

Be the Reason A Veteran Smiles Today



**VFW Auxiliary
Department of Missouri
2025-2026 Program Book**

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To all the members of the great Department of Missouri Auxiliaries:

Thank you all for having the confidence in me to elect me to lead this great organization. I will do everything I can to make this another enjoyable and successful year for each of us.

Congratulations to all the officers recently elected. If you are new to your position or you are doing it one more time, welcome to the team. We are a team and are all in this together. We are all going to do our very best to reach our goals of serving our communities and, most of all to serve and help our veterans.

The Information found in this program book is to help each of you as the year starts and progresses. Please read what is provided and refer to this to help as you fulfill your duties all year.

My special project is the hospital program with special interest on a specific program at each facility. They have each advised where they have a special need. The Kansas City and St Louis facilities want to provide robes to patients, especially the female Veterans. The facility at Poplar Bluff has a scuba diving program to help with controlling PTSD. Columbia needs funds to help with homeless Veterans.

Membership is the backbone of our organization because without members we cannot do anything. Please make each and every event you have a recruiting event. If you don't ask, you don't know who could be your next member.

Please feel free to contact me or any of your line officers for help in our efforts to continue to work with the VFW to get things done and be successful in all we do.

I know we can have a great year as each of you can and will "BE THE REASON A VETERAN SMILES TODAY "

Loyally
Patti Burge
Department President

2025-2026 Calendar of Events

June 12-16, 2025	State Convention – Oasis Hotel and Convention Center Springfield, MO
June 21, 2025	VFW Auxiliary SOI Post 3772 - Mexico
July 12, 2023	VFW Auxiliary SOI Post 3976 – Sugar Grove
July 13, 2025	VFW Auxiliary SOI Post 5993 - Ava
June 28, 2025	National Home 100 th Anniversary Celebration Eaton, MI
July 20, 2025	VFW Auxiliary SOI Post 2210 – Ste Genevieve
August 9-14, 2025	National Convention Columbus, OH
September 8-11, 2025	Fall Legislative Conference with the VFW
September 15-16, 2025	National President's Visit
September 25-28, 2025	Commander-In-Chief Homecoming IA
October 10-12, 2025	Fall Conference The Resort at Lake of the Ozarks 3076 Bagnell Dam Blvd, Lake Ozark, MO 65049
October 17-19, 2025	Big Ten Conference Bettendorf, IA
October 24-26, 2025	National Home Trip/Board Meeting
February 9-13, 2026	National Midwinter Cruise Celebrity Reflection to Key West and Bimini
February 20-22, 2026	Winter Conference The Resort at Lake of the Ozarks 3076 Bagnell Dam Blvd, Lake Ozark, MO 65049
February 27-March 3, 2026	National Café Washington DC
February 28 – March 5, 2026	Washington Conference Washington DC
June 10-14, 2026	State Convention – Oasis Hotel and Convention Center Springfield, MO
July 24-30, 2026	National Convention Reno, Nevada

Auxiliary Secretaries and Treasurers

For the Secretaries and Treasurers Guide, please go to:

www.vfwauxmo.org

Click on “RESOURCES”. Then click on Secretary or Treasurer. You will find the following information under each tab.

Secretary

- Secretary Minute Form
- Missouri Secretary Guide
- Roll Call Form
- Officers Change Form

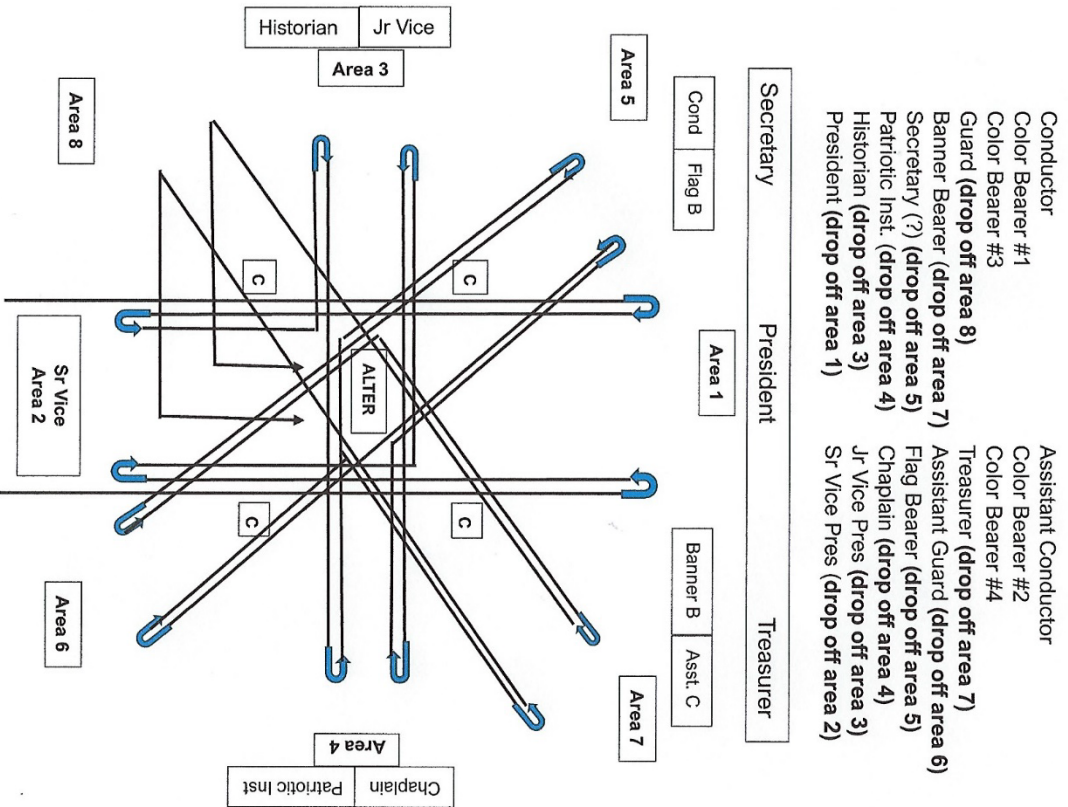
Treasurer

- 990-Filing Form
- Form 8822-B – for new Treasurers
- 2025 Distribution Form – to use when sending checks and membership
- Treasurer Meeting Report
- Donation Guide
- Missouri Treasurer Guide
- Audit Worksheet
- Audit Form for Missouri

Other items will be added as we start the new year. Please check the website often for updates.

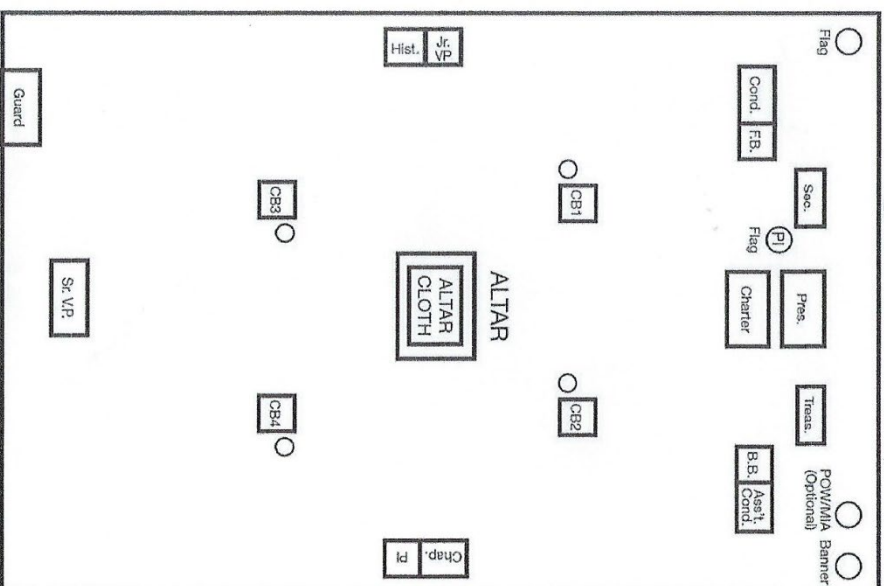
Cross of MALTA and Floor Plan

LINE UP for CROSS OF MALTA



FLOOR PLAN 1

Showing position of officers during Sessions of Auxiliary



Floor Plans

Department of Missouri 2025-2026 Program Guide

<i>July 2025</i>		✓
<i>National Convention</i>	Plan to attend National Convention. It will be in Louisville, Kentucky July 27-August 1, 2025	
<i>Standing Rules</i>	★ Review your standing rules by appointing a committee to review for any changes needed.	
<i>Audit</i>	★ April, May, and June second quarter Audit to be completed by July 31. The outgoing and incoming Trustees, Presidents, Secretaries, and Treasurers should be present.	
<i>Bond & 990</i>	★ Send 990 receipt to Department Treasurer upon completion	
<i>Veterans & Family Support</i>	★ Start planning for Suicide Awareness ★ Begin planning an activity to assist homeless veterans, such as a Back Packs.	
<i>VFW</i>	★ As per Sec. 810 – The Auxiliary President will “within thirty days after induction into office, submit to the Commander of the respective Post, the last quarterly audit, membership status report...”	
<i>Americanism</i>	★ Assist the Post with promoting the Smart/Maher National Citizenship Education Teacher Award ★ Hold a program for Americanism and give certificates to those that fly the flag regularly. ★ Promote less common Patriotic Holidays ★ Plan 4 th of July events.	
<i>Auxiliary Outreach</i>	★ Check with your local community groups and see if there are activities that your Auxiliary may be able to assist with. ★ Please make sure ALL community activities that your Auxiliary assists with have been voted on and approved by the membership prior to participation.	
<i>“Buddy”® Poppy/National Home</i>	★ Plan Buddy Poppy Drives now. ★ Plan an event to promote the VFW National Home for children through education and/or publicity.	
<i>Extension & Revitalization</i>	★ Use resources for a Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit ★ Assemble New Member Kits	
<i>Historian</i>	★ Start your Historian books of events. ★ Learn to use your technology to your benefit.	
<i>Hospital and VAVS</i>	★ Start discussions on craft-at-home projects. ★ Plan how your Auxiliary can help Veterans who are shut-ins or hospitalized.	
<i>Legislative</i>	★ Contact legislators on Veteran issues.	
<i>Membership</i>	★ <i>Presidents</i> , per Sec 810A section G of the bylaws, appointed a committee of not less than five (5) members, including the Treasurer, to contact all members for payment of dues. ★ Send out dues’ notices to an your annual members ★ Former members who did not pay their 2024 dues as of June 30, 2025, are no longer a member, must reapply for membership and the Auxiliary will vote to accept them. Check the material provided by your Department Membership Chairman. ★ Form an Investigating Committee to investigate new membership.	
<i>Scholarships</i>	★ Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen are due to Post October 31st, 2025 . Time to get the program in the schools. ★ Theme for both the Voice of Democracy and the Patriot Pen theme is “How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?” . Print brochures from the VFW website www.vfw.org under “Community” or order from the VFW Store vfwstore.org . ★ Young American Creative Patriotic Art is due to the Auxiliary by March 31, 2026 . ★ Contact schools and youth group leaders now with the information for the students. ★ Donate to the Department Scholarship Fund. Mailed to Department Treasurer.	
<i>Youth Activities</i>	★ Our youth can do many things such as help with “Buddy”® Poppy campaigns or help Auxiliaries with some of their projects. ★ What ideas do you have about where you could help a youth group? ★ Start watching for individual youth who display their patriotism, support our veterans, service members and their families for the Patriot’s Youth Award. Refer to the Chairman’s Program material for more information. ★ Promote and support reading among youth with the Patriotism through Literacy program. Refer to the Chairman’s Program Book for further information.	
<i>Online Reporting</i>	★ Report all projects	

<i>August 2025</i>		✓
<i>Audits</i>	★ An approved audit is due to the Department Treasurer by August 31 st .	
<i>Veterans & Family Support</i>	★ Veterans and Military Support (formerly National Military Services) donations are to be mailed directly to VFW National Headquarters, VFW Programs, 406 W 34 th St, 9 th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111. Attn: Veterans & Military Support ★ This program covers “Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship”, Unmet Needs, Operation Uplink and the MAP program.	
<i>Americanism</i>	★ Encourage the schools and businesses to fly our Flag. ★ September 11 is Patriot Day, ★ September 19 is POW/MIA Day. ★ September 25 is Gold Star Mothers and Families Day. ★ Plan an appropriate activity for these days.	
<i>Auxiliary Outreach</i>	★ Contact your city to ask if the Auxiliary could assist in any Fall Festivals. ★ Volunteer to judge a Halloween Contest	
<i>“Buddy”® Poppy/National Home</i>	★ Plan your “Buddy”® Poppy display for the Fall Conference. Refer to the Department Chairman’s promotional material for guidelines. ★ VFW National. Home Trip is October 24-26, 2025	
<i>Historian</i>	★ Create a highlight member for your Facebook post. ★ Keep an updated record of what your Auxiliary has done.	
<i>Hospital and VAVS</i>	★ Volunteer at the VA Hospitals, local hospitals, and Veteran’s homes. ★ Recruit new members and involve your youth groups. Please check the age requirements.	
<i>Legislative</i>	★ Has your Auxiliary signed up any members or non-members for the VFW Action Corps?	
<i>Membership</i>	★ Use your membership committee to collect dues. ★ Please make sure your Auxiliary is focusing on Retention on all members. ★ Recruit new members and contact former members about reapplying for membership	
<i>Scholarships</i>	★ Take all Scholarship information to all schools, public, private and home-schooled students in your area by the end of the month. Remember the DUE DATE! ★ Walk for Scholarships – track your miles and collect from friends	
<i>Youth Activities</i>	★ Youth Activities Chairman work with the Scholarship Chairman to get the word to youth group leaders about those Scholarship opportunities due to the Post by October 31 st .	
<i>Online Reporting</i>	★ Submit all your project reports! ★ Don’t wait until April to submit.	

