

# The Missouri Bridge

2024-2025

General Orders

January/ February

## Veterans & Family Support: Strengthening Bonds

Auxiliaries are you reaching out to active-duty families, offering childcare and emotional support to bridge gaps in their lives? Innovative projects/events such as raising awareness of caregivers, military health, and suicide prevention, highlights teamwork of the VFW and Auxiliary members.

## Membership: Building a Stronger Future

We encourage each Auxiliary to reach the 98% membership goal by March 1, 2025. We are offering incentives of cash awards for achieving goals. With the use of MALTA's online membership tool, it will simplify dues processing, making it easier to retain and grow membership. Together, we can strengthen the organization's foundation. PS Call those lapsed members!

## Outreach: Volunteering in the Community

Auxiliaries should be engaging in volunteer work with local groups, such as helping at community events like soup cook-offs or Valentine's celebrations. Members are already making a difference while showcasing the VFW Auxiliary's commitment to service in their communities.

## Hospital: Supporting Heroes

Auxiliaries should be engaging in meaningful activities for veterans in hospitals, from organizing New Year celebrations to crafting Busy Aprons for dementia patients. The focus remains on boosting morale and providing support through donated supplies and thoughtful gestures.

## Extensions & Revitalization: Strengthening Auxiliaries



Chief of Staff Janet Barlar is celebrating the success of our Mentoring program. Helping members solve challenges and stay connected, ensuring Auxiliaries remain strong and supportive.

## Buddy Poppy/National Home: Creativity in Honoring Veterans

The Buddy Poppy Winter Contest theme is "MO on the Move.", to craft a Poster Board display on the history of the "Buddy"® Poppy. Did your Auxiliary donate to the National Home Fund or purchase a Tribute Brick?

**988** SUICIDE & CRISIS  
**LIFELINE**

For more information on any of the programs, refer to the individual program promotional material.

## Ant Hills in Action Info

**MALTA Training** – Sign up all members & Train Officer on their Duties.

**Reporting** – Teaching members to submit Online Reports & Report all activities before April 15, 2025. Make sure the date is correct on your report.

## Auxiliary Calendar

### District Meetings

D2 Post 2654 January 11 @ 11am  
D3 Post 12053 January 19 @12 pm  
D5 Post 3976 February 2 @ 12pm  
D6 Post 4288 February 2 @ 12pm  
D7 Post 2590 February 15 @ 10 am  
D8 Post 5741 February 2 @ 12pm  
D9 Post 3772 January 12 @ 12pm  
D12 Post 4105 February 15@12pm  
D14 Post 3404 January 19 @ 1pm  
D15 Post 3174 January 19 @ 12pm  
D17 Post 2508 January 19 @ 12pm  
D18 Post 473 February 1 @10am

### Department Meetings & Events

\*Winter Council of Administration Meeting & VOD Banquet

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

### National Meetings & Events

\*National Mid-Winter Event  
**February 1-6, 2024 Cancun**

**Youth Activities: Patriotic Creativity**

The Illustrating America Art Contest encourages children in grades K-8 to express their patriotism through art. With entries judged on technique and patriotic themes, this program helps instill national pride in the youngest generation while supporting the VFW Auxiliaries mission of service.

**All-State Auxiliary Award Reminders**

- ✓ Attend District Meeting
- ✓ Plan a Joint Event with the VFW that will benefit Veterans.
- ✓ Report Projects on Website
- ✓ 101%+ Membership in current Percentages for Max Points

**Historian & Media Relations: Expanding Reach**

Is your Auxiliary embracing digital tools like custom brochures and websites to boost visibility and engagement? By sharing stories, resources, and updates online, you will create lasting connections within the community and attract new members dedicated to supporting veterans.

**Americanism: Inspiring Patriotism Beyond Patriotic Holidays**

This winter is a great opportunity to work our Programs like "Flag Education for Kids". Provide tools and or teach proper flag etiquette and disposal methods, in your local Schools or Churches to ensuring respect for our Flag. Together, we remember that patriotism is a continuous commitment.

**Scholarship: Investing in Education**

Auxiliaries are you promoting scholarships, including the Patriotic Art Contest and the Continuing Education Scholarship, which support students and VFW families pursuing education? This year's Voice of Democracy & Patriots Pen winners will be honored at the Winter Council Meeting on February 8, 2025, please join us as we celebrate our future, by honoring the dedicated students who embody patriotism.

