

# The Missouri Yellow Brick Road

November/December

General Orders

Vol.4

## President's Message

Free \$\$\$! Free \$\$\$! Free \$\$\$! Who doesn't want free money? Did you know you can help our Department receive FREE money from the National VFW Auxiliary? If we can get 95% in membership before November 30<sup>th</sup>, National will send the Department \$200 AND it does not stop there! As we hit the goals set for membership, the National VFW Auxiliary will send us money. What a great way to get funds into our treasury to help with our programs? So, let's get going and get those dues paid as we continue to retain our current members and recruit new members so our Department will grow.

Plan a special Christmas celebration for your membership, where you can collect those final dues. Consider having a potluck and inviting your members to attend. Especially reach out to any new members so they are included. Tell them they are to be a special guest since they are new to the Auxiliary.

Veterans Day is coming up on November 11, 2025. Has your Auxiliary planned a way to honor your veteran on Veterans Day? Dinners, parades, school programs and other get togethers will show each and everyone of them how much we care. Fly those flags shake their hands and give them a hug and see those smiles shine.

Have you planned an event for the Veterans in your community for Thanksgiving and Christmas? Why not invite them to enjoy a meal with you and your family or make a meal at the Post where all can enjoy. Take a meal to those who are unable to attend. Let's not forget them.

Is your Post planning a "Buddy"® Poppy campaign? Make sure to report what you did. Are you taking items to the hospital or homes for the veterans? Make sure to report it!

A new membership application will be coming out January 1, 2026. Please make sure your Auxiliary is using it. Department Treasurer, Jackie Davis will be contacting the Auxiliary Treasurers on a training of this new application.

I cannot believe how fast 2025 is coming to an end but we are going to make 2026 even better. I wish you and your families a great Thanksgiving and a Merry Christmas. As we go into the new year, Let's be **"THE REASON A VETERAN SMILES TODAY"** and everyday as we go into 2026. We can all do this.

*Patti Burge* - Missouri VFW Auxiliary President



### Calendar of Events

- Veterans Day – November 11, 2025
- Thanksgiving – November 27, 2025
- Pearl Harbor Day – December 7, 2025
- Christmas Eve - December 24, 2025
- Christmas Day – December 25, 2025
- New Years Eve – December 31, 2025
- New Years Day – January 1, 2026



*May you and  
your family have  
a wonderful  
holiday season.*

# To Auxiliary Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers

A new application form will be available soon. All old application forms are to be discarded, and the new one used as of January 1, 2026.

VFW AUXILIARY MEMBERSHIP / MEMBER TRANSFER APPLICATION	
<small>Please print legibly. An incomplete application could delay your membership start date.</small>	
<b>Applicant completes sections A, D or E and H.I. Auxiliaries/Departments complete section B,F,G.</b>	
<b>A</b>	<b>APPLICATION INFORMATION</b> Name <input type="text"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/> Male Address <input type="text"/> City <input type="text"/> State <input type="text"/> ZIP <input type="text"/> Phone ( <input type="text"/> ) - <input type="text"/> Email <input type="text"/>
<b>B</b>	Auxiliary Post No. <input type="text"/> City <input type="text"/> State <input type="text"/> <input type="checkbox"/> New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Transferring Member <input type="checkbox"/> Rejoining Member (Prior Member ID Number) <input type="text"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Member at Large in Department of <input type="text"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Member at Large - VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters
<b>C</b>	(Transfer only information) <input type="checkbox"/> ANNUAL TRANSFER <input type="checkbox"/> LIFE MEMBER TRANSFER Member ID <input type="text"/> Previous Auxiliary <input type="text"/> <input type="checkbox"/> Paying <input type="checkbox"/> Nonpaying
<b>D</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> POST-AFFILIATED (Veteran is not a current member of the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.) I am the (Relationship) <input type="text"/> to (Eligible Veteran* Name) <input type="text"/> VFW Membership ID <input type="text"/> VFW Post (Must be same as B) <input type="text"/>
<b>E</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> NON-AFFILIATED (Veteran is not a current member of the VFW Post affiliated with the Auxiliary to which you are applying.) I am the (Relationship) <input type="text"/> to (Eligible Veteran* Name) <input type="text"/> Name of campaign ribbons or medals: <input type="text"/> Dates of Service: <input type="text"/> to <input type="text"/> Foreign Location: <input type="text"/>
<b>F</b>	Recruited/Recommended by: <input type="text"/> Recruiter Member ID <input type="text"/> Check one: Aux <input type="checkbox"/> VFW <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>G</b>	Investigating Committee Signatures 1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 2 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Per Section 102 of the National Bylaws. <input type="checkbox"/> Rejected <input type="checkbox"/> Accepted Meeting Date <input type="text"/> Obligated Date <input type="text"/>
<b>H</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Annual Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Life Membership <input type="checkbox"/> Check here if this is a gift (Membership card will be sent to Treasurer and not member.) Payment Method and Amount: Cash <input type="checkbox"/> Check <input type="checkbox"/> Credit Card <input type="checkbox"/> ***If paying by credit card, after this application is processed, an email and/or text message will be sent to the contact information provided above for payment. Instructions in the communication for payment must be completed within 30 days or otherwise the application will be voided. If someone other than the applicant above is paying by credit card for the membership, please list your phone number and email address below to receive payment instructions once the membership application has been processed. Phone <input type="text"/> Email <input type="text"/>
<b>I</b>	<b>OBLIGATION</b> In the presence of Almighty God and the members of this organization here assembled, I do of my own free will and accord, solemnly promise that I will never wrong or defraud this organization nor a member thereof nor permit either to be wronged if in my power to prevent it. I will never propose for membership any person not eligible, according to our Bylaws. I will be faithful to the United States of America, obedient to the laws and loyal to the Flag. Should my membership with this organization cease in any way, I will consider this obligation as binding outside of the organization as though I had remained a member. I do so promise. I attest that I am at least 18 years of age. I pledge to comply with the National Bylaws of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States Auxiliary. I attest I am not eligible for membership in the VFW. I further attest that the above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, including my stated relationship to the Veteran. Signature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Date <input type="text"/> <small>(Must be signed by all members.)</small>
<small>By filing out this application and providing your contact information, you agree to receive communications from the VFW Auxiliary. The communications may include updates, promotions, and other information related to our services. Communications may be in the form of e-mails, SMS text messages, and/or automated calls. You understand that these communications may be sent using an automated telephone dialer system. Standard message and data rates may apply. You can opt-out at any time by following the instructions provided in the communications. No mobile information will be shared with third parties/affiliates for marketing/promotional purposes.</small>	
<b>LIFE MEMBERSHIP FEES</b> <u>Life Membership fees are not refundable.</u> Attained age at 12/31 of year applying for Life Membership. Through 20 \$253 21-25 \$242 26-30 \$230 31-35 \$219 36-40 \$213 41-45 \$201 46-50 \$196 51-55 \$184 56-60 \$173 61-65 \$161 66-70 \$150 71-75 \$132 76-80 \$109 81-85 \$95 86-90 \$69 91 and over \$58	
<small>Revised January 2026</small>	