<i>September 2025</i>		✓
<i>National President’ Visit</i>	★ National President Lois Callahan makes her visit to Missouri September 15-16.2025. Watch the President’s message for details of the visit.	
<i>Veterans & Family Support</i>	★ Veteran & Military Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Awareness 988 and press 1. ★ Donate to the Department Veterans Service Officers Fund and the National Veterans Service Fund. ★ September is Military Suicide awareness month. Do a “wellness check” on Veterans in your community	
<i>Americanism</i>	★ September 11 is Patriot Day. Hold program so everyone REMEMBERS! ★ The 16 th , the third Friday of September, is POW/MIA Recognitions Day. Have a ceremony at your Post home or a military monument in your city. ★ Remember the Gold Star Mothers and Families on September 25. Let them know that we do appreciate the sacrifice of their loved one for your country. ★ Smart/Maher National Citizenship Education Teacher Award due to the Post on October 31.	
<i>Auxiliary Outreach</i>	★ Consider working at a soup kitchen, food pantry, homeless shelter, or farmers market.	
<i>“Buddy”® Poppy/National Home</i>	★ Finish buddy poppy displays for the Fall Conference. The theme will be Ornament. Be sure that at least one poppy remains in its original form. Display must be accompanied by sealed envelope—on the outside of the envelope the number of poppies used, and total # of poppies hours spent assembling the display—on the inside of the envelope a card with your auxiliary # and the name(s) of the assembler(s) of the display printed on it.	
<i>Historian</i>	★ Use social media to tell the story of who we are, what we do! ★ Send pictures to the Historian.	

Hospital and VAVS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Continue to sign up volunteers for this program. ★ Discuss what you can do for veterans for Halloween and Thanksgiving that are hospitalized or living in a nursing home. 	
Legislative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Keep up to date on the legislation that are the VFW Goals. ★ Contact your elected officials and urge them to vote for our veteran's rights 	
Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Review where you stand on collecting those continuous dues. ★ Plan a dues reminder mail out for the end of this month. 	
Mentoring for Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Is there someone in your Auxiliary that is an outstanding mentor? Nominate them for a Department award. See the Department Chairman's promotional material. 	
Scholarships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Reconnect with the schools and home-schooled students to make sure they are working on the program. Due date to Post level Oct. 31st 	
Youth Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Contact youth groups in your community to see if they will help with any programs, or if you can help THEM with one of theirs. 	

October 2025		✓
Plan to Attend	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ VFW and Auxiliary Fall Conference – October 10-12, 2025 The Resort at Lake of the Ozarks ★ Big Ten Conference – Bettendorf, IA October 17-19, 2025 ★ National Home Trip – Eaton Rapids, MI) - October 24-26, 2025 	
Audit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ July, August, and September third quarter Audit to be completed by October 31. 	
Veterans & Family Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Plan a project for National Family Caregivers Month (November). ★ Plan a Veteran's Day Program 	
Americanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Start plans for Veterans Day Activities. 	
Auxiliary Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Contact your local schools and see if your auxiliary can assist with Trunk or Treat for Halloween. ★ Partner with another organization to hold a blood drive. 	
"Buddy"® Poppy/National Home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Check the programs chairman's information for the trip to National Home. ★ Plan a "Buddy"® Poppy Drive with the Post. 	
Historian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Contact media with any upcoming events using a Press Release available behind MALTA. ★ Send in pictures to the Historian. 	
Hospital and VAVS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Donate to the Department Hospital Fund. Your donation helps to support the Department Representatives as they provide items at the VA Hospitals and Veteran's Homes. We also give each facility a monetary gift to be used on those items they may need. Make checks out to MO VFW Aux. and send them to the Department Treasurer, Jackie Davis. Earmark checks "Hospital Dept. Fund." ★ Are you tracking those volunteers and craft at home hours? ★ What are your plans for the holidays for our hospitalized veterans? 	
Legislative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Keep up to date on the legislation that are the VFW Goals. Contact your elected officials and urge them to vote for our veteran's rights. ★ Host a town hall meeting inviting candidates 	
Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Do not hold dues. Enter them in MALTA as soon as you get them or send them to the Department Treasurer, Jackie Davis. ★ There should not be a balance in the Dues column on the Treasurer's report. If there is, ask why it is there. ★ Are new members and rejoins being brought in by members? 	
Scholarships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Work with the Post to Contact judges for the Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and the Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Award contests. ★ Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entries are due October 31st. ★ Post judging must be done by November 15. ★ Contact students for the Young American Patriotic Art Contest. 3D Art ★ Donate to Department and National Funds 	
Youth Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Educate members about the National Citation for Youth Groups. ★ Find groups you can recognize with this citation. 	
Online Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Report all projects 	

<i>November 2025</i>		✓
<i>Audit</i>	★ Approved Audit for July, August, and September third quarter Audit to be sent to Department Treasurer by November 30, 2025.	
<i>Veterans & Family Support</i>	★ Have you contacted local community groups to assist with help for Homeless Veterans in your community? ★ Plan a Christmas party for the families of deployed military. ★ Work with your Americanism Chairman on Veterans Day events.	
<i>Americanism</i>	★ Veteran's Day is November 11 th . Have a public ceremony to thank veterans for their dedication to our great nation, have a ceremony at your own Post followed by a luncheon, or arrange for a school to hold a ceremony and invite one or more veterans to participate. Work with your Veterans and Family Support Chairman. There will also be a fillable, printable citation to present to your veterans from your Auxiliary. ★ The Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Award is due to VFW District Chairman	
<i>Auxiliary Outreach</i>	★ Deliver meals for Meals on Wheels.	
<i>"Buddy"® Poppy/National Home</i>	★ Have a "Buddy"® Poppy Campaign this month.	
<i>Historian</i>	★ Feature a Veteran or Auxiliary member on your Facebook page. ★ Send pictures to the Historian.	
<i>Hospital and VAVS</i>	★ Hospital Donation ★ Finalize the plans for the holidays you have been making for the Hospitals and Veterans Homes.	
<i>Legislative</i>	★ Continue to check for alerts from National Headquarters on legislation that is being voted on that will affect our veterans. ★ Get out and vote	
<i>Membership</i>	★ Recruit new members. ★ Contact any member that has not paid their dues and see if they need assistance. ★ Do a member "wellness" check for any member that has missed several meetings find out why! Let them know you care.	
<i>Scholarships</i>	★ Send your winners for Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen to your District Chairman. The district must have their judging completed by December 15.	
<i>Youth Activities</i>	★ Adopt a family of a deployed military soldier. Helping them in any way they may need.	
<i>Online Reporting</i>	★ Report all projects	

<i>December 2025</i>		✓
<i>Veterans & Family Support</i>	★ Aid a military family during the holidays. ★ Plan what you will be doing in February for veterans around Valentine's Day. ★ Assist Homeless Veterans during this holiday season. Provide food, warm clothing, etc.	
<i>Americanism</i>	★ December 7 th is Pearl Harbor Day. At your Auxiliary meeting have a presentation commemorating this day. ★ The Smart/Maher Citizenship Education Teacher Award winners will be selected by the District. District judging is to be completed by December 15.	
<i>Auxiliary Outreach</i>	★ Partner with your local Fire Department on a fire prevention and safety class. ★ Partner with local community groups and see if they need aid with any Christmas activities they have planned.	
<i>"Buddy"® Poppy/National Home</i>	★ Start your "Buddy"® Poppy display for the Department Winter Conference. "MO on the Move Poster. See the Department Chairman's promotional material for guidelines. ★ Promote the National Home Military and Family hotline. ★ Make donation to Health and Happiness if not done.	
<i>Historian</i>	★ Send pictures to the Historian.	
<i>Hospital and VAVS</i>	★ Hold a special bingo for the Veterans in the Veteran's Homes or take Christmas cards to them with a dollar or two in them. A few minutes visiting with these veterans is the best gift you can give.	
<i>Legislative</i>	★ Keep everyone informed on political issues involving Veterans and those on active duty. ★ Action Alerts	
	★ Keep making personal contacts to members who have not sent in their dues. ★ If someone is having financial problems, the auxiliary can vote to pay dues for them.	

Membership	★ All Officers are to have their dues paid by December 31 st . If not, effective, January 1, 2026, they will no longer be eligible to hold office, as they are no longer a member in good standing. (Sec 807 of the Bylaws.)	
Scholarships	★ Donate to the Department Scholarship Fund if you have not done so. All the Scholarships given at State level take a great deal of money each year. ★ Give the Past National President's Scholarship application to students who can apply.	
Youth Activities	★ Work with your Hospital Chairman to get the youth groups to volunteer at the Nursing Homes.	

January 2026		✓
Audits	★ October, November, and December fourth quarter Audit to be completed.	
Veterans & Family Support	★ Promote Sport Clips haircuts. Sport Clips sponsors scholarships for our nation's heroes through the VFW "Sport Clips Help a Hero Scholarship" awards.	
Americanism	★ Check on damaged flags throughout your community that need to be replaced. ★ Present certificates recognizing their displaying of the American Flag.	
Auxiliary Outreach	★ Contact your city's Parks and Recreation department to see if your Auxiliary can partner with them in planting trees or flowers in the spring.	
"Buddy"® Poppy/National Home	★ Educate your community about the history of the "Buddy"® Poppy and the National Home.	
Extension & Revitalization	★ Start recruiting officers & chairmen for the next year	
Historian	★ Contact media with recent events and provide photographs with releases to use in the paper. ★ Send pictures to the Historian.	
Hospital and VAVS	★ Volunteers are always needed, whether it is a VA Hospital, a Veterans Home or your local Hospitals and Nursing Homes. Check those out in your area to see where your volunteering would help veterans the most.	
Legislative	★ Check on any legislative bills	
Membership	★ Officers who have not paid their dues by December 31 are no longer in good standing	
Scholarships	★ Students should be working on the Patriotic Art Contest. ★ The Continuing Education Scholarships applications are available. ★ Past National Presidents Scholarship	
Youth Activities	★ Come up with projects young students can do for Valentine's Day that would honor the Veterans in Nursing Homes, Veterans Homes, VA Hospitals. ★ Start planning for the Illustrating America Art Contest. All entries due to Department Chairman by April 15.	
Online Reporting	★ Submit all project reports	

February 2026		✓
Plan to Attend	★ National Mid-Winter Conference Cancun Mexico February 9-13, 2026 ★ Winter Conference February 20-22, 2026 The Resort at Lake of the Ozarks ★ Café and VFW Legislative Conference in Washington DC – February 28 – March 5, 2026.	
Audits	★ Approved Audit for October, November, and December is to be sent to the Department Treasurer by February 28, 2026	
Delegates	★ See Sec 302 of the National Bylaws for electing your District delegates. The list of delegates sent to the District Secretary prior to the District Convention.	
Nominating Committees	★ Auxiliary elections are to be done in April. ★ If you are having a nominating committee, those members need to be appointed this month so they can report their findings at your March meeting. Be sure everyone understands this committee's job is to get one candidate for each elective position; however, nominations will also be accepted from the floor at the April election. See Bylaws Sec. 804B – Elective Officers shall be nominated and elected at a regular meeting in April. ★ Nominating committee is NOT required, it is an option.	
Veterans & Family Support	★ Happy Valentine's Day to our Veterans. Participate in a program at your local VA Hospital or simply have a party for your Post Veterans.	

Americanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Present a certificate to a property owner who is flying their Flag daily. Take a picture of you and your president presenting the certificate. Get an article and picture in your local newspaper. ★ Get an article published about the number of American and POW/MIA flags you have given away; the number of certificates you have presented and how proud you are of your community for their constant display of Patriotic Support. 	
Auxiliary Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Partner with EMT's to host a CPR class. ★ Partner with a local group doing fundraising as a volunteer 	
"Buddy"® Poppy/National Home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Use "Buddy"® Poppies in your Valentine Displays. 	
Historian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Are you keeping a diary of your Auxiliary activities? Are you taking photos for your Historian Book. Remember this is the history of your Auxiliary. ★ Send pictures to the Historian. 	
Hospital and VAVS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Have you updated the Department Hospital Chairman on Craft at Home hours? 	
Legislative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Local elections are held in many communities in April. Host a "Meet the Candidates" forum for any local election. All candidates should be invited to attend this forum. 	
Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Continue to try to sign up new members and get those unpaid members to pay to accomplish this. Don't stop now even if you are 100% 	
Scholarships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ The Patriotic Art Contest entries are due to Auxiliaries by March 31. ★ Share with your Auxiliary AND Post members the information for the "Missouri Past National Presidents' Scholarship." Applications are on the Missouri website and due in April. 	
Youth Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Contact your City's Park Manager and see what you might be able to do to help groups of young people. ★ Have you contacted your schools about the <i>Illustrating America Art Contest</i>? 	
Online Reporting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Sumit Project Reports 	

March 2026		✓
Delegates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ See Sec 303 of the National Bylaws for electing your District delegates. The list of delegates and alternates are sent to the District Secretary prior to the District Convention. Be looking for information coming from the Department Secretary about your delegates and alternates. 	
Nominating Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Auxiliary elections are to be done in April. ★ Is your nominating committee in place? Make sure they are ready for next month's elections. 	
Veterans & Family Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Plan a "Family Freedom Festival" for the summer 	
Americanism	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Present businesses in your community with a certificate of appreciation for flying the American and POW/MIA flags. ★ Start plans for Memorial Day. 	
Auxiliary Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Partner with EMT's to host a CPR class. 	
"Buddy"® Poppy/National Home	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Start planning your display for the Convention. 	
Historian	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Are you keeping a diary of your Auxiliary activities? Are you taking photos for your Historian Book. Remember this is the history of your Auxiliary. ★ Send pictures to the Historian. 	
Hospital and VAVS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Have you updated the Department Hospital Chairman on Craft at Home hours? ★ Recruit volunteers for the VA Hospital and Veterans Homes. 	
Legislative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Local elections are held in many communities in April. Host a "Meet the Candidate" forum for any local election. All candidates must be invited to such a forum. 	
Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Work on the former members. Try to convince them to rejoin. 	
Scholarships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ The Patriotic Art Contest entries are due to Auxiliaries by March 31. ★ Share with your Auxiliary AND Post members the information for the "Missouri Past National Presidents' Scholarship." Applications are on the Missouri website and due in April 15, 2026 	
Youth Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Purchase Girl Scout cookies and send to the troops. ★ <i>Illustrating America Art Contest</i> deadline is April 15. 	

Online Reporting	★ Submit project Reports	
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April 2026		✓
Audits	★ January, February, and March first quarter audit is to be completed by April 30.	
Delegates	★ Delegates and Alternates are to be sent to the Department Treasurer. ★ YOU ARE TO ELECT YOUR NATIONAL DELEGATES IN APRIL. ★ See 303 for instructions for Department delegates and Sec. 304 for National. Be sure and get these submitted following the procedures outlined.	
Election of Officers	★ Officers are to be elected this month. ★ The newly elected Auxiliary President determines who will do the auxiliary installation. Newly elected District Presidents will be installed before the adjournment of the meeting at which they were elected Districts refer to Sec. 806B.	
Veterans & Family Support	★ Always help and support Veterans and their families. ★ Have you planned an activity or special event for Military Caregiver Month in May?	
Americanism	★ Flag Day is June 14. ★ Plan a Memorial Day ceremony.	
Auxiliary Outreach	★ Assist at the polls for local elections.	
“Buddy”® Poppy/National Home	★ Donations for the National Home Program should be sent to Department Treasurer Jackie Davis. This donation is for the Halloween party that the Department puts on for the children.	
Historian	★ Start getting your Historian records to gather to present to the members for the end of the year.	
Hospital and VAVS	★ Visit a Veteran in the hospital or in the Nursing Home.	
Legislative	★ Does your municipality have elections this month?	
Membership	★ Call or visit those members who have not paid their dues. Let them know they are important to our organization.	
Scholarships	★ Young American Creative Patriotic Art winners are to be sent to Department Chairman for judging.	
Youth Activities	★ Work with Girl Scouts or Boy Scouts. ★ Illustrating America entries are due to Department Chairman April 15.	
Online Reporting	★ Submit Project Reports	

May 2026		
Audits	★ Approved Audit for January, February, and March first quarter audit is to be sent to the Department Treasurer by May 31 st .	
Delegates	★ Lists are to be completed and sent to the Department Treasurer with the delegate fees. Delegate lists have to be in, in order for your Auxiliary to have a vote at Convention.	
Installation of Officers	★ Auxiliary officers shall be installed at a regular or special meeting held not more than sixty (60) days prior to the convening of the Department Convention. They shall not assume their duties until the new Department President is installed. ★ New Officers are to be entered into MALTA and a copy of the installation report is sent to the Department Secretary immediately.	
Veterans & Family Support	★ Summer Care packages to your adopted unit or service members from your community.	
Americanism	★ May 1 is Loyalty Day ★ May 8 is Victory in Europe Day (VE Day), 1945. ★ May 21 is Armed Forces Day	
Auxiliary Outreach	★ Reach out to the organizations in your city and see if you could assist with a project	
“Buddy”® Poppy/National Home	★ Complete your “Buddy”® Poppy display for the Department Convention.	
Historian	★ Keep working on your Historian Record Book. ★ Send pictures to the Historian.	
Hospital and VAVS	★ Host a Bingo or a barbeque for the Veterans in the Homes.	

Legislative	★ Keep up to date on the Veteran issues.	
Membership	★ DO NOT HOLD CONTINUOUS DUES! ★ July 1 starts a new year for dues. ★ New members might be confused with our dues system and complain about paying again in a month for a whole new year, just tell them that being a continuous member will give them more tenure as a continuous member. Offer to pay their first year's dues to get new members signed up. Paying \$13.50 for the first year is a bargain to get a new member	
Scholarships	★ Contact your School Districts with the 2026/2027 brochures to get the program on the new school year's agenda.	
Youth Activities	★ Youth groups can always use help during the summer months. Purchase a few baseballs and give to a local team, invite your church's youth group to help put flags on veterans' graves on Memorial Day weekend. The possibilities are endless.	

June 2026		
Department Convention	★ Department Convention – June 10-14, 2026, Oasis Convention Center, Springfield MO ★ Attend to receive all your awards for your hard work.	
Veterans and Family Support	★ Start investigating programs in your area for assistance to veterans and family members for areas of concern such as adult day care centers, home hospice care, homemaker and home health aide programs, home telehealth, respite care, or skilled home care.	
Americanism	★ Flag Day June 14, 2026 ★ Host a flag exchange at your Post Home or another location in your community.	
Auxiliary Outreach	★ Help out the Food Pantries in the Community.	
“Buddy”® Poppy and VFW National Home	★ Promote the VFW National Home life memberships to your VFW and Auxiliary members. ★ Donate directly to the National Home. Remember, they do not receive government funding for the Home. Your donation is what keeps the Home going.	
Extension & Revitalization	★ Is your Auxiliary struggling? Try using the Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit or the Building on the VFW Auxiliary Foundation for educate your members on all aspects of the duties of Officers, how to be a Chairman, the why of reporting, etc.	
Historian	★ Finalize your Historian Book and present to your Auxiliary for the completed 2025–2026.	
Hospital and VAVS	★ Learn about the unique needs of women veterans. Learn about the resources and health care services available and help them receive the benefits and services they deserve.	
Legislative	★ Provide a Get Out the Vote registration event for graduating Seniors.	
Membership	★ Membership for the 2025/2026 year is through June 30, 2026. Remember any new members brought in now will be paying the 2026 dues until July 1, 2026.	
Mentoring for Leadership	★ Plan a Mentoring workshop for members interested in assisting our new members, members, and our officers.	
Scholarships	★ Now is a good time to recognize your students who have entered into the Scholarships programs. Plan a reception/lunch to recognize them and make sure you invite the parents and maybe even the teachers.	
Youth Activities	★ Contact your libraries and see if your members could read to the younger children for story time in the library.	
Online Reporting	★ Submit Project Reports	

Missouri VFW Auxiliary Programs

Check out the VFW Auxiliary website for updated information on our programs & events. www.vfwauxmo.org

Or use the QR Code below to download the Chairmen's Promotional Material to your computer or phone.



Join us on Facebook – **MO VFW AUXILIARY**

Check out both sites on your computer, tablet or phone to have the most updated information on events happening in the Missouri VFW Auxiliary.

2025-2026 Programs





Department of Missouri VFW Auxiliary
Americanism Program &
Patriotic Instructor
2025-2026

Regina Bryant
13926 E 49th Terr. Apt. P
Kansas City, MO 64133
r.runions.rb@gmail.com

***“One Flag, One Land, One Heart, One Hand, One Nation Evermore.”
Oliver Wendell Holmes***

Patriotism is defined as the love for and loyalty to one’s country, often manifested through actions like participating in civic duties, supporting national values, and showing respect for the nation’s symbols.

Our National Americanism Ambassador Diana Russell-Milton stated “Honoring and respecting the American Flag is significant for several reasons. It is a tribute to the sacrifices and service our veterans made, and it is a symbol of our national unity and identity.”

As we begin the 2025-2026 Program year, let us concentrate on our love of country and our American Flag, and all it represents.

Education

We have a responsibility to educate the community around us about our nation’s patriotic symbols and traditions such as the American Flag, National Anthem, and the Pledge of Allegiance, and how to display and honor these symbols.

For more information about Flag etiquette, the history of our Flag and to read the U.S. Flag Code, visit vfw.org/community/flag-etiquette.

Examples of ways you can engage your community:

- Get involved in schools – The youth are our future, and we have the perfect opportunity to start early with teaching the Pledge of Allegiance and National Anthem, as well as respect for the American Flag.
- Recognition of Community Flag Display – Present a certificate of appreciation to a community member, business or organization who displays the American Flag properly according to the U.S. Flag Code.
- Partner with civic organizations and other groups to spread awareness about the significance of the Flag and its role in American history.

- Flag Retirement Ceremony – Your Post and Auxiliary can set up a collection site for worn flags, then hold a ceremony and invite the community. This is an excellent way to educate on the proper way to retire the American Flag.
- Promote Patriotism – One of the best ways to promote patriotism is by celebrating patriotic holidays. You can involve the entire family and community, putting a spotlight on your Auxiliary and all you do for veterans. You can find a list of dates on MALTA.

