



**Book of Reports**  
**Centennial Celebration**  
**2019-2020**

Thank you to the Units who reported their Centennial activities this past year. Reporting was not as good as I had hoped even though COVID-19 pandemic was responsible for curtailing our activities. We hope that this has given you time to plan more activities this coming year. The National organization is planning a week-long celebration of our heritage at the 2021 National Convention in Phoenix.

## CHAPLAIN

The 2019-2020 year for this Chaplain has been very rewarding but very challenging. As you know, we've all been affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. With everything associated with Covid-19, this Chaplain did not receive many reports. This is understandable being that many Units are not assembling due to meeting suspensions and illness. Out of 87 Units in the Department of Arizona 41 or 47% reported to this Chaplain. This Chaplain only received one District Chaplain Report or 10% for all Districts.

Numbers reported below are going to be significantly lower than last year because of the pandemic impact on our State and Nation and the lack of End of Year Reports:

- 41 members of this Department passed away this year. 22 Units held Memorial services for those that passed, and Units draped their Charter 31 times in honor of their departed members.
- 265 birthday cards were sent to the State Veterans Home. birthday cards were sent to 157 Unit members.
- 18,000+ Christmas Cards were sent to active military troops overseas through the Military Assistance Mission and the work of several Units.
- 168 Sympathy cards were sent to families.
- 384 Get Well cards and were sent out.
- 223 Thinking of You cards were sent to members and their families.
- 11 Units held Four Chaplains services.
- 56 Units participated in Veterans day
- No reporting received regarding Unit participation in Memorial Day Services and 4<sup>th</sup> of July Activities due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions.

This Chaplain has received approximately 18 prayers for the Department President's Prayer Book. The Prayer book will be presented at the 2020-2021 Department Convention and will consist of prayers received in both years.

For God and Country,

Stacey Mayberry

Chaplain

Department of Arizona

## **Community Service**

### **Year-end Report**

#### **2019-2020**

The American Legion Auxiliary members of Arizona provided many hours of their time and money to assist various people and organizations throughout the State of Arizona. The members are proud of their accomplishments in serving their community. Out of the 85 Units in Arizona, 27 reported back. Due to the current pandemic, it has been tough to get accurate data due to not having our meetings.

Members are busy volunteering at Shelters, food banks, StandDowns, Veterans Commemorative project, VA Hospitals, Fisher House, MANA House, Elections, schools, Veterans Community Centers and in the community at large.

Unit 11 in Douglas, AZ have been hard at work at the Veterans Commemorative Project. They opened a new addition called the "Wall of Faces" that showcases over 260 names of our men and women who were awarded a Purple Heart. Unit 11 also made "Centennial Care Kits" with Toiletries, food items and \$5.00 gift cards. These were given to the local Fire and Police Department as a way to help our President's Special Project, "serving those behind the Badge". Patrolmen hand them out to our homeless and those in need. Unit 11 is also involved with their school district and programs including flag etiquette, American Education Week, Teacher Appreciation and other programs. They also sponsor a progressive dinner, in which participants travel from church to church. Funds raised are donated to the House of Hope, Domestic Shelter. Unit 11 partners with the Rotary Club to sponsor American Education week, Americanism Essay Contest and the Poppy Poster contest.

Many Centennial Celebrations were planned and held throughout the year, unfortunately, many of these were canceled due to the pandemic. Unit 35 and Unit 91 were awarded a Proclamation from the Mayor of the City of Chandler, naming November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019 as the American Legion Auxiliary Centennial Day in the City of Chandler.

Many Units participated in community beautification. Several of the small towns take pride in their clean up days. In addition to community beautification, plastic bottles and cans were collected and the money collected was used for various programs. Community beautification can be a money maker for Units.

Several members from different Units participated in the CERT training.

Units held community-wide drives for toiletries, personal care items, cards, games and munchies so care packages can be sent to deployed troops. This includes drives to send Girls Scout cookies to the troops. Many holiday cards were handmade and signed for our deployed Servicemen and sent overseas.

Many Units clipped and collected coupons to send to military bases overseas. Apache Unit 27 clipped and collected coupons well over \$60,000 in value. Unit 27 were pleased to donate hundreds of books to the VA Home and the VA Hospital. Members donated their time to read to the Veterans and have heartfelt conversations with them. Unit 27 assists with the Genesis Project to provide meals to the homeless.

Several Units adopted families during the holidays. Many children had a nice Christmas thanks to the generosity of Post families. Several Units held food drives for their local food banks during the Holidays. Unit 91 and Unit 35 holds by-annual food drive challenges for Matthews Crossing Foodbank. Last September, The American Legion 91 family won by donating 5,343 pounds of nonperishables, The American Legion 35 family donated an impressive 2,395 pounds.

Cards, books, and puzzles were donated to the Phoenix VA Home and the Phoenix VAMC.

Many Units hold school supply drives. Paper, pens, pencils, rulers, disinfecting wipes, hand sanitizer, tissues, scissors, crayons, colored pencils and other supplies are collected from members. Post families donate to the fund and Auxiliary members do the shopping.

