"PAWS IN SERVICE"

FOR OUR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

PRESIDENT'S NOTES

FEBRUARY 2017

I hope everyone enjoyed themselves at the Department Open House held on January 7th. It was so nice to see many of you there; it is always a great time with the Legion Family. Doesn't the new floors look great!!!

Did you attend the Children & Youth/National Security workshop held at Post 1 on January 14, 2017?

Don't forget Mission Training on January 28th in Las Vegas; hope to see many of you there.

I want to thank the following Unit's for their generous donation to my Special Project 8, 24, 56, 73, and on my Official visit to Unit 27 I was presented with a \$4000.00 check for my special project, that will team a veteran and dog up and plus they will get up dates on the veteran and dog. Way to go ladies and thank you so much!!!

The Department has been receiving a lot of e-mail from National pertaining to your members paying on line and not receiving their membership cards. If you pay on line please print out your receipt and take it to your Unit to receive your 2017 membership card and Unit Membership Chairman please tell all your members to stop contacting National on their cards, they should be contacting their own Unit FIRST.

We have great news; we have reached one or more achievement milestones in our department strategic planning process. We received a check for \$1000.00 but it isn't over yet we still have plenty of work to do. We will have more information at our State Convention in June.

Send any invitations to visit your Unit or District to me not to Department as Barbara has other important matters to handle; she is the Dept. Secretary and not my personal secretary!!! My address is 20089 N. Pinewish Court, Surprise, AZ 85374-4625 or e-mail me at <u>gcushing@cox.net</u> and it will also be in directory.

GO TEAM ARIZONA

Jan Cushing Department of Arizona President 2016-2017

January 14, 2017	C&Y/NS workshop Post 1	Phoenix, AZ
January 15, 2017	Official Visit District 12 Unit 35	Chandler, AZ
January 17, 2017	Official Visit Unit 8	Casa Grande, AZ
January 21, 2017	Dept. Commander's Dinner Post 36	Tucson, AZ
January 27-29, 2017	Mission Training	Las Vegas, NV
February 3-5, 2017	SAL NAT.CMDR Jeff Frain Homecoming	Mesa, AZ
February 7-10, 2017	ALA National President's Visit	Phoenix, AZ
February 8, 9, 2017	Creative Arts	Phoenix, AZ
February 9, 2017	National President's Banquet Post 1	Phoenix, AZ
February 11, 2017	District 12 Rehab Dinner Post 35	Chandler, AZ
February 25-Mar.1 st	Washington Conference	Washington, DC
March 4, 2017	Oratorical Finals Post 64	Ahwatukee, AZ
March 11, 2017	Girls State Car Show	Lake Havasu City, AZ
March 11, 2017	Official Visit Unit 81	Lake Havasu City, AZ
March 18, 2017	Birthday Ball Post 19	Yuma, AZ
March 19, 2017	Official Visit District 1 Unit 19	Yuma, AZ
March 21, 2017	Official Visit Unit 1	Phoenix, AZ
April 20, 2017	Official Visit Unit 35	Chandler, AZ
April 22, 2017	Official Visit District 7 Unit 14	Kingman, AZ
April 28-30, 2017	SAL Camp Out	Kingman, AZ
May 7, 2017	Official Visit District 11 Unit 61	Avondale, AZ

AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND February 2017

Thank you to those who turned in mid-year reports. Our Western Division Chairman, Marge Blankenship, and National Chairman, Lisa Williamson, were pleased that Western Division had 100% reporting, which means YOU helped to make it happen!

This month's fund raising idea for the AEF comes from Vicky Buck, National AEF Central Division Chairman; she suggests having a community carnival by recruiting community organizations that are willing to help promote the programs of The American Legion Family.

The first requirement is getting a space large enough to place tables to hold materials to promote the program, areas in which to serve food, and a section to set up family-friendly games "that require little to no athletic skill" Because this activity could "take several months to plan, prepare for, and implement" it is suggested to start well ahead of the event date. For further information on promoting a community carnival, refer to the January ALA In the Know eBulletin and the ALA PR Guide and Tips for Volunteer Recruitment.

Recent reports of tornados, mud slides, flooding, and blizzard conditions have, no doubt, caused American Legion Auxiliary members to need temporary assistance. Again, when making your donations to the National Auxiliary Emergency Fund, <u>through our</u> <u>Department Headquarters</u>, please forward a copy of your donation letter to this chairman.



WITH PAWS IN SERVICE

Rebecca Faris, Chairman PO Box 3122 Kingman, AZ 86402-3122 rebfar@npgcable.com 928-757-8590

Ruth Patterson, Member new2yuma@roadrunner.com





AMERICANISM

FEBRUARY 2017

February is Americanism month and here are some ideas you can do at your meeting: Explain the parts of the American Legion Emblem, or why the American Flag is Folded 13 times. Recite the Pledge of Allegiance and explain the meaning of each word. Prepare a form of the Preamble to the American Legion Auxiliary with blanks to be filled in by members. Maybe, remind everyone why we do not walk between the colors. ("The Hallowed Ground") Breaking the "Colors" is not a violation of the United States Flag Code, however, not walking between the American Flag and the Auxiliary Flag is a custom adopted by the American Legion Auxiliary to show respect to our fallen veterans.

This Chairman received 18 Americanism mid-year reports. Even though some of the reports were late, I included as much detailed information received. However, when you send in your Year End report, it must arrive at my house by April 30, 2017 for your narrative to be judged for Department awards. You can also send it to me by email: <u>lbubbles@cox.net</u>. Please make sure to include the number of volunteers, their hours, and any funds that your Unit spent.

I noticed, at Conference, that some of the flags were wrinkled. I mention this now, so that you will have time to have a fund raiser (if needed) for the dry-cleaning bill. Please take pride in the American Flag, in your Unit Flag. Please do not forget to correspond with President Trump regarding the flag amendment. He will have a tremendous load as he transitions into his term in office. We do not want to our Flag desecrated or abused in any manner, without consequences.

Special dates in February:

National Freedom Day in the United States

National Freedom Day is an observance, in the United States, that honors the signing of a resolution that proposed the 13th amendment of the nation's constitution on February 1, 1865. Abraham Lincoln, who was the president at the time, signed this resolution to outlaw slavery.

National Wear Red Day

Friday, February 3, 2017, is Observe National Wear Red Day. People wear red, on this day, to bring attention to the problem of heart disease in women. Many women wear red dresses, the identifying symbol for the day. Health organizations hold seminars and public outreach events to educate people about prevention and screening of heart disease.

Lincoln's Birthday

Abraham Lincoln is one of the most popular presidents in United States history. It is a state holiday, in some states, on or around February 12th. It's also known as, Abraham Lincoln's Birthday, Abraham Lincoln Day or Lincoln Day.

Presidents' Day in the United States

February 20th, George Washington's Birthday, also known as Presidents' Day, is a federal holiday held on the third Monday of February. This day honors all of the presidents of the United States.

Linda Hubbs,

Americanism Chairman

"In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years".

Abraham Lincoln

Community Service

February 2017

PAWS in SERVICE

March is fast approaching and March is Community Service month! 😊

Can we do a state wide Community Service project – yes we can!!!

UMOM (United Methodist Outreach Ministry) New Day Centers located in Phoenix is in need of supplies for their families.

What is UMOM New Day Centers? UMOM is Arizona's largest shelter for families.

Our mission is to prevent and end homelessness with innovative strategies and housing solutions that meet the unique needs of each family and individual.

Founded in 1964, UMOM is the largest shelter for homeless families in the state. They keep families together, provide a continuum of care from emergency shelter to transitional housing and finally, permanent, affordable housing. Families at UMOM have the opportunity to gain the skills, medical care, quality child care, and education they need to rebuild their lives and succeed when they leave. You can read more about UMOM New Day Centers at their website: <u>https://www.umom.org</u>

Not located in the Phoenix area, you can still help in this State wide project. UMON New Day Centers has a wishlist on Amazon. You can donate to them right in the comfort of your own home. To find their wishlist, type *UMOM Wishlist* in the search box at the top of the Amazon webpage, click on the blue *UMOM New Day Centers* words then the wishlist will be displayed.

If you go the wishlist route on Amazon, Select UMOM New Day Centers Gift Registry for shipping. In addition, include your Unit name and number on the 'card'.

Don't want to shop on-line, you can send a check in to Department and earmark the funds to UMOM.

Diapers are a huge item requested. There is a never ending need for them. Also, socks and underwear for men and women are needed. The larger size of underwear is needed.

In addition to undergarments, the following is also needed. Families use these items while at the Center and take them with them when they are placed in their own home.

Household Items	Infant Care
Twin/full/queen sheets& blankets Vinyl zippered mattress protectors Pots, pans, dishes, utensils Toaster, crockpot, microwave Shower curtains, rods, towels	Diapers and baby wipes Strollers Baby shampoo, powder & lotion Formula and bottles Infant clothing (all sizes)
Toiletries and Hygiene Items	
Shampoo & conditioner Body wash, soap & lotion Deodorant Toothbrushes & toothpaste Feminine hygiene items New socks & undergarments for all ages	NOTE: Gently used linens can be donated, please not rips or stains.

Donation Drop Off Location: UMOM New Day Center 3333 E. Van Buren Street Phoenix, AZ 85008 Donation Drop Off Hours: Monday – Saturday 8am-6pm Closed Sunday

Can we come together and support this awesome organization in the month of March, YES WE CAN! What can you do as a Unit? Hold a raffle, a bake sale, put out a box in the Post for donations, a car wash, are just a few ideas.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call or email me.

Thank you to you and your Unit and members for considering donating to UMOM New Day Centers.

More to come next month on this great project.

Barbara White, Chairman 602-908-2980 Barbarawhite99@gmail.com 1616 W Nopal Dr Chandler AZ 85224 Onita Davis, Member 520-229-1064 ovunit132@gmail.com

CHILDREN & YOUTH

PAWS IN SERVICE

FEBRUARY, 2017

Thanks to all that attended the Children & Youth and National Security Workshop. There were lots of information shared by the Auxiliary, SAL and Legion. We hope that the takeaways will assist you with promoting both of these programs. We also received information on the various non-profit organizations, that not only help Veterans and their families but all homeless families. UMOM (United Methodist Outreach Ministries) and CASS (Central Arizona Shelter Services). I have attached a list to the back of my bulletin along with contact information if you wish to donate.

Remember, February 14th is Valentine's day. Let's not forget our Veterans and their families. Below are a few ideas you can do this month to show your love and increase community support and awareness of Veterans' Children and all Children.

- Work with your Post to identify the specific needs of children of Veterans who could benefit From assistance.
- Host an event or party and invite our Veterans their families to take part.

• Have your Juniors and Unit members make personal Valentine cards and deliver to the Children's Hospital.

Children & Youth Chairman, please do not forget to mail your annual report and narrative by April 15, 2017. Also, remember to recognize and reward the positive actions of our children and youth. The American Legion Auxiliary has two special national awards bestowed to youth nominated by units. The <u>Youth Hero Award</u> recognizes someone less than 18 years of age who performs a heroic act of physical bravery. The <u>Good Deed Award</u> is for youths 18 years of age or younger who have contributed in a special way to society through community service. information on website <u>www.alaforveterans.org/awards/youth Hero-good-deed awards</u>

For God and Country

Shirley Cannon -Johnson - Chairman 1734 E. Alicia Dr. Phoenix, AZ 85042 Committee Members Stacy Mayberry Carla Solarez Founded in 1964, UMOM is located in Phoenix, Arizona and is the largest shelter for homeless families in the state. We keep families together, we provide a continuum of care from emergency shelter to transitional housing and finally, permanent, affordable housing. Families at UMOM have the opportunity to gain the skills, medical care, quality child care, and education they need to rebuild their lives and succeed when they leave.

Ending homelessness in Maricopa County has been at the heart of Central Arizona Shelter Services' (CASS) work since the agency opened its doors in 1984. From the very beginning, CASS addressed the needs of the Valley's men, women and children experiencing homelessness through a continuum of care program model that provided shelter and individualized supportive services allowing these individuals to move their lives forward.

CALL FOR DONATIONS PICK UP OR NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

Linda Wheeler Williams Travis L Williams Unit 65 Cell # 623-217-8388 Wheelerwilliamslinda@gmail.com

Full Size Items :

- Bath Soap/Deodorant
- Lotion
- Shampoo
- Toothpaste/Toothbrushes/Mouthwash
- Towels (New or Clean Used) all size
- Sheets (New or Clean Used) Full or Twin
- Blankets (New or Clean Used) Full or Twin
- Clothes (Men, Women, Children- New or Clean Used)
- Outerwear (Men, Women, Children- New or Clean Used)
- Shoes & Socks (Men, Women, Children- New or Clean Used)
- Incontinence Products

Items for Homeless on the street - Central Arizona Shelter Services -(CASS)

Hotel or Personal Size:

- Bath Soap/ Deodorant/Shampoo
- Lotion
- Toothpaste/Toothbrushes/Mouthwash
- Washcloth (New or Clean Used)
- Combs
- Clothes (Men, Women, Children- New or Clean Used)
- Outerwear (Men, Women, Children- New or Clean Used)
- Shoes & Socks (Men, Women, Children- New or Clean Used)
- Blankets / Sleeping Bags (New or Clean Used)

E D U C A T I O N FEBRUARY 2016

February is the time to check with the schools about the scholarships. If you haven't taken any scholarship documents to the schools, time is getting short as the turn-in dates are getting closer. Check the national website (<u>www.alaforveterans.org</u>) to ensure your application is current. Review the application and keep a copy handy for reference. Some dates to remember:

Application due to Unit **on or before** March 1, 2017 Certified Unit Winner **due to** Department March 15, 2017 Certified Department Winner **due to** Divisional Chairperson April 1, 2017 Certified Divisional Entry due to National Chairperson by April 15, 2017 Certified National Entry is then sent to National Headquarters **NOTE: a change of the posted date from April 2 to April 1**

Have you considered talking with the teachers about setting up a class discussing National Security and Community Response? There are local agencies including the Health Department, Red Cross, and the Legion Family that have information to pass out. How about acting as a liaison between the local police department and a local school to set up some interaction. Check on your Essay Contests. Knowledge is power.



Does your Unit membership participate in these two programs to assist the schools? Please contact your schools to ensure they participate in the program and who the contact person is. All



members and members of the community should be encouraged to participate so your local schools can obtain extra money and supplies.

National is asking for numbers for your Education Year-End Reports: Volunteer Hours, Money Spent, Money Raised, and Mileage. We should also not forget to advise how many students applied for scholarships and how many we contacted with education of the different Auxiliary Programs – Poppy, Americanism, National Security and Community Service (interaction with local agencies to provide information and basic training) and about "Who the American Legion Auxiliary is and What We Do in the Community." Units, we know that a lot of you don't utilize a computer for tracking of specific information and programs (our Unit included); so, just jot your numbers down each month on a calendar so the information will be available to send in with your final report at the end of April. The more Units responding, the more information I can send in and the more National can report to Congress. Your help will make Arizona look good in Education, and Karen Smith look good as Division Chairperson. Thank you for all you do; keep up the good work!

Kat Sticklin, AZ Department Education Chairperson 1519 S. 2nd Ave., Safford, 85546 <u>gsticklin@cableone.net</u> 928-428-7431 Judy McIntyre Van-Matre Education Committee Member judym@npgcable.com 928-706-8207

CHAPLAIN REPORT

FEBRUARAY 2016

WHAT A WONDERFUL TIME OF THE YEAR TO EXPERIENCE THE WORDERFUL WORLD AROUND US. ARIZONA IS VERY FORUNATE IN THE WEATHER WE ARE HAVING. WE DO NOT HAVE TO SWIM TO STAY AFLOAT, WEAR SNOW SHOES TO GET AROUND, OR BE WITHOUT UTILITES FOR A NUMBER OF HOURS OR DAYS. WITH THIS IN MIND, THANK OUR LORD FOR ALL THE BLESSINGS HE SENDS US AND BE GREATFUL FOR ALL WE RECIEVE.

FEBRUARY IS A MONTH TO REMEMBER THE US ARMY TRANSPORT DORCHESTER CROSING THE NORTH ATLANTIC, TRANSPORTING MORE THAN 900 TROOPS TO AN AMERICAN BASE IN GREENLAND. ABOARD THE SHIP WERE FOUR CHAPLAINS OF DIFFERENT FAITHS: REVEREND GEORGE FOX (METHODIST), JEWISH RABBI ALEXANDER GOODE, REVEREND CLARK POLLING (DUTCH REFORMED) AND FATHER JOHN WASHINGTON (ROMAN CATHOLIC). TAKE THE TIME TO LEARN MORE OF THE FAITH AND HEROISM OF THESE MEN BY VISITING THE IMMORTAL CHAPLAINS FOUNDATION AT (www.immortalchaplains.org) AND THE FOUR CHAPLAINS MEMORIAL FOUNDATION AT (www.fourchaplains.org).

AS YOU HAVE ACTIVITIES AT YOUR UNIT, TAKE THE TIME TO OFFER PRAYERS FOR OUR SERVICE MEN AND WOMEN. REMEMBER TO WRITE DOWN YOUR PRAYERS AND SEND TO THIS WRITER SO THAT WE MIGHT HAVE A BEAUTIFUL PRAYER BOOK FOR OUR PRESIDENT JAN.

"LORD,

WE GIVE THANKS TO YOU FOR OUR BRAVE MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM. WE PRAY FOR YOUR LOVE TO LEAD THEM AND YOUR WISDON TO GUIDE THEM EACH AND EVERY DAY." AMEN.

Copyright © 2013 Beth McLendon of Inspirational-Prayers.com

HAPPY VALENTINES DAY AND GOD BLESS ALL OF YOU BEAUTIFUL LADIES!!!!!

GOD BLESS AMERICA

JENNIE MOLINA ALA DEPT OF AZ CHAPLAIN (520) 220-8460 truelepa@gmail.com

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE February 2017 "BOOKKEEPING 101"

(this document is intended as an educational tool to assist Treasurers with record keeping and availability of documents when your books are audited.) Taken from NetMBA Business Knowledge Ctr.

Source Documents

The *source document* is the original record of a transaction. During an audit, source documents are used as <u>evidence</u> that a particular business transaction occurred. Examples of source documents

- include: * Cash Receipts
 - Cash Register Tapes
 - Customer Invoices
 - Purchase Orders
 - Deposit Slips

- * Credit Card Receipts
- * Cancelled Checks
- * Supplier Invoices
- * Time Cards
- * Notes for loans
- Payment stubs for Interest

At a minimum, each source document should include the date, the amount, and a description of the transaction. When practical, beyond these minimum requirements source documents should contain the name and address of the other party of the transaction.

When a source document does not exist, for example, when a cash receipt is not provided by a vendor or is misplaced, a document should be generated as soon as possible after the transaction, using other documents such as bank statements to support the information on the generated source document.

Once a transaction has been journalized, the source document should be filed and made retrievable so that transactions can be verified should the need arise at a later date.

Finance Comm. Chrm. Helen Stout Committee: Josephine Herrera, NEC; Jan Cushing, Dept. President, Penny Maklary, Helen Griffin, Barbara Matteson, Secy-Treas

HISTORIAN February 2017

"Dedicated Historians Leave Paw Prints Behind For Tomorrow"

Auxiliary members feel an obligation to preserve the history and traditions of their organization. The history program encourages our members and units to record their service and activities for future generations. While we are celebrating our 90th year, our dedication to remembering the story of the Auxiliary and documenting our current events is even stronger.

The American Legion 100th Anniversary Observance Committee recommends the establishment of centennial committees at the department and post levels. These committees may be separate from traditional post historian offices. Collaboration with the Sons of The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary is also encouraged. Because the Legion has been a part of so many aspects of community life, committees may also choose to involve others in their planning, including: f High schools and colleges, particularly history programs f Local media outlets f The business community f Churches f Local historical societies and museums f Local government entities f Alumni of local post youth programs.

Whether your post/unit was chartered in 1919 or 2009, every post/unit has a story and legacy that has contributed to the overall identity of The American Legion Family. Now is the time to get started.

Now is the time to start thinking about the various National and Department History awards that are available for the History program. You will find them listed in the History plan of works handed out at the Department Conference that was held in November.

March is the Month of the Woman. **Suggestion:** Plan an event to honor the Veteran members in your unit.

Patricia Lugo, Department of Arizona Historian 602-475-0208, plugo1@cox.net

72nd Anniversary Iwo Jima Flag Raising

Military Parade and Flyover to begin at 8:30 AM. Ceremonies to follow at the Mathew B. Juan, Ira H. Hayes Veterans Memorial Park in Sacaton, AZ.

All Public and Veterans Groups are welcome.

Feb.25 2017



DIAN

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

February 2017

Paws in Service

Suggestions for Unit meetings:

- Get your school or unit involved in making Pocket Flags For Veterans Day at your school, see if you can have all of the classes in your school fold flags for military personnel. Talk to your principal or counselor, and explain that you are a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. Explain that you want to teach classmates about Veterans Day and that they can make a difference in a military service member by doing little projects like folding Pocket Flags. You could also use this as an opportunity to work towards a patch. You could give a presentation about what the flag represents and the meaning behind it. Your school may not be able to pay for the flags, so talk to them about fundraising ideas. You could sell suckers at lunch on every Friday for a month. Visit the link http://www.pocketflagproject.com/ to find the website for more information.
- Write thank you letters Contact a nursing home or veteran's home near your unit, and ask how many veterans live there. Then get other Juniors in your unit or friends together and write thank you letters to them. To tell
- how much you appreciate their service and sacrifice they gave to our country. You can even include drawings of flags, or a picture of poppies.
- •
- Collect items for the Give 10 to Education project With other Juniors in your unit or with friends collect items for students in your school who has a parent in the military or National Guard. Work with your teacher or school counselor on how to get the items to the students.
- ☆ Junior Convention will be held in April. Date, place and time will be in next month's bulletin. Elections will be held for the Junior Officers for the year2017-2018.

Chairman: Lexis Nicole Escudero 623-221-7132 email:jherrera268@aol.com Committee member: Karen Quigg 623-332-1621 email:grannyqbear@cox.net

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona Membership 2016-2017

February 2017

Come on Rockers, can we give the Legionnaires a tighter Membership Race???

CONGRATULATIONS TO ORO VALLEY UNIT 132 FOR REACHING THE 85% MILESTONE BY JANUARY 11, 2017. WAY TO GO FOR YOUR 87.32%.

Congratulations to the following Units for reaching the 60% milestone:

Unit 56 – 75.00%, Unit 36 – 65.25%, Unit 66 – 68.19%, Unit 131 – 65.24%, Unit 132 – 87.32%, Unit 45 – 69.23%, Unit 97 – 70.59%, Unit 4 – 60.32%, Unit 95 - 68.42%, Unit 14, - 75%, Unit 6 – 64.97%, Unit 135 – 82.35%, Unit 26 – 68.81%, Unit 27 – 60.37%, Unit 58 – 66.36%, Unit 84 – 65.57%. STANDINGS ARE PER THE 12/30/16 Report. Keep up the good work!!!

Membership Awards from National are:

<u>Member Award – Rejoin 1</u> – Rejoin one Former Auxiliary Junior or Senior member (Must not have paid dues after 2014). Submit Rejoin 1 form to National Headquarters by 5/1/2017 to receive Rejoin 1 pin. All verified entries will be eligible for \$100 cash drawing.

<u>Member Award – Recruit 1</u> – Recruit 1 NEW Auxiliary Junior or Senior Member. Submit Recruit 1 form to National Headquarters by 5/1/2017 to receive Recruit 1 pin. All verified entries will be eligible for \$100 cash drawing.

<u>Member Award – Recruit 10 -</u> Recruit 10 or more NEW Auxiliary Junior or Senior Members. Submit Recruit 10 form to National Headquarters by 5/1/2017 to receive an ALA microfiber cleaning cloth for your cellphone. All verified entries will be eligible for \$250 cash drawing.

<u>Member Awards – Silver Brigade</u> – Recruit 25 or more NEW SENIOR Auxiliary members to receive a special gift from the National President. Entry forms must be received at National Headquarters by 5/1/2017 in order to qualify. All verified entries will be eligible for a \$500 cash drawing. Look for more information next month!!!

Remember that your next milestone is 95% by May 11, 2017.

Let's Make Membership Meaningful! Rock Arizona and Raise the Roof in 2016-2017,

Yolanda Bonilla Membership Chairman 602-989-3321 yodobo@msn.com



American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona

"PAWS IN SERVICE" MUSIC REPORT FEBRUARY 2017

Happy February Ladies:

February is Americanism month and it brings a great opportunity to celebrate being American by wearing red, white and blue. More importantly, it gives each of us the opportunity to sing about our National colors. February is the perfect month for adding some patriotic marches to your Unit and District meetings. John Philip Sousa wrote over 135 marches. His most famous march, "The Stars and Stripes Forever," became the official march of the United States of America in 1987 through an Act of U.S. Congress. If a music selection is not part of your meetings, make a plea to your Unit or District President to add a song to the meeting agenda. Everyone loves to sing and singing a patriotic song about this great country is a wonderful way to show our Americanism. Remember that February 20 is President's Day!

Thanks to those unit music chairmen for turning in mid-year reports. Units are coming up with some creative ways to incorporate songs into their meetings. It's so great to see how others add music to their meetings and gatherings with veterans.

Remember to provide your year-end reports no later than April 17, 2016.

Department Music Awards are as follows:

MUSIC PLAQUES

Frances Aros Memorial Music Plaque awarded to Unit with membership of 151 and over Millicent Kasun Music Plaque awarded to Unit with membership of 150 and under

Information regarding the above awards can be found on the website: <u>www.aladeptaz.org</u> under Ruling Documents.

Monica Rae Stein, Department Music Chairman 11533 E. Kilarea Ave., Mesa, AZ 85209 <u>steinent@cox.net</u> 480.272.1255 cell

NATIONAL SECURITY February 2017

Purpose Statement To support our military and their families

There are two Department of Arizona Awards for National Security. The Steffen Memorial Plaque for Units with membership of 150 and under; The Speth Plaque for units with membership of 151 and over.

The basis for these awards are as follows: All around National Security program as outlined by the National Organization 50% for the current year. Unit participation in Savings Bond program 5% Unit contributions to the USO 5% Unit program on Law and Order 5% Unit program on Armed Forces 5% Unit activities on POW/MIA program 5% Legislative activities pertaining to National Security as endorsed by The American Legion 5% Unit National Security Forum (Awareness Assembly) 10% Unit Forum/Assembly with Post and public participating 10%

HELEN JOHNSON BONE ENERGY CONSERVATION PLAQUE NATIONAL SECURITY

Over-all content	50%
Arrangement and neatness	20%
Energy Forum	15%
Junior participation	15%

Unit National Security chairmen if you need assistance with these instructions please call me. I would like to see more interest in these awards. I know it can be complicated but National Security is important, let's get these entries in. The time to start is now.

Josie Herrera, 623-340-5936

2017 ORATORICAL CONTESTS

FEBRUARY 18, 2017

District 2 Post 102 (Tucson Estates Club House) 5975 W. Western Way Cir. Tucson, AZ 85713 1:00 pm

> District 11 Mountain Gate Club House 9629 S. 14th Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85041 2:00 pm

District 12 Post 35 2240 W. Chandler Blvd. Chandler, AZ 85224 10:00 am

FEBRUARY 25, 2017

AREA A Post 102 (Tucson Estates Club House) 5975 W. Western Way Cir. Tucson, AZ 85713 1:00 pm

AREA B

Post 27 1018 S. Meridian Apache Junction, AZ 85220 9:00 am

MARCH 4, 2017

DEPARTMENT Post 64 5001 E. Cheyenne Dr. Phoenix, AZ 85044 10:00 am



POPPIES

Ladies, I did receive 6 midyear reports. I was really disappointed but maybe we can put a little more work into the end of year reports.

Have any of you been to the schools in your area to see if any girls are interested in doing posters? You can do different age groups and they can qualify for different awards. Explain to them about the poppy and why it is the flower of the American Legion. Also, explain why we promote it. It is a big fundraiser for the Auxiliary so they can work their programs for veterans.

Remember, we can't give recognition for your work if we don't see it.

In service for God and Country,

Poppy Chairman Vera Robertson 3216 W Shangri La Rd Phoenix, AZ 85029 602-505-4251 Poppy Member Neta Kimball Unit 19 Yuma, AZ 85364

Public Relations: February 2017



"Ring Your Bell" contest standings as of December 31, 2016 (It's still any unit's win!!!)

(it's still any ur	nt's win!!!)	
Unit 1	Phoenix	100
Unit 2	Tempe	100
Unit 13	Williams	100
Unit 19	Yuma	100
Unit 22	Grand Canyon	100
Unit 26	Mesa	100
Unit 27	Apache Junction	26
Unit 28	Clifton	100
Unit 29	Glendale	125
Unit 32	Safford	100
Unit 41	Phoenix	25
Unit 52	Sierra Vista	290
Unit 53	Buckeye	201
Unit 57	Ash Fork	100
Unit 58	Fountain Hills	100
Unit 61	Avondale	70
Unit 62	Peoria (not eligible to win)	382
Unit 65	Phoenix	100
Unit 75	Phoenix	100
Unit 87	Bullhead City	325
Unit 93	Camp Verde	50
Unit 97	San Tan	100
Unit 107	Phoenix	100
Unit 109	Corona de Tucson	200
Unit 117	Pat Tillman	202
Unit 126	Snowflake/Taylor	100
Unit 130	Concho	100
Unit 131	Madera	50
Unit 132	Oro Valley	120
Unit 135	Cornville	100

While Bullhead City is leading the pack, there is plenty of time for ANY UNIT to catch up...

- Become a member of the Ring Your Bell Group on facebook and get 100 points! Simple; search for **Ring Your Bell Arizona ALA** on Facebook, "join" the group and enter your unit #.
- Email me (aladeptazpr@gmail.com) your Website address and/or Facebook page and get 50 points each.
- Email me your newspaper or other media contacts and get 50 points for each!
- Post photos of your unit members wearing the ALA emblem and get 10 points for every emblem. Make sure to post it "publicly" and use the #ringyourbellazala hashtag. **AND** if "you don't do Facebook", we have a solution for you! Email me photos and I will post them on our pages!

Please email us with questions... we are here to help. And have some fun!

Marge Christianson ALADeptAZpr@gmail.com Shannon Mead Shannon Mead@live.com

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA

"PAWS IN SERVICE"

FOR OUR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES

SCRAPBOOK

FEBRUARY 2017

If your Unit is going to submit a scrapbook at Convention please follow the rules that were handed out at Fall Conference.

Luella Price District Scrapbook Plaque

H.H. Donkersley Unit 19 Scrapbook Plaque with membership of 151 and over

Martha Waters Scrapbook Plaque with membership of 150 and under

Moulton Junior Auxiliary Scrapbook Plaque

Noreen Lankin Scrapbook Chairman 20089 N. Pinewish Court Surprise, AZ 85374-4625 gcushing@cox.net Amy Hankins Member aaccomm@cox.net

ARIZONA STATE VETERANS HOME – TUCSON (ASVH-TUCSON) STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2016

Meeting Called to Order 11:09 a.m.

Next ASVH-TUCSON Steering Committee Meeting

Monday, January 9, 2017 at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel at ASVH-Tucson

Present:

Onita Davis, ALA 132 Leslie Decker, AMVETS Fran Johnston, ALA 102 Nancy Morrow, ALA 7 Tommy Morrow SAL 68 Sam Nanez, ASVH-Tucson Terry Soto, ALA 59 Mary Torvik, ALA 109 Anna Marie Arenas, ALA 73 (via teleconference)

Please note above the abbreviations for the following:

ALA	American Legion Auxiliary
SAL	Sons of the American Legion
ASVH-Tucson	Arizona State Veterans Home-Tucson
VFW	Veterans of Foreign Wars
AMVETS	American Veterans

MINUTES:

1. Introduction

A. Sam reviewed November's meeting minutes with the committee. Removed Tommy Morrow from list of meeting attendees in the minutes and minutes were accepted for November 14, 2016

2. Reports by Steering Committee – Planned and Future Events/Activities

- A. Nancy to get an update of resident total at the home (male and female). Sam advised there are currently <u>+</u>113 residents (seven females and 103 with a possible three more)
- B. Menu for Christmas and Holiday party for Tuesday, December 20, 2016 was discussed. Mary, Unit 109 has 200 bags of chips. Anna Marie to work with Walmart, Fry's and Sprouts for ham, turkey, and cheese platters; and Golden Corral for dinner rolls. Terry to work on acquiring gifts (gift bags and after shower sprays) for female residents and assist Mary, Unit 109 with gifts for male residents. Fran showed bracelets for the female residents. Fran also will provide lap robes. Plan is to meet on Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in the community lounge across from the chapel at the home to stuff gift bags for the residents. Fran also has gifts from the Veterans Gift Shop for the residents.
- C. Anna Marie will work on updating email address delivery problems.
- D. Fran advised the committee as to who is scheduled for the monthly Birthday cake and ice cream donations. To date Units 102 and 125 for January, Unit 36 for February, Units 68 and 132 for March, Unit 131 for April, and Unit 59 for May. Event is monthly on every third Tuesday.
- E. Sam advised auxiliary that he is getting returned mail (thank you letters for donations) from various units. Asked that the auxiliary representatives of the steering committee spread the word that he needs better contact information (i.e., mailing addresses and names/titles). Anna Marie to note in next department bulletin.

- F. Anna Marie requested that Delene send another update of residents and birthdays.
- G. As summarized by Sam there is still a need for volunteers, And, residents have requested that frozen burritos, mini pizzas, chips, and candy be donated for the gift shop.
- H. Sam advised committee that scheduled date for taking down the decorations is Tuesday, January 3, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.
- I. Chili Cook Off pending scheduled date for January. Will discuss at January's meeting.
- J. Sam shared with the committee that 25 to 30 radios coming on Christmas Eve.
- K. Onita advised Sam that Unit 132 renewed subscriptions for Sports Illustrated and National Geographic.
- L. Stand down dates of January 13-15, 2017 was discussed. Mary, Unit 109 to send flyers.
- M. Sam advised that resident council want to raise money to donate to a local nonprofit organization in honor of the home's therapy cat.

3. Scheduled Upcoming Events

January 14 POWWOW 8:00 to 11:00 a.m. Need volunteers. Sam to ask Pueblo High School students to assist

January 27 Asian New Year – Philippians group to provide traditional meal

Meeting ended at 11:51 a.m. SUBMITTED BY: Anna Marie Arenas, ALA Unit 73 Dated: December 12, 2016

UAV UNOFFICIAL MINUTES 7 JANUARY 2017

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m. by Chairman Reggie Yates, the opening ceremony was conducted and guests were introduced.

Director of Arizona Department of Veteran's Service, Wanda Wright gave an update on what the Department has been doing. She stated that last quarter they have been working on many projects. Efforts are being made to pay invoices within the 30 days and they have saved \$5,000 in interest by meeting these goals. New hires processing has gone from 131 days to 24 days. They are working to build a West Valley Educational Center near Luke Air Force Base. When this venture is finished they will start reworking the East Valley Education Center. These centers are skill bridges for veterans getting ready to separate within 6 months. APS and USAA have formed a council to help fill the gap with employees. They are looking to place veterans into a career not just a job. They have opened two new locations for veterans Home in Phoenix. It is over 20 years old and in need of upgrades. They have been working with the tribal nations and have recently trained two Navajo service officers to work on the Navajo Nation. They are also working with all of the other tribes in Arizona.

They are working on a new program that is expected to go on line in April to help combat suicide.

The women's planning group met and are planning on having at least one woman's veteran program every month.

They are working on establishing a regional court to help veterans that may have more than one minor violation but in several areas. This would help the veteran take care of all minor infractions at one time and not have to travel all over the county. They are also working to help women veterans reenter the work force after being released from prison.

Bruce Pagel from "United for Change Veterans Store" gave a report on his organization. They were established as a 501(c)3 in 2009. The organization partnered with Luke Air Force Base in 2015 and the project is alive and well. They serve transitioning homeless veterans, at risk veterans, domestic abuse veterans and veterans getting out of jail. Their mission is to collect household items and give them to veterans in need. They have one paid employee (the manager of the warehouse), all other employees are volunteers. They will go out on Saturday to pick up donations. Last year they delivered furniture to over 400 veterans. Most of the apartments that the veterans are able to get into are completely empty. In 2016 they almost had to close their doors. The program was revamped and they now go out and raise money to buy what they need vs using donations. The need new trucks as the current two trucks they have, have upward of 200,000 miles on them. How to contact them will be provided at a later date.

Marks Fields advised the membership of new legislation being proposed for a lottery ticket to support veterans and also about efforts for a diversity memorial to be constructed at Wesley Bolin Plaza.

Carol Culbertson took the roll call, a quorum was established. Motion to approve minutes was made and second, motion approved.

Bob Hysco, gave the financial report. The current cash balance is \$33,044.07.

Corey Harris from Representative Gallego's office reported that veteran's unemployment rate has shown a 7% decrease in December. Currently the veteran unemployment rate is 4.1%. He also advised the membership that President Obama has signed the "Toxic Exposure Bill" into law. There are some people in Congress pushing to shut down the VA. President elect Trump does not support this issue.

Dr. Maureen McCarthy from the VA Medical Center reported that a new Deputy Director has been selected but she is not able to give out the name at this time. She encouraged everyone to get their flu shots. Last year the VA in Phoenix realized a 14% increase in patient care. Two new CBOC's will be opening this month. On "Midtown

Clinic" will be located at 5040 N. 15th Avenue, Phoenix and the other one "Southwest Clinic" will be located at 9250 W. Thomas Road, Phoenix. The hours of operation will be from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. These clinics require an appointment to be seen. They will not have a pharmacy on site. Prescriptions can be picked up at the Outpatient Pharmacy in the main Phoenix VA hospital or can be filled by mail. The Emergency Room has opened up 20 more beds to treat patients. By using the new "Fast Track" clinic for many of the walk in to the ER, they have been able to reduce the wait time in the ER to about 3 hours. The new Dental Clinic is expected to open in April. The VA has been approved for a second parking garage. It is expected to be constructed just north of the valet parking area and is supposed to have 200 more parking spaces.

Reggie Yates gave a report from the Board of Directors Meeting. They are looking for nominations to the AVHOF. Deadline for nominations is 31 March 2017. He also encouraged everyone to get their tickets for the "Patriotic Gala" being held April 8th. A new organization "The Ripple Effect" was voted into the UAV. They work sith suicide prevention.

Terry Araman brought a "Resource Guide" produced by Kirsten Synema's office.

Rob Welsh reported on a legislative issue being proposed again to reduce the taxation of military retirement. Currently the first \$2500 (legislated in 1984) of military retirement is tax exempt. They are trying to get legislation that would raise the exemption to 12,500 in fiscal year 2019, \$25,000 or 75% which every is greater, in fiscal year 2020, and the full military retirement the following year. Currently for individuals over 65 years of age Arizona ranks 35th and for veterans under 65 we rand 42nd. There are 18 states in the Union that currently exempt military retirement from taxation.

Another issue being propose to is stop the deportation of honorably discharged veterans, who came to the U.S. and joined the service, but never became citizens. When they committed a minor infraction of the law and it was discovered that they were never U.S. Citizens, they have been deported. This legislation would stop this practice.

Judy Hatch gave a final report on Pearl Harbor Day. The day was a huge success, with the highlights being the three plane flyover and an 87 year old woman who was 12 on December 7, 1941 and lived in Hawaii with her family as her father was stationed there. She reported what she remembered from that day in history.

The installation of new Board of Directors and officers was conducted.

Members were reminded of the upcoming Maricopa Stand Down February 7-10. Volunteers are still being sought.

Next Saturday, January 14th there will be a "Forgotten Victory" program in Chandler highlighting the Korean War Veterans.

There being no further information to come before the organization, closing ceremony was conducted and the meeting was ended at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Judith Hatch

JUDITH HATCH



American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona

"PAWS IN SERVICE" VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION REPORT

February 2017

Ladies, please be sure you share this bulletin with your VA&R Chairman.

This Chairman received an email from the Western Division VA&R Chairman, Anita Biggs, letting all the States (in Western Division) that she received 100% reporting. So, thank you to those Units who submitted your mid-year report to me.

Yes, this bulletin is only February, but Convention in June is just around the corner so hopefully you are continuing to gather all your hours, mileage, cost, etc.

I ASK THAT YOU PLEASE BE SURE TO FILL OUT YOUR YEAR-END REPORTS THAT ARE DUE TO ME BY MAY 1, 2017. This ensures that all the hard work your Unit has been doing all year for Veterans gets recorded. This Chairman in turn, sends a report to National and I would also like to brag that Arizona received 100% reporting. HOW...BY SENDING YOUR REPORT FORM TO ME REGARDLESS OF WHAT YOU HAVE DONE. And, don't forget to include your narrative if you are going to submit your Unit for a Department Award.

As part of your narrative report, please include answers to the following questions: •

*How did your unit participate in the caregiver support program?

*Describe how members earned their Service to Veterans hours.

*What assistance did your unit give at a stand down?

Don't forget to visit the website, <u>www.alaforveterans.org</u> for more vital information.

Until next month, thank you for all you do for our Veterans!!!

Cindy Queen, Department VA&R Chairman 4718 S. Adelle Circle, Mesa, AZ 85212 <u>cynqueen1953@gmail.com</u>

602-316-7647 (cell) 480-358-6923 (home)

ARIZONA STATE VETERANS HOME – TUCSON (ASVH-TUCSON) 2016-2017 REPORT

Ladies,

The Christmas party at the Arizona State Veterans Home-Tucson was fantastic! We are so grateful to report to you that every resident at the home received gifts from the auxiliary. Each one was given a gift bag full of goodies from socks, lap blankets, cologne, cards, and jewelry, The Department also provided a special Christmas Card to each and every veteran, which is an annual tradition. Then there was a table of clothing for them to select. One veteran said he felt he was at the mall. There were volunteers serving, feeding, and transporting residents from their room to the party and back. Very few residents stayed in their rooms, but if they did their gifts were delivered to them with goodies and food. It was a wonderful day at the home. Many family members told me to tell the auxiliary, "Thank you for caring so much for our veterans and us, especially this time of year."

Once again, thank you so much, with your donations we were able to provide gifts, and a luncheon. The veterans were so happy. Thank you, Santa Claus. After lunch the veterans each went to Santa Claus to receive his or her gift. We had the Community Room, main entrance of the home, and the Chapel packed. We also served cake to honor the birthdays in December. Just to see their smiles and mingling made all well worth it. Some veterans were moving around showing off their gifts and going up and down in their wheelchairs, it was a site to see. Thank you volunteers from American Legion Auxiliary Units 7, 59, 68, 73, 109, SAL 68 and AMVETS Auxiliary 770.

The following schedule is upcoming events at the Arizona State Veterans Home-Tucson (ASVH-Tucson):

February 5 February 10 February 11 February 23	Super Bowl Tail Gate Party Valentine's Ice Cream Social Produce on Wheel Without Waste (\$10 donation for 60 lbs) Rodeo – Residents get to view the parade since the parade passes by the home. Need volunteers to move the residents in their wheelchairs to the parade (just the other side of the fence). The home will provide a BBQ and live country music. Our dream is to someday have them participate in the parade since the parade route passes by the home.		
The third Tuesday	Monthly Birthday Cake and Ice Cream social - need auxiliaries to host and provide cakes and ice cream at these socials. Your unit can solely host the social or have two units share the social. Please remember this event is held year around.		
	February	ALA Unit 36	
	March	ALA Units 68 and 132	
	April	ALA Unit 131	
	Мау	ALA Unit 59	
	June	Open	
	July	AMVETS Auxiliary 770	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ASVH-TUCSON RESIDENTS – BEST WISHES ALWAYS TO YOU

A toast for your blessed life!!! Salute!!!!!

James 2 7 Cardwell 11 Thomas 13 Robert 14 17 Jack Marion 18 Lewis 20 Thomas 26 Danny

Happy Trails!!!!!!!

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Marie Arenas ASVH-Tucson Chairman <u>aarenas@cox.net</u> 520-404-7646 Nancy Morrow ASVH-Tucson Co-Chairman <u>nancymorrow52381@gmail.com</u> 520-867-1725

ARIZONA STATE VETERANS HOME PHOENIX JANUARY 2017 REPORT

Hello Ladies it's been beautiful weather finally in our valley! Happy Holidays!

Here is the list of February Birthdays:

2/2 2/3 2/7 2/20 2/26	Robert D L. (D2) Robert M. (C2) Carol J W. (C1) Linda V G. (C2) Daniel B. (D2)	2/2 2/4 2/10 2/23	Tom B. (C1) Abdurrahim S. (D1) Fermin F. (C1) Gary J C. (C2)	2/3 2/4 2/13 2/23	Everett R P. (D2) Timothy W R. (C2) Joseph T L (D2) William R H. (C2)
Here is the list of March Birthdays:					
3/1	Edwin L K. (D2)	3/1	Joseph J S. (C1)	3/4	Thomas G. (D2)
3/7	Allen R T. (C2)	3/9	John H. (C1)	3/10	David H R. (C1)
3/14	George F P. (D2)	3/24	James T S. (D2)	3/25	Steven R C. (D2)
3/27	Michael J R. (D2)	3/27	Reginald T. (D1)	3/29	Billy M S. (D2)
3/29	Gary A K. (C2)	3/30	Curtis L R. (C2)	3/31	Bruce D C. (D2)
3/31	James G S. (C2)				

Thanks to all the units for sending Birthday cards to our veterans at the State Home. ⁽³⁾ We would like to Thank the following units for their help with donations last year and through the Holidays; Units 35, 39, 61, 65, 75, 103 and 107.

The Arizona State Home's Wish List: (New list for 2015 – 2016)

Please call me before coordinating large-ticket donations to discuss our most current needs.

Items needed:

- Wheelchair accessible cup holders
- Gift cards to Dunkin Donuts or Krispy Kreme for our twice a month "coffeehouse"
- Chips and Soda for Friday "Happy Hour"
 - We are also in need of soft snack cakes (such as Little Debbie's) for those needing a softer snack
- Comfortable Sweat Pants (sizes M, L, XL, XXL)
- Men's tennis shoes or slippers (with a back) in a variety of sizes
- Large Print Bibles
- Batteries (AA, AAA and D)
- Stamps
- Reachers
- Cups with lids and handles
- DVD's (current or new releases)
- Hand Held Electronic Games: Poker, black jack, Yahtzee, solitaire, etc.
- Puzzles that are 550 pieces and under

Larger items:

- Photo printer and ink to print photos for veterans
- Sponsor a room renovation (\$2500)
- Small shelving units to control clutter in veteran rooms (\$125 each, need 120 total)
- Heavy Duty Laminator Machine

Games and Special Events:

- Sponsor a party / special event with an entertainer or performer
- Sponsor a meal for either the entire home (180 beds), or a single wing (50 beds)

- Sponsor a BBQ or an outing ٠
- Sponsor a casino night or donate money to the bingo fund (it costs about \$40 ٠ every game and the veterans love bingo!).

Unfortunately, we are unable to use glass, toiletries, past-date food items, or medical supplies. All food items donated must be store-bought, and within dates so we can serve them safely. Thank you for serving our veterans!

(Please let me know if your unit includes ASVH in any of your monthly activities either by texting me at (623) 696-5602 or emailing me at VLRKELL@aol.com so your unit will also be included in my monthly report.)

Please continue to let me know what you do for our Veterans at the state home, so I can include you in my monthly report. I feel very passionate about thanking people when they share their time to make our veterans happy or show them how much we appreciate them. Please either email me (VLRKELL@aol.com), text me or call me (623-696-5602) if any of our Auxiliary Ladies go to spend some time as a group or individually at our Arizona Veterans State Home. If you would like me to deliver Birthday cards to the State home along with mine, you can directly send them to me at: 8402 W Campbell Ave, Phoenix AZ 85037.

 \odot

Valerie Kelly

ASVH (Phoenix) Chairman

Joy*ce Livingston* Co-Chairman