# President's Message

Summer is over and all of the Department School of Instructions are completed. To say I am pleased is putting it mildly. There were 82 Auxiliaries represented and over 260 members who attended at least one of the instructional sessions. Thank you all so much for making them such a success. Of course, a big thank you to the four hosting Auxiliaries, 3772-Mexico, 3976-Sugar Creek, 5993-Ava and 2210-Ste Genevieve.

School has started, so please get the information out about both the Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen Scholarship opportunities. The deadline to the Post/Auxiliary is October 31. That's not much time.

By this time, you should have sent out your dues notice to your annual members. Hopefully they are responding by sending in their dues for 2026. If not, you may want to break down you list of members and ask others from your Auxiliary to help by contacting them. A phone call from a member may get them back at your meeting and they may become active in your programs.

Please plan to attend the Fall Conference at the Lake of the Ozarks. Commander Quincy and I are planning to make it informative and most of all fun. It is a great time to get to know members from all over the state. So, mark your calendar for October 10-12. Forms are on the Department website.

Our annual National Home Trip is October 24-26 and our Department Chairman Brandy Young along with her VFW counterpart are planning a grand time. The theme is Route 66. If you have never gone, please do so this year. It promises to be a great time for all!

Remember to make ever event you have this year, a recruiting event. Always have applications on hand to pass out to perspective members. We will not grow our organization if we do not get our there and recruit new members.

Always report your projects as you complete them. Do not wait!

Thank you for all that you do for our Veterans. Sometimes it may be very difficult, but you are "THE REASON A VETERAN SMILES TODAY". We can all do this.

Patti Burge - Missouri VFW Auxiliary President



Calendar of Events

- September 15-17, 2025 –
   National President's Visit in Perryville (Information is on the website)
- October 10-12, 2025 Fall Conference (Information is on the website)
- October 17-18, 2025 Big Ten Conference (Info on website)
- October 24-26, 2025 National Home Trip (Information is on the website)
- October 31, 2025 The Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen entries are due to the Post.

VFW Commander and Auxiliary President Homecoming October 11<sup>th</sup>. Make reservations for the banquet by sending the form to MO VFW Headquarters

# Missouri VFW Auxiliary

# Fall Conference Agenda October 10-11, 2025

Friday	October	10	2025
illuav.	OCTOBEL	10.	4040

Friday, October	<u>10, 2025</u>	
(Dress - Departme	ent Shirt Black Pants or Skirt)	
2:00 – 5:00 pm	Department Shirts	Building 15, Downstairs
2:00 – 5:00 pm	Ways & Means Drop off	Building 15, Downstairs
3:00 – 5:00 pm	Auxiliary Registration	Building 15, Downstairs
4:00 – 5:00 pm	Floor Practice	Building 15, Downstairs
6:00 – 11:00 pm	Hospitality Room (Cornhole Competition)	Building 9, Hotel
	VFW Auxiliary Department Ritual Opening and	
7:15 – 8:45 pm	Council Meeting	Building 15, Downstairs
Saturday, Octob		
•	nt Shirt Black Pants or Skirt)	
8:00 – 9:00 am	Auxiliary Registration	Building 15, Downstairs
8:00 – 11:00 am	VEW Auxiliant Macting	Puilding 15 Downstains
0.00 – 11.00 aiii	<ul> <li>VFW Auxiliary Meeting</li> <li>Program Presentations – "Follow the</li> </ul>	Building 15, Downstairs
	Yellow Brick Road"	
	Parade of "Buddy"® Poppy Hats	
11.00 11.00	Membership awards	D 1111 45 D 4 1
11:00 – 11:30 am	Identifying Unhealthy Auxiliaries – Janet Barlar	Building 15, Downstairs
11:30 –12:59 pm	Lunch	On your own
•		J
1:00 – 1:45 pm	Recruiting Training/Joint Session (Trainers –	
	Dave Bozarth, VFW – Brenda Bryant and Betty	
	Arnold – VFW Auxiliary	Building 15, Downstairs
2:00 - 3:00 pm	Everything You Wanted to Know but Didn't Ask	Building 15, Downstairs
•	about National Home/Joint Session	G ,
	Trainer, NH Executive Director Michael Wilson	
3:01-4:00 pm	National Rep to speak	Building 15, Downstairs
0.01 4.00 pm	Reports: Ways and Means	building 10, bownstairs
	Closing of Auxiliary meeting	
5:00 – 6:00 pm	Cocktail Hour	Building 16 Sky Bar
5.00 – 6.00 pm	Cocktail Hour	Dunaing 10 Day Dai
6:00 pm	VFW Commander and VFW Auxiliary	
<b>I</b>	President's Homecoming/Karaoke	
	(Dress is Patriotic/Casual)	
	,,,,	