**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

**Legislative Advocacy: Voices for Veterans**

The VFW is preparing for the National Legislative Conference March 2-6, 2025, aiming to spotlight issues like protections against predatory practices targeting veterans. Members, I encourage you to join the Action Corps Weekly, to ensure your voices influence legislation that supports veterans' rights. Sign up by Texting VFW to 50457.

**Treasure/Secretary Corner**

**Treasurer:** The checkbook of the Auxiliary should always be in the hands of the Treasurer. They are the ones who has custody of the Auxiliary Funds. The checkbooks should never be left where other people could get hold of it. Remember, the Treasurer cannot be the recruiter on the applications. If they are on the application, they are not eligible for any of the Department or National Awards.

**Secretary:** Please use the Officer Change Form when reporting a change in your officers. You will find it on vfwauxmo.org website. Go to Resources, then to Secretary to find the form.

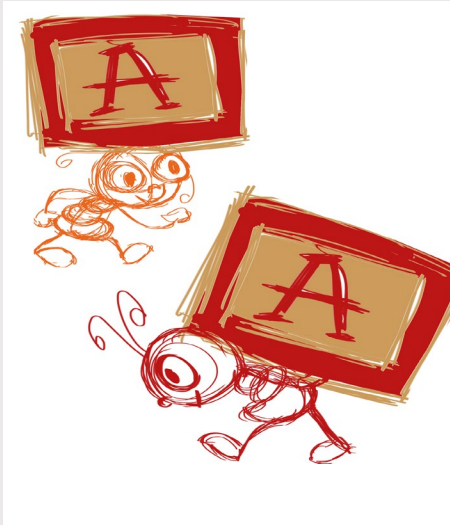


Wishing you all a Happy New Year!  
Always,  
Amy Jo Lett- Department

## Roster Changes January/February 2025

District	Aux	
		Past Department President Regina Bryant Email – <a href="mailto:r.runionsrb@gmail.com">r.runionsrb@gmail.com</a>
2	2025	Secretary – Wendy Coffman 13815 Hwy 72, Rolla, MO 65401-5814 Phone - 573-466-3519 Email – <a href="mailto:wendycpost2025@gmail.com">wendycpost2025@gmail.com</a>
3	4839	Treasurer – Denise Bechdoldt 507 Charlotte Street, Oregon, MO 64473 Phone – 660-491-2665 Email – <a href="mailto:daschell2001@yahoo.com">daschell2001@yahoo.com</a>
6	1894	Secretary – Lourita Jamsek 700 West Rogers St Lot 24, Clinton, MO 64735 Phone – 660-492-4091 Email – <a href="mailto:ritajamsek@gmail.com">ritajamsek@gmail.com</a>
7	6415	President – Valerie Earl Phone – 417-793-1370
15	3127	Secretary – Norman Brant 406 Sycamore St, Scott City, MO 63780-2322 Phone – 573-579-2576 Email - <a href="mailto:nbrant2011@hotmail.com">nbrant2011@hotmail.com</a>
15	5368	Treasurer – Tonya Bowin 101 E Marlene Dr, Chaffee, MO 63740 Phone – 573-576-5041 Email – <a href="mailto:tonyabowlin78@gmail.com">tonyabowlin78@gmail.com</a>
15	10495	Treasurer – Cecilia Margrabe 1124 W Jackson Blvd, Jackson, MO 63755-1702 Phone – 573-243-8252 Email – <a href="mailto:cmargrabe@hotmail.com">cmargrabe@hotmail.com</a>

# JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025



## AMERICANISM

Holidays are over and some may say it's a SLOW time; nope!!! Busy ants get busy. So, it's time for all Americanism chairs to get caught up on their reporting and start teaching the younger generation that Americanism is not just during Patriotic holidays.

## FLAGS

If you find yourself wondering what to do for the children, please go into MALTA under resources (Americanism) and look for FLAG EDUCATION FOR KIDS!!

This gives you a handout to print off and take to a school. Hand out flags while you are there and show them the proper way to salute the flag.

Remember on our resource page we have citations that you can fill out and hand out. Great way to recognize those who show patriotism.

