

The Missouri Yellow Brick Road

May/June 2026

General Orders

Vol.7

President's Message

Happy spring everyone! It is hard to believe that my year as your Department President is coming to an end. Where has the time gone?

I hope all your installations have gone well. It makes for an exciting time to have new officers, as well as those who remain, taking the helm of our Missouri Auxiliaries.

It has been a great year and all of you have certainly helped make it happen. We did lose two auxiliaries and there was one consolidation of two others. With your help, we have instituted two new auxiliaries in District 9, Auxiliaries 5327- Wentzville and 12243 - Union and one in District 18, Auxiliary 1828 - West Plains.

At your April meeting, you should have elected your delegates for the Department and for the National. Make sure to get the department delegates to Department Secretary/Treasurer Jackie Davis so your vote is counted. For National delegates, your secretary can enter them into MALTA. Check MALTA to make sure you are entered as a delegate. If not, contact your secretary.

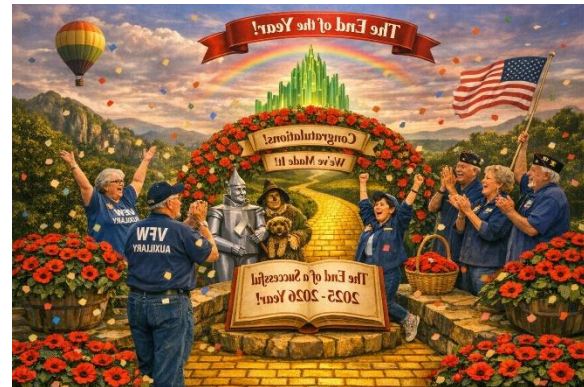
In reviewing the dashboard on our website, It looks like many of you are very close to getting your All-State award. These will be awarded on Friday night at Convention along with the VFW All-State Awards. I am so looking forward to seeing the Auxiliary President's walk with the Post Commander as they are announced as All-State. What a great recognition for you and your Auxiliary's hard work!

April 15th was the close of reporting for this year. That does not mean you and your auxiliary stop the great work you do for our veterans, communities, and families. If you complete a project after the April 15th deadline, you can use that project to jump start next year.

I look forward to seeing you all at Convention and working with you for the coming year.

This year may come to a close, but we should always be **"THE REASON A VETERAN SMILES TODAY"**, each and every day!

Patti Burge - Missouri VFW Auxiliary President



Calendar of Events

May 1, 2026 – Start reporting for 2026-2027

May 22, 2026 – Reservation for Banquet due to MO VFW HQ.

June 11, 2026 – District Presidents Training

June 12-14, 2026 – VFW Auxiliary Convention

June 27, 2026 – SOI - Post 3772, Mexico, MO

June 28, 2026 – SOI - Post 2025, Rolla, MO

July 11, 2026 – SOI - Post 3976, Sugar Creek, MO

July 12, 2026 – SOI – Post 4207, Monett, MO

July 18, 2026 – SOI – Post 2210, Ste Genevieve, MO

July 24-29, 2026 – National Convention in Reno, Nevada



Thank you for all that you did for our Veterans, their families and your communities. It was greatly appreciated by me!

THE TORCH

May/June 2026

General Orders

Vol.1

President's Message

I am blessed beyond words to be your Department President elect, and thank you all for your confidence and support. I am honored to follow Department President Patti Burge, who has had an amazing year.

As we go into the 2026-2027 year, let's set our goal to work as a team with my theme to "Carry Our Torches for Veterans". Incoming VFW Auxiliary National President, Donna Mills, is asks us to be "Serving America's Heroes".

Our talented Program Chairmen created educational and informative promotional material for the success of all Missouri Auxiliaries. I invite you to take the time read the promotional materials they put together every other month. Downloading General Orders from our website is a great idea and you'll have them to refer to during the year.

I invite you attend this year's Department meetings. A lot of fun is planned as we conduct Department business. Fall and Winter Conferences will be held at the Lodge of the Four Seasons at Lake of the Ozarks. Fall Conference is scheduled for October 9-11, 2026. The Winter Conference is scheduled for February 19-21, 2017. Watch your General Orders for an exciting announcement about the VFW State Golf Tournament to be held at this year's Fall Conference. The 2027 Convention will be June 10-13 at the Ramada Oasis in Springfield. You **cannot** make reservations until the Missouri VFW opens the block of rooms to get the VFW room rate.

Reminder – April is the month to hold election of officers. May is the month to install them. Send your installation report to Department Secretary, Jackie Davis by May 30th. Installation reports were emailed to your Secretary on **March 28th**. If you did not get it, please contact Jackie so she can resend it.

School of instructions are set. Please see the calendar of events for the dates and locations. You will need to make reservations for the one you want to attend. Information is included in these General Orders.

I am here for YOU! Together we will be a Team and "**CARRY OUR TORCHES FOR VETERANS**". **Anita Crowell**



Calendar of Events

- **May 1, 2026** – VFW Auxiliary Website opens for 2027 reporting.
- **May 30, 2026** - Installation Reports Due
- **June 11, 2025** - District President's Training (Oasis)
- **June 12-14, 2026** – VFW & Auxiliary Conventions
- **June 27, 2026** - School of Instructions - Post 3772 Mexico
- **June 28, 2026** - School of Instructions - Post 2025 - Rolla
- **July 11, 2026** - School of Instructions - Post 3976 - Sugar Creek
- **July 12, 2026** – School of Instructions – Post 4207 Monett
- **July 18, 2026** – School of Instructions – Ste Genevieve Post 2210
- **July 25-29 2026** – National Convention in Reno, NV

2025-2026 Shirts and Pins will be sold at Department Convention. Pre-order forms available on our Department website and Facebook.

