

The Missouri Yellow Brick Road

January/February

General Orders

Vol.5

President's Message

Thank you to all the Auxiliaries for helping us reach our goal of 95% in membership by the end of November. Our Department received the \$200 award from the National VFW Auxiliary for reaching this goal. Our super membership chairman Helen keeps us updated on where we stand. Let's keep our membership growing by reaching for that 101% plus!

I am very disturbed by the numerous complaints I have received regarding bullying. This is not acceptable on any level of this organization. No matter if you are a Department, District or Auxiliary officer, or even one member to another, this is not the way we treat our brothers or sisters. Do not talk down to anyone. Treat everyone as you would want to be treated. Always use respect and kindness.

Remember all projects and activities are to always be brought before the members and approved at your Auxiliary meeting. This is to be recorded in your Auxiliary minutes. Include all your members in the projects, not a select few.

As you complete your activities/project, please report to the Department Chairman by entering the information on our website reporting. This is part of the All-State and I want to see all Auxiliaries obtain this award.

Valentines Day will be soon. Please show lots of love to the Veterans in your area, especially those who are in Veterans or nursing homes. Have the school children make cards to take to the Veterans. This always brings a smile to them.

February 20-22, 2026, is the Department Winter Conference at the Resort of the Lake of the Ozarks. Please plan to attend as we will honor the students from each District that won 1st place in the Voice of Democracy audio essay contest and the Patriot's Pen Essay. The banquet will be Saturday night. You can find the information for the reservations on our website.

When you have a member come down with cancer, please be sure to give them a **current** Cancer Grant Form to complete. They can apply for the \$550 twice in their lifetime. Just follow the instructions on the form. You can find the current form on MALTA.

Let's get 2026 off to a great start and keep it going by being **"THE REASON A VETERAN SMILES TODAY"** We can all do this!

Patti Burge - Missouri VFW Auxiliary President



Calendar of Events

- New Years Day – January 1, 2026
- Martin Luther King Day – January 19, 2025
- National Midwinter – February 8-13, 2026
- Valentines Day – February 14, 2026
- Department Winter Conference - February 20-22, 2026
- President's Day – February 16, 2026
- VOD/PP Banquet – February 21, 2026



May the 2026 year bring good health, much happiness, and peace to you and your family.

**VFW and VFW Auxiliary
Winter Conference
February 20-22, 2026**

The Resort at the Ozarks
3080 Bagnell Dam Blvd
Lake Ozark, MO 65049
573-691-9988
Price is \$109 plus other fees

Call the above phone number or use the link below.

<https://res.windsurfercrs.com/ibe/index.aspx?hotelID=16268&lang=en-us&currID=1>



2026 Banquet Ticket Order Form
Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, &
Teacher Awards February 21, 2026
Time: 6:30 pm Location:
ENCORE Lakeside Grill Downstairs



\$40.00 Per Plate

Place Count Next to Meal Choice

Tropical Chicken Breast (GF) : *Marinated boneless chicken breast topped with fresh pineapple and teriyaki glaze, and served with Island style fried rice, _____(Quantity)*

BBQ Brisket (GF): *Tender slices of smoked brisket topped with K.C. style BBQ Sauce and served with Herb roasted potatoes _____(Quantity)*

Both Are Served with Salad & Dessert Selection Along with Chef's Choice of Vegetable

*****SORRY, NO EXCEPTIONS FOR FOOD ALLERGIES EXCEPT GF, "MEALS CAN'T BE MADE TO ORDER"*****

Print Name of Attendees. Tickets will be in the first person's name listed

Payment Enclosed \$ _____

Name As It Appears On Credit Card: _____

Billing Address for Card _____

City: _____ Zip: _____ Phone # _____

Email Address _____

Card # _____ Expiration Date ____/____

Verification# _____

Authorized Signature _____

(Sign if using Card)

STRICT DEADLINE FOR BANQUET ORDERS IS Wednesday, February 6, 2026

Email form to hqangela@movfw.org or Mail to: 3401 Knipp Drive

Jefferson City, MO 65109



**VFW Auxiliary
Department of Missouri
AMERICANISM**

January / February 2026

Lori Suiter
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Independence, MO 64052
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lsuiter5576@gmail.com

Patriotic Instructor

Although not always, many times your Americanism Chairman is also the Patriotic Instructor, so let's review this position and their responsibilities.

As the Patriotic Instructor, you have been appointed to this high office to provide leadership in promoting patriotism within our organization, as well as inform, educate, and promote patriotism among the community.

Here are some key duties of the Patriotic Instructor:

- Shall see that the room is in keeping with the Ritual
- Shall instruct the members in the proper use of and salute to the Flag
- Shall maintain a record of all patriotic days and initiate programs for their proper observance and perform such other duties as the President may require
- May carry the Flag in events and parades
- Shall assist in the floor work ceremonies
- Shall see that the pledge to the Flag is given properly and that due respect to the Flag is observed at all times by members
- The Patriotic Instructor should instruct new members how to stand at attention, parade rest, etc.
- The Patriotic Instructor should also try to read some portion of the Bylaws at every meeting

You can find all this information plus other Auxiliary traditions, helpful hints, and certificates at vfwauxiliary.org under Americanism.



Don't forget to recognize members of your community when you see them being patriotic in any way. There are certificate templates on MALTA that are quick and easy to use. Let's make sure our communities know that we see them!

Patriotic Holidays & Recognition Days

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day – Third Monday of January
Presidents Day – Third Monday of February
U.S. Coast Guard Reserve – February 19



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

January/February 2026

Kim Rudy
605 Boys Street
Monett, MO 65708

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

How on Earth is it already 2026? Have you taken the time to breathe following the end of year holidays? I don't feel as if I have, but it's a new year and it's time to jump in and dedicate your time again in your community.

At your first meeting of the year, gather ideas from your members and get planning on your volunteering efforts with the community, churches, senior centers. Whether it's something to do monthly for the same group or if you find a different organization each month, just make sure to report your efforts! Make a goal to find a NEW organization at least once a quarter. Not only will you be finding new ways to get the Auxiliary visible in your area, but you hopefully will be able to find and recruit new members as well.

Are there going to be Valentine's Day parties in your community? Volunteer your time to help out.

- Report your projects as soon as possible following the event and include the number of members who participated, and the total number of hours involved. Reporting right after the event will ensure that nothing is forgotten.
- Remember to wear your Auxiliary swag in order to be recognized by the groups you are helping out!
- Be creative and descriptive when reporting the project. Did something fun and unexpected happen? Report it so you will catch my eye! I need photos, too!

Together we can make ourselves an asset to our community!

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

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!!!

Kim Rudy

2025/2026 Auxiliary Outreach Chairman

BE THE REASON A VETERAN SMILES TODAY

**FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA
HONORING VETERANS – WHO KEEP US FREE**



Department of Missouri VFW Auxiliary
Buddy® Poppy/ National Home
January/ February 2025-2026

Branda Young
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Union, MO 63084
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As we begin the new year, let us follow the yellow brick road toward renewed dedication to the mission of the “Buddy®” Poppy and VFW National Home. Just as Dorothy and her friends discovered courage, heart, and wisdom along their journey, we too can find new ways to share the meaning of the “Buddy®” Poppy and the hope offered by the VFW National Home.

While the cold winter months may keep us indoors, this is the perfect time to plan ahead for spring. Think of it as gathering your companions — like the Scarecrow, Tin Man, and Lion — each bringing their own strengths to the cause. Together, we can prepare fundraisers, organize “Buddy®” Poppy distributions, and build partnerships with schools, churches, and civic groups.



The “Buddy®” Poppy is our ruby slipper: small but powerful, carrying the story of sacrifice and remembrance wherever it goes. Each poppy reminds us of the courage of Veterans and the love we hold for their families. The VFW National Home, meanwhile, is our Emerald City — a place of hope, healing, and community for military families who need support.

Seasonal Adventures on the Road Ahead

- **January – Winter Conference of Administration “Buddy®” Poppy Contest:** Plan a cozy get-together to chase away the chill. Use the time to make tray favors for Veterans and prepare creative entries for the Winter Conference of Administration “Buddy®” Poppy Contest. This is a wonderful way to start the year with fellowship, creativity, and service.

✦ **Bonus Activity:** Complete the “Buddy®” Poppy crossword puzzle (available on the website) and return it to my email by **January 30th, 2026**. Each completed entry will be entered into a drawing to win a special National Home item from me.

Fundraiser Idea: Have you ever seen a store display little papers with an organization’s logo, where donors write their names and the papers are hung up to show support? Why not do the same with a **“Buddy®” Poppy design**. Provide the store with printed poppy

papers, and each time someone donates, they write their name on one to hang up. It's a simple, visible way to raise money for the Auxiliary (or whichever cause the fundraiser supports), while spreading awareness of the "Buddy®" Poppy mission.

- **February – National Salute to Veteran Patients & Valentine's Day:** Share "Buddy®" Poppies as tokens of love and gratitude. Create Valentine cards adorned with "Buddy®" Poppies to deliver to Veteran patients, spreading joy and remembrance.
- **Spring Planning:** Like planting poppies in the fields of Oz, organize spring "Buddy®" Poppy distributions that bloom across your community. Pair each "Buddy®" Poppy with a short message explaining its meaning, ensuring every recipient understands the story behind the flower.
- **April – Month of the Military Child:** Celebrate the bravery of military children — the true "heroes behind the curtain." Plan an event that teaches local youth about the VFW National Home. Ideas include:
 - A storytelling session where children learn about military families, framed as an Oz-style adventure of resilience.
 - Art or essay contests themed around "There's No Place Like Home," connecting the National Home's mission to the famous Oz phrase.
 - Youth-led "Buddy®" Poppy distributions, giving kids a chance to walk their own yellow brick road of service and remembrance.

Celebrating Our Achievements

Thank you to everyone that has reported! As of November 30th, 2025, **828 Missouri VFW Auxiliary members along with 1,307 youth have spent 2,557 hours and \$23,968.14 distributing 29,902 "Buddy®" Poppies.** Your dedication is inspiring, and every "Buddy®" Poppy shared is a step along our yellow brick road of remembrance and service. **Keep those reports coming!**



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



Department of Missouri
Chief of Staff
Extension & Revitalization
January/February 2025-2026 Promotional Material
Janet Barlar- Wicked Witch & Broom Squad Boss
(573)-261-1948 baraux1953@yahoo.com

Happy New Year!! I hope everyone had a very joyous Holiday season. I can't believe we are in the last few months of our program year. I know everyone has worked hard to make this a successful year for the Department of Missouri!

Extension

I am pleased to announce that we will be instituting a new Auxiliary! Welcome to the Department of Missouri Auxiliary #5327. They are located in Wentzville, Missouri. Jackie and I have met with them and they are so excited. They will be attending the next District 9 meeting, and I hope the Winter Conference at the Lake in February. Please make sure to introduce yourselves and make them feel welcome.

I'm also pleased to let everyone know that we might have two more Auxiliaries forming. President Patti is working with the Post in West Plains, Mo. and Amy Jo Lett visited VFW Post #2646 in Marshall, Mo. and presented the importance of having an Auxiliary and information about our Programs. They were very receptive, and my understanding is, they also fed her **VERY** well!! LOL!

District Presidents there is still time to contact the unaffiliated Posts in your Districts and see if they are interested in having an Auxiliary and let you attend their meeting and do a presentation. Keep up the great work!!

Revitalization

Keep up the fantastic work walking the **Yellow Brick Road** to see our Great and Powerful Wizard, President Patti! I have been working with a few Auxiliaries, keeping them on track to remain healthy Auxiliaries. I am pleased to announce we have no yellow or red Auxiliaries at this time!

Mentoring

I have been doing some traveling the past month and I have seen wonderful examples of mentoring! I am one proud Mama!!! Please keep up the great work. I would love to hear from the Auxiliaries how they are implementing the Mentoring Program in their Districts or Auxiliaries.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Winter Conference in February! Stay safe and warm!!

A little inspiration to start 2026!!!

Starfish Story

An old man was walking the beach one morning after a big storm. In the distance he could see someone moving like a dancer. As he came closer, he could see that it was a young girl picking up starfish and gently throwing them into the ocean.

"Young lady, why are you throwing starfish into the ocean?"

"The sun is up, and the tide is going out, and if I do not throw them in they will die." she said.

"But young lady, do you not realize that there are many miles of beach, and tens of thousands of starfish? You cannot possibly make a Difference."

The young girl listened politely, then bent down, picked up another starfish, and threw it into the sea.

"It made a difference for that one."



Be the lighthouse in someone's storm!!

THE SHOW ME GAZETTE

January/February 2026

Editor: Mary K. Thurman

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“There are no bad pictures; that’s just how your face looks sometimes.” Abraham Lincoln

FACEBOOK

Facebook is one of the most popular social media platforms. It connects billions of people across the globe. It was launched in 2004 and has evolved into what we see today.

Facebook is a must have if you do not have a website. As of 30 November, there are 21 auxiliaries in the state that have reported that they have a Facebook page since the 1st of May.

Be sure to fill out an online report if you have a Facebook account for your auxiliary.

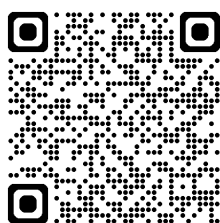
Establishing a Facebook page is practical and an effective way for the VFW Auxiliary to strengthen its communication, increase its reach, and further the mission of supporting veterans. It is FREE, and

Why have a Facebook page -

By keeping a public presence on Facebook, your Auxiliary can reach a wider audience, including the younger generations of veterans and potential supporters who may not be aware of the organization’s mission. This visibility can help attract new members, volunteers, and donors.

Through post, comments and messages, a Facebook page enables meaningful interaction with members and the broader community. It can be used to educate the public about veterans’ issue – the Richard Star Act is one of those that the VFW and its Auxiliary have been watching closely. You can share information about fundraisers, scholarships contests, and upcoming events like the Valentine’s Day Dance and Dinner.

It's easy to get started – first set up your Facebook account. If you need help setting up a Facebook account, here is a helpful QR code:



easy to set up and keep, thus stretching the budget. Now, what is next now that you have a Facebook page? You need to go to Meta Business Suite – a free all-in-one tool that helps you manage your online presence and link the account.

It is recommended that you have at least 2 people who have access as Administrators. Explore the dashboard and see the different sections – home, post, ads, insights, etc. You can even plan your content to schedule post ahead of time.

Check your inbox regularly to respond to messages and comments. Engaging with your audience helps build relationships and trust. Be on the lookout for inappropriate comments (like political comments or hate speech), spammers or scammers. The Administrators is the only one who can hide and/or block the information.

Now, I'd like to talk to you about the National Award – a citation and \$25 is available to one Auxiliary in each program group with the most outstanding social media reel highlighting Auxiliary in Action.



I provided instructions on how to create a reel in the November/December material. I also took time to get with various individuals during down time at the fall Department meeting in Osage Beach. Feel free to reach out to me and if someone is close by, I will give you contact information. If not, I will do my best to talk to you through the process.

Yet, how will you get the reel to me? You will need to email me – send me a link (just as you would send any other) along with completed and signed form that is available on the Department website. It must be turned in by **31 March 2026**.



National Ambassador Kristin reminds us “Embrace the Waves of Change”. Step up and make a reel. It is not hard to do.

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”

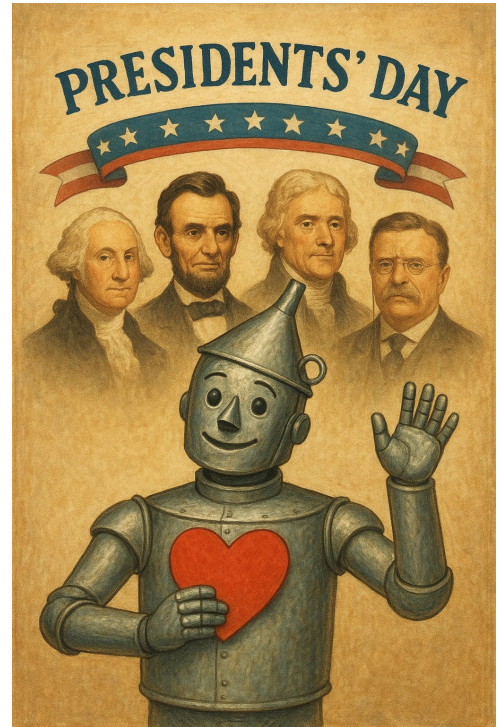
 <p>"Be the Reason a Veteran Smiles Today" by "Having a Heart for Hospitalized Veterans."</p>	<p>The Brick Road to the Department of Missouri Hospital Program</p>  <p>January/February 2025-2026</p>	<p>Karen Cypret 22222 Whiplash Lane Washburn, Mo. 65772 417-342-7652 mohospitalvavs.kcypret@gmail.com</p> <p>"From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans – Who Keeps Us Free" we should be "Caring for Our Veterans Like the Ocean Caring for the Waves."</p>
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Happy New Year! The Holiday Season is now behind us and a brand-new year of 2026 is ahead of us. Now is not the time to sit back and take it easy.

Have you heard of the Medical Foster Home Program? When living at home becomes difficult, some people prefer to remain in a home-like setting rather than move to a nursing home. In moments like these, the VA Medical Foster Home (MFH) is here to help. MFH is a voluntary option that assists in matching veterans with approved MFH caregivers to provide care in a family home. The veterans receive appropriate oversight provided by the VA MFH and Home-Based Primary Care. Payment for the care will be made by the veteran to the caregiver, and the cost of care will be based on the veteran's care needs and financial resources. Caregivers must have prior experience (formal or informal) and have the compassion and motivation to provide 24/7 supervision to the veteran placed in their home. To ensure safety and quality of care, there are multiple steps and training requirements to become a VA MFH caregiver. Is this something your family would be interested in providing?



February gives us Valentine's Day and Presidents' Day. What will you be doing for those in hospital or nursing homes? National Ambassador Kim Copson said, "Go to your local VA hospital or clinic and collaborate with the staff. Perhaps they are hosting a party at which you can participate. This is great start, but sometimes we become so focused on an event we have, we forget about others. Your Auxiliary does not have to limit your focus on one event. Contact several medical facilities in your area and find out ways you can pitch in."



Continue to report. All your hard work deserves to be counted, and the reports show just how much you are doing for our most vulnerable veterans. As of this writing (11/21/25) you have reported the following: 345 Projects, 6,604 hours volunteered by 1,135 members. You have donated \$67,503.64 throughout the Department. Continue to report. There are 41 Auxiliaries that have not reported in the Hospital Program. Our year will be over before we know it.

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

 <p>"Be the Reason a Veteran Smiles Today" by "Having a Heart For Hospitalized Veterans."</p> <p>Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services Representatives and Deputies Promotional Material</p>	<p>The Brick Road to the Department of Missouri Hospital Program</p>  <p>January/February 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 Keeps Us Free" we should be "Caring For Our Veterans Like the Ocean Caring For the Waves."</p>
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The Criteria for the Missouri Veterans Homes.

The Missouri Veterans Homes Program offers high-quality, compassionate care to Veterans who are in need of 24-hour long-term nursing care. Each of our Veterans Homes, are just that, the home of our nation's heroes. We pride ourselves on serving the Veterans by creating a community of care in a safe and dignified environment.

The 2025 monthly rate for residency is \$2,697. This rate is adjusted each year with an expected COLA increase each January.

To be eligible for admission into a Missouri Veterans Home an individual must:

- Meet criteria established by the VA for Veterans status
- Be a citizen of Missouri who has maintained a physical residency in Missouri for one hundred eighty (180) consecutive days immediately before application
- Physically living in the state of Missouri or proof of ownership of a residential home in the State of Missouri meets the eligibility requirements for the establishment of residency
- Not appear on any sex offender registry
- Not have a criminal history, including conviction or guilty plea/nolo contendere in any state (which, if committed in Missouri, would be) a Class A or B felony violation
- The Veteran must have documentation from a physician that he/she requires 24-hour skilled nursing care
- The Veteran's condition must be such that the Home has the resources to care for him/her

Eligibility and admission decisions are made by a team comprised of the Administrator, Physician, Director of Nursing, Social Worker, Veterans Service Officer, and other professionals as needed.



Reporting your hard work is essential for the organization to prosper.

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



Trula Missey, Department of Missouri Auxiliary
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January/February 2026



I hope everyone had a terrific holiday. Thank you for your hard work and dedication; I am excited for what we can accomplish in the new year.

Now, let's get down to business! The business of our Veterans and all that they deserve.

First step: Open your Action Corps Weekly and **"PUSH THE BUTTON"**. We are the voice for our heroes. Anyone can sign up; they do not have to be VFW or Auxiliary members.

Second step: Take action, tell congress Veterans deserve safer treatment. Ask your members of congress to support:

- H.R. 4837, WRITTEN INFORMED CONSENT ACT WOULD REQUIRE WRITTEN RISKS BEFORE VA PRESCRIBES CERTAIN PSYCHIATRIC MEDS.
- H.R. 2623, INNOVATIVE THERAPIES CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE ACT OF 2025 WOULD CREATE FIVE VA CENTERS FOR INNOVATIVE PTSD TREATMENTS. (WWW.gov/elected officials)
- H.R. 1845, TAP PROMOTION ACT, GUARANTEEING ALL TRANSITIONING SERVICE MEMBERS ACCESS TO VA ACCREDITED BENEFIT COUNSELORS.
- H.R. 3986, VETERANS CLAIMS QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACT, IMPROVES TRAINING IN THE VA CLAIMS AND APPEALS SYSTEM.
- H.R. 2055/S,611, CARING FOR SURVIVORS ACT, INCREASES DIC FROM 43% TO 55% OF 100% DISABLED VETERAN'S BENEFIT.
- H.R. 1815, VA HOME LOAN PROGRAM REFORM ACT, RE-ESTABLISHES FORECLOSURE PREVENTION TOOLS THROUGH A PARTIAL CLAIM PROGRAM.

Third step: Go to the National Auxiliary website and utilize the tools that our National Ambassador has provided. Print off fliers and place in areas where Veterans or their family can see and also get involved. Not to mention place them at your Post, you'd be surprised how many Post and Auxiliary members aren't signed up for Action Corp Weekly.

The location of our Washington, D.C., office allows us to monitor all legislation affecting veterans, alert VFW membership to key legislation under consideration and to actively lobby Congress and the administration on veterans' issues. **National Legislative Service** establishes the VFW's legislative priorities and advocates on veterans' behalf. By testifying at congressional committee hearings and interacting with congressional members, the VFW has played an instrumental role in nearly every piece of veterans' legislation passed since the beginning of the 20th century. Everything we do on Capitol Hill is with the VFW's Priority Goals and veterans' well-being in mind. With the strength of the more than 1.4 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary, our voice on Capitol Hill cannot be ignored!

You can always check and see what Campaigns are active with National Legislative Service by visiting:
<https://votervoice.net/VFW/Campaigns>.

Continue with the reporting, you all are awesome! The Awards are for the 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. Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources. This required entry form must be to the Department Legislative Chairman by March 31, 2026 for judging.

Let us "Light the way between Veterans' families and legislators with a wave of gratitude" so we can "Be the reason a Veteran smiles today".





January/February 2026 Membership Program

Helen Heise
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WOW!! Where has this year gone! We are now in a brand-new year. It means that we are halfway done with the year. Let's keep work on membership for this wonderful organization. Let's show the National President and the National Ambassador that Missouri is working hard on recruiting new members and retaining members for this wonderful organization.

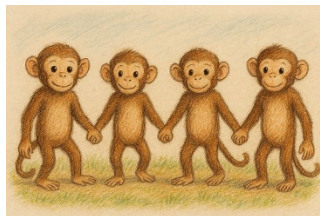
New Members

Our National Ambassador wants to remind us to use the new membership application as of January 1, 2026. You need to use only the new application after January 1, 2026. Please get rid of the old applications. The new application is available under Member Resources. I will be sending an email to all the district presidents with the new application. They will forward them out to their auxiliaries.

95%+ Goal

I know that you all have been working hard on membership. Department of Missouri met the Bronze Award in achieving the 95%+ in paid percentage. The Toll Collector (alias the Department Treasurer) will be receiving \$200.00 from National. National said that our next goal is 98%+ in paid percentage by February 2026. It is the Silver Award. National will send out \$250.00 to the departments that meet that goal. I know that we will meet that goal. As I am writing this, Department of Missouri is currently at 95.34%. I will keep everyone posted as to the progress of the membership. I am hoping that Department membership will be 97%+ by the end of January 2026. Always keep an application with you. You never know when you will meet a prospective member. You might meet one at a holiday party or even a community event. You might talk to a family member and find out they could possibly join.

With the new year starting, please remember to check everyone's ID cards as they attend an auxiliary meeting. You want to make sure that they are eligible to attend the meetings with a current ID card. If they haven't paid their dues as of December 31, 2025, they are not eligible to attend auxiliary meetings or vote. If an officer hasn't paid their current dues as of December 31, 2025, they are not able to hold their office. When a member pays their current dues, then they are able to attend the meetings and vote. So get those dues turned in.



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



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

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

I hope that everyone had a **Great Holiday Season!!** We are now gearing up for our Voice of Democracy Banquet that we will have in February. Make your reservations at the Resort at the Lake of the Ozarks so you can come celebrate all our District winners along with our 1st Place Patriot's Pen winner. VFW Scholarship Chairman, Roger Floyd and I will have some great events and games for the students on Saturday.

We stress the importance of reading the program information through the general orders that are sent out every two (2) months. I hope that you have also been going to our **VFW Auxiliary National website** and getting more information about the **Scholarship program** from our **National Ambassador, Philip Reinbold**. You can never have too much information on any program.

The next important deadline is our National Presidents Special Project, the **Continuing Education Scholarship**. **The deadline is February 15, 2026. NEW THIS YEAR**, the applicant must be **21 years of age**. They must complete the application and submit an essay of 300 words or less describing their commitment to their goals and how the scholarship will help them attain these goals. **This application and essay is submitted DIRECTLY TO NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS: info@vfwauxiliary.org.**

We are also approaching deadlines for the **Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest** and the **3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest** where students in grades 9-12 can win Department and National awards ranging from \$100.00-\$15,000.00. Individual Auxiliaries and Districts will set their own amount for awards. **The deadline for both of these contests is March 31, 2026. NEW THIS YEAR**, a requirement for 3-D Art this year is to send a picture along with it just in case it gets damaged in transport.

ALL APPLICATIONS FOR THE SCHOLARSHIPS CAN BE FOUND AT: www.vfwauxmo.org
THANK YOU CHAIRMEN FOR ALL THE WORK YOU ARE DOING FOR THIS PROGRAM!

Glenda the Good Witch-----AKA-----Danetta



**Veterans and Family Support
Department of Missouri
JANUARY/FEBRAURY 2026**

Darla Nebel
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ST JAMES MO 65559
Shebe6787@gmail.com
(573) 205-3454

New Year Challenge: Supporting Homeless Veterans

District Backpack Drive for VA Hospitals



Warm Hearts for the Cold Season

As we welcome the New Year and temperatures begin to drop, it's important to remember those in our community who are most in need. With the colder weather upon us, I am issuing a challenge to every district: Let's come together to support homeless veterans by donating backpacks filled with essential items.

District Challenge Details

- Each district is asked to contribute at least two backpacks for homeless veterans.
- All collected backpacks will be distributed among the four VA hospitals in our area.
- Districts should bring their donated backpacks to the upcoming winter conference.

How You Can Help

Your participation will make a meaningful difference in the lives of veterans who have served our country. Consider including warm clothing, hygiene products, non-perishable snacks, and other useful supplies in each backpack.

Together, we can show our gratitude and support by making sure our veterans have what they need to face the winter months. Thank you for your generosity and commitment to this important cause.

Conference Information

Please remember to bring your donated backpacks to the winter conference. More details about the conference schedule and drop-off locations will be shared soon.

Let's start the New Year by making a positive impact—one backpack at a time!

Be the Reason a Veteran Smiles Today



Department of Missouri VFW Auxiliary Youth Activities 25-26



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 – Winter Edition-January/February



Well Hello There, My Dears



The new year's rolled in like a fresh breeze over the Kansas plains, and I couldn't be more tickled to share what our wonderful youth have cookin' in the months ahead. These young folks are full of heart, and **with** a little guidance from us grown-ups, they're fixin' to do mighty good things for our veterans and communities.

Six hidden words are scattered throughout this newsletter. They may appear in articles, event listings, or even photo captions. Find all six, arrange them in the correct order, and reveal our secret patriotic motto! Send your answer to email address above by February 1, 2026 for a chance to win a prize.

Kindness Kits for Veterans

We'll be gatherin' supplies and packin' up little bundles of love, snacks, notes, and helpful items, for those who've **served**. It's a fine way to start the year with gratitude.

Essay Scholarship: "What Patriotism Means to Me"

Our young writers have put pen to paper and shared what love of country means to them. We'll **honor** the best essays with a round of applause and a certificate or two.

Illustrating America Art Contest

If your young'un's got a knack for drawin' or paintin', this contest's a golden opportunity. Patriotic themes, big imaginations, and a chance to shine all the way to Nationals!

Valentine's for Veterans

We'll be makin' heartfelt cards and decorations to brighten the day of **our** veterans in hospitals and care homes. A little love goes a long way.

Patriotic Youth Events

Flag etiquette, trivia, and ceremonies led by our youth to honor those who've served. It's a fine way to teach respect and pride in our **country**.

Dates to Remember

Feb 1- Scavenger Hunt Due

Feb 12 – Valentine's Delivery

From My Heart to Yours

Every act of kindness, every drawing, every word written by these young folks is a step toward a better world. I'm proud as punch of each one of 'em. Let's keep cheerin' them on and lend a hand when we can and keep serving our Veterans **proudly**.

With love and pride,

Aunt Em

AKA Jennie Rosales-Wolfgeher



Roster Changes
January/February

District 3

Auxiliary 7356 – Treasurer Judith Green
Email - hwkeye2013@gmail.com

District 6

Auxiliary 3118 – Secretary Michelle Willbanks
0311 E Stringtown Rd, Greenwood, MO 64034-8699
(913) 375-5165 michdan13@yahoo.com

District 9

Auxiliary 5077 – Treasurer Melody Roebuck
325 Revolution Dr, St Peters, MO 63376
(314) 580 9586 melodyroebuck@charter.net

Auxiliary 12243 – President Brandy Young
1221 Schuchart Rd, Union, MO 63084
(636) 234-1055 Brandyyoung.d9p@gmail.com

Auxiliary 12243 – Secretary Darlene Whited
PO Box 18, Union, MO 63084
(636) 584 2367 dorlenewhited@hotmail.com

Auxiliary 12243 – Treasurer Candice Smith
3649 Highway T, Labadie, MO 63055
(636) 677 2702 Cvsmith_srkw@hotmail.com