

THE TORCH

July-August

General Orders

Vol.2

President's Message

Here we are at a brand-new year. I hope everyone had a wonderful time at convention and are making plans to attend Commander Scott Huffman and my Homecoming at Department Fall Conference.

Fall C of A is scheduled for **October 9-11, 2026** at the Lodge of the Four Seasons at Lake of the Ozarks. The VFW will hold a charity Golf Tournament that Friday to raise funds for Defense Personnel Accounting Agency (DPAA). This is Commander Huffman's and my project this year. DPAA is a government agency that recovers and identifies our Missing in Action personnel and ensures they are properly interned and returned to next of kin as appropriate. Since World War II, there remain almost 82,000 missing/unaccounted for U.S. Military Personnel.

July is the month to pay your **Bond**. Your Auxiliary or District must vote to pay the bond, and that information must appear in your meeting minutes.

If you haven't yet attended, there is still time to register for one of the three remaining **School of Instructions** in July. Details are in May/June General Orders.

How is your Auxiliary doing with **Program** reporting on the Department Website for this year? Don't wait for the end of the year; why not report weekly?

Let's Fill the Vans! Make plans to go with us to the **VFW National Home** in October. It's an amazing place to visit and see firsthand what we do for Veterans and their families.

General Orders are published on the first of May, and every other month thereafter. Be sure to download and share them with your Program Chairmen and members. Don't wait until your next meeting.... important information can be missed.

This July, we celebrate the 250th Anniversary of our Nations's independence. America was forged on the blood shed by thousands who sacrificed their lives so we may enjoy the privilege of living in peace and freedom.

I am so excited to work with each of you this year! Together we will work as a Team to **"Carry Our Torches for Veterans"** while **"Serving Americas Heroes"**.

Hope everyone has an amazing Summer!

Anita Crowell – Missouri VFW Auxiliary President



Calendar of Events

- **July 11, 2026** - School of Instructions - Post 3976 - Sugar Creek
- **July 12, 2026** – School of Instructions – Post 4207 Monett
- **July 18, 2026** – School of Instructions – Ste Genevieve Post 2210
- **July 25-29 2026** – National Convention in Reno, NV
- **October 9-11, 2026** – Homecoming/Department Fall Conference, Lake Ozark, MO
- **October 9, 2026** – VFW Golf Tournament, Lake Ozark, MO
- **October 16-18, 2026** – Big Ten Conference, Kalamazoo, MI
- **October 23-25, 2026** – VFW National Home Trip/Board Meeting, Eaton Rapids, MI

2026-2027 Shirts and pins will be sold at Department Convention. Pre-orders for hoodies and jackets will be taken at Convention and on the Department website and Facebook.

Treasurer's Corner

2026-2027

Please make sure to pass this onto your Treasurer.

- **Bond** – Your bond is to be paid in MALTA in July. Make sure to make a motion to pay the bond so that it shows in the minutes. As soon as the members approve this, go into MALTA and purchase the bond. You will have an ICON to press that will take you directly to the bond purchase. Don't wait! Please get it done!
- **New Treasurers** – If you are a new Treasurer, please complete the form 8822B and send one copy to the IRS and one copy to the Department Treasurer-Jackie Davis 3849 Highway 47 W, Troy, MO 63379 as soon as possible.
- **Treasurer's Guide** – The Treasurer's Guide will be updated and posted on the Missouri VFW Auxiliary website – vfwauxmo.org. It will help you with your duties as the Auxiliary Treasurer. Any forms will be updated on the website.
- **New Applications** - Make sure you are using the **new application** revised Jan 2026. Old applications will be sent back to the Auxiliary where they will have to complete the new one.
 - **Complete the application. Do not leave any blanks for the Department Treasurer to fill in!**
 - **Do not send a DD214. We do not want them. If you have questions about the eligibility of the person applying for membership, please contact the Department Treasurer.**
 - **Make sure the investigating committee is reviewing the application for eligibility. Once they deem the applicant is eligible, they are to sign the application.**
- **Checks to Department** – When writing a check for donations or dues sent to the Department Treasurer, please use the distribution sheet included. You can write one check for several items. You can find the form on the website under Treasurer resources. Write one check to **VFW AUX MO**. Do not write it to the Department Treasurer.

I am here to assist you and your members. Any time you have a question, contact me at 314-603-9645. You can also fax at 636-338-4212.

Jackie Davis

Missouri VFW Treasurer



Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Department of Missouri Treasurer's Distribution Form

revised 6/2026

Make checks payable to:
VFW AUX MO
Send to:
Jackie Davis,
Department Treasurer
3849 Hwy 47 W
Troy, MO 63379

Check Information – please write one check for multiple items.

