

The Missouri Yellow Brick Road

July/August

General Orders

Vol.2

President's Message

It is hard to believe we are already in the heat of summer. I hope you are staying cool while working together.

I hope you have or are planning to attend one of the schools of instructions in July. The information you received from the School of Instructions is invaluable. It will help you with the workings of your Auxiliary.

Our fiscal year has started, and we must all hit the ground running. **Your bond is to be paid no later than July 30th.** So, make sure your Treasurer has purchased this through MALTA. If they cannot get into MALTA, please contact Department Treasurer Jackie Davis to get this done.

Dues notices should have already been sent to those annual members. You do not want to lose them, so contact them to get their dues paid.

Summer is a great time to make your presence known in your communities. Have you had an ice cream social lately? Have you thought about a splash day at your local pool? I know you can all produce some great ideas to get the word out. I would love to hear about your exciting new ideas.

I am asking that when you have an event, please make sure to include recruitment. Your new member could be that person someone who takes a "Buddy"® Poppy, or who comes to bingo, but if you do not ask them, you will not know.

Our Department convention is over, and the National Convention is approaching fast. I have confidence that Missouri will do great in collecting lots of awards. Our Past Department President Amy Jo Lett had an awesome team, and we will be cheering loud and proud as her chairmen's names are called.

Plan time to get the information for the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen to the schools. Schools will be reopening in August.

Let us all continue to dance down the yellow brick road, enjoying what we do, being especially kind to one another and being the one that will **"BE THE REASON A VETERAN SMILES TODAY"**. We can do this.

Patti Burge - Missouri VFW Auxiliary President



Calendar of Events

- **July 12, 2025** - School of Instructions - Post 3976 - Sugar Creek
- **July 13, 2025** - School of Instructions - Post 5993 Ava
- **July 20, 2025** - School of Instructions - Ste Genevieve Post 2210
- **July 30, 2025** - Bond is due.
- **August 9-14, 2025** - National Convention in Columbus, OH
- **September 15-17, 2025** - National President's Visit in Perryville (Info will be coming)
- **October 10-12, 2025** - Fall Conference (Info to come)
- **October 17-18, 2025** - Big Ten Conference (Info on website)
- **October 24-26, 2025** - National Home Trip (Info to come)

2025-2026 Shirts and Pins will be sold at the School of Instructions!

Attention – All Treasurers

The following items are to be completed in July and August

- New Treasurers need to complete Form 8822 for the IRS. A copy is to be sent to the Department Treasurer.
- Bonds are to be purchased through MALTA no later than July 30th. Please do not wait until then to purchase them. We would like to have them completed as soon as possible. You are to double the amount of money you have in your accounts. That includes your checking, CDs, and Savings.
- August is the month to renew your incorporation with the State of Missouri. Please send a copy of the renewal to the Department Treasurer as soon as you renew it. It can be emailed to vfwauxdeptmo@gmail.com. If you renewed your incorporation last year for two years, please send the charter number. Incorporating is part of the **ALL STATE** for Missouri Auxiliaries.
- As always, send out those dues' notices. You can pull down a prewritten letter through MALTA by going to duties, select the Treasurer folder, then click on reports. Under the title of Dues & Membership, click on Dues Renewal Letter. It will have a blue button "Print Dues Renewal Letters". This will print a letter for all your annual members. If you have envelopes with a window, you just fold them with the address of the member showing. Put a stamp on the envelope and take them to the post office. You are done.

At anytime you have questions or need help, please contact me. I will try to help. My information is below:

Jackie Davis
3849 Hwy 47 W
Troy, MO 63379
314-603-9645/Fax 636-338-4212
Email – vfwauxdeptmo@gmail.com



Department of Missouri
VFW Auxiliary

Americanism
July / August

Regina Bryant
13926 49th Terr. Apt P
Kansas City, MO 64133
816-617-2933
r.runions.rb@gmail.com

Hear Ye, Hear Ye, Missouri Munchkin Land! Our nation's 249th birthday is here, and we must celebrate! Independence Day is one of our most well-known and celebrated holidays, with parades, picnics, and fireworks, but we have the perfect opportunity to engage with our communities and show them that this holiday is celebrated as a commemoration of the bravery and sacrifices of those who fought for a nation's freedom.



- Host dinner at your post home and invite the community to attend. You could set up a few stations with patriotic activities (arts & crafts) for children, have a veteran explain the meaning of the American Flag and demonstrate how to show proper respect.
- Host/assist with a community fireworks show
- Visit veterans' homes or long-term care facilities and bring small American Flags for the residents to display.
- Participate in a local parade with your color guard or create a parade float. You can have members walk the parade route and pass out information on flag etiquette.