VFW Auxiliary Department of Missouri 100th Convention Agenda

Thursday, June 11, 2026

9:00 am - 4:00 pm	2026-2027 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
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm	Past Department Presidents	TBD

Friday, June 12, 2026 (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	Grand Ballroom
11:00 am - 11:05 am	Presentation of Allied Organizations	Grand Ballroom
11:05 am - 11:20 am	Report on Convention Rules	Grand Ballroom
11:20 am - 11:35 am	Presentation of Pages	Grand Ballroom
11:35 am - 11:59 am	Nominations of Officers	Grand Ballroom
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	Lunch	Hospitality Room
1:30 pm - 1:35 pm	Opening of Auxiliary Convention	Grand Ballroom
1:35 pm - 1:55 pm	Presentation of VAVS Reps & Dep and Veteran Home Reps	Grand Ballroom
1:56 pm - 2:15 pm	Presentation of Past Department Presidents	Grand Ballroom
2:15 pm - 2:30 pm	2026-2027 Membership Skit	Grand Ballroom
2:30 pm - 3:00 pm	2026-2027 Introduction of New Chairmen	Grand Ballroom
5:00 pm - 8:00 pm	VFW and Auxiliary Celebration Banquet and Awards	Grand Ballroom

Saturday, June 14, 2026 (Official Uniform or Department Shirt, Black Slacks/Shirt)

7:30 am - 10:00 am	VFW Auxiliary Registration	Grand Ballroom
8:00 am - 9:00 am	VFW Auxiliary Memorial Service	Grand Ballroom
9:00 am - 10:15 am	Auxiliary Program Awards	Grand Ballroom
10:15 am - 10:30 am	Remarks of National Representative	Grand Ballroom
10:30 am - 10:35 am	Announcements and Close of Morning Session	Grand Ballroom
10:45 am - 12:00 pm	Suicide Prevention (Joint)	Paradise Room
12:00 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	Grand Ballroom
1:40 pm - 2:10 pm	Election of Officers	Grand Ballroom
2:10 pm - 2:30 pm	Thank you to Patti	
2:30 pm - 2:40 pm	Report of Committees	Grand Ballroom
2:40 pm - 3:00 pm	Closing ceremonies	Grand Ballroom
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm	2026-2027 VFW and Auxiliary Joint Installation	Grand Ballroom

*12:00 - 4:00 pm - All 2026-2027 Officers and Chairmen Pictures

Sunday, June 15, 2026

8:30 am - 11:00 am	2026-2027 Council Meeting (all 2026-2027 elected Line Officers and District Presidents are to attend.)	Grand Ballroom
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***** MOCA Meeting will be immediately after the closing of the Convention in Paradise Room.

Safe Travels to All!

***Agenda is subject to change.

104th MO VFW State Convention Agenda

TIMES	Thursday, June 11, 2026	Trainer	Where
11:00 am - 4:00	VFW Registration Open	HQ Office	Bora Bora
3:30 pm - 4:30 pm	VFW Budget Meeting	Budget Committee	Paradise
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	C of A Meeting	Commander	Paradise
TIMES	Friday, June 12, 2026	Trainer	Where
8:30-11 am & 1-4	VFW Registration Open	HQ Office	Bora Bora
8:30 am - 10:00	Joint Opening Session	Commander/President	Grand Ballroom
10:00 am - 11:00	Legislative Update	Michael Schroeder	Paradise
10:00 am - 12:00	VSO Claims Event	VSOs/Claims Consultants	End of Paradise
11:00 am - 11:30	Dept. QM/Incoming CDR Q&A	Don Hentges/Scott Huffman	Paradise
11:30 am - 12:00	Recruiting Program	Ric DePontee	Paradise
12:00 pm - 1:30	LUNCH	Hospitality Committee	Fuji
1:30 pm - 4:00 pm	VFW Meeting	Commander	Paradise
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm	Past State Commander Meeting	Past State Commanders	Paradise
5:00 PM	Celebration Buffet (Ticket Required)	ALL VFW & Auxiliary	Grand Ballroom
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	All-State Awards	ALL VFW & Auxiliary	Grand Ballroom
TIMES	Saturday, June 13, 2026	Trainer	Where
8:00 am - 11:00	VFW Registration Open	HQ Office	Bora Bora
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Website & Dashboard Reporting Training	Ken Allison & Randy Craig	Paradise
9:00 am - 9:30 am	Incoming Commander Programs (Joint)	Scott Huffman	Paradise
9:00 am - 12:00 pm	VSO Claims Event	VSOs/Claims Consultants	End Paradise Hallway
9:30 am - 10:30 am	Post Benefits Advisor Training Incoming District Cdrs. (mandatory)	Troy Williams	Paradise
9:30 am - 10:30	Chaplains Workshop	Debb Halter	Sahara A
10:00 am - 12:00	Riders	Don Harris & Ed Miller	Sahara B
10:45 am - 12:00	Suicide Prevention (Joint)	Roy Bowen/Irreverent Warriors	Paradise
12:00 pm - 1:30	LUNCH	Hospitality Committee	Fuji
12:00 pm - 4:00	Officer/Chairmen Photos	VFW & Auxiliary	Paradise Hallway
1:30 pm - 3:00 pm	VFW Meeting (Elections)	Commander	Paradise
Following	MOC Meeting	MOC Grand	Paradise
4:00 pm - 6:00 pm	Joint Installation of Officers	ALL VFW & Auxiliary	Grand Ballroom
TIMES	Sunday, June 14, 2026	Trainer	Where
8:00 am - 9:00 am	Church Service	Debb Halter	Paradise
9:00 am - 10:00	Budget Meeting	Budget Committee	Paradise
10:00 am - 12:00	VFW Council Meeting	New Commander	Paradise

