

The Missouri Bridge

2024-2025

General Orders

September/October

Dear Auxiliary Sisters & Brothers,

As members of this organization, we have come together for the **same “cause”** not necessarily for the **same reasons!** We all have a **“why” we joined or stayed involved in the VFW Auxiliary.** We may not be sure of our **“why,”** but we all have a **“why”!**
Please, do not be the “why” someone did not come back, be the “why” they did come back!

I came back because Spot made me feel like I was a part of it, and I had something to contribute. I had never really felt like I had something to contribute or fit in anywhere. He gave me a confidence in myself that I needed in every facet of my life, **simply by being inclusive.** When I realized that the Veteran I was supposed to be helping, was in fact helping heal a wound within me, I changed my goal of volunteering for a bit, to helping others help Veterans. **Don't lose sight of your mission!** Our best tools are **kindness and passion** and if you have them the rest will follow. With that being said we must set aside our differences and find our **moral compass** to guide us in the way we treat one another.

Ant Hill Actions

Each Auxiliary should be taking Action in our Auxiliary Programs! This is a reminder of things your Program Chairman are asking Auxiliary Ant Hills to do in each program. Did you see the **Americanism Trivia** in the Promotional Materials for September/ October. We are looking for an **Auxiliary Outreach Project** we could all help with at the Fall C of A in Columbia if you know of something please contact Kim Rudy or President Amy Jo. Do not forget to bring your **Buddy Poppy** Patriotic Ornament, \$20 Walmart Cards for **Hospital**, and the Diapers & Wipes for **Operation Bottom Cover** (reportable in **Veterans & Family Support**) to the **Fall C of A meeting on Sept. 27- 28th.** Brandy is asking if you made reservations for **National Home Bus Trip** October 25th, 2025, yet? Our **Chief of Staff Janet** would like everyone to fill out the Membership Engagement Form to help retain our current **Membership.** Vicki is asking if our 2nd **Dues Reminder** has gone out, and Stephanie the **Historian** has suggested to put a dues reminder on Facebook. **Legislative & Youth** could team up to have a **Register to Vote** at the High School Open House in hopes of registering the Students and Family members and to share our VFW Priority Goals and Action Corps Weekly. **Scholarship** should be preparing for judging of the Scholarship essays. Program info found at vfwauxmo.org.

Auxiliary Calendar

District Meetings

D2 Post 4956 November 2 @ 11am
D3 Post 5717 October 20 @ 12pm
D5 Post TBA October 13 @ 1pm
D6 Post 4195 November 3 @ 12pm
D7 Post 534 November 2 @ 10 am
D8 Post 5331 November 3 @ 12pm
D9 Post 3056 October 13 @ 12 pm
D12 Post 4223 October 12 @ 12pm
D14 Post 3404 October 20 @ 12pm
D15 Post 3838 October 20 @ 12pm
D17 Post 5553 October 20 @ 12pm
D18 Post 4107 November 2@10am

Department Meetings & Events

*Fall Council of Administration

Sept. 27-28, 2024

@ Courtyard by Marriott, Columbia

*National Home Bus Trip

October 25-27, 2024

National Meetings & Events

*National Cafe Event

September 7th 2024

@ VFW National Home

*Big 10

October 18-20, 2024

@ Indianapolis, Indiana

Voice of Democracy & Patriots Pen Reminders

- Work with your VFW!
- Use the current Entry Forms.
- Follow all the instructions.
- Meet all Deadline Dates.
 - ✓ **To Post by Oct. 31st**
 - ✓ **To District by Nov.16**
 - ✓ **To Department by Dec. 16**
- Plan an Awards Ceremony.

Ask Amy

Susan from Auxiliary #5555 asked,” My Auxiliary has purchased a refrigerator for their Bingo kitchen supplies and put it in the Post: the VFW is now disbanding. Will the Auxiliary retain ownership of the refrigerator or does the Post assume ownership?”

Hello, Susan from #5555, this is a great question, at National Convention we passed a **Resolution (#13)** a to help clarify property issues like this (see the details below).

The Auxiliary will retain ownership of the refrigerator (**Sec 920D Property Ownership**) and will need to determine its future owner, or sale by a majority vote when finalizing the business of your Auxiliary. See **Sec.208B Auxiliary to a Disbanded Post.**

Section 920. Property Ownership.

A. Auxiliaries, Districts and Departments own personal property acquired by it and retain ownership until disposed of by a majority vote, unless otherwise provided in these Bylaws or Booklet of Instruction.

B. For the purposes of these Bylaws, **personal property is defined** as tangible and intangible property that is movable, even if a small amount of disassembly is required to move.

C. For the purposes of these Bylaws, **real property is defined** as land and permanent structures on the land.

D. Auxiliary, District or Department personal property placed in or on real property or facility owned or operated by a VFW organization that is not being donated to the VFW organization shall remain the property of the Auxiliary, District or Department.