Flag Etiquette at Parades

When the American Flag is being carried by a color guard or with a group of flags:

- Stand up.
- Remove your hat.
- Place your right hand over your heart, veterans salute.
- Remain silent.

Note: It is not necessary to salute every American Flag that passes

Don't be afraid to go out in the community and show them how much we love our country!



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



DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI AUXILIARY OUTREACH
July/August 2025
Remember to “Be a Reason a Veteran Smiles Today”

Kim Rudy
605 Boys Street
Monett, MO 65708

2025-2026 Auxiliary Outreach Chairman
Phone 417-393-5371
krudyauxoutreach2425@gmail.com

Outreach is best described as what we can do to help our community by not volunteering FOR, but volunteering WITH other organizations.

Did you know that when we partner with community organizations that we benefit as well by:

- Helping others
- Learning new skills
- Meeting new people (networking)
- Developing a stronger sense of purpose
- Personal growth

When you have completed a voted on Auxiliary Outreach project, it's time to submit the report through www.vfwauxmo.org.

- Describe in detail each project your Aux. partnered with another organization. Include number of members and name of organization. Put the number of hours in Hours Block. Be creative with your descriptions!
- DO NOT PUT A MONETARY AMOUNT ON THE REPORT. A donation to an organization does not constitute volunteering.
- If you have a recurring project such as volunteering at a food pantry, a shelter, etc., keep a running total of the hours and members and just submit the report once a month.

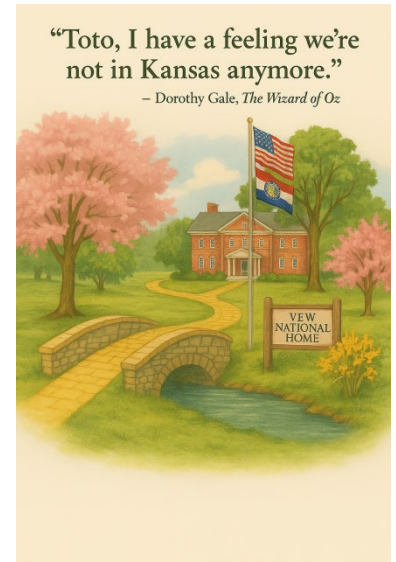
We are well on our way now to working our way down the Yellow Brick Road. Let's make it a good year!




Kim Rudy 2025-2026 Auxiliary Outreach Chairman

Department of Missouri VFW Auxiliary
Buddy® Poppy/ National Home
July/ August 2025-2026

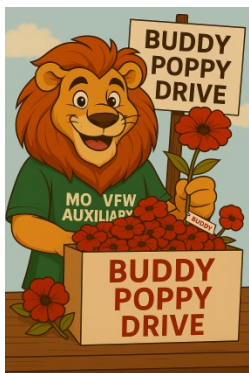
Branda Young
1221 Schuchart Rd
Union, MO 63084
(636)234-1055
brandayoung.d9p@gmail.com





As we embark on a new VFW Auxiliary year, we cross the bridge and head down the Yellow Brick Road, stepping forward with purpose and determination. Much like Dorothy's first steps into Oz, we may find ourselves in unfamiliar territory, ready to explore and grow. ***"Toto, I have a feeling we're not in Kansas anymore."*** This sentiment reminds us that change is inevitable, but with courage, heart, and wisdom, we can navigate this journey together. Let us embrace the road ahead with enthusiasm, carrying forward the traditions of service, remembrance, and unwavering support for our Veterans.



-  See flyer for more information on the **Charity Golf Tournament** (St. Charles, MO) benefiting **National Home- September 18th, 2025**
-  VFW National Home Trip- **October 24th to October 26th, 2025**
-  One of the most meaningful ways to **support the VFW National Home** is to **educate the community about its mission**, ensuring that more people understand the vital role it plays in providing stability, hope, and resources for military and Veteran families. This is what the award is based on this year—**how will your Auxiliary teach the community about the VFW National Home?**

"True courage is in facing danger when you are afraid." As we step into a new VFW Auxiliary year, now is the time to **start planning your "Buddy"® Poppy drives** with creativity and enthusiasm. Just as the Cowardly Lion discovered his own bravery along the Yellow Brick Road, we too must take bold and imaginative steps to ensure our efforts in remembrance and support reach as many as possible. By **working closely with your Post**, you can develop innovative ways to engage the community—**whether through hands-on activities, educational programs, or meaningful tributes that highlight the importance of the "Buddy"® Poppy**. Together, we honor the sacrifices of our Veterans and strengthen our shared mission of remembrance and support.