VFW DRESS CODE: Thurs, Fri & Sat - Khakis & Current State Shirt

Sat for Pictures & Installation - Blues & Greys

Sun. - New State Shirt

AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE *

4.17.26

2026 Year End Celebration Banquet

Please Join Commander Quincy Myrick & President Patti Burge
Friday, June 12, 2026, 5:00 pm, at Oasis Hotel & Convention Center ,
Grand Ballroom, All-State Awards to follow.



Fried or Grilled Chicken \$25.00 per Person

Fried or Grilled Chicken
Potato Salad, Green Beans, Mac & Cheese, Garden Salad
Dessert and Dinner Roll



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# _____ - _____ - _____ - _____ 5

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 22, 2026

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

3401 Knipp Dr

Jefferson City , MO 65109

*****Sorry NO REFUNDS after May 22, 2026*******

Missouri VFW Auxiliary 2026 – 2027 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 5 Schools of Instructions scheduled for 2026-2027. They are:

- ❖ **June 27, 2026 – Post 3772 – 2100 N Jefferson Street, Mexico MO 65265**
 - ✓ Cost - \$15.00 – Breakfast pastries in the morning; Lunch will be fried chicken, pasta salad, potato salad, dessert, coffee, tea, water
 - ✓ Make checks payable to: VFW Auxiliary 3772
 - ✓ Send reservations by June 23 to:
Shalane Dickey – 23071 Audrain Road 814 – Mexico MO 65265-6512
573.253.4398 – vfwauxskb@gmail.com

- ❖ **June 28, 2026 – Post 2025 – 15035 Hwy 63 S, Rolla MO 65401**
 - ✓ Cost - \$15.00 – Coffee and donuts in the morning; Lunch will be chicken and pulled pork, coleslaw, baked beans, potato salad, assorted desserts, tea and lemonade.
 - ✓ Make checks payable to: VFW Auxiliary 2025
 - ✓ Send reservations by June 20 to:
Wendy Coffman – 13815 Highway 72 – Rolla MO 65401-5814
573.466.3519 – wendycpost2025aux@gmail.com

- ❖ **July 11, 2026 - Post 3976 – 12810 E Kentucky Road, Sugar Creek MO 64054**
 - ✓ Cost - \$10.00 – Donuts/pastries in the morning; Lunch will be a taco bar (hard, soft, & chips for taco salad), dessert, coffee and tea.
 - ✓ Make checks payable to: VFW Auxiliary 3976
 - ✓ Send reservations by July 5 to:
Lori Suiter – 11703 E 37th Street S, Independence MO 64052
816-805-2245 – email: lsuiter5576@gmail.com

- ❖ **July 12, 2026 - Post 4207 – 5400 W Hwy 60, Monett MO 65708**
 - ✓ Cost - \$15.00 – Coffee, juice and donuts in the morning; Lunch will be spaghetti, garlic bread, salad, dessert, coffee, tea
 - ✓ Make checks payable to: VFW Auxiliary 4207
 - ✓ Send reservations by July 5 to:
Danetta Wakefield, 21985 Lawrence 1085, Monett MO 65708-8127
417.236.8112 – email: c.d.wakefield10972@outlook.com

- ❖ **July 18, 2026 - Post 2210 – 852 Memorial Drive, Ste Genevieve, MO 63670**
 - ✓ Cost - \$15.00 – Coffee and donuts in the morning; Lunch will be mostaccioli, salad, garlic bread, dessert, tea, lemonade, water
 - ✓ Make checks payable to: VFW Auxiliary 2210
 - ✓ Send reservations by July 12 to:
Joyce Herman – 18 Oakwood Drive, Ste. Genevieve MO 63670-1817
573.883.0654 – joyce.herman@ymail.com

• 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 2026 – 2027 School of Instructions Reservation Form

Listed below are the dates and the locations of the Schools of Instructions. Please choose the date and location that best fits your schedule. Send this form with your money to the person below that corresponds with the School of Instructions that you will attend.