POW/MIA Remembrance

Prisoner of War (POW) and Missing in Action (MIA) Remembrance Day is observed on the third Friday in September. It is dedicated to those who endured captivity or remained unaccounted for while serving our nation. By continuing to observe this day, we are ensuring that their sacrifices are never forgotten.



Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Program

Each year the VFW recognizes three exceptional teachers – one each from the elementary, junior high and high school levels – for their outstanding commitment to teach Americanism and instill patriotism in their students. The deadline for applications to the local VFW is October 31. For more information go to www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education/teacher-of-the-year.

Patriotic Instructor



The Patriotic Instructor is responsible for educating members about traditions and ceremonies of the organization. They take the time to understand the VFW Auxiliary Ritual and the Federal Flag Code. They must be prepared at each meeting to assist new members regarding the raps of the gavel, standing at attention, or parade rest, etc. The *Understanding Auxiliary Traditions* help sheet and video are available in MALTA Resources and is a great reference. We must mentor the new members that we bring in if we expect them to feel welcomed and wanted in the organization.

National Award for Auxiliaries

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event displaying or educating others about proper ways to display and respect the flag.
 - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that host the most outstanding activity and/or event educating others about proper ways to display and respect the American Flag.

Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the Department Americanism Chairman by March 31, 2026, for judging.

Department Award for Auxiliaries

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event that promotes patriotism through the distribution of American Flags and/or POW/MIA Flags.
 - First Place - Citation and \$20 goes to one Auxiliary in each of the four Program Divisions.
 - Second Place – Citation goes to one Auxiliary in each of the four Program Divisions.



Always ***“Be the Reason a Veteran Smiles Today”***, as we travel ***“From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Our Veterans – Who Keep Us Free”***.

Scan the QR code below, it will take you to the Americanism Program information on the National Auxiliary website.





AUXILIARY OUTREACH 2025-2026

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

The Auxiliary Outreach program is all about what we can do to help our communities by volunteering alongside your local organizations at their events.

Your Outreach program will be a complete success if you do the following:

- Seek out groups and organizations in your community and ask them what the Auxiliary can do for them.
- Bring the project(s) to a vote at your meeting or have ongoing activities voted on at the beginning of the year. Put the recurring projects into your standing rules.
- This is a partnership between your Auxiliary and the community. Ensure that it's not always the exact same people doing these projects. If you're committed to a certain organization, encourage the other members to help you out, too. They may also find their passion.
- Wear the Auxiliary attire proudly. You want the community to recognize that the Auxiliary is always available to lend a helping hand. A shirt, jacket or hat with the Auxiliary emblem can start a conversation about the Auxiliary and what we do. It is also a great way to show members volunteering out in our communities and not just in our Post Homes. You want to be visible in the communities.
- When reporting your Outreach events, remember that you cannot report a monetary value for your participation. Donating funds or purchasing for groups does not constitute volunteering your hours.

In addition to reporting your program project participation for your department, highlight your volunteer efforts on social media with #AuxiliaryOutreach. This will go out to offer ideas to other auxiliaries throughout the country.

Volunteering should become second nature within your Auxiliary. Almost every month has a day or a week dedicated to recognizing volunteerism. Get the word out about these special days and plan to do something special. You can research more examples, but consider these:

- August 5, 2025—National Night Out Day
- September 11, 2025—National Day of Service and Remembrance
- October 4, 2025—Be the Change Day
- October 25, 2025—National Make a Difference Day
- November 13, 2025—World Kindness Day
- November 22, 2025—National Family Volunteer Day
- December 5, 2025—International Volunteer Day
- January 28, 2026—Global Community Engagement Day
- February 9-13, 2026—Student Volunteer Week
- March 9-13, 2026—AmeriCorps Week
- April 12, 2026—Good Deeds Day
- April 19-25, 2026—National Volunteer Week
- April 24, 2026—Global Youth Service Day
- May 2, 2026—VFW Day of Service Action

Our Department President's theme this year is: "Be the Reason a Veteran Smiles Today". As you are helping to carry out the theme, make sure you wear the "Dorothy" pin on your Auxiliary shirt, hat, jacket, etc. This pin will be a conversation starter and will put smiles on everyone's faces. You can volunteer your time to help support the Special Project this year, which is the Hospital program.

The National President is proud to carry the theme of "From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans—Who Keep Us Free". Make sure to purchase a pin that showcases a lighthouse. The Continuing Education Scholarship is the special project for the year.

The Department of Missouri Award for outstanding projects will be judged based on teamwork within the Auxiliary.

- First Place will receive \$20 and a Citation to the one Auxiliary in each of the four program divisions.
- Second Place will receive a Citation to one Auxiliary in each of the four program divisions.

Remember to report and share your events. There may be other Auxiliaries who could use some new ideas to volunteer, and you may find some great things to do, too.

I look forward to chairing this amazing program again this year and am anxious to see and share all your wonderful things that your Auxiliaries are doing to work in our communities. Please make sure to report all projects and activities to the Online Reporting System at: www.vfwauxmo.org

Scan the QR code below, it will take you to the Auxiliary Outreach Program information on the National Auxiliary website.



Department of Missouri VFW Auxiliary
Buddy Poppy/ National Home
Program Book 2025-2026

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



**"Poppies are the silent poets of the garden, whispering stories of
resilience and remembrance."**

The “Buddy”® Poppy is a powerful symbol of remembrance and sacrifice. Since World War I, the red poppy has honored fallen soldiers, inspired by the famous poem *In Flanders Fields*. The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) adopted it as their official memorial flower, ensuring that its meaning endures. The “Buddy”® Poppy program also supports Veterans in need, helping fund medical care and rehabilitation. It serves as a reminder that their sacrifices should never be forgotten.

The phrase **“Honor the dead by helping the living”** is at the heart of the “Buddy”® Poppy tradition. It emphasizes the importance of supporting Veterans, their families, and those who continue to serve, ensuring that their legacy lives on through meaningful action. By wearing a poppy, donating, or participating in events, people continue this tradition of remembrance and aid.

How to Order

- ✓ Contact your VFW Post to order Poppies. If you have any problems ordering, please contact me.
- ✓ Request the order form from your Department Headquarters. Be sure to allow plenty of time (8-12 weeks) for delivery before your distribution date.
- ✓ Brochures, “Buddy”® Poppy distribution supplies and promotional items can be purchased from the VFW store at vfwstore.org or by calling 1-833-VFW-Vets.
- ✓ Each “Buddy”® Poppy purchased by a Department for distribution contributes to the following:
 - One cent goes to the VFW National Home.
 - One cent goes to the VFW National Headquarters Veterans Service Fund
 - One and a half cents go to the Department Veterans Service Fund

Types of Poppies

- ✓ There are two versions of the “Buddy”® Poppy.
 - Traditional artificial flower
 - Tin tab
- ✓ Anniversary “Buddy”® Poppy - Special traditional artificial flower
Poppies are available to VFW Posts celebrating their 25th, 50th, 75th and 100th anniversaries.
 - 25th Anniversary - Silver
 - 50th Anniversary - Gold
 - 75th Anniversary - Diamond (iridescent)



- 100th Anniversary - VFW Posts currently in their 100th anniversary can order any color and as many as they need.

Distribution Tips

- ✓ Contact your city/town clerk's office to see if a permit is required for your distribution event.
- ✓ Look for high traffic areas.
- ✓ Get permission from your desired distribution location(s). Ask store manager/owner's permission before promoting your distribution event.
- ✓ Make sure Auxiliary members know when and where the distribution event will take place.
- ✓ Contact your local radio station or paper to share information about your distribution event and/or share on social media.
- ✓ Ask local youth groups for their assistance.
- ✓ Have Poppy distributors wear Auxiliary (or VFW) branded clothing to promote the Auxiliary and VFW while also helping the public to connect the distribution event to the organization.
- ✓ Encourage your volunteers to SMILE and be enthusiastic.
- ✓ Use the "Buddy"® Poppy Chairman's Manual to educate distributors. Remind your volunteers that they are distributing the Poppies in hopes of receiving a donation **NOT** selling them.
- ✓ All proceeds from Poppy drives are to be placed in the Relief Fund.
- ✓ Think outside the box! There are many creative ways to distribute the "Buddy"® Poppy including event centerpieces, parades, posters, window displays, wreaths and more.

NEVER refuse someone a "Buddy"® Poppy because they are unable to donate.

"Buddy"® Poppy Items

"Buddy"® Poppy apparel, distribution supplies and promotional items can be purchased from the VFW Store.

VFW Store
406 West 34th Street
Kansas City, MO 64111
1.833.VFW.VETS (1.833.839.8387)
vfwstore.org

"Buddy"® Poppy Contest

✓ **Fall Contest**

At this year's **Fall Council of Administration** meeting, we're taking our **"Buddy"® Poppy Hat Parade** down the **Yellow Brick Road**—a path paved with remembrance, creativity, and honor! As we march forward, each step on our golden path celebrates the resilience and sacrifice of our Veterans. Let your hat shine like a beacon of courage, adorned with "Buddy"® Poppies that tell a story as timeless as Dorothy's journey to the Emerald City. So, gather your poppies, design something truly magical, and walk with pride—because on this Yellow Brick Road, every hat is a tribute, and every step brings us closer to a celebration of service and sacrifice. **There's no place like honoring our heroes!**



- Make sure you have at least one Poppy in its original form with tag on the hat.
- An envelope with:
 - On the outside:
 - Youth or Adult
 - On the inside:
 - Auxiliary number
 - District number
 - Number of members
 - Number of Poppies used
 - Number of hours spent making the hat
- **DO NOT add anything to your hat that will identify who made it.**

✓ **Winter Contest**

At this year's **Winter Council of Administration** meeting, we're embracing the season of giving with a “Buddy”® **Poppy Tray Favor Contest!** These heartfelt creations, designed with holiday cheer, will serve as small yet powerful tokens of appreciation for our beloved Veterans. After the meeting, we will distribute them to **Veterans Homes**, ensuring that every tray carries a message of gratitude and remembrance. Whether adorned with festive colors, winter magic, or symbols of service, your tray favors will brighten the spirits of those who have given so much. So gather your “Buddy”® Poppies, let the holiday inspiration flow, and craft a tray favor that spreads warmth, joy, and appreciation this season!

- Make sure you have at least one Poppy in its original form with tag on the tray favor.
- An envelope with:
 - On the outside:
 - Youth or Adult
 - On the inside:
 - Auxiliary number
 - District number
 - Number of members
 - Number of Poppies used
 - Number of hours spent making the tray favor
- **DO NOT add anything to your hat that will identify who made it.**

✓ **Official National “Buddy”® Poppy Display Contest**

- Takes place annually at National Convention.
- Displays are judged in three (3) categories.
- This is an official National VFW contest.
- Contest rules and judging guidelines are available in MALTA Member Resources. This is a VFW contest and the rules cannot change. If you have further questions after reading the rules and guidelines, please contact Lynn W. Rolf III at lrolf@vfw.org.

Awards

✓ Department

“The Poppy Valor” Award – Most outstanding activity and/or event with their VFW Post to educate their community about the VFW Buddy Poppy

- **First Place** - \$20 and a citation goes to one Auxiliary in each of the 4 Program Divisions.
- **Second Place** – A citation goes to one Auxiliary in each of the 4 Program Divisions.

✓ National

Most outstanding activity and/or event with their VFW Post to educate their community about the VFW “Buddy”® Poppy.



The **VFW National Home** in Michigan is more than just a place—it’s a guiding light for military and veteran families, much like the **Emerald City** was a beacon of hope for Dorothy and her companions on their journey through Oz. Just as Dorothy, the Scarecrow, Tin Man, and Lion sought courage, wisdom, heart, and home, families at the National Home find **stability, support, and healing** through education, counseling, and a nurturing community. The winding paths through the Home’s beautiful grounds may not be paved with yellow bricks, but they lead to new beginnings, reminding us that resilience and hope can overcome life’s storms. And just as Glinda told Dorothy that she had the power to find home all along, the National Home empowers families to reclaim their future—with a little help from those who care.

The VFW National Community

The **VFW National Home** in Eaton Rapids, Michigan, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to supporting **military, veterans, and their families**. Established in **1925**, it was founded on the belief that America should care for the families of those who served. The National Home provides **housing, education, daycare, recreation, and case management** to help families build a stable and healthy future.