Sunday, October 12, 2025 – Safe travels to all who attended as they return home.

The agenda is subject to change!

# 2025 Department of Missouri VFW & Auxiliary Fall C of A

October 10-12, 2025

The Resort at Lake of the Ozarks
3076 Bangnell Dam Blvd

Lake Ozark, MO

Vendor Set up times

Friday 2:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Saturday 8:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Contact Angela Anderson for table information. \$25.00 per table 573-636-8761

hqangela@movfw.org

For Room Reservations you may click on the following link:

https://res.windsurfercrs.com/ibe/details.aspx?propertyid=16268&nights =1&checkin=10/9/2025&group=VFW25&lang=en-us

# 2025 Commander Quincy Myrick & President Patti Burge's Homecoming Banquet

Located at The Encore Lakeside Grill & Sky Bar 3076 Bagnell Dam Boulevard Lake Ozark, MO 65049

# Missouri Cook-Out Buffet

Fresh seasonal greens with assorted toppings and dressings
Potato salad
Cole slaw
Smoked BBQ beef brisket
BBQ chicken

Fried catfish fillets with green onion hushpuppies and Creole tartar sauce
Roasted garlic new potatoes
Southern style green beans
Buttered corn on the cob
Dinner rolls and corn muffins
Strawberry shortcake

#### \$45.00 Per Person

Please Indicate Quantity \_\_\_\_\_

Card#	Expiration Date/
Name as it appears on credit card:	Verification #
Billing Address:	
City: State:	Zip:
Phone #:	
Email Address:	

Tickets will be in the name of the person who is paying.

Send completed ticket request form and payment to

Department of Missouri VFW, 3401 Knipp Drive, Jefferson City, MO 65109 or email <a href="mailto:hqangela@movfw.org">hqangela@movfw.org</a>.

Forms have to be received in Department of Missouri VFW NO LATER THAN {Friday} SEPTEMBER 19, 2025!

"YOU MAY DELAY, BUT TIME WILL NOT." ~~~BENJAMIN FRANKLIN Please send in your forms early. THANK YOU FOR NOT PROCRASTINATING.

\*\*Attire is casual or Patriotic\*\*



# VFW Auxiliary Department of Missouri AMERICANISM September/October

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

National POW/MIA Recognition Day is observed on the third Friday of September, and this year will fall on September 19, 2025. This day is set aside to honor those who were prisoners of war and those who are still missing in action.

DOW\*MIA

THE NOT FORESTEE

This would be a great opportunity for you to partner with your post and hold a special ceremony including the Missing Man Table. Invite the community to attend and take part, and you can include youth by asking a Scout Troop or ROTC to post the colors. Refer to your Action Corp Weekly emails to obtain the names of service members that have been identified recently and include them in your program.

We want to always recognize the bravery of our Nation's service members who were taken as prisoners and those still missing and recommit to bringing them home. This is also a time to offer our gratitude and support to their families.

"A Patriotic Creed" By Edgar Guest

To serve my country day by day At any humble post I may; To honor and respect her Flag, To live the traits of which I brag; To be American in deed As well as in my printed creed.

To stand for truth and honest toil,
To till my little patch of soil
And keep in mind the debt I owe
To them who died that I might know
My country, prosperous and free,
And passed this heritage to me.

