

VFW Auxiliary

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY MAGAZINE

MARCH 2023

110TH NATIONAL CONVENTION
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

11TH CELEBRATING AMERICA'S
FREEDOM EVENT

VFW PRIORITY GOALS
2023



VFW AUXILIARY NEWS IN VFW MAGAZINE

Look for an article about how the Auxiliary and VFW are working together to promote BOTH organizations in the March edition of [VFW magazine](#).

In it, VFW Auxiliary National Secretary-Treasurer Ann Panteleakos expands on the Auxiliary's potential growth by encouraging VFW members to sign up family members.



DATES & DEADLINES

March

- | | | |
|-------|-----|---|
| MARCH | 5-9 | VFW Legislative Conference/Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Scholarship winners, Washington, D.C. |
| MARCH | 17 | St. Patrick's Day |
| MARCH | 29 | Vietnam War Veterans Day |

April

- | | | |
|-------|----|--|
| APRIL | 9 | Easter |
| APRIL | 15 | Young American Creative Patriotic Art Contest entries due to Departments |

For Program awards deadlines for March and April, see the *2022-2023 National Program Book* online in MALTA Member Resources.

TABLE OF Contents

MARCH 2023 • VOLUME 84 • ISSUE 5

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®



9

Features

9 110th VFW Auxiliary National Convention

Join us in the metropolis of the Sonoran Desert—Phoenix, Arizona.



15

15 2023 Celebrating America's Freedom Event

Save the date and join incoming National President Carla Martinez at Golden Spike National Historical Park in Utah where two ribbons of steel united our nation with the first Transcontinental Railroad.



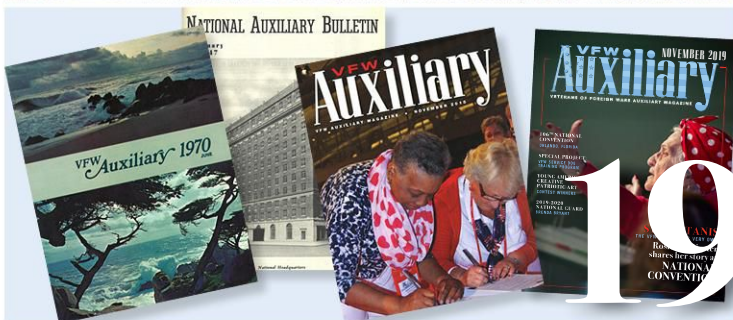
17

17 The VFW's 2023 Priority Goals

Read about the issues we, along with the VFW, will fight for in the 120th Congress.

19 Magazine Cost

We've heard from many members about VFW Auxiliary Magazine's transition to a digital-only format. Read this story for more details.



19

In Every Issue

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 3 Get Digital | 6 Reader's Voice |
| 4 President's Message | 7 Member Spotlight |
| 5 Editor's Letter | 8 Auxiliary Spotlight |
| | 21 HQ Memo |

About the Cover

A view of Phoenix, Arizona. This city of perpetual sunshine will host the VFW Auxiliary's 2023 National Convention in July.

GET DIGITAL

PAST ISSUES OF VFW AUXILIARY MAGAZINE ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE, GOING ALL THE WAY BACK TO 2013.

You can find them here: vfwauxiliary.org/magazine.

The most recent issue is featured first. Scroll down to the covers of the previous four from 2022 and click “View Additional Archives” to see more.

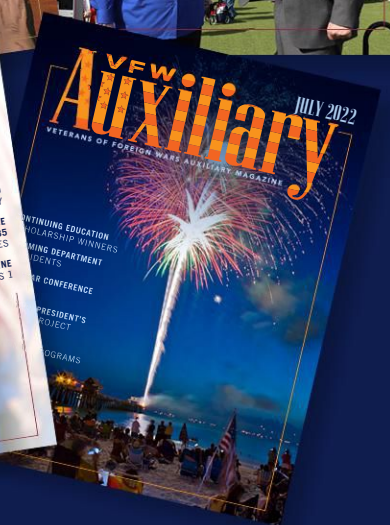
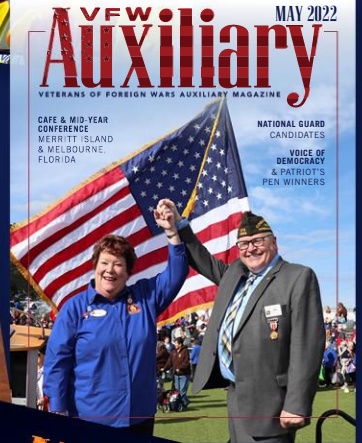
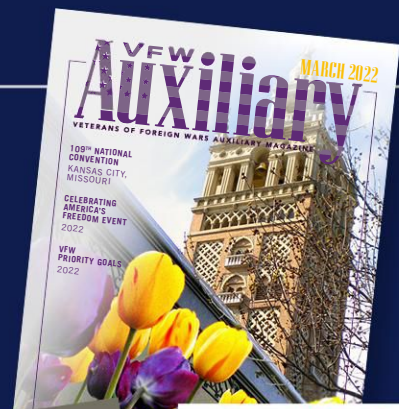
We hope you will enjoy checking out our past content as we head into our 10th year with a digital magazine!

HAVING DIFFICULTY READING VFW AUXILIARY MAGAZINE ONLINE BECAUSE THE FONT SIZE IS TOO SMALL?

