

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Department of Arizona

Dinner Honoring National President Vickie Koutz

February 17, 2023

No Host 4:00 p.m.

Dinner 5:00 p.m.

Cost \$22

Menu

Lasagna

Salad

Garlic Bread

Dessert

Dress Code: Business Attire

Location

The American Legion Post 35

2240 W Chandler Blvd

Chandler, Arizona 85224

Questions? Call or Text Barbara White at 602-908-2980

.....
Please send in the bottom part, along with your payment

Make check payable to: ALA Unit 91
c/o Barbara White
1616 W Nopal Dr
Chandler, AZ 85224-2244

Please reserve _____ dinner(s) for the National President's Dinner

Deadline: Sunday, February 12, 2023

Enclosed \$ _____

Please list the names for this event:

**2023-2024 UNIT MEMBERSHIP
NATIONAL AUTOMATED RENEWAL NOTICES**

Type, or Print using blue or black ink
Non-legible forms will be Returned.

We understand that your Unit is working very hard on the program and it just January; however, you must be pro active on this issue...NATIONAL is raising they portion of dues...per capita to \$18.00 per senior...that means a dues increase at the Unit level...that's you. **You will now be sending to Department \$4.00 for Juniors and \$25.00 for seniors.** Please address this now. We **MUST** have the requested information **on or before January 31, 2023.**

The dues amount listed below will be printed on the upcoming 2024 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICES that will be mailed to each SENIOR MEMBER IN YOUR UNIT. Also listed below is the address to be printed on each renewal notice showing where and whom to mail the dues for your Unit.

Please understand that **"NO CHANGE IN THE AMOUNT OF DUES OR THE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE DUES ARE TO BE SENT CAN BE MADE AFTER MARCH 1st, 2023.** Please return this form to Department Headquarters, 4701 N. 19th Ave. Suite 100, Phoenix, AZ 85015 Attn: **Barbara Matteson.**

IF YOUR UNIT FAILS TO RETURN THE NEEDED INFORMATION BY THE DUE DATE, THE CURRENT INFORMATION ON FILE WITH THE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS WILL BE SENT TO NATIONAL.

*****NO EXCEPTIONS*****

DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA	UNIT NUMBER _____
2024 SENIOR DUES OF THE UNIT ARE	\$ _____
2024 JUNIOR DUES OF THE UNIT ARE	\$ _____

ADDRESS AT WHICH THE UNIT WILL RECEIVE MEMBERSHIP DUES not the person filling out this form.

ADDRESS _____
(Street, or R.R. & Box)

CITY _____ **STATE** _____

ZIP CODE _____

AREA CODE _____ **TELEPHONE NUMBER** _____

DATE _____ **SIGNATURE** _____

TITLE _____



American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona

ALAMIS Access

Mail this form and check to the below address

Each Unit and District is eligible to have up to two ALAMIS (ALA Membership Information System) users. The cost of ALAMIS is set by National. Only members that are paid up for the current year will be given access to ALAMIS.

Type of Access	Benefits	Cost per User
Unit Full Access	Pay Dues Online, Rejoin Former Members, Edit member data, Add new Members for your Unit	\$20
Unit Write Access	Edit Member Data and Add New Members for your Unit	\$15
Unit View Access	View your Unit, No Change Capabilities	\$10
District View Access	View All Units, No Change – limited to Dist Presidents Only	\$10

User #1 Name _____ Member ID# _____

Unit # _____ District # _____ Email _____

Type of Access _____ Replacing User? _____

User #2 Name _____ Member ID# _____

Unit # _____ District # _____ Email _____

Type of Access _____ Replacing User? _____

Cost of User 1 _____ + Cost of User 2 _____ = _____
(amount to be sent to Department)

Check # _____ Date of Check _____

The above members have been selected to have access to ALAMIS for the current year for our Unit or District.

Signature of President

Earmark Check: ALAMIS
Make checks payable to ALA, Dept of AZ
Include Unit and/or District number on all checks

ALA, Dept of AZ, 4701 N 19th Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85015

VETERANS Our Hometown Heroes

December 2023

THIS OFFICE IS OPEN...PLEASE CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT BEFORE YOU COME TO DEPARTMENT OFFICE FOR ASSISTANCE...THIS IS STILL DUE TO COVID-19.

GIFT SHOPS...Flyers are the first few pages of this packet. Please check them out and help.

DO NOT SEND...District or Chairman's mail to this office. Send it directly to their address. Don't know it call them...they are in the Directory.

NATIONAL PRESIDENT VICKIE KOUTZ...Her official visit to Arizona will February 16-19, 2023, in the Valley of the Sun. Planning is being done now! National President Special Project...You can send donations thru Department or directly to National...make sure either way you identify as National President Special Project 2023-Vickie Koutz. There is a GREEN flyer for her dinner.

DUES NOTICE...Dues is in GREEN means urgent return it by 1-31-2023. Speaking of GREEN...anything in GREEN is time sensitive don't ignore them.

FALL CONFERENCE...Did we see you at Fall Conference? Western Division National Vice President Eva Wallace made her official at Fall Conference. Did you meet her? Check out her Facebook about US...YOU!!

STATE VETERANS HOME...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

EXTRA... EXTRA ... "RED TICKET" ... Did you get one?

DIRECTORY ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS ...

Unit 14...secretary email vangle@citlink.net **membership** kristen.avila79@icloud.com

Unit 19...membership stoneywoodsouth@msn.com

Unit 93

Secretary

Chris Vess

928-300-9171

Membership

Judy Smeck

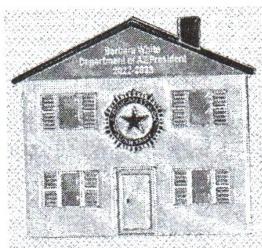
928-821-2503

judysmeck@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP... "RACHING 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 14700 and we are at 26.97%.**

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

ALAMIS ACCFSS...Your Unit is not required to have FULL UNIT ACCESS.
IF YOUR WANTS TO FULL ACCESS TO ALAMIS Units MUST email department requesting to be put on the ALAMIS class sign up. NOW BE ADVISED: CLASSES ARE HELD THE 2ND WEEK OF EVERY MONTH ON TUESDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY. SO BE PREPARED NOW SO YOU CAN TAKE THE CLASS IF YOUR UNIT WANTS TO..



