

Dear Shannon,

Greetings from the Land of Enchantment! My name is Stephanie Bowman and I will be chairing the Youth Activities program for the awesome Department of New Mexico. I love the ideas and focus behind Youth Activities and am excited to embark upon this journey in my first-time position as state chair.

I became a member of the Auxiliary in 2021 through my husband, Mark Bowman. Mark served in the Air Force for 10 years and had many deployments. His service in Desert Storm qualifies his membership in the Veterans of Foreign Wars organization. I love everything the VFW and VFWA are about. Mark and I work together to serve our small community through the wonderful programs associated with this organization.

I am about to begin my 25<sup>th</sup> year of teaching. I am certified in elementary education and music education: I have taught 5<sup>th</sup> grade, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, and music. I am currently teaching music (it is my first and true passion) and plan to remain there for the remainder of my career. In addition to teaching our students with an enriched musical experience, I am the elementary music coordinator for our district. Duties of this role include developing professional development, teacher observation of fellow colleagues, managing a budget, and pacing/aligning our curriculum to adhere to state standards. I will be presenting professional development at the state level in January 2026 and am very excited about that opportunity. I feel my years as an educator will compliment my capacity to serve as Youth Activities chair. Our youth are the focus!

I have a 15-year-old son, Zachary. He is an active member of the High School swim team and will later become a member of the Auxiliary when he turns 16. We do the weekly swim meets (many of which our VFW/VFWA volunteer to help run) all over our state during the season and welcome the excitement of that chaotic ride. He is working towards obtaining his driver's license so prayers are welcome. 😊

I am excited to work with you in this program and look forward to a stellar collaboration!

Sincerely,

Stephanie Bowman

New Mexico VFWA