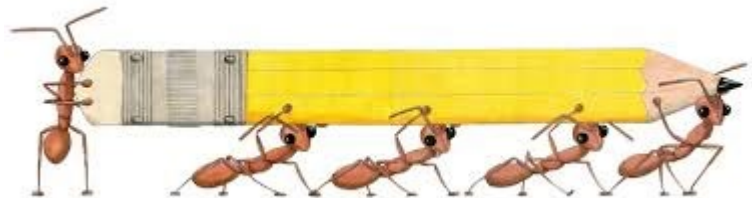
## SANDY PRICHARD

936 Carolina Place, Jackson MO 63755

573-576-6317

[Sandyprichard52@gmail.com](mailto:Sandyprichard52@gmail.com)

WE ALL WORK TOGETHER TO GET IT DONE



## EDUCATION

A project you can do during this SLOW time is to teach and demonstrate the proper way to dispose of flags.

Flag Disposal: This should only be done with adult supervision! - The Flag should be folded in its customary manner. - It is important that the fire be fairly large and of sufficient intensity to ensure complete burning of the Flag. - Place the Flag on the fire. - The individual(s) can come to attention, salute the Flag, recite the Pledge of Allegiance and have a brief period of silent reflection. - After the Flag is completely consumed, the fire should then be safely extinguished and the ashes buried. - Please make sure you are conforming to local/state fire codes or ordinances.

It's never too early to plan for Patriotic Days with Memorial Day being the next one to come. Think of an event that the Post and Auxiliary members can do together to educate your community. Remember that the Auxiliary does not exist without our Post. Remember we are here for our Veterans. Remember unity, Brothers and Sisters of the VFW Auxiliary are here to support and respect our Veterans.

If you do not know what should or shouldn't be reported please reach out to any Chairman of the Department. We are here for you.

Wishing you all a great 2025; and can't wait to see you soon.



## DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI AUXILIARY OUTREACH January/February 2025

Kim Rudy  
605 Boys Street  
Monett, MO 65708

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

If you're like me, you can't believe that the new year is already upon us. I'm not sure where 2024 went to, but I certainly hope everyone had a wonderful holiday season.

The Auxiliary Outreach 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.

Are there groups in your area that will be holding chili & soup cookoffs to benefit their organizations? Maybe you could volunteer your time at their function to judge or help register entrants. Are there Valentine's Day events at a local museum or within your community that you can help with?

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)

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!!!**

Department of Missouri VFW Auxiliary  
Buddy Poppy/ National Home  
January/ February 2024-2025



Branda Young  
1221 Schuchart Rd  
Union, MO 63084  
(636)234-1055  
[bandayoung.d9p@gmail.com](mailto:bandayoung.d9p@gmail.com)

***“For those who are gone, but never forgotten.”***

### **“Buddy”® Poppy Winter Contest**

- The theme for our “Buddy”® Poppy Contest for the winter Council of Administration will be “MO on the Move.”
- On a posterboard or trifold create a display explaining the history of the “Buddy”® Poppy.
- Make sure you have at least one Poppy in its original form with tag on it.
- An envelope with:
  - ✓ Outside: Number of Poppies used/ Number of hours/ Number of people
  - ✓ Inside: Auxiliary number/ District Number/ Name(s) of person(s) who created it.

### **Reporting**


**Ask yourself the following questions...**

- Did your Auxiliary have a “Buddy”® Poppy Drive?
- Did you make any table decorations with the “Buddy”® Poppy to use at your Post during a special dinner?
- Did you make an ornament for the Fall Council of Administration meeting?
- Did you help decorate goody bags at the Fall Council of Administration meeting for the National Home Halloween?
- Did you/ your Auxiliary donate dish towels for National Home or send birthday cards to celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday?
- Did you attend the National Home trip?
- Did you/ your Auxiliary promote the National Home and their helpline?
- Did you/ your Auxiliary purchase a National Home Life Membership, Centennial Membership or a tribute brick this year?
- Did your Auxiliary donate to the Department National Home Fund?

If you answered **YES** to any of these questions, then you have something to report! I have only seen a few reports about the ornaments and only one for decorating the goody bags. Remember that I need to know if you worked with the VFW as we are trying to **Bridge the Gap** this year.

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



	<p><b>Chief of Staff Extension- Revitalization January-February</b></p>	<p><i>Janet Barlar 10865 C0 Rd 3310 Rolla, Mo. 65401 573-261-1948 baraux1953@yahoo.com</i></p>
---	---	--

I hope everyone had a safe and joyful Christmas. Can you believe that we are on the downhill slide? This year seems to be flying by!