- ❖ **June 27, 2026 – Post 3772 – 2100 N Jefferson Street, Mexico MO 65265**
 - ✓ Cost - \$15.00 – Checks payable to VFW Auxiliary 3772 - By June 23
 - ✓ Send to: Shalane Dickey – 23071 Audrain Road 814 – Mexico MO 65265-6512

- ❖ **June 28, 2026 – Post 2025 – 15035 Hwy 63 S, Rolla, MO 65401**
 - ✓ Cost - \$15.00 – Checks payable to: VFW Auxiliary 2025 – By June 20
 - ✓ Send to: Wendy Coffman – 13815 Highway 72 – Rolla MO 65401-5814

- ❖ **July 11, 2026 - Post 3976 – 12810 E Kentucky Road; Sugar Creek, MO 64054**
 - ✓ Cost - \$10.00 – Checks payable to: VFW Auxiliary 3976 – By July 5
 - ✓ Send to: Lori Suiter – 11703 E 37th Street S; Independence MO 64052

- ❖ **July 12, 2026 - Post 4207 – 5400 W Hwy 60, Monett, MO 65708**
 - ✓ Cost - \$15.00 – Checks payable to: VFW Auxiliary 4207 – By July 5
 - ✓ Send to: Danetta Wakefield, 21985 Lawrence 1085, Monett MO 65708-8127

- ❖ **July 18, 2026 - Post 2210 – 852 Memorial Drive, Ste Genevieve, MO 63670**
 - ✓ Cost - \$15.00 – Checks payable to: VFW Auxiliary 2210 – By July 12
 - ✓ Send to: Joyce Herman – 18 Oakwood Drive, Ste. Genevieve MO 63670-1817

Please select one:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, June 27 – Mexico, MO | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday July 12 – Monett, MO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunday, June 28 – Rolla, MO | <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday July 18 – Ste. Genevieve, MO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Saturday, July 11 – Sugar Creek, MO | |

District: _____ VFW Auxiliary Number: _____

Name: _____ Phone No: _____

Amount: _____ Check No: _____ * *Make check payable to appropriate Auxiliary*

List below names of members attending:

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

Auxiliary Bonds – Due by July 30, 2026

It is time for you to think about renewing your bond for 2026-2027.

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 1.25 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, 2026. 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 2026-2027 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.

Printing Promotional Materials 2026-2027

As you all know, the cost of printing and postage has gone up and the delivery of our mail from the US Post Office is unreliable. All of the bi-monthly promotional material is posted on our website www.vfwauxmo.org, under "Programs" usually between the 20th to the 22nd of April, June, August, October, December, and February for the months of May/June, July/August, September/October, November/December, January/February, and March/April. We encourage either the President, Secretary, or Treasurer to print the information. (It is the responsibility of the President to make sure the Message/General Orders are read at each meeting and that all the chairmen have the promotional material from the Department Chairmen to guide them as they plan their programs.)

To help those Auxiliaries that struggle with internet access, we offer the following options to get the promotional material.

- Email the promotional material directly to one person, (secretary, treasurer, president, etc.) in your Auxiliary who can print the information. (Offer to pay for the ink and paper.)
- Mail the promotional material to the President for a cost of \$40. (We cannot guarantee you will receive it in time for your meeting or even if you will receive it at all.)

Please complete the form below by **May 31st**, marking how you would like to have the promotional material. Send the form to:

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

Auxiliary: _____ District: _____

- Send by email to:
Name: _____ Email: _____
Office: _____
- Send by snail mail to (include check for \$40.00):
President's Name: _____
Address: _____

2026-2027 Program Book Order Form

Each 2026-2027 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 \$15. 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 27th - 3772 Mexico _____
- June 28th - 2025 Rolla _____
- July 11th - 3978 Sugar Creek _____
- July 12th - 4207 Monett _____
- July 18th - 2210 St Genevieve _____

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

Total Order _____

Make Check to **VFW Aux MO**

Send this form to Department Sec/Treasurer by May 30th

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

2026-2027 National President *Donna Mills*



Pin Order Form

Name: _____ Email: _____

Department: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

No. of Pins: _____ @ \$3.00 each = \$ _____

Pre-Order by March 9, 2026 for Pick-up at Senior Vice-Presidents' Conference

- OR - Order for Shipping (add **\$12.65** for USPS Small Flat Rate Box)

Make check payable to and mail completed form with a check to:

VFW Auxiliary Department of PA
4002 Fenton Avenue, Harrisburg, PA 17109

Questions? Contact:

jodie@vfwauxpa.org
(717) 232-7604

Official Use Only:

Date Received: _____ Amount: _____ Check No.: _____



R.M. CORPORATION

73 Washington St.
Plainville, MA 02762

Lapel Pins and More

508-695-6364 ★ rmcopins@aol.com

Celebrating 2026-2027 National President Donna Mills

New Rhinestone T-Shirt



PRICE \$26.00



PRICE \$26.00



**Ladies Black Short Sleeve V-Neck T-Shirt
Port & Co 100% Cotton**

Order Form

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY

Name: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

SIZE:	QTY:	Amt \$
S	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
M	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
L	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
XL	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
2XL	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
3XL	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
4XL	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

Total Due: \$ _____ (only checks will be accepted for pre-orders).

Make checks payable to: R.M. Corporation

Mail order form along with your check payment to the above address to pre-order your shirts.

Order Forms Must Be Received By 5/8/2026.

PRE-ORDERED SHIRTS TO BE PICKED UP AT NATIONAL CONVENTION.