-  See the Program Book Material or "Buddy"® Poppy Chairman's Manual for help.
-  Contact your VFW Post to order Poppies and allow 8-12 weeks for delivery.
-  Find ways to work with other groups: youths, Scouts, schools, etc.
-  How will your Auxiliary teach the community about the "Buddy"® Poppy?

Report! Report! Report! I know we do these things because **we love our Veterans** and not just to get credit but please take a few minutes after your event to report it. Use **descriptive words** so anyone reading the report feels like they were there. **Your report may give others ideas.**

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

THE SHOW ME GAZETTE

JULY/AUGUST 2025

Editor: Mary K. Thurman

32482 State Hwy 248

Aurora, MO 65605

417 207 2631

vfwa2526hist@gmail.com

“A good snapshot keeps a moment from running away.”

Eudora Wiley

CONGRATULATIONS

On being appointed as Historian. You play an important role in the auxiliary and/or district. It is up to you to help tell the story. It is time to take that camera out and take those photos.

President Patti is going to be traveling across the highways of the state of Missouri visiting members of the Auxiliary. Snapshots from these visits will help me make a wonderful gift when her year is complete. She would like to sit down when this tour of duty is over and see who she met along the way.

District Historians -

You are responsible for taking photos when President Patti comes for her official visit. Talk to your President in advance and see if something special is going on. IF not available, I ask that the President consider asking someone else, and/or handing someone her phone. When photos are taken, here is a suggested list.

1. Photo of President Patti with District President
2. Several candid and/or posed shots of people who are attending the meeting
3. Photos of President Patti addressing the members at the meeting
4. Photo of President Patti with the VFW Department representative
5. Involve President Patti – example: if you are having a raffle, let her pick the winning ticket(s).
6. Take some 3 generation photos – Department President, District President and Auxiliary President

Please keep in mind that if President Patti visits your auxiliary, the auxiliary historian will be responsible for taking photos and turning them in.

I am asking for a minimum of 8 photos to be turned in 8 days after President Patti has visited. **IF ALL** districts report in, I am willing to take a whipped cream pie in the face at the Department Convention in June 2026. The winner will be determined by the winner of the Sensational Senior Photo Contest. The District Presidents were given more information on this at the training they received prior to start of department convention.

These photos can be emailed at the address listed on top of page. Should you have a Gmail account, consider using google drive. IF this is something that you do not understand, instructions are in this document.



To Use Google Drive –

1. Go to drive.google.com and log into google account.
2. Click “new” in the top left.
3. Create or upload a file or folder.
4. Select the file you want to share and click “share”.
5. Choose who can access the files.
6. Select a role the recipients such as viewer, commentator, or editor. I need to be listed as editor to download photos.
7. Copy the link and paste the link in email.

I look forward to seeing photos from events that you are having across the state. Do not hesitate to reach out to me should you have a question. Contact information is listed at the top of this document.

Will you “Be the Reason that a Veteran smiles today” as we stand together “From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans – Who Keep Us Free”



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|---|--|---|---|
|  | <p>"Be the Reason a Veteran Smiles Today" by "Having a Heart for Hospitalized Veterans."</p> | <p>The Brick Road to the Department of Missouri Hospital Program</p>  <p>July/August 2025-2026</p> | <p>Karen Cypret 22222 Whiplash Lane Washburn, Mo. 65772 417-342-7652 mohospitalvavs.kcypret@gmail.com</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> |
|---|--|---|---|

What kind of plans does your Auxiliary have for those veterans who live in nursing homes and hospitals?



Will you be shooting off fireworks with them, holding a "bar" night, or ice cream social? Or will you take some members and do a "drive-through car wash" with them, spraying them with a hose as they walk through with their walkers or ride through in their wheelchairs? These are just a few fun things you can partner with the homes for the veterans' amusement. Summertime is a fun time for all.

Use **#MohospitalVAVS** when you are posting on social media.

Department President Patti Burge's special project is the Hospital Program. Please send donations often to this program. If you don't have it in your standing rules to make a yearly donation, make a motion to have a yearly donation of a specific amount in your Auxiliary standing rules. This way, you don't have to vote on it each year. Any other donation for the Hospital can be voted on during the year.