More information will be emailed to the Auxiliary President, Secretary and Treasurer from the Department Treasurer in November on training of the new application. So please check your email!



**VFW Auxiliary  
Department of Missouri  
AMERICANISM  
November/December**

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The American Flag is one of the most recognizable symbols that represents dignity, freedom, and what it means to be an American. It has been a part of many significant historical events, great triumphs and tragic times in our country.

### **The American Flag**



- **Red** symbolizes strength and valor – It is a powerful color that also represents the blood shed by those who fought to protect our nation's freedom.
- **White** symbolizes purity and innocence – Our founding fathers chose white to represent independence and new beginnings.
- **Blue** symbolizes vigilance, perseverance and justice – it serves as a reminder of our nation's determination to protect its freedoms and values.
- **Stripes** – The 13 stripes of alternating red and white color represent the 13 original colonies.
- **Stars** – There are 50 white stars on a field of blue that represent the 50 states of the United States.

Today, the American Flag remains a powerful symbol of national pride and unity during celebrations as well as difficult times. We each have a responsibility to teach others of the proper respect and display of the American Flag. For more information about Flag etiquette and to read the U. S. Flag Code, visit [vfw.org/community/flag-etiquette](http://vfw.org/community/flag-etiquette).

### **Involve your Community**

- **Flag Education in the Schools** – Youth are the future of our country, and we must educate them about patriotism. Encourage your members to volunteer to go into classrooms, after school programs, homeschool groups, and other youth organizations to discuss respect of our flag.
- **Flag Retirement Ceremonies** – Hold a Flag Retirement Ceremony and invite the community to participate. Make it a teaching opportunity for those who have never seen one.
- **Outstanding Community Flag Display** – Acknowledge and present local individuals, businesses and organizations who take the time to display the American Flag properly with a certificate of appreciation from your Post and/or Auxiliary.
- **Promote Patriotic Holidays** – These holidays are the perfect opportunity to show the community that your Auxiliary supports patriotism and puts veterans and their families first.

### **Patriotic Holidays**

U.S. 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday – October 13

U.S. Marine Corp 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday – November 10

U.S. Space Force – December 20

Veterans Day – November 11

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day – December 7

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 November/December 2025

Kim Rudy  
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2025-2026 Auxiliary Outreach Chairman  
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Where oh where has this year gone??? It's already November! The holidays are upon us and what better gifts to give than the gift of your time? Look all around you and be thankful for the gift of freedom you have thanks to our Veterans.