E. Personal property acquired by an Auxiliary, District or Department and donated by majority vote of the Auxiliary, District or Department with intent for the item to remain with the real property or facility owned or operated by a VFW organization shall belong to the VFW organization.

F. Personal property donated to a VFW organization by a majority vote of an Auxiliary, District or Department may not be reclaimed by the Auxiliary, District or Department without consent of the VFW organization.

National Convention Announcements & Awards

First, a Big Congratulations to Brenda Bryant, as she was elected to the highest office in the VFW Auxiliary!

Madam National President Brenda Bryant, we are so proud! We cannot wait to see what you and your Team will accomplish for our Veterans and their Families!

Congratulations, National Chief of Staff - **Betty Arnold**, Color Bearer #1- **LaWanna Nelson**, Color Bearer #2- **Vicki Garcia**, Color Bearer #3- **Janet Barlar**, and Assistant Guard- **Jackie Davis**! You will make Missouri proud!

23-24 National Program Awards

Missouri/President Judi LInneberger 23-24 Circle of Excellence

Rai Reamer Historian 1st Place Outstanding Performance

Helen Heise Membership Chairman Award #1

Nancy Smith Americanism 2nd Place Outstanding Performance

Betty Arnold Chief of Staff 1st Place Outstanding Performance

Amy Jo Lett Legislative 2nd Place Outstanding Performance

All-State Auxiliary Award Reminders

- ✓ Attend District Meeting
- ✓ Plan a Joint Event with the VFW that will benefit Veterans.
- ✓ Report Projects on Website
- ✓ Audit - Due October 31, 2024
- ✓ 990's filed with the IRS.



Tech Tips

Snipping Tool

Click the Start button, type "snipping tool" in the search bar, and select Snipping Tool from the results.

Take a snip by clicking the New button, then adjust the box to capture the desired area. You can choose between rectangular selection, freehand selection, window, or full-screen capture. Once you are ready, release the mouse or touchpad to take the screenshot. The captured snip will automatically be copied to the Clipboard and the mark-up window. To Copy and paste text. Select Copy all text on the toolbar or use the keyboard shortcut Ctrl + A or Ctrl + C to copy the text from the screenshot. Then, paste the text into a document or text editor. Share the snip by selecting the arrow next to the Send Snip button, then choose an option from the list.



Ways & Means Fall C of A Baskets

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

Silent Auction Items

Districts – 9, 12, 14, 15, 17, & 18

Grab Bags

Every Auxiliary Send/Bring 3 Bags.

Questions, Please Contact

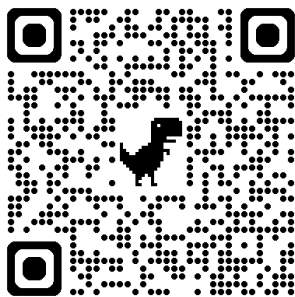
Briana Borts

660-437-5514

vfwaux2591@gmail.com

Membership QR Code

(copy this for your use when recruiting)



VFW & Auxiliary National Home Bus Trip

October 25-27, 2024

Come Join The Fun

More Info in the Auxiliary Promotional Material

Get on the Bus Gus! Make a new plan Stan!



Thank you for Helping Our Veterans & their Families by Bridging the Gap!

Always,

Amy Jo Lett- Department President

Secretary/Treasurer Corner

Treasurers Report- It is the responsibility of the Treasurer to read each item in the receipts and disbursements when they give their report. Not just the total of receipts and disbursements.

Donations- When sending in donations for the President's special project, please specify which special project, i.e., Suicide Awareness, Scholarship or the Department Commander and President's Joint Special Project.

Eligibility At the National Convention, the VFW voted to accept purple heart recipients as eligible for the VFW.

Audit- The July, August & September audit is due by October 31, 2024

AMERICANISM

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2024

Grades K-2

- Teach students the Pledge of Allegiance and how to properly salute the Flag.
- Present them with [Pledge of Allegiance bookmarks](#) that are available for free download from the website.
- When students learn the Pledge of Allegiance, give them a [Young American Award](#) and a [coloring book titled "I Pledge Allegiance to the Flag."](#) (both available from the VFW Store).
- You can also download and print out [Flag Education for Kids](#) from the Programs & Publicity Resources page of the National Organization's website the Auxiliary website and talk about displaying and saluting the Flag, and proper Flag disposal.

Sandy Prichard

Americanism

573-576-6317

Sandyprichard52@gmail.com



HELP ME SO I CAN HELP YOU

Reporting: there are a few questions to answer when reporting on Americanism. As I read the reports submitted, I do help fill in some blanks. For example, when the question says you handed out flags, many of you not putting number of flags in the OTHER and only writing it in their paragraph. So, I go back and put the number in the spot so it tabulates at the end of the reporting year.

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 11, Patriot Day (National Day of Service and Remembrance). A day so many of us remember, one that I cry every year remembering the lives lost and the war after.

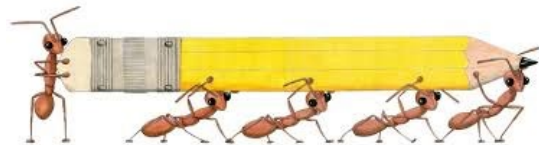
POW/MIA Recognition Day by custom is on the third Friday of September. Prisoner of War/ Missing in Action, people that are in our mind and hearts daily when loved ones did not come home when other did at the end of war. This is the perfect time for all Post and Auxiliary members do the Missing Man Table of Honor Ceremony.

IDEAS TO GET OUT IN THE COMMUNITY

- Contact your local school(s) and ask if they need new Flags to replace tattered ones. Ask your local Post if they will share in the cost of replacing the Flags. You can then present them with a [Flag Exchange Card](#) and invite them to the Flag retirement ceremony.
- Invite your local Post members to join you in presenting the thirteen folds of the Flag. An Auxiliary member can read the thirteen folds of the Flag while veterans proudly fold the Flag. Have on hand to pass out to the audience the [Flag Education Award Card](#) available from the VFW Store.
- Take information about the [Smart/Maher Teacher of the Year Award](#) to your local school(s) and give them to the Principal for distribution.
-

It is time to get back to the basics and teach our nation's future leaders the true meaning of patriotism. In doing so, we will create awareness among parents and educators about the importance of bringing patriotism to the forefront in the classroom and the community.

WE ALL WORK TOGETHER TO GET IT DONE



American History Trivia Questions and Answers

Fun game to share with your Auxiliary

World War I

Question: What event led to the United States entering World War I?

Answer: The sinking of the Lusitania by a German submarine

Question: Who was the U.S. President during World War I?

Answer: Woodrow Wilson

Question: What was the name of the peace treaty that ended World War I?

Answer: The Treaty of Versailles

World War II

Question: Which U.S. naval base was attacked by the Japanese on December 7, 1941?

Answer: Pearl Harbor

Question: Who was the Supreme Commander of the Allied forces in Europe during World War II?

Answer: Dwight D. Eisenhower

Question: What were the names of the two atomic bombs dropped on Japan?

Answer: Little Boy and Fat Man

Vietnam War Era

Question: What event in 1969 marked the first successful manned mission to land on the moon?

Answer: Apollo 11 moon landing

Question: Which U.S. President escalated American involvement in the Vietnam War?

Answer: Lyndon B. Johnson

Question: What was the publication that exposed the Pentagon Papers, revealing government secrets about the Vietnam War?

Answer: The New York Times



DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI AUXILIARY OUTREACH September/October 2024

Kim Rudy
605 Boys Street
Monett, MO 65708

2024-2025 Auxiliary Outreach Chairman
Phone 417-393-5371
krudyauxoutreach2425@gmail.com

How is it that it's time for the kiddos to return to school and fall activities are just around the corner? As fall approaches, your Auxiliary and members have so many opportunities to get out and working in your community.

As the fall sports season approaches, reach out to the schools and volunteer to work in the concession stands for the football games, soccer, volleyball, etc. Make sure to wear your Auxiliary attire to represent the organization well.

Plan to get out into the community and volunteer your time at some of your local fall festivals. The coordinators of these events are always in need of volunteers to help at various booths, driving shuttles, serving refreshments and working the gates/doors.

Visit with your local churches, Chamber of Commerce offices or any other groups who may be hosting a Trunk or Treat for Halloween and help out with them.

Together we can make ourselves a valuable asset to our community!

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

Department of Missouri VFW Auxiliary
Buddy Poppy/ National Home
September/ October 2024-2025

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



“There is something about being on a bus that brings people together. You’re all in it together, sharing the same cramped space and the same journey.”

And just like that summer is over and fall is here. Temperatures are changing, leaves are falling, and our youth is headed back to school.

This year’s **CAFÉ (Celebrating America’s Freedom Event)** is coming up quick! The CAFÉ is September 7th at the VFW National Home. Please check the website for more information. I hope to see Missouri there.

Are you planning to do a **Poppy Drive**? If so, have you ordered “Buddy”® Poppies? Don’t wait to do this because it takes time to get the Poppies in. This is also a great time to do National Award #1 for “Buddy”® Poppy.

- Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event using the VFW “Buddy”® Poppy to educate their community about the VFW “Buddy”® Poppy.

Create a poster explaining the meaning behind the Poppy. Set something up in your post home so that when people come during the holidays for events they can see where the “Buddy”® Poppy comes from. This makes a great tool when doing poppy drives so people know who we are and why we display our “Buddy”® Poppy so proudly. You can then bring your Poppy Display to the Department **Winter Conference** for the Poppy contest.

Fall Conference “Buddy”® Poppy Display Contest

- Patriotic Ornament contest
- Ornaments do not necessarily have to hang on a tree. They can be table/ door decorations.
- Ornaments will be donated to our Veterans in the Veterans Homes. (If you **DO NOT** want it donated please mark that on the envelope.)
- There will be a Youth and Adult division for judging.

*****In 1935 the Poppy Child went to the White House and pinned a Poppy on President Roosevelt.*****

VFW National Home Bus Trip



- Check the Missouri website for the Bus Trip Form
- October 24th-27th, 2024
- We co-sponsor the Halloween party with the Wisconsin VFW/VFW Auxiliary
- Our theme this year is “Hotel Transylvania.”
- **Needs (preferably small handmade items)**
 - Items for the goody bags
 - Prizes for games
 - Kitchen Towels, Potholders, etc.



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

“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 September-October

*Janet Barlar
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Rolla, Mo. 65401
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baraux1953@yahoo.com*

Extension



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

District Presidents please contact the Bachelor Posts in your Districts and discuss with them the possibility of establishing a new Auxiliary and the benefits of having an Auxiliary. Once you have contacted those Posts, I would like for you to send an email to both President Amy Jo and me after you have contacted them and let us know their response. For more information on establishing a new Auxiliary, see Article II Auxiliaries, Sec. 202- Jurisdiction by Posts, of the VFW Auxiliary Podium Edition: Bylaws and Ritual. There are resources that may be used when making a presentation to a Post on our website and the National website under Extension-Revitalization. I am also including the **Top 10 Reasons for Your Post to Have an Auxiliary** sheet that can be used when talking to those Bachelor Posts.

Revitalization

It's important that we keep our Auxiliaries healthy and strong. The National Organization has developed many resources for the Auxiliaries to use. These resources are valuable tools in helping Auxiliaries maintain their Healthy Auxiliary status and be more productive. These can be found on the National Auxiliary website.

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

If there are any concerns or questions that you might have, please do not hesitate to call or me.

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

Mentoring

Have you set up your District Mentoring Teams? I want to thank Districts 3,7,8,9 for sending me their Mentoring Teams. Please get your teams together and let me know who they are. If President Amy Jo needs to send a mentor in to an Auxiliary, it would be helpful to have a team to choose from. If you need help getting started, please let me know. Don't forget to invite both your Sr. and Jr. Vice Presidents to join you when you make your official visit.

I am including a Membership Engagement form (compliments of Amy Jo Lett) that I would highly recommend your Auxiliary include in your New Member kit. It will give you good insight into where your new member's interests are and where they would be a benefit. When I was going over the form, I thought that every so often, it might be good to have all your members fill it out. Over time, our interests change, I know mine have. I might have liked working our Youth Program, but after 15 years, I might be ready to move on. LOL!! If I have any Auxiliaries that would like to share how they are incorporating mentoring into you Auxiliary, please let me know so I can share your ideas!

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.

As I was reading over our National Chief of Staff Betty Arnold's material something caught my attention, she wrote, "Blend the past with the present to guarantee our future." Great words to follow!

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!

Member Engagement Form

Name _____

Preferred name _____

Preferred form of communication:

Phone _____ text _____ Email _____ Facebook _____

Cell Phone Number _____

Home Phone _____

Email _____

Birthdate _____

What Auxiliary programs are you interested in?

Veterans and Family Support _____

Americanism _____ Buddy Poppy & National Home _____

Community Outreach _____ Historian _____

Hospital _____ Legislative _____

Membership _____ Mentoring _____

Scholarship _____ Youth Activities _____

What are your hobbies? _____

What Auxiliary annual events are you interested in helping with?

Buddy Poppy Drive _____ Judging Youth Art _____

Scholarship Judge _____ Monthly Kitchen _____

Recruiter _____ Other _____

What skills can you bring to our organization?

Computer _____ Kitchen _____ Sewing _____ Fundraising _____

Leadership _____ Accounting _____ Organizing _____

Other _____



Top 10 Reasons for Your Post to Have an Auxiliary

10. Offers valuable assistance with event preparation.
9. Assists with “Buddy”® Poppy drives.
8. Opens the door to potential members.
7. Assists in recruiting and retaining members to strengthen the Veterans of Foreign Wars.
6. Provides events and volunteer opportunities for veterans’ family members.
5. Boosts the Post’s visibility in the community by being involved in more local activities and events.
4. Increases Program participation and helps spread the word on scholarship and youth programs.
3. Presents an opportunity to serve more veterans, active-duty military and their families.
2. Increases the number of advocates to fight for veterans’ rights and benefits.
1. Positively reinforces the values and beliefs of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Frequently Asked Questions

- **Does it cost the Post anything?**
The VFW Auxiliary Charter Kit fee is \$100.00. The Post and/or Department and/or the interested, eligible applicants may pay the Charter fee. The Charter fee accompanies the completed Charter application.
- **How long does it take to start?**
From the time your Post votes to have an Auxiliary, it could take from two (2) to four (4) months to get an Auxiliary up and running.

Ready to Add an Auxiliary to your Post?

- In accordance with the VFW Bylaws, a notice is to be mailed or emailed to each Post member advising them that members will be voting on having an Auxiliary and that the vote will take place at a specific meeting.
- In accordance with the VFW Bylaws, a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the Post members present is required to set into action the formation of a new Auxiliary to that Post.
- Inform the Department President of the approval and the Department President will then assign an Auxiliary Organizer who will work on obtaining the required number of charter members (15) and filling out necessary paperwork.

Still have questions?

Contact VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters at 816.561.8655 or info@vfwauxiliary.org.

ELEMENT MISSING!

Confusion has reigned ever since a vital element went missing. Concerned citizens have furiously been searching for answers. A few clues have been found but the burning question remains: WHY?!

That is correct, Why is missing! I see it absent in many stories by different organizations.

The Why is an essential element of the 5-Ws for a story (Who, What, When, Where, Why). The Why can drive interest and understanding.

People may be more likely to support your event if they know why it is happening or why you need to raise money. It's a hook!

One of Why's cohorts is Where. It is innocently left out of stories assuming everyone knows where the organization is located.

What if Uncle Eddie in another town shares a flyer from your

Facebook post, sparking interest, but the only info is your Post/Auxiliary name, lacking a town or address?

We also don't want to overlook the element of Who. If people are not familiar with the VFW or Auxiliary, they may not know who you are or who you are addressing. Is your event or activity open to the public or just members? Tell them!

Lastly, I love being able to share the different ideas our Auxiliaries have around the state. When I do, an important associate of the 5-Ws is How. The How helps others who may be interested in doing something similar.

Keep your audience informed and engaged by using the essential elements: who, what, when, where, why, (and how). Apply the 5 Ws (and H) to every article, flyer, and social media post. Don't leave your audience guessing!



Resources

Free Photos

The Verge - <https://unsplash.com>

Pixabay - <https://pixabay.com>

Burst - www.shopify.com/stock-photos

Pexels - www.pexels.com

Clker - www.clker.com

Copilot - create your own with AI
<https://copilot.microsoft.com>

Design

Canva - www.canva.com

Adobe Express -
<https://new.express.adobe.com>

Stencil - <https://getstencil.com>

Photo Editor

www.fotor.com

Join the Historian/Media Relations
Facebook Group
www.facebook.com/groups/mohistorians

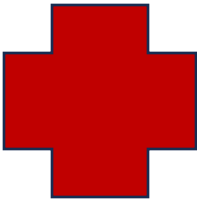
Perfecting Photographic Evidence


They say a picture is worth a thousand words, and in the fast-paced world of social media and journalism, it rings truer than ever. Our brains are wired to process visuals at lightning speed—60,000 times faster than text. This means a captivating image can instantly grab attention and entice readers to delve deeper into your story.

When using stock photos for your material, always ensure they're royalty-free and not copyrighted. Numerous websites offer high-quality images at no cost (see sidebar).

If you're using your own photos, explore the editing capabilities of your smartphone or photo app. Many offer features like auto-enhance, background blur, spot removal, and even basic markup tools to elevate your images.

For the perfect photo, pay attention to your surroundings. Choose a clear background with good lighting and clean your camera lens. Adjust your phone's size settings, and make sure everyone is visible in the frame.

<p>Karen Cypret 2222 Whiplash Lane Washburn, Mo. 65772 417-342-7652</p> <p>mohospitalvavs.kcypret@gmail.com</p>		<p>September/ October</p> <p>Doctors' Notes</p>	<p>Missouri Hospital VAVS 2024-2025</p> <p>“From Our Roots to Our Branches” we are “Helping Veterans by Bridging the Gap” and “Giving our time and energy for our veterans in need.”</p>
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<p>Crafting at Home</p> <p>#MohospitalVAVS</p>	<p>How about making coasters? You can make them by sewing, plastic canvas, crocheting and even wood blocks. Use your imagination. Contact the Liaison of your nearest veterans’ home and see what they would like at that particular facility.</p>
<p>National President Brenda Bryant</p> <p>Operation Bottom Cover.</p>	<p>Our own National President Brenda Bryant has a special project called Operation Bottom Cover. This is to help get diapers and wipes to veterans and active service members. Diapers and wipes are expensive, if there is one thing we can do to help young families, it is sharing these items. Bring them to the C of A. We will make sure they get where they need to go.</p> 
<p><u>Missouri Veterans Homes</u></p> <p>St. James Veterans’ Home 620 N. Jefferson St. James, MO. 65559</p> <p>1-573-265-3271</p>	<p>St. James was founded in 1896 as the State Federal Soldiers Home. As the first Veterans Home to open its doors in the State of Missouri, we have been home to numerous Veterans who have served our nation across the globe. Since that time, we have been dedicated to providing the highest quality and compassionate care for our Veterans. In 1931, the Home was purchased by the State of Missouri and later renamed the Missouri Veterans Home in 1974. Positioned on 40 acres, the Home is surrounded by oak trees, some of which have stood since its original founding, much like the original Chapel standing strong today, a landmark in time to the Home. Today, the Missouri Veterans Home – St James is a beacon of pride for the community and its Veterans as it is a showcase to the American Heroes that live within. Administrator is Brittany Ritter and the Volunteer Services is Lanna Sowers. The Dept. of Mo. VFWA Veterans Home Liaison is Darla Nebel.</p>
<p>St. Louis Veterans’ Home 10600 Lewis & Clark Blvd St Louis, MO. 63136</p> <p>1-314-340-6389</p>	<p>St. Louis opened its doors in 1993 and for over 20 years, has offered Veterans a place to call Home. As you enter the grounds you will notice a large artillery tank and the beautiful atrium windows in the front of the building. Veterans and Team members can often be found in the dining room playing Bingo or in the activities room playing cards or watching movies. They also offer a variety of outings for Veterans to get outside the Home and enjoy the community. The Administrator is Leonard Rhine and the Volunteer Services is Sherita Cosby. The Dept. of Mo. Veterans Home Liaison is Rosemary Wood.</p>

**Handmade
Cards**



Make cards for 9/11 to remember the day that we said we would NEVER forget. 9/20 is Prisoner of War/Missing in Action Day is another. Is there someone who is in a nursing home who is missing a loved one who hasn't come home? Make a card for them. 10/31 is Halloween, these are fun cards to make. Get your children to help you. The unusual days listed below are fun cards to make also.

**VAVS Reps AND
Veterans'
Homes Liaisons**

Monthly Reporting...I know this is a new thing for some of you. I want to know what you are doing in your Veterans Homes and the Hospitals. Are there some things your home has extra of and will be willing to share with another home? Does your home NEED something, if so maybe I can help in facilitating in helping that need. This is a way we can help ALL of our homes. Coming soon will be Criteria for the Homes.

**Online
Reporting**

www.vfwauxmo.org



Don't forget to report your projects. Hospital only has 5 questions.

Physicians' RX



Have you sent in your donations yet? Make your donations early and often. How about a fundraiser for a hospital or nursing home? I am here to help in any way for your success in helping our veterans'.

Don't forget to use the hashtag **#MohospitalVAVS** when you post on social media.

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

~ Dr. Karen ~



September/October 2024-2025






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

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




How to Participate in Candidate Forums

Members can make a difference in any election by getting involved in the political process. Hold voter registration drives, town hall meetings, and other events featuring candidates for public office. Veterans and Auxiliary members are a strong voting block and a constituency that most candidates want on their side. As we approach the next election cycle, here are a few items to keep mind as you get involved and attend or host candidate functions and town hall meetings:

DO's

-  Do attend candidate town hall meetings and other events and ask candidates where they stand on our issues.
-  Do set up voter registration drives /Get Out the Vote Campaigns on the local level.
-  Do provide carpool service on Election Day to help the elderly and disabled get to the voting booth.
-  Do support and work for your favorite candidates as an individual voting constituent.
-  Do wear your VFW/Auxiliary cap/shirt at public events such as town halls, rallies, forums, or debates.

DON'Ts

-  Do not endorse candidates on behalf of the VFW/Auxiliary National Organization, Department, District or Post.
-  Do not wear your VFW/Auxiliary cap/shirt when actively campaigning for a candidate, such as soliciting donations or knocking on doors asking people to pledge their vote for a candidate. The key is to stay informed on veterans' issues and use your influence to urge new candidates and those up for reelection to support veterans.
-  It does not matter which candidates you support if they know you are a VFW/Auxiliary member and are concerned about your fellow veterans, service members, and their families.

Grassroots Efforts in the State of MO

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



Dates to Remember:

- September 2, 2024 – Labor Day
- September 11, 2024 – Patriots Day/1st Responders
- September 18, 2024 – Air Force Birthday
- September 20, 2024 – National POW/MIA Recognition
- September 29, 2024 – Gold Star Mother's Day
- October 13, 2024 – Navy Birthday
- October 14, 2024 – Columbus Day
- October 31, 2024 – Halloween

Legislative Resources

VFW Website: www.vfw.org

MO VFW Auxiliary Website: www.vfwauxmo.org

VFW Legislative Priorities:

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

VFW Legislative Priorities including VFW 2024

Priority Goals:

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

VFW Action Corps Weekly:

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

All Federal Bills Currently Supported by VFW:

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

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

US Senators: www.senate.gov

US Representatives: www.house.gov

MO Senators:

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

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

MAVO Facebook:

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



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.

Action Corps

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

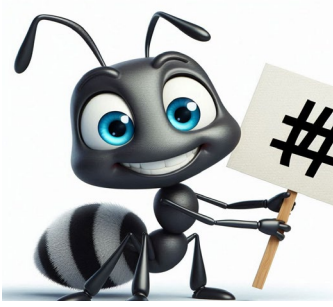
Text “VFW” to 50457

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
September/October 2024
Promotional Material**

Vicki Garcia – Membership Major
(Chairman)

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



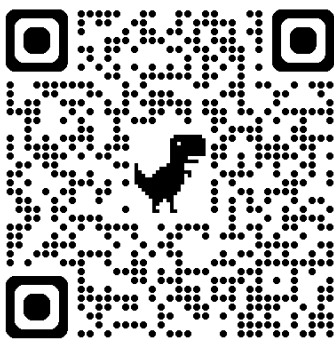
DUES LETTERS

Your 2nd request dues letters should be sent out no later than September 30th for those who still have not paid their annual dues. Keep encouraging them to convert to life!



**USING THE QR CODE
IN RECRUITING**

Today young potential members are on their phones and on social media. A quick way to get them to a membership application is to use the new QR code that has been created for us by VFW Auxiliary National Ambassador Linda Roloff. Just a quick click on QR code below will bring potential members directly to our VFW Auxiliary National website.



MEMBERSHIP GOALS

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

Each Auxiliary that meets the membership goals prior to each Department meeting will receive a Top-Flight Ace Award Citation and be put into a drawing for a chance to win \$50!

MEMBERSHIP SQUADRONS

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

**MEMBERSHIP
MOMENT**

Right now is the time to get that membership drive going. When you have a membership drive and send me a photo you will be entered into a drawing for the chance to win \$50. A drawing will be held at each Department meeting so anytime is a great time for a membership drive! All auxiliaries who have a membership drive will receive a Recruitment Star Citation.

I have had 4 entries so far who have sent me photos of their membership drives.

- District 2 Aux #2025
- District 5 Aux #5789
- District 7 Aux #257
- District 9 Aux #6133

USE THE HASHTAG

#JUST1

If we all would recruit just 1 new member our organization would double in size! Welcome your new members on social media and use the hashtag #Just1.



MISSOURI SCHOLARSHIP

September/October

Jenn Hoyt

Scholarship Chairman 2024 - 2025

Email: Hoytauxiliaryscholar24@gmail.com

816 - 674-5157

Hello everyone, I don't know about y'all but I feel like the summer has flown by so fast. School has started and it is time to get into the schools and promote our VFW Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contest, Theme: Is America Today Our Forefathers' Vision?, VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest, Theme: My Voice in America's Democracy?, and our Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest.

If you know a teacher, talk with them and see if they would be interested in having the class do this as an assignment.

Walking for Scholarships:

I hope y'all are keeping track of the miles you walk. July 1st started our Walk for Scholarships. I feel we can all work together to raise money to build our scholarship



fund. I want this to be fun and a way to challenge you and your Auxiliary to walk for education. One way your Auxiliary can donate is to participate in a Walking Challenge from July 1 to December 31, 2024. You don't have to do it the entire 6 months. If your Auxiliary wanted to do just a monthly challenge that is okay. Also, I have been asked if you can ride a bike or swim to track miles. Absolutely, I feel any kind of exercise you are doing to help benefit yourself and raise money as you do it is awesome in my

book. You can pass out the "Track Your Miles" sheet at your meetings. Each month you turn in your walking form to your Scholarship chairman and they can email it to me or take a picture of the form with their phone camera and send it to me. Also, you can drop it in the mail too. My address is 705 NE Magellan Ave Apt. A, Lee's Summit, MO 64086. The money you have raised from the challenge you can send to Jackie Davis and in the memo box, write Walking for Scholarships. I will have a form available that you can use to keep track each week of how many miles you walk and how much money you get from walking. I have attached the Track your Miles below.

[Track Your Miles Worksheet](#)

Resources

In most libraries they have an informational board and you can ask to post the Scholarship material on the board. Visiting local church youth groups will also be beneficial to promoting the scholarship material. Include homeschooling groups in your area. I have attached a link to help reach out to the homeschool groups in Missouri

<https://www.time4learning.com/homeschooling/missouri/local-groups-co-ops.html>

In September students are in school and getting into a routine, that will be a great time to reach back out to the schools to share the scholarship material to the counselors or the Social Studies teachers. Another place you can reach out to students is the before and after school programs in your school districts.

Reminders of dates:

Continuing Education Scholarships:

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

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

Deadlines: Participating VFW Auxiliary – March 31

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

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

VFW Patriot's Pen Essay Contest, Theme: My Voice in America's Democracy?

Grades 6-8 Deadlines: Entries to VFW Post – Midnight, October 31

Missouri Past National President Scholarship

Grade 12

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

Online Reporting

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

Veterans and Family Support
Department of Missouri
SEPT/OCT

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

Amy Jo's theme this year is **HELPING OUR VETERANS BY BRIDGING THE GAP!!** You are working to build that bridge. Posts and Auxiliaries working together. Good examples are a fundraiser for a service dog, pairing up at events for VSO, joint membership drives & other activities, collecting gift cards for the Hospital program, helping a veteran fix their car and much more.

September is VETERANS Suicide Prevention Month

KNOWLEDGE IS POWER. We need to educate ourselves so we can help our veterans. I have been in contact with Jon Sabala from the Missouri Mental Health Department. Jon has given me tools to help me. They have opened my eyes and I want to share those tools.

Missouri Veterans Suicide Prevention Team

Jon Sabala
Jon.Sabala@dmh.mo.gov
573-751-2368

Tony Gardener
movspt@gmail.com
816-835-0881

VETERANS SUICIDE AWARENESS COURSE.

- There is a free online course about veterans' suicide awareness you can take from the Missouri Governor's Challenge website called S.A.V.E. Here is the link and go to step #1 <https://mogovchallenge.com/what-can-i-do/#call-to-action> You will have to create your own account but it is free. There are many other courses you are welcome to explore, all at no cost.

- They will bring an in-person veteran suicide prevention training to your post if you are willing to host it. Let them know if this is something in which you are interested.

Mental Health First Aid®

This is an 8 hour, skills-based training that teaches people how to identify, understand and respond to signs and symptoms of a mental health or substance use challenge in adults ages 18 and over. The evidence behind the program demonstrates that it builds mental health literacy, providing an action plan that teaches people to safely and responsibly identify and address a potential mental health or substance use challenge. The course is offered in person or virtually.

It is important to know that we offer a few MHFA training courses a month at no cost. Use this link to find a free training session: <http://mhfamissouri.org/home/events/>

Missouri VFW & Auxiliary Joint Project

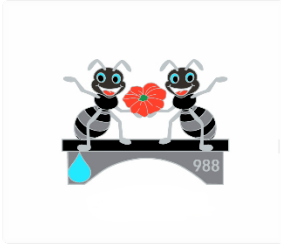


OPERATION BOTTOM COVER

HELP OUR MISSOURI ACTIVE-DUTY MILITARY FAMILIES BY DONATING DIAPERS & WIPES. Please bring donations to the Fall conference. I can't wait to see you.

HELPING OUR VETERANS BY BRIDGING THE GAP!!





Department of Missouri VFW
Auxiliary
Youth Activities

September / October 2024

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

“Highlight”

TEAMWORK

We have the opportunity to include Youth in so many ways within each of our programs. Your chairmen and members can work together to find unique ways to do that. Below are two examples of promoting Youth Activities within another program.



The “Buddy”® Poppy Contest at the Fall Council of Administration this year will be a Christmas ornament contest and will include a division for Youth. The theme for the ornaments will be Patriotic and there will be two categories: Made by Youth (age 15 and below) and made by an Adult (age 16 and up). Ornament can be any size/shape. (This can hang on a tree or be a table/door decoration.)

Make sure you have at least one Poppy in its original form with a tag on the ornament. Include an envelope with Adult or Youth on outside and on the inside put Auxiliary number, number of members, number of poppies used, number of hours spent making ornament. DO NOT add anything to your ornament that will identify the person or Auxiliary that made it.

Another program that benefits our youth is Scholarship. Two specific contest deadlines that are coming up on October 31, 2024, are:

- VFW Voice of Democracy Audio-Essay Contest, Theme: “Is America Today Our Forefathers’ Vision?” Grades 9-12
- VFW Patriot’s Pen Essay Contest, Theme: “My Voice in America’s Democracy” Grades 6-8



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.

Roster Changes September/October

District	Aux	
7	534	President – John Redden 417-291-3263
7	2175	Treasurer – Michelle Kimmell 8723 E 54 Hwy, Nevada 64772 Andymick2@gmail.com 417-684-0467
7	2590	Meeting date changed to 2 nd Tuesday
14	9638	Secretary – Jimi Cress 22320 Mellonee Road, Wheatland, MO 65779 Jimihedricks.217@gmail.com 636-252-8741
15	3416	Treasurer – Lesley Sherrill 97 Hooten Cove; Wappapello, MO 63966-8494 314-568-6089
15	7183	Secretary – Juanita Fowler 219 Market St, Lilbourn, MO 63862-9189 Lilbourn, MO 63862-9189 573-521-6292 juanita_fowler@sbcglobal.net
15	7822	President – Rachelle McGill 202 Zelma Dr; Puxico, MO 63960-9205 rmcgill@puxico.k12.mo.us 314-703-8537
17	2508	Treasurer – Joyce Hurley 904 Swanson Ave; Novinger, MO 63559-2491 660-488-6508