



2026 – 2027

KAREN SHARP
DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT
VFW AUXILIARY
AUGUST 2026 NEWS



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY

DEPARTMENT OF SOUTH DAKOTA

KAREN SHARP, PRESIDENT

GENERAL ORDERS

AUGUST 2026

Happy August Everyone:

I have just returned from the National Convention in Reno. SD had a tremendous membership group attending. **NATIONAL CONVENTION:** We received several awards beginning with Past President Sue Jones accepting the Circle of Excellence Award of \$500 for SD; Auxiliary Outreach, Nancy Worth Chairman, 1st Place Outstanding Performance Award -- \$200; Chief of Staff /Extension and Revitalization, Pat Cerny, 1st Place Outstanding Performance Award -- \$200; and Historian/Media, Dani Bolte Chairman, 1st Place Outstanding Performance Award -- \$200.

We did work also. Nancy Worth, NDCM #21, worked up a very informational synopsis which has been sent to District and Auxiliary Presidents to be shared with all of you. The changes to the Resolutions will appear in the 2027 Bylaws and Ritual after approval by the VFW. The new podium edition usually comes out in October or November. Each District and Auxiliary President and Secretary should always have the current hard copy edition. The Bylaws and Ritual are also published in Malta. _____

BOND: Thank you to everyone that paid their Bond in July. If you are one of the few who have not yet paid the Bond, please do so immediately.

AUDIT: The fourth (fourth) quarter audit (April 1 – June 30) was to be completed by July 31. The Accepted Audit shall be sent to Department Treasurer, no later than August 31, 2026.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT VISIT will be in Pierre, August 21, 2026. The itinerary has previously been sent to Auxiliary Presidents and there is a block of rooms at the Ramkota (605 224 6877) \$128 plus tax per night. I look forward to a good turnout for President Donna.

FALL COUNCIL AND SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION September 25 and 26 in Rapid City.

TINY HOUSES is Commander Rich and my Joint Project for this year. Any way you can contribute to making this a success will be greatly appreciated.

WEBSITE (VFWAUXSD.ORG) Every member should check it out and utilize it often. Suggestions are always welcome.

Always remember if you have any questions or suggestions, I am only a phone call, text, or email away.

Karen Sharp



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS AUXILIARY NATIONAL PRESIDENT DONNA'S SOUTH DAKOTA VISIT



AUGUST 21, 2026

9:45 am - **Line up for Aisle of Flags and Group Photo**

Meet at **Back Entrance of State Capital building**

Address: 500 E Capitol, Pierre.

- **Attire:** Karen's shirt, official-look blouse, or a royal blue top, if available
- **Please bring your Color Bearer Flags**

10:00 am - **Aisle of Flags**

Welcome and honor our **National VFW Auxiliary President Donna E Mills**

Group Photos will follow at the back of the Capital building

10:15 am - **Guided Tour** of SD State Capital

(Comfortable walking shoes recommended)

12:00 Noon - **Lunch on your own -**

Limited Reserved seating available at

Perkins

217 Hustan Av

Ft. Pierre

2:00 - 4:00 pm - **Crafts, Fun, Sipping and Visiting**

Spend the afternoon with Donna and Auxiliary Sisters/Brothers

American Legion

520 S Pierre St

Pierre SD

(Donations to help cover craft supplies are appreciated)

5:30 pm - **Dinner and Program**

American Legion Cabin

520 S Pierre St

Pierre SD

Hosted & served by VFW Charles E Thorne Pierre Post 2038 - **Thank You VFW Post 2038!**

RSVP by August 15, 2026 to: Karen Sharp

Daksharp@pie.midco.net

605-222-3140

Hotel Accommodations

VFW Auxiliary Block of Rooms at :

Ramkota Hotel

920 W Sioux Av

Pierre SD. 57501

Rate: \$129+tax

Reservations : 605-224-6877



MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL AUXILIARY AND DISTRICT PRESIDENTS



To All Auxiliary and District Presidents, Merry Christmas from your Chief of Staff Pat Cerny

Do you know your Podium Edition is like a Christmas Tree? Opening each Section is like opening a present – a surprise each time. Every Section provides more valuable information to assist in making your job easier.