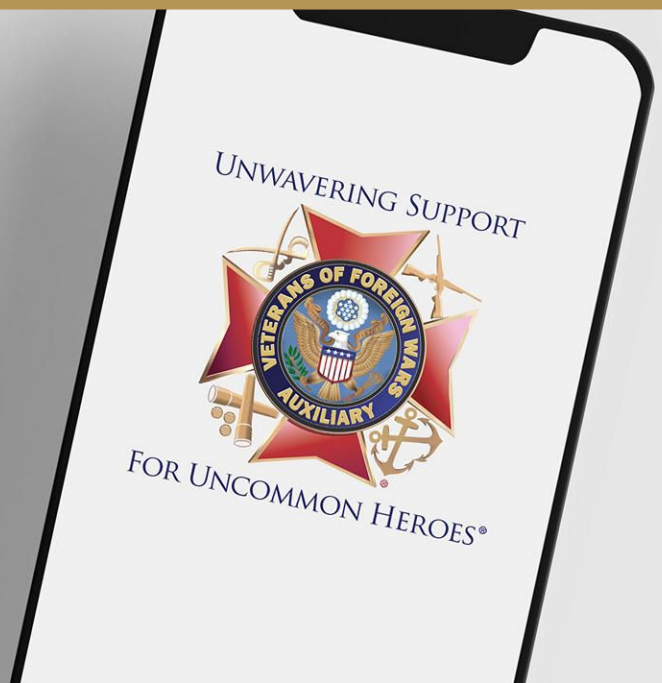
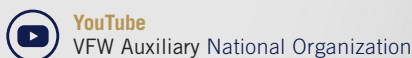
We can help.

1. Click on the current issue at vfwauxiliary.org/magazine.
2. Click on the “hamburger” menu icon at the top left of the screen. (Icon with three horizontal bars.)
3. From this menu, select Contents View.
4. Article titles and their corresponding first few paragraphs will be displayed.
5. Click on the article you want to enlarge. Choose the top icon at the top left of the article with the two As – this will allow you to adjust the font size. (Use your fingers to enlarge article text on smartphone and tablet screens.)
6. To enlarge other articles, click the back button on your browser and select another story.

NOTE: *The easiest way to enlarge print on a cell phone is to zoom in as you usually would, by putting two fingertips beside each other in the center of the section you wish to focus on and pulling them apart in a reverse-pinch motion.*



get SOCIAL





*I am so
very proud of
all you do for
our veterans and
their families.*

Dear members—

I'd like to share a huge thank you to all of the Departments for your hospitality, the memories and the friends I will cherish forever. I am so very proud of all you do for our veterans and their families.

I also want to thank fellow members from Departments all over the country who have made a special effort to arrange visits to many beautiful churches and take me to Mass. I am very touched by your kindness.

What a wonderful Mid-Year Conference cruise we had! Congratulations to the Southern Conference for attaining the highest percentage in membership and the recognition they received aboard the Norwegian Bliss. Another Conference will be recognized at the National Convention in Phoenix. Will it be yours?

A reminder that you still have time to get your entries in for both Young American Creative Patriotic Art and 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art [contests](#) for judging. There are two separate contests – Young American Creative Patriotic Art is for two-dimensional art and the 3-Dimensional Patriotic Art Contest is exclusively for three-dimensional art. This means each Department may submit an entry for each contest. Good luck, and we look forward to seeing the inspiring work of talented young artists from across the nation!

While in Hawaii I was privileged to visit the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA). They are military personnel, historians and scientists who do the important work of locating and repatriating service members home with honor. There are more than 81,000 unaccounted for veterans. DPAA estimates it is possible to account for about 38,000. How can you help? Consider submitting a DNA sample so we can return these veterans home to their families.

DNA from surviving family members is key to identifying missing loved ones. It is technology that simply did not exist when these active-duty troops were lost. To learn more visit dpaa.mil or contact a service casualty office if you are a relative interested in submitting a DNA/family reference sample:

Offices are:

- United States Air Force 1 (800) 531-5501
- United States Army 1 (800) 892-2490
- United States Marine Corps 1 (800) 847-1597
- United States Navy 1 (800) 443-9298
- Department of State 1 (202) 485-6106

Thank you and God bless!

JANE REAPE
National President

"There are two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle, the other is as though everything is." — Albert Einstein



National Mid-Year Conference... is our opportunity to reconnect, conduct business and recognize achievements that continue to drive our mission and organization forward.

Dear members—

It was so great to see many of you in person on the high seas and exploring the Mexican Riviera at [National Mid-Year Conference 2023](#).

This is our opportunity to reconnect, conduct business at the National Council of Administration meeting and recognize achievements that continue to drive our mission and organization forward. We enjoyed welcoming VFW Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland, VFW Adjutant General Dan West, VFW Quartermaster General Marc Garduno and Mike Wilson of the VFW National Home to our meeting and hearing from our National Guard candidates. Look for more information from candidates in upcoming editions of *VFW Auxiliary Magazine* and the National E-Newsletter as well as on social media ahead of the 110th National Convention where members will cast their votes for our newest National Line Officer in July.

Congratulations to the Southern Conference, the winner of our Conference versus Conference for growth in membership! To all, you should be proud of the impressive work you did to compete for this – it was a close race to the finish.

In this edition, we'll take a look at the VFW's 2023 Priority Goals, targeted items that we, along with the VFW, work toward achieving for our veterans and service members through our relationships that influence legislators and government officials.

We'll also take a more in-depth look at your feedback about *VFW Auxiliary Magazine* going digital and why we had to make this tough decision for our organization and its members. We understand your concerns about leaving our "non-digital" contingent, those who do not have internet, smartphone or computer or tablet access, out of the loop in the absence of a printed periodical. Let's explore how we can work together to make sure they are included. Note that we have added archives dating all the way back to the very first digital issue on our Magazine page here: vfwauxiliary.org/magazine.

Looking ahead, members will head to Phoenix, Arizona for [National Convention](#) July 22-27. Read more about our host city, known for its perpetual sunshine, on page 9. Register online in MALTA or by mail.

We look forward to seeing you in one of the world's sunniest cities!

AMANDA COOK
Editor-In-Chief

VOLUME 84 NUMBER 5

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Amanda Cook

Contributing Writers
Nicole Panteleakos &
Maria Royer

VFW Auxiliary Magazine

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Editorial Office

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Change of Address

Forward address changes to: Circulation Department, VFW Auxiliary Magazine, 406 W. 34th St., 10th Floor, Kansas City, MO 64111.

Be sure to furnish your old address and your Auxiliary number when requesting address change. To ensure accuracy, please clip and enclose your present address as printed on a recent copy of VFW Auxiliary Magazine. Or email info@vfwauxiliary.org.