Auxiliary NO: _____ Name of Person: _____

District: _____ Check Date: _____

| | | | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| Check No: _____ | Dues amt: \$ _____ | Donation amount: \$ _____ | Other: \$ _____ |
| Check No: _____ | Dues amt: \$ _____ | Donation amount: \$ _____ | Other: \$ _____ |
| Check No: _____ | Dues amt: \$ _____ | Donation amount: \$ _____ | Other: \$ _____ |
| Check No: _____ | Dues amt: \$ _____ | Donation amount: \$ _____ | Other: \$ _____ |
| Total: | Dues amt: \$ _____ | Donation amount: \$ _____ | Other: \$ _____ |

Department Funds Donations

We encourage the Auxiliaries to make donations to the Department Funds to help support the donations made on the Department level.

| | |
|--|----------|
| President's Special Project | \$ _____ |
| MO National Home Program | \$ _____ |
| Veteran's Service Officers | \$ _____ |
| Hospital | \$ _____ |
| Youth Activities | \$ _____ |
| *Scholarships | \$ _____ |
| <i>*The fund for Scholarship includes VOD/PP, Young American Patriotic Art and the Past National Presidents Scholarship.</i> | |
| Total Fund Donations | \$ _____ |

Other Donations or Fees

These are other donations that are not required

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| Ways & Means | \$ _____ |
| National Officers Fund | \$ _____ |
| Other Donations: | \$ _____ |
| _____ | \$ _____ |
| Total Other Donations | \$ _____ |

These are fees:

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| President's Shirts | \$ _____ |
| President's Pins | \$ _____ |
| Past President's Club | \$ _____ |
| Convention Delegate Fees | \$ _____ |
| Other Fees: | \$ _____ |
| _____ | \$ _____ |
| Total Fees | \$ _____ |

Total Dues, Fees, and Donations

\$ _____

Membership Dues

(Please attach the Membership Summary Form with the list the name of Continuous Members.)

| New Membership (list names below with Annual/Life) please print. | Annual/ Life | No of Dues | Amount | Actual | Refund | Comments |
|--|-----------------|---------------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------|----------|
| _____ | | | | | | |
| _____ | | | | | | |
| _____ | | | | | | |
| _____ | | | | | | |
| _____ | | | | | | |
| Continuous Members | | | | | | |
| Convert to Life | | | | | | |
| Transfers | | | | | | |
| Totals | | | | | | |
| Date Refund to Auxiliary | | Check NO | Amount | Reason for Refund | | |

Date Processed: _____

Signature of Treasurer: _____

2026-2027 VFW Auxiliary Hoodie/Jacket

Order Date _____

**Shirt & Pin Chairman –
Lori Suiter (816) 805-2245
lsuiter5576@gmail.com**

CUSTOMER INFORMATION

Name: _____ Phone # _____
 Auxiliary # _____ District # _____ Email: _____

\$25 for SM-XL Hoodie

\$28 for 2XL– 4XL Hoodie

\$ 35 SM-4XL Zip Up Jacket



| | | | | | | |
|-------|--------|-------|----|-----|-----|-----|
| Small | Medium | Large | XL | 2XL | 3XL | 4XL |
|-------|--------|-------|----|-----|-----|-----|

Gold Embroidered Logo on Red

| SIZE | Zip Up Jacket/ Hoodie | Quantity | Unit price | Total |
|---|-----------------------|----------|----------------------------|-------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| Make checks/money orders payable to: MO VFW Auxiliary <input type="checkbox"/> \$Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check # _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Money Order | | | Total Due | |
| | | | Payment Accepted by: _____ | |

Please Choose a Pick-Up Location

Place Orders no Less than 2 weeks Prior to Pick-Up

- SOI Mexico #3772 June 27, 2026
- SOI Rolla #2025 June 28, 2026
- SOI Sugar Creek #3976 July 11, 2026
- SOI Monett #4207 July 12, 2026
- SOI Ste. Genevieve #2210 July 18, 2026
- Fall C of A October 9-10, 2026
- Dept. President District Visits Delivery _____
- Picked up by: _____

**Send Order Form and Check to:
Department Treasurer Jackie Davis
3849 Hwy 47 West Troy, MO 63379**

All questions & order inquiries should go to: Lori Suiter or Jackie Davis



GOD BLESS AMERICA & GOD BLESS OUR VETERANS



Happy 250th Birthday America!

WHO IS READY FOR OUR 250TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION?