Individual shirts will be for sale at National Convention in Reno, NV.

Cash, check or credit card will be accepted at National Convention.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ORDER!



Flag Education - POW/MIA Recognition “Operation Bring Them Home”

MAY 1ST

Loyalty Day Celebration: Do your neighbors, friends, or family display their flags regularly? Show your appreciation by giving them a citation. Frame it and take photos of them with it. Share the pictures on Facebook or submit them to your local newspaper.

MAY 10TH

Celebrating Female Veteran Mothers on Mother’s Day
Do you know any female veteran mothers? Today is the perfect occasion to honor them, express our gratitude, and shower them with love. You can do this in various ways, such as sending a heartfelt card, gifting them a flag, or finding another meaningful way to show your appreciation.

MAY 25TH

Memorial Day: Engaging Our Youth in Ceremonies
Most of us take part in a Memorial Day ceremony. This is a wonderful opportunity to involve our youth. Reach out to a local Boy or Girl Scout troop and teach them the proper way to place flags at the headstons.

JUNE 14TH

Flag Day: On this day, we proudly display and honor our flag. Have you considered gifting a flag to someone who doesn’t have one? This would be a wonderful opportunity to do so.

250TH BIRTHDAY AMERICA

Most towns across the U.S. have begun preparations for their grand birthday party celebrations. This is an excellent opportunity for you and your auxiliary to not only highlight your town but also showcase your VFW. Do what you believe in and believe in what you are doing. Get involved!

Flag Education

Organize efforts to educate people on flag etiquette. Topics you should educate people on include folding the Flag, respectful disposal of the Flag and displaying the Flag.
Organize classes on the importance of the Flag history and meaning of the Flag..

“Carry Our Torches for Veterans”



“Serving America’s Heros”



Chairman Contact Information

Tina Johnson

111 Albert Ave.

Miner, MO 63801

573-318-4966

semoworkshopllc@gmail.com

AMERICANISM MAY/JUNE 2026-2027

Buddy Poppy Program
May / June Report
Department of Missouri VFW Auxiliary
Carrying Our Torches for Veterans



Megan McGrath
Buddy Poppy Chairman
P.O. Box 377
Waynesville, MO 65583
mmcgrathvfwauxmo@gmail.com

May and June — Our Most Important Season of Remembrance

As we enter the months of May and June, we step into one of the most meaningful and visible seasons of the Buddy Poppy Program. These months center around Memorial Day, a sacred time when we pause to honor the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our nation.

Across the Department of Missouri, Auxiliaries will be preparing for Buddy Poppy distributions, participating in Memorial Day ceremonies, and sharing the message of remembrance within their communities.

Memorial Day — Honoring Those Who Gave All

Memorial Day stands as one of the most sacred days of remembrance in our nation. It reminds us that freedom was not given freely — it was earned through sacrifice.

Auxiliaries throughout Missouri are encouraged to actively participate in Memorial Day ceremonies and remembrance activities.

Buddy Poppy Distribution — Sharing the Message

May and early June are the most active months for Buddy Poppy distribution.

Never refuse a Buddy Poppy to someone who cannot donate.

The Buddy Poppy is freely given as a symbol of remembrance.

Reporting Reminder — Department of Missouri website

Please remember to report all Buddy Poppy activities and Memorial Day events on vfwauxmo.org.

Every report submitted helps demonstrate the dedication and service of Auxiliaries throughout the Department of Missouri.

Closing Thoughts

May and June remind us of the true meaning of remembrance. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns, looking forward to all the great things you all do this year, **Carrying Our Torches for Veterans and Serving America's Heros.**



*Carrying Our Torches For
Veterans*

Department Chief of Staff
Extension & Revitalization
Chairman Janet Barlar
baraux1953@yahoo.com
(573)-261-1948

<https://vfwauxmo.org>

Serving America's Heros
National Chief of Staff
Bette Jean Biderzycki



What We Do
vfwauxiliary.org

Missouri 2026-2027 Extension & Revitalization

May/June



Pre-Season: Focus on Achieving the Same Goal

“Scoring A Touchdown by Helping Our Veterans”

Huddle Up:

- Every great team starts before kickoff
- Be welcoming → “Your attitude directly impacts everyone around you”
- Evaluate your Auxiliary culture
- Are you approachable? Positive? Inclusive?
- We need to draft new team members, but we can’t if we don’t have a positive environment

This year, {25-26} we instituted three new Auxiliaries!

- Auxiliary #12243-Union, Mo.
- Auxiliary #5327-Wentzville, Mo.
- Auxiliary #1828-West Plains, Mo.

This only happened because we worked as a team!
Congratulate these Auxiliaries and welcome them to the
Department of Missouri.

🏈 *Teamwork Makes the Dream Work* 🏈

District and Auxiliary Presidents, you will be my Offensive and
Defensive Coordinators. There will be more to come. Be
prepared to study our playbook!

I look forward to an exciting, **high scoring year!**

DEPARTMENT OF MISSOURI

HISTORIAN & MEDIA RELATIONS

May - June 2026

Raylene (Rai) Remer
48 Birch Brook Ct.
O'Fallon, MO 63366

email: rai.remer@yahoo.com
Phone: 816-517-1115



"Today's events are Tomorrow's History"

Welcome to your preview of our 2026-27 Historian & Media Relations Program year. It is time to refresh your story-telling skills as our new year approaches, helping the Auxiliary publicize our programs and events to members and your community. Remember all records are kept in chronological order throughout the year.