Website

www.vfwauxiliary.org

READER'S VOICE



This is the space for comments regarding your *VFW Auxiliary Magazine*. Mail your submissions to National Headquarters or email them to info@vfwauxiliary.org, marked "Letter to the Editor." We reserve the right to edit letters for length and clarity. The opinions expressed in Letters to the Editor should not be interpreted as the opinion of the National Organization.

I have belonged to the VFW Auxiliary for 49 years, and I am very upset about losing the magazine. I do not have a computer or a fancy phone like all of you people because I cannot afford it. I thought our dues paid for the magazine. And I don't drive so I don't know what is going on (at the Auxiliary). But the VFW and Auxiliary can go on cruises every year and pays for that. They don't care about elderly people.

CARMELATTA BERNICE BAGGS

Kansas City, Missouri

Auxiliary 6603

Blue Springs, Missouri

This is in regards to the notice printed in the November issue that printed copies of the magazine will be canceled starting with the January 2023 issue. Now I will give you my personal feedback concerning this matter. I have been a member of the VFW Auxiliary since 1978 and have always paid my dues. I have always regarded this magazine as a very important source of information. As a solution for this to have local members print copies for other members or take to nursing homes will not solve the problem, for there are members who still live in their own homes or apartments. In order to get the magazine digitally you need a computer or smartphone and this causes a major budget expense for many of us cannot afford this, as I will be 90 years old (in March) and find it hard to learn new ways of doing things.

My suggestion is to take a survey and continue to send the hard/printed copies to those without the needed equipment and then send digital copies to the others. I look forward to the magazine and hope you can take care of this request.

GLADYS S. PEDERSEN

Glencoe, Minnesota

Auxiliary 1783

Young America, Minnesota

FROM THE EDITOR: *Carmelatta and Gladys, thank you for sharing your thoughts with us. To Carmelatta, members raised dues by \$1 back in the 1940s to cover the expense of the magazine, which in today's economy would translate to a \$20-per-year dues increase. National Headquarters currently receives \$5 per year of any annual member dues and \$3.20 per year from Life Member dues. Please see the article about the magazine on page 19 for more about events. Gladys, we would like to be able to offer members who want to print the magazine this service. We are exploring print-on-demand options, and if we can find a vendor that can print one or two issues at a reasonable price, we hope to make this available.*

Thank you for your continued support of VFW Auxiliary. I also wanted to thank you very much for going e-(magazine). My husband and I move with the government pretty much every two years or so, often times overseas. In the past I always had to update our mailing address, or otherwise would have missed an issue of the magazine.

It also always took a long time for the magazine to catch up at some of the "weirder" locations, like Kyrgyzstan. Now, I don't have to worry that I ever miss an issue. And I can update my information in MALTA once we are established at our new location(s).

BARBARA SHEDD

National Member at Large

MY VETERAN

PETER URBANIAK

Lawrence Urbaniak, Life Member of Auxiliary 4139 in Lapeer, Michigan joined the Auxiliary in 2022 after learning about his grandfather Peter Urbaniak's service during World War I and his history with the VFW. A second-generation American during a peak of migration to the United States, Peter joined the 40% of troops serving in World War I who were first- and second-generation Americans. Peter, and all those who had sought freedom in the United States, fought to protect that freedom, while embracing their country and demonstrating patriotism.

On May 16, 1917, Peter Urbaniak enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps with his younger brother Joseph. Both men were assigned to the 81st Company, 6th Machine Gun Battalion and in December, their battalion deployed to France.

Side-by-side, the men fought in the trenches in early 1918, supporting efforts to fend off German troops and defending their fellow Marines. In June of the same year, the brothers-in-life/brothers-in-arms were separated when Joseph was evacuated due to a serious health condition, leaving Peter to fulfill their shared call to duty.

In fall of the same year, Peter found himself fighting in several battles during which the Marines sustained significant casualties, including the Battle of Blanc Mont Ridge, for which he was awarded a Silver Star for gallantry in action. Peter remained in Europe until the Treaty of Versailles was signed on June 28, 1919, ending World War I.

Peter was discharged August 13, 1919. He returned home where the brothers were reunited. Peter built a home and a life with his wife Frances; he continued to support his fellow veterans as a charter member of VFW Post 3323, Wayne Michigan. In fact, the first meeting of Post 3323 was held in Peter's garage as the Post Home had yet to be built.

Peter and his brother Joseph paved the way for the next generation of service to the United States as the third generation of Urbaniaks followed their path, defending their country and democracy in World War II and the Korean War. ✨ MR

Peter and Frances Urbaniak pose before a Memorial Day parade in 1941.



Brothers Joseph (left) and Peter (right) Urbaniak together joined the Marines in 1917 and were assigned to the 81st Company, 6th Machine Gun Battalion.

AUXILIARY SPOTLIGHT

The goals of our organization include honoring and serving veterans, acknowledging their sacrifices and providing services and support. In an effort to accomplish these goals and connect with the veteran community, VFW Auxiliary 1770, Willows, California, joined with their Post to create the Veteran of the Month program. Initiated in June 2021, the program has recognized 31 veterans thus far and culminated in the Veterans of the Year dinner and presentation in December 2022. In addition to honoring veterans, the program has allowed the Post/Auxiliary to reconnect with inactive members, bring attention to the community's veterans and expanding membership.

Susan Cooper, member of Auxiliary 1770 and event organizer of the Veterans of the Year dinner describes the program as a means to “reconnect with our veterans” and to find other veterans in the community. Cooper states, “I personally didn’t know (that) my dentist, the receptionist at my son’s pediatrician, a local newspaper reporter, my mail clerk or the single mom around the corner from me were veterans. Veterans should be honored every day and how can we honor them if we don’t know who they are?”

The initiative has also served to reunite with absent VFW members, returning them to the fold, and has expanded membership in the Post and Auxiliary by including family members and inviting them to events at the Post Home.

In addition to holding presentations for military heroes at the Post, homebound veterans have been honored with presentations in their homes. Family and friends are always invited to attend, which makes the presentation

more meaningful and teaches younger generations about the heroes in their family. In May 2022, two homebound veterans were honored: Thomas McMartin, U.S. Air Force and Bob Martin, U.S. Marine Corps. Both men have passed on since receiving this honor, but in their final months, they benefited from the meals and other necessities as a result of the program. Cooper shares that “...it was a highlight in their final days.”