Wayne V. McMartin Unit 91 receives a special request of socks and underwear every year from their school, Hartford Elementary. Many times the kids come to school with no socks.

Poppy making parties were held by Units teaching, not only how to make the Poppy, but the meaning behind it. Poppies are distributed in many places by Units.

Unit 6 in Prescott, held rummage and bake sales. They help transport Veterans and family members to Doctor appointments, shopping and running other errands. Unit 6 members donate their time at the information desk at the VA Hospital, volunteered at the blood bank, VA Pharmacy along with many other places. They assisted in Kids Vision USA and at the Creative Arts Festival along with many other volunteering opportunities.

Flag raising ceremonies were held on Memorial Day, July 4th, Veterans Day and Pearl Harbor Day by Unit 62. Unit 62 in Sun City, gave out 100 books, titled "Reluctant Police Dog" to elementary school children and the Peoria library.

Unit 42 members knitted scarves and caps, some were donated to the Flagstaff Medical Center Cancer Unit and some were given to low income families and children in need. over 1200 hours were donated to this project. Unit 42 also held a breakfast for First Responders from the Grand Canyon National Park, Tusayan, Coconino Sheriff, Arizona Department of Public Safety and Guardian Medical.

Many Units have recently been involved in helping during the Covid-19 outbreak. Many members are making masks and delivering them to the VA hospital and those in need of them. Members are checking in on those that cannot get out. Members are shopping, running errands and doing anything that they can including making phone calls and checking in with their members. it is truly heartwarming how much outpouring of love and kindness is being shared.

The numbers below show the dedication the members have to the American Legion Auxiliary and how Arizona ALA is helping out in the community.

**Total Miles Driven: 88,885   Total Money Spent: \$78,788   Total Hours Spent: 66,712**

The 27 Units that reported have been busy supporting their communities. The love for their communities shows in the numbers reported. Included are pictures that Units have shared while busy in the community.

Sara Decker  
Community Service Chairman  
Department of Arizona

**BOOK OF REPORTS 2019-2020**  
**CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS**  
**AND**  
**STANDING RULES**

The year was 2019 and the American Legion Auxiliary Constitution & Bylaws were provided many changes per our National Organization. All Departments and Units were to make changes to their C&B as had been directed by the National American Legion at the August 2019 National Convention

1. The Preamble will be updated. The words "Great Wars" will be changed to "All Wars".
2. The Auxiliary eligibility will be updated.
3. The American Legion Auxiliary is **no longer a female organization**. The mail spouse of a female veteran is now eligible to join the American Legion Auxiliary; of course the female veteran must belong to the American Legion. These males that can join the Auxiliary are now eligible to attend the Auxiliary meetings, have a say, vote and hold an office.
4. All areas in the C&B and Standing Rules must be updated to - she/he or her/him - No longer can a line state she or her.

I asked every unit to update their C&B with the mandated changes from National (needs no vote from their Unit) and provide a copy to me. I have received 15 from within the state of Arizona and only 2 were correct. I have left messages for the Unit C&B to be updated but have not received all the updated ones. Hopefully this will be handled soon.

So whether you are a brand new unit starting fresh or an established unit updating your C&B and Standing Rules learn to treat your governing documents with the respect they deserve.

Standing Rules may have the same importance as C&B with Standing Rules, but they have flexibility to be changes as often as desired to keep up with current times.

As an analogy, the Constitution is the BONES of the body, the Bylaws is the SKIN, and the Standing Rules are the MAKEUP we wear.-something that can be changes often.

Ginger Cox  
Dept. of AZ C&B Chairman

## DISTRICT 3

Unit 11 - Our American Legion family hosted a Centennial Celebration in September. The Auxiliary had a Membership table & signed up several renewals & new members. Several bands provided music all day & food was served. For our Centennial project we prepared Centennial Care Kits for our first responders. We collected sample toiletries & gift cards for food. 100 Care kits were delivered to the Douglas Police Department & Fire Department to give the homeless & others in need. Members built a 3 tier fake cake to celebrate the American Legion Auxiliary's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was presented at Fall Conference & it was a hit!

Unit 52 - The Auxiliary continues to host Taco Night once a week. The annual Children's Christmas party was held with Santa arriving on the Copper Train. A donation of \$800 was given to the Sierra Vista Police for their annual "Shop with a Cop."

Unit 45 - Members do flag presentations to kindergarten classes. 124 flags were given at three schools. Members rode in the Christmas Light parade on a Pearl Harbor float. Along with the American Legion & the Marine Corp League to adopt a military family for Christmas. Several Auxiliary members volunteer for various community events.

All units continue to serve our veterans & their families by donating & serving meals at their posts. They also transport to doctor appointments, & visit hospitalized veterans & care centers.

When the pandemic hit in March it changed everyone's way of life. But still members reach out & help in any way they can.

I am also very proud of Unit 11 & Unit 24 for reaching over 100% membership!