The campus features **42 single-family homes, a gym, library, computer and science labs, daycare center, playgrounds, fishing pond, and hiking trails**. Families facing challenges such as **reintegration, post-traumatic stress, unemployment, and battlefield injuries** can find refuge and support here.

The **VFW National Home** provides housing and support for **military and veteran families** facing challenges. To be eligible, applicants must meet one of the following criteria:

- **Currently serving** in the military, including those on unaccompanied tours or deployments

- **Honorably discharged veterans**, including Active Duty, National Guard, and Reserve members
- **Surviving spouses** of veterans with dependent children
- **Parents or guardians** who are single or married and have dependent children
- **Families with a connection to the VFW or Auxiliary**, meaning the applicant has a parent who is a member in good standing

The National Home offers a **three-phase program** designed to help families achieve stability, including **education, job training, and veteran transition support**. The campus is supported by **donations and volunteer efforts**, with opportunities for individuals and groups to contribute through monetary gifts or special projects.

For more information and to find help visit vfwnationalhome.org and click on the “Get Help” button.



National Home Bus Trip

This **October 24-26, 2025**, we’re embarking on a magical journey down the **Yellow Brick Road** to the **VFW National Home**! Along the way, we’ll celebrate the spirit of **supporting Veterans and their families**, bringing honor, remembrance, and community together. But that’s not all—get ready for a **spooktacular Halloween party**, filled with festive fun and heartfelt camaraderie. Just like Dorothy and her friends discovered courage, heart, and wisdom, we’ll travel with purpose, ensuring our veterans **and their families** feel the appreciation they deserve. So, gather your **friends**, put on your best costume, and join us for an unforgettable trip where service and celebration go hand in hand!



Health and Happiness Fund

One way that the Auxiliary supports the National Home is through gifts of 10 cents per member to the Health and Happiness Fund. Contributions are critical since the campus and its programs receive no government funding. The Health and Happiness Fund supports the following at the National Home:

- Maintenance of Auxiliary-sponsored buildings.
- Emergency repairs and renovations.
- Christmas and graduation gifts.

Donations can be made online or in MALTA or by mail.

Making a gift is easy in MALTA. Gifts can be made by an entity (Auxiliary, District, Department) or by individuals.



To Make A Gift

✓ To Donate Online In Malta

- Auxiliary/District/Department
 - The Treasurer logs in to MALTA.
 - Go to the “Duties” tab for the entity you are making the gift on behalf of.
 - Select “Make a Gift” icon.
 - Click on “Make a Gift” blue box.



- Choose program and enter amount.
- Click on “I hereby agree to the terms and conditions of purpose”.
- Click on “Pay Now”.

(Entity gifts are done by ACH, if it asks you for Credit Card information you are not on your duties tab.)

- Self (On Behalf of Individual Person)
 - Visit vfwauxiliary.org and select “MALTA Member Login”.
 - Log into MALTA.
 - Select “Make a Gift” from the Main Menu.
 - Click on “Make a Gift” blue box.
 - Choose program and enter amount.
 - Enter credit card information.
 - Click on “I hereby agree to the terms and conditions of purchase”.
 - Click on “Pay Now”.

✓ To Donate By Mail

- Send a check earmarked Health and Happiness to:
 VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
 Attn: Health and Happiness Donations
 406 W. 34th Street, 10th Floor
 Kansas City, MO 64111



VFW National Home Life Membership and Associate Life Membership

The VFW National Home has two types of memberships that offer another way to support the National Home.

VFW and VFW Auxiliary members and organizations are eligible to become **Life Members**. Life Members may vote for the Trustees who represent their National Home District and approve any proposed changes to the bylaws and articles of incorporation. Please be sure the VFW National Home has your correct name and email address; the bylaws and ballots are emailed.

Any individual or organization wishing to support the VFW National Home’s mission can become an **Associate Life Member**. Associate Life Members do not have voting privileges. For more information on membership, visit vfwnationalhome.org/membership.



Other Ways to Give Support

There are many ways to offer support to the **VFW National Home**, ensuring that military and veteran families receive the care and stability they deserve. Becoming a **Home Front Hero**, purchasing a **Tribute Brick or Centennial Garden Brick**, or selecting an item for the **Tribute Park** are all meaningful ways to create lasting tributes. Gifts from your **IRA, stocks, or securities** can also help sustain the Home’s mission, while purchasing items from the **Amazon Wish List** directly benefits those in need. Even simple acts like **wearing VFW National Home apparel** and distributing **promotional materials** help raise awareness and ensure more people recognize the vital role the National Home plays. No matter the form, every act of support makes a meaningful difference!

VFW Auxiliary Sponsorship

The **VFW Auxiliary** has played a pivotal role in the **VFW National Home** since its inception, standing as **vocal supporters, fundraisers, and dedicated volunteers**. As the Auxiliary's **first continuing program**, the National Home has long been a cornerstone of their mission to support **military and veteran families**. In **1927**, the Auxiliary solidified this commitment by appointing its **first official National Home Chairman**, ensuring structured, ongoing efforts to uplift and sustain this vital community.

Over the years, the Auxiliary has supported numerous projects that have helped shape and improve the National Home's services. These include the original **Hospital**, now the **Health and Education Center**, providing essential care and resources to residents. The **Margaret A. Armstrong Guest Lodge and Memory Chapel** offers a space for reflection and remembrance, honoring the sacrifices of veterans and their families. The **Early Education Center** fosters learning and growth for young children, ensuring they receive the support they need. Additionally, the **"Home Life" building**, now the **Community Center**, serves as a hub of activity with a **gym, auditorium, kitchen, elevator, and additional office space**, helping families build connections and participate in enriching programs. Most recently, the **National Home's new Welcome Center** ensures that every arriving family is greeted with warmth, guidance, and the promise of a supportive community.

Through these efforts, the Auxiliary continues to make a lasting impact, ensuring the National Home remains a beacon of hope and stability. Let me know if you'd like any further refinements or additions!

For more information, see MALTA Member Resources or visit the National Home's website at vfnationalhome.org.

Awards

✓ **Department**

“There's No Place Like National Home” Award – Most outstanding activity and/or event that creates awareness and education about the National Home to the community.

- **First Place** - \$20 and a citation goes to one Auxiliary in each of the 4 Program Divisions.
- **Second Place** – A citation goes to one Auxiliary in each of the 4 Program Divisions.

✓ **National**

Most outstanding activity and/or event that creates awareness and education of eligibility and who qualifies for help from the VFW National Home and promoting it within their Department to help Veterans and their families.

**“Be the Reason a Veteran Smiles Today” as we stand together “From Sea to Shining Sea
Honoring Veterans – Who Keep Us Free.”**

Scan the QR codes below, it will take you to the “Buddy”® Poppy and National Home Program information on the National Auxiliary website.



Buddy”® Poppy



National Home



Department of Missouri
Chief of Staff
Extensions & Revitalization
2025-2026 Program Book
Janet Barlar- Wicked Witch & Broom Squad Boss
(573)-261-1948 baraux1953@yahoo.com

Saddle Your Broom- It's a New Year!

Theme: “*Follow the Yellow Brick Road: Supporting Healthy Auxiliaries from Munchkinland to Missouri!*”

Like the Wicked Witch with a twist, we're not here to cause chaos. We're here to sweep Auxiliaries back onto the Yellow Brick Road! Our magical (and practical) tools help Auxiliaries navigate roadblocks, avoid flying monkeys (drama), and find courage, brains, and heart in leadership.

The Magical Mission

The Department Chief of Staff plays a vital role in keeping Missouri Auxiliaries healthy, active, and on track. Like the Wicked Witch (reimagined), our Chief of Staff doesn't stir up trouble; she uses her broom to sweep away confusion, guide leaders through storms, and keep everyone on the Yellow Brick Road to success.

Chief of Staff (Broom Boss)

- Primary Assistant to the Department President
- Aids in Institution and training of New Auxiliaries
- Eyes and Ears of all Department proceedings
- Knowledgeable in all facets of Auxiliary to include:
Bylaws, Programs, and Mentoring skills
- Identifies warning signs of struggling Auxiliaries
- Promotes use of MALTA to teach and inform members
- Be **Kind, Supportive, Patient**

Extension- Starting New Auxiliaries
Revitalization- New Life and Vitality
Mentoring- to Advise and/or Train

EXTENSION STEPS

- Identify Unaffiliated Posts.
- Contact Department President or Chief of Staff to discuss possibility of a new Auxiliary.
- Review MALTA for presentation tools.
- Ask the Post Commander for permission to make a presentation.
- Invite the President and/or Chief of Staff to attend meeting with the Post.
- Gain a 2/3 approval vote from Post membership.
- Department President will appoint an organizer to work with the Post.
- Mentor the new Auxiliary and members until healthy!

REVITALIZATION

Program Goals (Wizard-Approved)

Strengthen Current Auxiliaries - Just like Glinda showed Dorothy the way, Chiefs of Staff guide Auxiliaries back to basics. Here's how:

What makes an Auxiliary Healthy? (Green Flag)

A "Green Flag" Auxiliary has:

Completed all 5 Essentials:

1. Held at least 10 business meetings per year.
 2. Dues paid by at least 10 members on/before Feb 1.
 3. Quarterly audits completed and submitted.
 4. Officers elected, installed, and reported to National by June 30.
 5. President and Treasurer bonded by August 31.
- Members are engaged and willing to mentor others.
 - Utilized the Healthy Auxiliary Tool Kit in MALTA.
 - Demonstrated teamwork, communication, and leadership transitions.

What Are Yellow Flag Warnings?

Auxiliaries who:

- Miss one or more of the five essentials.
- Struggle to attract or retain members.
- Lack of participation in Programs.
- Fail to attend training/events.
- Show disorganization or unresolved conflict.

These groups need a gentle sweep back onto the road through mentoring and positive encouragement.

Red Flag Auxiliary

Simply means it's time to assign a team to work very closely with the Officers and members to bring them back to being a healthy Auxiliary.

- The Department President requests the Auxiliary be put on Suspension.
- A team is assigned to attend meetings and report findings to the Department President.
- Usually, a minimum of 90 days with monthly team reports.
- Mentoring is a huge part of the suspension process.
- Remove from suspension and continue mentoring.

STRUGGLING AUXILIARY PLAN:

PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT PLAN "PIP"

- The Department President assigns a PIP team to take the lead.
- PIP Team meets with Auxiliary Officers or individuals to identify issues and possible resolution, OR:
- PIP Team meets with Auxiliary Officers or individuals and together set goals and develop a plan to achieve goals. Then:
- Plan is implemented using the NEW PIP form.
- Mentoring of Officers and members is a critical part of a "PIP."
- PIP Team attends Auxiliary meetings until issues or goals have been met.

Expected Result - Auxiliary Restored to Healthy

Mentoring

- Prepares members to become educated leaders
- Ensures legacy of the VFW Auxiliary
- Creates strong and healthy Auxiliaries
- Auxiliaries move forward not "anchored in the past"
- Encourages and offers guidance
- Guarantees the Auxiliary future

Extension and Revitalization National Awards

Award for Members

\$25 VFW Store gift certificate to one member in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the best assistance to the Chief of Staff in establishing a new Auxiliary with the approval of the Department President.

“NEW” Award for District President

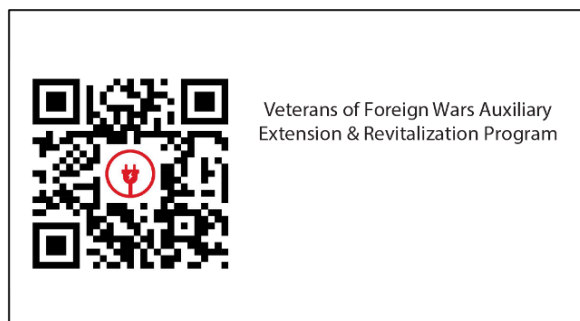
\$25 VFW Store gift certificate to one District President or Official Representative in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the best assistance to the Chief of Staff with a struggling VFW Auxiliary by mentoring and maintaining a close relationship until the Auxiliary becomes Healthy, with the knowledge of the Department President. Use of MALTA Member Resources Healthy Auxiliary tools and mentor training is required.