All correctly returned questionnaires will be put in a drawing. The winner will be announced in a later OO. Answers can be found in all three areas – Bylaws, Booklet of Instructions or Ritual. Answer by putting (for example) Sec. 100B1, or Booklet A) or Ritual page 3.



HAVE FUN, and may the 'elves' BEE with you!

1. Can an elected officer be removed from office? Auxiliary _____ District _____
2. Can an Auxiliary change meeting date, time or location? _____ Who is to be notified? _____
3. What Sections list the duties of an Auxiliary President? _____ and _____
4. In the election of Auxiliary or District officers, what if you notice a discrepancy or error? _____
5. Is there a Memorial Service for a deceased member? _____ -
6. What funds may be dispersed without a vote? Auxiliary _____ and _____ District _____
7. Can a District President officially inspect his/her own Auxiliary _____
8. Is there a list of Auxiliary Traditions in the Podium? _____

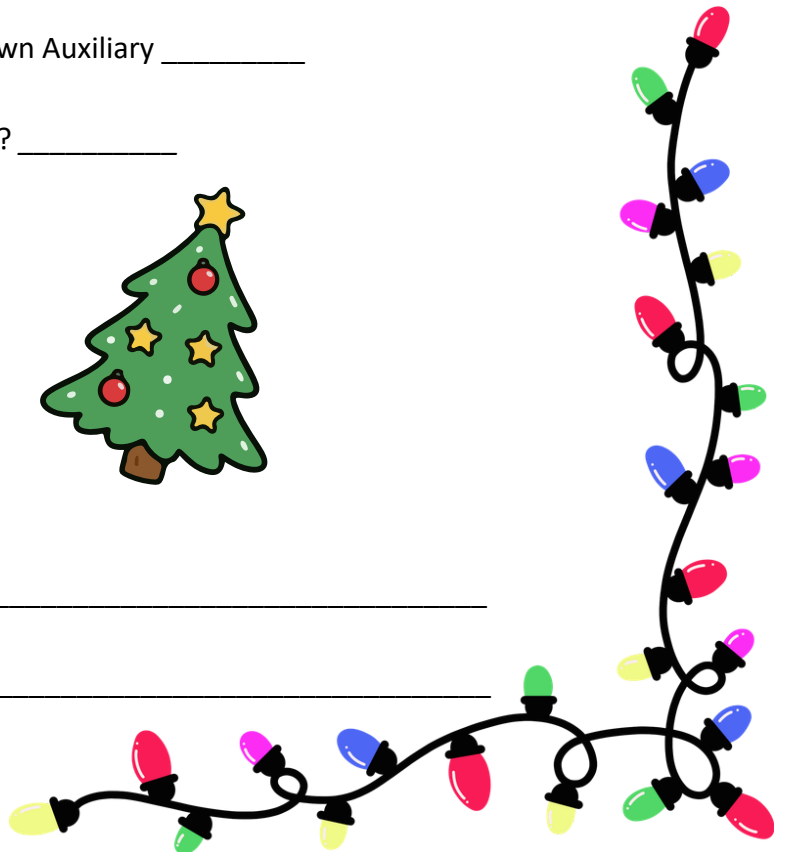
Please return completed form to:
Pat Cerny, Chief of Staff
2916 Adkins Drive
Yankton, SD 57078 or bpcerny@gwtc.net



Must receive by December 31, 2026

Auxiliary President Name and Number _____

District President Name and Number _____



PROGRAM PROMOTIONS AUGUST 2026
AMERICANISM
DEPT CHAIRMAN MICHELLE PAYNE
PO BOX 8; PLANKINTON, SD 57368
605-770-3693
chellepayne@hotmail.com

Department Theme: Bee a Veterans Sunshine

"Americanism is an unfailing love of country, loyalty to its institutions and ideas; eagerness to defend it against all enemies; undivided allegiance to the flag; and a desire to secure the blessings of liberty and posterity."