This is the perfect time to volunteer in your community as an Auxiliary. Does your community have a public Thanksgiving feast you can help with, serving, delivering meals, etc.? Help out your local groups with toy or coat drives for the children.

Christmas is around the corner, too. If your town or area has a drive through Christmas display like ours does, contact the Chamber of Commerce or whichever organization runs it and volunteer to work the "Elf Hut", taking donations for the light display, handing out candy canes or serving hot cocoa. Have your best Auxiliary gear on to promote our group.

- 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.



- 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](http://www.vfwauxmo.org)

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!!!**

As the year comes to an end, everyone have a Happy New  
Year!!

The Emerald City will look beautiful through the holiday season!

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  
November/December 2025-2026





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First and foremost, I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in the Buddy® Poppy Contest at the Fall Council of Administration. The creativity and craftsmanship on display were truly inspiring! Each hat was a unique tribute to our mission, and they brought smiles, pride, and a touch of patriotic flair to the event. You made it memorable, and I'm so grateful for your enthusiasm and creativity.



### Creative Ways to Work the Buddy® Poppy Program

Here are four meaningful and engaging ways Auxiliaries can keep the Buddy® Poppy Program blooming throughout the year:

-  **Poppy Pen Pal Project** Partner with a local school or youth group and have students write letters to veterans. Include a Buddy® Poppy with each letter to spark conversation about its meaning and history.
-  **Poppy Tree of Honor** Create a seasonal display—such as a tree, wreath, or banner—where each poppy represents a veteran. Invite community members to “sponsor” a poppy in honor of someone they love.
-  **Poppy Pop-In Days** Designate one day a month to “pop in” at local businesses, libraries, or senior centers to distribute poppies and share their story. It’s a great way to build awareness and community connections.
-  **Veterans Day Poppy Distribution** Hand out Buddy® Poppies at your Veterans Day programs to honor those who served and educate attendees about the significance of the poppy. It’s a simple gesture with lasting impact.

### Journey to Oz – The VFW National Home

A huge thank you to everyone who traveled to Oz—our beloved VFW National Home—with us this year. What an unforgettable experience! Great friends were made, laughter echoed through every moment, and the spirit of camaraderie was alive and well.

We began with the **Annual National Home Meeting**, where members gathered to discuss the future of the Home, share updates, and reaffirm our commitment to its mission. It was inspiring to see so many passionate voices come together in support of Veteran families.

The **guided tour** of the campus was equally moving. From the museum and chapel to the family homes and learning center, each stop offered a deeper understanding of the healing and hope the VFW National Home provides. It reminded us why our continued support is so vital.







And then—what a celebration! The **Route 66–themed Halloween Party** was a hit. Some members grilled, some decorated, some served food and drinks, and others helped with games and activities. The creativity and teamwork brought the spirit of the open road to life, making it a festive and fun-filled evening for all.

I hope that each of you returned home inspired and energized—and that you’ve been able to **share with your Auxiliaries all the great things happening at the VFW National Home**. From the programs that support Veteran families to the beautiful campus that offers healing and hope, there is so much to be proud of. When we spread the word, we strengthen the mission. Let’s keep that momentum going and make sure every member knows the impact we’re making together.

### Some Ways to Work the National Home Program

Here are a few impactful ways Auxiliaries can support and promote the VFW National Home for Children:

-  **Share the Story** Educate your members and community about the mission of the National Home. Use newsletters, social media, and presentations to spread awareness.
-  **Fundraise for Tribute Bricks or Life Memberships** Organize events or campaigns to raise funds for Tribute Bricks or Life Memberships. These lasting gifts help sustain the Home and honor loved ones.
-  **Host a National Home Awareness Day** Plan a special day at your Post or Auxiliary to highlight the National Home. Include videos, brochures, and guest speakers if possible.
-  **Encourage Visits or Virtual Tours** If travel isn’t possible, encourage members to explore the National Home through its website or virtual tours. Seeing the campus—even online—makes the mission come alive.

Please keep those reports coming — I truly enjoy reading about every meaningful activity your Auxiliary is doing to support our Veterans through the Buddy Poppy and National Home Program.

**“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**  
**November/December 2025-2026 Promotional Material**

It was truly wonderful to see so many of you at the Fall Conference of Administration and President Patti's Homecoming! The Chairman put tremendous effort into their presentations—and I certainly did too! I worked so hard, I had to ask President Patti for a new broom to keep up the pace! 😊

All jokes aside, I hope you walked away with fresh insights and practical tools to bring back to your Auxiliaries. If there's anything I can do to support you, please don't hesitate to reach out.

## **Extension**

I'm excited to announce the formation of a brand-new Auxiliary: **Russell M. Makowski VFW Post Auxiliary #12243**. Welcome to the Department! I have no doubt you'll be a very successful addition to our Auxiliary Family.