INDEPENDENCE DAY IS ONE OF OUR MOST WELL-KNOWN AND CELEBRATED HOLIDAYS, WITH PARADES, PICNICS, AND FIREWORKS. I HAVE A FEW IDEAS TO HELP IF YOU AREN'T ALREADY PLANNING. DOES YOUR TOWN OR A NEARBY TOWN HAVE A PARADE PLANNED? YOU CAN MAKE A PARADE FLOAT FOR THE PARADE. WHY NOT HAVE A **ROSIE THE RIVETER THEME**? THIS WOULD ALSO BE A GREAT TIME FOR A **ROSIE THE RIVETER COLORING CONTEST** TO GIVE PRIZES. OR WHAT ABOUT A **ROSIE THE RIVETER LOOKALIKE CONTEST**. HAVE FUN WITH IT! MAYBE EVEN WORK WITH YOUR YOUTH CHAIRMAN ON GETTING THE BOY SCOUTS AND GIRL SCOUTS TO WALK THE PARADE ROUTE OR BE ON THE FLOAT WITH YOU. YOU CAN HAVE MEMBERS WALK THE PARADE ROUTE AND PASS OUT INFORMATION ON TEACHING FLAG ETIQUETTE AT PARADES WHEN THE AMERICAN FLAG IS BEING CARRIED BY A COLOR GUARD OR WITH A GROUP OF FLAGS. • STAND UP. • REMOVE YOUR HAT. • PLACE YOUR RIGHT HAND OVER YOUR HEART, VETERANS SALUTE. • REMAIN SILENT. NOTE: IT IS NOT NECESSARY TO SALUTE EVERY AMERICAN FLAG THAT PASSES DON'T BE AFRAID TO TEACH AND SHOW THEM HOW MUCH THE VFW AUXILIARY LOVES OUR COUNTRY! GO ORDER THOSE FLAGS AND WAVE THEM WITH PRIDE. IT'S OUR TIME TO CELEBRATE. THIS IS THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE WITH OUR COMMUNITIES AND SHOW THEM THAT THIS HOLIDAY IS CELEBRATED AS A COMMEMORATION OF THE BRAVERY AND SACRIFICES OF THOSE WHO FOUGHT FOR A NATION'S FREEDOM. I WOULD LOVE FOR YOU TO SUMMIT YOUR PICTURES AS YOU CELEBRATE. PLEASE EMAIL THOSE TO ME FOR A DRAWING AT THE FALL C OF A. 📷 PHOTO SUBMISSION

♥ NATIONAL PURPLE HEART DAY ♥

"SOMETIMES CALLED 'THE FORGOTTEN WAR,' WE WILL ALWAYS REMEMBER THE IMMEASURABLE COST INCURRED BY THOSE WHO FOUGHT ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA. THE BRAVERY, TENACITY AND SELFLESSNESS OF OUR VETERANS LIBERATED THE OPPRESSED, BROUGHT PEACE AND PROSPERITY TO A FREEDOM-LOVING PEOPLE, AND HELPED FORGE OUR UNSHAKABLE BONDS WITH THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA." TAKE THIS TIME TO HONOR YOUR VETERANS. **NATIONAL PURPLE HEART DAY** IS CELEBRATED ANNUALLY TO HONOR U.S. SERVICE MEMBERS WHO WERE WOUNDED OR KILLED BECAUSE OF ENEMY ACTION WHILE SERVING IN THE MILITARY. THE PURPLE HEART IS THE OLDEST ACTIVE MILITARY MEDAL IN THE UNITED STATES, WITH MORE THAN 1.8 MILLION MEDALS AWARDED TO MEN AND WOMEN WHO SACRIFICED FOR OUR NATION.

POW/MIA REMEMBRANCE — “SAY THEIR NAME”

POW/MIA DAY IS OBSERVED ON THE THIRD FRIDAY IN SEPTEMBER—BUT WHY STOP THERE? LET'S HONOR THESE HEROES EVERY MONTH. EACH OBSERVANCE IS DEDICATED TO THOSE WHO ENDURED CAPTIVITY OR REMAIN UNACCOUNTED FOR WHILE SERVING OUR NATION. VISIT THE DEFENSE POW/MIA ACCOUNTING AGENCY WEBSITE TO FIND NAMES OF SERVICE MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN BROUGHT HOME—AND SAY THEIR NAMES ALOUD. LET'S MAKE THIS YEAR SOMETHING AMAZING. LET'S NEVER FORGET. ALWAYS REMEMBER. **“SAY THEIR NAME”**.

