



AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF
ARIZONA CONVENTION
JUNE 22-25, 2023

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

REGISTRATION - \$10.00

REMINDER AT CONVENTION - \$20.00

PLEASE RETURN FORM WITH CHECK MADE OUT TO:

American Legion Auxiliary Dept. of Arizona
4701 N. 19th Ave. Suite 100, Phoenix, Az. 85015

UNIT NUMBER _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

NAME (PRINT)

POSITION/TITLE (PRINT)

If also ALR Rider
then place an X

1	_____	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____
4	_____	_____	_____
5	_____	_____	_____
6	_____	_____	_____
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9	_____	_____	_____
10	_____	_____	_____
11	_____	_____	_____
12	_____	_____	_____
13	_____	_____	_____
14	_____	_____	_____
15	_____	_____	_____

PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE JUNE 2, 2023

NO REFUNDS OR SUBSTITUTIONS

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA CONVENTION
JUNE 22-25, 2023
RESOLUTION**

SUBMITTED BY: _____

SUBJECT: _____

DATE: _____

Resolution No. _____
(Assigned by Resolutions Committee)

Routing: _____

Submitted by: Name and Signature _____

Submitted by: Name and Signature _____

Submitted by: Name and Signature _____

_____ Approved _____ Rejected _____ Revised _____

_____ Approved _____ Rejected _____ Revised _____

_____ Approved _____ Rejected _____ Revised _____

Convention Action: Approved _____ Rejected _____ Date _____

One "hard" copy, signed by at least two (2) qualified delegates, and an unsigned "soft or electronic" copy of all resolutions are to be forwarded to the Department Secretary before Convention if possible. Resolutions originating at Convention need to be written as a "hard" copy with two delegate signatures, and a "soft or electronic" copy forwarded to the Department Secretary as soon as possible so that discussion and vote may take place. (2013) Resolutions presented by the vote of a unit need to be signed by at least two (2) qualified delegates from the Unit and forwarded to the Department Secretary thirty (30) days prior to Department Convention for registration and classification and issuing to respective committees. A resolution which has not been presented through the proper channels will not be considered.

**Chaplain Report
May 2023**

Your efforts to bring comfort to our members and to keep our commitment to God & Country strong is so important and appreciated.

Thank you for all you do. God bless you.

Dear Lord,

Through your Chaplains open the eyes of those who fail to see your presence.

Through your Chaplains encourage souls overcome with fear and worry.

**Through your Chaplains refresh those wearied from devotion to the works of healing,
protecting, providing and defending.**

Through your Chaplains, assuage the anguish of death,

Through your Chaplains give hope during joy and sorrow,

Chaos and calm,

Success and failure,

Rest and exhaustion.

We ask this in Your name. Amen.

**Please bring prayers for President Barbara's Prayer Book
to Convention!!!**

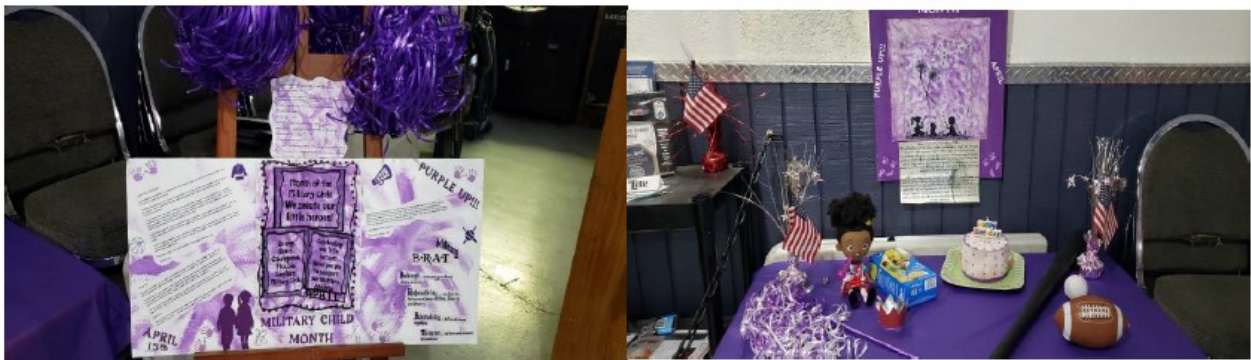
**If you know if anyone who would benefit from a card or phone call from the
Department of Arizona, please let me know:**

Marge Christianson, Chaplain, alaunit62az@gmail.com, (763) 234-9852 (call or text)

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona
Children and Youth Program
May 2023

A BIG "THANK YOU" to all of the units that held events and special projects during the month of April. Many units decorated "Purple", set up "Purple" displays, held "Purple" parties and chose innovative ways to celebrate our military children and youth.

Special shout out to Unit 105 for their artistic way of spreading the word.



Let's keep it going. With summer just around the corner, think of ways that we can continue to celebrate our children and youth. Some suggestions are:

- Summer craft programs
- Picnics
- Fun educational days
- Visit local youth groups, churches and summer school programs
- Attend local school awards programs. (Jr ROTC, Citizenship and Honor Awards)
- Holiday events (Poppy Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, 4th of July)

In addition, please be sure to take advantage of the available resources to educate and honor our children and youth that can be located at ALAforVeterans.org. Information, ideas, nomination forms and instructions are available for The Youth Hero and Good Deed awards, the Youth Caregiver Certificate of Appreciation, Hero stickers, coloring books, Star Spangled Kids, Josh Dogs and ceremony instructions.

I'm looking forward to meeting many of you at our convention in Oro Valley next month. I am so appreciative of the time that has been spent making this year's program a success. I've seen so many new and fun ideas implemented this year. Great Job Everyone!!

Community Service

May 2023

“VETERANS -- Our Hometown Heroes”

Thank you to all the Units that submitted their year-end report, and especially to those narratives that were received, regarding Community Service for 2022-2023.

This chairman is looking forward to presenting those hard-working and dedicated Units the following awards and certificates at this year's convention:

Carlotta Pace Community Service Award
Fred Hilburn Activities Plaque
Sunnyslope Activities Plaque
Zeita M Johnson Memorial Plaque

It may seem strange, but now is the time to begin thinking about your **2023-24** community service activities which will go on next year's report. Are members able to work with local Boy and Girl Scouts with summer hiking and camping activities? How about serving as coaches and/or working the snack bars at Legion Baseball, Little League, and softball leagues in your areas? Don't forget about your local schools preparing for year-end activities, i.e., field days, proms, recognition ceremonies for outstanding students, graduations. (Thank you WD Chairman Bonilla for these ideas!)

It's been a pleasure to serve as this year's Community Service Chairman.

“Community service has taught me all kinds of skills and increased my confidence. You go out there and think on your feet, work with others and create something from nothing. That's what life's all about.” **Andrew Shue**

Rebecca Faris
rebeccafaris3@gmail.com
928-715-4926

PO Box 3122
Kingman, AZ 86402-3122



Education May 2023



The deadline for the Department of Arizona WILMA HOYAL-MAXINE CHILTON MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP is quickly approaching. One annual scholarship of \$1000.00 is available to a student at Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University and the University of Arizona enrolled as a second year or upper division student in Political Science, Public Programs or Special Education.

Any applicant must be a citizen of the United States and a resident of Arizona for at least one year. Honorably discharged veterans or immediate family members of a veteran will be given preference.

Applications must be sent to the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona Headquarters office by May 15.

Recipients will receive awards through the appropriate school offices for each academic year in the following manner: One half of the award will be made available to the recipient at the beginning of fall and spring semesters, dependent on proper enrollment with the university. Applicant must complete at least 12 hours with a grade average of "B" or better and be enrolled as a fulltime student.

Applications to apply for this scholarship can be found on the Department website. [Scholarships & Educational Opportunities \(aladeptaz.org\)](http://aladeptaz.org) Former recipients continuing degree programs as listed above may re-apply provided the applicant complies with rules and submits a new application.

Thank you to all the Unit Chairmen who turned in their year-end report by the May 1st deadline. I look forward to hearing how your Units promote the Auxiliary education programs throughout the school year, especially Teacher Appreciation Week, May 8-12.

In the Spirit of Service, not for self,
For Veterans, God and Country,

Julie M. Vietri

Education Chairman
Department of Arizona
jvietri@msn.com
480-495-1558

Finance

May 2023

Did you submit your End of Year Finance Report? It's not too late to send that all important information to this Chairman.

If an organization does not file a required return or files [late](#), the IRS may assess [penalties](#). In addition, if an organization does not file as required for three consecutive years, it automatically loses its tax-exempt status.

As the end of the 2022-2023 approaches take time to review your gross receipts and decide which 990 filing applies to your Unit:

IRS guidelines follows:

- **Gross receipts under \$50,000, file Form 990N (epost card)**
- **Gross receipts over \$50,000 and less than \$200,000, file Form 990EZ**

Do you have questions or comments; if so, please reach out to this Chairman for help.

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

Penny Maklary, Member, 520-364-5038, ahhpenny@aol.com

Helen Stout, Member, 520-294-3593, helenstout84@gmail.com

Virtue of Office: Barbara White, President, Jennie Molina, NEC

Barbara Matteson, Sec/Treas. (no vote)

Legislative

May 2023

Greetings Members,

Your Year-End reports were due to the Department Chairmen on or before May 1st, 2023. As of the writing of this bulletin, I have only received three reports. Thank you to those Units that have sent in reports. I look forward to hearing about the Legislative work the other Units are doing.

We had our third quarterly National Legislative Zoom meeting on April 26th, where we talked about Legislative Awards and of course, the dreaded end of the year reports.

In early April, House Committee on Veterans Affairs chair Rep. Bost (R-IL) released a statement charging that the VA is not using tools provided by Congress to root out employee misconduct and poor performance. Bost has written to VA Secretary McDonough about the Department no longer using authorities to more rapidly fire employees under the VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act, signed into law in 2017. The letter gives an April 21 deadline for the Secretary to determine whether the VA has sufficient authority to remove problematic employees such as the one referenced. Sen. Dianne Feinstein (D-CA) National Legislative Division Weekly April 14, 2023, In his statement, Bost focused on allegations that a “toxic supervisor” continues to work at Loma Linda VA Medical Center more than three years after an investigation resulted in recommendations they be removed. Bost charged that “bad employees are still employed by VA and accountability is being swept under the rug.” The committee has held two hearings on this topic so far this year. Bost has also questioned McDonough about a recent Merit System Protection Board (MSPB) decisions limiting the Department’s ability to fire hybrid employees.

Also in April, Tiffany Ellett, Director of VA & R testified before Congress on several bills. In her testimony on behalf of The American Legion, Ellett addressed three pieces of pending legislation supported by The American Legion. They include:

H.R. 41 – VA Same-Day Scheduling Act of 2023. This bill will ensure that a veteran enrolled in VA healthcare is able to schedule an appointment the same day they call a VA medical facility.

H.R. 542 – Elizabeth Dole Home-and Community-Based Services for Veterans and Caregivers Act of 2023. This legislation aims to improve caregiver support at VA by establishing a publicly centralized access portal, expanding home-based community services nationwide, and providing greater access to resources and guidance on services supporting caregivers and their families. Other Legion-supported legislation includes:

H.R. 1089 – VA Medical Center Transparency Act. The American Legion believes it is imperative for VA to maintain oversight and implement accountability on all methods of care provided through the VA healthcare system to ensure the needs of the veterans are met in a supportive, safe and accepting environment.

H.R. 754 – Modernizing Veterans’ Health Care Eligibility Act. This legislation will establish an advisory commission regarding eligibility for healthcare furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

H.R. 693 – Veterans Affairs Medical Center Absence and Notification Timeline (VACANT) Act. Under this legislation, the VA would establish and report a timeline for and reasoning behind the movement of a facility director.

There have been 15 hearings that were held for the month of April relating to Veterans and military affairs. A list of these hearings can be found on the Legion Legislative Dispatch.

The hearings for these bills also include Boosting housing costs for troops and expanding the parental leave for Guardsmen and Reservists.

For God and Country,

Stephanie M. McMullen
Department Legislative Chairman
16575 W. Moreland St.
Goodyear, AZ 85338
(623)910-4716, stephaniemcmullenala62az@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

MAY 2023

Happy May,

I am so proud of all the members of the Dept. of AZ. As I write this bulletin, we are 46 members away from 100%. And we are 3rd in the Nation!!!! By the time you all read this we should be at 100%. But we can't let off the gas yet, as we race to the finish line. We will very well be first in the nation if we push just a bit harder.

Now even though I we didn't make the goal by March 1st, for me to wear a dress during processional, there may or may not be a little something special during my floor remarks.

I would like all the units to send me the names of members who have reached 40,45,50,55,60,65,70,75,80,85,90 years of continuous membership. I would like to honor them at the convention.

Keep up the good work.

For God and Country

Rose

UNIT NUMERIC OBJECTIVES 4-20-2023

		UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL	PERCENT
		0100	Phoenix	158	0	151	151	95.57%
		0115	Glendale	0	3	13	16	
		Total		158	3	164	167	105.70%
	Total			158	3	164	167	105.70%
	01		0019	Yuma	198	8	194	202
0046			Bouse	54	0	56	56	103.70%
0056			Yuma	63	2	77	79	125.40%
Total				315	10	327	337	106.98%
Total				315	10	327	337	106.98%
02		0007	Tucson	71	1	33	34	47.89%
		0010	Ajo	25	0	19	19	76.00%
		0036	Tucson	278	1	249	250	89.93%
		0059	Tucson	157	3	131	134	85.35%
		0066	Green Valley	929	2	848	850	91.50%
		0068	Tucson	60	0	52	52	86.67%
		0073	Tucson	29	2	28	30	103.45%
		0109	Corona	341	9	327	336	98.53%
		0125	Tucson	16	1	13	14	87.50%
		0131	Green Valley	534	0	535	535	100.19%
		0132	Oro Valley	82	2	82	84	102.44%
		Total		2522	21	2317	2338	92.70%
		Total			2522	21	2317	2338
	03		0011	Douglas	175	12	153	165
0016			Bisbee	73	0	71	71	97.26%
0024			Tombstone	414	6	393	399	96.38%
0045			Benson	50	5	45	50	100.00%
0052			Sierra Vista	174	2	145	147	84.48%
0141			Pearce	10	0	17	17	170.00%
Total				896	25	824	849	94.75%
Total				896	25	824	849	94.75%
04		0008	Casa Grande	41	3	33	36	87.80%
		0009	Florence	89	1	78	79	88.76%
		0051	Coolidge	63	10	53	63	100.00%
		0054	Coolidge	107	1	80	81	75.70%
		0097	San Tan Valley	25	2	26	28	112.00%
		0129	Queen Creek	17	1	19	20	117.65%
		0133	Maricopa	37	2	34	36	97.30%
		Total		379	20	323	343	90.50%
	Total			379	20	323	343	90.50%

05		0004	Globe	48	3	42	45	93.75%
		0028	Clifton	76	2	98	100	131.58%
		0032	Safford	121	0	128	128	105.79%
		0095	Solomon	74	7	72	79	106.76%
		Total		319	12	340	352	110.34%
	Total			319	12	340	352	110.34%
06		0030	Springerville	79	1	77	78	98.73%
		0031	Saint Johns	10	0	1	1	10.00%
		0037	Holbrook	41	1	49	50	121.95%
		0069	Payson	142	0	101	101	71.13%
		0076	Show Low	30	5	21	26	86.67%
		0086	Overgaard	301	3	297	300	99.67%
		0130	Concho	10	0	3	3	30.00%
		Total		613	10	549	559	91.19%
	Total			613	10	549	559	91.19%
07		0003	Flagstaff	92	3	55	58	63.04%
		0013	Williams	42	0	48	48	114.29%
		0014	Kingman	123	7	118	125	101.63%
		0022	Golden Valley	109	2	116	118	108.26%
		0042	Grand Canyon	25	3	12	15	60.00%
		0057	Ash Fork	70	0	12	12	17.14%
		0081	Lake Havasu City	559	5	595	600	107.33%
		0087	Bullhead City	144	2	131	133	92.36%
		0088	Dolan Springs	16	0	38	38	237.50%
		0103	Meadview	57	0	33	33	57.89%
		0136	Yucca	14	0	15	15	107.14%
		Total		1251	22	1173	1195	95.52%
	Total			1251	22	1173	1195	95.52%
08		0006	Prescott	229	4	227	231	100.87%
		0025	Cottonwood	265	4	264	268	101.13%
		0040	Chino Valley	102	0	77	77	75.49%
		0078	Humboldt	152	3	144	147	96.71%
		0079	Yarnell	152	0	127	127	83.55%
		0090	Black Canyon City	44	1	44	45	102.27%
		0093	Camp Verde	97	0	104	104	107.22%
		0108	Prescott Valley	41	5	32	37	90.24%
		0135	Cornville	64	6	43	49	76.56%
		0140	Prescott Valley	27	3	15	18	66.67%
		Total		1173	26	1077	1103	94.03%
	Total			1173	26	1077	1103	94.03%

11		0001	Phoenix	115	2	109	111	96.52%
		0005	Phoenix	71	3	53	56	78.87%
		0012	Wickenburg	208	5	180	185	88.94%
		0029	Glendale	296	9	251	260	87.84%
		0053	Buckeye	19	0	24	24	126.32%
		0061	Avondale	185	4	181	185	100.00%
		0062	Peoria	787	35	795	830	105.46%
		0105	Phoenix	209	8	158	166	79.43%
		0134	Phoenix	18	4	16	20	111.11%
		Total		1908	70	1767	1837	96.28%
	Total			1908	70	1767	1837	96.28%
12		0002	Tempe	100	4	97	101	101.00%
		0026	Mesa	242	4	240	244	100.83%
		0027	Apache Junction	1815	3	1689	1692	93.22%
		0034	Cave Creek	316	2	293	295	93.35%
		0035	Chandler	305	16	267	283	92.79%
		0039	Gilbert	411	10	444	454	110.46%
		0041	Phoenix	315	16	277	293	93.02%
		0044	Scottsdale	309	0	307	307	99.35%
		0058	Fountain Hills	295	12	326	338	114.58%
		0065	Phoenix	286	30	291	321	112.24%
		0084	Sacaton	62	9	45	54	87.10%
		0091	Chandler	200	13	199	212	106.00%
		0107	Phoenix	213	2	199	201	94.37%
		0114	Scottsdale	55	4	52	56	101.82%
		0117	Phoenix	188	4	223	227	120.74%
		0124	Guadalupe	17	2	20	22	129.41%
		0138	Tempe	35	0	51	51	145.71%
		Total		5164	131	5020	5151	99.75%
	Total			5164	131	5020	5151	99.75%
Total	Total			14698	350	13881	14231	96.82%



May 2023
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona
MUSIC REPORT 2023

Greetings Melomanos (“music lovers”),

I hope you’re finding ways to promote music within your Unit and Post. I promote music every month and everyday. Please continue to promote music within your Unit and Post. Let’s get the love of music out to everyone. Let’s do this together. Use your imagination and spread the love of music and our Country. Together, we’ve got the music in us!.

I’m excited to say I’ve found wonderful music choices for the choir to sing at the Sunday Memorial Service. I do believe the choir will enjoy singing them and the attendees will enjoy their enthusiasm. There will be a few surprises in store. Please encourage your members to participate singing in the choir. With so many voices we can really spread the love of music.

Year-end reports were due by May 1, 2023. As I write this bulletin, I’ve received one report. Hopefully, I will receive more in the next few days. I’m looking forward to reading what you’ve done at your Unit/Post this year.

See you at Convention!!!

“Music drives you. It wakes you up, it gets you pumping. And at the end of the day, the correct tune will chill you down.”

Dimebag Darrell

With a song in your heart.
For God and Country,

Alma Mattingly, Department Music Chairman

16575 W. Moreland Street, Goodyear, AZ 85338
amblonde01@gmail.com
602.999.4054 cell

New Units/Unit Development & Revitalization

May 2023

EXCITING NEWS

AHWATUKEE Unit 64 is in the process of starting a unit, I'm so excited that we might be celebrating two baby units at State Convention in June.

Jan Cushing
New Units/UD&R Chairman
gcushing@cox.net
623-544-0797

POPPY
May 2023

National HQ has requested I share with all Units – so that they may share their 2023 National Poppy Day plans. I encourage all units to provide the simple information requested so that as an organization we can get a comprehensive view of what's happening across our nation to honor and remember! This info will also help the media team and the poppy team route local media requests and information as needed. https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/national_poppy_day_activities

Suggestions for preparing for National Poppy Day May 26, 2023

As the National Poppy Day approaches, is your Unit ready? Here is a check list to help ensure that your Poppy Day goes according to plan.

Organized the committee managing distribution?

Arranged for the distribution of poppies?

Contacted City Hall for a proclamation?

Participated in the Poppy Poster Contest?

Located a Miss Poppy to represent the Unit?

Written and delivered the Poppy Days PSA to the radio station?

Arranged for a public service spot on public TV?

Promoted Poppy Days through Facebook page?

Made poppy displays for the Poppy Contest?

Learned the Poppy Story to share with the public?

Included Legion members in distribution planning?

Communicated with Memorial Day planners to hand out poppies?

Created a Poppy Display for the library/city hall?

Gave all members a poppy to wear during the month of May?

“Is your Unit Ready” Copied from “Is your Unit Ready for Poppy Days in May” by Lou Thompson, March 2013

It is said: “A single poppy has the souls of a thousand heroes and the tears of a million loved ones.” The ALA promotes the poppy as a symbol of the sacrifice our military have made over the years since WWI. The American Legion Auxiliary adopted the poppy as its official memorial flower in 1920.

Share Your Poppy Story

Join the Poppy Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALA-Poppy> and share ways that the Poppy and our Poppy program are promoted, how members participate in sharing the Poppy story and other Poppy activities and how the Veterans and their families are supported by Poppy Funds.

I hope you have a productive and enjoyable donation/distribution month.

For God and Country,

Julie Ross

Az. Dept. Poppy Chairman

2022-2023

juliedistrict3@gmail.com



PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT
MAY 2023
ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOMES

The Year End Reports are coming in and I am overwhelmed with the generosity of our Legion Family. The President's Special Project is a big success thanks to all of you. I am pleased to have received several narratives. I am enjoying reading all the wonderful things the Units have been doing, but I will have a committee do the judging of the narratives.

I finally have some unofficial information about the Flagstaff Home. This past weekend several of the Legion Family officers who were participating on the Northern Run stopped by the Flagstaff State Veterans Home. What we learned was the plumbing system in the building failed and flooded a large area. The entire system needs to be replaced before residents can be housed there. We have not received confirmation from the Arizona Department of Veteran Services, but it appears it will be some time before the opening. The good news, as observed by this chairman, is that the site is absolutely gorgeous with pine trees and a view of snowy mountains. What a wonderful area for veterans and families to enjoy nature. I'm hoping our donations will help get this home up and running for all the veterans in northern Arizona.

In the spirit of Service Not Self,

Margaret Ellis, Chairman mellis3166@gmail.com 480-818-3166

President's Special Project Committee

Area A: Cleone Magnuson jazzydoll@cox.net

Area C: Terri Doran theadora70@yahoo.com

departments to purchase needed supplies for the National Veterans Creative Arts Program and other recreational activities. National Veterans Creative Arts Festival was held September 14 & 15, 2022 and this chairman participated both days. Annual Joint Review was completed December 8, 2022. VAVS Committee voted to fully fund transportation for the gold medal winners from NVCA at SAVAHCS on February 1, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Szakonyi, VAVS Representative

Service to Veterans

May 2023

"Success is not final; failure is not fatal; it is the courage to continue that counts." ~Winston S. Churchill

Hello ALA members,

I need your HELP!!!!

We are currently getting the Service To Veterans program reorganized. I currently do not have a list of members that have received their first 50 hour pin. This first pin needs to be purchased by the unit and given to said member for me to give out the other hour bars.

From Department Policy and procedures:

The Department Chairman is responsible for adding the number of hours served in the current year to any previously earned hours so the permanent record of each person shows the rewarding of pins and bars or the hours necessary for a pin or bar. The Unit or individual is responsible for the cost of the pin, but they are ordered through Department Headquarters, consequently the money should be sent to Department Headquarters. The individual report forms must be turned in to the Department Chairman with any request for Service to Veterans pins or bars. Volunteers are recognized with bars when specific hour milestones are reached: 50, 100, 300, 500, and 1,000.

Please send me names of those that have their 50hr starter pin so I can continue to update files and give out hour bars for 100, 300, 500, 1000, etc.

I really want to make sure everyone gets credit for their hours served! Thank you so much for your help and support!!

Upcoming dates to remember; June 6th, D-Day, June 14th, Flag Day and the Army birthday.

I look forward to seeing you at Convention next month!

Sara C. Decker
Service to Veterans Chairman
Saradeckeraz@gmail.com
480-580-3269

AZ STATE VETERANS HOME – TUCSON

May 2023

A big “shout-out” to Unit 16, for sending Easter cards to the Veteran Home, and to Dawn Davidson for delivering them. They were so appreciated by the residents of the Home. They really look forward to these cards that Unit 16 sends for each holiday!

The monthly birthday party isn't what it used to be, but the residents still enjoy receiving those cupcakes and ice cream cups to celebrate the birthdays for that particular month. The Month of April was covered by Unit 132 out of Oro Valley. This is so appreciated since this is the 2nd month they have assisted with this very important celebration. Thank you very much Unit 132 for the service to veterans you provide. Unit 7 you have the month of May so please have them there before noon on the 3rd Tuesday of the month (May 16th). If you would like to have a card signing day at your Unit for upcoming holidays (Memorial Day, July 4th Independence Day, Labor Day, etc.) please mail them in one large envelope (or small box) to ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME – TUCSON, 555 E. AJO WAY, TUCSON, AZ 85713. There are 86 residents at this time, but it can fluctuate so by sending 100 you know you will be covered.

I keep hoping that the hierarchy with the State Veteran Homes will lift their stringent COVID restrictions soon so that we can possibly go back to having the wonderful Monthly Birthday Parties we used to be able to attend, meet the residents and serve them cake and ice cream. Fingers crossed that something will occur in the next few months!

The Gift Shop is still in need of full-size candy bars, soda (regular and diet) of all kinds and individual bags of chips (variety packs work great). If anyone is able to donate some it would be greatly appreciated. Plus, gift cards are always welcomed at the home to allow the Residents a chance to shop either online or downtown ... places like Walmart, Target and Amazon. Plus, anything for a nice restaurant. They love the chance to go out to dinner.

If you wish to get more involved with volunteering directly at the Tucson State Veteran Home, please contact Sam and fill out a volunteer form. They can always use assistance with the gift shop, library and Bingo. Plus, there is a need for escorts to walk residents over to the VA so they can visit the Cantina. You just have to be vaccinated and wear a mask while in the Home.

With the weather warming up some of the residents wanted to start gardening. One of the motorcycle groups dropped off some bags of soil. Madera Unit 131 provided this chairperson with a \$500 check to go do some shopping to get the residents some flowerpots, gardening tools, seeds – a mixture of flowers and vegetables – and things to make their gardening pots stand out! Thank you so much for the generous donation, Unit 131. I was able to meet with some of the residents interested in gardening on Sunday, April 16th, to start some of their pots growing! It was a pleasure spending time with them and helping with this great event.

Please remember to fill out an ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MATERIAL DONATIONS form and send a copy to me so I know you have donated; plus, I can give you credit (and a huge thank you) in my newsletter!

To volunteer at the Tucson State Veteran Home, you must be fully vaccinated against COVID and wear a mask at all times you are inside and around the residents.

AZ STATE VETERANS HOME – TUCSON

May 2023

Arts & Crafts ideas are still needed and it's possible that if you contact Sam at the Tucson State Veteran Home, you can set up a date to show some of the residents your ideas. Please bring enough supplies to allow a number of the residents to join in on the fun. Please let me know if your Unit is interested in doing this – such as painting rocks, etc.!

Please remember to mark on your donation check which AZ State Veteran Home you wish your donation to go toward (Tucson, Phoenix, Yuma or Flagstaff), plus you need to mark if it is a donation or if it goes towards the Presidents Special Project (PSP).

VETERANS – Our Hometown Hero's

Bonni Distler

Department Chairman – Arizona State Veteran Home – Tucson

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AZ STATE VETERANS HOME – PHOENIX

May 2023

Hello Everyone,

I hope this newsletter finds you all doing well and accomplishing amazing things. The Veterans at the Phoenix State Veterans Home have been enjoying the spring weather doing more things outside now that it's getting warmer.

On March 29, the residents celebrated the 50th anniversary of the end of the Vietnam War. There was a formal "Welcome Home Ceremony" for the Vietnam Veterans in residence. If you haven't witnessed one, you should try if you get the chance. There was a wonderful burger and hotdog BBQ hosted by Veterans Affinity and a whole host of volunteers from Wells Fargo, the ALA and other organizations, to celebrate and serve the men and women who have served our country. This Chairperson was honored to be a part of such a wonderful day.

In April some of the residents went on a field trip to Post 44 in Scottsdale for a Country Music Show. These are the types of outings and events that mean so very much to the residents. They are the types of things that can be arranged through the Recreation Therapy Department.

In order to help the residents go on more field trips, the ASVH-Phoenix is looking to purchase a new bus. Madam President Barbara White has been discussing how the Auxiliary may be able to assist with such a huge ticket item, but since her President's Special Project this year is the AZ State Veterans Homes, if your Unit happens to have any funds yet to be allocated, I have no doubt Madam President would happily accept donations to help make this happen. Just make sure you put PSP Phx in the Memo line of your donation.

As Chair of the Phoenix location, I am currently working with the correct officials to get the outdoor/raised garden moved from their wish list to wishes granted list. We couldn't do things like this without every one of you who donate your individual and/or Unit funds to do so. All of you make the lives of our Resident Veterans better.

As usual, May and June birthdays are listed below. There are some Units still mailing them to Department. Please mail them in one large envelope to the AZ State Veterans Home c/o Brittany Tashner, Rec Therapy Director at 4141 S. Herrera Way, Phoenix AZ 85012.

May:

1- Bill E. 2- John Mo. 6- Steve D. 8- James B. 10- Anthony E. 21- Larry C.
22- Rob L. 28- Roy M.

June:

3- Dan C. 9- Alan Z. 15- Tom Bur. 19- Herald P. 24- Colleen C.

THANK YOU ALL, You are appreciated.
Keep being your AMAZING selves. Until next time,

Cat Ludwick, Chair ASVH-PHX
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