



# Americanism May 2024

Did you see that year fly by? I apologize for the last few months with no bulletin. Work has been in a tizzy and I have my last child graduating. As I reflect on the year that started slow and then came before I could say May. I wanted to thank each and everyone that participated in the Americanism program. Some of you were working hard in your schools and others had the Juniors working hard as well. I received so many reports before the May 1st deadline. Thank you all for the hard work and dedication you have made the Auxiliary shine!!

I received 26 essays and sent two of them off to national. I will get the awards for those that sent me one at Convention. You wanna talk about a bright future, I think we are in good hands!!

Happy May to you all that will be working the poppy program and showing your respects to those who have fallen!



## Did you know?

Memorial Day was originally known as Decoration Day. It became Memorial Day after WWII.

Maggie Chavez-Montijo  
Po Box 155  
Pomerene AZ 85627  
520-904-1814  
maggiemontijo@gmail.com

## State Convention

Like at Fall Conference, Flag practice and set up will be held at 7pm Thursday evening.

We will process JUST the District and Unit flags only (no American Flag) Be ready to go for the morning procession at 730am.

Let's send Rose off in Auxiliary Style please bring your flag!!!

AMERICAN  
**LEGION**  
AUXILIARY



Chaplain Report April 2024  
April is Children and Youth  
April 15<sup>th</sup> is Purple Up Day!



Please pray in your own way.

**Let us Bow our heads .... Gracious God, I come to you today to say Thank You, I confess my sins, those known, and unknown. Lord you know I am not perfect, and I fall short every day of my life, my life, but I wanted to take time out to say thank you for your mercy. Thank you for my health, my family, my friends, the roof over my head, food on my table, and everything I have.**

**Chaplains:** Check out the prayer books rules at [www.aladeptaz.org](http://www.aladeptaz.org) website:  
<https://www.aladeptaz.org/5.--monthly-bulletins---program-information.html>

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

**We are a community of volunteers serving veterans, military, and their families.**



**Chaplain Report May 2024  
May is Poppy Month**



**Greeting Everyone!**

**Happy Mother's Day to Everyone!**

**Dear God;**

**I humbly come to your throne seeking peace of mind in the midst of challenges and uncertainties, grant me the peace that surpasses all understanding. Calm my troubled heart. My soul is like a turbulent sea. I can't seem to find my balance so I stumble and worry constantly. Give me the strength and clarity of mind to find my purpose and walk the path you have laid out for me. God, help me to trust in your love and guidance, knowing that you are in control of all things. Quiet my anxious thoughts and fill me with your calming presence. May your peace guide my heart and mind, giving me the strength and assurance in every situation. Grant me the grace to release my worries into your hands and to find comfort in your unwavering blessings.**

**Amen**

**I need to have my report turned in by May 1, 2024. You can get the forms from our website under Chaplain Title fall conference.**

**PLEASE BRING YOUR PRAYERS FOR PRESIDENT ROSE'S PRAYER BOOK TO CONVENTION OR EMAIL  
THEM TO ME!**

**GOD BLESS YOU AND UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

**Chaplains:** Check out the prayer books rules at [www.aladeptaz.org](http://www.aladeptaz.org) website:  
<https://www.aladeptaz.org/5.-monthly-bulletins---program-information.html>

**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**

**We are a community of volunteers serving veterans, military, and their families.**



## Education May 2024



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 6-10.

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 2024

**ALA Arizona your financial obligations never end, whether you continue in service to your Unit or District, resign your office or choose not to run for an elected position. Your legal obligation as President or Treasurer means that you use reasonable care and diligence when managing the assets assigned to your office. You are duty bound to share that information with incoming officers in your Unit or District. Please keep this in mind as we approach nominations and elections in May and June.**

**Did you complete the 2023-2024 Year End Financial Report? If so, thank you for completing your Year End Report Form and submitting it by the due date, and your cooperation is duly noted. If not, please do so as soon as possible.**