“Carry Our Torches for Veterans”

“Serving America’s Heros”



Chairman Contact Information
 Tina Johnson
 semoworkshopllc@gmail.com

AMERICANISM JULY/AUGUST 2026-2027










Department of Missouri VFW Auxiliary
Buddy Poppy
July/ August 2026-2027

Megan McGrath

(573)337-0449

mmcgrathvfwauxmo@gmail.com

The “**Buddy**” ® **Poppy** is more than a symbol—it is a reminder of the sacrifices made by our Nation's Veterans and an opportunity to educate our communities throughout the year. Consider incorporating the Buddy Poppy into your programs in the following ways:

-  **Americanism** – Use Buddy Poppies in patriotic displays, flag education programs, classroom presentations, and community events that promote patriotism and appreciation for our Veterans.
-  **Hospital** – Create Buddy Poppy-themed tray favors, decorations, thank-you cards, and craft projects for hospitalized Veterans and residents of Veterans homes.
-  **Historian** – Share the history and significance of the Buddy Poppy through displays, scrapbooks, social media posts, newsletters, and Auxiliary historical records.
-  **Legislative** – Use Buddy Poppies during legislative events and community outreach to start conversations about issues affecting Veterans, military members, and their families.
-  **Membership** – Include Buddy Poppies in membership packets, recruitment displays, open houses, and community events to showcase the Auxiliary's mission and impact.
-  **Scholarships** – Encourage students applying for scholarships to learn about the history and meaning of the Buddy Poppy. Use the Buddy Poppy as part of essay contests, patriotic displays, or scholarship presentations.
-  **Veterans & Family Support** – Incorporate Buddy Poppies into care packages, appreciation events, family support activities, suicide awareness programs, and recognition ceremonies honoring Veterans and their families.
-  **VFW National Home** – Use Buddy Poppies in fundraising and awareness activities that educate members and the community about the mission and services of the VFW National Home for Children.
-  **Youth Activities** – Engage youth in Buddy Poppy coloring contests, poster contests, craft projects, educational lessons, and community service activities that teach the importance of honoring our Veterans.

By incorporating the Buddy Poppy into each program, we strengthen its message of remembrance, service, and gratitude while continuing to Carry Our Torches for Veterans and Serve America's Heroes.

Keeping the Flame Alive by “Serving America’s Heroes”

and “Carrying Our Torches for Veterans”



***Carrying Our Torches for
Veterans***

**Department Chief of Staff
Extension & Revitalization**

Chairman Janet Barlar

baraux1953@yahoo.com

(573)-261-1948

<https://vfwauxmo.org>

Serving America's Heros

National Chief of Staff

Bettie Jean Biderzycki

bettejean1@yahoo.com

(412) 600-4990



What We Do

vfwauxiliary.org

**Missouri 2026-2027 Extension & Revitalization
July/Aug**

VFW Auxiliary Playbook

One Team • One Mission • Unwavering Support

A VFW Auxiliary Playbook is a guide for building a strong, successful, and healthy Auxiliary just like a football team prepares for a winning season. Every member has a position, every officer has responsibilities, and every Auxiliary works together toward one mission: serving veterans, military families, and communities.

THE TEAM

Team Offensive - Membership Growth

The offense keeps the team moving forward by:

- Recruiting new members
- Welcoming and mentoring members
- Building excitement and involvement
- Instituting new Auxiliaries
- Promoting visibility in the community

Winning Plays

- Membership drives
- Community outreach events
- Social media promotion
- Family-friendly activities
- Partnering with local VFW Posts

Defensive Team - Auxiliary Health

Defense protects the strength and future of the Auxiliary.

Green Flag -Healthy Auxiliary

- Regular meetings
- Positive communication
- Active reporting
- Financial accountability
- Member involvement

Yellow Flag - Needs Attention

- Declining attendance
- Communication struggles
- Lack of participation
- Missed reports

Red Flag - Critical

- No regular meetings
- Financial concerns
- Membership decline
- Conflict dividing members
- Risk of suspension

THE PLAYBOOK TOOLS

Essential Resources

Use the tools available through:

- MALTA Member Resources
- Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit
- Auxiliary Meeting Clinic
- Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation
- Department training materials
- Membership resources and mentoring

Key Strategies

- Train future leaders
- Encourage teamwork
- Celebrate successes
- Support struggling Auxiliaries
- Communicate respectfully
- Lead with kindness and purpose

SPECIAL TEAMS

Special Teams make the big impact moments happen.

These include:

- Veteran support programs
- Youth activities
- Hospital programs
- Patriotic events
- Community service projects
- “Buddy”® Poppy drives

Every member contributes to the success of the mission.

GAME PLAN FOR SUCCESS

- Recruit and retain members
- Mentor future leaders
- Communicate openly and respectfully
- Use available resources
- Support one another
- Focus on the mission
- Never leave a struggling Auxiliary behind

THE FINAL HUDDLE

Success is not built by one person alone. Strong Auxiliaries are built through teamwork, leadership, kindness, and dedication.