I must always in trouble's hour Be guided by the men in power; For God and country I must live, My best for God and country give; No act of mine that men may scan Must shame the name American. To do my best and play my part,
American in mind and heart;
To serve the flag and bravely stand
To guard the glory of my land
To be American in deed,
God grant me strength to keep this creed.

#### **Patriotic Holidays**



V-J Day - September 2
Patriot Day/National Day of Service - September 11
Uncle Sam Day - September 13
VFW Auxiliary Birthday - September 14
Constitution Day/Citizenship Day - September 17
POW/MIA Recognition Day - Third Friday in September
Gold Star Mother/Family Day - Last Sunday in Sept.
VFW Day - September 29
Global War on Terrorism & Desert Storm Veterans Day October 7
Day of the Deployed - October 26
Statue of Liberty's Birthday - October 28

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 September/October 2025

Kim Rudy 605 Boys Street Monett, MO 65708 2025-2026 Auxiliary Outreach Chairman Phone 417-393-5371 <u>krudyauxoutreach2425@gmail.com</u>

It's FALL!!! What a PERFECT time for your resident Scarecrow to go dancing down the Yellow Brick Road!

September and October have so many opportunities to become involved with your communities. Make sure that the Outreach events you are volunteering your time with have either been voted on in your meetings and/or are already in your Standing Rules.

September is the still the beginning of the new school year, which will include sporting events, book fairs, backpack programs, after school activities and scouting just to name a few.

In October there are community activities all around you. There will be fall festivals and Trunk or Treats. Connect with the coordinators of the organizations you have voted to volunteer your time with and offer to help in concession stands, ticket taking, set up and tear down of these events, shuttle services, etc. all while wearing your best Auxiliary shirts, hats, pins and more. Let the community know exactly WHO WE ARE and how we are willing to help them out in so many ways!

 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!

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

Together we can make ourselves an asset to our community!

REPORT, REPORT <u>ALL</u> your volunteer efforts at <u>www.vfwauxmo.org</u>

## MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY!!!

Happy Fall Y'all!!!!!

Let's have a wonderful trip down the Yellow Brick Road!
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 September/ October 2025-2026

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



"There's no better way to chase horizons than in a caravan full of friends- each mile a memory, every stop a story."

And just like that, summer waved goodbye like a Sunday picnic in Missouri, and fall rolled in on a breeze that smells like bonfires and applebutter. The leaves are crunching down the yellow brick road, the lion's courage is in full roar, and our young adventurers are heading back to school - brave, bright-eyed, and ready for the next chapter.

It's inspiring to see how many Auxiliaries are out there hosting their "Buddy" Poppy drives, and working with their VFW counterparts, with heart and dedication. Every event adds to the momentum, making a lasting impact in our communities and honoring those who've served. Paint the full picture- the more detail that you add the more powerful your report.

El Dorado Springs Auxiliary #257 recently showcased the elegant Diamond Poppies during their event.

Do you know what a Diamond Poppy represents? Share your answer by email (with me) and you'll be entered into a drawing at the Fall Conference for a special Poppy-themed prize!

Calling all munchkins, poppy dreamers, and hat-loving wanderers of the Yellow Brick Road...Step right into the Fall Conference "Buddy" Poppy Display Contest and Hat Parade. Get your hat, get creative, and show us what you've got! Whether it's a twister-topper, lion's mane bonnet, or a sparkle-covered crown fit for Glinda herself- let your whimsical spirit shine! Judging will take place in both Youth and Adult categories, so everyone from the tiniest Toto to the most sapper Tin Man can strut their stuff. Because in this parade, there's NO PLACE LIKE WOW!

Follow the Yellow Brick Road to St. Charles on **September 18, 2025**, for a whimsical day of golf and giving at the **Charity Golf Tournament benefiting the VFW National Home!** Just like in *The Wizard of Oz*, where heart, courage, and brainpower lead the way, **your swing could make a real difference—details and flyer are on the website!** 

National Home with courage, kindness, and a touch of Oz! From October 24–26, 2025, join us for a magical trip and spook-tacular Halloween party co-hosted with our friends from Wisconsin. With *The Wizard of Oz* spirit guiding us and Route 66 nostalgia adding a classic American twist, this adventure is a wonderful chance to spend time with friends and get a meaningful taste of the VFW National Home's mission and heart. Every mile is a tribute to unity, joy, and honoring those who serve. Last year, families were delighted to receive kitchen towels, and this year we're bringing even more comfort by adding bath towels! We're also collecting goody bag items (no candy, please)—fun, thoughtful goodies to share the heart of giving.

"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

September/October 2025-2026 Promotional Material Janet Barlar- Wicked Witch & Broom Squad Boss

(573)-261-1948 <u>baraux1953@yahoo.com</u>



# My Pretties!

It was great to see so many of you at the Department Schools of Instruction! I hope you left feeling inspired, energized, and ready to take on a brand-new year. I know I did! I can feel it in my bones—this is going to be an exciting and successful year for all of us.

I've been flying all over the state, and I must say... my broom is officially worn out! Time for an upgrade, President Patti—hint, hint!

# **Extension**

Let's raise a bubbling glass of Witch's Brew to Brandy Young! In July, the VFW instituted a new Post in Union, Missouri—Post #12243. Brandy worked hand-in-hand with both the Post Commander and District Commander to lay the groundwork for a new Auxiliary. Thanks to her determination and leadership, she signed up 15 new members to launch the Auxiliary at Post #12243.

We hope to officially institute this Auxiliary within the next two months, and Brandy herself will be a proud member. With her guidance and mentoring, I have no doubt this Auxiliary will thrive!

I challenge each of you to reach out to Posts in your Districts that don't yet have an Auxiliary. Offer to present the "Top 10 Reasons to Start One." If you'd like support—or a broom-flying buddy—I'm happy to join you or send someone from the Department. Just say the word!

# Revitalization

I am pleased to announce that ALL our Auxiliaries are healthy and green! After the National Convention I will be in contact with the Auxiliaries that President Patti and I have chosen to be my Performance Improvement Plan Team, better known as the

"Broom Squad". If an Auxiliary needs a little TLC, the Broom Squad will swoop in with guidance, mentoring, and a Performance Improvement Plan. (P. I. P.) District Presidents, it's up to you to let Patti and me know if you spot a struggling Auxiliary. The earlier we intervene, the better the outcome. Preventing suspension is a job well done and worth celebrating!

# **Mentoring**

District Presidents and Auxiliary Officers, are you mentoring those officers following behind you? I can't tell you how **important** this is. I asked the District Presidents to invite their Senior and Junior Vice Presidents to join them on their Auxiliary visits. It's important that they know how to conduct those visits and are prepared when they take the office of District President. I will be checking to see if this is being done.

One of the key messages I shared at the Schools of Instruction was this: we must treat one another with kindness and respect. Last year brought its share of drama, and honestly, we don't have time for it. Drama keeps us from our mission, supporting our Veterans

Let's stay focused, united, and positive. I can't wait to see you at our first Department meeting in October. We've got some magical surprises planned! Just follow the yellow brick road to the Lake of the Ozarks!

With broomstick-powered respect,

Janet

**Department Chief of Staff** 

Be the reason a Veteran smiles today!

# THE SHOW ME GAZETTE

September/October 2025

Editor: Mary K. Thurman

We are making photographs to understand what our lives mean to us. Ralph Hattersley

Reminder – The VFWA Department of Missouri is having their 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on 7 November 2025.

32482 State Hwy 248

vfwa2526hist@gmail.com

Aurora, MO 65605 417 207 2631

District Presidents – IF you are having a meeting in October, November or December, make sure and get a group photo and get it sent to me.

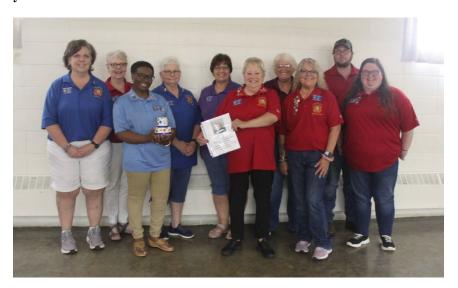
Auxiliary Presidents – Please take the photo at your November meeting no matter the date and get it sent to me. I would love to see all the auxiliaries reports in.

Here is an example of what I am wanting – and thanks to VFWA members from VFW Auxiliary 3174 for being my models. Decorate as you so desire!!!!

District Presidents -Please do not forget your pails as you make your official visits across your district. It is to help raise money for President Patti's special project. No amount is too small – if an individual has 41 cents, then 41 cents it is. The winning District President might have the opportunity to put a pie in the face of our Department President Patti IF \$5000 is raised by the members across the state.

Instructions for creating a reel with a phone are on now on MALTA under resources in the Historian/Media Relations area and were provided by National Ambassador Kristin.

Please take time to answer questions 2 and 3 in the Historian area when doing online reporting. The 1<sup>st</sup> of May we started a new reporting year, and these are two questions that President Patti will need to be able to answer for her reports.



Use hashtag #moauxhistorian2526 and #vfwauxiliary if posting this on your Facebook page.

"Be the reason that a Veterans smiles today."

"From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring our Veterans – Who Keep Us Free."



"Be the reason a veteran smiles today" by "Having a heart for hospitalized veterans." The Brick Road to the Department of Missouri Hospital Program



September/October 2025-2026

Karen Cypret 22222 Whiplash Lane Washburn, Mo. 65772 417-342-7652

mohospitalvavs.kcypret@gmail.com

"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."

#### Plan a Fun Fall Field Trip with the Homes in Your Area!

September is the perfect time to plan outdoor activities with the residents of local homes and hospitals. A few great options include:

\* A trip to the Corn Maze – Enjoy the crisp fall air and simple fun of navigating through nature.

**♦ A Flower Show** – A relaxing and colorful outing many residents would enjoy.

\*\* A Drive-Through Zoo – A safe and accessible way to enjoy animals and the outdoors from the comfort of a vehicle.

These kinds of outings are ideal before the weather turns too chilly for our veterans and senior residents to be out and about.





**#MohospitalVAVS** 

### Halloween Fun in the Homes and Hospitals 👄

Halloween is a wonderful time to visit and bring some seasonal cheer!

**%** Consider taking **bags of candy** to residents so they can join in the fun by handing out treats to trick-or-treaters.

Check with the **Activities Directors** to see what events are already planned, and offer your help to make their celebrations even better. Let's make this fall season memorable! **Don't forget to take pictures** and share them on social media using the hashtag:

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



"Be the Reason a Veteran Smiles Today" by "Having a Heart For Hospitalized Veterans."

Veterans Affairs Voluntary Services Representatives and Deputies Promotional Material The Brick Road to the Department of Missouri Hospital Program



September/October 2025-2026

Karen Cypret 22222 Whiplash Lane Washburn, Mo. 65772 417-342-7652

mohospitalvavs.kcypret@gmail.com

"From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans – Who Keeps Us Free" we should be "Caring For Our Veterans Like the Ocean Caring For the Wayes."

# ATTENTION MISSOURI VETERANS HOMES! WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

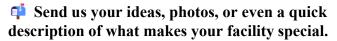
Do you have a program, event, or activity at your facility that you think **stands out**? Are your veterans enjoying something unique that others could benefit from? Whether it's a therapy program, a creative activity, or a way your team goes the extra mile—we want to know about it!

#### SHARE YOUR BEST IDEAS!

Let's work together to inspire, connect, and improve care across all Missouri Veterans Homes. Your idea might be just what another facility needs!

## **©** Examples of what we're looking for:

- Special therapies or recreational programs
- Successful volunteer or community partnerships
- Innovative ways to boost morale
- Events or traditions unique to your home





Let's learn from each other and build stronger, more supportive homes for the heroes we serve.

Post on social media and use the hashtag #MohospitalVAVS so we can see what you are doing.

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

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

trula.missey@yahoo.com

573-631-6002

#### **LEGISLATIVE**

# SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 2025/2026

"Lighting the way between Veterans' families and Legislators with a wave of gratitude". This is our National Ambassador Amy Jo Lett's theme this year. How fitting it is!

In order to show our gratitude, we can make phone calls, write letters and respond to the Action Corps Weekly. Be a prepared, passionate patriot with a "gratitude attitude". This is just one way of saying Thank You.

Conduct an "Action Corps Sign Up Drive" at your Post home or when you conduct a membership drive. The simple sign-up sheet is available on the Resources page of the website. Remember those who wish to participate in Action Corps Weekly do not need to be VFW or Auxiliary Members.

Consider gathering with other patriots and make those calls together. We are here to be advocates for our Veterans and Active Duty Military. Use this time to hold a Veteran Advocacy training workshop. This would include, but is not limited to, talking to legislators, reaching out, setting up meetings, giving tips on what to say and what not to say (like endorsing candidates), and learning to answer tough questions while keeping the focus on the VFW Goals.

While it is imperative that we continue to monitor pending legislation in Congress, we must not forget that local government and laws also impact the quality of life for our veterans. The two go together and support for veterans' rights begins locally. By establishing strong connections with our VFW and elected officials, we are demonstrating our commitment to the legislative progress.

It is very important to work with our home Post on supporting legislative initiatives. Often both organizations are doing similar projects that could be more effective if they collaborated together. We can share ideas and information about local programs and projects that support the VFW Priority Goals. We can collaborate on letter-writing to lawmakers, assist members with voting and distribute/post information on pending legislation, just to name a few.

REPORT, REPORT!! Selection for the Awards come from these reports.

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"





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

#### September/October 2025 Membership Program

The membership year has started and membership is growing. We need to keep up the momentum. One of the good flying monkeys, Eddie, even went to the Department of School of Instruction in Ste. Genevieve. He said that he met auxiliary members who are working hard to keep this organization growing. He also said the food was delicious.

#### The 4 R's

Our wonderful Big Ten Membership Coach, Nancy Ustruck, wants us to remember the 4 R's. They are Reinstate, Recruit, Revitalize and Retain. We need to remember these in order for this organization to grow. We need to recruit new members for this organization. Always have an application with you. You never know where you will meet a prospective member. If there is a county fair or a homecomers event in your area, ask if you can have a booth. You can have information about the Auxiliary ready to hand out. Let people know what we are about and what we do for our veterans and the community. When you meet a prospective member, make sure they have your contact information. Also, get their contact information. It is important to follow up with the person. You do not want to let them feel forgotten.

You can also contact the members who didn't pay their due and see if they would want to reinstate their membership. Ask them about why they didn't pay their dues. They might have had a problem financially to pay their dues. If they want to reinstate their membership, offer to pay their dues for them. I am sure they would appreciate that.

#### 85%+ Goal

As you may remember, we have a goal of 85%+ to meet by September 15, 2025. As I am writing this, we have 33 Auxiliaries that are 85%+. Included in this number, there are 11 auxiliaries that are 100% or more. That is so awesome. But we can do better. I want to see how many more auxiliaries will be at 85%+ by the end of the month. As we grow, I will keep an eye out on the membership, and I will let you all know how it grows. So, let's keep it going.

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

Reinstate, Recruit, Revitalize and Retain

# Scholarship Department of Missouri 2025-2026 Sept/October "Glenda Good Witch" AKA Danetta Wakefield 417-236-8112 c.d.wakefield10972@outlook.com

#### Hello My Pretties!

I know you have been hard at it getting the **Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen i**nformation into the local and private schools, the libraries and local papers in your areas. Remember their themes are the same this year; "**How Are You Showing Patriotism and Support for Our Country?**" Did you contact a local television station and ask for an interview to get this material out to as many applicants as possible. The deadline to the VFW Post for both essays is **October 31, 2025-** No Exceptions.

The **Continuing Education Scholarship** is for any member who has been a member for at least 1 Year, their Spouse, son or daughter with a financial need. The **entrant must be 21 years old,** complete the application and submit a 300 word or less essay. This is our National President Lois' special project. Even though there is only one recipient per conference, we want to submit as many applicants as we can. Wouldn't it be great to see a recipient from Missouri on the National website? The deadline for the application and essays to National Headquarters is **February 15, 2026**. No Exceptions.

Talk about our Young American Patriotic Art Contest and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest. These two art contests are for students who are in 9-12 grades. The applicants can be from public, private, parochial, or home study programs. While U.S. citizenship is not required, students must be lawful U.S. permanent residents. Foreign Exchange students, student age 20 or older, GED and adult education students are not eligible. Nor are previous National winners eligible. Deadline for artwork: VFW Auxiliary- March 31, 2026 (District Judging IS Optional) Department Auxiliary- April 15, 2026 and National Auxiliary Headquarters by May 5, 2026. PLEASE, stress to your applicants they should take several pictures depicting different views of their 3-D art before submitting it. There is a possibility that even though it would be unintentional, accidents happen during transportation and breakage could occur.

It is with sadness that I must report this will be the last year for the **Missouri Past National Presidents Scholarship.** This scholarship is for seniors only. The applications, transcripts and reference letters must be sent to the Department Chairman by **April 15, 2026.** No Exceptions.

Remember, during your interviews with reporters and anchors take the opportunity to talk about ALL of our Scholarship Program. Report on the Department website all that you are doing for your program. Remember to get your copies of the QR code out to the students.



Now go out there in the land of Oz and "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 SEPT/OCT 2025

Darla Nebel 17920 Highway 8 St. James, MO 65559 Shebe6787@gmail.com (573) 205-3454

Take time to call and check up on our veterans. They may need an ear to listen, a meal, a ride to the doctor, just a visit or a friendly voice...

"Be the Reason a Veteran Smiles Today"

# September is VETERANS Suicide Prevention Month

### **VETERANS SUICIDE AWARENESS COURSE.**

- There is free online course about veterans' suicide awareness you can take from the Missouri Governor's Challenge website called S.A.V.E. Here is the link - go to step #1 <a href="https://mogovchallenge.com/what-can-i-do/#call-to-action">https://mogovchallenge.com/what-can-i-do/#call-to-action</a> You will have to create your own account but it is free. There are many other courses you are welcome to explore, all at no cost.
- They will bring an in-person veteran suicide prevention training to your post if you are willing to host it. Let them know if this is something you are interested in. Below is contact information

Missouri Veterans Suicide Prevention Team

Jon Sabala — Jon.Sabala@dmh.mo.gov 573-751-2368

Tony Gardener movspt@gmail.com 816-835-0881

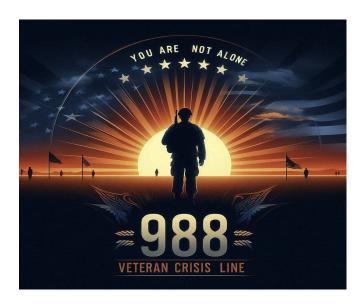
#### Mental Health First Aid®

This is an 8 hour, skills-based training that teaches people how to identify, understand and respond to signs and symptoms of a mental health or substance use challenge in adults ages 18 and over. The evidence behind the program demonstrates that it builds mental health literacy, providing an action plan that teaches people to safely and responsibly identify and address a potential mental health or substance use challenge. The course is offered in person or virtually.

It is important to know that we offer a few MHFA trainings a month at no cost. Use this link to find a free training session: <a href="http://mhfamissouri.org/home/events/">http://mhfamissouri.org/home/events/</a>

## SEPTEMBER 8<sup>TH</sup> IS 988 DAY

988 Day is a national initiative dedicated to raising awareness about the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline and emphasizing the importance of mental health and suicide prevention. The theme for 988 Day 2025 is Compassionate Help. Anytime. Anywhere.







#### Department of Missouri VFW

Auxiliary Youth Activities 2025-2026 Jennie Rosales-Wolfgeher 816-606-3306 5702 NW Raintree Ct, Kansas City, MO 64152 Jennierw.mo.youthchairman@gmail.com

Auntie Em's Corner: Youth Activities Newsletter – Fall Edition-September/October from the Heart of the VFW Auxiliary

#### Well, Hello There, My Dears!

Now don't that breeze feel like fall's just around the corner? I've been sittin' on the porch with a warm cup of cider, thinkin' about how we can help our young'uns grow up proud and patriotic. So I put together a few ideas to keep those hearts full and those hands busy.