The Americanism Program:

- Promotes Patriotism by celebrating America's Patriotic Days
- Teaches respect and proper care for the U.S. Flag
- Brings attention to Prisoners of War and those Missing in Action by hosting POW/MIA ceremonies to both educate the public and honor these special veterans.

School is just around the corner, please be thinking of ways your Auxiliary can become active in your local school districts! Some ideas include handing out patriotic items on the first day of school (flags, flag pencils or bookmarks are great ideas) and ways to educate kids by making arrangements with teachers to host a flag etiquette and folding lesson in the classroom. Do your local schools recite the Pledge of Allegiance daily?

I encourage you to check out our State (<https://vfwauxsd.org>) and National (<https://vfwauxiliary.org>) websites; you can find a lot of great information and ideas!

South Dakota VFW Auxiliary 2026 - 2027
Department Year-End Report - Americanism

Auxiliary Number / Location: _____
Program Chairman: _____
Address; City: _____
Phone: _____ Email: _____

1. Did your Auxiliary promote, participate in, and/or recognize any patriotic day and/or branch of service birthdays? (This may include programs or parades on days such as Loyalty Day, Memorial Day, Veterans Day, Independence Day, among others)
Yes ____ or No ____
2. How many American Flags were distributed or presented within your community to individuals, businesses or schools? _____
3. How many POW/MIA Flags were distributed or presented within your community to individuals, businesses or schools? _____
4. Please list the number of Patriotic Appreciation Citations, Certificates of Appreciation or Respect for the Flag Citations presented to citizens and/or businesses in recognition of their displaying the American Flag, POW/MIA Flag and/or other displays of American pride. _____
5. Did your Auxiliary participate in any activities or events where you educated others about proper ways to display & respect the American flag? Yes ____ or No ____
6. Does your Post/Auxiliary have a program for respectful disposal of worn or damaged flags? Yes ____ or No ____
7. In what ways did your Auxiliary interact with youth in your community?
8. Auxiliary did not participate. _____

REPORT DEADLINE: April 15, 2027

Michelle Payne
PO Box 8; Plankinton, SD 57368
605-770-3693
chellepayne@hotmail.com



Historian & Media Relations August 2026

Kim Vennard, Chairman
kjb57103@gmail.com



Have you come up with creative idea to digitally record your Auxiliary history??
Dig back in to your archives, interview your seasoned members.



A few recommended digital methods are:
Cloud Storage, Google Drive and USB flash drives.

Make it Fun!! Make it Creative!! Make it Stand Out!!

Why are we working on recording our Auxiliary History??

Preserving our Auxiliary history helps maintain our traditions and values.
Digital archiving prevents loss of valuable memorabilia due to disasters or space issues.

Research by interviewing our seasoned members and events for complete records.

Proper storage and digital records make accessing and sharing history easier and more efficient when sharing with our future members.



W

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Historians are your record and memory keepers!!

Make sure to document the 5 W's

You are the keeper of recording your past and present.

We need to keep our story alive for the new members. Let them know who we are and why we do what we do and where we have been!!

"Wish List" for Fort Meade VA Medical Center Donation and Volunteer Opportunities 2026

The Fort Meade VA does not solicit for donations, nor do we allow the name of the VA to be used in solicitations through other organizations. However, for those organizations or individuals who inquire as to our needs, the following is a list you can use as a guide for our special needs, program support and/or equipment. None of these items are available through our normal budget. Please note **ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX DEDUCTIBLE and become the property of the VA once donated. Please contact us prior to delivery of any large or out of the ordinary donation you or your organization plans to make to ensure we can accept it.**

Donations

WE CANNOT ACCEPT KNITTED/CROCHETED BLANKETS, LAP ROBES OR BAR SOAP, Currently unable to accept magazines, Tapes, DVD's, puzzles, books, toothpaste, toothbrushes, Denture cleanser, denture adhesive and mouthwash.

Please call to arrange donation drop off with Voluntary services (605) 720-7151

Clothing: Accepting Jeans, Winter coats and boots and shoes sizes 9.5-13.