### **Extension**

It would be exciting to start 2025 by adding a new Auxiliary to the Department! If you have questions or need help, I'm just a phone call away! Please remember to contact any unaffiliated Post in your District and discuss the top 10 reasons for establishing an Auxiliary.

### **Revitalization**

I am so excited to announce that we have **NO** yellow or red Auxiliary! Every Auxiliary is **GREEN!** Every Auxiliary has problems from time to time. Please do not wait and let those problems grow to the point that the Department must step in. Remember, your District has a mentoring team. Reach out to them for help! That's why we established them.

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

### **Mentoring**

I want to thank the District Presidents for setting up their mentoring teams. Each District now has its own Mentoring Team!! If your Auxiliary would like to have a Mentor visit them and provide some assistance or guidance on an issue, contact your District President for the name of one of the Mentors and their contact information. In my November-December promotional material, I asked if you are mentoring in your Auxiliary. I haven't heard anything. Please let me know how your Auxiliary uses Mentoring so I can share how you use it with everyone. **Sharing Is Caring!** District Presidents, I hope that you have invited your Sr. Vice Presidents to go with you on your Auxiliary visits and that they have taken advantage of the offer. They need to be familiar with this process and it will help them when they become the District President.



## 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.



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

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!**

## The Power of a Brochure

A custom brochure can be a powerful tool for your VFW Auxiliary. By showcasing your mission, values, and community impact, you can attract new members, inform the public, and engage potential donors and volunteers.

When creating your brochure highlight specific programs and initiatives, such as community outreach events, veteran support services, scholarship programs, and memorial ceremonies.

Additionally, provide essential information for potential members, including membership benefits, volunteer opportunities, and contact information.

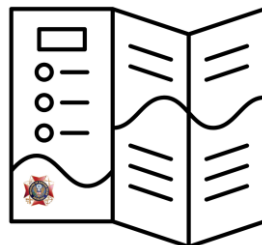
To make your brochure even more impactful, consider including testimonials from veterans and their families who have benefited from your Auxiliary's work. Or add inspiring stories from members regarding what it means to them to be a

member. By sharing these stories, you can inspire others to get involved and support your cause.

To maximize the effectiveness of your brochure, consider distributing it at community events, local businesses, and veteran organizations. You can also share it digitally through your website and social media channels.

By taking these steps, you can reach a wider audience and generate greater interest in your Auxiliary.

Remember, a well-designed brochure can strengthen your brand identity, foster a sense of community, and ultimately help you achieve your goals.



## Website Resources on MALTA

- [Items to Include on Your Website](#)
- [VFW Auxiliary Website Solutions Program](#)
- [VFW Auxiliary Website Solutions Program FAQ](#)
- [VFW Auxiliary Website Solutions Program Grant Application](#)

## Enhance Your Reach with a Website

A website is another way to enhance your visibility, communication, recruitment efforts, and overall image.


Having a website demonstrates that your Auxiliary is a modern and forward-thinking organization. It shows that you are committed to using technology to connect with your members and the community.



It is a powerful tool for sharing information with your members and the community. You can post event announcements, meeting minutes, newsletters, and other important updates. This ensures everyone stays informed and engaged. It can also be a central hub for resources, such as forms, documents, and links to other relevant organizations. This makes it easier for members to access the information they need.

Essentially a website gives you another way to connect with your members and the community in a more efficient and effective way.



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


Karen Cypret 2222 Whiplash Lane Washburn, Mo. 65772		January/ February	Missouri Hospital VAVS 2024-2025
417-342-7652 <a href="mailto:mohospitalvavs.kcypret@gmail.com">mohospitalvavs.kcypret@gmail.com</a>		Doctors' Notes	<i><b>“From Our Roots to Our Branches”</b></i> we are “Helping Veterans by Bridging the Gap” and “Giving our time and energy for our veterans in need.”

<b>Happy New Year!</b>	What are your plans for the new year? Did you hold a New Year’s Eve Celebration for our Veterans?
	Even if you are not there in person did you provide something for the celebration that they hold in the homes? Celebratons like these boost their moral and give them something to remember and talk about.
	
	Did you know that most homes allow champagne for the celebrations? They do.