Meanwhile, my "Broom Squad" has been flying across the state, meeting with VFW Posts to share the benefits of establishing an Auxiliary. Two "Bachelor" Posts have already invited us to present at their meetings!

I encourage all District Presidents to connect with Posts in their area that don't yet have an Auxiliary. Ask their Commanders if they'd be open to a presentation on the top ten reasons to charter an Auxiliary—and don't forget to highlight our incredible programs. If you need help organizing or presenting, I'm more than happy to assist.

## **Revitalization**

District Presidents, during your official visits, if you encounter an Auxiliary facing challenges—but not to the point of suspension—please notify President Patti. This is the perfect opportunity to implement a **Performance Improvement Plan (PIP)**.

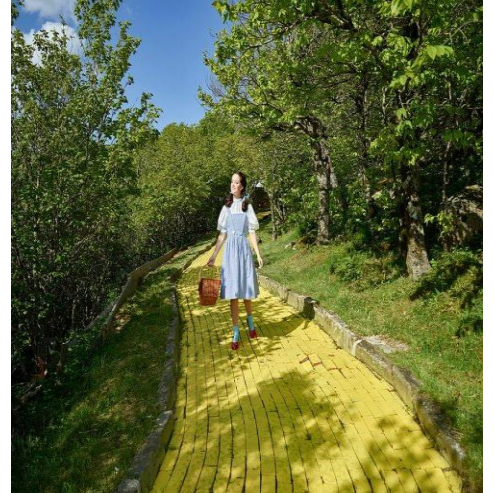


As Frankie Bill, Chief of Staff from Minnesota, wisely said:

“A PIP is not a sign of failure; it is a sign of resilience and a commitment to excellence.”

Let's grab our brooms and help guide these Auxiliaries back onto the **Yellow Brick Road to Success!**

As we enter the holiday season, I want each of you to know that I am **thankful, grateful, blessed**, with a wonderful VFW Auxiliary family! Enjoy the holidays with family and friends and please keep our Veterans in your thoughts and prayers.



## REMEMBER



## YOU CAN'T STOP THE WAVES, BUT, YOU CAN LEARN TO SURF

As the holiday season approaches, **PLEASE** remember our veterans. It is a difficult time for some and we need to reach out and offer any help or companionship. Depression during this time is real!

I wish you all Happy Holidays, please stay safe!

## REELS

I would like to take a closer look at Reels. National Ambassador Kristin asked if we were struggling to understand. Yes, I must admit that I was in the beginning, and I am still learning. She went on to say that reels provide a dynamic way to engage viewers, share and connect with them more personally.

So, what is a Reel? It has replaced the video on social media, and the biggest difference is that there is a 90 second time limit. Keep this number in mind when working with reels.

## How to Make a Reel -

So how do you make a reel? Should you have a video on your mobile device, the best way to make a Reel is:

1. First, open the Facebook app on your mobile device.
2. Go to your page and look for "What's on Your Mind" and click "Reel"
3. Either record a new video by holding the record button or uploading a video from your gallery
4. If your video is over 90 seconds, you may need to trim during the editing process. You can add music, effects, and text to the video using the editing tools available.
5. Share your reel on Facebook. Do NOT forget to add a caption, choose who can see the reel, and tag friends. Double and triple check to make sure everything looks good before you hit the SHARE button.

**Once a reel is posted, it cannot be edited. You would have to delete it and start over.**



National Ambassador Kristin offers several tips to enhance the quality of your Reels. The most important thing is having a **clean lens** on the camera you are using. Make videos accessible to everyone and use captions as not all people watch content with sound. Go easy on the hashtags. Limit to three or four. The Dept of Missouri has one this year and it is: #moauxhistorian2526. Others that might grab attention is #vfwauxiliary and #auxiliaryinaction.

IF have photos and/or video from the recent National President Visit, use #LoisSeatoSea

We are approaching the time of year when we honor our Veterans, and I would be interested in seeing photos of how your Auxiliary does this. So, feel free to email me some photos and share a story, and perhaps, your Auxiliary will become the subject of a reel.

### *To Make A Reel using Photos:*



1. First, open the Facebook app on your mobile device.
2. Go to your page and look for "What's on your mind?" and click "Reel".
3. Open gallery and select "Select Multiple" if you are wanting to use more than one photo, yet a reel can be done with one.
4. Hit NEXT and pick your music (if using),
5. Hit NEXT and you will see a preview. Hit NEXT and describe your reel (this is the caption)
6. IF you are satisfied with what you are seeing, hit SHARE.

Do not be afraid to experiment with different effects and music tracks as Facebook offers a wide variety of music tracks that can be used. Add captions to make content accessible to a wider audience. Do not forget to add 3 or 4 hashtags.