Personal Care items

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| • Disposable Razors | • Pajama pants small, Large, XL |
| • Body wash/ no bar soap | • Deodorant (alcohol free/MH) also travel size. |
| • Combs | • Lotion (regular size.) |
| • Hairbrushes | • Shampoo (regular size) or 3 in one conditioner |
| • Lip balm | • Men's shoes and sneaker sizes 9-13 |
| • Emory boards | • Various sizes of male underwear |
| • Large Shampoo/body wash or 2-1 | • Various sizes of white T-shirts (Small-Large) |
| • Toenail clippers | |
| • Shaving Cream | |
| • (Contact lenses cases/ wash | |

Monetary Donations

<Checks should be made out to Fort Meade VA. Special designation should be noted in memo line>

Volunteer Opportunities-Fort Meade Red Coat Ambassadors, clothing room attendants and DAV Drivers

**Please direct any questions regarding donations or volunteering to: Melody Daugherty (605)720-7151
Building 148 Room A-130**

GENERAL ORDERS #2
LEGISLATIVE NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2026

LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN WANDA MIX

Address: 205 Mustang Pass, Brookings, SD 57006

Phone: 605-690-0170

Email: wandarmix@gmail.com

Do you know what the VFW Action Corp Weekly is? It is a weekly electronic newsletter published by the VFW National to keep Americans informed about the ongoing legislative efforts, policy changes and congressional activities that directly impact service members, veterans and their families. By subscribing to Action Corp weekly you will receive content which includes updates on development from Capitol Hill like VA benefits and the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA). This is the site to subscribe to the VFW Action Corp Weekly: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/register> or use the QR code included with this newsletter.

I am challenging all Auxiliaries to sign up members, family and community members to subscribe to the VFW Action Corp Weekly. By signing up community members they will learn what the VFW does for our Veterans in Washington DC. Whoever signs up the most by March 1st, 2027 will receive a special gift at the 2027 Department Convention. When you sign up someone please let me know.

The Legislative National Program Award and the year end report forms are included in this newsletter. Read over the forms so you can work on all the questions during the year.



“BEE” A VETERAN’S SUNSHINE

SIGN UP TO JOIN VFW ACTION CORPS

RECEIVE OUR WEEKLY E-NEWSLETTER
AND ACTION ALERTS

Use camera mode to scan code



or

Text “VFW” to 50457

or

Visit vfw.org/JoinActionCorps



Legislative National Program Awards 2026-2027 Entry Form

Awards for Auxiliaries

1. Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions with the largest increase in new VFW Action Corps Weekly sign-ups from the community and new VFW Auxiliary members.

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 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

**VFW Auxiliaries must send this completed entry form to the
Department Legislative Chairman by March 31, 2027 for judging.**

VFW Auxiliary Name: _____

VFW Auxiliary No: _____ Department of: _____

New VFW Action Corps Weekly sign-ups from the community: _____

New VFW Action Corps Weekly sign-ups from new VFW Auxiliary members: _____

Total number of new sign-ups: _____

Following information is to be used in case of a tie between VFW Auxiliaries.

Please describe any activity and/or event, flyers, brochures, social media posts, newsletters, e-newsletters, handouts, photos, links to videos, etc. that may have contributed to your VFW Auxiliary sign-up increase to VFW Action Corps Weekly.

The Department Legislative Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to National Legislative Kim McWilliams by April 30, 2027 for judging.

Department Legislative Chairman: _____

Date: _____

Signature

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

VFW Auxiliary National Year-End Report Worksheet Legislative 2026-2027

This form is for statistical purposes only.

The Department Chairman must submit this report form to their Department President by May 1.

This report is to be processed in MALTA by the Department President by May 10.

Department: _____ Number of participating VFW Auxiliaries: _____

1. The number of VFW Auxiliaries that promoted, participated in and/or hosted or co-hosted activities regarding the VFW Priority Goals with or without their VFW Post.

2. The number of VFW Auxiliary members who contacted their legislators on veterans' issues by any means (Examples: emails, letters, postcards, phone calls, etc.).

3. The number of VFW Auxiliary members who attended events where they could interact with legislators (Examples: legislative conferences, town halls, meet-and-greets, etc.).