Awards for Department & Department Chairman

\$25 VFW Store gift certificate to one or Department Chief of Staff in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most unique promotion educating members to maintain healthy Auxiliaries and to promote Extension while utilizing MALTA Member Resources.

Useful Tool

Fillable Program Business Cards will be located in MALTA Member Resources beginning 2025-2026 year to add your contact information to.



Scan this QR code and it will take you to the Extension & Revitalization Program information on the Auxiliary website.

THE SHOW ME GAZETTE

Historian and Media Relations

2025-2026 Program Book

Editor: Mary K. Thurman

32482 State Hwy 248

Aurora, MO 65605

417 207 2631

vfwa2526hist@gmail.com

I want to say Thank You to each one of you who stepped up and took the position of Historian as you play a very important role in the auxiliary and/or district. It is up to you to help with the history of your group. I am looking forward to working with the other department program chairman and other members providing them with assistance when they need it.

Our national by-laws state “The historian shall collect all authentic material pertaining to the history of their Auxiliary, carefully compile the same, and submit a report at the end of the year.” Keep in mind that the year is not over until department convention is over, and a new department President has been installed, as your auxiliary may get awards. You will need to ask your President how he or she wants their history - it could be a digital frame, scrapbook, thumb drive and/or a collage of photos from the year.

In this position, you are the voice of the Auxiliary, and its activities and the programs. Ask the chairman if there is something going on that needs to be put on social media so that others are aware. Perhaps, even just a reminder. Example: The auxiliary voted to bring in three cans of canned food for the local pantry at the next meeting. Use social media to remind them. And keep in mind that not all have social media, so, send an email to the remaining members.

MALTA is full of resources. You can find media releases, flyers, how to documents, and social media posts. There is also a Communication Award that you can give to those newspapers, radio stations and/or TV stations that help you get the word out about what the auxiliary is doing. You might just have a best friend for life by giving them a thank you like this.

You are not expected to take professional photos yet please make sure that your camera is ready for the task ahead by having an extra battery and plenty of room on your memory card. Nothing is as bad as failing to get that one moment because of a dead battery or lack of space on memory card. Also, do not be afraid to ask a group of people to pose, as the President can see who was at an event that he/she might have missed.

I would like to see what all the auxiliaries across the state of Missouri are doing. If you are sending photos to me, PLEASE tell me the story that goes with the photos – the who, what, when, where and why. Also, consider using several hashtags when posting on social media: AuxiliariesinAction, #VFWAuxiliary, #AuxSWAP (sharing wonderful auxiliary projects). Social media platforms are the fastest (and probably the easiest) way to get the word out about the word out about our programs and our auxiliaries.

REPORTING: Reporting should be done on the department website, www.movfwaux.org under Members only, and then to Program Reporting. If you are unable to do the report, you can request another person to assist you with the process.

The following questions are on the department website:

- a. Did Auxiliary communicate quarterly to each of your members via email, text and/or phone call? How?
- b. Do you have a Facebook page with or without the Post? Please put Facebook address in the description field.
- c. Do you have a website with or without the Post? Please provide a link in the description field.
- d. What was your auxiliary's most outstanding Historian and/or Media relations projects?
- e. All other Historian and Media Relations projects.

I reached out to National Ambassador, Kristin Digiacomio, and she will accept a public and/or private Facebook page and/or group for reporting purposes.

Please report only ONCE if you have a Facebook page and/or website. Use the last two questions if you want to share what you have been posting. Should you forget this, I will check to see if you have already reported the Facebook page and/or website and adjust the report to put in the correct slot.

The 5th question is a good place to let me know that photos have been placed on social media – do a ONCE-A-MONTH report. Example: In November, the auxiliary marked the 100th anniversary of the Department of Missouri by having cake and ice cream after their meeting. Photos from the past were on display during the month for others to see. The auxiliary hosted a Veterans Day meal for the veterans in the area. Later in the month, they, along with the post hosted a Thanksgiving Day meal that was open to the public. Approximately 102 people attended the last two events listed, and photos were placed on Facebook after the events.

If you feel that you have a project that you feel is outstanding, please answer using the 4th question. Do **not** duplicate something that you posted in the once-a-month report.

AWARDS –

Department: I will be giving a certificate to each member who submits photos of President Patti when she is in your area for a visit. This can be from her official visit to the district and/or if she is in the area for an event that your auxiliary may be having. The last day for me to accept photos will be 31 May 2026, so that certificates can be made in time to be handed out at the department convention.

National Awards for Auxiliary Historian & Media Relations Program: The Most outstanding social media reel highlighting the VFW Auxiliary in Action. A citation and \$25 to one auxiliary in each of the 10 program divisions with the most outstanding social media reel highlighting their Auxiliary in Action. An entry form is required and will be available under MALTA in Member Resources. The auxiliaries MUST send the required entry form and the social media reel to the Department Historian/Media Relations Chairman by 31 March 2026 before being sent to National for final judging. Citations will be mailed directly to winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into VFW Auxiliary account after the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to the Department of Missouri VFW Auxiliary: The Department will be turning 100 on 7 November 2025. I am asking that each auxiliary take a group photo with a sign of some sort recognizing this. It is up to each auxiliary if they want to do more – like cupcakes and ice cream. I am asking the same of all districts if you have a meeting in October, November or December. Once the last district meeting is held, I will do my best to post a video with the photos and post them to Facebook.

Sample Sign:

Happy 100th Birthday to the Department of Missouri VFW Auxiliary

This can be printed on a piece of paper in large print and held by a member of your group when the photo is taken.



Be the Reason a Veteran Smiles Today

From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans – Who Keep Us Free

Scan the QR codes below, it will take you to the Historian Program information on the National Auxiliary website.



 <p>Karen Cypret 22222 Whiplash Lane Washburn, Mo. 65772 417-342-7652</p> <p>mohospitalvavs.kcypret@gmail.com</p>	 <p>2025-2026</p>	<p>Missouri Hospital VAVS 2025-2026</p> <p>"From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans – Who Keep Us Free" we should be "Caring for our veterans like the ocean caring for the waves"</p> <p>"Be the reason a veteran smiles today" by "having a heart for hospitalized veterans"</p>
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VAVS stands for Veteran Affairs Voluntary Services

The first National Home, now the VA's oldest hospital, was opened in Maine in 1866. They provided medical care and long-term housing for Civil War Veterans. These homes were initially to be room and board for disabled veterans. However, by the late 1920s, these homes provided a level of care comparable to hospital care and in 1930 President Hoover created the Veterans Administration to consolidate all veteran services. And we were there! In 1928, the Hospital Program became the second National Program adopted by the VFW Auxiliary. We, as hospital volunteers, have spent over 100 years donating millions of hours offering smiles, compassion, aid, comfort, dollars, etc., to our veterans. The way we volunteer today is much different from our beginnings.

Volunteer Recruitment, Recognition and Support:

New volunteers are needed daily across our nation to step up and carry on the work that our older members started. Missouri has seven (7) Veterans Homes. We must get the word out about the need for new volunteers because the need is greater than ever.

Be confident and share your positive experiences and your joy as working as a hospital volunteer. Your testimony is one of your best recruiting tools. Additionally, do not just share with your fellow members but with family, neighbors, friends, youth groups; reach out into your community to educate them about volunteering for our veterans.

Where can we serve?

Members, non-members and youth can volunteer in many types of facilities under this program:

- Local hospitals
- Veterans' homes
- Nursing homes
- Adult Day-Care centers
- Fisher Houses
- Both VA and non-VA medical clinics and facilities

Here are the Missouri Veterans homes and their contact information.

Cameron Veterans Home
1111 Euclid Cameron, MO 64429
(816) 632-6010

Cape Girardeau Veterans Home
2400 Veterans Memorial Dr. Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
(573) 290-5870

St. James Veterans Home
620 N. Jefferson St. James, MO 65559
(573) 265-3271

St. Louis Veterans Home
10600 Lewis & Clark Blvd. St. Louis, MO 63136
(314) 340-6389

Mexico Veterans Home
#1 Veterans Dr. Mexico, MO 65265
(573) 581-1088

Mt. Vernon Veterans Home
1600 S. Hickory Mt. Vernon, MO 65712
(417) 466-7103

Warrensburg Veterans Home
1300 Veterans Rd. Warrensburg, MO 64093
(660) 543-5064

You can find this information and more at [**www.mvc.dps.mo.gov**](http://www.mvc.dps.mo.gov)

Here are the Veterans Hospitals and their contact information:

Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital
800 Hospital Drive, Columbia, MO 65201-5297
(573) 814-6000

Jefferson Barracks
1 Jefferson Barracks Drive, St. Louis, MO 63125-4199
(314) 652-4100

John J. Cochran Veterans Hospital
915 North Grand Boulevard, St. Louis, MO 63106-1621
(314) 652-4100

John J. Pershing VA Medical Center
1500 N Westwood Blvd, Poplar Bluff, MO 63901
(573) 686-4151

Kansas City VA Medical Center
4801 Linwood Boulevard Kansas City, MO 64128-2226
(816) 861-4700

You can find all this information and more at [**www.va.gov**](http://www.va.gov)

Craft at Home:

Sew at Home has become Crafting at Home. This is the 2nd year of this change. There are so many things that people craft that aren't sewing. You can sew of course, but how about knitting, crochet, or even woodworking?

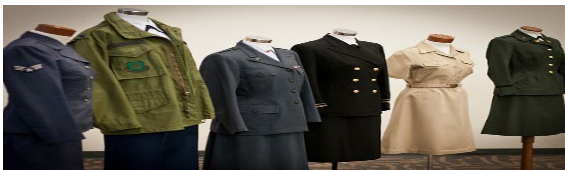
How about making and then taking homemade cards into nursing homes. Do you like to make handmade greeting cards? This is a fun project for your auxiliary to do as a group, include the youth in your area also. Little children love to craft. Look beyond the Christmas cards. What other holiday can you make cards for?

Food Insecurity:

Many veterans and their families today find it hard to spread their budgets to the end of the month. Many facilities have a food locker to assist in this need but many do not have the space to accommodate food storage so grocery store gift cards are really appreciated. The facility's social workers generally manage this program so check with the CDCE Chief for more information. This would be a great auxiliary fundraiser!

Women Veterans Health Care

The VA is dedicated to meeting the health care needs of our nation's women veterans, which is the fastest growing group of the veteran population. Comprehensive health services are available and tailored to the unique needs of women veterans. Check with your CDCE Chief for special events that are being planned and what you can do to help.



June 12th is Women Veterans Day:
She Serves, She Sacrificed, She Deserves.

Honors Escort

The Honors Escort Program in VA facilities is part of the end-of-life protocol for veterans who pass away while in their care. The Honors Escort is an opportunity to honor each veteran in a respectful and open manner. It provides a way for a veteran's family and friends, other veterans and facility staff to participate in a display of reverence to the veteran at the time of death. Check with your facility to find out if they have an Escort Program and how you can help. If no program exists, introduce the idea to them and be sure to include your VFW members.

Online Reporting:

Please remember to report any activity you have done as soon as you have completed it. Make sure your auxiliary chairperson is mentioned in the description if they are not the one doing the reporting. Please do not hold your reports until the last minute. You may forget to report on something that you have done.

Things I'm looking for this year:

- How much money did you donate
- How many craft-at-home hours did you do
- Most Outstanding project

Trula Missey, Department of Missouri Legislative Chairman
100 Aldergate Dr #27
Bonne Terre, MO 63628

trula.missey@yahoo.com

573-631-6002

LEGISLATIVE
Program Book
2025/2026



We can “Be the reason a Veteran smiles today” while marching down the Yellow Brick Road with our Legislative program.

VFW Priority Goals: Budget, Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, Education, Employment and Transition Assistance, as well as Health Care, Military Readiness, National Security, Foreign Affairs and Prisoner of War/Missing in Action.