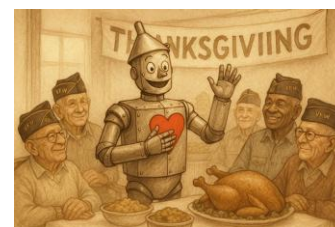
National Ambassador Kristin reminds us "Embrace the Waves of Change". Step up and make a reel. I challenge each auxiliary to make a reel highlighting the VFW Auxiliary in Action and submit it to me along with form (located in MALTA) by 31 March 2026 so that it can be judged for possible submission to National for an award.

**Stay tuned for additional information on what will be needed to share your "reel".**

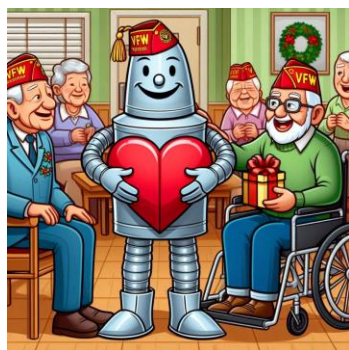
**Will you "Be the Reason that a Veteran smiles today" as we stand together "From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans - Who Keep Us Free"**

	<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>November/December 2025-2026</p>	<p>Karen Cypret 22222 Whiplash Lane Washburn, Mo. 65772 417-342-7652 <a href="mailto:mohospitalvavs.kcypret@gmail.com">mohospitalvavs.kcypret@gmail.com</a></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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"This Thanksgiving, we give thanks for the veterans whose courage never fades—whether in battle or in quiet halls of healing, you are never forgotten."



As we continue down this yellow brick road of service and compassion, let us not forget those who have paved the way for our freedoms—our veterans. Whether you celebrate Christmas, Kwanzaa, Hanukkah, or another meaningful tradition, the holiday season is a perfect time to share joy and gratitude with veterans in homes, hospitals, and care facilities.



Our Veterans have many health issues: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), moral and spiritual depression, suicide, substance use disorders, stress, anxiety, isolation, loneliness, and food insecurity are some. How can we make it better?

Identify the Veteran's need: • Ask the question, how can I help and what do you need? Always be kind, gracious, and listen. • Create a plan to meet their need. This is the time to be creative! • Get a dream list of items needed at the VAVS/CDCE for the VA hospital patients. •

Collect needed new clothes for the homeless Veteran unit. • Have fun with a "Happy Frog Party" in the long-term health care units. • Call Auxiliary members for goodies to fill snack bags for the local VA clinic lab. • Get the Boy or Girl Scouts to help pass out Veteran's Day cards.

There are countless ways to brighten their holidays. In-person visits, caroling, small gifts, and simple acts of kindness can make a world of difference. For those unable to attend in person, craft-at-home projects like handmade cards, decorations, or comfort items are deeply appreciated and bring the warmth of the season straight to our heroes' hearts. Execute your plan! Serve with what





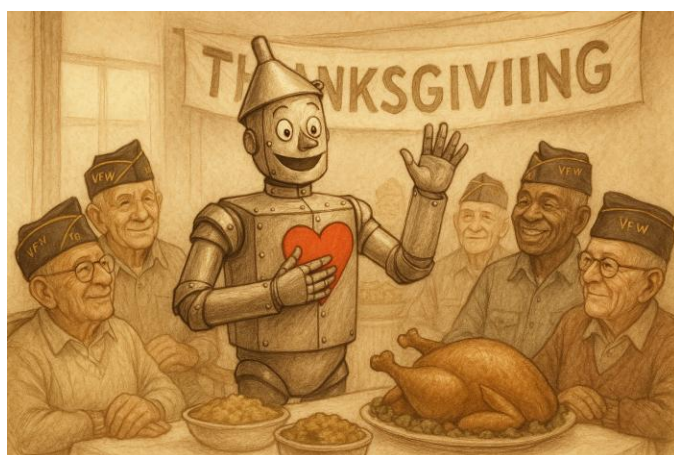
you have! The smallest action that is done with compassion, honor, and respect will result in the biggest smiles from our Veterans!

Please remember to report all activities online so your service is recognized and contributes to our collective mission. Every step we take together on this road brings light, love, and dignity to those who have served.



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>November/December 2025-2026</p>	<p>Karen Cypret 22222 Whiplash Lane Washburn, Mo. 65772 417-342-7652 <a href="mailto:mohospitalvavs.kcypret@gmail.com">mohospitalvavs.kcypret@gmail.com</a></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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This Thanksgiving, we give thanks for the veterans whose courage never fades—whether in battle or in quiet halls of healing, you are never forgotten.

### Monthly Reporting – Let’s Work Together!

I know monthly reporting is new for some of you, but it’s an important step in helping us better serve our veterans. I want to hear about what’s happening in

your Veterans Homes and Hospitals—what activities you're doing, what’s working, and where support is needed.

**Do you have extra items at your home that could be shared with another facility?**

👉 **Does your home need something specific?** Let me know! I’ll do my best to help coordinate and fulfill those needs.