Barbara Matteson
Dept Secretary/Treasurer
secretary1@aladeptaz.org

Pat Stanaski
Dept Membership Processor
membership@aladeptaz.org

President's Message

December 2022

VETERANS Our Hometown Heros

What an awesome Fall Conference we had! We all caught up with old friends and met new friends. Hope those in attendance learned something new about the programs. Please pass on this information to Unit members.

FALL CONFERENCE HANDOUTS Instead of making 110 copies of each handout to put in each mailbox, the handouts are on the Department website. The handouts are electronically available to every member to review and print as needed. Please assist members who are unfamiliar with the department website.

National President, Vickie Koutz, will be visiting Arizona February 16-19, 2023. Any member can attend events that take place while she is visiting.

The schedule of events will be posted on Ring Your Bell. A dinner honoring the National President will be held Friday, February 17, 2023, flyer is enclosed.

As the Holiday season approaches, remember those who served and are serving our country. Many veterans in the homes don't have family to celebrate the holidays with. Our gift of love, cards and presents is so much appreciated.

My calendar is filling up.. Please reach out to me, in writing, if you would like to schedule a visit. My current schedule is on the back.

Until next month . . .

Have a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving with friends and family.

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

President's Schedule 2022-2023

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
November 3 - November 7	Fall Conference	Oro Valley
November 10, 2022	Unit 44 Official Visit	Post 44
November 11, 2022	Veterans Day	
November 19, 2022	PSP Fundraiser Dinner	Post 35
November 20, 2022	District 2 Official Visit	Post 66
December 3, 2022	Unit 107 Christmas Ball	Post 107
December 4, 2022	Phoenix Gift Shop Setup	TBD
December 7, 2022	Pearl Harbor Day	State Capitol
December 13, 2022	Tucson Gift Shop	Tucson VA
December 14, 2022	Whipple Gift Shop	Prescott VA
December 28, 2022	MIAP Burial	National Cemetery
December 3, 2022	Unit 107 Christmas Ball	Post 107
December 31, 2022	PSP Sock Hop	Post 131
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 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 4, 2023	District 12 Rehab Dinner	Post 35
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	
March 25-27, 2023	Car Show	Post 81
April 8, 2023	Unit 2 Official Visit	Post 2
April 20, 2023	Unit 35 Award Banquet and Official Visit	Post 35
April 22, 2023	District 7 Official Visit	Post 14
May 12 - 13, 2023	Personal	
May 21, 2023	District 4 Official Visit	Post 133
June 2 - June 10	ALA AZ Girls State	UofA

Americanism Program

December 2022

- **Patriotic Holidays.** By displaying the American flag on a patriotic holiday, you are supporting the Americanism Program's objectives. These include: Teaching proper handling, displaying, disposal and respect for the American Flag; Model respect for our flag; Encourage local businesses and Legion Family members to fly an American flag on patriotic holidays. Upcoming Patriotic Holidays:
 - Pearl Harbor Day – December 7
 - Commemorates the attack on Pearl Harbor in Hawaii, during World War II. Many American service men and women lost their lives or were injured on December 7, 1941.
- **Americanism Essay Contest**
 - This year's essay title is: "What does patriotism mean to you?"
 - Essay contents are for students in grades 3-12, including students with special needs. There are 6 classes will be presented in each of the five divisions.
 - Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 donation in the student's name will be made to the Children of Warriors National President's Scholarship fund
 - Deadline to be submitted to the Division Chairman by **April 15th**. Please send submissions from the Department of Arizona to jacquelinesolis24@gmail.com
- **Oratorical Contest**
 - Local, District, and Area Contests – Students will compete multiple times. Contests are progressive, will be held during the months of January and February, and completed on or before February 25, 2023. The locations of each student's contests are based on where they attend school. The dates and locations vary throughout the state. Contact the Chairman for Dates and Locations of your Contests as soon as possible.
 - Arizona Finals Contest – Will be held on Saturday, March 11, 2023. Winners will compete in the National Finals in Indianapolis, Indiana, April 21-23, 2023
 - Entry Form – Students may submit the proper entry form to participate in the program between June 1, 2022 and January 1, 2023. The form may be obtained from Department Headquarters, www.azlegion.org/programs.

Jacqueline Solis

520-234-7909

[Jacquelinesolis24@gmail.com](mailto:jacquelinesolis24@gmail.com)

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona
Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF)
December 2022

This is one of my most favorite times of the year! Celebrations with family, friends and neighbors abound. This month I thought I'd share an excerpt of a success story from the National Auxiliary website:

Nichole, a mother of eight and avid motorcycle rider, has been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary for four years. "We've made awesome friends," Nichole shared. "I just can't even explain how I feel about people in the post because they're like family. I love them."

Like so many, Nichole's husband was the victim of a poor economy and was laid off from his job. After a while, their bills began to build up, and with eight children to feed, it came to a point where they needed to ask for help. After talking with her unit president, Nichole was encouraged to apply to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund for assistance. She was awarded a Temporary Financial Assistance grant, which they were able to put toward their increasing bills.

"It meant a lot," she said. "It makes me feel like the whole organization cares about its members and its communities. It made me feel better knowing the kids were going to have electricity and water. My husband was surprised. He was kind of lost for words at first. He thought we were going to be stuck in that hole for a bit."

The AEF is possible only through members' commitment to helping one another. If members and supporters of the ALA weren't willing to donate their time and money to the AEF, it wouldn't be here to help members like Nichole and her family when they need it. Luckily, members helping members is a long-standing ideal of the ALA, and as long as it is, no Auxiliary member will have to face their crisis alone.