Additionally, the program has brought attention to the lack of services available to veterans in the community.

Cooper explains, “We have discovered some needs that need to be met for local veterans such as appliance repair or replacement, wheelchairs, walkers, gas for medical trips and meals for homebound vets.”

Cooper encourages other Auxiliaries to adopt this idea and to make it their own, depending on the needs of veterans in their communities.

“All veterans are deserving, and this is not about who is the best veteran, it’s only about who IS A VETERAN.” ✨ MR

Interview excerpts from: : Lynzie Lowe, Auxiliary Hosts Dinner to Honor Glenn County Veterans -*Appeal Democrat*, Glenn County Transcript (December 21, 2022).



ABOVE: Bob Martin, May 2022 Veteran of the Month, surrounded by family as he accepts his award at his home. LEFT: Susan Cooper (far left), Auxiliary 1770, presents the October Veteran of the Month award to Zach Rutherglen (second from right), U.S. Navy, with his parents Glenda and Thomas Rutherglen in attendance.

NATIONAL CONVENTION 2023 PHOENIX, ARIZONA

Be Radiant



Members will meet in the Valley of the Sun for the VFW Auxiliary's [110th National Convention](#) July 22-27. Now an urban sprawl of the Sonoran desert, this mountain-encompassed city has ancient origins. Indigenous nomadic tribes gravitated to the area's Salt River millennia ago and later, a civilization known as the Hohokam settled in the area and thrived after establishing a canal system that supported agriculture and village life until the mid-15th century.

This is Phoenix, Arizona. We'll learn more about this city of perpetual sunshine, including history and culture, attractions, its walkable downtown corridor and a memorial that honors soldiers who were aboard the *USS Arizona* during the attack on Pearl Harbor.

HISTORY: ANCIENT CIVILIZATIONS, A VETERAN AND A FRENCH LORD

According to Visit Phoenix, the city's nonprofit tourism and marketing organization, there is no record of the Hohokam after about 1450, though they are

believed to be ancestors of the Pima Indians. In the Pima language, "hohokam" means "those who have gone."

By the time pioneer and Civil War veteran John W. "Jack" Swilling entered the scene, the O'odham and Sobaipuri tribes inhabited the area. (Phoenix is currently home to 22 sovereign American Indian tribes.) Swilling, credited as an original founder of modern Phoenix, befriended fellow explorer Phillip Darrell Duppa. Originally from Paris, France, Duppa, who referred to himself as Lord Duppa, said he had shipwrecked and wandered South America before finding his way to Arizona and appreciating the region's potential. It was Duppa who drew this



comparison: The town that would emerge from the vestiges of earlier civilizations was much like the mythical bird who rises from the ashes of its predecessor ready to begin a new life. Phoenix, Arizona was born.

Incorporated in 1881, the city of Phoenix was officially recognized on May 4, 1868, when the Yavapai County Board of Supervisors formed an election precinct there. Statehood was celebrated on February 14, 1912, and George W. P. Hunt was elected Arizona's first governor.

TODAY'S PHOENIX includes \$5 billion for recent downtown investments and an ultramodern convention center.

It is divided into urban villages now, many based on historically significant neighborhoods and communities (*Source: Wikipedia*). As the sunniest major city in the world, Phoenix is known for outdoor adventures like golf with more than 185 courses and more than 50 miles of hiking and biking trails. It is also known for being the hottest U.S. city during summer months, so do plan to dress for the weather.

We will spend a lot of our time **DOWNTOWN** where the Phoenix Convention Center is as well as the Roosevelt Row Arts District and Heritage Square.

FROM VISITPHOENIX.COM:

“This is where you’ll find sports arenas, live music, rooftop lounges, museums, theaters, art galleries and more than 200 restaurants. And it’s all served by one of the newest light rail systems in the nation.”





ROOSEVELT ROW ARTS DISTRICT:

The creative beat of the city's urban heart is in Roosevelt Row, home to galleries, mural-splashed business walls and a monthly art walk.

HERITAGE SQUARE:

Part of the original townsite of Phoenix, Heritage Square spotlights a collection of preserved 19th- and 20th-century homes — some of which have been repurposed for restaurants and bars — as well as some of the city's best museums. The area's Pizzeria Bianco (heralded as the best pizza in the nation) is a James Beard Award winner.

Discover even more of this city by taking in other districts.

MELROSE DISTRICT:

This 1-mile stretch of Seventh Avenue, between Indian School and Camelback roads, is where you'll find some of the best antique shops, art, dining, patio cocktailing and dancing around. Also known as "The Curve" for its winding nature in an otherwise grided city, its mid-century roots and LGBTQ+ establishments.

OLD TOWN SCOTTSDALE:

Southwestern arts and hip eateries line the streets of Old Town, a popular destination for Greater Phoenix shopping and nightlife. If you're hunting for a souvenir, you'll find your fill of old-fashioned flair (think cowboy hats and turquoise jewelry) alongside upscale art galleries and trendy boutiques in the Fifth Avenue district.

Explore the city's museums, too, tailored to appeal to a variety of interests.

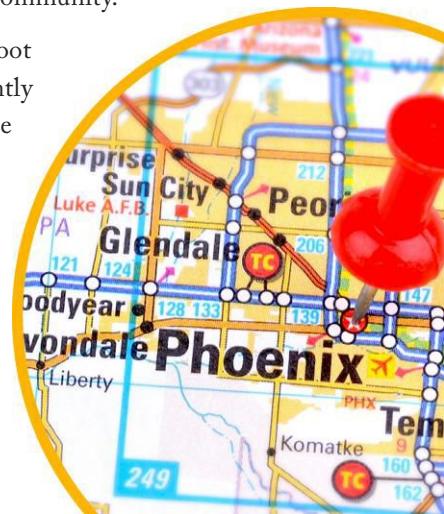


The Heard Museum (American Indian); Desert Botanical Garden (the world's largest collection of desert plants); Taliesin West (UNESCO World Heritage Site); the Phoenix Art Museum (the Southwest's largest art museum); the Hall of Flame (the world's largest collection of fire-fighting equipment); Pueblo Grande Museum and Archaeological Park (Hohokam) and the Musical Instrument Museum (MIM) are among cultural hot spots. The Heard Museum has an extensive collection of American Indian artifacts, including the largest kachina doll collection (donated in part by the late Arizona Senator Barry Goldwater) of any museum in the country.

