budget, etc.)
  - Resource 1
  - Resource 2
  - Resource 3(Continue as needed)
  
- **Preparation Time:** (How long it takes to plan and organize the project)
  
- **Serves:** (Number of participants or people helped by the project)
  
- **Instructions:** (Step-by-step guide on how to work the project, like a recipe method)
  - Step 1
  - Step 2
  - Step 3(Continue with as many steps as needed)
  
- **Special Notes:** (Any additional tips, advice, or important information for completing the project)
- **Outcome:** (Expected or actual results, such as community impact or feedback)
- **Optional Categories to Include:**
  - **Estimated Cost:** (Budget for the project)
  - **Difficulty Level:** (Rate the project’s difficulty level: Easy, Moderate, Challenging)
  - **Time of Year:** (Suggested time of year or occasions for this project)
  
- **Auxiliary# & District #**

**February 7th and 8th, 2025**  
**Department of Missouri**  
**VFW & Auxiliary Winter Convention**  
**Voice of Democracy**  
**& Patriot's Pen**



**LOCATION:**

Marriott St. Louis Airport  
10700 Pear Tree Lane  
St. Louis, MO 63134  
Phone: 314-423-9700



Our special rate is **\$98.00** a night plus applicable fees.

You may click [HERE](#) to reserve online; you can change your arrival/departure dates by altering the “Check In” and “Check Out dates and then click “Check Availability ” or you may call the hotel , however I do believe it transfers you out to a call center and you are not actually talking to someone at the hotel and you will need to reference

**VFW Winter Convention.**