Department Chairman signature: _____

Date: _____ Conference: _____



Greetings Busy Bees:

I want to Thank President Karen for asking me to do membership again this year and I am excited to be working with our queen bee and all our honey bees. Let's have some fun with her theme: Bee a Veteran's Sunshine.

Let's bee buzzing around for membership and get our dues letters sent out. We can start sending out our notices on July 1, 2026. We had a great year last year and the last I checked we were at 101.75 for the year last year. Let's break that record this year. We have several deadlines to meet to reach the goals set by National.

I can't stress enough to everyone to try and get members that are annual members to go to life. Why not use an incentive of some sort to get them to go life.

We need to retain all our members and make them feel welcome and get them involved in our Bee Hives.

I am looking forward to attending National and meeting our ambassador and finding out all kinds of new things to share with you.

Get your dues letters mailed out this month. I always say the sooner you get it done the more time you have to work on new members.





VFW National Home

August 2026



Have you been thinking about donating to a “favorite charity” in memory of a friend or family member??

Consider donating to the National Home. Your gift helps provide educational support and housing for the families at the National Home.

Send a Check directly to the National Home and keep track locally to your get auxiliary credit for the donation. Donations should be mailed to
National Home, 3573 South Waverly Rd, Eaton Rapids, Michigan 48827



Do you have your “THINKING CAPS” on?? What creative ideas do you have to promote the National Home?? Are you thinking Fundraisers?? Raffles?? Spaghetti Night?? Let me know. I will share your ideas in the newsletter.



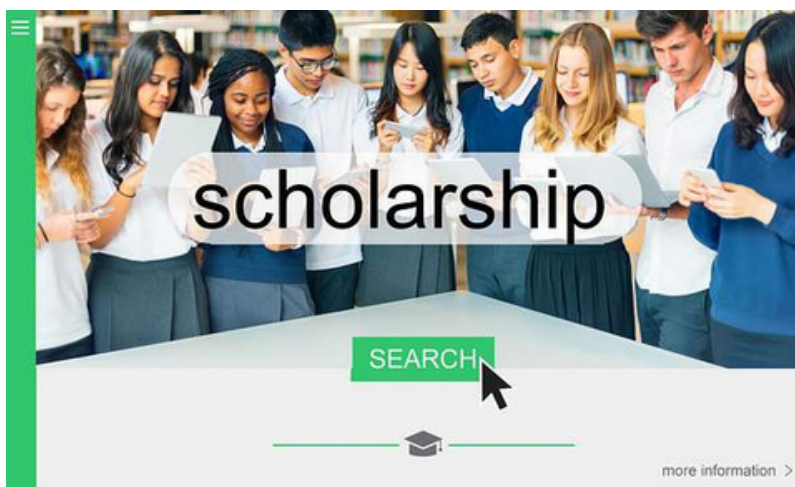
Scan the QR code to the left to learn more about the National Home. Set the code and information out at your events. Spread the information.

I have a list of all SD Lifetime Members and those that have Tribute Bricks currently at National Home.

Think of who “YOU” would like to gift a Brick or Lifetime Membership to.

Kim Vennard
SD VFW National Home Chairman
kjv57103@gmail.com





Promotions August 2026 SCHOLARSHIPS 2026-2027

Let's get ready to roll out the red carpet for our Voice of Democracy, Patriot's Pen, and Teacher of the Year. Let's get these out to our schools, libraries, churches, on our Facebook pages and reach out to your home school groups. Put the fliers on bulletin boards in your community. Let's get the word out about our wonderful programs. This is going to be a great and fund year! If you need any help please reach out to myself or my husband, Dale. We are here to help each other.

All scholarships have their own deadlines and requirements, which are available at:

<https://vfwauxsd.org> under "Programs" then "Scholarships"
In MALTA Membership Resources <https://malta.vfwauxiliary.org>

Please remember to read through all requirements for the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen.