Our private Facebook Page for Department of Missouri Auxiliary Historians is available for you to join. In addition to our Department Facebook page, this is a place for information sharing and having questions answered to help you be the best Historians possible. Please, send me your Facebook page name and any other media addresses, so I can "follow" your page. Reminder, using all types of media to publicize what you do gives even a small Auxiliary a significant voice.

Important Historian & Media Relations resources may be found at:

vfwauxmo.org under PROGRAMS and in MALTA (malta.vfwauxiliary.org) under Member Resources

National Awards for Auxiliaries - will build on our 25-26 year, learning to make a Reel ... Project theme: "Create the most unique digital record of your Auxiliary's history since being established" and publish it to a digital platform for future members of your Auxiliary.

The Entry Form and details will be available under program resources in the 26-27 year.

Photo Pointers – Collecting priceless moments

– **Photo Release Forms** – print copies of the 'Child' and 'Adult' Photo Release forms, from the Resources list under Department Historian page, to have with you at events. This is legally necessary for non-member photos.

– Remember to record the five w's (Who, What, When, Where, and Why) of the main focus of all events.

Auxiliary "To Do" – Hold a Media Relations "How To" training (this may be done in a monthly meeting) to inform and educate members about using MALTA, using email to inform membership, navigating Facebook and other media.



"Carrying Our Torches for Veterans"

"Serving America's Heros"

Hospital/VAVs
Department of Missouri
MAY/JUNE 2026

Darla Nebel
17920 Highway 8
St. James, MO 65559
Darlanebel66@gmail.com
(573) 205-3454

As we are coming to the end of the yellow brick road, we will march on with **“Carrying Our Torches for Veterans”** for Missouri VFW President Anita Crowell as she walks hand in hand with our National VFW Auxiliary President Donna Mills **“Serving America’s Heroes”**. I am excited to be the new Hospital Chairman. I look forward to a fun year as we find ways to serve our veterans in hospitals and nursing homes, as they look forward to seeing your smiling faces. That’s what the hospital program is all about visiting with veterans and making their day brighter.

Honor and celebrate our veterans - get creative! Before hosting an event with a facility, the VFW Auxiliary Chairman should get permission from the facility. Be sure to ask what is and what is not permitted. All projects should be voted on by your Auxiliary at a regular meeting.

Here are some ideas to help make your visits more enjoyable for everyone: Organize themed parties for holidays, lead simple craft sessions, or bring in local entertainment for music or storytelling. You can create care packages, write letters with the veterans, or host a “memory sharing” day where veterans tell their stories. Remember, the most important thing is your presence and genuine care.

Have fun with the veterans - play cards, host a painting party, pizza party, bingo or ice cream party, or maybe even try trivia. Use your imagination and always keep the veterans’ interests and enjoyment at heart. Together, let’s make this year memorable for those who have given so much to our country!

Did you know this famous quote from Abraham Lincoln became the VA’s motto in 1959? “To care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow, and his orphan.”

As you plan your hospital activities for this year, keep in mind these traditional and just-for-fun holidays. How many can you help celebrate this year?

Traditional Holidays:

- Valentine’s Day
- National Salute to Hospitalized Veterans Week
- Easter
- Memorial Day
- Flag Day
- Independence Day
- Patriot Day
- Thanksgiving
- Christmas

Just-for-Fun Holidays:

- National Popcorn Day – January 19
- National Hug a GI Day – March 4
- National Donut Day – June 5
- World Chocolate Day – July 7
- Left-handers Days – August 13

“Carrying Our Torches for Veterans”





May/June 2026

Bottom Line Up Front (BLUF)
Bulletin
Serving America's Heroes
Department of MO Legislative

2026-2027 Promotional Material

Monica R Schroeder
6617 Hwy P
Westphalia MO 65085
moaux8045@gmail.com
573.680.5738

Topic: Understanding the Program

BLUF (Bottom Line Up Front):

Learn the Legislative Program and take your first action.

What is the Legislative Program?

The Legislative Program focuses on keeping members informed about issues that impact veterans, service members, and their families. It provides the tools and resources needed to understand those issues and respond when action is needed.

Why does it matter?

Legislation directly affects benefits, healthcare, and support systems for veterans. Staying informed and engaged ensures that the voices of veterans and their families are heard by elected officials who make these decisions.

What is Action Corps?

Action Corps is a simple and effective way to stay connected. It delivers updates and Action Alerts directly to you, making it easy to contact your legislators when it matters most. It only takes a few moments to participate, but it can make a lasting impact.

ACTION CORPS WEEKLY

Text "VFW" to 50457

Visit website: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/Register>

Scan the QR Code



ACTION:

- Present a report at each meeting.
- Give a brief description of current priority legislation.
- Report on the status of bills.
- Sign up for Action Corps
- Complete at least one Action Alert or advocacy effort

REMINDER:

If you take action - **report it**. Every effort counts and helps show the impact of our program.

Report each event when it has been completed through online reporting. Mark the correct category and be sure you tell me in the description box what you did. **Be specific and give details**. The more you tell me the better your chances for awards, this is how we determine who gets awards.

