

VETERANS Our Hometown Heroes

April 2023

This office is open...please call for an appointment before you come to the Department Office for assistance...this is still due to COVID-19.

MANDATES . . . Several Units have not paid their Department mandates. Mandates must be paid 30 days before Convention. If your mandates are not paid, no Unit vote at Convention.

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION... Watch the Department web site and Ring Your Bell for the ALA registration form. Refer to azlegion.org for hotel information.

STATE VETERAN HOMES... This is President Barbara's Special Project this year. You need to identify the state home because there will be 4 very soon...Phoenix...Tucson...Yuma...and Flagstaff coming soon.

FISHER HOUSE ... You need to identify your Fisher House donation for Tucson or Phoenix starting now.

POPPY... Did you get your Poppy Order in? Just a FYI...We took them to FC and passed out. Those that were not picked up...are here in the office...you can come to Department and pick them up...we will ship some.

MEMBERSHIP... "REACHING TO OUR GOALS". Membership is everyone's job. Legion Act has opened the window of eligibility from 12-7-1941 thru now. The Department Goal this year is 14,700.

RENEW MEMBERSHIP BY PHONE... Call National Headquarters at 317-569-4570 with your member ID and debit or credit card ready.

DIRECTORY UPDATES . . .

Helen Griffin
15833 N 51st Avenue
Glendale, AZ 85306
hgriffin6868@gmail.com

Unit 8 New President
Connie Roberts
515-231-6763
Robertscm48@gmail.com

ALAMIS ACCESS...Your Unit is not required to have FULL UNIT ACCESS.

If your unit wants to full access to ALAMIS, Units MUST email department requesting to be put on the ALAMIS class sign up. Be advised: classes are held the 2nd week of every month on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Be prepared now so you can take the class if your unit wants to.



President Barbara for

Barbara Matteson
Dept Secretary/Treasurer
secretary1@aladeptaz.org

Pat Stanaski
Dept Membership Processor
membership@aladeptaz.org

President's Message

April 2023

VETERANS Our Hometown Heros

Spring is official here. The wild flowers are blooming, the desert is green, and the trees are budding. What a great time visit your veterans! A picnic in the park, a stroll around the block or sitting on the front porch visiting. Summer will be here before you know it!

Department Convention is fast approaching . . . registration forms are available on the Department website. Information regarding the PPP Luncheon will be available soon. An announcement will be made on Ring Your Bell. Also, watch the Department website for information.

I had the honor to attend Post and Unit 81's Car Show March 25. Over 300 cars were there. If you get a chance, go to the car show next year!

Reports are due to Department Chairman May 1. PLEASE submit your reports and narratives. There are many many awards to be won by Units. A list of the awards are on the Department website.

If you would like me to attend a function at your Unit/Post, please send me an email.

Until next month

Barbara White
Department President
602-908-2980
Barbarawhite99@gmail.com
1616 W Nopal Dr
Chandler, AZ 85224-2244

President's Schedule

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
January 2, 2023	Unit 27 Official Visit	Post 27
January 7, 2023	Department Open House	
January 8, 2023	District 3 Official Visit	Post 45
January 15, 2023	District 4 Official Visit	Post 54
January 17, 2023	Unit's 66 and 131 Official Visit	Post 131
January 21, 2023	District 8 Official Visit	Post 90
January 28, 2023	District 11 PPP	Post 62
February 3-5, 2023	Mission Training	Las Vegas
February 11, 2023	District 6 Official Visit	Post 86
February 16 - 19	National President's Visit	
February 26 - March 10, 2023	Sailing the Seven Seas	
March 11, 2023	District 12 Picnic	Desert Breeze Park
March 18, 2023	Birthday Ball and District 1 Meeting	Post 19
March 25-27, 2023	Car Show	Post 81
March 30 - April 2	SAL Campout	Patagonia State Park
April 8, 2023	Unit 2 Official Visit	Post 2
April 20, 2023	Unit 35 Award Banquet and Official Visit	Post 35
April 21 - 25, 2023	Personal	
April 27 - 30, 2023	Northern Run	
May 12 - 13, 2023	Personal	
June 2 - June 10	ALA AZ Girls State	UofA
June 17, 2023	Homecoming (ALA President, TAL Commander, SAL CTBD)	

American Legion Auxiliary
YEAR-END IMPACT REPORT FORMS

Why report these numbers?

Every hour, every dollar ALA members invest in our mission of helping veterans adds up. It not only gives each member a sense of pride, but it allows us to demonstrate our effectiveness to the world. Each small sum of numbers gets added into the collective numbers that are called Impact Numbers. These numbers proclaim our impact and make membership in the ALA meaningful.

These numbers are also reported to The American Legion, which includes them in its annual report to Congress. To make this process easier for you, it has been simplified and the form has been condensed to essential information. If you aren't sure, even giving an estimate is better than not reporting at all.

How to complete the Impact Report Form

1. **Each ALA member** should fill out the Member Form and give it to the unit president. This probably happens in April, but check with your unit.
2. The unit president (or designee) compiles all of the member data on the Unit Form and adds any additional data not reported individually by unit members. This form then gets forwarded to either the district/county (if applicable) or department, which compiles all the records.
3. It is more important that you report information in one section of the form only rather than worry if you have selected the right category. For example, if you provide a service for children, it should go in either Service for Military Families (for example, camps for military children only) or Service for Children & Youth (Legion Family camps for all children) but not in both places.
4. Please round to whole dollar values (for example, \$149.50 should be \$150).

Report Simplifications

1. All service for all military whether active duty, retired, or reserve component is now combined in one section.
2. Each section has better defined examples of the service that should be reported.
3. **For Units, Districts/Counties, and Departments:**
“Line numbers” and “Obtain Total From” columns assist in transferring data from form to form. For example, units can find the number of Volunteer Hours for Military Families on Line 5 of the Member Form.

A downloadable fillable monthly tracking worksheet and annual report form is available under the Members Only, Annual Report Forms section on the national website: www.ALForVeterans.org

Thank you for taking the time to REPORT your VALUABLE SERVICE and helping us TELL OTHERS about our INCREDIBLE IMPACT!

UNIT Year-End Impact Numbers Report

Unit # _____ Unit Name _____

Department _____ Unit President _____

Your Name (if other than president) _____

Your Email _____

Number of Member Impact Reports _____

Here is what our unit did in the last 12 months.

1. Our ALA Service for Veterans/Active-Duty/Reserve Military

	Service for Veterans/Military	Obtain Total From	Member +	Unit =	Total
Line 1	Total hours members volunteered	Member Form Line 1		N/A	
Line 2	Total dollars spent	Member Form Line 2	\$	\$	\$
Line 3	Total number of veterans/military assisted	Member Form Line 3			
Line 4	Total number of "Veterans in Community Schools" presentations facilitated	Member Form Line 4			
Line 5	Value of in-kind donations received*	Unit Records	N/A	\$	\$
Line 6	Number of poppies or poppy items distributed	Unit Records	N/A		
Line 7	Dollars raised from poppies	Unit Records	N/A	\$	\$

*Estimated cash value of non-cash donations from NON-MEMBERS of goods (like paper goods, clothing) or services (like pro-bono CPA services from a local firm)

2. Our ALA Service for Military Families

	Service for Military Families	Obtain Total From	Member +	Unit =	Total
Line 8	Total hours members volunteered	Member Form Line 5		N/A	
Line 9	Total dollars spent	Member Form Line 6	\$	\$	\$
Line 10	Number of military families served	Member Form Line 7			

3. Our ALA Service for Youth

	Service for Children & Youth	Obtain Total From	Member +	Unit =	Total
Line 11	Total hours for ALA Girls State	Member Form Line 8		N/A	
Line 12	Dollars spent for ALA Girls State	Unit Records	N/A	\$	\$
Line 13	Total hours for other Legion Family youth activities	Member Form Line 9		N/A	
Line 14	Dollars spent on goods for youth activities	Member Form Line 10	\$	\$	\$
Line 15	Dollar amount of direct cash aid to help a needy child	Member Form Line 11	\$	\$	\$
Line 16	All other UNIT expenses (parties, dinners, paper goods, trophies)	Unit Records	N/A	\$	\$
Line 17	Total number of children/youth served	Member Form Line 12			
Line 18	Donations to all other child service charities	Member Form Line 13	\$	\$	\$

4. Our Service Representing the ALA in Our Community

	For any service not included in Sections 1-3	Obtain Total From	Member +	Unit =	Total
Line 19	Total number of hours	Member Form Line 14		N/A	
Line 20	Total dollars spent	Member Form Line 15	\$	\$	\$

5. Scholarships Presented/Awarded by Our Unit

	Scholarships	Obtain from	Total
Line 21	Number of unit scholarships presented/awarded	Unit Records	
Line 22	Total dollar amount of unit scholarships	Unit Records	\$
Line 23	Total dollar amount donated to department scholarships	Unit Records	\$

When completed, send to: _____ by 5 / 1 / 2023
 (Get name and date from district or county, if applicable, or department)

CONGRATULATIONS---YOU DID IT! THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO AND FOR REPORTING YOUR UNIT'S IMPACT!

SEND TO: AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
 4701 N. 19th AVE. Suite 100
 PHOENIX, AZ 85015

or email to:
 secretary1@aladeptaz.org

END OF YEAR IMPACT REPORTING

FAQs

- Question: Where do I report my service for a National Guard "Welcome Home" activity?
Answer: *Service for ALL members of the military, whether they are retired, active-duty or in the reserve component such as the National Guard is now reported in "Section 1: My Service for Veterans, Active-Duty, and Reserve Military."*
- Question: Do I report my VAVS (Veterans Administration Voluntary Services) on the Impact Form since I already sign in at the VA when I volunteer?
Answer: *No, the ALA receives those hours from the VA on a yearly basis.*
- Question: Does time shopping for care packages for deployed military count as service?
Answer: *Yes, shopping for care packages counts as service hours under Section 1.*
- Question: So.... does driving my daughter to Junior Meetings count as service?
Answer: *Sorry, that falls within your responsibility as a parent. You get kudos for being a great ALA parent though!*
- Question: My unit volunteered at a summer camp for military kids. Where should I report this service?
Answer: *You may report service for summer camps open only to military kids under "Section 2: My ALA Service for Military Families." If the camp is open to ALL children, then your service would be reported under "Section 3: My ALA Service for Youth." But don't worry if you don't remember. Just report it somewhere.... once!*
- Question: My neighbor is deployed, so I help her husband by babysitting their children once a week. Does this count?
Answer: *Absolutely! Report this under "Section 3: My ALA Service for Military Families."*
- Question: What if I don't know exactly where on the form to report my service?
Answer: *You can always report it under "Section 4: My Service Representing the ALA in My Community."*
- Question: Can I count hours spent taking care of a veteran who lives with me but is not a blood relative?
Answer: *As long as you are not receiving compensation in return for your role as a caregiver (such as when you care for your spouse), you may report it under "Section 1: My ALA Service for Veterans, Active-Duty and Reserve Military."*
- Question: Can I count hours spent preparing meals for Legion meetings and administrative support for TAL commanders as hours spent in Service to Veterans?
Answer: *Those hours count but should be reported under "Section 4: My Service Representing the ALA in My Community." Some of our members aptly describe those activities as family chores.*

THANK YOU FOR SERVING AND REPORTING!



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 _____	_____	
7 _____	_____	
8 _____	_____	
9 _____	_____	
10 _____	_____	
11 _____	_____	
12 _____	_____	
13 _____	_____	
14 _____	_____	
15 _____	_____	

**PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE JUNE 2, 2023
NO REFUNDS OR SUBSTITUTIONS**

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona

Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF)

April 2023



It's been a wild transition to spring and here's hoping that the days ahead will not include any more snow!

If you haven't already started preparing for the Year-End reports, now would be a good time to visit the Department website (www.aladep taz.org) and download the AEF report

form so that you make sure you have all the information needed to complete the report and have it to me on or before May 1st. Before you know it, we'll be at the Department Convention.

Fundraisers:

One of the fundraisers that took place within District 8 was from Unit 6 in Prescott. One of their members, Kathy, created a beautiful Diamond Dotz Painting that was raffled and awarded at their annual Thanksgiving dinner. Proceeds were designated for AEF and netted \$145 for the fund. Many thanks to all who supported the fundraiser & congratulations to the winner.



Additional fundraising ideas to consider would be:

- *Bakeless Bake Sale*: basically, the donor would contribute the amount it would cost to bake an item or what the proceeds would be for the item(s) baked for a bake sale.
- *Coin Collection*: with this fundraiser, you would establish an amount of the donation and the donor would donate that amount for things like 25 cents for each child or grandchild; 10 cents for every pair of shoes the member owns; 75 cents for every family member that is a member of the American Legion family; \$1 for every year of membership of the donor. You choose the amounts and the item(s). You could even offer a donation can for the members to contribute their pocket change.

For God & Country,

Jonnie Maddox

Department AEF Chairman

Contact Info: Text or Voice: (760) 413.5912 Email: mimi2twins@gmail.com

**Chaplain Report
April 2023**

April is Children and Youth month

April 15th is Purple Up! Day.

Heavenly Father, we bring before You the lives of all children who have one or both of their parents serving in the military.

Lord, we know that having teaching and training from both parents is such an important part of a young child's upbringing, and we ask that You would protect each one from any of the emotional disturbances that can surface when children are apart from one or more of their parents, for prolonged stretches of time.

We ask that You would be close to each and every child, for we know that children are very special to Your heart of love. We pray that homes that are in this position, will be saturated with Your love, so that children do not feel rejected or afraid. We pray that in Your grace, You would draw such children into a close relationship with You, so that many come to trust in You as their Savior.

Please protect parents of military children, and keep them safe until they are once again reunited as a family. We ask this in Your name, Amen.

*******Special thank you to Karen Borgman from Unit 61*******

for submitting a Prayer of Guidance for President Barbara's Prayer Book!

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
April 2023**

PURPLE UP - April is the month of the Military Child. Have you purchased or found a purple shirt to wear on April 15th, the official Military Kids Day. It's a wonderful visual aid to show your support for our Military children, but it also is a great way to start a conversation. Someone is going to ask you about what the Purple is all about if they see a group all wearing purple. You can't go wrong with Purple in April.

Some suggestions for events and activities to honor, educate and get our children and youth involved in serving our Veterans are:

- Military Child Table Setting Ceremony
- Support the American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grant program
- Poppy making, flag folding and military history classes and demonstrations.
- Collecting donations for homeless veterans
- Send cards and letters for Veterans and Elderly
- Decorate your Post in Purple for the Month of April
- Serve a purple meal/snack....you need to think about that one (plums, grape jelly, jello, fruit loops)

Some of the events that have taken place so far this year to support and celebrate our Children and Youth are:

- Rock Painting Party
- Tree Planting Ceremony
- Theme Day at School
- Pajama donation Party – yes, PJs were worn.
- Kids Bingo
- Holiday Parties
- Bake Sale
- First Responders stuffed animal drive.

Also, its not too late to submit nominations for the Youth Hero and Good Deed awards. Information, ideas and nomination forms and instructions can be located at ALaforVeterans.org.

Thank you for continuing to post your events and activities on Ring Your Bell. It's a great way to show your support for our Children and Youth as well as giving other Units suggestions for ways to honor our up and coming Unit members.

WEAR PURPLE, DECORATE PURPLE, THINK PURPLE

Little known fact: Blue berries are not blue....they're purple!

Are you documenting your hours volunteered, dollars spent, number of children served and donations made in conjunction with the Children and Youth Program? The End of Year report form has been added to the Department website and is due to me by May 1, 2023.

Community Service

April 2023

“VETERANS -- Our Hometown Heroes”

Now is the time to finish up your community service activities for 2022-2023. April is the month left before end-of-year reports are due on May 1. It is hoped that you have been keeping track of numbers of hours, mileages, costs and of members and friends helping your community service projects so that it will be easier to complete your end-of-year reports and thus the Unit's Year-End Impact Report.

As a reminder, Units submitting narratives, and have purchased poppies for distribution, will be eligible to compete for the Department of Arizona Community Service plaques:

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

Be sure to check the Department Awards Rules Manual for specifics regarding each award. An especially well-written narrative with exceptional community service activities could go on to Western Division and National for those awards. **Photos** may be included for those awards. Let's make President White and WD Community Service Chairman Bonilla Arizona proud!

“Community service is wherever there is a need, and whatever you think that you can do.” Glenn Davis

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

PO Box 3122
Kingman, AZ 86402-3122



Education April, 2023



The time to submit your reports and narratives for the Department awards is quickly approaching! There are two awards for Education: The **Jean Batley Plaque** for Units of membership 150 or under and the **Chrysteen Fritzingher Plaque** for Units of membership 151 or higher.

The rules are the same for both awards:

- Any Unit in the Department of Arizona may receive these awards in the appropriate membership category.
- Judging will be based on actual participation in Scholarships, both Loan and Gift, educational programs in both high school and grammar schools, and extra activity done.
- Unit Education reports must be into the Department Education Chairman on or before the deadline date for reports or date designated by the Department Chairman (May 1st).
- A narrative report of the work accomplished in this program must be included with the report to be eligible for these awards. The narrative must be typewritten, not to exceed 1,000 words. (Refer to the Department Awards Rules and Regulations manual for further details on writing the narrative.)

The Education Year-End report form is available on the Department website [a32c66fd6f13a0324d16ccf5d3003025 \(wsimg.com\)](https://www.wsimg.com). **The report forms and narratives are due to this Chairman by May 1st.**

I look forward to hearing how your Units promote the Auxiliary education programs throughout the school year.

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

Julie Vietri

Education Chairman
Department of Arizona
jvietri@msn.com
480-947-1304

Finance

April 2023

Finance Alert Arizona ALA!

You are reminded that your 2022-2023 Report Form is due May 1, 2023. Please include copies of receipts from IRS and the Arizona Corporation Commission with your Report. All Districts and Units must provide proof of compliance to this Finance Committee. The Report Form is available on the Department website located at aladeptaz.org and click on the Member Resources Tab. Continue to Tab 9, under Finance. You can either mail your report form or provide a hard copy via USPS.

On another note, it's not too early to start working on your yearly budget. A working budget should include program expenses, general expenses and projected income. Planning is very helpful in case there is a shortfall in funds.

Are you conducting an Audit? Please keep in mind that Audits are conducted for the purpose of protecting your assets, protecting your officers and your organization. Yearly audits reflect assets and liabilities that should be reported to your membership. Do you have questions or comments? Reach out to this Committee 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)

HISTORY

April 2023

The America Legion Auxiliary has 103 years of Helping Veterans.

ALA members and nonmember volunteers exemplifies the motto of
“SERVICE NOT SELF”

History is valuable for many reasons. It reminds our members “who we are, and how we got here,” thereby creating a strong bond that unites and inspires long time friendships. *History* is being made every day not just in the ALA but also the events that are happening in our world today.

Did you know?

1. The American Legion Auxiliary adopted the poppy as its official flower in 1921 and never changed. That same year, The American Legion changed its official flower from the poppy to the daisy. In 1922, the Legion’s official flower was changed back to the poppy. National Poppy Day is May 26, 2023
2. In 1939, Kansas and Nebraska were the first two departments to hold ALA Girls State programs. Girl State is going to held June 4-10, 2023, in Tucson, AZ.

For a prize at convention can you answer this question? (2 parts)

“What President greeted our ALA National President at the White House in 1983?”

Name the President and the ALA National President

Our state convention will be upon us very soon, please visit the ALA Dept. website under member resources #10 for information on award’s criteria for Dept. History, if your unit doesn’t have access please let me know and I can send you a hard copy of the criteria.

In the Spirit of Service, Not Self
For our Hometown Hero’s
For God and Country

Dolores Chavez, Dept. Historian
chebeejs@cox.net
928-386-0841

Leadership/Arizona Mission Training

April 2023

Unit Member of the Year

Looking for special member in your Unit who always goes above and beyond supporting the ALA mission.

Willing to do whatever it takes to help make a project or event successful.

Qualifications

Must be a senior member who is not currently, nor have ever been, in an elected or appointed leadership role higher than unit president and are current in membership dues.

Units

Submit a narrative of 1,000 words or less to your Department leadership chairman. Describe the nominee's accomplishments and activities and include the nominee's name and address. Pictures of your nominee are welcome.

The Department of Arizona will submit one entry to the national organization. Each department winner will be acknowledged at the National convention in Charlotte, NC in August, 2023, during the Public Spirit Award Luncheon. We will also acknowledge and honor them during Department convention in June 2023.

Entries are due to this chairman May 1, 2023.

Karen Smith 1133 Carmelita Drive Sierra Vista 85635

ksmith111@cox.net

If you have further questions about this award or any of the Leadership awards, please feel free to contact me by email or call 520-249-1119. Please text initially and I will return your call. I rarely answer unknown number. Thank You! I hope to receive many reports from many units by May 1, 2023.

Legislative

April 2023

Greetings Members,

At the State Capitol, several rallies/demonstrations have been held in reference to Tyre Nichols, Roe vs. Wade, the 2nd Amendment, as well as Education Reform and voting rights.

Things are kinda crazy at the moment, and busy for law enforcement. Fortunately, nothing too serious has happened.

Many legislative days at the Capitol have also taken place. These are events, where groups and legislators can mingle and discuss topics important to them. The event calendar is filling up fast.

Many bills on the State Legislative Agenda this session have been focusing on voting, early ballots, and Secretary of State Recusal to note.

A couple of key dates: March 24th was the last day to hear bills in the second chamber committees. April 18th will be the 100th day of session.

As for Congress, on February 28th the Arizona Delegation from the American Legion Family “stormed” Capitol Hill along with other members from across the United States and territories to discuss upcoming legislation that will better the lives of our nation’s Veterans and to urge our elected legislators to vote in favor of these bills. On Wednesday March 1st, our National Commander Troiola made his testimony to Congress at the Joint House and Senate Veterans Service Organizations Hearing, in which our Department Vice President Stacey Mayberry was in attendance along with other fellow Auxiliary members from around the country. This was her first visit to Washington D.C. and was very awe inspiring for her. Thank you, Madame Vice President, for attending this very important event for our Veterans.

Some important takeaways from his testimony; he called for Congress to apply the same urgency toward stopping veteran suicide as it did toward the passage of the PACT Act last year. He also emphasized the quality of life for servicemembers, and predatory law firms that are taking advantage of Camp Lejeune lawsuits. His full testimony can be viewed on <https://www.legion.org/washingtonconference/258280/troiola-congress-apply-%E2%80%98pact%E2%80%99-stop-suicides>.

Remember your reports are due to the Department Chairmen on or before May 1st, 2023. Make sure to include a narrative meeting the requirements of the program to be considered for an award.

For God and Country,

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



April 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 believe I’ve found suitable music choices for Convention. I am very excited and look forward to seeing each and everyone of you, hopefully singing in the Memorial choir. I have some surprises to share.

As a reminder, Year-end reports are due by May 1, 2023. If you would like to be eligible for any awards, please include a cover sheet, the report form and a narrative. I’m looking forward to reading what you’ve done at your Unit/Post this year.

See you at Convention!!!

“Music cleanses the understanding, inspires it, and lifts it into a realm which it would not reach if it were left to itself.”

Henry Ward Beecher

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

April 2023

CHARTER CANCELLATION

A Unit voting to relinquish a charter for cancellation shall vote at a regular meeting of the unit, with advance written notice to the membership. The Unit charter cancellation shall be voted on by the Department Executive Committee and then forwarded to national Headquarters for vote by the National Executive Committee.

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



PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT
APRIL 2023
ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOMES

HAPPY EASTER AND HURRAH FOR SPRING!

Thank you to all the Districts and Units that have hosted President Barbara and me at your meetings. It has been a privilege to attend and talk about the President's Special Project. I have enjoyed meeting you and appreciate your hospitality. I recently was a guest at a "Hoedown" at Unit 131 in Green Valley. This fundraiser was quite successful in raising money for the PSP, and what a fun time! These ladies really worked hard to pull this off. I know ALL the units have been working hard, as I have seen the checks being presented to Madam President. There is still time, so don't quit yet!!

I am sorry to say that there is still no opening date for the Flagstaff State Home. I wish I had a better update, but have been unable to meet with the Director at Arizona Department of Veterans Services. She's a busy lady! I will pass along that information as soon as I have it.

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

AZ STATE VETERANS HOME – PHOENIX

April 2023

Hello Everyone,

I hope this newsletter finds you all doing well and accomplishing amazing things. Did you know, in 2017 the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act was passed by Congress? Without getting into all the legaleze, it basically says on March 29, every year we will recognize those who sacrificed so much of themselves while serving in the Vietnam War. The US Flag should be flown on that day, just as it is flown on days such as the 4th of July, Veterans Day and every other official holiday recognized by city, county, state and federal governments.

This year on Wednesday March 29, 2023 a non-profit organization called Veterans Affinity will be hosting a BBQ luncheon on the patio at the ASVH-Phoenix to say THANK YOU for your service to our Vietnam Veteran residents. Now of course, everyone who resides at the home is welcome but so are members of our Auxiliary and Legion Families. If you'd like to attend, please notify me ASAP so I can give them a head count of how many Aux/Legion Members we can expect in addition to the residents and their families. This is an amazing way to let our Vietnam Veterans know they have not been forgotten and are very much loved.

Easter is on Sunday April 9, 2023. If your Unit would like to do anything special for our residents for Easter, again, please let me know asap so we can make arrangements with the staff to have you visit or take them goodie bags from the Easter bunny.

If you happen to see a Veteran from any era out and about in town, at the grocery or a local eatery, please take a moment and thank them for their service. That small act of kindness costs nothing but can make a huge difference in the Veterans day or week.

April, 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.

April:

1- Richard Br. 4- Richard A. 7- George G. 10- Thomas R. 11- Doug H. 20- Rex G.
21- James W. 23- Charles B. 26- Terry O.

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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VA&R REPORT
TUCSON VA MEDICAL CENTER
2-28-23

All events are suspended until further notice. There is communication that some volunteer activities will be restarting. No specifics as of this date. Thank you volunteers for your help!

Ward W2 (Dementia Ward) in Building 60 is currently seeking twin size blankets for their patients. They request that the blankets be different colors/patterns so each patient will recognize their personal blanket. Thank you Unit 8 & Unit 66 for your generous donation. They are also requesting clothing donations (sweatshirts and sweatpants all sizes especially size small in "girly" colors for the two female Veterans, socks and shoes men's sizes 9 and above). Many of the Veterans they serve come in with no clothing.

Southwestern Blind Rehabilitation Center (SWBRC) is continuing going on outings where they are invited. They would like to request support for outings which are not direct donations such as going to the movies, Pima Air & Space museum, Botanical Garden, etc. These outings must be financed by donations of either gift cards or the purchase of tickets directly by the sponsor. They currently have a population of twenty.

Patriot Pantry is up and running at is currently supporting 40 to 50 Veterans with food insecurities. The current monthly cost for this program is estimated at \$1,000. Since VA funds cannot be used to purchase the food, different donors are shopping and delivering the items to SAVAHCS. Our new Deputy Representative Dawn Davidson and I had a wonderful time shopping for and delivering the second donation from the American Legion Auxiliary. Thank you to Units 66, 109, 131 and 132 for their generous contributions to this program.

The grand total of monetary donations for the American Legion Auxiliary for May 1, 2022 to February 28, 2023 is \$7,975.00. Thank you to Units 66 & 131 for their generous donations. Through their help, we were able to support the Wheelchair Games, the Community Gardens program and the Gathering of American Indian Veterans program.

The grand total of material and activity donations for the American Legion Auxiliary for May 1, 2022 to February 28, 2023 is \$15,387.23. Thank you Unit 7, Unit 24, Unit 39, Unit 66, Unit 109, Unit 131 and Unit 132 for your generous donations to support our programs.

Eight registered hospital volunteers donated time which was credited to the American Legion Auxiliary. The grand total of registered volunteer hours May 1, 2022 to February 28, 2023 is 807. We have on-boarded two new volunteers whose hours will benefit the American Legion Auxiliary.

This chairman has volunteered 158 hours and logged 1,620 miles this year in service to the Tucson VA Medical Center as of February 28, 2023. This chairman has now logged over 4,000 hours in service to SAVAHCS. This chairman was re-elected to be the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the VAVS Executive Committee at the meeting on October 12, 2021. This chairman has been elected to fill a three year term on the VAVS Executive Committee. This chairman has attended every Executive Committee meeting and every VAVS meeting this year. This chairman worked with all Units to provide beverages and snacks for staff, patients and volunteers who were manning the COVID-19 vaccination sites. This chairman is working with the Homeless Program to ensure that our Homeless Veterans and those in Transitional Housing have the food and beverages that they need during this time of enormous stress on all community resources. This chairman is actively supporting the Patriot Pantry at SAVAHCS. This chairman is working with the Recreation 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

AZ STATE VETERANS HOME – TUCSON

April 2023

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.

The monthly birthday party is still one of the events all of the residents look forward to so THANK YOU so much to the units that have stepped up to deliver 100 cupcakes and 100 ice cream cups each month. This month the BIG thank you is to Unit 45 out of Benson! Birthday cards & holiday cards (Easter, Memorial Day, 4th of July, etc.) are also very welcomed by the residents. 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.

The Gift Shop needs 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.

The weather is warming up and some of the residents would love to have some gardening supplies, such as: gardening tools, pots, potting soil, plants. If your unit is able to donate some of these items that would be a huge help. 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!

If you have any ideas on Arts & Crafts that the residents can do individually, they need supplies for whatever project you can think of for them. They don't have a lot of spare time (they try to keep them as busy as possible) but there are down times in their rooms where they would love to do something by themselves instead of a group setting.

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
360-317-4708
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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.

Northern Arizona VA Health Care System
Whipple Gift Shop 2022

I would like to thank everyone for their support of the 2022 Whipple Gift Shop. Once again COVID got in the way, but our Veterans did receive many nice gifts from the American Legion Auxiliary. Due to a spike in infections across the facility, Recreation Therapy staff stepped up to distribute gifts for us. The Veterans in the Domiciliary were very pleased with the expandable backpacks filled with socks, blanket, snacks, various personal care items and a gift card to the Veterans Canteen Service. And those residing in the Community Living Center received personalized gifts of their choice.

Lead Recreation Therapist Cory Sanders said, "Please let the ALA know how much they made the Veterans feel appreciated. All our Veterans are away from their families over this holiday season which makes this an extra difficult journey for them, but such thoughtfulness really helps! Thank you!"

NOTE: Prescott VA is once again accepting quilts and afghans. Please make them at least 48"x60". Knit or crochet items should be made without the large holes that can get caught on equipment, fingers and toes! Also, we do NOT need any socks for men/women OR homemade caps and scarves of any type material – we have an abundance of both items.

Thanks again,

Patricia (Trish) Aljets

Patricia.aljets@hotmail.com

928-632-2290