☐ **Voice of Democracy Scholarship (essay and oral presentation)**

Theme **"WHAT A VETERAN TAUGHT ME ABOUT AMERICA?"**

Post/Auxiliary Deadline: October 31, 2026

District Deadline: November 22, 2026

Department Deadline: December 6, 2026

National Deadline: December 13, 2026

☐ **Patriot's Pen Essay Scholarship**

Theme **"WHAT A VETERAN TAUGHT ME ABOUT AMERICA?"**

Post/Auxiliary Deadline: October 31, 2026

District Deadline: November 22, 2026

Department Deadline: December 6, 2026

National Deadline: December 13, 2026

☐ **Continuing Education Scholarship**

Department Deadline: February 15, 2027

National Deadline: February 15, 2027

☐ **Young American Creative Patriotic Art Scholarship**

2-Dimensional

Post/Auxiliary Deadline March 31, 2027

Department Deadline: April 15, 2027

National Deadline: May 5, 2027

3-Dimensional

Post/Auxiliary Deadline March 31, 2027

Department Deadline: April 15, 2027

National Deadline: May 5, 2027

Dept Chairman Margaret Greenfield 20539 401ST Ave., Huron, SD 57350 (605) 350-5254 m.greenfield69@myyahoo.com

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES*

South Dakota Department VFW Auxiliary
Veterans & Family Support Welcome Information 2026-27
www.vfwauxsd.org

Tammy Chase – 45980 SD Hwy 10 – Sisseton, SD 57262

cbchase@venturecomm.net

home: 605.698.7438 cell: 605.742.4179

Program Goals for 2026-2027

VFW National Veterans Service (NVS)

Military Appreciation Program (MAP)

VFW Veterans & Military Support Programs

Assist Veterans, Service Members & their Families

Promote Veterans & Military Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Awareness

#2

August 2026

Happy August – Hard to believe we are starting school again this month. That means it is time to get into the school and communities promoting our Veterans & Family Support Program.

I have attached the Veterans & Family Support National Awards #1 and #2 so you can start planning activities accordingly. I will have the year end report for South Dakota in September's issue.

Special Upcoming Days

August 4 US Coast Guard Birthday

August 7 Purple Heart Day

August 16 National Airborne Day

August 29 Marine Corps Reserve Birthday

September 2 V-J Day (Victory over Japan)

September 7 Labor Day

September 11 Patriot Day

September 17 Constitution Day & Citizenship Day

September 18 Air Force Birthday & POW/MIA Day

September 27 Gold Star Mothers & Family Day



Our other focus this year will be Caregivers – we all know someone that is a caregiver for a Veteran, family member or community member. We cannot forget them! It is a thankless job and sometimes just a phone call, stop by or a 10 minute break can give the emotional support needed or another day. We will talk more next month for NATIONAL CAREGIVERS MONTH IN

NOVEMBER. Start planning an event/activity now.



September is Suicide prevention Awareness Month, but did you know September 10 is also World Suicide Prevention Day and National Suicide prevention Week from September 13-19 .th

Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Awareness: Post Traumatic Stress (PTS) and mental health awareness will be one of our items focus this year. Make sure that you include the public when you promote resources available. Secondary, PTS is just as prevalent a problem that goes hand in hand with Suicide Prevention. Think of these families living with someone with PTS, they need to know they can reach out for help and understanding. Promote the VFW & Auxiliary, as a safe space and think of ways to comfort and heal those in need. Offer a “Gathering Time” use the time to make appreciation cards, play games, learn a new craft, etc. – a no pressure time of fellowship and community – you never know if just getting out & connecting, saying hi, a smile, or talking about nothing will make a difference.

Attached is the flyer for Suicide Prevention and the tear drops.

You can find more information at <https://www.vrw.org/assistance/mental-wellness>

KNOW THE SIGNS: Familiarize yourself with the 5 Signs of Emotional Suffering:

- 1. Talking about suicide or death**
- 2. Isolation and withdrawal**
- 3. Uncharacteristic changes in behavior**
- 4. Accessing lethal means**
- 5. Extreme mood swings or changes in sleep patterns**



**Where HOPE and HELP
come together.**



Text: 838255

If calling Press 1

**988 | SUICIDE & CRISIS
LIFELINE**



**helpline
center**

GRANTS Available

VFW Foundation Grants

- **Post Assistance Grant** – offers exclusively to VFW Posts to offset expenses for building repairs/equipment.
- **VFW #STILLSERVING Grant** - offers offsets incurred for community service projects – this is open to Post, Districts and Auxiliaries.
- **Uniting for Veterans Grant** - a limited matching grant available to Posts and Auxiliaries for monetary, food, or item donations to local food banks, pantries or homeless relief organizations in their communities.