National Hospital Ambassador Kim Copson said, "As we continue to support our veterans', we want to keep bringing the bright smiles of sunshine to our veterans' faces, as they are the stars of this great nation." These words are inspirational to myself and I hope to you also as we strive to be the best for our veterans who need us the most, those who are hospitalized, living in a Veterans' Home or a nursing home.

Please let us know what you have been doing for our veterans.

How do you do that? By reporting it online.

Online Reporting at <https://vfwauxmo.org>



As we walk this yellow brick road toward veterans' healthcare needs, let us be ever mindful that they are more than deserving of our time and efforts by "having a heart for hospitalized veterans." Until next time... Let us keep our hearts turned toward our veterans. Karen

2025-2026 "CRAFT-AT-HOME" VOLUNTEER PIN APPLICATION

Submit completed form to the Department Hospital Chairman by April 15, 2026

Karen Cypret 22222 Whiplash Lane Washburn, Mo. 65772 (471)342-7652

mohospitalVAVS.kcypret@gmail.com

Auxiliary Name: Aux.#: District #:

Auxiliary President:

Email Address:

Phone Number: (.....)

List auxiliary members entitled to "Craft-at-Home" Volunteer Pin/Charms based on accumulated crafting hours for items crafted for VA Medical Center, Nursing Homes, Outpatient Clinics, Community or other Hospitals.

| Name | Location | Total Hours |
|------|----------|-------------|
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |
| | | |

50 Hours_____ 100 Hours_____ 150 Hours_____

200 Hours_____ 300 Hours_____ 400 Hours_____

500 Hours_____ 750 Hours_____ 1000 Hours_____

2000 Hours_____ 3000 Hours_____ 4000 Hours_____

Number of First Time Sewers: Pins: Crafters:

NOTE: Please apply for charms when accumulated hours are earned by the volunteer.

First time sewers will receive the "Scissors" pin.

Auxiliary Hospital Chairman Signed: Date:

Auxiliary President Signed: Date:

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

trula.missey@yahoo.com

573-631-6002

LEGISLATIVE
July/August 2025



The VFW Legislative Program promotes VFW Priority Goals and contacts legislators about issues affecting Veterans and active-duty military. To participate, subscribe at the National website and contact your legislators. The program urges legislators to preserve Veterans' rights and entitlements and advocate for a strong national defense. Participants receive weekly information on Veterans' legislation and national security matters.

Legislation is the process or result of enrolling, enacting, or promulgating laws by a legislature, parliament, or analogous governing body. Before an item of legislation becomes law it may be known as a bill, and may be broadly referred to as "legislation" while it remains under consideration to distinguish it from other business. Legislation can have many purposes: to regulate, to authorize, to outlaw, to provide (funds), to sanction, to grant, to declare, or to restrict. It may be contrasted with a non-legislative act by an executive or administrative body under the authority of a legislative act

We encourage all citizens to exercise their right to vote and contact legislators regarding issues impacting veterans and their families.

Here is an issue we need to watch:

Veterans' Assuring Critical Care Expansions to Support Service members (ACCESS) Act:
The ACCESS Act of 2025 would improve healthcare access for Veterans by ensuring VA community care standards prioritize timely, local treatment. Additionally, the bill expands access to mental health and addiction programs and considers Veteran preference in care decisions. The ACCESS Act could protect the healthcare choices Vets make, whether that is with the VA or not.

Remember to sign up for the Action Corps Weekly: Text VFW to 50457 to remain up to date on Veteran issues.

VFW Auxiliaries are heading down the "Yellow Brick Road" to fight for the much-deserved services our Veterans have earned.



Let us continue to "BE THE REASON A VETERAN SMILES TODAY"



July/August 2025 Membership Program

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

We are now at the start of the new year for Membership program. Let's keep the momentum going from this past year in membership. I hope that the dues notices for the continuous dues are being sent out now if they haven't been sent out yet. After they are sent out, it is very important to follow up on those dues notices. When you follow up with the continuous members, 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. I am sure they would appreciate the help.

New Members

Remember that our first goal of membership is to be at 85% + in Paid Membership by September 15, 2025. I will be keeping track of the membership and let everyone know of the progress. Always keep an application with you at all times. You never know when you will meet a prospective member. I had an application with me when I met with a friend and her husband. I found out that the husband's brother was a VFW Post Commander in Oregon. He got his brother's DD214 and he filled out the application for our local auxiliary.