"Carrying Our Torches for Veterans"
We need to thrive not survive.

<p>Missouri Membership 26-27 May/June Promotional</p> <p>'Carrying Our Torches for Veterans'</p>		<p>Karen Cypret (pronounced SIGH-pret) 417-342-7652 missourimembership@gmail.com</p> <p>Exciting things coming in June!</p>
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❁ VFW Auxiliary Department of Missouri Membership ❁

As we begin an exciting new Auxiliary year, we're ready to continue growing, strengthening, and supporting our mission for veterans and their families. Let's kick off 2026–2027 with energy, teamwork, and a focus on membership success! Does your Auxiliary have what it takes to not just survive, but THRIVE!

- **Important Membership Update**

Please be sure that **all Auxiliaries are using the NEW membership application** for the 2026–2027 year. Using outdated applications can delay processing and create unnecessary issues—so double-check before submitting!

Dues Renewal Push – Let's Get Moving!

It's time to get those dues notices out and keep our members engaged and active! Bring your auxiliary dues to the convention to light your torch. I know that incoming President Anita will be honored to accept them.

FUN CHALLENGE ALERT!

The **first Auxiliary to text me a picture of you at the Post Office mailing your dues notices** will receive:

\$25.00 A special surprise gift

Let's make this fun, competitive, and effective—because getting those dues in early sets the tone for a strong year!

- **Remember:** Early renewals = stronger membership numbers. Personal effort = better results. Teamwork = SUCCESS

Together, we will continue to grow, retain, and support our amazing members.

Together we work. Together we recruit. Together we thrive.

Let's get this luau started for 2026–2027 to make this our strongest membership year yet!

P.S. Make plans now to **attend the Department Convention in June** at the Oasis in Springfield, MO, and learn more about our fun and exciting membership program—you won't want to miss it!

See ya soon. **Karen**

Scholarship May/June
Department of Missouri 2026-2027
Danetta Wakefield 417-236-8112
c.d.wakefield10972@outlook.com



Hello Chairmen,

Have you sent the letters or emails to Betty Arnold in favor of continuing the Missouri Past National Presidents Scholarship? Have you contacted your previous winners and asked them to respond to the plea to continue it? The Department pays out a total of \$3,000.00 per year for this Scholarship. There will be a vote by the registered Delegates at the Department Convention in June as to whether or not this Scholarship will remain in effect. I have read many reports of the donations sent for this specific Scholarship and I thank you for answering my plea.

PLEASE NOTE!!! District Presidents will be required to pick up all Creative Patriotic Art between 9:00am and 12:00pm on Saturday June 13, 2026. District Presidents will be required to sign for ALL the art from their District before it will be given to them. I will not be returning the art to the entrants.

NOW here is new information!!

I am giving you a head start on next year's information. This will give your Auxiliary a jump on the program. I want you to get this into the schools before they end their year for the Summer break. **DO NOT WAIT!!!** By getting this to the teachers early, they have a better opportunity to work it into their curriculum and make it a class assignment for the 2026-2027 school year. Please remember, you are still the 2025-2026 Scholarship chairman until the incoming Department President has been installed at the Department Convention on June 13th.

How wonderful that the **Voice of Democracy (grades 9-12)** and the **Patriot's Pen (grades 6-8)** theme is the same again this year. The theme for 2026-2027 is: **"What A Veteran Taught Me About America"**.

Young American Creative 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.

Not all VFW Auxiliary Scholarships are just for children in grades 6-12. We have the **Continuing Education Scholarship**. This Scholarship is available to any Auxiliary member (who has been a member for at least 1 year), their daughter, son or spouse with a financial need, The entrant must be 21 years of age.

There will be more information on the Scholarship program in the 2026-2027 Program book. You can also get information on the Department of Missouri website: www.vfwauxmo.org or you can go to the VFW Auxiliary National website: www.vfwauxiliary.org to get resources on this program. You may also go to www.vfw.org/community/youth-and-education for the VFW Scholarships that are available. **Working with your VFW Counterpart will make a great year for your VFW and your Auxiliary.**

Just remember, the new information on the website will not be available until a few days after July 1st. National VFW Auxiliary Headquarters will need this time to transition and update information from the 2025-2026 year to the 2026-2027 year. **Danetta**



Department of Missouri Veterans and Family Support

Kim Rudy
605 Boys Street
Monett, MO 65708

Phone: 417-393-5371
movetandfamilysupport@gmail.com
May/June 2026

It's hard to believe another year is about to begin. With the new year, comes new beginnings. I'm excited to serve this year as the Veterans & Family Support Chairman.

Beth West, the National Ambassador to this great program, points out that we are all a "veteran of a veteran". Not only do we have to recognize the needs of the Veterans around us, but also to be aware of the needs of those family members who see and deal with the stress as well.