In addition to these Goals, we should also:

- ✓ “Follow up with Gratitude”: Follow up the in-person meetings with local legislators with an email or thank you card.
- ✓ “Legislative Gratitude Days”: Use specific dates: Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Vietnam War Veterans Day, Armed Forces Day, or the birthdays of the US Military Branches. Include social media campaigns and community engagement. Include the youth in your activities.
- ✓ “Thank You Notes with a Purpose: Host a note writing campaign where handwritten thank you notes are paired with QR codes or links that direct recipients to the VFW Action Corps Weekly sign-up page or the VFW Priority Goals. Veterans in the community will feel appreciated, and they will be empowered and engaged with ongoing legislative efforts. Conducting a note writing event to a Veterans recognition event is one of the many ways to reach our Veterans.
- ✓ “Veterans Advocacy Training”: Prepare Auxiliary Members to become powerful voices in legislative advocacy. Organize training workshops for members, teaching advocacy skills and strategies for engaging law makers. Use MALTA Member Resources, Legislative. Utilize online tools and resources from your local and state government.
- ✓ Educate members about how we are non-partisans: we support legislation that improves the lives of Veterans and Service Members. Open the Action Corp Weekly, lack of activity will result in removal from the mailing list.

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

AWARDS:

National Award:

- ✓ **FIRST PLACE:** Most outstanding activity and/or event to create thank you notes and cards to Veterans that include links to VFW Action Corps Weekly and/or the VFW Priority Goals. A citation and \$25 will be awarded in each of the 10 Program Divisions.
- ✓ Entry form is required and is available in MALTA Member Resources.
- ✓ VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the Department Legislative Chairman by March 31, 2026 for judging.

Department Awards:

- ✓ **FIRST PLACE:** Most outstanding activity and/or event to create thank you notes and cards to Veterans that include links to VFW Action Corps Weekly and/or the VFW Priority Goals. A citation and \$20 will be awarded in each of the 4 Program Divisions.
- ✓ **SECOND PLACE:** A citation goes to one Auxiliary in each of the 4 Program Divisions.

Judging will be based on reports submitted throughout the year. REPORT, REPORT, REPORT.

Program Divisions: (Based on current membership):

- Group I: 10-50
- Group II: 51-85
- Group III: 86-150
- Group IV: 151 AND UP

Veteran Advocacy Tools:

Under MALTA Resources you will find guides for contacting Legislators, the Legislative Process, VFW Auxiliary involvement in Elections and Public Activities. There are also Legislative Websites links and the 2025-2026 Legislative Award # 1 form.

Legislative Resources:

VFW Website: www.vfw.org
MO VFW Auxiliary Website: www.vfwauxmo.org
VFW Legislative Priorities: www.vfw.org/legislativpriorities
VFW Legislative Priorities, including VFW Priority Goals: www.vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service
VFW Action Corp Weekly: www.vfw.org/actioncorpsweekly
All Federal Bills Currently Supported by VFW: <https://ssi/capwiz.com/vfw/issues/bills>
Federal Bilss: www.comgress.gov
US Senators: www.senate.gov
US Representatives: www.house.gov
MO Senators: www.semata.mo.gov/Senators/Index
MO Representatives: <https://house.mo.gov>
MAVO Facebook: www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064617375512

Working together and using the power of the Legislative Program we can continue our “Fight” to advocate for our Veterans, Service Members and their families.



Scan the QR codes below, it will take you to the Legislative Program information on the National Auxiliary website.





Helen Heise
705 Penny
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
573-450-7841
helen_heise@yahoo.com

Membership Program

Welcome to the Land of Oz for this coming year in the Membership Program. My name is Dorothy and I am the incoming Department of Missouri Membership Chairman for this coming year. I first want to thank this past year's Membership Chairman, Vicki Garcia, for her awesome work on membership. I want us to build on her success and keep the momentum going.

Membership Team

First of all, I want to introduce the wonderful membership team. We will be working together to increase our membership numbers.

The Lion, alias Anita Crowell – Districts 3, 5, 6, 15, 17

The Tin Man, alias Karen Cypret – Districts 7, 9, 14, 18

The Scarecrow, alias Denise Szafranski – Districts NonDistrict, 2, 8, 12

Jackie Davis – At Large Membership

Membership Goals

This year's membership goals will be based on Paid Membership. Paid membership includes deaths.

- 85%+ in Paid Membership by September 15, 2025
- 90%+ in Paid Membership by October 15, 2025
- 95%+ in Paid Membership by November 15, 2025
- 98%+ in Paid Membership by January 31, 2026
- 100%+ in Paid Membership by April 15, 2026
- 102%+ in Paid Membership by May 15, 2026



We can meet these goals if we all work together as a team. Always carry an application with you. You never know where you will meet a prospective member. But be very careful. The Wicked Witch has flying monkeys flying around to check on us. The flying monkeys will try to stop the dues from being paid and new members from signing up for this wonderful organization. They will tell the prospective members what have the VFW Auxiliary done for them.

Recruit New Members

We need to work on recruiting new members for this wonderful organization. We need to always have an application with us. You never know where you will meet a prospective member. Answer any questions that the prospective member has. Let them know what the Auxiliary does for veterans and their families. One way to recruit a possible new member is to ask your VFW counterpart if their spouse and family members are members. If they aren't a member, ask them to join. Some ways to recruit new members are:

- Joint VFW/Auxiliary open house
- Exclusive Membership drives
- State/County fairs (with prior approval)
- Patriotic gathering (with prior approval)
- Newspaper article
- Partner with your program chairmen from Extension & Revitalization, Youth Activities, Scholarships, etc.

When you get a new member, invite them to your next meeting. If they do not have a way to the meeting, offer to pick them up. When they get to a meeting, have them sit by a member who can explain what we are doing and why. Find out what their strengths are. If they like to bake, then let them do some baking for an upcoming bake sale. Tell the new member about your Auxiliary Facebook page (if your Auxiliary has one). Please make sure that the new members feel welcomed and useful in the Auxiliary. If they don't feel welcomed and useful, they may not want to come back to a meeting.

Retain Members

Remind your members that everyone has something to contribute in this organization. When it is time to pay their dues for the coming year, call the annual members and see if they are able to pay their dues. If they aren't able to pay their dues, offer to pay their dues for them. They may be going through a financial situation and not able to pay their dues. I am sure they would appreciate the help to pay their dues. Let your members know of the resources in Malta concerning membership.

National Membership Program Awards

Awards for Members:

1. 5 Member Recruiter Pen. Each VFW and Auxiliary member who recruits five new and/or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary will receive a **5 Member Recruiter Pin**.
2. 5 Member Recruiter Drawing. Each VFW and Auxiliary member who recruits five new and/or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary will be entered into the **5 Member Recruiter Drawing to receive a \$100.00 Visa Gift Card**.
3. National Membership Achievement Recruiter Award. Each VFW and Auxiliary member who recruits 20 new and/or rejoined members to the VFW Auxiliary will receive a **National Membership Achievement Recruit Award**. VFW Auxiliary Treasurers on all levels are not eligible for this award.
4. National Membership Achievement Recruiter Drawing. Each VFW and Auxiliary member who recruits 20 new and/or rejoined members to the Auxiliary will be entered in the National Membership Achievement Recruiter Drawing to receive a \$400 Visa Gift Card.

Award for Auxiliaries:

\$50 to each Auxiliary that reaches 100% Plus in Membership by June 30, 2026. I am sure that every Auxiliary could use an extra \$50.

Department Membership awards are subject to the budget for the upcoming year.

Scan the QR codes below, it will take you to the Membership Program information on the National Auxiliary website.





Scholarship
Department of Missouri 2025-2026 Program Book
“Glenda Good Witch” AKA Danetta Wakefield
417-236-8112 c.d.wakefield10972@outlook.com

Congratulations to the new 2025-2026 Scholarship Chairmen who will be traveling down the “Yellow Brick Road” with me this year. Along our journey we will be stopping at many places as we travel through Oz to meet the “Wizard”. We will begin our travels on June 21, 2025, stopping at one of the four Department Schools of Instructions to learn more information about our duties and programs. Then we will be off to our local schools, libraries, churches, newspapers, and computers to get on Facebook pages and other organizations that you might be affiliated with to tell everyone all about our Scholarships that are available to children in grades 6 - 12. Then we will attend our Auxiliary and District meetings to inform our members about the Scholarships that are available to them and to their children. Let me start by waving my sparkling wand and come up with some magical information to spread to you.

The **Continuing Education Scholarship** is our National President Lois Calahan’s Special Project. This scholarship is open to any Auxiliary member (who has been a member for at least one full year) their spouse, son or daughter with a financial need. The entrant must be 21 years of age, complete the application and submit an essay of 300 words or less describing your commitment to your goals and how this scholarship will help you attain these goals. The application will be available on the Department website: www.vfwauxmo.org **The application and essay are due February 15, 2026.** Email the application and the essay to: info@vfwauxiliary.org \$1,250.00 will be awarded to an applicant in each of the 4 Conferences. It is a great idea to vote in your regularly scheduled meeting to make a donation to the Scholarship fund at the Department and National level.

The **Young American Creative Patriotic Art and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art** contest are for children in grades 9-12. State Awards will range from \$100- \$500. National Awards will range from \$400.00- \$15,000.00. Local Auxiliaries and Post along with Districts will set their own prize amounts. District judging is OPTIONAL and not all Districts participate in judging. However, if your District does participate it will be the responsibility of the District Chairman to deliver the 1st Place winning Art to the Department Chairman. If your District does not participate, it is the Auxiliary’s Chairmans’ responsibility to deliver the 1st Place winning Art to the Department Chairman. Official forms and contest rules can be found under scholarship resources for the Creative Patriotic Art and 3-Dimensional Art on the Department website: www.vfwauxmo.org or on the National website: <https://vfwauxiliary.org/> **NEW THIS YEAR:** 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art has a requirement that the students submit a photo of their

art prior to mailing to National Headquarters. Why? Because each year, National sadly receives broken art, and in order to judge students' beautiful art work they need to see what the art was truly meant to look like. I would like to stress the importance of packing this precious cargo. Let's get the word out to our students, parents, teachers and others about just how crucial it is to carefully pack these fragile pieces, and all art pieces, as they can get damaged in the mail. The last thing National wants to do is inform a student that their hard work was damaged or destroyed when they received it.

Art is due from the students to the local Auxiliary by March 31, 2026

District judging is OPTIONAL and if the District participates they will set their own due date.

Art is due to the Department Chairman by April 15, 2026

The Department Chairman must submit the 1st Place winner to National by May 5, 2026

The Missouri Past National Presidents' Scholarship Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary. The Department of Missouri has three special ladies, Mable Tanner, Glenneta Vogelsang and Brenda Bryant who have served as the National President for the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary. To honor the years of their service, the Department of Missouri offers an \$1,800.00 Scholarship and a \$1,200.00 Scholarship to two deserving High School Seniors who are the **sister, brother, daughter, son, granddaughter, grandson, great-granddaughter, or great grandson of a current member of the Department of Missouri VFW Auxiliary or VFW.** To apply for this scholarship students shall submit the following information to the Department Chairmen no later than April 15, 2026. NO EXCEPTIONS ALLOWED.

1. Complete 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.

You will find the application on the department website: www.vfwauxmo.org

The VFW has many Scholarships that we help them promote as we work alongside them. It is my pleasure to announce that my Department counterpart is Roger Floyd from VFW Post #257 Eldorado Springs in District #7. Have an open line of communication to collaborate with your counterparts because we are a team. We help each other, we give them information on our scholarships and they give us information on their scholarships. We have something **NEW** this year. The Voice of Democracy and the Patriot's Pen Essay contests have the same theme.

The 2025-2026 Theme is: "How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?"

The **Patriot's Pen** is an essay contest for children in grades 6-8. State awards range from \$150.00-\$700.00 National awards range from \$500.00-\$5,000.00 Local Auxiliaries and Posts along with Districts will set their own prize amounts. This contest encourages young minds to examine America's history along with their own experiences in modern American society by drafting a 300-400 word essay expressing their views based on a patriotic theme. Students who are enrolled in public, private or parochial school or home study programs 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 residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign Exchange students and former winners that placed in the National contest are excluded from the contest) One Department winner will be forwarded to VFW National Headquarters.