#### Patriotism Through Literacy

There's nothin' quite like a good book to stir the soul. This season, let's share stories that teach our youth about bravery, freedom, and the folks who fought to keep it.

#### Try This, Sugar:

- Invite a veteran to read to the kiddos at school or the library.
- Donate a few patriotic storybooks to your local classroom or church.
- · Start a "Reading Buddy" circle—just a few minutes a week can make a world of difference.

And don't forget to share your good works with the world using #vfwauxiliaryyouthactivities. Let's show 'em what small towns and big hearts can do!

#### R.A.P. Cards – Random Acts of Patriotism

Now this here's one of my favorites. When you catch a young'un doin' something kind and patriotic—like helpin' a veteran carry groceries or standin' tall for the flag—hand 'em a R.A.P. Card.

- It's Simple as Pie:
- Keep a few cards in your apron pocket.
- Hand one out when you see a good deed.

Tell 'em you're proud—and mean it.

It's a mighty fine way to plant seeds of pride and kindness.

#### Let's Get Creative, Y'all!

We've got some real talent in our state, and it's time to let it shine! Encourage your local youth to enter the Illustrating America art contest or sing their hearts out in Get Excited for the Red, White and Blue.

- Auntie Em's Tip:
- · Host a little art day at the Post—set out some crayons, markers, and cookies. You'll be amazed what those young minds can dream up.

#### A Note from Auntie Em- Don't Be Shy Now!

Snap a photo or two and share your stories online with #vfwauxiliaryyouthactivities. I'd love to see what y'all are up to—and who knows, you might just end up in the next newsletter!

With love from the heartland,

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

Youth Activities Chair, VFW Auxiliary

There's no place like home—and no better time to teach love of country."

#### September Youth Activities

6 September: National Read a Book Day - Veterans/Youth Reading Event

10 September: R.A.P. Cards - Distribute for Patriotic Acts

15 September: Reading Buddy Program - Volunteer Reading Sessions

#### October Youth Activities

5 October: Youth Acts of Kindness Certificates - Recognize Volunteers

12 October: Youth Group Event - Flag Ceremonies, Meal Service, Clean-up

20 October: Illustrating America Art Contest - Promote Early Submissions

Rap cards, Certificates and More: <a href="https://vfwauxmo.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=106262">https://vfwauxmo.org/di/vfw/v2/default.asp?pid=106262</a>

Patriotism through Literacy Book List: https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/Suggested-Book-List.pdf

Illustrating America Contest: https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/Page-from-Illustrating-America-Art-Contest-25-26-1.pdf



# BE THE REASON A VETERAN SMILES TODAY

Department 2025



Ways and Means 2026

Are you ready for a new and exciting year! Hello. I'm so excited about the new year.

The Silent Auction was a success so we decided to keep doing it.

I'm also asking Every Auxiliary to send at least 3 grab bags for each meeting and 5 for next years Convention.

### Fall Council of Administration

Baskets: 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, & 8

Silent Auction Baskets: 9, 12, 14, 15, 17, & 18

Grab Bags: 3 bags Every Auxiliary

## Winter Council of Administration

Baskets: Districts 9, 12, 14, 15, 17, & 18

Silent Auction Baskets: Districts 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, & 8

Grab bags: 3 bags EVERY Auxiliary

## **State Convention**

Baskets: All Districts

Grab bags: All Auxiliaries 5 bags



**Briana Borts** 

Ways and Means Chairman

Cell - 660-473-5514

Email: vfwaux2591@gmail.com

# Roster Changes Sept/Oct

District 8 – Auxiliary 5741
Secretary – Robin McKee
305 N Smith St
Park Hills, MO 63601
578-330-2571
Robinkaymckee55@gmail.com

District 8 – Auxiliary 6883
Secretary – Trula Missey
100 Aldergate Dr #27
Bonee Terre, MO 63628
573-631-6002
Trula.missey@gmail.com