This year we shall focus on:

- Unmet Needs (National Military Service & National Veteran Services)—This can include the following:
 - Access to Veterans Service Officers
 - Military Appreciation Program (MAP)
 - Adopt-a-Unit and/or sending care packages
 - VFW Financial Assistance in the forms of scholarships and grants
- Suicide Prevention and Mental Health Awareness—Just as the Post is a safe place for the Veteran, the Auxiliary should be a safe place for the families. Promote the Resources available for Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) and Mental Health issues by any or all of the following:
 - Host a veteran/military resource fair

- Ask a qualified speaker to address your meeting about suicide prevention and PTS
- Promote 988 (then press 1) Suicide Prevention and Crisis Lifeline

The Veterans & Family Support Award for Auxiliaries will be judged based on the most outstanding promotion of VFW resources or veterans, service members and their families. Awards for Departments and Department Chairman be judged for the best promotion of resources and assistance for veterans, service members and families.

Additional information including websites and telephone numbers will follow in the monthly program materials.

I look forward to working with everyone this year and am anxious to hear the exciting ways you are sharing these resources and information within your community.

Please make sure to report all projects and activities to the Online Reporting System at: www.vfwauxmo.org

Our incoming Department of MO President Anita Crowell's theme is **“Carrying Our Torches for Veterans”**. Remember that as you support them and don't ever let that light go out.

What better way to promote the incoming National President Donna Mills' theme by **“Serving American's Heroes”**. Remember and honor them.



Department of Missouri VFW Auxiliary
VFW National Home
May/June 2026-2027

Wendy Coffman
13815 Hwy 72
Rolla, MO 65401
(573)466-3519
wendycpost2025aux@gmail.com



“The willingness of America’s veterans to sacrifice for our country has earned them our lasting gratitude.” -Jeff Miller

I am so excited for the year we have planned, and I can’t wait to carry my torch with you serving America’s heroes.

Some things to look forward to during the 2026-2027 VFW National Home Program year....

- 🔍 America’s 250th Birthday – **July 4, 2026**
- 🔍 Charity Golf Tournament – **TBA later**
- 🔍 VFW National Home Trip – **October 23-25, 2026**
- 🔍 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



****Reminder**** For information on the VFW National Home visit vfnationalhome.org or to make a donation log onto **MALTA** then go to “**Make a Gift**” and donate under **Health and Happiness**.

Let’s continue “**Carrying Our Torches for Veterans**” while “**Serving America’s Heroes**”

Department of Missouri 2026-2027

Youth Activities May/June

Chairman Amy Jo Lett 816-668-3164

moamyjo2425@gmail.com

Now is the perfect time to begin planning and promoting the **Illustrating America** art contest before schools are dismissed for summer break or while teachers are already preparing next year's lesson plans. Reaching out early gives schools, homeschool groups, art teachers, and youth organizations time to incorporate the contest into classroom projects and activities during the upcoming school year.

Promote the Illustrating America Art Contest:

- ✓ Reach out to elementary and middle school art teachers.
- ✓ Contact homeschool groups, Scout troops, 4-H clubs, and youth organizations.
- ✓ Ask schools to include contest information in summer newsletters or back-to-school packets.
- ✓ Set up a small display at community events, fairs, libraries, or school open houses.
- ✓ Share contest flyers on social media and community Facebook pages.
- ✓ Work with local newspapers or radio stations to help spread the word.
- ✓ Encourage teachers to use the contest as a patriotic classroom art project.
- ✓ Display previous entries at your Post or Auxiliary to generate excitement.

Contest Information

The contest is open to students in grades K-8, including public, private, parochial, homeschool, and overseas military dependent students who meet eligibility requirements. Entries are judged on patriotic theme and technique in the following grade divisions:

- K-2
- 3-5 & 6-8



Department first-place winners in each grade division are forwarded to National for judging. National awards are presented for first, second, and third place in each division.

NEW Due Dates:

- Auxiliary Deadline - **December 15, 2026**
- District Deadline - **January 2027** (Optional)
- Department Deadline - **January 15, 2027**
- National Deadline- **January 31, 2027**

Quick Contest Reminders

- Artwork must be two-dimensional.
- Entries must be completed during the current school year.
- Coloring sheets, digital art, and photography are NOT accepted.
- Entries must be between 8"x10" and 18"x24", including mat.
- Contest entry form and parent/guardian signature are required.

Official forms and complete contest rules can be found in MALTA Member Resources or on the Missouri VFW Auxiliary website.

Let us work together to encourage creativity, patriotism, and youth involvement across Missouri while showing our communities that the VFW Auxiliary is investing in future generations.

Roster Changes May/June 2026

District 5 Auxiliary 1000

President LaDonna Maples 15019 E 46th St S, Independence, MO 64055-4903
816-594-7281 kcmolma@gmail.com

District 5 Auxiliary 1000

Sec/Trea Patty Goucher 1313 N Swope Dr, Independence, MO 64056-1147
816-836-0998 pattygoucher@gmail.com

District 9 Auxiliary 5327

1st Tuesday 5:00 PM

District 9 Auxiliary 5517

Treasurer Karen Inman 58 Ackerman Ct, Winfield, MO 63389
507-456-0260 vfw4417inman@yahoo.com

District 18 Auxiliary 4107

Winfrey Enrichment Center, 25573 Highway 5, Lebanon, MO 65536 3rd Tuesday
5:30 PM

Department Chaplain Megan McGrath

mmcgrathvfwauxmo@gmail.com

Department Conductress Karen Cypret

kcypretdist7vfw@gmail.com

Department Guard Darla Nebel

darlanebel66@gmail.com