Just like football:

- Every player matters.
- Every position is important.
- Every effort counts.

Together, we win by serving veterans and their families with pride, respect, and unwavering support.



DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI

HISTORIAN & MEDIA RELATIONS

July - August 2026

Raylene (Rai) Remer

email: rai.remer@yahoo.com

Phone: 816-517-1115



“Today’s events are Tomorrow’s History”

Our Department Convention has been held, and we are all ‘officially on duty.’ Congratulations to all new Historians and Welcome back to those who have accepted this chairmanship again. Hope you all have some great photos of the many special military days honored in May and June. With Department Convention being over and our Schools of Instruction beginning, I hope you can attend. Be sure to post these events on Facebook, I ‘follow’ as many Auxiliaries as possible.

Our private Facebook Page for Dept. of MO Auxiliary Historians will be closing; all postings will now be on our official Department of Missouri Auxiliary Facebook page. If you need to contact me, please email me at the address above.

The National Award for Auxiliaries – is going to build on the 25-26 year, Learning to Make a Reel ... Project theme: “Create the most unique digital record of your Auxiliary’s history since being established” and publish it to a digital platform for future members of your Auxiliary. A page of possible content highlights will be available for everyone doing this project.

Photo Pointers – Collecting priceless moments.

- Spring and Summer sun can cause people to ‘squint’
- Take sharp, clear photos – check your background – then enjoy the memories.
- Photo Release Forms – Have the ‘Child’ and ‘Adult’ Photo Release forms with you.

Newsworthy Events –

- 250th Birthday of the United States ... 4th of July ... Parades you are in.
- July meeting – gavel being passed, Farewell to outgoing officers and Welcome to new officers as they begin their year.
- Coast Guard Birthday - August 4
- Purple Heart Day - August 7th
- Donations to “Back to School” Supplies Round-Up to help your local school.

President Anita’s visits –

I would like District Historians to take at least 6 – 8 photos of President Anita during her visit. District Presidents will be given a list of suggested photos. Enjoy this assignment and be creative. Send them to me.



“Carrying our Torches for Veterans”

while “Serving America’s Heroes”





Department of Missouri
Hospital/VAVs
July/August
2026-27

Darla Nebel
Darlanebel66@gmail.com
(573) 205-3454

As we start our fiscal year, let us remember that **volunteers are truly the heart of the hospital program**. Through every kind visit, every comforting word, and every act of service, volunteers bring hope, compassion, and encouragement to those who need it most.


VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT, RECOGNITION, AND SUPPORT

Across our nation, new volunteers are needed each day to step forward and continue the meaningful work that so many dedicated members have faithfully carried out over the years. The need is greater than ever, and it is up to all of us to help share this message with others. By inviting new people to serve, we help ensure that this important mission continues to touch lives for generations to come.

Be proud to share your positive experiences and the joy you have found as a hospital volunteer. Your personal story is one of the most powerful ways to inspire others to join this mission of service. Do not limit your message to fellow members alone—share it with family, neighbors, friends, and youth groups. Reach out into your community and help others understand the deep impact of volunteering in support of our veterans. A kind invitation, a heartfelt conversation, or a simple testimony may be all it takes to encourage someone to answer the call to serve.

| WHO CAN VOLUNTEER? | WHERE CAN THEY VOLUNTEER? | WHAT CAN THEY DO? | WHY VOLUNTEER? |
|--|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members• Non-members• Youth• Families | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Local Hospitals• Veterans' Homes• Nursing Homes• Both VA and non-VA medical facilities and clinics | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Opportunities are based on the facility where you are at.• Variety of opportunities.• BE SURE TO FOLLOW THE GUIDELINES GIVEN BY THE FACILITY THAT YOU ARE AT. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• New volunteers are needed every day.• Volunteers offset millions of dollars in expenses in healthcare.• Create a friendly and caring atmosphere. |

“Serving America’s Heroes” BY “Carrying Our Torches for Veterans.”

| | | |
|--|---|---|
|  <p>July/August 2026</p> | <p>Department of MO Legislative</p> <p>Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF) Bulletin</p> <p>2026-2027 Promotional Material</p> | <p>Monica R Schroeder</p> <p>moaux8045@gmail.com</p> <p>573.680.5738</p> |
|--|---|---|

Topic: Contacting Legislators

BLUF: Your voice matters - reach out to your legislator.