"I wouldn't even know how much to thank them," Nichole said. "I give them so much credit for donating the money and wanting to help and wanting to be there to do that. Those people have big hearts."

Perhaps you can start a new tradition by donating to the AEF at this time of year in honor of veterans and their families everywhere.

Christmas Blessings,

Jonnie Maddox

Department AEF Chairman

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

Chaplain Report November 2022

In September, I had the honor of attending the virtual National Chaplain's Conference. The most important message of the conference was the importance of being inclusive of all faiths. As an American Legion Auxiliary Chaplain, **the most important thing for you to remember is that the American Legion Auxiliary does not promote any one religion.** We must not offend anyone by promoting our own religion or being insensitive to others' beliefs.

Traditional roles of ALA Chaplains:

- Attend all meetings and being prepared to deliver an opening and closing prayer
- Report the names of members who are ill and send them cards
- Send sympathy cards to family members. If possible, visit the funeral and/or do a memorial service for the deceased member.
- Send cards of "joy" for special occasions.
- Be in charge of religious services for the unit.
- Visit members and veterans in nursing homes or those who are shut-ins.
- Keep in contact with Gold Star and Blue Star Families and remember them on holidays.
- **Make a prayer book or devotional book. In doing this, encourage member participation. Why? Because:**
 - Prayer calms our heart & mind
 - Praying grows our trust
 - Prayer provides guidance
 - Prayer gives us perspective
 - Prayer leads us to forgiveness

Look for more information about your role, awards, reports and **prayer books** in your packet from the November Fall conference. I hope I see you there—and please, if we haven't met, introduce yourself!!!

If you know of someone who could 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

**Chaplain Report
December 2022**

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 from the Department of Arizona, please let me know:

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

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona
Children and Youth Program
November 2022

Thank you to the many units who have been diligent in holding training events for our youth as well as fund raisers to support our children and youth programs. I am especially impressed with some of the new and innovative ideas that have been implemented:

- Units have held training classes on the American flag, the meaning of the poppy, the history and workings of the American Legion/ Auxiliary and Americanism.
- Aluminum can tabs were collected for the Shriners Group to support their family hospital programs.
- Many of our units have sponsored family picnics, family game and movie nights, holiday gatherings, back to school supply and clothing drives and are currently participating in Toys for Tots events.
- Events such as Christmas in July, Chili cook offs, Bake sales, Unit parking lot sales and Luaus have been held with the proceeds being donated to First responders programs, back to school drives and scholarship programs.

It's now time for us to start (if we haven't already) recognizing our Juniors and local children and youth for their positive actions. Resources that are available to help recognize our outstanding youth are the American Legion Auxiliary Youth Hero and Good Deed Award, the Youth Caregiver Certificate of Appreciation, Hero stickers, coloring books and ceremony instructions.

Some ideas for nominations for these awards are:

- Serves as an inspirational role model
- Demonstrates a physical act of valor
- Donates time or money to a worthy cause. Organizing and holding a fund raiser for charity.
- Holding a food drive for a food pantry
- Collecting donations for a homeless veteran.

Nominations are not limited to Junior members. Check with local schools, educators and first responders for anyone who has gone above and beyond to help family, friends and veterans. Many times, the small gestures that mean so much, are forgotten.

Information, ideas, nomination forms and instructions can be located at ALAforVeterans.org.

Please continue to publish your Children and Youth events and fund raisers on Ring your Bell. This is a great way to show our support for our future Auxiliary members but also share ideas with all units.

Joanne Mangis

Joannemangis@q.com

602-421-8766

Community Service

December 2022

“VETERANS Our Hometown Heroes”

How will you be serving your community as the holiday season arrives?

There are those who participate in holiday parades, December 7th remembrance services; taking gifts to veteran homes, senior centers, day care centers; sending cards to those who may not have close family or friends.

Will you remember the law enforcement and fire department personnel with cookies, bottles of water, stuffed animals for children who have suffered an accident or fire?

If your community is like this chairman's, there are plenty of people on street corners asking for assistance. Perhaps this is the time to brighten their day by tucking a holiday card with a \$5 gift card and coupon to a nearby fast-food restaurant.

Some volunteer to help with their community holiday decorations. How about offering a gift-wrapping service? Perhaps unit members could set up a coffee/hot chocolate break area in town, near truck stops or highway rest areas during the holiday period.

However the units or individual members do community service, please be sure to keep a record of hours and monies spent, miles traveled, and numbers of those assisted in the various projects for your end of year report.

“Without community service, we would not have a strong quality of life. It's important to the person who serves, as well as the recipient.” – Dorothy Height

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

PO Box 3122
Kingman, AZ 86402-3122



Education December 2022



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 <https://www.aladeptaz.org/10.--department-awards---narratives--.html> .
2. The **Education Year-end report** form to be submitted to the Department Chair by **May 1, 2023** <https://www.aladeptaz.org/9.--program-resources--fall-conference-packets--and-year-end-report-forms.html> .
3. The applications for the **Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship**, **The Non-Traditional Student Scholarship**, **The Spirit of Youth Scholarship**, and new last year **The Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship** are available at <https://www.aladeptaz.org/6.--scholarships---educational-opportunities.html> .
4. A copy of the rules and application for the **Wilma Hoyal-Maxine Chilton Memorial Scholarship** is also available at <https://www.aladeptaz.org/6.--scholarships---educational-opportunities.html> .
5. Scholarship brochures are available from the Department office.

The entire information packet for Education can be found on the Department website <https://www.aladeptaz.org/9.--program-resources--fall-conference-packets--and-year-end-report-forms.html>

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 2022

Happy Thanksgiving Arizona ALA! Fall Conference covered many topics and there was a question raised to this committee about Solicitation. Please refer to the Department Policies and Procedures Manual pages 21- 22 which states as follows:

“NO SOLICITATION SHALL BE MADE BY ANY OFFICER, CHAIRMAN, OR MEMBER OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, payable to the Department or person making request, without written permission of the Department President and the Department Finance Committee. Anyone asking a solicitation must state in the written request that permission has been granted by the Department President and the Department Finance Committee.”

What does this mean? Can you post on social media? Can you list any price? The key word here is solicitation:

Solicitation is defined as a request or appeal, either oral or written, or any endeavor to obtain, seek or plead for funds, property, financial assistance or other thing of value, including any money or property of value.

Social media is a great place to advertise, however; “Ring Your Bell” is not the place to post any event with a price. It is best to use your Unit/Post website to share that information. If your Unit has the desire to raise funds for your programs, stay within your Unit. You can list prices for an event at your Post or Unit Website. Please any questions or comments, please feel free to ask.

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)



American Legion Auxiliary
Arizona
Girls State

December 2022

American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State packets for the 2023 session have been signed for at Fall Conference or mailed to the Unit. Please familiarize yourself with the information or read over it again.

It is most important that you contact the schools you were assigned and get the needed information. School assignment is on the back of the purple sheet to the Unit President or Chairman. Completed school information will be what you put on the green sheet and return to Department before or by the December 15th deadline.

Why is this information so important?

It saves the cost of mailing a major packet of information on the ALA Arizona Girls State program, the packet is emailed to the person that is in charge of this activity at the school. We have found that emailing is an effective way of getting the information need to the schools in a timely manner, having a record of when and to whom the information was sent and provides personal contact. We know that sometimes counselors change after you give us the information and we try and keep up with new information..

We are so glad to be back in schools again. If you have a problem with a school, please give me that information as we have a waiting list to get into the program. **Please remember you are representing the American Legion Auxiliary when working with schools.**

In January, the information is emailed to the school contact you have provided us and the hard registration card, that needs to be notarized, is snail mailed to that person at the school. These cards are given to the delegates and alternates after selections are made, again saving the cost of postage.

Next month's bulletin will have sample interview questions that you might want to use, and we encourage you to interview whenever possible. We know some Units have your own form of interviewing and that is okay too. If you are unable to interview, please make sure that schools know what is required to attend. All the facts are in the brochure and your packet.

Are you using you check list to stay on track? We sure hope so. We are most grateful for the help and support you give the Girls State program! If you have any questions or need information, please contact us so we can get you the answer. Please know that you **DO** make a difference in the life of those that attend Girls State.

Until next month, we will be waiting for your school information.

Penny Maklary...Director

HISTORY

Dec. 2022

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.

I encourage each unit and juniors to participate and submit a history book for the Dept. History Awards, there is a History Patch that juniors can work for also, it's important for our juniors to understand that they are part of the Auxiliary's history in their units as well as the Department.

Thank you to the units and districts that sent me copies of your minutes/ or of meetings, and I look forward to having more sent to me, it will help me do a History Book for Madam President Barbara. My contact information is in the directory and in the monthly bulletins, also on the ALA website.

Please visit the dept. website for information on Dept. awards, also resources on the National website for Historians resources.

Wishing every member a safe, peaceful Holiday and Bless New Year

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

December 2022

The Holidays are here or almost here! A wonderful time to step up and be a Leader. So many are needful, it seems to be increasing each month. In Facebook I see that many units are raising funds to help our “hometown heroes” including those in need. Christmas is a time of giving and our members embrace this concept. Although we do not require mid year reports any information on your activities is welcomed by department chairmen.

Western Division Leadership Chairman Anita Biggs held a Zoom meeting in which department chairmen were asked to give information on their programs. To begin with Chairman Anita started with program goals.

- To become an ALA leader on the Unit, District, Department and/or National level
- To show members that Leadership paths start in a variety of ways – there is no set path, each member needs to work in his/her own way.
- To encourage members to learn more about the ALA – participate in Leadership opportunities:

ALA Academy

Mission Training

Sign up for ALA Leadership group

- Western Division Mission Training held February 4, 2023 in Las Vegas, NV.

Some of the ideas from department chairmen were: Sharing ideas, contactless contact, Facebook page, “back to basics training,” include Junior members, promote awards, joint training with The American Legion and use games and prizes to motivate members. Having said that I encourage you to register for the February Mission Training in Las Vegas. They are always informative and it is a good chance to meet other LEADERS!

I remind everyone of the importance of Mentors. Please send a short narrative to me of your experience with a mentor in the ALA by May 1st, 2023. Prizes at convention. I will list Leadership awards in future bulletins. If you have any questions please contact me. If calling, please text first. THANKS! Merry Christmas and a wonderful New Year!

Karen Smith, Chairman

ksmith111@cox.net

(520) 249 -1119

Legislative

December 2022

Greetings Members,

Department Fall Conference has come and gone. Did you have a good time, and did you learn anything?

If the answer is, "Yes and yes." Then your Chairmen did a great job presenting the programs.

Elections have come and gone as well. Did you get out and vote? Did you promote voting to any members of your Legion Family?

As far as the election results go, Katie Hobbs was elected Governor of our State. For full election results please go to www.ap.org.

For now we are kind of in a waiting game until after the inauguration and the opening of the Congressional year.

For God and Country,

Stephanie M. McMullen

Department Legislative Chairman

16575 W. Moreland St.

Goodyear, AZ 85338

(623)910-4716, stephaniemcmullenala62az@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

DEC 2022

I challenged The Department of Arizona to hit 100% by March 1st, Remember??

I also said that there would be a special treat if we hit that goal.

Arizona is currently at 44.52%, 7th in the Western Division..... That gives you (by the time of this mailing) 3 ½ months to get the Department to 100%

But then again If we aren't at 100% by March 1st Then I won't be wearing a formal dress for convention Processional on Friday morning. Oh, we must be at 100% on March 1st, not the 2nd, or 5th or even the 15th. THE FIRST OF MARCH.

Units MUST email department requesting to be put on the ALAMIS class sign up.

NOW BE ADVISED: CLASSES ARE HELD THE 2ND WEEK OF EVERY MONTH ON TUESDAY, THURSDAY, AND SATURDAY. SO BE PREPARED NOW SO YOU CAN TAKE THE CLASS.

For a Unit to have full access their membership chairman/processor must have at least two years' experience doing membership. We want new chairmen/processors to understand the process before we let them go out on their own.

If you have questions PLEASE email myself and/or Barbara at Department.

REMEMBER, All applications MUST be Legible and FILED OUT COMPLETELY

Happy Holidays to you all

Rose

UNIT NUMERIC OBJECTIVES 2023

YTD 11-17-22

75% 11-11-22

		UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
		0100	Phoenix	158	103	65.19%
		Total		158	103	65.19%
	Total			158	103	65.19%
01		0019	Yuma	198	107	54.04%
		0046	Bouse	54	13	24.07%
		0056	Yuma	63	47	74.60%
		Total		315	167	53.02%
	Total			315	167	53.02%
02		0007	Tucson	71	30	42.25%
		0010	Ajo	25	12	48.00%
		0036	Tucson	278	43	15.47%
		0059	Tucson	157	29	18.47%
		0066	Green Valley	929	519	55.87%
		0068	Tucson	60	33	55.00%
		0073	Tucson	29	20	68.97%
		0109	Corona	341	150	43.99%
		0125	Tucson	16	0	0.00%
		0131	Green Valley	534	284	53.18%
		0132	Oro Valley	82	41	50.00%
		Total		2522	1161	46.03%
	Total			2522	1161	46.03%
03		0011	Douglas	175	71	40.57%
		0016	Bisbee	73	38	52.05%
		0024	Tombstone	414	128	30.92%
		0045	Benson	50	21	42.00%
		0052	Sierra Vista	174	73	41.95%
		0141	Pearce	10	2	20.00%
		Total		896	333	37.17%
	Total			896	333	37.17%
04		0008	Casa Grande	41	20	48.78%
		0009	Florence	89	35	39.33%
		0051	Coolidge	63	60	95.24%
		0054	Coolidge	107	45	42.06%
		0097	San Tan Valley	25	19	76.00%
		0129	Queen Creek	17	4	23.53%
		0133	Maricopa	37	14	37.84%
		Total		379	197	51.98%
	Total			379	197	51.98%
05		0004	Globe	48	7	14.58%

		0028	Clifton	76	83	109.21%
		0032	Safford	121	57	47.11%
		0095	Solomon	74	48	64.86%
		Total		319	195	61.13%
	Total			319	195	61.13%
06		0030	Springerville	79	38	48.10%
		0031	Saint Johns	10	0	0.00%
		0037	Holbrook	41	2	4.88%
		0069	Payson	142	14	9.86%
		0076	Show Low	30	10	33.33%
		0086	Overgaard	301	168	55.81%
		0130	Concho	10	1	10.00%
		Total		613	233	38.01%
	Total			613	233	38.01%
07		0003	Flagstaff	92	6	6.52%
		0013	Williams	42	27	64.29%
		0014	Kingman	123	73	59.35%
		0022	Golden Valley	109	18	16.51%
		0042	Grand Canyon	25	15	60.00%
		0057	Ash Fork	70	8	11.43%
		0081	Lake Havasu City	559	277	49.55%
		0087	Bullhead City	144	18	12.50%
		0088	Dolan Springs	16	11	68.75%
		0103	Meadview	57	31	54.39%
		0136	Yucca	14	0	0.00%
		Total		1251	484	38.69%
	Total			1251	484	38.69%
08		0006	Prescott	229	162	70.74%
		0025	Cottonwood	265	170	64.15%
		0040	Chino Valley	102	28	27.45%
		0078	Humboldt	152	38	25.00%
		0079	Yarnell	152	64	42.11%
		0090	Black Canyon City	44	16	36.36%
		0093	Camp Verde	97	16	16.49%
		0108	Prescott Valley	41	26	63.41%
		0135	Cornville	64	18	28.13%
		0140	Prescott Valley	27	10	37.04%
		Total		1173	548	46.72%
	Total			1173	548	46.72%
11		0001	Phoenix	115	53	46.09%
		0005	Phoenix	71	10	14.08%
		0012	Wickenburg	208	84	40.38%
		0029	Glendale	296	87	29.39%

12		0053	Buckeye	19	7	36.84%
		0061	Avondale	185	86	46.49%
		0062	Peoria	787	246	31.26%
		0105	Phoenix	209	50	23.92%
		0134	Phoenix	18	11	61.11%
		Total		1908	634	33.23%
	Total			1908	634	33.23%
		0002	Tempe	100	51	51.00%
		0026	Mesa	242	91	37.60%
		0027	Apache Junction	1815	548	30.19%
		0034	Cave Creek	316	116	36.71%
		0035	Chandler	305	125	40.98%
12		0039	Gilbert	411	216	52.55%
		0041	Phoenix	315	136	43.17%
		0044	Scottsdale	309	109	35.28%
		0058	Fountain Hills	295	204	69.15%
		0065	Phoenix	286	147	51.40%
		0084	Sacaton	62	53	85.48%
		0091	Chandler	200	143	71.50%
		0107	Phoenix	213	109	51.17%
		0114	Scottsdale	55	56	101.82%
		0117	Phoenix	188	133	70.74%
		0124	Guadalupe	17	7	41.18%
		0138	Tempe	35	14	40.00%
		Total		5164	2258	43.73%
	Total			5164	2258	43.73%
Total	Total			14698	6313	42.95%



American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona
MUSIC REPORT 2022

December 2022

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.

Fall Conference is in the books. What a great opportunity to learn about the Programs and work with all the Chairmen. I enjoyed every minute. The choir was small, but produced a great sound. We sang "Put your Hand in the Hand" and "Love Can Build a Bridge". I must say I was pleased that a couple Juniors joined us. I'm proud of the Juniors and hope more will join in the future. I was totally surprised when Auxiliary President, Barbara White; American Legion Department Commander, Mike Simon; Sons of the American Legion Detachment Commander, Noah McMullen; and Gerard Brinkman, State Director American Legion Riders joined the choir to sing "Love Can Build a Bridge". If these distinguished individuals can help us sing, you can too!!

I'm pleased to announce one of the choir members, Kathy Amery, signed "God Bless America". She is so talented. She sings and can sign. I'm looking forward to seeing more of her many talents. Way to go, Kathy!

I've started researching possible songs for Convention. I've got the music in me! Constantly looking for opportunities for the choir to express their talents. You can too!

"I learned very early in life that: Without a song, the day would never end; without a friend, a man ain't got a friend, without a song, the road would never bend-without a song. So I keep singing a song."
Elvis Presley


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

December 2022

It was announced at Fall Conference we have a new baby Unit. Glendale Unit 115 and it is in District 11. The Charter & baby will be presented at State Convention in June. Yahoo!! 

HOW TO BE A GOOD CHAIRMAN

Be Knowledgeable:

A good Chairman should be knowledgeable about the program.

Be Available:

Make yourself available to answer questions. Be prepared to talk with members. If you are out when someone calls, always make the effort to return their call.

Be Practical:

To succeed, be practical. As a chairman, there will be many demands on your time and energy. Delegate tasks to others and remember to praise them for a job well done.

Be Energetic:

As a Chairman you must demonstrate to others that you have the capacity to do the job. You must motivate yourself and have a clear understanding of the program's purposes.

Be Dedicated:

To be successful, you must be dedicated. Your dedication is the key to be a successful program.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE.

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

ATTENTION : I NEED YOUR HELP

Hello Everyone,

Hopefully you remember my last months bulletin on the history of Miss Poppy. She is a time honored part of this program. I have decided to try and acquire more local history information of Miss Poppy. I would like to have information of if Arizona had a Miss Poppy prior to the National Contest in 1959. National says there are some scattered reports of a few units promoting her but we don't know if Az. is one of them. Please ask your members. Perhaps ask your older members to think about it, They may remember something. Yes, I know, 60-65 years ago is a long time. Someone may be able to link the time frame with an event. I'd appreciate any information. I'll let you know what I find out. In the mean time, keep your Miss Poppy busy with Thanksgiving and Christmas parades, holiday craft fairs, in Post events, etc. Teach her about the poppy program and how to share information with people wherever she goes.

Poppy Poster Contest: The deadline for me to receive your poster entries is April 21st, 2023. I'll list my address as time gets closer. Poppy money can be used to purchase the poster board and other art supplies the school needs to participate.

There is also a Poppy fb where members nationwide share their poppy events. You can share yours too, and get some great ideas from them - beautiful items & poems. If you want to post a pic of your Miss Poppy, ensure her parents are OK with that.

[Facebook.com/groups/ALAPoppy](https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAPoppy)

My chairman floor report at Conference is posted on the ALA Dept. website for you.

Hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day and week end.

For God and Country,

Julie Ross

Az. Dept. Poppy Chairman 2022-2023

juliedistrict3@gmail.com

Symbolism of the Poppy

The red petals
stand for the vast outpouring of blood.

The black center
stands for the mud and desolation of all
battlefields.

The green of the stem
is symbolic of the forests, meadows and fields
where generations of Americans have perished to
make this land free.

The stem
represents the courage and determination of our
fallen warriors.

The assembled product, a flower,
is a symbol of resurrection, which is sure to follow.



PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT
DECEMBER 2022
ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOMES

If you were not able to attend Fall Conference, you missed an informative presentation by Nicole Baker, Assistant Deputy Director for Public and Intergovernmental Affairs for the Arizona Department of Veterans Services, who is over all the State Veteran Homes. She was able to show some slides of the three operating state homes including pictures of the residents enjoying the popcorn machine and barbeque grill purchased with your donations.

At the time of Fall Conference, the Yuma Home had 10 residents already after opening on Oct 5. The first resident was an 81 year old decorated Viet Nam veteran, a retired major, who served 18 years in the U.S. Army.

Did you know that Arizona is among the top 15 states with the highest concentration of veterans making up approximately 10.8% of the population? We all know many of them chose to retire here, but they are still our hometown heroes. The goal of the Arizona State Homes is "for each veteran to attain or maintain his or her highest practicable physical, mental and psychosocial well-being." The Homes not only provide skilled nursing care, they offer services to make sure each veteran receives the benefits they earned. The goal of the President's Special Project is to help with the psychosocial well-being aspect creating a homelike atmosphere.

I have heard of two units holding 50's Sock Hop type events as fundraisers. Those are always fun events for the whole Legion Family. Let me know what your unit is doing! I am always open to any questions you may have, and I love hearing about your units.

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

VA & R

December 2022

Hello fellow members and Happy December!

It was awesome to see so many of you at our Fall Conference. I hope that you learned a lot and had a great time.

The holiday season is in full force and December is VA & R Month. While the season is a busy one for us all, remember that our hometown hero Veterans need our help. If you can find the time to volunteer for a Gift Shop, at your nearby AZ State Home, your local VA hospital or shelter/food bank, please do so as more help is needed at this time. Remember to track your volunteer hours to be reported in our year end reports (May 2023).

VA&R Key Program Statements:

- Support rehabilitation and healing of Veterans through arts, crafts, and hobbies.
- Support Veteran caregivers, family members and survivors.
- Recruit Auxiliary members as VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) volunteers at VA health care facilities.
- Help The American Legion, State Department of Veterans Affairs and Chamber of Commerce promote job fairs for veterans and their families.
- There isn't a VA hospital close to your community? Find opportunities for Auxiliary members to serve Veterans in your area such as serving the homeless.

Please visit www.ALAforVeterans.org and sign up with your membership number. There are SO many resources on our National ALA site for your Unit to use to support your VA&R programs at your Unit and District levels. Additionally, most of the ALA programs have Facebook pages and the information to access those pages are on our National website. The VA & R page can be searched on Facebook by searching American Legion Auxiliary Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R). All program groups on FB are for members only and they will ask you a few questions to make sure you are a member. Please answer the questions and they will accept you very quickly.

For God and Country,

Stacey Mayberry

Department 2nd Vice President

Contact Info: e-mail: mayberry.stacey@gmail.com Ph: 702-403-4903

Address: 9139 W. Harmony Ln Peoria, AZ 85382

Service to Veterans

December 2022

Hello fellow Auxiliary members,

"Our debt to the heroic men and valiant women in the service to our country can never be repaid. They have earned our undying gratitude. America will never forget their sacrifices." ~Harry Truman

Hello ALA members,

Service to Veterans started as Field Service and Home Service but was combined in 2014 to encompass both. Service to veterans is any service you provide to a veteran inside or outside of the home. Taking a vet to the doctor, shopping or running errands, spending time visiting with a vet, helping out with choirs, playing cards, cooking a meal or just listening to them counts toward your hours for reporting. **We can now include spouses in these hours.**

These hours are accumulative and are recorded and kept **per member** on an ongoing basis since 2014. You can earn hour bars for your continued hours of service. PLEASE PLEASE send me your hours of service on a MONTHLY basis! Please download the Service to Veterans monthly reporting page for members and for units on our department website, ALADEPTAZ.ORG you can email me or send in snail mail to me or to Department. Please give these to your members to fill out at your monthly meeting. Thank you for all you do!

Sara C. Decker

Service to Veterans Chairman

Saradeckeraz@gmail.com

480-580-3269

UNIT

[illegible]

SERVICE TO VETERANS

Member Name

Unit#

[illegible]

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO OUR VETERANS

American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Arizona

Carl T. Hayden Medical Center Gift Shop

December 2022

We have not forgotten all that you have done to make the gift shop a success over the years. Each unit contributes in their own way. If your Unit sends a check to the Department of Arizona or if your Unit decides to shop for yourself, both are greatly appreciated. If you do shop for yourself, please bring your receipts in to me and I will give you receipts. I need the original receipts for the auditor. Thanks in advance.

The set up date for this year is Sunday December 4th. from 10 am until we are done. Opening ceremony will be December 5th at 9am. Everyone is welcome. The Veterans will shop on December 5th, 6th and 7th from 9am until 3pm. The place we will meet is LUKE GREENWAY POST #1. We cannot meet at the hospital again as they are still on lockdown. If there is any change we will meet there. We serve lots more veterans at the hospital because we have no transportation from the hospital to the post and back. We are trying to work that out this year. We have contacted one place that has transportation. They tell us they will bring their residents. This means we are making some headway in getting Veterans transportation.

Volunteers are needed every day we are open. If you have never helped out at the giftshop, you don't know what you are missing. Come check it out. You will be glad you did. It is a wonderful way to thank the veterans for service to our country. It also makes your Christmas seem brighter. There is no set time you have to be there. If you can only come an hour, it's ok. Every hour counts. The volunteers get coffee and snacks in the morning and free lunch to show how much we appreciate their help.

Thank you all in advance. I can't wait to work with all of you again this year. Your unit may advertise about the giftshop. All veterans are welcome to shop for their immediate family for free. Be sure to tell the veteran, To enter the building they must show their VA HOSPITAL MEDICAL CARD.

Once again please feel free to call me. Leave me a message, I will return your call.

For God and Country, Joyce Livingston, Chairman

Phone # 520-525-2261

Thanks once again Madam President Barbara White for this assignment.

God Bless you all.

2022 Prescott ALA Whipple Christmas Gift Shop Northern Arizona VA Health Care System (NAVAHCS)



Gift Distribution is scheduled for December 14, 2022. We are planning for 100 Veterans in the Domiciliary (DOM) and 20 in the Community Living Center (CLC). While we are not able to provide a shopping experience, Veterans in the DOM will be receiving expandable back packs stuffed with a fleece blanket, socks, hygiene supplies, stocking cap, \$5 gift card to the Canteen and treats. Distribution will be done by a small group of invited guests who will also serve a special dessert during lunch. Any excess gifts will be given out as new admissions arrive.

The group will then move on to the Community Living Center to visit and pass out individualized gifts and refreshments to those Veterans. They will also receive a holiday bag stuffed with items like what the Dom receives.

I would like to thank those units that supported us with \$2,200 in donations in 2022 - #4, #6, #135, #57, #22, #25, 8th District American Legion and AL Post 108. You have made it possible for me to go ahead and prepare for this year. This event is so important to our Veterans at this time of year, so we do need Units to step up and support the Whipple Gift Shop. Donations are accepted all year long so please consider helping us out. We really do want to continue to share the holiday spirit of giving with the Veterans who receive their care through the Prescott VA. Monetary donations should be sent to Department, earmarked for Prescott.

NOTE: For those of you who would like to support the Prescott VA in other ways, our needs include NEW warmer clothing – all sizes long sleeve t shirts, sweatshirts, sweatpants, hoodies, and jackets. Also new Queen/Twin sheets, blankets, cleaning products, toilet paper, paper towels for those Veterans moving into housing. Also, Recreation Therapy staff always appreciate monetary donations or gift cards to places like Walmart, restaurants and movie theaters.

Items we do NOT need right now include lap robes, Afghans, knit hats, socks, women clothing, and those tiny “hotel” size hygiene products.

Thank you, President Barbara for this appointment.

Patricia (Trish) Aljets
Chairman, Whipple Gift Shop
928-632-2290



Tucson SAVAHCS Christmas Gift Shop
Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System
American Legion Auxiliary Units of Southern Arizona

7,8,10,11,16,19,24,28,32,36,45,46,51,52,54,56,59,66,68,73,95,97,109,125,129,131,132,133

I'll be home for Christmas the soldiers say, as they bow their heads and begin to pray, that the war would be over one day. There'll be no snow, no mistletoe, or presents round the tree, but I'll be home for Christmas, only in my memories.

From the trenches of Europe, the jungles of Viet Nam, to the desert sands of Afghanistan. They heard the call, they came one and all, to help their fellow man.

So many of our precious heroes will be away from home for the holidays again, some suffering their last illnesses in hospital, others who have no home.

Now it's time for us, to remember their sacrifice.

Even though we can't visit with them, it's so important to let them know they are not forgotten.

The Tucson VA Gift shop will be held on Tuesday, December 13th. We will meet at Building 4, 9:00 a.m. Parking is available in Lot Q.

To those Units who have so generously gave, thank you, thank you, thank you.

So, let's roll up our sleeves and let them believe that there is a Santa Claus.

Please make your check payable to ALA Department of Arizona, and in the memo section designate it for the Tucson VA Gift Shop. Do not mail your check to me, mail it to Department.

Madame President, I really appreciate your appointing me to this very special committee.

Kathy Roche, Chairperson

Tucson VA Gift Shop

VA&R REPORT
TUCSON VA MEDICAL CENTER
December 2022

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. 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 donation from the American Legion Auxiliary. Thank you to Units 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 October 31, 2022 is \$7,095.00. 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 October 31, 2022 is \$5,448.27. Thank you Unit 7, 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 October 31, 2022 is 442.5. We have on-boarded two new volunteers whose hours will benefit the American Legion Auxiliary.

This chairman has volunteered 96 hours and logged 1,020 miles this year in service to the Tucson VA Medical Center as of October 31, 2022. 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 November 8, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Szakonyi, VAVS Representative

AZ STATE VETERANS HOME – PHOENIX
December 2022

Hi Everyone,

Christmas is coming this month and the AZ State Veterans Home has 75 Veteran Residents who are looking forward to the amazing gifts we deliver to them and the amount of love they receive.

Every year Dixie Becker (ALA & Rider Apache Unit 27) organizes the Christmas Stars Program for our residents at the AZ State Veterans Home in Phoenix and this year is no different. I do not organize that program, so please work with Dixie if you or your Unit are interested in participating or attending. Since Dixie works during the day, please contact her directly after 2:00 pm at 480-251-3424. She responds to her voicemails after work hours.

This year the delivery date is **Sunday DECEMBER 18th at 2:00 pm**. The delivery date and time is set by the AZ STATE VETERANS HOME staff, is not flexible, and is scheduled based on the needs of the Veteran residents and staff availability. We go as a singular group, so please **DO NOT GO OUTSIDE OF THE SCHEDULED TIME**. Apparently, this has happened in the past and this amazing program is in jeopardy because of it. For some of these Veterans, our gifts of love is all they receive. Sadly, they do not all have family members who can help make their holidays enjoyable. Let's work together to make it amazing for them.

Dixie will have individual wish list items on the stars, however, gift cards are the most highly sought after item. Unfortunately, our Veteran Residents have been "house bound" for a huge percentage of the last two years because of all the Covid stuff and they are just now being allowed to go on outings again. They have been asking for gift cards to Harkins Theaters and all the major sporting events. When they are able to go to restaurants, they usually go to Applebee's, Texas Roadhouse, or the Olive Garden and of course they love Starbucks, Wendy's and McDonalds on special treat days. For their everyday needs they love Amazon, Walmart, Target, and Visa or Mastercard that don't have a usage fee attached. Gift cards in any amount are all greatly appreciated but if you can start at \$25 and increase from there, that would be amazing!!!

December & January birthdays are listed below. Please mail all cards 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.

December:

12th Jim Sa. 17th John "Ken" J. 18th Michael St. 23rd Andrew S. 26th John D.

January:

12th Hubert H. 25th James C.

Our Veterans feel loved because of everything you are doing. Until next time, keep being the phenomenal humans you are. Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays

Cat Ludwick, Chair ASVH-PHX
480-226-3967
Cat4vets@gmail.com

AZ STATE VETERANS HOME – TUCSON

DECEMBER 2022

One of the areas needing assistance is in the **library** where they have over 3,000 books and movies. Since COVID there has been no one to assist with keeping everything organized or to help in checking books/movies out and in so they have been placed on shelves in no particular order. If anyone is willing to donate some time, please let me know.

The **Gift Shop** is another area where volunteers are needed. At this time, it is only open 2 days a week due to lack of volunteers. If you are able to assist on any day of the week, please let me know.

Assistance is also needed for **Bingo**. This would be on Mondays and Tuesdays. Bingo is one of the times that the residents are allowed to gather together as a group, while the wearing of masks.

If someone wishes to donate some time at the Home, there is a need for escorts to walk residents over to the VA so they can visit the Cantina.

I still need Units to step up and volunteer to bring cupcakes and ice cream cups for the monthly birthday party at the Home. This is the 3rd Tuesday of each month. They appreciated the cupcakes and ice cream in October, thank you Unit 36. Unit 36 President, Jennifer Dillon, has donated the cupcakes and ice cream cups for November on behalf of the Southern AZ Book Heroes. Unit 131 will have December covered. I still need some units to help with January, February, March, April & May. Please contact me if you can help with any of those months.

There are 76 men and 9 women residents at the Tucson State Veteran Home at this time. They are starting to take applications to get back to full capacity (which is 120 residents). Residents have gone to the Zoo and a local museum plus some local restaurants. Please consider purchasing gift cards to help offset the cost of outings. ALL gift cards are very much appreciated but they really do like Walmart to shop for special items.

To volunteer at the Tucson State Veteran Home, you must be fully vaccinated against COVID and you will be required to wear a mask at all times. Please remember to mark on your donations which AZ State Veteran Home you wish your donation to go toward. Also if it is for the President's Special Project since it will cover bigger and pricier items.

VETERANS – Our Hometown Hero's

Bonni Distler

Department Chairman – Arizona State Veteran Home – Tucson

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