**Look forward to seeing everyone at the Annual ALA Department Convention, June 20-23, 2024 in Oro Valley, Arizona. And do make plans to visit the Department Raffle Table at June Convention located at the back of the meeting room. Be sure to look at all the lovely raffle items while you are there.**

**Yolanda Bonilla Chairman, 602-989-3321, [yodobo@msn.com](mailto:yodobo@msn.com)  
Penny Maklary, Member, 520-364-5038, [ahhpenny@aol.com](mailto:ahhpenny@aol.com)  
Helen Griffin, Member, 602-478-4909, [hgriffin6868@gmail.com](mailto:hgriffin6868@gmail.com)  
Members by Virtue of Office: Rose Ficklin, President, Barbara White, NEC**





**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**  
**DEPT OF ARIZONA**

**JUNIOR CONVENTION**  
**& ELECTIONS!!!!**

**SAT MAY 18TH 2024**  
**10AM - 2PM**

ALA Unit 41, 715 S 2nd Ave, Phoenix

Join us for an afternoon of fun, learning,  
pizza, elections and more!!

RSVP to Department Junior Chairman  
Patsy Lugo @ 602-475-0208

## Legislative Update

May 2024

Thank you so much for all that sent in reports even though you did not work on the program. It was much appreciated!

This month I just wanted to talk about our Why. Why is Legislative important? It supports very important legislative that goes before congress. Well, why is that important? If the legislation is passed it helps our Veterans. And why are we here? TO HELP OUR VETERANS.

Not only that, it only takes a few minutes. As President of a large Unit, I understand we try to work so many different things to support our community, Children and Youth, Education, National Security in addition to our Veterans and everything that is happening at our Post. Well, it does get overwhelming. But this program takes literally 10 minutes a week right from your computer!

- 1<sup>st</sup>- Sign up for the grass roots newsletter-  
<https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home>
- 2<sup>nd</sup>-Read your weekly email and if there is something important click on the link, it takes you to all of your Senators and Legislative Reps. The support is already



written for you! Click the button. --No for real click the button! Hover your mouse and CTRL- CLICK it will take you right there!

- 3<sup>rd</sup>- Share the information with your POST and UNIT!

That is how easy it is. And it is important! Your are help 1000 of Veterans and their families across the country including our military! Be like NIKE –“Just Do It”!

I hope that more Units will work the program in the upcoming year. See you soon at the Convention next month.

Kathy Amery

Department Legislative Chair 2023-2024

[Luv2p8@gmail.com](mailto:Luv2p8@gmail.com) or 623.640.0134

## **Leadership/Arizona Mission Training**

**2024 May**

What a great year for our Leadership program and our members. I hope to see many of you at the Department convention in June. As we look forward to this event, we may want to start thinking ahead for our programs in the future. One of the good things about conference and convention is that we are able to obtain new ideas and network with other units to see what they are doing for the Auxiliary. It's always fun to work with new ideas!

Remember that the National organization has several courses available for your members to take online. Log in with your member ID and the national website [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org). The website is added to periodically with new courses added. The good thing is that you can take a course on your own timeline.

A huge chorus of appreciation for those instructors who led the trainings this year and of course to the members who took the time to be there. A well-educated member is a plus to each of your units. We want members to step up and be a leader. In this busy world there are so many commitments we are asked to do and is hard to find time and sometimes help to get the job done. Encourage your members and let them shine. Be sure to recognize all that they do.

Thank you for your participation and encouragement this past year.

Karen Smith, Chairman

[ksmith111@cox.net](mailto:ksmith111@cox.net)

520-249-1119

1133 Carmelita Drive

Sierra Vista 85635





**MAY 2024**

**American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Arizona  
MUSIC REPORT 2023-2024**

---

Greetings Musicophiles (“music lovers”),

Please continue to promote music within your Unit and Post. Let’s get the love of music out to everyone. 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. Here’s a suggestion to use your talents as a fundraiser. This could add to your President’s Special Project , Girl’s State. Speaking of Girl’s State, did you know Girl’s State has a “Glee Club”?

Please continue to encourage your members and Post to participate in “The American Legion Family Choir”. The more voices participating the better we sound. Please remember to bring a “Legion” polo and dark pants for the “Memorial Service”.

Convention in June is approaching very quickly.. I’ve already chosen songs for the “American Legion Family Choir”. Plus adding new songs to play during Convention. I’m always adding new songs. I’m looking forward to seeing you at Convention.

“The best music is essentially there to provide you something to face the world with. ”

Bruce Springsteen

[amblonde01@gmail.com](mailto:amblonde01@gmail.com)

602.999.4054 cell

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

Alma Mattingly, Department Music Chairman

16575 W. Moreland Street, Goodyear, AZ 85338

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA

POPPY ORDER FORM FOR 2025  
POPPIES

**Order deadline is September 30, 2024**

NO EXCEPTIONS OR LATE ORDERS ACCEPTED  
THIS FORM MUST BE USED TO ORDER POPPIES

**Cost of Poppies is \$15.00 per hundred** and must be ordered in increments of 100.

Date Poppies Needed \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Name and Number \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Person to receive poppies \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone \_\_\_\_\_

Number of poppies \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona and mail order form and check to:

American Legion Auxiliary  
4701 N. 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 100  
Phoenix, AZ 85015-3727

OFFICE USE ONLY:

ORDER ASSIGNED TO:

Poppy Making Chairman:

**YOUR UNIT MUST ORDER AT LEAST 100 POPPIES BY THE DEADLINE TO BE IN COMPETITION FOR ANY DEPARTMENT AWARDS AT THE END OF THE YEAR OTHER THEN MEMBERSHIP AWARDS.**



## POPPY POSTER ALERT

A previous zoom meeting stated the Poppy Poster could be photographed along with the cover sheet. NOT TRUE. National says they want the original poster and cover sheet. A complaint was made that the messages were misleading and further research is being conducted. Perhaps next year??

So, if you are participating in the Student Poster Contest please review the instructions and send the ORIGINAL POSTER AND COVER SHEET. Must be received by the 10<sup>th</sup> as they are due to Western Division by the 15<sup>th</sup> of May not June 1<sup>st</sup>. Again another change.

Sorry for any confusion but I am in the same position as you in trying to get it right. Flexible, must keep that in mind.

Thanks for all that you do. I look forward to seeing you at Convention. I am hoping to have several hats to judge there.

Kat Sticklin  
Poppy Co-Chair  
Department of Arizona  
1519 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave.  
Safford, AZ 85546  
928-322-1550  
[kat2sticks@gmail.com](mailto:kat2sticks@gmail.com)

American Legion Auxiliary VA&R REPORT  
TUCSON VA MEDICAL CENTER  
3-31-24

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 have wonderful volunteers for the second Saturday for Bingo at the Community Living Center but can use more help. Creative Arts awards ceremony was held on March 21<sup>st</sup> to honor all of last year's medal winners and to promote participation for other Veterans. ALA will be providing refreshments. An Adaptive Sports Clinic is scheduled for April 17<sup>th</sup>. ALA will be providing refreshments. 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 (this is an ongoing need). 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. She plays Bingo with us each month.

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 \$1,500. 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 73, Unit 131 and Unit 132 for your generous donations.

The grand total of monetary donations for the American Legion Auxiliary for May 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024 is \$1,352. 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 March 31, 2024 is \$20,219.63. Thank you Unit 62, Unit 73, 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 March 31, 2024 is 1445.75. Twelve occasional volunteers have contributed 110 hours as of March 31, 2024. 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 181 hours and logged 2,240 miles this year in service to the Tucson VA Medical Center as of March 31, 2024. 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 Creative Arts winners were announced in December. Tucson had four medal winners and we are planning a celebration with refreshments on March 21<sup>st</sup>. We have already held an advance planning "meet and greet" and invited all interested Veterans. A NVCA planning meeting will be held on April 18<sup>th</sup>. Both Dawn Davidson & I plan to attend. Unit 73 provided refreshments for this event. Annual Joint Review was completed November 28, 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