

Happy Spring South Dakota Auxiliary Members,

It is that time of year to fill out year end reports. I have included the SD VFW Auxiliary Department Year End Report. These are due to my mail or email by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026. The winner will be announced at our State Convention in Mitchell. Thank you to all that have already submitted these forms to me.

All SD VFW Auxiliaries can compete for our Historian & Media Relations National Program Awards. I have included the 2025-2026 Entry Form and the instructions for creating a Facebook Reel. Reels can be between 3 seconds and 90 seconds long. If you would like to compete for these awards, please have your local Auxiliary Chairperson complete the National Awards 2025-2026 Entry Form and email me your Facebook Reels. **(Please do not fill in these two fields – screenshot is shown below and is at the bottom of the form. I will sign and date these two fields on our state winners form for submission. Thank you.)**

Department Historian & Media Relations Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Signature*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
*Forms sent to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters will not be processed or forwarded.*

Both the form and reel are due to me by email by March 31, 2026, for judging. (Sorry for the short notice). I will choose the most outstanding reel and forward to my National Historian & Media Relations Ambassador Kristin DiGiacomo by April 30, 2026, for judging. Have fun with this and please ask me if you have any questions.

Enclosed below are the SD VFW Auxiliary Department Year End Report due by April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026, the Historian & Media Relations National Awards Form and the directions for making a Facebook Reel which are due by March 31<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

I am so proud of all that our auxiliaries do around the state. You all amaze me at how you care for our veterans and our communities. I can always be reached for questions at [danibolte@sio.midco.net](mailto:danibolte@sio.midco.net), message me on Facebook or text to 6057591993.

Take Care,

Dani Bolte

2025-2026 Historian/Public Relations Chairperson

SOUTH DAKOTA VFW AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT YEAR END REPORT

Historian & Media Relations 2025-2026

Auxiliary Name & Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Program Chairman Name: \_\_\_\_\_ District: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Did your VFW Auxiliary communicate quarterly to each of their members via email, mail, text or phone call. Circle Y for yes or N for no.
2. Did your VFW Auxiliary have a Facebook page or pages? Circle Y for yes or N for no.  
Was this separate from the VFW? Circle Y for yes or N for no.
3. Did your VFW Auxiliary have an Instagram account? Circle Y for yes or N for no.  
Was this separate from the VFW? Circle Y for yes or N for no.
4. Did your VFW Auxiliaries have a website? Circle Y for yes or N for no.  
Was this separate from the VFW? Circle Y for yes or N for no.
5. Did your VFW Auxiliary post your projects in the newspaper? Circle Y for yes or N for no.  
If yes, how many times? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Was your VFW Auxiliary on the news? Either Radio or Television? Circle Y for yes or N for no.  
If yes, how many times? \_\_\_\_\_
7. Did your auxiliary make a scrapbook showing your projects? Circle Y for yes or N for no.
8. What do you think was your biggest project that touched the most people in your community or surrounding communities? \_\_\_\_\_.
9. Please describe this project on a separate page and attach.

Chairman Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Year End Report Due by April 15, 2026**

Mail to: Department Chairman Dani Bolte

6308 S Mogen Avenue. Sioux Falls, SD 57108

Or you can scan and email to [danibolte@sio.midco.net](mailto:danibolte@sio.midco.net)

Please put "Auxiliary Year-End Report" in the subject line





# Historian & Media Relations

## National Program Awards

### 2025-2026 Entry Form

#### Awards for Auxiliaries

1. Most outstanding social media reel highlighting the VFW Auxiliary in action.
  - Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions with the most outstanding social media reel highlighting their VFW Auxiliary in action.

Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

**VFW Auxiliaries must send this completed entry form and the social media reel to the Department Historian & Media Relations Chairman by March 31, 2026 for judging.**

**Instructions on how to make a social media reel is in MALTA Member Resources under Historian & Media Relations, Websites & Social Media- Websites, How to Create a Facebook Reel.**

VFW Auxiliary Name: \_\_\_\_\_

VFW Auxiliary No: \_\_\_\_\_ Department of: \_\_\_\_\_

Describe the social media reel highlighting the VFW Auxiliary in action.

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The Department Historian & Media Relations Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form along with the Department-winning social media reel to the National Historian & Media Relations Ambassador Kristin DiGiacomo by April 30, 2026 for judging.

Department Historian & Media Relations Chairman: \_\_\_\_\_

*Signature*

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

*Forms sent to VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters will not be processed or forwarded.*

## VFW Auxiliary Historian & Media Relations

### How to create a Facebook Reel



### What is Facebook Reel?

*Facebook Reels are a new way to create short, up to 90 seconds long, entertaining videos.* Reels allow you to add your own original audio, captions, stickers, backgrounds and use a range of filters. Facebook Reels can be created by uploading photos and videos from your phone's photo gallery or by recording new video clips during the creation process.

### To create a Facebook Reel on your phone:

1. Open the Facebook app on your phone.
  - Make sure you're using the latest version
2. From your feed, tap the + in the top right and select "Reel"
3. Add a new video (tap the camera icon), add an existing video or multiple photos by clicking "Select multiple"
  - Alternately, you can click on "Templates" and choose from an existing template
4. Add audio, text, effects, or stickers
5. Tap "Next" when you're finished
6. Write a description for your reel
7. Choose an audience for your reel
8. Opt to share the reel to Instagram
9. Click the folder icon at the bottom to "download" the Reel to your phone.
10. Tap "Share now" to publish your reel

### Here are some tips for creating Facebook Reels:

- **Recommended format:** .mp4
- **Recommended resolution:** 1080p
- **Recommended video format:** Vertical videos are easier to create than horizontal videos.
- **Video quality:** Avoid low-quality videos, like those that are blurry or recycled from other apps.

- **Audio:** Use music from the Facebook music library or create or find your own original audio. You can also add a voiceover to personalize your content.
- **Length:** Reels can be between 3 seconds and 90 seconds long.
- **Engagement:** Use creative tools like text, filters, or camera effects, stickers and drawings.

Questions? Contact National Historian & Media Relations Ambassador Kristin DiGiacomo at [vfwauxpahistorian@gmail.com](mailto:vfwauxpahistorian@gmail.com).