This is a way we can strengthen our support network and help **ALL** of our homes.

**Coming soon: Criteria for the Homes** — stay tuned!

Thank you for your service and commitment to our veterans!

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

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LEGISLATIVE  
NOVEMBER/DECEMBER  
2025/2026



VFW Auxiliary members are instrumental in assisting the VFW pass or block legislation that impacts veterans and their families. Each year, members contact legislators to share our views regarding such legislation with them and invite them to share their positions on veterans' issues; we hold legislators accountable for honoring America's promises to our nation's veterans. **VOTE: We need to use our voices and our votes as a weapon against injustice against our Veterans!**

**VFW Fall Legislative Conference:** The VFW National Legislative Committee members met with senators, representatives and staffers in Washington, D.C., to discuss **VFW legislative priorities**. Specific focus was on community care reform, exploring alternative post-traumatic stress disorder treatments, concurrent receipt and transition from service. The VFW will stand firm to ensure that Congress honors the contract with our service members by safeguarding the benefits earned by those who served our nation.

**H.R. 1845:** This bill requires that pre-separation counseling under the Transition Assistance Program include a presentation that promotes the benefits available to veterans from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The bill also requires the VA to annually report on the presentation to (1) identify veterans service organizations that participate, (2) provide the number of members of the Armed Forces who attend, and (3) provide any recommendations for changes to the presentation.

Take Action: Responding to Action Alerts is simple. To identify the correct members of the House and Senate for your area, access the [VFW Action Center](#), follow the directions and a list of both Federal and State Officials will be provided. You can easily fire off three emails (one to your Representative, and one to each of your Senators) in less than thirty seconds. Take the time to let your elected officials know how you feel and promote the best interests of veterans everywhere. These can be boiled down into three categories so you don't have to remember the gritty details. The things that count are: Sign up Action Corps Weekly. Contact with Legislators, and Legislative event participation.

Make a point to report! Every Action Corps sign up, every contact made with a legislator, every legislative event, **report, report, report!**

**AWARDS FOR AUXILIARIES:** 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.

Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 program divisions. Entry form is required and available in MALTA Member Resources. The form must be sent to the Department Legislative Chairman by March 31, 2026 for judging.

As, always, thank you for walking the **"Yellow Brick Road"** for our Veterans, so we can **"Be the reason a Veteran smiles today"**, as we continue **"Lighting the way between Veterans' families and legislators with a wave of GRATITUDE"!!**

**Have a safe and happy holiday season!!**





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### November/December 2025 Membership Program

WOW!! Where has this year gone! We are now getting into the holiday season. I hope you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving and Christmas. If you know of an annual member who hasn't paid their dues yet, this might be a wonderful time to pay their dues for them. I am sure they would appreciate the gift. During this time, the member might be running low on their money for the bills plus the extra money to spend on gifts.

#### **New Members**

Our National Ambassador wants to remind us to keep recruiting new members for this wonderful organization. Always keep an application with you. You never know where you will meet a prospective member. If you have a holiday party at your Post, have a membership table set up. The member might bring a guest with them who could be a prospective member. Invite the prospective member to a VFW/Auxiliary event so they can see firsthand how the VFW and Auxiliary work together. I am sure it would make a good impression that the members can work together. When you talk to a prospective member, remember to follow up with them. Don't let them feel left out. This is especially important when they come to a meeting when they join the organization. We need to remember that men and women are both eligible to join. Some people may not know that men are eligible to join. You might want to also go by your local library and see if you could post the Membership Eligibility wheel on the community board. Make sure that you post your auxiliary business card so the person can get a hold of you.

#### **90%+ Goal**

I can tell you all that with all your hard work on membership, the Department did meet the goal of 85%+ on September 15, 2025. I am so proud of you all. I knew you could do it. Now the next goal is 90%+ by October 15, 2025. As I am writing this, the Department of Missouri has 55 Auxiliaries that are 90%+. That number includes 26 auxiliaries that are 100% or more. I am checking Malta every day to check on the growth of the Department membership. Let's keep the growth growing. My ultimate goal is for every auxiliary to be 100% or more and the Department membership be 100% or more in both current percentage and paid percentage.

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





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

Hello My Chairmen!!

We are approaching the Holiday Season and we all know that means lots of family get togethers, school and church programs and concerts! This will give you yet another opportunity to get our Scholarship information out to the children. You may even have a family member who is in the Auxiliary and considering going back to school to continue their education. You know, we all have family members who join to honor their Veteran but are not involved with the Auxiliary or know the programs. Speak with them about Lois's Special Project, you might just peak their interest in participating more in the Auxiliary. Make your **Donations** to this “Special Project”.