HOW TO SPEAK TO A LEGISLATOR

- Be clear in your communications with the legislators.
- Be precise about the bills.
- Be courteous to all our legislators.
- Know the talking points.
- Tell your story.
- Make the “ask,” formally request the legislator’s support.
- Take notes on their responses.
- Thank them.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Missouri Veterans Commission (MVC): **August 17, 2026:** Missouri Veterans Home - Mt. Vernon

Military Association of Veterans Organizations (MAVO): **November 23, 2026:** Harry S Truman State Office Building

For future dates and information, please visit this website: [https://mvc.dps.mo.gov/Missouri Veterans Commission](https://mvc.dps.mo.gov/Missouri_Veterans_Commission)

WAYS TO CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATOR

- Contact via phone call, emails, or office visits.

Action: Send one message or make one call to your legislator

Reminder: Report it

- Report all activities.
- Please be specific in your details.
- Submit as it happens.




VFW ACTION CORPS WEEKLY

BLUF: This is the fastest way to take action.

- Sign up Auxiliary members, family, and community members.
- Text “VFW” to 50457
- Visit website: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/Register>
- Scan the QR Code



“Serving America’s Heroes” while "Carrying Our Torches for Veterans"

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| <p>Missouri Membership 26-27 July/August Promotional</p> <p>'Serving America's Heroes' by 'Carrying our Torches for Veterans' Together we work. Together we recruit. Together we THRIVE!</p> |  | <p>Karen Cypret (pronounced SIGH-pret) 417-342-7652 missourimembership@gmail.com</p> <p>Because every member is part of the tribe, we don't just survive. We THRIVE! #MOsurvivormembershipisland #notjustsurviveTHRIVE!</p> |
|--|---|---|


Survivor Season: Dues • Recruiting • Momentum


SURVIVOR: Missouri Membership Island


Welcome to a brand-new adventure on **Survivor: Missouri Membership Island!** This year, our tribe is stronger, our vision is clearer, and our mission is vital. With new teams, new goals, and new energy, we are ready to chart a successful path across the challenges ahead. On Membership Island, every member counts, every renewal matters, and every district plays a crucial role in helping us *outwork, out-recruit, and outshine* the year before. Leading this year's Survivor Expedition is your **Department of Missouri Membership Chairman yours truly, Karen Cypret.**

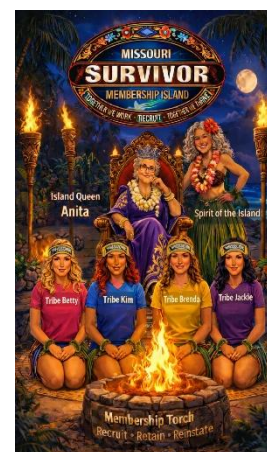
🌸 THE TRIBES OF MEMBERSHIP ISLAND 🌸

Each tribe is led by a dedicated Membership Survivor Guide, each with a Survivor name symbolizing strength, wisdom, and leadership.

🟢 Tribe Bry-ee-denba is Brenda Bryant Districts **2, 9, 12, 17**
 gatorbryantbl@gmail.com Fearless and energetic, Brenda will help her districts swing into action with fresh enthusiasm and a relentless drive to meet every benchmark.

🟡 Tribe Arno-ett-be is Betty Arnold, Districts **5, 8, 18**
 barnold0503@att.net Wise, steady, and encouraging, Betty will bring heart and experience to her districts, helping each one rise to the challenge with confidence.

🟠 Tribe Dee-kimru is Kim Rudy Districts **1, 3, 6, 7, 14, 15**
 krudy4207aux@gmail.com Strong in spirit and powerful in teamwork, Kim will lead a large group of districts with determination and a strategy built on communication and support.



🏠 **Tribe Dav-eeja-kis is Dept. Treasurer Jackie Davis** Missouri At-Large Members
✉️ vfwauxdeptmo@gmail.com Protector of the At-Large torch, Jackie will ensure every member—near or far—remains connected, supported, and valued.

🔥 THE MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE AHEAD

This year's Missouri Survivor challenge focuses on **CURRENT** membership, this does not include deaths.

Each percentage reached is a milestone, each deadline a checkpoint, and each District a vital piece of the Survivor journey.



Membership Goals for 2026-2027

- **95%+** current Membership by **November 30, 2026**
- **98%+** current Membership by **February 28, 2027**
- **100%+** current Membership by **April 30, 2027**
- **102%+** current Membership by **May 31, 2027**

Each step takes us closer to lighting our final torch of victory. Each auxiliary and district has the power to meet—and surpass—these goals.

👤 FROM THE NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP AMBASSADOR **Kristin DiGiacomo**

“The VFW Auxiliary started with a small group of women who wanted to serve veterans; it has grown to include both male and female members. Our programs are designed to bring needed services, information and assistance to improve the lives of veterans, service members, their families and our communities.”

Tribal Leaders: Reach out to your teams. Check in. Encourage. Assist. Ask one simple question: *“What can I do to help you get up and running?”* Strong tribes are built through connection and support.

🌟 LET THE SURVIVOR MEMBERSHIP YEAR BEGIN! 🌟

With hearts united, torches lit, and teams prepared, Missouri is ready to outwork, out-recruit, and *out-thrive* the year ahead. **TOGETHER WE WILL SURVIVE—AND WE WILL SUCCEED.**

Tribal Immunity will be given to: The Tribe leading in **overall monthly progress**. **Why does this matter?** Consistency wins Survivor Island, *“They ruled the island this month.”*

The Survivor Membership dues notices should have gone out by now. Check out the new dues letter we have available for you to send out if they have not gone out yet. It is not the run-of-the-mill dues letter. Missouri Membership Island will be thriving, not just surviving.

MALTA IS COMING ONLINE

MALTA will be up and running on July 6, 2026.

If you haven't already, **please remit your dues** so your membership is ready to go the moment the system opens.

✓ **Dues can now be completed online** (If you have never signed into **MALTA** you will need your membership number and your password is your last name, all lowercase letters)

✓ **Best practice:** Send your dues to your **Auxiliary**, and have your **Treasurer submit them for you. Stay active. Stay counted. Stay on the Island.**

RECRUITMENT CHALLENGE #1: THANKSGIVING DRAW

Recruit 5 new members by Thanksgiving! 📅 Your name goes into the drawing 🎁 One lucky winner receives A special gift from me and \$25.00. Every recruit strengthens the Island.

🌸 **CALL TO ACTION** Pay your dues early. Set your goal. Paddle forward together. **Together we work. Together we recruit. Together we thrive.**

Officers will be placed in a drawing if their dues are paid by Sept 1, 26 a gift and small monetary gift to the winner of drawing.

Scholarship July/August
Department of Missouri 2026-2027
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Hello Chairman!

Did you get into your local schools before they ended their year for the Summer?

Did you make it to one of the Department Schools of Instruction?

Have you **contacted** the teachers and counselors who are attending Summer School programs?

Have you gone on the **Department and National** websites to get more information on the program?

Have you **Contacted** your local library and newspapers to get the information to the public?

Have you **spoken** to the youth at your church?

Get into the schools as soon as possible so you can give them our information on all the scholarships. We cannot have a successful program without lots of attention and I know you can promote our scholarships to the children.

Now is the time that we need to focus on the Voice of Democracy and the Patriot's Pen with our Post. We want to get the students writing their essays as soon as possible. Some students need more time than others and we want every student to have every opportunity as soon as possible. When you give the information to the students, **let them know what the Local, District, Department and National Awards are and explain the process of advancement.** You may purchase the scholarship pamphlets from the VFW Store or print them off the VFW website. The essays are due to the Post by **October 30th**. Check back with the people that you have given the information to; they may have gotten busy and need to be reminded of the Scholarships. Work with your counterpart to pick judges, it is best to pick those who do not have children or grandchildren who are eligible for either contest, I know that can be hard sometimes. Plan how you and your counterpart will present the awards to the winners. Be clear on what your Auxiliary & Post are awarding and the possibility of a District award. We do not want the children to think that they are getting awards that they are not. Maybe a ceremony with dinner, maybe a more casual event with finger foods, or present them at their school in front of their peers. Use your imagination, the possibilities are endless!!

Use the QR code to get more information on the Scholarship Program. Make copies of this and get this in the schools and libraries for all students.

REPORT!! REPORT!! REPORT!!

We are "Serving America's Hero's" by "Carrying Our Torches for Veterans"





Department of Missouri Veterans and Family Support

Kim Rudy

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July/Aug 2026

What an exciting year to be your Veterans and Family Support Chairman! As we celebrate our Veterans and their families daily, we also celebrate America's 250th Birthday!!! For the Independence Day Holiday, remember the sacrifices that have been made for us so that we made it to this milestone. Continue to serve the Veterans in the community and be prepared to help whenever and wherever you are.

I hope everyone has familiarized themselves with the resources available on the VFWA Malta site as well as the Department of Missouri Auxiliary website. I encourage each VAFS Chairman to print out the Resource Card from Malta and provide this information to your members. It carries phone numbers and website links to multiple agencies that cover subjects such for:

- Veterans Crisis Line: Dial 988 then press 1 or text 838255
veteranscrisisline.net
- Assistance for Homeless Veterans: 877-424-3838 va.gov/homeless
- Many more—Please check out that Resource Card!!