Visit the **USS ARIZONA MEMORIAL GARDENS AT SALT RIVER** located on tribal land outside of Phoenix. It is a place to shine a light on heroism and reflect on and honor the service members and civilians whose lives were lost at the attack on Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941. The memorial is open dawn to dusk seven days a week.

In 2018, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian community received a large part of the superstructure of the *USS Arizona* (BB-39), identified as part of the original boat house, and built the gardens around it. The boat house relic served as the original memorial at Pearl Harbor for 10 years and is the largest and only piece ever given to a tribal community.

The 12 foot by 5 foot by 7 foot boat house relic is prominently displayed at the center of the gardens, adjacent to the water's edge. It is enclosed in a temperature-controlled case, positioned to provide



NATIONAL CONVENTION



visitors a peaceful place of seclusion from all other surroundings, and features a vantage point that spans across the water. It was purposely placed in the approximate location it once stood on the *USS Arizona*.

The USS Arizona Memorial Gardens at Salt River spans the exact length and width of the *USS Arizona* with more than 1,500

commemorative columns outlining the actual perimeter of the ship. Each column is representative of an individual aboard the Arizona on December 7, 1941. Each lit column represents an individual who perished during the attack and each column without a light represents an individual who survived. As night falls, each column glows internally with light, transforming the gardens by memorializing each individual's internal light, one that will continue to glow and stand the test of time.

"As a nation, we are forever indebted to those who serve and give their lives for our freedom and we are proud to honor them and share their stories in these gardens."

- Content provided by the [USS Arizona Memorial Gardens at Salt River](#).

*We look forward
to seeing you*

**AT NATIONAL CONVENTION
IN A FEW MONTHS!**

**To learn more about Phoenix,
[click here.](#)**



PAGE 9: *A glimpse of the Heard Museum Indian Fair & Market, Visit Phoenix/Fernando Hernández.*

PAGE 10: *Phoenix's Valley Metro Rail, Visit Phoenix/Nick Oza.*

PAGE 11: *Outside Stacy's@Melrose, Visit Phoenix/nightfuse.com.*

THIS PAGE: *Middle image, a view of the USS Arizona Memorial Gardens at Salt River, Discover Salt River. Below, the Old Town shopping district at Salt River/Discover Salt River.*



2023 NATIONAL CONVENTION SCHEDULE

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

All meetings are held in the convention center unless otherwise noted. Times for various functions are subject to change. Meeting rooms will be posted closer to conference dates and are subject to change.

LS = Livestream

FRI, JULY 21

9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Early packet pickup at Renaissance Phoenix Downtown Hotel and Hyatt Regency Phoenix Hotel

SAT, JULY 22

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall Open/Registration

10:00-11:30 a.m. Conference Meetings

Noon-1:30 p.m. 45-Plus Club Luncheon
(Reservations required)

5:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Circle of Excellence Ceremony (LS)

SUN, JULY 23

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall Open/Registration

8:30-9:30 a.m. Joint Memorial Service

10:15-11:15 a.m. National District Council Member Training

11:30-12:30 a.m. Past Councilors' Club Luncheon

1:00-4:30 p.m. Programs Seminar (LS)

MON, JULY 24

8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall Open/Registration

8:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Joint Opening Session

1:30 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Auxiliary Opening Business Session (LS)

TUE, JULY 25

8:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. Exhibit Hall Open/Registration

8:30 a.m.-Noon Auxiliary Business Session (LS)

2:10 a.m.-3:45 p.m. Meet the Line Officers and Ambassadors

6:00 p.m. -8:00 p.m. VFW Patriotic Celebration

WED, JULY 26

8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Exhibit Hall Open/Registration

8:30 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Auxiliary Business Session (LS)

Noon-1:00 p.m. Department Treasurer Training
(Dept. Treasurers (DT) and Asst. DT only)

3:00-4:00 p.m. Budget Presentation

THURS, JULY 27

8:00 a.m. -8:15 a.m. Presentation of Department Presidents with colors (LS)

8:30 a.m. -11:30 a.m. Officer Election, Installation and Closing Session (LS)

4:00-6:00 p.m. Joint Reception for Commander-in-Chief and National President (Ticketed event) Sheraton Hotel Phoenix

POST-CONVENTION EVENTS

FRI, JULY 28

9:00 a.m. -11:00 a.m. National District Council Meeting, Renaissance Phoenix Downtown Hotel

6:00 p.m. -9:00 p.m. National President's Celebration hosted by the Department of Utah, Renaissance Phoenix Downtown Hotel

The VFW is planning a first-ever Cornhole Tournament. Please watch for details on the VFW website.

REGISTRATION FORM

National Convention: Advance Registration \$25

45-Plus Luncheon *(Complimentary)*

Name Membership No.

Address City State ZIP

Department Phone Email

Check enclosed Money order enclosed Credit card

DO NOT SEND CASH.

Credit Card No.

Visa MasterCard

Name on card

Discover American Express

Billing address for card

City State ZIP

Expiration date

3-digit CVV code on back of card *(Visa, MasterCard, Discover)*

4-digit CVV code on front of card *(Amex only)*

This form and all payments must be received at National Headquarters by May 31.

No exceptions or refunds after this date.

DO NOT ENCLOSE DELEGATE LISTS WITH THIS FORM.

SAVE \$15!

Advance registration is \$25.

On-site registration is \$40.

Register in MALTA, pay with a credit card (form above) or mail a check to:

VFW Auxiliary

406 W. 34th St., 10th Floor,
Kansas City, MO 64111

Attn: National Convention Registration

Registration must be received by May 31.

Registrations received after May 31 will be rejected.

Member must be present at time of registration to receive packet.

45-YEARS PLUS CLUB LUNCHEON

Have you been a member for 45 years or more?

Come join the 45-Years Plus Club at National Convention.

The luncheon will be at noon on Saturday, July 16 at the Convention Center.

Register online or fill out form (above) and mail to National Headquarters. Registration is required to attend.

Note: To register for the 45-Years Plus Club Luncheon, you must have been a member prior to June 30, 1978, and maintained continuous membership since that date.

Celebrating AMERICA'S FREEDOM EVENT 2023

It was 1869 when two ribbons of steel united our nation in a remote valley on the north end of the Great Salt Lake. This “wedding of the rails” forever joined the Central Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads to complete the first Transcontinental Railroad. The Golden Spike Ceremony at Promontory Summit, Utah territory, marked this final connection of rails that spanned the continent.

It brought together thousands of workers from different cultures, some of whom were veterans from the Eastern region of the U.S.

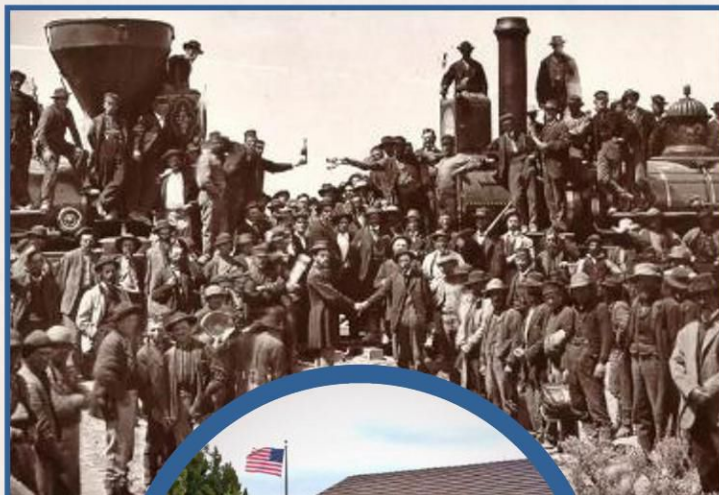
In September, members will join incoming VFW Auxiliary National President Carla Martinez for the 11th-annual Celebrating America’s Freedom Event at this site of one of the greatest technological achievements of the 19th century.

According to the park’s website, visitors can see the location of the Last Spike Site, 1869 railroad construction features, walk or drive on the original railroad grade, and get an up-close view of Victorian-era replica locomotives. We will learn the history of the locomotives that met on May 10th, 1869 and the four precious metal spikes that Golden Spike is known for.

(Source: Golden Spike National Historical Park)



[CAFE 2023](#) is scheduled for September 18. Registration is \$30 and includes bus transportation to the park. Register online in MALTA June 1–August 18. Look for more details soon, including hotel accommodations, on our Events page at vfwauxiliary.org.



[CLICK HERE](#)
TO LEARN MORE ABOUT
**GOLDEN SPIKE NATIONAL
HISTORICAL PARK**





JOIN US AT VFW MAGAZINE'S FACEBOOK PAGE

VFW magazine wants you, valued Auxiliary members, to join the conversation! Be part of our editorial crowdsourcing and help us to tell the VFW and Auxiliary stories. Give us a 'like' on Facebook for exclusive content. By doing so, you can share your feedback on articles you read in VFW and easily connect to the digital edition of VFW magazine. We look forward to interacting with you!

www.facebook.com/vfwmagazine

Delivering the promise to our veterans, service members and their families.

VFW

NO ONE DOES MORE FOR VETERANS.

VFW 2023

PRIORITY GOALS

The VFW has played an instrumental role in nearly every piece of veterans' legislation passed since the beginning of the 20th century. Everything the VFW does on Capitol Hill is with the VFW's Priority Goals and veterans' well-being in mind. With the strength of the more than 1.5 million members of the VFW and its Auxiliary, our voice on Capitol Hill cannot be ignored!

BUDGET

To fully fund programs for veterans, service members and their families, Congress must:

- Reform the dysfunctional federal budget process.
- Authorize VA to receive reimbursements from TRICARE and Medicare.
- Never reduce one veteran's benefits to pay for another.

DISABILITY ASSISTANCE AND MEMORIAL AFFAIRS

To ensure veterans and their survivors have timely access to earned benefits, Congress and VA must:

- Properly implement comprehensive toxic exposure legislation.

- Review and assess military toxic exposures and ensure health care and benefits are provided to all toxic-exposed veterans.
- Consider treatment of presumptive conditions as a claim for disability compensation.
- Properly implement the modernized appeals process.
- Reinstate pre-decisional review authority for claims representatives prior to final rating decisions.
- Require VA to accept private medical evidence in lieu of VA examinations.
- Update regulations and laws governing claims to account for digital claims processing.
- Improve the accuracy of disability compensation claims related to military sexual trauma.
- Crack down on predatory claims providers.

- Increase Dependency and Indemnity Compensation benefits for survivors.
- Increase burial allowances to account for inflation.

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRANSITION ASSISTANCE

To ensure veterans succeed after leaving military service, Congress, VA, DOD and DOL must:

- Conduct oversight of transition assistance program pathways, timely attendance and connections to community transition resources.
- Ensure equal access to pre-discharge claims assistance across the services.
- Mandate the inclusion of accredited representatives in transition assistance briefings.
- Expand transition services for spouses.
- Ensure parity of VA and DOD education programs with other federal programs.
- Improve education benefits through increased online student housing allowances, child care stipends, parity for Guard and Reserve members, and elimination of delimiting dates.
- Enhance outreach and counseling to veterans eligible for the Veteran Readiness and Employment program.
- Expand small business and entrepreneurship resources for veterans and military spouses.
- Expand preferences and tax incentives for hiring veterans and military spouses.
- Fund and track outcomes for career-focused training programs.
- Increase funding for HUD-VASH vouchers, grant and per diem payments, and pilot programs to combat veteran homelessness.

HEALTH CARE

To ensure service members and veterans receive timely access to high-quality health care without increasing cost shares, Congress, VA and DOD must:

- Reduce the number of service members and veterans who die by suicide to zero.
- Strengthen care and research for mental health and traumatic brain injuries.
- Research and effectively treat health conditions associated with toxic exposures.
- Expand geriatric extended care services, nursing home eligibility, and long-term care options.
- Improve VA's prescribing and deprescribing practices.

- Improve programs and services for women and minority veterans.
- Eliminate copayment requirements for preventive health care, including medications.
- Research the efficacy of medical cannabis.
- Properly implement VA and DOD health IT systems.
- Ensure Affordable Care Act parity and access for VA and TRICARE users.

MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE

To maintain a quality, comprehensive benefits and retirement package that is the backbone for an all-volunteer force, Congress and DOD must:

- Eliminate sexual assault and harassment from the military.
- Increase military base pay comparability with private sector wages.
- Protect and improve on-base quality of life and support programs.
- Eliminate forced arbitration clauses in contracts for service members.
- Ensure that military housing is safe and free of toxic substances.
- End the military retirement pay and VA disability compensation offset.
- Ensure military family members are gainfully employed.
- Eliminate food insecurity in the military.
- Establish the Armed Forces University.
- Ensure equity of benefits for Reserve component service members.

NATIONAL SECURITY, FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND POW/MIA

To fully support service members, and protect our nation's citizens and interests around the world, Congress and DOD must:

- Preserve the all-volunteer force.
- Expand partnerships with host nations and private/public organizations to achieve the fullest possible accounting of U.S. military personnel missing from all wars.
- Ensure DPAA is fully funded to perform its personnel recovery mission.

THE VALUE

We have heard from many members about *VFW Auxiliary Magazine* going digital. While a fraction of this feedback has been positive, most of those who responded with letters, phone calls and social media posts are unhappy with the news that our National member publication will not continue to be printed and mailed. We hope to shed more light on the decision in this article.

WHY DID VFW AUXILIARY MAGAZINE BECOME A DIGITAL PUBLICATION?

The short answer is: Because the National Council of Administration voted in July of 2022 to save our organization money due to the revenue from our investments declining in this challenging economic climate. To put this in perspective, this is a LOT of money. The magazine costs close to \$1 million per year to produce, design, print and mail to each of our 480,000 members six times per year.

The digital-only format allows us to keep our magazine and all of its news and information, but the cost drops from around \$160,000 per issue to less than \$500 an issue, which means all of these funds get rerouted to sustain our organization so we can continue to support our mission of serving veterans, service members their families and our communities.

WHAT ABOUT ALL OF OUR “NON-DIGITAL” MEMBERS WHO DON’T HAVE COMPUTERS OR SMARTPHONES?

We’ve been admonished for excluding these members. This is our biggest criticism, and rightfully so. The bottom line is members who are not connected to the internet via computers, smartphones or tablets won’t be able to access their magazine directly. Which is why we have encouraged members and Auxiliaries who do have access to the magazine to connect with members who do not. Consider taking your tablet and reading the magazine to a member now in assisted living. Report this under Veterans & Family Support.

If you have a printer and are willing to use some ink, print in economy- or save-ink-and-toner mode and share photocopies. We’ve changed the dimensions to a more readable and printable size of 8.5” x 11”.

THE DIGITAL MAGAZINE IS TOO DIFFICULT TO READ.

If you are having a hard time reading the magazine because the type size is too small, we can help.



OF OUR NATIONAL MAGAZINE

1. Click on the current issue at vfwauxiliary.org/magazine.
2. Click on the “hamburger” menu icon at the top left of the screen. (Icon with three horizontal bars.)
3. From this menu, select Contents View.
4. Article titles and their corresponding first few paragraphs will be displayed.
5. Click on the article you want to enlarge. Choose the top icon at the top left of the article with the two As – this will allow you to adjust the font size. (Use your fingers to enlarge article text on smartphone and tablet screens.)
6. To enlarge other articles, click the back button on your browser and select another story.

Note: The easiest way to enlarge print on a cell phone is to zoom in as you usually would, by putting two fingertips beside each other in the center of the section you wish to focus on and pulling them apart in a reverse-pinch motion.

WHAT ABOUT SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR THOSE WHO STILL WANT TO RECEIVE THEIR PRINTED COPY?

Managing subscriptions is a comprehensive job that requires the work of accounts payable/receivable and maintaining/updating a name and address database. This would require adding more full-time staff members to our modest team of 12 at HQ, and incur more expense.

MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST QUIT HAVING TRIPS AND EVENTS.

We felt that we could change the magazine without losing it entirely. We have to meet as an organization in person

to conduct business (like National Convention) and ultimately, there is a lot to be gained in the comradery we find at these functions. Do we have to celebrate America’s freedom? No. But then again, we cannot cut everything we do to gather and celebrate our nation and achievements. If we’re not recognizing our fellow members who’ve worked so hard for our mission of improving veterans’ and service members’ lives and have no reason to see each other face-to-face a few times a year to learn and grow, then we, as an organization, don’t have a lot to offer members.

A RIDE IN THE VFW AUXILIARY MAGAZINE TIME MACHINE

Way back when members decided to print and send the first issue of the National magazine, they funded this with a \$1 per year dues increase. (*Source: Celebrate 75 Years: Ladies Auxiliary to the VFW*) Only a dollar! But actually, this doubled their dues. In the 1940s. In today’s economy, that figure would be closer to a \$20 per year dues increase.

WHAT CAN WE DO TO BRING BACK THE PAPER MAGAZINE?

This decision was not made lightly. Our goal was not to alienate or lose members; rather it was a difficult choice we made to sustain our organization and further our mission. We are open to any *new* ideas that could generate the money required to fund a printed publication. *Note: We are exploring print on demand services that would let members order a printed copy of the magazine.* ✨ AC



HQ MEMO:

THINK—Before Electing Delegates and Alternates for your 2023 District, Department and National Conventions, those present at the March, April and May Auxiliary meetings need to consider the following:

- Those members who have stated their interest in attending the upcoming District, Department and National Conventions;
- Those members who have attended these Convention meetings in the recent past;
- Those members who are District and/or Department Officers and/or Chairmen;
- Those members who are the spouses of VFW Officers who will represent the VFW Post at these same Conventions;
- In short, talk with your members and ask them if they are interested in representing the Auxiliary at District, Department or National Conventions.



EXAMPLES:

- Your Auxiliary Treasurer is the Department Legislative Chairman, so yes, he or she would likely attend both the District and the Department Conventions and should be considered to be elected as a Delegate or Alternate to the Convention meetings.
- You know that your Post Commander will be the only member attending the District and Department Conventions; his wife, although she has not attended

meetings regularly, has traveled with him around the District and Department and therefore would be present at the Conventions so the Auxiliary would have at least one (1) Representative present.

Note that Delegates and Alternates to Districts shall be elected at a regular meeting of the Auxiliary held not less than 30 days prior to the District Convention at which District Officers are to be elected.

Also, the Auxiliary needs to be familiar with the number of Delegates and Alternates to which it is entitled for District (Section 303-1 Delegate and 1 Alternate for each fifteen (15) members in good standing or portion thereof at the time of election); Department (Section 304-1 Delegate and 1 Alternate for each thirty (30) members in good standing or portion thereof at the time of election) and National (Section 305-1 Delegate and 1 Alternate for each fifty (50) members in good standing or portion thereof at the time of election).

Following the elections of these respective Delegates and Alternates, it is the responsibility of the Auxiliary Secretary to see that the representatives chosen by the Auxiliary reach their District and Department Secretary prior to those Conventions. The Auxiliary Secretary must input the Delegates and Alternates to National Convention in MALTA by no later than May 31 or mail, fax or email to info@vfwauxiliary.org the Delegates and Alternates names and membership ID numbers to the National Secretary.

The Auxiliary Secretary is responsible for reporting the Auxiliary's Delegates and Alternates to the District Secretary (District Convention) and to the Department Secretary (Department Convention) by the respective deadlines and National Convention (National Secretary) or input the Delegates and Alternates into MALTA. Auxiliary Secretaries are encouraged to print out the list of Delegates and Alternates to verify that those entered were posted.

VFW AUXILIARY HOSPITAL *Volunteer* SERVICE PINS

Pins bearing the VFW Auxiliary emblem and designating the number of hours a volunteer has devoted to hospital work will be awarded to members in good standing who have volunteered a minimum of 150 hours under Auxiliary sponsorship

in any hospital. Only the pin or bar indicating the largest number of hours accumulated should be worn.

Applications for service pins – which acknowledge as many as 10,000 hours – are available online in [MALTA Member Resources](#), Hospital.



10,000 HOURS



Pins between 6,000 and 9,000 hours are triangular with an additional pearl for each 1,000 earned. A bar guard signifying 10,000 hours may be attached to this pin, and bar guards are available for each additional 1,000 hours.

SPONSORED HOSPITAL VOLUNTEER PIN



The sponsored hospital volunteer/student volunteer who volunteers a minimum of 100 hours under the VFW Auxiliary sponsorship in any VA or non-VA facility is eligible to receive this pin from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters. This award is for non-members and only one pin is awarded during volunteer's lifetime.

HOSPITAL RECRUITING CHARM



A charm from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters will be awarded to each member recruiting one or more volunteers between July 1 and May 31. These charms are available for both VFW Auxiliary members and sponsored hospital volunteer/student volunteers.

Note: Please apply for pins when accumulated hours are earned by volunteer. Applications for hospital volunteer service pins are available in MALTA Member Resources. Applications are to be prepared by the local VFW Auxiliary Hospital Chairman. All pins are available from VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters at no cost to the Department, Auxiliary, member or non-member volunteer. If you have questions, please contact VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters at 816.561.8655 or info@vfwauxiliary.org.



BLUE/GREY AUXILIARY T-SHIRT VFW Auxiliary screened on left chest. Unisex sizing.
7049 S-2XL \$17.95
3XL \$20.95



RHINESTONE T-SHIRT Ladies' cut, royal blue T-shirt with full color VFW Auxiliary Emblem in sparkling rhinestones. Logo measures 8".
7878 S-5XL \$19.95



RHINESTONE TOTE Royal blue zippered bag with VFW Auxiliary Emblem in brilliant rhinestones.
18 x 16 x 4½".
1179 \$19.95

PATRIOTIC ART
Thank your participants!



DRAWSTRING BACKPACK Black polycanvas with drawstring, 18 x 14½".
1870 \$15.95



SKETCH PAD Spiral bound, black hardcover, 70 pages.
5½ x 8½"
1872 \$10.95



DOG TAG CARABINER 2" aluminum dog tag on a black carabiner.
1871 \$5.00



BRACELET Black braided leather. Laser engraved stainless steel. 8".
1677 \$7.95

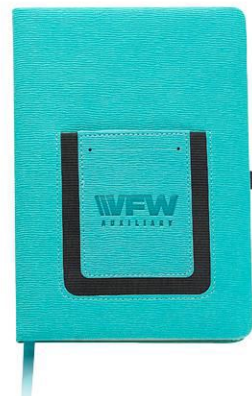


ROLLING TOTE Locking pull-up handle with in-line skate wheels. Multiple pockets. Spacious main zipper compartment. Not for checked luggage. 13½ x 18 x 8". \$49.95
1134 Teal 1129 Black



LIFE MEMBER BACKPACK Top carry handles. Lined interior with padded laptop sleeve holds most laptops up to 16". Small front inside pocket, large front zipper pocket, two side pockets.
10¼" x 14" x 6½".
1128 \$31.95

TEAL JOURNAL Front pocket fits most cell phones. Elastic pen holder, ribbon bookmark, document pocket on inside back cover. 80 lined pages. 5½ x 8¼". Debossed VFW Auxiliary.
1203 \$19.95



ANGEL PIN 1⅛" with red, white and blue enamel fill. Clear center stone. Clutch back.
1777 \$3.00

Prices valid through 8/31/2023

Your purchase from the VFW Store supports veterans, military service members and their families!