**October 31, 2025** was the deadline for the **Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen** essays. You and your Post Chairman should have your judges lined up and ready to select your winners for this essay. The winners must be submitted to the **District Chairman by November 15, 2025**. The **District VFW Chairman** will set the date for the District judging. The **Department** judging must be completed by **January 10, 2026** and submitted to VFW National Headquarters by **January 15, 2026**. Make sure to get your reservations in when they become available for the **Department Banquet**.

Another VFW Scholarship the Auxiliary helps with is the **“Sports Clips Help A Hero Scholarship”** which was introduced back in 2013. This will help qualifying service members and Veterans with Financial assistance to complete their education. The applications for this scholarship can be found at: [www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education](http://www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education)

Our **National Presidents' “Special Project”** is the **Continuing Education Scholarship**. Have you made your donation to this scholarship? This can be done in Malta by your Treasurer. No donation is too small so every Auxiliary could donate to this project. If we all give a little, it will add up quickly. The main goal is to build up the funds so there can be more recipients. The application is on the **Department** website: [www.vfwauxmo.org](http://www.vfwauxmo.org), get it printed and get it to your Auxiliary members. Don't forget the age requirement has changed and entrants **must be 21 years of age**. This application goes directly to the **National Headquarters and not to me**. Please don't let a member miss out on this opportunity by submitting it incorrectly. The application and essay must be emailed to: [info@vfwauxiliary.org](mailto:info@vfwauxiliary.org) by the deadline of **February 15, 2026**.

Go back to your schools, churches, libraries, newspapers and Facebook pages to remind the students to start working on their **Young American Creative Patriotic Art and the 3-Dimensional Patriotic**

**Art.** You will find those applications on the **Department** website: [www.vfwauxmo.org](http://www.vfwauxmo.org) under the Scholarship program. I know the deadline of **March 31, 2026** seems a long time away but it will creep up on us faster than you think.

Have you been working on a way to have the **most creative and/or unique activity and/or event to educate the community about the scholarship opportunities with the VFW and the VFW Auxiliary?** There are so many ways we can introduce these scholarships to the community. Are you having a **FALL Family Freedom Festival? Maybe a Trunk or Treat Event? How about a Chili Cook-Off?** Who knows what you can come up with if you just ask your members!! You know, **there is an award for this; you can get the required entry form in Malta.** The deadline for this entry form is **March 31, 2026.**

Don't forget the **Missouri Past National Presidents Scholarship.** **PLEASE join Betty Arnold and I in the campaign to revive the Missouri Past National Scholarship.** Betty Arnold is asking everyone who wants to continue this scholarship to **PLEASE write her a letter or send an email.** Ask past recipients who have benefited from this scholarship to let her know how this helped them and their family. **Make a special donation specifically to the MPNP Scholarship fund!** **REMEMBER, this scholarship is ONLY for the High School Seniors who are a Sister, Brother, Daughter, Son, Granddaughter, Grandson, Great Granddaughter, or Great Grandson of a Current Member of the VFW or VFW Auxiliary in the Department (State) of Missouri.** The deadline for this application is **April 15, 2026.**

Keep promoting **ALL** our **Scholarships** every chance you get on Facebook and talk with newspaper reporters. If you have a television station near you, get a spot for a commercial or even a radio station spot. There are so many ways to promote this program. **Make your Requested Donations and REPORT, REPORT!!!** I just checked the dashboard and was so saddened by the lack of reporting. **REPORT AFTER EVERYTHING YOU DO!!** I know you were getting those Scholarship applications in the schools because I saw pictures on Facebook! Just go to the Dashboard and **REPORT IT!** Report after every activity you do. Do Not wait until the end of the year, you may have forgotten something by then.

I am waving my magic wand and wishing ALL OF YOU a Happy Thanksgiving, and a Very Merry Christmas! May God bless you and keep you safe during your Holiday Travels and Always! "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 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2025

Darla Nebel  
17920 HIGHWAY 8  
ST JAMES MO 65559  
[Shebe6787@gmail.com](mailto:Shebe6787@gmail.com)  
(573) 205-3454

As we get ready for the holiday season, don't forget our enlisted soldiers. Let's get those care packages ready to be sent out. Also bring a little cheer to our veterans at our Veterans Home and local nursing homes. **"BE THE REASON A VETERAN SMILES TODAY"**



**Our numbers at the end of September!! Missouri is rocking it!!!**

**Reports-654**

**Members-2424**

**Hours-16,888**

**Dollars-\$386,572**

**As you are out doing community service projects, helping with food banks, feeding the homeless, there are grants to help with your projects. The information is listed below.**

### **VFW Foundation Grants**

- **VFW #StillServing Grant**

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

- **Uniting to Combat Hunger Grant**

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

- **Post Assistance Grant**

The Post Assistance Grant is offered exclusively to VFW Posts to offset expenses incurred for building repairs and equipment that enhances or restores the applicant organization's ability to serve veterans and their community.