<b>VAVS Home Liaison Only</b>	Have you noticed anything that the homes you are visiting are in short supply? If so, please reach out to me and I will make some calls. It is our obligation to make their lives easier as they gave so much for us. Don’t forget to Report Monthly.
-------------------------------	---

<b>Crafting at Home</b>	 Have you made a Busy Apron for people in the Veterans Homes who have dementia and needs a fiddle type of garment to keep their hands busy? You can find the pattern and guidelines online at <a href="http://www.vfwauxmo.org">www.vfwauxmo.org</a>
	Please remember to send in the volunteers’ hours for their Crafting-at-home pin. The deadline will be here before you know it.

<b>Unusual Holiday’s</b>	<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">           January         </td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">           February         </td> </tr> <tr> <td>           1st Boston Tea Party         </td> <td>           3rd Feed the Birds Day         </td> </tr> <tr> <td>           11th National Milk Day         </td> <td>           15th Slap Day         </td> </tr> <tr> <td>           21st World Snow Day         </td> <td>           23rd Battle of the Alamo         </td> </tr> <tr> <td>           31st National Backward Day         </td> <td>           28th National Pancake Day         </td> </tr> </table> 	January	February	1st Boston Tea Party	3rd Feed the Birds Day	11th National Milk Day	15th Slap Day	21st World Snow Day	23rd Battle of the Alamo	31st National Backward Day	28th National Pancake Day
January	February										
1st Boston Tea Party	3rd Feed the Birds Day										
11th National Milk Day	15th Slap Day										
21st World Snow Day	23rd Battle of the Alamo										
31st National Backward Day	28th National Pancake Day										

<b>Department Hospital Project</b>	We had a lot of cards brought to the Fall CofA for our deserving veterans. How many will your auxiliary bring to the Winter CofA? Bring them to the Winter Council of Administration in St. Louis February 7-8,2025 and we will get them to the veterans’ homes and hospitals. Thank you for the donations you have sent in to Jackie for the Hospital Program. It is much appreciated.
	

**MLK Day**  
**1-20-25**



“I Have A Dream” was a very powerful speech by a very humble man. Dr. Martian Luther King, Jr. It is an honor to celebrate the birthday of a man who gave his life for equality for all.

**Valentine Day**  
**2-14-25**

St. Valentine lived during the mid to late 3rd century. Valentine, a proponent of marriage, especially Christian marriage, married many couples in secret. When Claudius II discovered him, explains Kithcart, he sentenced Valentine to a three-part execution: beating, stoning, and then a beheading.



**Missouri Veterans Hospitals**



Harry S. Truman VA Medical Center (573)814-6000  
800 Hospital Drive, Columbia, MO 65201-5297  
Representative Eve Ward tomandeve2003@yahoo.com

John J. Pershing VA Medical Center (573)686-4151  
1500 North Westwood Boulevard, Poplar Bluff, MO 63901-3318  
Representative Tee Kuhnert tracy.tk18@gamil.com

Jefferson Barracks (314)652-4100  
1 Jefferson Barracks Drive, St. Louis, MO 63125-4199  
Representative Tee Kuhnert tracy.tk18@gamil.com

Kansas City VA Medical Center (816)861-4700  
4801 Linwood Boulevard, Kansas City, MO 64128-2226  
Representative Ann Bartholome ann5606@yahoo.com

**Physicians' RX**



I hope you had a wonderful holiday season. It is time to get back to work for our very deserving veterans who still need us as much now as they did during the holiday season. Don't forget to post on Social media what you have been doing and use the hashtag **#MohospitalVAVS**

**Remember to Report, Report, Report.**

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

~ Dr. Karen ~





January/February 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

## 2025 National Legislative Conference




Washington DC, March 2-6, 2025

### Conference Details:

-  [2025 Washington DC Legislative Agenda](#)
-  [Housing Information](#)
-  [2024 Legislative Priority Goals](#)

## 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
-  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.



## Missouri Association of Military Organizations (MAVO)

Prefiling of bills took place in December. House and Senate bills will obtain their assigned number; that information will be forthcoming.

### 119<sup>th</sup> United States Congress

The 119<sup>th</sup> United States Congress will convene January 3, 2025.

District 1-US Congressman-Elect Lesley Bell  
District 3-US Congressman-Elect Bob Onder

### 103<sup>rd</sup> Missouri General Assembly

The 103<sup>rd</sup> Missouri General Assembly will convene on January 8, 2025.

Please see the MO House of Representatives and MO Senate websites to locate your elected official.



### Dates to Remember:

- January 1, 2025-New Year's Day
- January 6, 2025-Feast of the Epiphany
- January 20, 2025-Martin Luther King Day
- February 2, 20125-Groundhog Day
- February 3, 2025-MO Veterans Commission Mtg. 10:00
- February 14, 2025-Valentine's Day
- February 17, 2025-President's Day

## 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://votervoicenet/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

January/February 2024

Promotional Material

Vicki Garcia – Membership Chairman

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

1004 Lakeshore Drive, Odessa MO 64076



### LAPSED MEMBERS TO CONTACT

Many of you may have members who have neglected to pay their dues by December 31, 2024, and are now lapsed members. Remember they are no longer able to attend meetings or vote. However, lapsed members do not need to be lost members. Be sure to keep trying to contact them to keep them in our organization. It is easier to keep the members we have than to recruit new members to replace them. If their dues not paid by June 30, 2025, these lapsed members will be sadly lost.

### MEMBERSHIP DRAWINGS

Remember membership awards will be given throughout the year and there will be NO year end awards. Each department meeting I will have drawings for cash awards for auxiliaries and/or members who meet the criteria for each award. Don't miss out on this chance at cash prizes. Next drawing will be held at our Winter Council of Administration meeting in February. Meet all membership goals since last meeting, hold membership drives and send me notification, recruit new members and you can be the lucky winners. Drawings will be held in each membership group. See program material for details.

### NEXT MEMBERSHIP GOAL 98% BY MARCH 1

While our department membership goal is for auxiliaries to be 98% by March 1, any auxiliary that is not 100% by January 31<sup>st</sup> will receive a call from a Department Officer to discuss difficulties and offer mentoring or suggestions on how to collect dues and/or recruit new members. To encourage auxiliaries to reach 100% quickly, I am offering all auxiliaries that have hit or will hit 100% by January 31, 2024, an **entry into a drawing** for a cash award to be held at the Winter Council of Administration meeting in February 2025.

If you have not already familiarized yourself with MALTA now is the time to do so! Treasurers are missing out if they are not utilizing MALTA as a tool to assist them in membership. You can create dues letters and mailing labels using MALTA. Auxiliary membership chairman should be including instructions to their members when sending dues notice letters on how they can easily pay their dues on MALTA. Explain to them the benefits of paying on MALTA. No more paying postage to mail checks via snail mail or waiting for checks to clear you bank account. There is no added fee to pay your dues via MALTA and it is quick and easy. When members pay their own dues via MALTA your auxiliary will receive an ACH into your Auxiliary bank account from National for your portion of the dues.



## MISSOURI SCHOLARSHIP

January/February

Jenn Hoyt

Scholarship Chairman 2024 - 2025

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

816 - 674-5157

Hello everyone and Happy New Year. I know the 2024 year has been very busy for everyone. Now going into the 2025 year we still have the Art scholarships, the Continuing Education scholarship, and the Missouri Past National President scholarships to promote.

### **VFW Auxiliary National Scholarship Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest 2024-2025**

VFW Auxiliary National is pleased to present this National Scholarship to assist students who wish to further their education. This scholarship recognizes young artists and encourages patriotism in youth. Entries will be judged on originality of concept, presentation and patriotism expressed, content of how it relates to patriotism and clarity of ideas, design technique and total impact of work. Students do not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate. Students in grades 9-12 by March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial or home school. Below is a helpful hint link for you to print out and speak to the students about common mistakes that are made in doing the Art scholarships.

- [Helpful Hints](#)

### **VFW Auxiliary National Continuing Education Scholarship 2024-2025**

The VFW Auxiliary is pleased to present this National Scholarship 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. One (1) scholarship will be awarded each year to a selected candidate in each of the four (4) VFW Auxiliary Conferences. The \$1,250 scholarship shall be used in the academic year following completion of the contest. The scholarship will be paid directly to the American college/university or vocational/technical school of the awardee's choice.

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.

## Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Missouri Past National President Scholarship

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 Missouri VFW or VFW Auxiliary member (current or deceased).

To apply, submit the following by April 15, 2024:

- 1) Application
- 2) A letter of recommendation from your high school principal, counselor, teacher or home school teacher.
- 3) A copy of your high school transcript.
- 4) A brief essay highlighting your community involvement, volunteer activities, honors you have received, and any organizations you participated in or outside of school.

I am wanting to let you know that you all have been doing a wonderful job with your scholarships and your help in promoting them in your Auxiliaries. Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen have already been to the state judges and judged and we will announce the winners at our Winter Council of Administration conference in St. Louis February 7th and 8th.