Student Veteran Support Grant

Available for supporting student veteran events. VFW Post and Departments are eligible to submit applications. Focusing on campuses with veteran student population.

Lets work together and ROCK THIS YEAR!

Tammy Chase
45980 SD HWY 10 Sisseton,
SD 57262 605-698-7438 605-
742-4179
cbchase@venturecomm.net

SD VFW Auxiliary
Veterans & Family Support



SCAN ME

September is **National Suicide Prevention Month**

Reduce suicide rates & lessen the stigma of mental illness, addiction, depression and PTS(D) with the following resources:



Visit <https://www.veteranscrisisline.net> and click on topics under "Education and Advice."



Learn the Five Signs that may mean someone is in emotional pain and might need help:
<https://www.changedirection.org/#five-signs>



Purchase the Auxiliary Suicide Awareness Prevention Pin from the VFW Store:
<http://vfwstore.org/products/32033>



Share the Veterans Crisis Line number:
Dial 988, then press one.



"Don't Wait, Reach Out." Learn more here:
<https://www.va.gov/montana-health-care/stories/tackling-self-stigma-to-strengthen-your-recovery-journey/>

Veteran & Military Suicide Awareness Teardrop Sticker



Instructions: Print this document on 8.5 x 11 sticker paper and cut out the teardrops to use them as stickers. (Try Avery 8165 for inkjet printers. When someone asks you about your sticker, tell them that the VFW Auxiliary is concerned about the rates of suicides among veterans and military personnel; we want everyone to be aware of the unique stresses that face them.

Share the Veterans Crisis Line with them: Dial 988, Press 1 or www.veteranscrisisline.net.



Veterans & Family Support National Program Awards 2026-2027 Entry Form No. 1

Awards for Auxiliaries

1. Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most outstanding promotion of VFW resources for veterans, service members and their families.

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 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

**VFW Auxiliaries must send this completed entry form to the
Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman by
March 31, 2027 for judging.**

VFW Auxiliary Name: _____

VFW Auxiliary No: _____ Department of: _____

Describe the promotion of VFW resources for veterans, service members and their families. (e.g., flyers, brochures, social media posts, newsletters, e-newsletters, handouts, photos, links to videos, etc.)

The Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to National Veterans & Family Support Ambassador Beth West by April 30, 2027 for judging.

Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman: _____

Date: _____

Signature

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



Veterans & Family Support

National Program Awards

2026-2027 Entry Form No. 2

Awards for Auxiliaries

2. Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions for the most outstanding activity and/or event promoting resources, including those for PTS, and assistance for veterans and their families (resource fairs, mental health clinics, etc.).

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 2027 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

**VFW Auxiliaries must send this completed entry form to the
Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman by
March 31, 2027 for judging.**

VFW Auxiliary Name: _____

VFW Auxiliary No: _____ Department of: _____

Describe the activity and/or event promoting resources, including those for PTS, and assistance for veterans and their families. (e.g., flyers, brochures, social media posts, newsletters, e-newsletters, handouts, photos, links to videos, etc.)

The Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to National Veterans & Family Support Ambassador Beth West by April 30, 2027 for judging.

Department Veterans & Family Support Chairman: _____

Date: _____

Signature

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



Meet Your **YOUTH** CHAIRMAN!



Hello! I'm *Shelby Vissia*
SOUTH DAKOTA DEPARTMENT

♥ *My Reason*

I'm honored to serve as the VFW Auxiliary Youth Chairman! I joined the Auxiliary under two incredible veterans who inspire me every day.