Retain Members

We need to keep retaining our current members. Talk to the members and ask how they are doing. The member may be going through some things and not sure if they want to stay in the Auxiliary. They might also be feeling left out at meetings. We need to make sure that members are not feeling left out. Every member is important to all the meetings of the Auxiliary. Every member's opinion is important.



Our ultimate goal is to be at 102%+ in Paid Membership by May 31, 2026. When we meet this goal, the Powerful Wizard will give the Lion courage, the Scarecrow will get a brain, the Tin Man will get a heart and I, Dorothy, will get to go back to Kansas by the way of Cape Girardeau.

Remember, there is no place like Membership. There is no place like Membership.



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

Hello Chairman!

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

Did you hop on the “**Yellow Brick Road**” and make it to one of the Department Schools of Instruction?

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

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

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

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

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

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

REPORT!! REPORT!! REPORT!! As we travel down the “Yellow Brick Road” we will be “The Reason a Veteran Smiles Today” “From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans-Who Keep Us Free”
Glenda the Good Witch --- AKA —*Danetta*

Veterans and Family Support Department of Missouri

JULY/AUGUST 2025

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

We have a great start making the pathway for Missouri's Yellow Brick Road. You are laying them bricks one by one. Such as taking veterans to doctor appointments, working at Veterans suicide line, providing meals for our soldiers being deployed and so much more. "Be the Reason a Veteran Smiles Today"

President Patti's Special Project goes under Hospital. Chairman Karen will be getting a list of items from each VA Hospital. I am very excited about this opportunity to work with the Hospital program.

Annie O'Connor is our National Ambassador for Veterans and Family Support. Her saying is *"A rising tide lifts all veterans to success!"* We need to make her proud by lifting our veterans up. Let her hear Missouri roar! Please post your events and pictures on my Facebook page - the name is below.

MO VFW Auxiliary Veterans and Family Support 2025-26

"Be the Reason a Veteran Smiles Today"





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

🌻 **Auntie Em's Corner: Youth Activities Newsletter – Summer Edition-July/August** 🌻
From.the.Heart.of.the.VFW.Auxiliary

Well, hello there, my darlings!

I hope this little note finds y'all happy, healthy, and maybe just a smidge sun-kissed from all the good weather we've been having. Auntie Em's been busy knitting, baking, and most importantly, keeping up with all the wonderful things our young folks have been doing through the VFW Auxiliary. Let me tell you—it's enough to make a gal's heart swell with pride!

🌻 **What Our Young Patriots Have Been Up To**

1. Patriotic Art Contest – Oh My Stars!

We had some mighty fine entries in the 2024-2025 year, and let me tell you, the talent these kids have is just jaw-dropping. From watercolor flags to pencil sketches of our brave service members, every piece was a love letter to our country. Can't wait to see what our young'uns do this year.

2. Buddy Poppy Drives – Little Hands, Big Hearts

Our Junior Volunteers helped hand out Buddy Poppies at the Memorial Day parade, and they did it with such grace and gratitude. Folks were touched, and I saw more than a few misty eyes. These kids are learning the true meaning of service.

3. Letters to Veterans – Sealed with Love

We mailed out over 200 handwritten letters to veterans in local VA hospitals. Some of the messages were so sweet, I had to dab my eyes with my apron. One little fella wrote, "Thank you for being brave so I can be free." Isn't that just precious?

What's Coming Up Next?

Youth Craft Day – July 12th

How about making patriotic wind chimes and kindness rocks to place at the veterans' memorial or VA home? Bring your creativity and your sunscreen, let's meet outside under the big oak tree!

Back-to-School Supply Drive – August

Collect supplies for military families in need. If you've got extra notebooks, crayons, or backpacks, bring 'em on down to your post. Let's make sure every child starts the school year strong.

Youth Art Contest – Illustrating America

Encourage your kiddos to put their patriotic creations on paper and share their hearts. There'll be prizes, of course, but the real reward is seeing how creative they can be. Artwork is due March 31.

A Note from Auntie Em


To all the parents, grandparents, and guardians out there, thank you for raising such kind, respectful, and community-minded young folks. They are the future of this great nation, and I'm just tickled pink to be part of their journey.

If you ever want to lend a hand, share an idea, or just sit a spell and chat, my porch is always open.

With love and pride,

Auntie Em (A.K.A. Jennie Rosales-Wolfgeher)

Youth.Activities.Chair?VFW.Auxiliary

 "Come for the cookies, stay for the community."

