

Educating Tomorrow's Veterans Today

December 2023

Happy Holidays!

We hope everyone is able to spend time with friends and family during this time of year.

Mandates: The 2024 mandates are available on the Department website.

Thank you to those Units and District who have paid their mandates.

Special Project: President Rose's Special Project this year is Girls State. Shannon Mead is the Special Project Chairman. If you would like Shannon to attend your Unit meeting or have any questions, contact Shannon at shannonmead@live.com or 623-521-1269.

Poppy: You can order poppies; however, your Unit will not be eligible for Department awards because they were not ordered on or before September 30. The Poppy order form can be found on the Department website. (Member Resources --> 7. Special Forms)

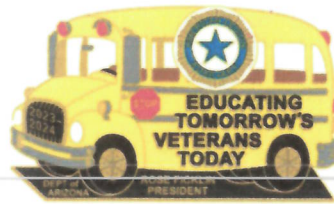
Membership: "AZ-Diterod, Sledding to Our Goals 23-24". Membership is everyone's job. Thank you to EVERYONE who has renewed, recruited, or rejoined members. Don't hold on to membership, please send in weekly. One transmittal per envelope.

As of November 29, 2023 the Department of Arizona is at 53.20%. The weekly report is on the Department website.

If your Unit would like full access to ALA MIS, the ALA MIS access form must be completed and sent to Department along with your payment. The form can be found on the Department website under Member Resources → 7. Special Forms

If you have ALA MIS access, thank you for entering your membership!

Renew Membership By Phone: Call National Headquarters at 317-569-4570 with your member ID and debit or credit card ready.



Barbara White
Interim Dept Secretary
secretary1@aladepaz.org

Pat Stanaski
Dept Membership Processor
membership@aladepaz.org

2024 Directory Updates

District 12 President, Monica Rae Stein, new email address
D12president2023mrs@gmail.com

Unit 45 new secretary
Victoria Cubley
520-885-7433
smallceramicsoapdish@yahoo.com

Unit 52 no contact information submitted. All positions should not have anything listed.

Department 2nd Vice President correct spelling of first name is Dolores.

District 2 Secretary
Robi Campbell
520-429-1175
Bear.robi.campbell@gmail.com

Unit 52 Officers

Ricarda Gutierrez, President
928-606-4207
No Email

Colleen Oriley-Circle, Secretary
702-419-0435
Criley523@hotmail.com

Betty Hultin, Vice President / Membership
928-607-6940
bkhultin@yahoo.com

District 7 Contact Information

Rebecca Faris, President
928-715-4926
Rebeccafaris3@gmail.com

Diane Gear, Vice President
480-580-6188
dgear@suddenlink.net

Laurie Bellizzi, Secretary
802-249-4902
lbellizzi94@gmail.com

Unit 14 Contact Information

Kristen Avila, President
530-701-1683
Kristen.avila79@icloud.com

Ginny Angle, Secretary
928-716-1836
vangle@citlink.net

Laurie Bellizzi, Membership
802-249-4902
Kristen.avila79@icloud.com

Unit 32 New President and Vice President

Esther Jones, President
480-363-2310
Ejones5017@gmail.com

Teri Thiessen, Vice President
928-965-1549

DECEMBER 2023

Happy Holidays,

It was great seeing everyone at Fall Conference. I have had both negative and positive input about the format. I have shared this information with the leading candidate along with how I would change a few things that we did, but for trying a different format all in all it was a positive change. All we can do is grow and learn, so please let us know if you have ideas, and this goes for anything we do. We are trying to get into the 21st century and I get that change is hard, but without change we die as an organization.

November saw me not only at the Fall Conference, but in the Veterans Day parades in Tucson and Mesa. I had official visits in District 7 and 12. Thank you to both districts for your hospitality and love. I had official visits at Units 39, 66, and 131. Unit 39 had a packed house with legionnaires and SAL in attendance.

I hope to see you all at the Department Open House on January 6th.

For God and Country

Rose

PRESIDENTS SCHEDULE

December 4, 2023	Unit 27 Official Visit	Post 27
December 10, 2023	Post 26 Christmas Party	Post 26
December 16, 2023	Wreaths Across America	Various Cemetarys
January 4, 2024	Official Visit Unit 41	Post 41
January 6, 2024	Department Open House	Department
January 13, 2024	PSP Fundraiser Dist 3	Post 24
January 14, 2024	District 3 Meeting	Post 141
January 20, 2024	Mission Training Unit 125	Casino Del Sol
January 21, 2024	District 2 Meeting	Post 36
January 26 -28, 2024	National Mission Training	Las Vegas
Febuary10, 2024	Official Visit Unit 2	Post 2
Febuary 17, 2024	Mission Training Unit 81 Lake Havasu	Post 81
Febuary 24, 2024	Mission Training Dist 8	Post ??
March 2, 2024	Mission Trainig Unit 2	Post 2
March 16, 2024	Post 19 Birthday Ball	Post 19
March 17, 2024	District 1 Official Visit	Yuma
March 20 - 24, 2024	NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S VISIT	YUMA/MESA
April 6, 2024	Mission Training 202 District 3	Post 24
April 19- 21	SAL Campout	Cottonwood
April 28 - May 3	Northern Run	
May 1, 2024	REPORTS DUE TO CHAIRMAN	
May 19, 2024	Official Visit Dist 4	Post 133
June 2 - 9, 2024	Girls State	U of A
June 8, 2024	Girls State Banquet	U of A
June 20-23, 2024	Department Convention	El Conquistador

PRESIDENTS SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
July 22, 2023	AZ Mission Training	Post 86
July 29, 2023	Officer and Chairman Meeting	Post 26
August 12, 2023	Luau Unit 35	Post 35
August 19, 2023	Family Wedding	
Aug. 25 - Sept. 3, 2023	National Convention and Family visit	Charlotte, NC
September 9, 2023	Unit 117 Christmas Cards	Post 117
September 14, 2023	Official Visit Unit 5	Post 5
September 23, 2023	Unit 135 Car Show Cottonwood	Galipin Auto
September 23, 2023	PSP Fundraiser Unit 25	Post 25
September 30, 2023	AZ Mission Training	Post 24
October 7, 2023	Mission Training	Unit 41
October 14, 2023	District 8 Official Visit	Post 25
October 20, 2023	Post 32 Early Bird Dinner	Post 32
October 21, 2023	District 5 Official Visit	Post 32
November 3 -5, 2023	Fall Conference	El Conquistador
November 10, 2023	Tucson Veterans Day Parade	Tucson
November 11, 2023	Veterans Day Parade Mesa	Mesa
November 12, 2023	Luncheon Female Veterans Unit 117	Post 117
November 14, 2023	Official Visit	Post 39
November 18, 2023	District 7 Official Visit	Post 14
November 19, 2023	District 12 Official Visit	Post 27
November 21, 2023	Unit 66 Official Visit	Post 66
November 21, 2023	Unit 131 Official Visit	Post 131
December 2, 2023	Missin Training Unit 115	Post 29
December 3, 2023	Cake Walk	Post 26

REMINDER

When ordering blank membership cards from Department, each sheet is \$1. This is to cover the cost Department pays to National for each sheet.

Payment must be included with your order.
Any questions, contact Department at:
secretary1@aladeptaz.org or 602-241-1080





November 2023

This observance originated in 1919 on the first anniversary of the 1918 Armistice Day that ended World War I. President Woodrow Wilson, declared on the 11th hour of the 11th Day of the 11th Month we celebrate Armistice Day. In 1926 the US Congress passed a resolution authorizing the president to recognize and honor the armistice on November 11. An act approved by Congress in 1938 to make it a legal holiday. In 1954 Armistice Day was renamed Veteran's Day to honor our veterans of the armed forces and those killed in the country's war. President Eisenhower issued a Veteran's Day Proclamation to include all service members of all wars to be honored.

What is your unit doing to help promote Veteran's Day? Parades, speeches, luncheons, volunteering at your local VA state nursing home..

How are you promoting Veteran's Day in your schools and your community please share with me or on social media.

Happy Thanksgiving to you all from my family to yours!

**DID YOU KNOW
Veteran's Day - A
celebration of
honor America's
veterans for their
patriotism, love of
country, and
willingness to
serve for the
common good.**

Don't forget
your District
or Unit
banner flags
for Fall
Conference



THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO HUMM....
Turkeys are related to the dinosaurs.
Turkey's wishbone, called a furcular is the connecting point for muscles and a brace for the wings. Researchers found that the wishbone dates back more than 150m yrs to a group of meat-eating dinosaurs that include T-rex and Velociraptor

Maggie Chavez-Mentije
520-904-1814

PO Box 155 Pomerene, AZ 85627
maggimentije@gmail.com



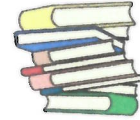
American Legion Auxiliary

2024 Americanism Essay Contest

***"What does Freedom mean to
me?"***

Due March 15, 2024

Maggie Montijo
PO Box 155
Pomerene, AZ 85627
maggiemontijo@gmail.com



EDUCATING TOMORROW'S VETERANS TODAY

Cavalcade of Memories

December 2023

Members:

We are about to embark on a new year Members Educating Tomorrow's Veterans Today. Welcome to the world of Cavalcade of Memories.

If you do not have cavalcade of memories appoint one National has added Cavalcade of Memories under History and they go hand and hand so you can use your Historian to report on Cavalcade of Memories. Let's get to education our members on Cavalcade of Memories.

Can anybody tell me when Arizona's 1st Department Convention was held in what city and what year? What year did they combine the department Secretary and Treasure Office and to make her a paid employee? How many National Historian has had? And how many National Chaplain Arizona has had? How many Western Division Vice Presidents have Arizona had? How many National Presidents have Arizona had? Last one what Unit has the Most Department President? You have to answer questions correct and send to me by December 31st 2023 the first one comes end with all correct answer will receive a lottery scratch ticket. Cavalcade of Memories or full of Education and History. Search and ye shall find. Wishing you a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

Department Cavalcade of Memories Chairman

Paula Burgess – I am in the Directory pngb62 @hotmail.com



Community Service

December 2023

“Good actions give strength to ourselves and inspire good actions in others.” - Plato

Happy Holidays Auxiliary Members,

I hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving. This is a very important time of the year to volunteer in your community. Many people are alone during the holiday season.

Working at a local food bank and delivering meals are great ways to help during the holidays. Visiting veterans who are alone or in care homes make their days a bit brighter. Have a food drive of your own to make dinner baskets for those in need.

Don't forget about upcoming awards at our annual convention. I implore every unit to fill out the end of the year community service report. It will be available soon.

Remember, a community is not a community without the efforts of volunteering. Have a wonderful holiday season and please be safe.

Lisa Young
Community Service Chairman
lmby_02@msn.com



Chaplain Report December 2023
December is Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Month

Religious sensitivity during the Holidays

In the American Legion Family, we do not promote any single religion or culture. And in a country as multicultural as the United States, the months of November, December and January are filled with diverse cultural and religious events and celebrations. Enjoying your own while recognizing and respecting others' traditions is important this holiday season. As a member, here are some things to consider to show your respect and understanding:

- Embrace the diverse celebrations around you and welcome others to join your celebration. Don't miss the opportunity to learn about each other!
- Look for commonalities and points of interest between traditions rather than focusing on the differences. Remember that all religions believe in courtesy, kindness and empathy.
- Don't feel like you have to apologize if your celebrations are different than someone else's. You can be you!

Most importantly, remember that kindness should rule the season. Your actions and reactions, if given and taken with kindness, will enlighten those around you to both your holiday traditions and your intentions to wish well upon them.

Peace and Joy to you and your family this Holiday Season!

If you know of someone who could benefit from a card or phone call, please let me know:
Lynda Griffin Chaplain, Lynda4ala@gmail.com, (623) 349-3979



Education December 2023



**ATTENTION: MOST NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS ARE TO BE SUBMITTED ONLINE THIS YEAR BY 11:59 P.M. MARCH 1, 2024!
ONLY THE JUNIOR MEMBER LOYALTY SCHOLARSHIP IS SUBMITTED ON PAPER TO THE UNIT BY MARCH 1.**

Welcome to the exciting world of education! Education is a lifelong process that starts at birth and continues to the last breath of life. This year you have the opportunity to make an impact on the lives of students and educators. Brainstorm, be creative, and encourage your members to do the same. How many lives can we touch? We are limited only by the number of people living in our communities, states, and nation.

The following items are available on the Department and the National website:

1. Rules for National and Department awards in Education: [Education Program National Awards \(legion-aux.org\)](https://legion-aux.org/education-program-national-awards) and [Department awards](#).
2. The **Education Year-end report** form to be submitted to the Department Chair by **May 1, 2024** [Education Year-end Report Form](#).
3. The applications for the **Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship, The Non-Traditional Student Scholarship, The Spirit of Youth Scholarship, and The Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship** are available at [Scholarships \(legion-aux.org\)](https://legion-aux.org/scholarships) .
4. A copy of the rules and application for the **Wilma Hoyal-Maxine Chilton Memorial Scholarship** is also available at [Wilma Hoyal - Maxine Chilton Scholarship application](#).
5. Scholarship brochures are available from the Department office.

The entire information packet for Education can be found on the Department website [Education Fall Conference Packet](#) .

Further information can be found on the National website <https://member.legion-aux.org/member/committees/education>

Please feel free to contact me for further information or assistance. I look forward to seeing the creative ways that the Units promote the Education Program. Be sure to continue to update me with your activities related to your education program so that I can pass on your achievements on to the Division Chairman.

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

Julie Vietri

Education Chairman
Department of Arizona

jvietri@msn.com

480-495-1558

Finance

December 2023

Happy Holidays ALA Arizona! Please check the website for the 2023-2024 Finance Report due May 1, 2024. The Finance Committee is asking for cooperation in sharing the information on the 990 Filing. This applies to your Fiduciary Responsibility to IRS and ALA Department of Arizona.

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.

Please review your gross receipts and decide which 990 filing applies to your Unit:

- 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 Griffin, Member, 602-478-4909, hgriffin6868@gmail.com

Virtue of Office: Rose Ficklin, President, Barbara White, NEC

Barbara Matteson, Sec/Treas. (no vote)

Leadership/Arizona Mission Training

December 2023

The Holidays are fast approaching and members of this great organization will step up with the American Legion Family to address the needs of our veterans and our community. We continue to serve with meals and a variety of services while taking time to "Be the One." As we gather together, please take the time to visit and see how our veterans are doing, going further than "How are you" and "Fine." Continued contact and telephone calls would greatly increase their spirits. Members, you know how to do this, we have been serving others, not self for over a hundred years.

The Leadership team has put together a draft for those members who are interested in becoming a leadership instructor. It is important that you attend as many mission trainings as possible so that you can develop your own leadership style and knowledge. The form will be presented at the Executive meeting at convention in June, 2024.

The upcoming trainings are:

January 26-28, 2024	National Mission Training	Las Vegas
December 2, 2023	Unit #115 Mission Training	Post #29, Phoenix
January 20, 2024	Unit #125/District #2	Casino Del Sol, Tucson
February 17, 2024	Unit #81	Lake Havasu
April 6, 2024	Unit #24/District #3	Tombstone

I continue to encourage you to take courses online from the ALA Academy courses available to you. Just go to alaforveterans.org. They are very informative; remember we are lifelong learners!

Please let me know if you wish to schedule an Arizona Mission Training. You should have some dates in mind initially and I will contact the instructors to see which dates work best for them. I hope to hear from you about your activities as we are in half year status even though a mid-year report is not required. This gives me great information for our National Zoom Meetings.

"Leadership - to better equip members to serve in leadership positions with confidence and skill" *Natl. Leadership Team*

Karen Smith, Chairman

ksmith111@cox.net

(520) 249-1119

Let me start by wishing each one of you a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

I hope you are staying up to date with all the activities going on in our government. Again, there is a link that you can sign up to Be the One to Be in the know. At the time of this writing, we are at a possible government shutdown. That means there is legislation that still has not been passed.

There are 3 priority bills that need our attention now, and all you must do is go out to American Legion website, click on the bill to support and it will send an email to your Congressperson or Senators. (BTW every time I have sent something, I got emails, Phone calls and one personal email my Congresswomen. Nothing from my Senators)

If the government does shut down, many will not get a paycheck. ***Pay Our Troops Act (H.R. 5641)***, which currently has 112 bipartisan cosponsors. The current continuing resolution expires November 17.

Additionally, we are giving our support to the ***Keep Our Border Agents Paid Act (S. 2999)***, which would ensure that U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement are paid in the event of a government shutdown.

Finally, Congress is running out of time to pass the ***Afghan Adjustment Act (H.R. 4627 / S. 2327)***. So please take the time to contact your representative and encourage them to support the *Afghan Adjustment Act*,

On November 2nd the “***Wounded Warrior Access Act***” (H.R. 1226) passed the Senate. The house passed it in March. This will mandate that the VA create a website where the claimant or his/her representative can access records related to their claims. The claimant must be notified within 10 days that the claim is in process and complete the request within 120 days.

Next month I will talk about our year end reports that will be due. Again, please take the time to sign up for these notifications. If you only have time for one, I will highly recommend the grassroots newsletter. You can find the link on our website.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out!

Kathy Amery

Department Legislative Chair 2023-2024

Luv2p8@gmail.com or 623.640.0134



December2023
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona
MUSIC REPORT 2023

Greetings Musicophiles (“music lovers”),

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!. Turn other people on to music.

We have given the choir a new name, “The American Legion Family Choir”. They are wearing their name proudly. I’m certainly proud of the men and women who lend their voices to the American Legion. Please continue to encourage your members and Post to participate in “The American Legion Family Choir”. The more voices participating the better we sound.

Fall Conference is in the books. What a great Fall Conference. The choir performed awesome. I personally want to thank Debbie Dexter and Stephanie McMullen for playing “When the Saints Go Marching In”. Great job Ladies!

Please remember “Year-end Reports are due May 1, 2024. I’m looking forward to seeing all the marvelous things your Units are doing.

“Music is the soundtrack of your life.”

Dick Clark

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

American Legion Auxiliary

Past President's Parley

November 2023

Spooks and Goblins have come and gone but have been deterred from bothering our organization.

You all know what PPP is and what its goals are. This group of members are persons who have in the past held a leadership position of being president of the unit, District or Dept. What fun for others to ask questions and request ideas and share information. As with all our organization roles we are here to provide service and support to our veterans, and communities.

One of the main functions we have is to award Nursing scholarships. All this information on awards will be in your Fall Conference packets.

We also Honor Female Veterans, and past presidents.

I look forward to seeing ideas for fund raisers for scholarships. I am sure you have all received an invitation to the Midnight Masquerade being held at John Morris on Jan 20. What a great idea for fun, honoring our Lade veterans and raising money for Nursing scholarships.

As the year goes by, I hope your Units have ideas you can share, the success obtained and how others can support other Units when possible.

Thank you all for the work you do, God Bless you and God Bless America.

Jennie Molina

(520) 220-8460

Past President Parley

truepela@gmail.com

Department of AZ

Presidents Special Project
Girls State
December Bulletin 2023

Happy Holidays to all!!

This month is going to be packed with events, holiday gatherings and lots of family events!
Best wishes for a great month and holiday season.

At Conference we gave you a wonderful breakdown of the Arizona Girls State Program. There is still so much to the program that we did not cover in our presentation. These bulletins will be full of great things for fundraising as well as information on the program.

This year is going to be a wonderful learning experience and such a fun time for Arizona Girls State.

STUFF THE BUS

- This is such a neat idea to help with Arizona Girls State. Each District President has their cute yellow bus to help gather donations during this year as well as at each meeting.

- Feel free to get a cute bus for your Unit meetings as well and consider just a few dollars each month per member. It really does add up.

OTHER Fundraising ideas:

- Consider a raffle with some wonderful goodies such as knitted or handmade crafts, baked goods or even gift cards. Everyone loves raffles.

- Yard Sales are an awesome idea that not only helps clean out those closets but raise money for a great program! Might even be able to split with other programs.

- Bingo or card tournaments could be a great way to perhaps share a little with our Special Project and still put back into your Unit.

- Car Washes and BBQs are a great way to raise money as well as get the community involved. Plus grabbing those juniors to make posters, and help wash cars.

- Craft Bizarre could be a fun way to sell handmade crafts as well as getting the Unit and Juniors involved.

If you would like a visit and presentation or help with event ideas please feel free to reach out to me anytime. I would love to visit and give the presentation to your unit or district this year to help all of our members get a better understanding of Girls State and how beneficial the program truly is. Please note that I do work Sun-Thurs so will need to plan in advance for travel. Thank you!

Shannon Mead
Presidents Special Project Chairman
623-521-1263 • shannonmead@live.com

VA & R

November 2023

Hello members of this great organization-THE ALA

It is November and Fall Conference is in the works, I hope to see many of you at the conference, our President Rose has fun things in store for us.

VA&R Key Program Statements:

*Support rehabilitation and healing for our Veterans through arts, crafts, hobbies

*Support Veteran caregivers, family members and survivors

*Recruit Auxiliary members for VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) volunteers at VA health care facilities

*Help The American Legion, State Department of Veterans Affairs and communities promote job fairs and resources for veterans and their families

There are so many resources on our National ALA website to use to support your VA&R program for your unit or district. I find myself so overwhelmed with this program, not realizing what it all entailed, there are so many programs that follow under VA&R.

Let's continue to check and reach out to our veterans, friends, family, and community members.

Reach out and BE THE ONE to save ONE veteran or family.

www.Legion.org/betheone.

For Service, not Self

Dolores Chavez: Dept 2nd Vice President

chebeejs@cox.net 928-386-0841

VA & R

December 2023

Happy Holidays to everyone,

It was awesome to see so many of you at the Fall Conference, I hope that you learned a lot and had a good time. It was different.

Well, the holiday season is upon us and in full force for December. I know this season is a busy one for us all, let us remember our Veterans that need help. If you can find the time to volunteer at the VA Gift Shops, your local VA hospital, Veteran State Homes or shelters/food banks or where ever there is a need in your communities or adopt a family for the holidays, please do so and remember to track your volunteer hours to be reported in our year end reports, which are due to me by May 1, 2024. **THERE IS NO MID YEAR REPORT**

Please send me any pictures or a brief synopsis of what your unit is doing for VA&R, so I can send on to our Western Division Chairman to add to her quarterly report to our National VA&R Chairman.

Information is on our ALA webpage for VA Gift Shop openings, hope you can attend one of them either Tucson, Phoenix, Prescott, and hopefully Yuma.

There are so many resources on our National ALA website to use to support your VA&R program for your unit or district.

Let's continue to check and reach out to our veterans, friends, family, and community members.

BE THE ONE to save ONE veteran or family.

www.Legion.org/betheone.

For Service, not Self

Dolores Chavez: Dept 2nd Vice President

chebeejs@cox.net 928-386-0841



Can we believe that fall is here and almost Thanksgiving. Time is going by fast. I am so happy and glad that the sleeping giant woke up. I got two units who struggle to get involved to do the November birthday parties. Units 68 and 125 are going to be working together as a team and help each other. This is what it's all about. Coming together as family and helping the veterans.

The Arizona State Veterans home is looking for volunteers. It is nice to get involved. It doesn't just make you feel good, it puts a smile on the veterans face. Most times all they see is staff members. I have had a few emails from units that didn't understand about the State Veterans home and what times the birthday parties was and dates. The birthday parties are always the third Tuesday of each month and they start at 1pm.

If your unit would like me to speak at your monthly meeting. Feel free to email me or call or text. I am also always on Facebook. I am working with Sam to try and do something for Christmas for the home. If any one has any ideas, I would love to hear it. Remember there is no I in team. We are in this together. I am still looking for information. If your unit has a chair for the Arizona State Home. Please let me know. I look forward to seeing all of you at Fall Conference. If you would like a business card with my information on it look for me. I will be around.

Nancy Morrow Department Chairman – Arizona State Veteran Home Tucson 520-278-9257
alachairmansavht@gmail.com

Can we believe that fall is here and almost Thanksgiving. Time is going by fast. I am so happy and glad that the sleeping giant woke up. I got two units who struggle to get involved to do the November birthday parties. Units 68 and 125 are going to be working together as a team and help each other. This is what it's all about. Coming together as family and helping the veterans.

The Arizona State Veterans home is looking for volunteers. It is nice to get involved. It doesn't just make you feel good, it puts a smile on the veterans face. Most times all they see is staff members. I have had a few emails from units that didn't understand about the State Veterans home and what times the birthday parties was and dates. The birthday parties are always the third Tuesday of each month and they start at 1pm.

If your unit would like me to speak at your monthly meeting. Feel free to email me or call or text. I am also always on Facebook. I am working with Sam to try and do something for Christmas for the home. If any one has any ideas, I would love to hear it. Remember there is no I in team. We are in this together. I am still looking for information. If your unit has a chair for the Arizona State Home. Please let me know. I look forward to seeing all of you at Fall Conference. If you would like a business card with my information on it look for me. I will be around.

Nancy Morrow Department Chairman – Arizona State Veteran Home Tucson
520-278-9257
alachairmansavht@gmail.com

American Legion Auxiliary VA&R REPORT
TUCSON VA MEDICAL CENTER
10-31-23

Major changes to mask requirements have finally happened. We are working very hard with the Recreation therapists to get our traditional events back up and running. We need volunteers for the second Saturday for Bingo at the community Living Center. We need volunteers for the third Wednesday for Bridging at Building 90. Please contact me if your Unit can 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 62 & Unit 66 for your generous donations. 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. One female patient in Building 60 is 106 years young.

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 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. VA funds can now be used to purchase the food and different donors are shopping and delivering the items to SAVAHCS. There is also a Patriot Pantry program at the Sierra Vista CBOC. Thank you Unit 132 for your generous donation.

The grand total of monetary donations for the American Legion Auxiliary for May 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023 is \$832. Thank you Unit 32 for your generous donation to Fisher House.

The grand total of material and activity donations for the American Legion Auxiliary for May 1, 2023 to October 31, 2023 is \$8,566.59. Thank you Unit 62, 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, 2023 to October 31, 2023 is 466. We have on-boarded two new volunteers whose hours will benefit the American Legion Auxiliary. The Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE formerly Voluntary Service) is bringing back many volunteers.

This chairman has volunteered 85.5 hours and logged 1,040 miles this year in service to the Tucson VA Medical Center as of October 31, 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 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. 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 August 22 & 23, 2023. I am also attaching the wrap up report for this year's festival. Annual Joint Review is scheduled for November 28, 2023. VAVS Committee voted to fully fund transportation for the gold medal winners from NVCA at SAVAHCS on February 1, 2023. VAVS Committee voted to support the Patriot Pantry with a donation of \$3,000 on October 25, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Szakonyi, VAVS Representative