★ *My Grandpa* ★

Proudly served during the
KOREAN WAR



★ *My Brother* ★

Proudly served in
AFGHANISTAN

Their service and sacrifice inspire me to support our veteran community and encourage the next generation to lead with kindness, courage, and compassion.



My Mission ♥

To encourage young people to:



Learn about patriotism



Serve their communities



Honor our veterans



Become compassionate leaders

About Me ♥



Elementary School Social Worker



I enjoy hiking, camping, and exploring National Parks.



Sunset and waterfall enthusiast.



I love paddle boarding!



Wildlife conservation supporter and bracelet collector.



I love reading! There's nothing better than getting lost in a good book.



I cherish spending time with my family and making memories together.



Together, we can inspire the next generation to serve, lead, and remember.



Email: Shelby.vissia27@gmail.com

Let's Connect! ♥





The VFW of Michigan Welcomes the
Departments of the Big Ten Conference
to the 2026 Annual Meeting
October 16-18, 2026 in Kalamazoo, MI.

Illinois
Indiana
Iowa
Michigan
Minnesota
Missouri
Nebraska
Ohio
South Dakota
Wisconsin



yes, there really is a
kalamazoo

**2026 BIG TEN CONFERENCE
VFW AND AUXILIARY
ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEETING**

Friday October 16, 2026 – Sunday October 18, 2026

Conference Meeting Registration Form

Registration Fee: \$175.00 per person

Registration Fee includes:

**Friday night: Heavy Hors d'oeuvres with cash bar
Fun group Trivia Pursuit
(State Teams: MI & SD, IN & IL,
WI & MN, MO & IA, OH & NE)
Musical entertainment**

Saturday Morning Breakfast Buffet

Saturday Noon Lunch Buffet

Saturday Night Banquet with cash bar

Name 1: _____

Department: _____ VFW _____ Aux _____

Office: _____

Name 2: _____

Department: VFW Aux

Office: _____

Pay by check: payable to: VFW Department of Michigan
924 N Washington
Lansing, MI 48906

Pay by credit card: **Email:** 2026btconference@vfwmi.vet

Credit Card Type: MC _____ VISA _____ Discover _____ AMEX _____

Card number: _____ Exp Date: _____

Additional registrations please use additional form

**2026 BIG TEN CONFERENCE
VFW AND AUXILIARY
ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEETING
Friday October16, 2026 - Sunday October18, 2026**

HOUSING INFORMATION

Radisson Plaza Hotel
100 W. Michigan Avenue
Kalamazoo MI 49007
Phone 269-343-3333

- Room Block will open on January 2, 2026
- Cutoff date is September 23, 2026 or when block fills, whichever occurs first.
- Please make your reservations as soon as possible after block opens.

To reserve your room, please call 269-343-3333
Reservations must be guaranteed with a major credit card.

When calling to make your reservation to receive the group rate, you must identify yourself as a VFW DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN BIG TEN 2026 CONFERENCE ATTENDEE.

A credit card and valid photo identification will be required upon check-in.

Room availability check in time is 4:00 pm
Check out time is 12:00 noon

Standard Rooms (2 queen beds): \$ 131.00

King Rooms (single king bed): \$ 131.00

Suites: \$ 181.00

Rates are subject to 6% StateTax And 5%, Occupancy Tax Valet parking
is available.

Public self -parking access via skywalk to the hotel is available.

If you require assistance or have a question please contact Jan at 517-485-9456 or by email at **2026btconference@vfwmi.vet**

**2026 BIG TEN CONFERENCE
VFW AND AUXILIARY
ANNUAL CONFERENCE MEETING**

Friday 16, October 2026 – Sunday 18, October 2026

Transportation Assistance Request Form

The Department of Michigan will provide complimentary transportation to and from Kalamazoo Airport and the Kalamazoo AMTRAC Station beginning at 3:00 pm on Thursday thru all departures on Sunday.

To be scheduled for transportation please provide the following information:

First and last name of each person on this trip request:

AMTRACor name of Airline: _____

ArrivalDate: Time: Air Flight#:

Departure Date: Time: Air Flight#:

Email Address and cell phone # of primary contact person in this group:
