



# **VFW AUXILIARY**

## **Department of South Dakota**

### **National Newsletter Brief**

**January 2026**

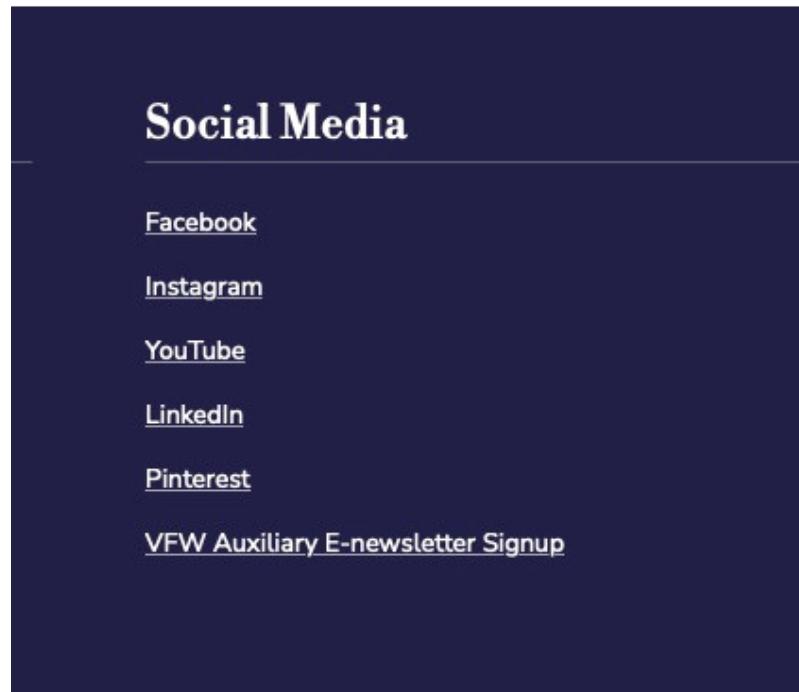
Since there are no January General Orders, we felt it was important to highlight information from the National VFW Auxiliary eNewsletter from January.

## eNewsletter

If you do not receive the eNewsletter, and would like to receive it Make sure you go to Malta, click on the ? in the upper right hand corner next to Support:



When the Online Auxiliary Academy page comes up, scroll down to the middle of the bottom of the page. Click on:  
VFW Auxiliary E-newsletter Signup.

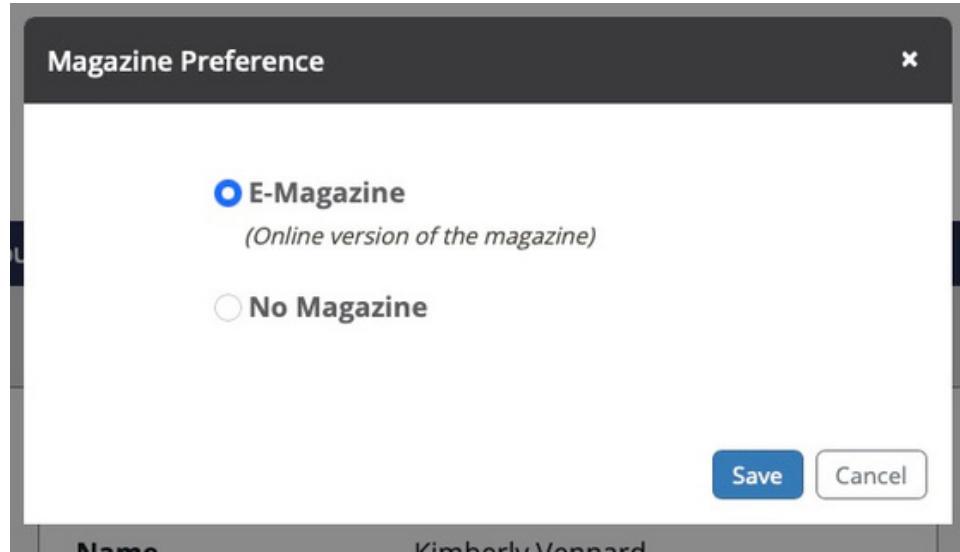


# eMagazine

**If you do not receive the National eMagazine, and would like to receive it  
Make sure you go to Malta  
Click on Profile  
Click on:**



**Click on:**



**Keep in mind... The eMagazine is different than the eNewsletter.**

# ACTION CORP

If you have not signed up to receive the Action Corp enewsletter,

please go to the **National Page**

Click on **WHAT WE DO**

Click on **Legislative**

Scroll down to the **Action Corp Link**

- Promotes [Action Corps](#)

Stay informed and up-to-date on issues facing our veterans, our military and their families by signing up to receive the [VFW's Action Corps Weekly e-newsletter](#). The VFW Action Corps is free and open to all patriotic Americans who care about the military and veterans' communities.

The next four pages are excerpts  
from the National eNewsletter

Followed by Scholarship  
information that Department  
Scholarship Chair Margaret  
Greenfield wanted to get to all  
Auxiliaries.

If there are items you would like  
to see in the General Orders  
that are not there, please  
contact President Sue Jones at  
[sjones2727@gmail.com](mailto:sjones2727@gmail.com) or  
Kim Vennard at  
[kjv57103@gmail.com](mailto:kjv57103@gmail.com).

We want to keep you all in the  
know.

There are many important days and deadlines coming up in January, February and March. Update or note these dates on your own calendars.

**January** is Mental Wellness Awareness Month, National Blood Donor Month, and Cervical Cancer Awareness Month.

Note: VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters is CLOSED on Monday, January 19, in observance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

**February** is Black History Month, American Heart Month, National Cancer Prevention Month and National Chocolate Month.

Salute to Veteran Patients Week will be observed from February 9th to February 15th. Plan a visit to your local VA!

**February 15 is the deadline for entrants to submit applications to HQ for the VFW Auxiliary's Continuing Education Scholarship.** Remember, this is National President Lois Callahan's special project this year, so please work extra hard to raise both awareness of this scholarship and funds for the future!

Note: VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters is CLOSED on Monday, February 16, in observance of Presidents Day.

**March** is Women's History Month, Brain Injury Awareness Month, Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, Red Cross Month, Irish-American Heritage Month and the start of spring.

**MARCH 31 is the deadline for student entries to participating/sponsoring Auxiliaries for the following:**

**Young American Patriotic Art Contest scholarship  
3-Dimensional Patriotic Art scholarship  
Illustrating America contest**

Note: Most VFW Auxiliary National Headquarters staff will be attending the Senior Vice-Presidents' Conference, which means inquiry response times may be slower, including on social media and by phone/email. Please be patient between March 18-25.

**NEW APPLICATIONS IN USE NOW**  
**And a New Way to Pay Your Dues!**

**As it is now 2026, old applications will no longer be accepted.** Please do not continue to use old applications for new or transferring members. Previous applications, if filled out and sent in, will be swiftly returned. The new applications, which include a Revised Date, are available to order right now or you can find them in MALTA under Member Resources.

As discussed by National Secretary-Treasurer Ann Panteleakos, National Director of Administrative Services Cortina Barnes and National President Lois Callahan in the December episode of HQ Roundtable on Facebook Live (starting at the 24:15 mark), Department Treasurers have been trained in the usage of the new application, which was initially made available toward the end of last year but is required as of January 1. You can find it in MALTA or use hard copies, including in the new Join Us brochures.

Checks and cash are still accepted for both annual and Life memberships, and starting January 1, credit cards are, too.

"In the past, we could not accept credit cards for an annual member," says Panteleakos. Now, "If you want to pay yearly with a credit card, you can do that."

"(The application) no longer has a place to put credit card information," explains Barnes, who says that this is the biggest and most important change. "(Department Treasurers) should not be holding on to anyone's credit card information."

If paying by credit card, after this application is processed, an email and/or text message will be sent to the contact information provided in the application for payment. Instructions in the communication for payment must be completed within 30 days (otherwise the application will be voided). If someone other than the applicant above is paying by credit card for the membership, please list the phone number and email address of the payer at the bottom of the application to receive payment instructions once the membership application has been processed.

## Why Should I Pay Dues?

"It's so important to pay your dues because we need the numbers in Congress, number one," said Callahan during the HQ Roundtable. "But number two, look, if we don't pay our dues, and if we don't grow this organization, we are going to slowly decline and that will end our ability to exist in general... and we can't have that because if we're not out there advocating for our veterans, if we're not out there teaching patriotism to our youth, if we're not out there visiting hospitals and schools and doing all the things we do... who is going to do it if we don't?"

If you have not yet paid your dues, you are not a member in good standing. If you are not a member in good standing, you cannot attend meetings, hold office or vote. But do not fear – this is fixable! All you have to do is pay your dues ASAP and we offer a number of ways to do so. (Keep in mind, if you still have not paid by June 30, you will lose your membership and have to rejoin, which means re-applying, being voted in again and restarting your years of continuing membership, which impacts your ability to apply for a Continuing Education Scholarship, to receive a Cancer Grant and to be invited to the 45+year members celebration at National Convention.)

### **A New Way to Pay Dues: By Phone!**

You could pay in person before the start of your next meeting by handing cash or a check to your Auxiliary Treasurer, you could pay in MALTA at any time, and, starting January 1, you can also pay over the telephone!

**Have You Heard of YouTube?  
Check Out Our Videos & Share Your Own!**

**WHAT IS YOUTUBE?**

YouTube is a social media and online video sharing platform. It was founded in 2005 and later sold to Google. According to the site's Wikipedia page, it is the second most visited website in the world, with more than 2.7 billion active users each month.

**WHERE CAN I FIND THE VFW AUXILIARY'S  
NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS YOUTUBE PAGE?**

Enter the link below for Callahan's 2025-2026 Welcoming Address.

Don't forget to Like, Follow, Share and Subscribe so you won't miss anything!

**<https://www.youtube.com/@vfwauxiliary-nationalorgan2845/>**

**e-news January 2026 SCHOLARSHIPS 2025-2026**  
**DEPT CHAIRMAN MARGARET GREENFIELD**  
**20539 401ST AVE**  
**HURON, SD 57350 (605)350-5254**  
**margaret.greenfield69@outlook.com**

Hello Members!!

I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas! I pray we all have a blessed 2026! With the New Year starting we have a couple of things still going on.

Don't forget about our Continuing Education Scholarship. As an auxiliary member if you have your spouse, son and/or daughter that is 21 years of age that is continuing their education please have them apply for both the National and State Scholarships. The applications are available on our website <https://vfwauxsd.org> under "Programs" then "Scholarships"

**Eligibility Requirements:**

- VFW Auxiliary member for at least one full year by the application submission deadline of February 15.
- The spouse, son and/or daughter of a VFW Auxiliary member that has been a member at least one full year by the application submission deadline of February 15.
- Applicants must be 21 years of age or older by the application submission deadline of February 15.

**Continuing Education Scholarship**  
**Department Deadline: February 15, 2026**  
**National Deadline: February 15, 2026**

Also don't forget our Young Patriotic Art Scholarships. This scholarship is available for those in grades 9-12. Please get this out to your schools, libraries, churches, and homeschoilers. These applications are available on our website <https://vfwauxsd.org> under "Programs" then "Scholarships"

**Young American Creative Patriotic Art Scholarship**  
**2-Dimensional**  
Post/Auxiliary Deadline March 31, 2026  
District Deadline: April 10, 2026  
Department Deadline: April 15, 2026  
National Deadline: May 5, 2026  
**3-Dimensional**  
Post/Auxiliary Deadline March 31, 2026  
District Deadline: April 10, 2026  
Department Deadline: April 15, 2026  
National Deadline: May 5, 2026