Has your Auxiliary planned an event for Veterans & Family Support for this upcoming year? Work together with your Post to maybe have an Open House to get the word out about the VAFS Program and offer the websites, phone numbers, financial and job assistance information. Have a Service Officer available as well.

I've been seeing lots of great reports already coming in. Keep up the good work and remember to submit your reports as soon as you can so that nothing slips through or is forgotten. Send your reports to:

www.vfwauxmo.org →Log in→Members Only→Program Reporting

Notable dates for July & August:

- July 2: Made in America Day
- July 4: Independence Day/Fourth of July
- July 27: National “Hire a Veteran” Day
- July 27: National Korean War Veterans Armistice Day
- July 28: National Buffalo Soldiers Day
- August 7: Purple Heart Day
- August 10: Agent Orange Awareness Day
- August 14: Navajo Code Talkers Day

Do not hesitate to reach out to me at the above email or phone number if you have questions. If you call & I don't answer, please leave me a message and I'll get back with you as soon as I possibly can.

Our incoming Department of MO President Anita Crowell's theme is **“Carrying Our Torches for Veterans”**. Remember that as you support them and don't ever let that light go out.

What better way to promote the incoming National President Donna Mills' theme by **“Serving American's Heroes”**. Remember and honor them.



Department of Missouri VFW Auxiliary
VFW National Home
July/August 2026-2027

Wendy Coffman
VFW National Home Chairman
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As we embark on the new VFW Auxiliary year, we carry our torch high, stepping forward with purpose and determination. Much like our veterans retiring, returning home from deployment and the veteran’s families embracing their veteran, we find ourselves in unfamiliar territory, ready to explore and grow. **“We cannot hold a torch to light another’s path without brightening our own.”- Ben Sweetland.** This sentiment reminds us that we are the guide, not only for ourselves but for others to navigate this journey together. Let us follow the light with enthusiasm, carrying forward the tradition of service, remembrance, and unwavering support for our veterans.

- ➡ VFW National Home Trip – **October 23rd to October 25th, 2026**
- ➡ One of the most meaningful ways to **support** the **VFW National Home** is to **educate the community about its mission**, ensuring that more people understand the vital role it plays in providing stability, hope, and resources for military and Veteran families. This is what the award is based on this year – **how will your Auxiliary teach the community about the VFW National Home?**

Make sure to watch the Program Material for challenges to:

- Raise funds for the VFW National Home
- Educate about the VFW National Home

REPORT! REPORT! REPORT! I know we do these things because **we love our Veterans** and not just to get credit but please take a few minutes after every event to report on it! Make it seem like we are there with you by using **descriptive words**. **Your report may give others’ ideas.**

Let us continue “Carrying Our Torches for Veterans” as we are “Serving America’s Heroes.”

Department of Missouri 2026-2027

Youth Activities July/August

Chairman Amy Jo Lett 816-668-3164

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Red, White & Read!

Summer is a perfect time to focus on literacy, imagination, creativity, and patriotism through reading.

A VFW Auxiliary Lending Library is a small community book-sharing project based on the idea:

“Take a Book • Share a Book”

Libraries can be built from scratch, repurposed from cabinets or boxes, or purchased pre-made online. They can be placed at VFW Posts, parks, schools, community centers, churches, walking trails, youth sports complexes, apartment complexes. **Always remember to get permission from the property owner before installation.**

This project is also a wonderful opportunity to involve youth and community groups.

- Scout Troops
- 4-H Clubs
- FFA Chapters
- School shop or woodworking classes
- National Honor Society students
- Church youth groups



Youth can help build, paint, decorate, stock, organize, and maintain the library while learning teamwork, volunteerism, and community service.

How to Start a Lending Library:

1. Choose a location
2. Build or purchase a library
3. Gather volunteers and supplies
4. Collect books for all reading levels
5. Promote and maintain the project



Include Patriotism Through Literacy Books

A list can be found in MALTA under Youth Activities. Reading helps improve vocabulary, imagination, communication, concentration, and writing skills while helping youth better understand American history, citizenship, leadership, and service. Consider including patriotic, historical, educational, and veteran-themed books for multiple reading levels.

You can also include:

- Patriotic bookmarks
- Reading challenge sheets
- Small American flags
- Coloring pages and Community event flyers



Ideas:

- Host a “Reading Under the Stars” event
- Invite veterans to read to children
- Hold a ribbon cutting ceremony
- Feature a “Book of the Month”

Take photos throughout the process and share your project online using: [#auxlendinglibrary](https://twitter.com/auxlendinglibrary).

National Awards are available for the most creative and/or unique VFW Auxiliary Lending Library projects, so think outside the box and have fun with your designs! Remember to Report and Share Pictures!