The **Voice of Democracy** is an audio-essay contest for children in grades 9-12. State awards range from \$300.00-\$2,400.00. National awards range from \$1,000.00-\$35,000.00. Local Auxiliaries and Posts along with Districts will set their own prize amounts. This contest provides students with the unique opportunity to express themselves regarding a democratic and patriotic themed recorded essay. The students are not only judged on writing skills but also on the delivery of the speech. Students who are enrolled in public, private or parochial school or home study programs 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 residence (the application for which has not been denied) and intend to become a U.S. citizen at the earliest opportunity allowed by law. (Foreign Exchange students, students aged 20 or older, previous Voice of Democracy 1st Place State winners, GED or adult education students are ineligible). One Department winner will be forwarded to VFW National Headquarters.

Deadlines for both the Patriot's Pen and the Voice of Democracy:

Entries to VFW Post -October 31, 2025

Post Judging Complete- November 15, 2025

District Judging- District Chairman will set the date of judging

Department Judging Complete- January 10, 2026

Department Winner to VFW National Headquarters- January 15, 2026

All District Winners will be invited to attend the Department Voice of Democracy Banquet. (date TBD). Official forms and rules for both contests will be found on the Department website: www.vfwauxmo.org or on the National VFW website:

www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education

The “**Sports Clips Help a Hero Scholarship**” was introduced in 2013. This VFW program awards scholarships to qualifying service members and Veterans with financial assistance they need to complete their educational goals without incurring excessive debt. Official forms and eligibility are on the VFW website:
www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education

Department Awards will be presented at the Department Convention June 2026

There will be two winners in each membership group:

Group 1 : 10-50 Members

Group 2 : 51-85 Members

Group 3 : 86-150 Members

Group 4 : 151 or More Members

1st Place - \$20 and a Citation goes to one Auxiliary in each of the 4 membership groups

2nd Place - A Citation goes to one Auxiliary in each of the 4 membership groups

Auxiliaries will win 1st or 2nd place awards for their Outstanding Projects for the Scholarship Programs as well as for working with your VFW Counterpart.

REPORT, REPORT, REPORT!!! REPORT AFTER EVERY PROJECT THAT YOU DO!

Remember to make your yearly donations to all the scholarships. We need your donations to continue to present the awards to the children. Please reach out to me by email or texting if you have any questions or if I can be of assistance to you. As we travel down the “YellowBrick Road” we will “Be the Reason A Veteran Smiles Today” “From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans-Who Keep Us Free”.



Use this QR Code to promote the Scholarship Programs. Copy it and make flyers to post in schools, local businesses, Churches, Libraries and the YMCA.

Glenda the Good Witch--AKA--Danetta

Veterans and Family Support Department of Missouri

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

Program Book 2025-26

We are on the road again going down Missouri's Yellow Brick Road led by President Patti Burge with her theme **"Be the Reason a Veteran Smiles Today"** and Lois Callahan, our National President, picked **"From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans-Who Keep Us Free."** as her theme. I think the two themes work beautifully together and express how all the hard work we do is for our veterans.

Every one of us joined this organization to show our love for our veterans by serving and honoring them in any way we can. The Veterans and Family Support program has lots of different ways to help and honor our veterans and their family.

This year the Veterans & Family Support program will have three primary points of focus:

- VFW-Based Veterans Assistance Programs
- Veterans' Mental Health Awareness
- Veteran and Veteran Spouses Employment

Military Assistance Program

The Military Assistance Program (MAP) helps VFW and Auxiliary members give more to their local military units by providing funds to connect with troops. It helps forge and nurture bonds with those units by providing financial assistance for Posts, Districts and Departments to sponsor morale-boosting send-offs, homecomings, and casual get-togethers.

Post and Auxiliaries participating in Adopt-a-Unit and Family Readiness Group events can also receive assistance. MAP keeps care packages circulating by covering postage costs.

For guidelines to apply for MAP funds, contact the VFW Veterans & Military Support office at (816) 756-3390.

National and Missouri Veterans Service Programs

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

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

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

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

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

Pre-Discharge

The VFW Pre-Discharge program was established in 2001 through a cooperative initiative with the Pentagon and the Department of Veterans Affairs. This program ensures separating and retiring active-duty military personnel receive assistance in obtaining their VA entitlements and benefits upon discharge. Pre-Discharge offices are located on or near major military installations across the country.

Additional information, links and forms are located on the VFW website:

<https://www.vfw.org/assistance/va-claims-separation-benefit>

Unmet Needs Can Help in a Crisis

Veterans, service members and military families face many unique challenges – financial difficulties should not be one of them. Unmet Needs is there to help America's military families who have run into unexpected financial difficulties because of deployment or other military-related activity or injury. Grants of up to \$1,500 payable to a creditor can bridge the gap to make a mortgage or rent payment or to fund home and auto repairs, insurance, utility costs, food and clothing. To learn more, visit [vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants](https://www.vfw.org/assistance/financial-grants).

Veterans & Military Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness

Every day in the United States, 22 veterans succumb to suicide —losing their personal battle to invisible wounds of war. "We need to stand up to do something to help veterans struggling with PTSD. We as an auxiliary need to help our veterans and their families to find the tools to help themselves. We need to help our Veterans bridge the gap to help with their suicide /mental health awareness. Be mindful of the characteristics associated with thoughts of suicide and be watchful of our veterans' mental health. One veteran lost to suicide is one veteran too many!

What will you do for our veterans, service members and their families this year?

The Veterans Crisis Line connects veterans in crisis and their families and friends with qualified, caring Department of Veterans Affairs responders through a confidential toll-free hotline, online chat, or text. Veterans and their loved ones can:

- Call 988 and Press 1.
- Call 1-800-MyVA4 I 1 to access all VA departments.
- Chat online at veteranscrisisline.net.
- Send a text message to 838255.

Confidential support is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. Tip: Add the Veterans Crisis Line number as a contact in your cell phone for easy referral.

Here are some great resources for Mental Wellness Support:

- **VFW Mental Wellness Campaign:** vfw.org/assistance/mental-wellness
- **The Campaign to Change Direction:** ChangeDirection.org
- **Give An Hour:** GiveAnHour.org
- **Patients Like Me:** PatientsLikeMe.com/join/vfw
- **One Mind:** OneMind.org
- **The Elizabeth Dole Foundation:** ElizabethDoleFoundation.org
- **Help Heal Veterans (Therapeutic Craft Kits):** HealVets.org
- **Veterans Voices Writing Project:** VeteransVoices.org

VFW Foundation Grants

- **VFW #StillServing Grant**

The #StillServing Grant is offered exclusively to VFW Posts, Districts and their Auxiliaries to offset expenses incurred while doing community service projects.

- **Uniting to Combat Hunger Grant**

The Uniting to Combat Hunger & Homelessness Grant is a limited matching grant available to VFW Posts or Auxiliaries for monetary, food, or item donations to local food banks, pantries, or homeless relief organizations in their communities.

- **Post Assistance Grant**

The Post Assistance Grant is offered exclusively to VFW Posts to offset expenses incurred for building repairs and equipment that enhances or restores the applicant organization's ability to serve veterans and their community. More information about VFW Foundation Grants is located on the VFW website: <https://www.vfw.org/community/community-initiatives/post-grant>

VFW "Sport Clips® Help A Hero Scholarship" Program

The VFW and Sport Clips are giving the gift of scholarships to our nation's heroes as a way of thanking them for their dedicated service to our nation. The VFW "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" awards scholarships of up to \$5,000 to qualifying veterans and service members to help them complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt. To learn more, visit vfw.org/student-veterans-support.

Monetary Donations

Donations to these wonderful support programs can be made online or by mail. To donate online go to vfw.org/ways-to-help and select the program you wish to donate to, then click the Contribute button. Donate by mail by sending funds to the VFW. Be sure to earmark which program or programs you are donating to (Disaster Relief, Veterans & Military Support, National Veterans Service, Unmet Needs, Military Assistance Program, or VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship"). Mail checks to:

VFW National Headquarters
Attn: NVS
406 W. 34th Street, 11th Floor
Kansas City, MO 64111

“Be the Reason a Veteran Smiles Today”



Department Awards for Auxiliaries

Most outstanding program/project in the Veterans and Family Support Program.

1st Place – a citation and \$20 to one auxiliary for the most outstanding program/project in each of the four membership groups.

2nd Place – a citation to one auxiliary for the most outstanding program/project in each of the four membership groups.

National Award for Auxiliaries

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event to celebrate/assist service members and/or veterans in the community. To include veterans job fairs, unit homecomings, mental health-related stand downs, etc.

- Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event to celebrate/assist service members or Veterans in your community.

Entry forms are required and are available on the department website and in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry forms to the Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman by March 31, 2026 for judging.

Scan the QR codes below, it will take you to the Veterans and Family Support Program information on the National Auxiliary website.





Department of Missouri VFW



Auxiliary Youth Activities 2025-2026 ➡➡ Jennie Rosales-Wolfgeher ➡➡ 816-606-3306

5702 NW Raintree Ct, Kansas City, MO 64152 ➡➡ Jennierw.mo.youthchairman@gmail.com

Well, Hello There and Welcome!

My dear friends, families, and all you fine folks gathered here today,

I can't tell you how pleased I am to welcome y'all to this year's VFW Auxiliary Youth Activities Program. Now, I may not be one for big speeches, but I do know a thing or two about the importance of raising up good-hearted, hard-working young people—and that's exactly what this program is all about.

You see, our youth are the future of this great country. They're like tender shoots in the garden—impressionable, full of promise, and just waitin' for the right kind of care to help 'em grow strong. And we, as members of the Auxiliary, well, we're in a mighty special position. We get to teach them the values this nation was built on—honor, service, and love of country—just by showin' up, lendin' a hand, and leadin' by example.

Sowin' Seeds of Service

One of the best ways we can help our young folks is by workin' right alongside them. Whether it's school clubs, scout troops, church youth groups, or even homeschoolers, there's no shortage of bright-eyed helpers out there just waitin' for a chance to pitch in. And let me tell you, when you bring a whole family into the fold, you're not just buildin' a program—you're buildin' a community.

So don't be shy about invitin' youth to help with our projects. They can march in parades, visit veterans, rake leaves, write letters to troops, or even help pack care packages. And when they do, be sure to thank 'em kindly and let 'em know just how much their efforts mean.

Readin', Writin', and Rememberin'

Now, I've always believed there's nothin' quite like a good book to stir the soul. That's why our Patriotism Through Literacy program is near and dear to my heart. It gives us a chance

to share stories of our nation's heroes, teach history in a way that sticks, and spark a love of readin' that'll last a lifetime.

You can read to the young'uns at the library, host a book drive, or even invite a local author to share their story. And don't forget—veterans can read to the kids, and the kids can read right back. It's a beautiful way to bridge the generations.

Creativity and Kindness

We've also got the Illustrating America Art Contest, where students from kindergarten through eighth grade can show their patriotic spirit through art. And let me tell you, some of those drawings will just melt your heart.

And when you see a young'un doin' something kind or patriotic, don't let it go unnoticed. Hand 'em a Random Act of Patriotism card or give 'em a Patriotic Youth Award. A little recognition goes a long way in encouragin' good behavior.

Buildin' Bridges, One Heart at a Time

This year, we're focusin' on "Working Together for the Benefit of Our Veterans." And I can't think of a better way to do that than by bringin' our youth into the fold. Whether it's readin' to veterans, helpin' with yard work, or just sharin' a smile, every little act of kindness helps build a stronger, more carin' community.

And don't forget—there are awards to be won, both here in Missouri and all across the country, for Auxiliaries that go above and beyond in their youth work. But more important than any prize is the pride we feel knowin' we've helped shape the next generation of patriots.

Workin' Together for the Benefit of Our Veterans

As we look to the future, let's remember what brings us together. Let's keep workin' side by side—reaching out, liftin' up, and showin' our youth what it means to serve with heart. Because when we do, we're not just teachin' history—we're livin' it.

With all my love and gratitude,

Auntie Em (a.k.a. [Jennie Rosales-Wolfgeher])
Youth Activities Chair



Scan the QR codes below, it will take you to the Youth Activities Program information on the National Auxiliary website.