More information about VFW Foundation Grants is located on the VFW website:

<https://www.vfw.org/community/community-initiatives/post-grant>

**“Be the Reason a Veteran Smiles Today”**



**YOU ARE THE KEY TO OPENING THE DOOR**





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



### **Aunt Em's Corner: Holidays, Heroes & Hugs – November & December Edition**



Well now, sugarplums, the air's gettin' crisp and the leaves are crunchin' underfoot, which means the holidays are just around the bend. Aunt Em's got her apron on and her heart full, ready to share some love, stories, and ways we can honor our heroes this season.

#### **November: Gratitude & Remembrance**

##### **Military Family Month**

All November long, we tip our bonnets to the brave families who stand behind our service members. Y'all are the backbone of courage, and we see you.

##### **Nov 2 – Daylight Saving Time Ends**

Don't forget to "fall back" an hour, darlin', extra sleep for everyone!

##### **Nov 9 – Gold Star Father's Day (Georgia)**


A special day to honor fathers whose children gave the ultimate sacrifice. Let's send love and prayers their way.

##### **Nov 10 – Marine Corps Birthday**

249 years of Semper Paratus! Bake a cake, sing a song, and thank a Marine.

##### **Nov 11 – Veterans Day & Remembrance Day (US, Canada, Britain, France)**

Aunt Em says: "If you see a vet, give 'em a hug or a handshake. They've earned it."

 *Coloring pages for military kids*  *Parade listings and classroom resources*

 *Freebies and promotions for veterans*

##### **Nov 27 – Thanksgiving Day**

Let's gather 'round the table, whether near or far.

 *Organizations help deployed troops celebrate*  *Coloring fun for the kiddos*

#### **December: Celebration & Reflection**

### **Dec 1 – Civil Air Patrol Birthday**

Salute to the sky-watchers and helpers of the USAF Auxiliary!

### **Dec 7 – Pearl Harbor Day**

A Day of remembrance. Light a candle, say a prayer, and teach the young'uns about history.

### **Dec 13 – National Guard Birthday & Wreaths Across America**

Double honor day! Lay a wreath, share a story, and thank a Guard member.

### **Dec 20 – Space Force Birthday**

Even the stars salute our newest branch!

### **Dec 24 – Christmas Eve**

Cookies, cocoa, and cozy hearts.

### **Dec 25 – Christmas Day**



*Support for deployed troops and military families*



*Coloring pages for kids to send love to service members*

### **Dec 28 – Army Chaplain Assistant Anniversary**

Aunt Em says: “Bless the ones who bring comfort and faith to our troops.”

### **Dec 31 – New Year’s Eve**

Ring in the new year with sparkle and joy!



*Ideas for youth activities to include the little ones in the celebration*

### **From Aunt Em’s Heart**

Now listen here, darlin’s, this season ain’t just about gifts and glitter. It’s about community, kindness, and teachin’ the next generation how to honor those who serve. Whether you’re a parent, teacher, or just a neighbor with a warm heart, there’s a place for you in this patchwork of love.

So, grab a pie, a pen, or a pair of mittens and get involved. Your local VFW and Auxiliary are waitin’ with open arms and plenty of ways to help. Let’s make these holidays warm with kindness, bright with remembrance, and full of love for our military families.

Now go on, darlin’, color a page, write a thank-you note, or bake a pie for someone who serves. That’s the Missouri way.

With love from the heartland,

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

Youth Activities Chair, VFW Auxiliary

“Every wreath laid is a whisper of gratitude, because honoring those who served is how we teach love of country.”

## **Roster Changes Nov/Dec 2025**

### **District 3 – Auxiliary 7356**

**Treasurer – Judith Green**

**Email – [HWKEYE2013@gmail.com](mailto:HWKEYE2013@gmail.com)**

### **District 6 – Auxiliary 8220**

**President – Michael Adams**

**801 Shiloh Dr**

**Raymore, MO 64083**

**(913) 219-7676**

**[voltermda@hotmail.com](mailto:voltermda@hotmail.com)**

### **District 15 – Auxiliary 3174**

**Secretary – Cheryl Bourland**

**7685 County Highway 408**

**Sikeston, MO 63801-9335**

**(573) 380 4094**

**[cmbourland1956@gmail.com](mailto:cmbourland1956@gmail.com)**

### **Auxiliary 3838**

**President – Carolyn Davis**

**[Vfwauxiliary3838@gmail.com](mailto:Vfwauxiliary3838@gmail.com)**

### **Auxiliary 7183**

**Jenni Mann**

**301 S 4<sup>th</sup> St**

**Lilbourn, MO 63862**

### **District 17 Secretary – Jeanette Bazon**

**[Missingthesunshine8@gmail.com](mailto:Missingthesunshine8@gmail.com)**

**Auxiliary 2446 – meeting time is 6 pm**

### **District 18**

**Auxiliary 5993 – meeting changed to 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday**