

The Missouri Yellow Brick Road

May/June

General Orders

Vol.1

President's Message

I cannot thank you enough for having the confidence in me as your Department President elect. President Amy Jo Lett has been a great leader and her "Bridging the Gap" with the VFW is an attitude we must all continue as we go into the 2025-2026 year. "Working together for the benefit of our veterans" is our common goal!

The General Orders are done for the benefit of you and your members. I hope that you take the time to download them from our website along with the Program Chairmen's promotional material they put together every other month. My Program Chairmen are putting a great deal of effort into each of their promotional material, giving you fresh ideas and deadlines that should be shared at your meeting.

I hope that several of you will make plans to attend our Department meetings. We try to make them fun while taking care of the business for the Department. They are scheduled for October 10-12, 2025, for the Fall Conference and February 20-22, 2026, for the Winter Conference both being at the Resort at the Lake of the Ozarks. The 2026 Convention will be June 10-14 at the Ramada Oasis in Springfield. You **cannot** make reservations until the Missouri VFW opens the block of rooms. Otherwise, you will not get the VFW rate.

April was the month to hold election of officers and May is the month to install them. Please make sure to get your installation report to Department Secretary Jackie Davis by May 30th. The installation report was sent to you in an email on March 28th. If you did not get it, please contact Secretary Jackie so she can resend.

The School of instructions have been set. Please see the calendar of events for the dates and locations. You will need to make reservations for the one you can attend. That information is also included in this general orders.

I am here to assist you and your Auxiliary. Working together as we travel down that yellow brick road will **"BE THE REASON A VETERAN SMILES TODAY"**. Let's make them all smile all the time.



Calendar of Events

- **May 1, 2025** – VFW Auxiliary Website opens for 2026 reporting.
- **May 30, 2025** - Installation Report due
- **June 12, 2025** - District President's Training
- **June 12-14, 2025** - 2025 VFW Auxiliary Convention
- **June 21, 2025** - School of Instructions - Post 3772 Mexico
- **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
- **August 9-14, 2025** – National Convention in Columbus, OH

2025-2026 Shirts and Pins will be sold at the Department Convention!

VFW Auxiliary Department of Missouri

99th Convention

Agenda

Thursday, June 12, 2025

9:00 am - 4:00 pm	2025-2026 District Presidents Training	Grand Ballroom
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm	VFW Auxiliary Registration	Convention Lobby
4:30 pm – 6:00 pm	Floor Practice	Grand Ballroom

Friday, June 13, 2025 (Department Shirt, Black Slacks/Skirt)

8:00 am – 10:00 am	VFW Auxiliary Registration	Convention Lobby
8:30 am – 10:00 am	VFW and Auxiliary Joint Opening	Grand Ballroom
10:30 am – 10:50 am	Ritualistic Opening	Grand Ballroom
10:50 am – 11:00 am	Presentation of National Rep and Guest	
11:00 am – 11:05 am	Presentation of Allied Organizations	
11:05 am – 11:20 am	Report on Convention Rules	
11:20 am – 11:35 am	Presentation of Pages	
11:35 am – 11:59 am	Nominations of Officers	
12:01 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch	Hospitality Room
1:30 pm – 1:35 pm	Opening of Auxiliary Convention	
1:35 pm – 1:55 pm	Presentation of VAVS Reps & Dep and Veteran Home Reps	
1:55 pm – 2:20 pm	Presentation of Past Department Presidents	
2:20 pm – 4:00 pm	Celebration of National President Brenda	
5:00 pm -	VFW and Auxiliary Celebration Banquet and Awards	

Saturday, June 14, 2025 (Official Uniform or Department Shirt, Black Slacks/Shirt)

7:30 am – 10:00 am	VFW Auxiliary Registration	Grand Ballroom
8:30 am – 9:30 am	VFW Auxiliary Memorial Service	
9:30 am – 10:00 am	2025-2026 Membership Skit	
10:00 am – 10:30 am	2025-2026 Introduction of New Chairmen	
10:30 am – 11:45 am	Remarks of National President	
11:45 am – 12:00 pm	Announcements	
12:01 pm – 1:30 pm	Lunch	Hospitality Room
1:30 pm – 1:35 pm	Opening of Afternoon Session	Grand Ballroom
1:35 pm – 1:40 pm	Report from Credentials Committee	
1:40 pm – 2:15 pm	Election of Officers	
2:15 pm – 3:00 pm	Report of Committees	
3:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Closing ceremonies	

***** MOCA Meeting will be immediately after the close of the Convention in Sahara A or B.

VFW Auxiliary Department of Missouri
99th Convention
Agenda

4:00 – 6:00 pm - 2025-2026 VFW and Auxiliary Joint Installation

6:15 – Past Department Presidents met in lobby

Sunday, June 15, 2025

8:30 am – 11:00 am 2025-2026 Council Meeting (all 2025-2026 elected Line
Officers and District Presidents are to attend.)

Grand Ballroom

Safe Travels to All!

***Agenda is subject to change.

At the VFW Auxiliary Convention,
All Auxiliary Awards will be
Announced on Friday Night
at the Banquet!



2025 Year End Celebration Banquet

Please Join Commander Ric DePontee & President Amy Jo Lett
Friday, June 13, 2025, 5:30 pm, at Oasis Hotel & Convention Center ,
Grand Ballroom, All-State Awards to follow.

Fiesta Buffet \$25.00 per Person

Fajitas (Beef or Chicken)

Burrito Bar (Flour Tortillas & GF Corn Tortillas

Seasoned Ground Beef, Black Beans, Pico de Gallo, Cheese, Guacamole, Sour Cream, & Salsa).

Spanish Rice, Refried Beans and Tortilla Chips with Salsa

Print Attendee's Full Name

<i>Note: Tickets for multiple reservations will be placed in one envelope, in the name of the first person listed above.</i>	

Quantity # _____ Amount \$ _____

If paying by credit card, please complete all information below including your email:

Card# _____ - _____ - _____ - _____

Expiration Date ____/____ Verification (CVV)# _____

Name as it appears on credit card: _____

Billing Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Authorized Signature _____

Email Address: _____

*Completed Forms **MUST** be received by Department of Missouri*

VFW NO LATER THAN May 30, 2025

Email to: hqangela@movfw.org or mail to:

3401 Knipp Dr

Jefferson City , MO 65109

Hotels Close to Oasis

On the same side of Glenstone Highway as Oasis

Hampton Inn & Suites Springfield, 2750 N Glenstone Ave, Springfield, MO

0.4 miles from Oasis-----417-869-5548

Holiday Inn & Suites Springfield - I-44, an IHG Hotel, 2720 N Glenstone Ave, Springfield, MO

0.3 miles from Oasis ---- 417-865-8600

On the opposite side of Glenstone Highway as Oasis

Best Western Coach House, 2535 N Glenstone Ave, Springfield, MO

0.2 miles from Oasis-----417-862-0701

Econo Lodge, I-44 Exit 80, 2611 N Glenstone Ave, Springfield, MO 65803

0.3 miles from Oasis -----417-864-3565

Missouri VFW Auxiliary School of Instructions

We invite all members to attend one of the above Schools of Instructions. Please select one to attend that fits your schedule so that you can learn what it takes to make your Auxiliary an **ALL-STATE AUXILIARY**. There will be training on Auxiliary offices and information for the 2025-2026 programs.

There are 4 Schools of Instructions scheduled for 2025-2026. They are:

- **June 21, 2025 – Post 3772 – 2100 N Jefferson St, Mexico, MO 65265**
 - Menu – Chicken Salad/Ham Sandwiches, pasta salad, fruit salad, desserts and tea, coffee and water. Pastries will be available in the morning.
 - **Cost - \$10.00**
 - Send reservations by **June 14** to: Beverly Davis – 501 S Morris St; Mexico, MO 65265-2077 – phone no: 573-473-1656 – email: grandmabev1951@yahoo.com
 - Make checks payable to: **VFW Auxiliary 3772**
- **July 12, 2025 - Post 3976 – 12810 E Kentucky Rd; Sugar Creek, MO 64054**
 - Menu – Taco Bar (hard, soft, & chips for taco salad), dessert, coffee and tea.
 - **Cost - \$10.00**
 - Send reservations by **July 5** to: Lori Suiter – 11703 E 37th St S; Independence, MO 64052 – 816-805-2245 – email: lsuiter5576@gmail.com
 - Make checks payable to: **VFW Auxiliary 3976**
- **July 13, 2025 - Post 5993 – 102 E Washington; Ava, MO 65608**
 - Menu – Pulled pork, pulled chicken, baked beans, potato salad and desserts. Fruits and donuts/snacks will be available in the morning.
 - **Cost - \$15.00**
 - Send reservations by **July 5** to: Gail Huffman – PO Box 95; Ava, MO 65608 – 417-543-8961 – email: gailhuffman88@gmail.com
 - Make checks payable to: **VFW Auxiliary 5993**
- **July 20, 2025 - Post 2210 – 852 Memorial Dr; Ste Genevieve, MO 63670**
 - Menu – Mostaccioli, salad, garlic bread, desserts, tea, lemonade and water. Coffee and donuts will be available in the morning.
 - **Cost \$10.00**
 - Send reservations by **July 12** to: Joyce Herman; 18 Oakwood Drive; Ste Genevieve, MO 63670 – phone no: 573-883-0654 – email: joyce.herman@ymail.com
 - Make checks payable to: **Ste Genevieve Auxiliary 2210**
- **All Schools of Instructions will start at 9 am.**
- **The School of Instructions agenda will be posted on the Missouri VFW Auxiliary website.**

Missouri VFW Auxiliary School of Instructions

Listed below are the dates and the locations of the Schools of Instructions. Please choose the date and location that best fits your schedule.

- **June 21** – Post 3772 – Mexico
 - Send reservations by **June 14** to: Beverly Davis – 501 S Morris St; Mexico, MO 65265-2077 – phone no: 573-473-1656 – email: grandmabev1951@yahoo.com
- **July 12** – Post 3978 – Sugar Creek
 - Send reservations by **July 5** to: Lori Suiter – 11703 E 37th St S; Independence, MO 64052 – 816-805-2245 – email: lsuiter5576@gmail.com
- **July 13** – Post 5339 - Ava
 - Send reservations by **July 5** to: Gail Huffman – PO Box 95; Ava, MO 65608 – 417-543-8961 – email: gailhuffman88@gmail.com
- **July 20** – Post 2210 – Ste Genevieve
 - Send reservations by **July 12** to: Joyce Herman; 18 Oakwood Drive; Ste Genevieve, MO 63670 – phone no: 573-883-0654 – email: joyce.herman@ymail.com

School of Instructions Reservation

Send this form and your money to the person listed above that corresponds with the School of Instructions that you want to attend.

Date: _____ Location of Sol: _____

Auxiliary NO: _____ District: _____

List below the names attending:

- | | |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1. _____ | 11. _____ |
| 2. _____ | 12. _____ |
| 3. _____ | 13. _____ |
| 4. _____ | 14. _____ |
| 5. _____ | 15. _____ |
| 6. _____ | 16. _____ |
| 7. _____ | 17. _____ |
| 8. _____ | 18. _____ |
| 9. _____ | 19. _____ |
| 10. _____ | 20. _____ |

Amount: _____ Check No: _____

Auxiliary Bonds – Due by July 31, 2025

It is time for you to think about renewing your bond for the 2025-2026.

According to Sec. 814 – Trustees, Duties of (All Levels) of the National Bylaws

E. It shall be the duty of the Trustees to see that the offices of the President and Treasurer are bonded with an indemnity company authorized by National Headquarters or the Department.

1. As surety in a sum at least double the amount of funds and value of property for which, so far as can be anticipated, the President and Treasurer may be accountable.
2. The amount shall be approved by the body and the bond premium paid from their funds. A motion shall be made, passed and included in the Secretary's minutes.

The bond amount needs to be voted on in your **June meeting** if you are purchasing from National.

MALTA will not be available due to maintenance, July 1, 2025. Once MALTA comes back on-line, (usually around July 5th) the Treasurer will need to purchase that bond through MALTA no later than July 30th.

If you are an Auxiliary who is purchasing an outside source for the bond, you will need to send it to Department Secretary Jackie Davis by June 1st so that it can be put on the agenda for the 2025-2026 June Council meeting for their approval. Once it is approved, you will be able to purchase the bond.

Thank you for your attention to this.

2025-2026 Program Book Order Form

Each 2025-2026 Auxiliary President will receive a copy of the Program Book at the Department School of Instructions listed below. The Program Book will also be posted on the Missouri website www.vfwauxmo.org for anyone to download and copy.

If you have members in your Auxiliary who would like a printed copy, please fill in the information below. Each copy will cost \$10. You can pick them up at the School of Instructions you are attending. If we send it through the mail, it will cost an additional \$10.

Auxiliary: _____ District: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State, Zip Code: _____

Check one:

I will be attending the School of Instructions

June 21th - 3772 Mexico _____

July 12th - 3978 Sugar Creek _____

July 13th - 5339 Ava _____

July 20th - 2210 St Genevieve _____

Printed Book(s) _____ x !0.00 plus Postage of \$10.00 = _____

Total Order _____

Make Check to **VFW Aux MO**

Send this form to Department Sec/Treasurer by May 23rd

**Jackie Davis
3849 Hwy 47 W
Troy, MO 63379**

Promotional Materials (This is only for the Auxiliary President)

The Department of Missouri Auxiliary has strived to cut cost on promotional materials by having it posted to our website www.vfwauxmo.org. We encourage either the President, Secretary, or Treasurer to download the information and share it with the members of the Auxiliary.

Our Program Chairmen strive to provide our Auxiliaries with quality material on their programs. We encourage all members to use this resource. You can find it by logging into the website and going to the tab "Programs". There you will find the list of the program. By clicking on a Program name, you will be able to see all the promotional material they have for the year. You will also find the President's message/newsletter.

We realize some Auxiliaries cannot get the internet or do not have the capability to print the Bi-monthly Promotional Material. To help those Auxiliaries that are unable to get the material, we will send it to the Auxiliary President.

Please complete the form below if you need the Promotional Material sent to your President only if the President, Secretary, or Treasurer does not have the capability to print the information.

Auxiliary: _____ District: _____

President's Name: _____

Address: _____

Send this form by May 31st to:

Jackie Davis
Department Secretary
3849 Hwy 47 W
Troy, MO 63379



Department of Missouri VFW Auxiliary
Americanism

May/June

Regina Bryant
16211 E 28th Terr S Apt. 1513
Independence, MO 64055
816-617-2933
r.runions.rb@gmail.com

Hear Ye, Hear Ye! This is Regina Bryant, your mayor of Missouri Munchkin Land, and I am excited to be your 2025-2026 Americanism & Patriotic Instructor Chairman.

Americanism

“AMERICANISM IS AN UNFAILING LOVE OF COUNTRY, LOYALTY TO ITS INSTITUTIONS AND IDEAS; EAGERNESS TO DEFEND IT AGAINST ALL ENEMIES; UNDIVIDED ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG; AND A DESIRE TO SECURE THE BLESSINGS OF LIBERTY AND POSTERITY.”

Americanism and pride in our country should be shown every day, but there are many individual holidays that we celebrate in a special way. Whether it is displaying the American Flag, participating in a parade/celebration, or helping veterans with things they may need, there is something that everyone can do to show Americanism.

Loyalty Day – May 1

- Display your American Flag
- Host a parade or ceremony at your post home and invite guest speakers and the community

Memorial Day – May 26

- Visit a local cemetery and decorate veterans' grave with American Flags
- Participate in a Memorial Day ceremony

Flag Day – June 14

- Display and pass out American Flags
- Go to a local library, scout troop, or church group and help educate them on the history of the American Flag

Independence Day – July 4

- Participate in a local parade and pass out small flags and flag etiquette pamphlets
- Host dinner at your post home for the community

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 May/June 2025

Kim Rudy
605 Boys Street
Monett, MO 65708

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

It's time to start a brand new year of Outreach projects and I'm so excited to see what this year has to show. I'm looking forward to representing the Department of Missouri as the Auxiliary Outreach Chairman for the second year in a row.

Please remember that the Auxiliary Outreach program is all about REACHING OUT to the groups, churches, schools and other organizations in your community to see what YOU (both as an Auxiliary and as an individual) can do to MAKE A DIFFERENCE by volunteering your time to help them.

Although summertime is almost upon us, the opportunities do not take a summer break. Vote within your meetings to volunteer with project graduation, summer school, library programs, scouting camps, vacation bible school, etc. Remember that when you're doing your reporting to **NOT** put a monetary amount, because this is a volunteer program, so basically you volunteer your TIME, not your money.

Remember to keep these things in mind when participating in and reporting your Auxiliary Outreach project:

- The project must be voted on by the membership. If this is a recurring volunteer project, put it in your standing rules.

- Wear your Auxiliary shirts, pins, hats or anything else that will identify who you are.
- 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.
- If you have a recurring project that is multiple times a month, you may accumulate those hours and report them one time at the end of the month. In your description, please include the dates that your Auxiliary or member participated in.
- 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!!!

I look forward to working with everyone this coming year! Always remember to make yourself shine and make sure that everyone in your community knows who and what the VFW Auxiliary is all about!

Let's have a wonderful trip down the Yellow Brick Road!

Kim Rudy

2025/2026 Auxiliary Outreach Chairman





Department of Missouri VFW Auxiliary
Buddy® Poppy/ National Home
May/ June 2025-2026

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




“True courage is in facing danger when you are afraid”
– Frank Baum “The Wonderful Wizard of Oz”

We have an exciting year planned and I can’t wait to travel the Yellow Brick Road with you.

Some things to look forward to during the 2025/2026 Buddy® Poppy/ National Home Program year...

-  VFW National Home 100th birthday celebration –
June 28, 2025
-  Charity Golf Tournament (St. Charles, MO)-
September 18th, 2025
-  VFW National Home Trip-
October 24th to October 26th, 2025
-  Educating our communities about the National Home
 1. Create Awareness about the National Home
 2. Eligibility and who qualifies for help from the National Home
 3. Promote the VFW National Home’s Military and Veteran Family Helpline.



-  Educating our communities about the “Buddy”® Poppy
 1. How do we honor the dead by helping the living?
 2. Work with your Post
-  “Buddy”® Poppy Drives
-  “Buddy”® Poppy Display Contest
 1. Fall Conference – Hat Parade
 2. Winter Conference – Holiday Tray Favors

****Reminder**** If you plan on making a “Buddy”® Poppy Display for Department Convention in June 2025, please visit www.vfwauxmo to view the rules.

“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
May /June 2025-2026 Promotional Material
Janet Barlar- Wicked Witch & Broom Squad Boss
(573)-261-1948 baraux1953@yahoo.com

“You can’t stop the wind, but you can steer the broom!”

Saddle Your Broom- It’s a New Year!

- **Follow the Yellow Brick Road to an Extra Healthy Auxiliary!**
 - ✓ Elect officers and submit your Installation reports by June 30th this generates the email for the Bond application. Send a copy of the installation report to Department Secretary/Treasurer Jackie Davis.
 - ✓ Delegates list Sent to Department Secretary/Treasurer Jackie Davis by June
 - ✓ Bond the office of President and Treasurer by August 31st
 - ✓ File your 990 Send a copy of the 990 receipt to Department Secretary/Treasurer Jackie Davis.
 - ✓ Send a copy of the Incorporation to Department Secretary/Treasurer Jackie Davis.

- **Mentoring will focus on:**
 - ✓ Pairing “Green Flag” Auxiliaries with Yellow or Red ones.
 - ✓ Teaching reporting duties, leadership transitions, and healthy meeting habits.
 - ✓ Building confidence to run Programs, speak publicly, or recruit.
 - ✓ Encouraging succession planning, so the legacy lives on.
 - ✓ Promoting kindness, communication, and team building.

➤ **Performance Improvement Plans (PIPs) for Red Flag Auxiliaries**

- ✓ When an Auxiliary veers *far* off the path, the Wicked Witch steps in with a plan not a punishment.
- ✓ Our “Broom Squad” of positive leaders will coach with encouragement not criticism.
- ✓ Know the Signs of a Red Flag Auxiliary

See the 2025-2026 Program Book for all the ways to keep your Flying Monkeys on the Yellow Brick Road of Success, so they can make a veteran smile today!

I’m excited to be the Department Chief of Staff again this year! I look forward to working with each of you and together we can **Be the Reason a Veteran Smiles Today!!** As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me!

Together we will follow the **Yellow Brick Road to a Successful year!**

Respectfully,

Janet Barlar

Department Chief of Staff



THE SHOW ME GAZETTE

MAY/JUNE 2025

Editor: Mary K. Thurman

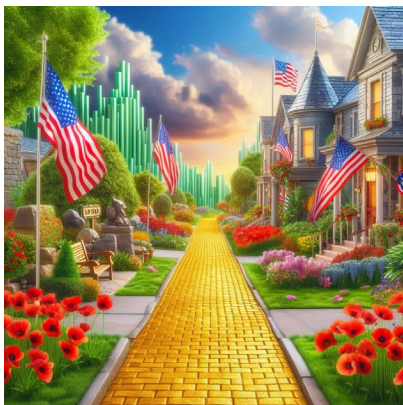
32482 State Hwy 248
Aurora, MO 65605
417 207 2631
vfwa2526hist@gmail.com

I want to take a minute to let you know that I have accepted the position of Department Historian for the 2025-2026 year.

There is a photo contest happening this year. It is to help raise money for the President Patti's special project. More details to come on the "Sensational Senior" photo contest from the District President. The winning District President might have the opportunity to put a pie in the face of our Department President Patti IF \$5,000 is raised by the members across the state.

It should also be noted that IF ALL 12 districts report in with 8 photos within 8 days of the official visit of Department President Patti that winning District President might be picking me to get a pie in MY face, and Past Department Amy Jo has offered to make those pies.

I believe that both goals can be met and that the convention in June 2026 will be one to be remembered.



If you are the historian, there are several things you need to do before an event that you are photographing –



1. Make sure that there is room on the memory card, and you have a spare as they do wear out (and I learned this firsthand).
2. Make sure that you have an extra battery or two with you. I also carry a backup camera.
3. Take several shots of the same post and pick out the best. Look closely at the background when taking and reviewing photos. Make sure that there are not any offensive words and/or gestures in the image (or video).
4. Do not be afraid to ask people to pose.
5. Use the flash wisely and stand in the right place.
6. Always be prepared as some of the best photos are not planned.
7. Talk to President in advance and see if there is something special going on.
8. Try to get at least one or two photos with you in the picture during the year so that your President will remember who you are.
9. Keep in mind that each one of us can only reach as far as our arms (zoom lens) will go.

Yes, you can use the camera on a phone to take photos. Most phones do the job just as good as a still camera. Try NOT to use the zoom when using a smart phone. The zoom on smart phones is digital, not optical. Digital creates a grainy image. Please take the photos as usual. It can be cropped and edited afterward.

I look forward to seeing photos from events that you are having across the state. Should you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me.

“Be the reason that a Veterans smiles today.”

“From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring our 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>May/June 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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Hello there! A new year is upon us once again. This is an exciting beginning of our new year. It seems like each auxiliary year goes by faster and faster. I'm sure that this coming year will be the best one yet.

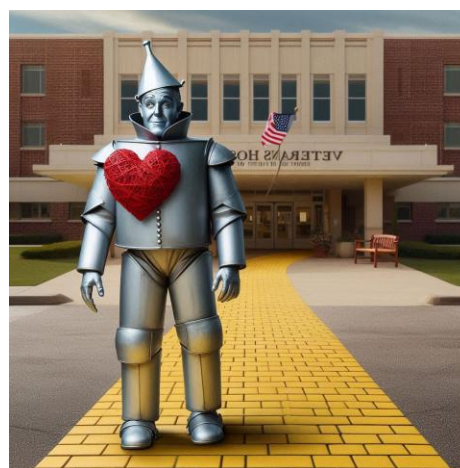
When you do anything with the homes, go online at www.vfwauxmo.org and report all the fun things you are doing for and with our veterans. Use #MohospitalVAVs when you are posting on social media

Veterans' Home Liaisons: Don't forget to fill out the Monthly Report each month of what you have been doing in our veterans' homes and hospitals. Send a copy to me and a copy to Department Treasurer Jackie Davis. Keep a copy for your records. You can find this form on the Department of Missouri website under the Hospital Program.

Donations: Please give generously and often to the hospital program. Put it in your standing rules to donate a pre-determined amount and then you can vote at any meeting to send another donation.



Loyalty Day May 1: Will your auxiliary hold a special program for our veterans in the hospitals and homes? What a wonderful way to kick off your new auxiliary year.

Women Veterans Health Care: The VA is dedicated to meeting the health care needs of our nation's women veterans, who are 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 Center for Development and Civic Engagement (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.



Use this QR code to access valuable information about the hospital program online.

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>May/June 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 VAVS Reps and Deps are vital to the Hospital Program as they are the ones who serve in the VA medical facilities. These members participate as Regularly Scheduled (RS) volunteers or Occasional volunteers. As the Reps and Deps you were appointed by Department President Patti Burge. She has faith in your ability to perform this important position, as do I.

Volunteers should familiarize themselves with the rules of the facility they are visiting.

Regularly Scheduled (RS) volunteers perform the following:

- Comply with VAVS Guidelines
- Participate on a regular basis
- Supervised by a VA employee

Occasional volunteers: I'm sad to report

- Do not meet requirements of RS volunteers
- They volunteer with a group or organization occasionally

VAVS Reps, please schedule to have your Annual Joint Review (AJR) and with Volunteer Services. The deadline for the completion of the form is January 30. You can get the form from your facility.

HOURS earn VAVS AND VFW Auxiliary Awards!

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



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 Legislative Chairman
100 Aldergate Dr #27
Bonne Terre, MO 63628

trula.missey@yahoo.com

573-631-6002



LEGISLATIVE

Hello fellow Auxiliary Brothers and Sisters. My name is Trula Missey and our Department President Patti Burge has selected me to become your Legislative Chairman. Together we can support today's Veterans and Military.

There are many resources available through Malta, Action Corps Weekly and the Legislative Websites. To sign up for Action Corps Weekly and VFW Action Alerts simply visit vfw.org/JoinActionCorps or Text "VFW" to 50457. There are also Legislative tools on the VFW Auxiliary's National Website vfwauxiliary.org/resources.

The VFW Priority Goals focus on Budget, Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, Education, Employment and Transition Assistance, as well as Health Care, Military Readiness, National Security, Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA.

Our National Legislative Ambassador, Amy Jo Lett, reminds us that every time we say "Thank you for your service" we are acknowledging the sacrifices made by Veterans and their families. We can also go beyond words and translate gratitude into action.

There will be awards for Auxiliaries with 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 VFW Priority Goals. A Citation and \$25 will go to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 National program divisions. These will be due to the Department Chairman by March 31, 2026 for judging.

The Legislative Program is an important part of the mission of supportive service that the Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary had developed and maintained for over a century. We help many with our efforts and you are appreciated for being a member of this worthwhile endeavor and wonderful program.

One by one or together in numbers, the VFW Auxiliary will always be the voice of our heroes, our Veterans.

Let us "Be the reason a Veteran smiles today".



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May/June 2025
Membership Program

As we start our journey down the yellow brick road this coming year in membership, let's start collecting dues for the coming year. Go ahead and start sending out the dues reminder notices to your annual members. You might want to let them know how much the life member dues would be. The life membership dues are by age groups:

- 21-25 \$242.00
- 26-30 \$230.00
- 31-35 \$219.00
- 36-40 \$213.00
- 41-45 \$201.00
- 46-50 \$196.00
- 51-55 \$184.00
- 56-60 \$173.00
- 61-65 \$161.00
- 66-70 \$150.00
- 71-75 \$132.00
- 76-80 \$109.00
- 81-85 \$86.00
- 86-90 \$69
- 91 and over \$58.00



We need to keep working on recruiting members for this wonderful organization. Always carry an application with you. You never know where you will meet a prospective member. Just remember that when you are talking to a prospective member, flying monkeys might be around. The flying monkeys are going to try to stop you from getting a new member. Tell the flying monkeys to get away. They are going to tell the prospective members that we don't do anything for our members. They will tell the annual members not to pay their dues. Tell the prospective member what we do to help the veterans and their families.

The membership groups will be announced at the June 2025 Department Convention. As we are following the yellow brick road, let's collect dues for our annual members and recruit new members for this wonderful organization. Remember we are here because of a veteran.

There is no place like membership. There is no place like membership.



Scholarship May/June 2025-2026

Department of Missouri

“Glenda the Good Witch”

AKA Danetta Wakefield

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!! ARE YOU ALL EXCITED TO START ANOTHER NEW YEAR IN THE AUXILIARY?? Congratulations on being appointed as the 2025-2026 Scholarship Chairman!! This year we will be “Following the Yellow Brick Road” to make sure that we will “Be the Reason a Veterans Smiles Today” “From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans -Who keep us Free.”

DO NOT WAIT!! Now is the time to go to your public and parochial schools to let the teachers know they need to get started planning out the essays and contests in their curriculum. Speak to the Counselors to let them know what scholarships are available to their students with the deadlines for each one. Go again when school starts in the Fall to remind them. Contact your Libraries and your newspapers so they can get this information out to our home-schooled students. Just a tidbit of information-a few years back two sisters who were home-schooled won the Voice of Democracy and Patriot’s Pen; and the judges for each contest were from two sides of the state. Let’s get this year started with a little bit of “good magic” from our Scholarship Chairmen as they spread the word for our Scholarship Program.

How exciting and wonderful is it that the **Voice of Democracy (grades 9-12) and the Patriot’s Pen (grades 6-8)** theme is the same this year: “How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?”

Continuing Education Scholarship – Not all the VFW Auxiliary scholarships are for children in grade 6-12. This is incoming National President Lois Calahan’s special project so please talk to your members who may be in college about applying for this Scholarship. There is a new change for this scholarship: applicants must be **21** years of age to apply.

Young American Patriotic Art and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest- (grades 9-12) 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.

Missouri Past National Presidents Scholarship- High School seniors who are siblings, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of a current VFW or VFW Auxiliary member may apply for this scholarship. This was set up to honor the Past National Presidents from Missouri - Mable Tanner and Glenneta Vogelsang. This Year we have the honor of adding Brenda Bryant’s name to this Scholarship.

More information will be in the Department Program Book and on the Missouri Website: www.vfwauxmo.org or you can go to the National website: www.vfwauxiliary.org to get resources for our program. You may also go to www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education for VFW contest themes, official forms and rules for their contests and essays. Working with your VFW Counterpart can make life easier for you. “Teamwork makes the Dream Work”, “Divide and Conquer!” “Many Hands Make Light Work”.

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

Veterans and Family Support

Department of Missouri

MAY/JUNE 2025-26

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We are on the road again going down the 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.



The Veterans and Family Support program has lots of different ways to help and honor our veterans and their family. We can help by offering guidance about acquiring VA benefits, providing information about scholarship opportunities, and recommending helpful resources for when life hits a bumpy road. It's important for us to know about the different programs and benefits so we can pass the information on to those who need it.

So, let's grab a spot at community events. Set up a table with information such Veterans Suicide Awareness, Unmet, MAP etc. Bring a Service Officer with you. They can help veterans or spouses with benefits or employment. Getting into the community to let them know what we do for our veterans and family.

"Be the Reason a Veteran Smiles Today"





Department of Missouri
VFW Auxiliary
Youth Activities
2025-2026

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fThe.more.that.you.read?the.more.things.you.will.knowj.The.more.that.you.
learn?the.more.places.you'll.go – Dr. Seuss.

To My Dear Auxiliary Ozians,

Whether you are a Munchkin, Winkie, Quadling, Gillikin, or Ozian, you are warmly welcomed here in the Department of Missouri VFW Auxiliary. Just as the Land of Oz thrives on unity and diversity, so do we. Together, we share a common purpose: to celebrate patriotism and foster connections across generations.

Our programs and initiatives are designed to inspire and engage. Here are some of the wonderful opportunities awaiting you:

Patriotism through Reading: Instilling a love for country and history through shared stories.

- The VFW Auxiliary's "Patriotism through Reading" initiative is a wonderful program designed to promote literacy and patriotism among youth. It encourages children to explore historical fiction and creative non-fiction that highlight America's history, values, and heroes. Through books, young readers can immerse themselves in different time periods, gain perspective, and develop a deeper understanding of the nation's past and present.
- The program offers various activities, such as donating books to schools and libraries, hosting read-a-thons, organizing book clubs, and inviting authors to speak. It also encourages youth to write their own stories or interview veterans to learn and share their experiences. You can find more details and suggested book lists through links attached below.

Youth Groups: Empowering young minds to take an active role in their communities.

- Here are some examples of how youth can take active roles in their communities and empower themselves:
- Community Clean-Ups: Organizing events to clean parks, streets, or public spaces, fostering a sense of responsibility and pride in their surroundings.
- Advocacy for Social Issues: Raising awareness and taking action on topics like mental health, education, or environmental sustainability.
- Volunteering: Participating in local initiatives such as food drives, tutoring programs, or animal shelters.
- Youth Leadership Programs: Joining or creating groups that focus on leadership development and civic engagement.
- Creative Projects: Using art, music, or writing to express ideas and inspire changes within their communities.

These activities not only benefit the community but also help young individuals develop essential skills like teamwork, communication, and problem-solving.

Youth Reading to Veterans and Veterans Reading to Youth: Bridging generations with shared experiences and cherished books.

- Bring generations together by organizing story time events, book clubs, or patriotic read-alouds. Youth can read to veterans, and veterans can share cherished stories or personal experiences, fostering meaningful connections and shared learning.

Illustrating America: Encouraging creativity through art that reflects our nation's spirit.

- The contest typically focuses on patriotic themes and encourages students to express their creativity through art that reflects their love for America. You can keep an eye on updates and details about the contest on the <https://vfwauxmo.org/> or through local VFW Auxiliaries. Due March 2026.

Patriotic Youth Award: Honoring young individuals who exemplify dedication to patriotism.

- Recognize youth who show patriotism through activities like community service, educational programs, creative projects, volunteering, and acts of kindness that honor veterans and celebrate America.
 - Organizing flag-raising ceremonies.
 - Volunteering at veterans' events.
 - Writing essays or creating patriotic art.
 - Participating in community service projects.
 - Showing respect for the flag and veterans through small acts.

Random Acts of Patriotism: Spreading kindness and pride for our country in everyday actions.

- These small gestures can inspire pride and unity while celebrating the spirit of patriotism.
 - Displaying the flag respectfully at home or during events.
 - Thanking veterans or active service members for their contributions.
 - Participating in community service projects that honor the nation.
 - Sharing patriotic stories or history with others.
 - Supporting local businesses that contribute to the community.

Together, we are building a community where patriotism comes to life through collaboration, creativity, and connection. No matter which region of Oz you call home, you are an essential part of our shared journey.

"Follow the yellow brick road, dear traveler, to Youth Activities, where the wonders of reading shall guide you to the great and powerful OZ him or herself!"

With boundless enthusiasm and deepest appreciation,
Aunt Em, Youth Activities Chair

Book List Links:

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/Suggested-Book-List.pdf>

<https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/Patriotism-Through-Literacy-Suggested-Books-2022.pdf>

Youth Activities: vfwauxmo.org

Roster Changes

May/June 2025

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