***Veterans and Family Support  
Department of Missouri  
JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025***

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

We have gotten through Veterans Day , Thanksgiving and Christmas. LET'S START THE NEW YEAR WITH A BANG!!

**Childcare for Active-Duty Service Members**

We need to take time to contact our Active-Duty Service Members to see if they need childcare. As we serve diligently toward our mission of serving veterans, we often overlook those the veterans support themselves and their children. A special focus for this year's Veterans & Family Support Program is giving back to these families. Maybe it's babysitting for a few hours a week, providing for the babies and toddlers or maybe just being emotional support for the spouse left behind to take care of the family. By being confident for the service member's family, our members are providing much more peace for our active-duty military.

Remember April 15th isn't too far off. You are doing amazing work. Let's make sure we get those reports in. Amy Jo's theme is Help Our Veterans By Bridging The Gap. **We need to see reports with your post and you working together.**

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



## Department Awards for Auxiliaries

### THE BUILDING BRIDGES AWARD

**(Criteria-Outstanding Projects to include teamwork within the Auxiliary and including VFW members)**

**1<sup>st</sup> Place** – a citation and \$20 goes to one auxiliary in each of the four membership groups.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Place** – a citation to one auxiliary in each of the four membership groups.

### National Awards for Auxiliaries

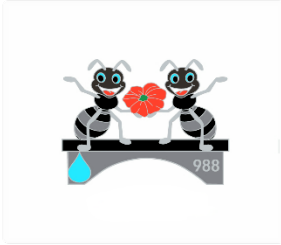
1. Most outstanding activity and/or event to increase awareness of military suicide and mental health.

Citation to every auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event to increase awareness of military suicide and mental health.

Citation and \$25 to one auxiliary in each of the four conferences that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event to increase awareness of military suicide and mental health.

Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to their Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman by March 31, 2025, for judging. The Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National Veterans & Family Support Ambassador by April 30, 2025, for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account. After the 2025 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.



**Department of Missouri VFW  
Auxiliary  
Youth Activities**

**January / February 2025**

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

***“Highlight”***

**ILLUSTRATING AMERICA ART CONTEST**

*“Creativity is as important as literacy.” – Sir Ken Robinson*

It’s hard to believe that 2025 is upon us! Now is the time to encourage our younger youth to use their creativity and show their patriotism by entering the VFW Auxiliary Illustrating America Art Contest. Speak with your local schools, churches, scout troops and clubs and provide them with contest information.



The Illustrating America Art Contest is open to any student in grades K-8 who is enrolled in public, private, or parochial school or home study program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools. Students must be a U.S. citizen or lawful U.S. permanent resident. Foreign exchange students and students age 15 or older are ineligible.

- Entries will be judged on patriotic themes and technique
- Contest will consist of three grade divisions: K-2, 3-5, and 6-8
- Entries are due to Auxiliaries by **March 31, 2025**
- **First place winner** from each grade division due to Department by **April 15, 2025**

There has been a change made to the rules form – It is now **Required** that the student’s name, age and grade level be written on the back of every art entry. The updated entry form and contest rules are included in these General Orders and can also be found at [vfwauxmo.org](http://vfwauxmo.org), under Youth Activities.

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.





# VFW Auxiliary National Art Contest

## Illustrating America Art Contest

### 2024-2025

VFW Auxiliary National is pleased to present this National art contest to introduce, encourage and recognize young artists with patriotism through art. Entries will be judged on patriotic theme and technique.

#### Contest Eligibility

- Student does not have to be related to a VFW or VFW Auxiliary member to participate
- Students in grades K-8 by March 31 deadline who are enrolled in a public, private, parochial or home school program in the United States, its territories and possessions, or dependents of U.S. military or civilian personnel in overseas schools.
- Although U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents or have applied for permanent resident (the application for which has not been denied) and intends to become a U.S. citizen.
- Foreign exchange students, students aged 15 or older are **not** eligible.
- Previous winners of VFW Auxiliary National Illustrating America Art Contests are **not** eligible for the same grade division of which they are a previous national winner. However, the students may enter the subsequent grade division.

#### Contest Rules

- Entry must be completed during the current school year.
- Entry must be two dimensional.
- Entry must be on canvas or paper.
- Canvas entries must be submitted on a stretcher frame or canvas board.
- Paper entries must be reinforced with heavy paper.
- Do **not** frame art with wood, metal, plastic or glass.
- Mats may be used, including mounted and floating mats.
- Entries may **not** be smaller than 8"x10" and **not** larger than 18"x24" **including** mat.
- Acrylic, chalk, crayon, ink, marker, pastel, pen, pencil, tempera, watercolor, glitter or other media may be used.
- If the American Flag is used, it does **not** need conform to the Federal Flag Code in relation to colors, numbers of stars and stripes and other pertinent rules of the code.
- Coloring sheets, digital art and photography are **not** accepted.
- Completed typed or printed legible entry form including parent and/or guardian signatures.
- Students name, age and grade level must be printed on back of art entry.

#### VFW Auxiliary National Illustrating America Art Contest Awards

##### Awards for Grades K-2

First place: \$100 gift card  
Second place: \$50 gift card  
Third place: \$25 gift card

##### Awards for Grades 3-5

First place: \$100 gift card  
Second place: \$50 gift card  
Third place: \$25 gift card

##### Awards for Grades 6-8

First place: \$100 gift card  
Second place: \$50 gift card  
Third place: \$25 gift card

VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for entries which are lost, late, illegible, damaged, incomplete, misdirected, stolen, or reproduced. All scores are final as received from the judges. All contestants must agree to abide by the contest rules. Falsifying information on the entry form or any violation of these rules shall cause immediate disqualification and forfeiture of award.

VFW Auxiliary judging dates and deadlines:

- **March 31:** Student entries must be submitted to a participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for judging.
- **April 15:** First place winner from each grade division from participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary or **optional** VFW Auxiliary District advances to the VFW Auxiliary Department (state) for judging.
- **May 5:** First place winner from grade division from each Department (state) due to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters for judging.
- **July/August:** All students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form. First through third place winning entries in each grade division will be announced on VFW Auxiliary National social media pages and may be shown at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.
- **September:** All art entries received at VFW Auxiliary National will be returned to students to the address provided on the entry form.

VFW Auxiliary National reserves the right to modify these rules and eligibility without notice.



# VFW Auxiliary National Art Contest

## Illustrating America Art Contest

### Contest Entry Form

#### 2024-2025

Please print or type

Incomplete and/or illegible entry forms will disqualify the entrant

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Grade: \_\_\_\_\_

Title of entry: \_\_\_\_\_ Date completed: \_\_\_\_\_

Media used: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\*Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\*I hereby grant permission for the artwork of the student listed above to be published in the VFW Auxiliary National Magazine, the VFW Auxiliary National website and social media and to be used for any and all promotional purposes by the VFW Auxiliary National organization.

VFW Auxiliary is not responsible for entries which are lost, late, illegible, damaged, incomplete, misdirected, stolen, or reproduced. All scores are final as received from the judges. All contestants must agree to abide by the contest rules.

Falsifying information on the entry form or any violation of these rules shall cause immediate disqualification and forfeiture of scholarship.

#### Participating Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary contact information

Contact Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Contact Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact email: \_\_\_\_\_

#### To avoid entrant disqualification

This section is to be filled out completely and correctly by VFW Auxiliary at each judging level.  
VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters only accepts **Department** level first-place winning entries.

**Participating Sponsoring VFW Auxiliary Name & Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Dept. of:** \_\_\_\_\_

**March 31:** Student entries due to participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary for judging.

VFW Auxiliary Youth Activities Chairman verification signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

**April: Optional** VFW Auxiliary District judging.

VFW Auxiliary District judging verification signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

**April 15:** First place winner from each grade division from participating sponsoring VFW Auxiliary or **optional** VFW Auxiliary District judging due to the Department for judging.

VFW Auxiliary Youth Activities Chairman judging verification signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

VFW Auxiliary Department Pres., Sec. and/or Treas. verification signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Artwork is the property of the student and must be returned immediately to the address listed above if not advancing to the next level.

**May 5: Final Level Deadline** First place winner from each grade division from VFW Auxiliary Department must be received at VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters for judging.

Attention: Program Awards Administrator.

**July/August:** All students will be notified of entry status via email provided on entry form. First through third place winning entries in each grade division will be announced on VFW Auxiliary National social media pages and may be shown at the VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

**September:** All art entries received at VFW Auxiliary National will be returned to students and awards mailed to the address provided on the entry form.

VFW Auxiliary National reserves the right to modify these rules and eligibility without notice.