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Berg, President

District 3

**American Legion Auxiliary District #3  
Hosted by Unit #52, January 12, 2020**

Joint Opening 100pm by District 3 Commander, Steve Chavez

Opening Prayer by Chaplain, District 3

Moment of Silence observed followed by The Pledge of Allegiance and The Preamble

Roll Call Officers answering roll call were, President Nancy Berg, Vice President Christine Katzenberger, Treasurer Karen Smith, Secretary Maggie Montijo, Chaplain Mary Musich, and Historian Jean Davis

Unit Role Call            #11-4   #16-0            #24-2            #45-2            #52-2

Introduction of Dignitaries: Patricia Lugo, Department President, Jennie Molina, Dept Vice President, Membership Chairman and Karen Smith, PDP, Department Centennial Chairperson

Minutes from November 3, 2019 approved as read

**Reports:**

**President Report**– In December I made my first official visit to Unit 24 in Tombstone. It was announced at that meeting they had reached 100% membership. Also, in December I made my official visit to Unit 11, my unit, in Douglas. They had a Christmas Party and potluck dinner, great food, of course! It was very interesting to visit other posts and I'm looking forward to visiting the other three units. Unit 11 also reached 100% membership on December 31<sup>st</sup>. I am very confident that our other 3 units will also reach 100%. I assisted in complete the Centennial Care Kits for our first responders, 50 kits were delivered to the Douglas Police Department and 20 kits were delivered to the Douglas Fire Department by the Department Centennial Chairman Karen Smith and Unit President Iliana Solis. I continue to volunteer at Fort Huachuca servicing active duty military and their families as well as the community. Respectfully submitted, Nancy Berg, President District 3

**Vice President Report** –The Auxiliary welcome eligible make spouses of veterans and service members to the American Legion Family. The ALA is taking applications for new potential members as of September 1, 2019. Membership is everyone's job. Legion Act has opened the window of eligibility from 12-07-1941 through today. Write "other conflict" on your applications until the new forms comes from National. Send in your Unit's renewals as soon as possible otherwise they cannot be submitted to National for totals. As of the December packet, District 3 is at 54.72% of Goal. Great job all units! Respectfully submitted – Chris Katzenberger, District 3 Vice President

**Treasurer's Report** – Balance brought forward \$328.14

Deposits–Unit #11 Per Capita \$123/ Unit #45 Per Capita \$54/ Unit #24 Per Capita \$377/ Unit #24 Raffle \$25

Balance as of January 12, 2020 \$907.14

**Chaplain Report** – Special prayers for Jennie’s brother, Celedonio “Gordo” Reyes and Marsha Shull Unit 45 member. Send prayer requests and any prayers for the prayer book.

Centennial Chair Karen Smith – is selling Centennial Pins for sale \$5 each if you would like one

**Unit Reports**

**Unit 11** – no report

**Unit 16** – no report

**Unit 24** – no report

**Unit 45** – attached report

**Unit 52** – Attached report

**Unfinished business** – Mission Training we are working for it to be held at the end of March, either Saturday or Sunday more information will be sent out on a confirmed date.

Centennial Celebrations, Unit 45 will be holding a Dinner and Dance April 25, 2020 at the VFW in Benson, flyers to come with more information.

**New Business**

Welcome Patricia Lugo, Department President, thank you for the welcome. She welcomed the National President to Arizona. Visits were made to the 3 VA Hospitals here in Arizona. She appreciates everyone working on her special projects, all the meet and great dinners, she has been learning a lot about the units and doing quite a bit of traveling. Membership is going well all over the country we are up 20,000, from last year. We have 400 males currently as ALA members in the nation. Mission training in Las Vegas, it has been interesting meeting new Legion family members from all over. We will have a Breakfast-Lunch-Dinner for our 1<sup>st</sup> Responders on February 8, 2020 at Post 41, everyone is invited to attend. We have a lot of Veterans that our 1<sup>st</sup> Responders. Gov. Ducey will be giving a Proclamation for the auxiliary. Please make sure you get your reservations for convention at the Mesa Marriott.

**Announcements-**

Lunch to be served after meeting

Next meeting March 15, 2020 1pm Post 141 Sunsites, (VFW 114 N Ford St Pearce, AZ)

Convention June 25-28, 2020 Mesa Marriot

Closing Prayer – Mary Musich

Adjournment – 1:3 PM

Respectfully Submitted by Maggie Montijo, District 3, Secretary



## District 6 Report 2019-2020

I have really learn a lot more than I thought I knew this year. But we were also able to elect a full compliment of officers this year. I was able to visit 5 of our 7 Units and a few Units more than once. Also I visited 1 unit that wanted to know the steps to returning after their three years have expired. I have kept in touch with all Units by phone and e-mail.

We had one Unit nominated by their community for Organization of the Year for all they have contributed to their town in time and money especially to children programs. They also feed 500 Veterans lunch yearly During the “Run for the Wall”. Another Unit and Post joined together to donated approximately \$15,000 worth of food to assist the community during the Covid-19 crisis.

All our units have collected food and clothing for the homeless; sponsored dinners for our area Veterans and left hand made cards at the Show Low VA Clinic. Many have contributed new clothing and money to Whipple. We have visited Veterans in Nursing Home Several times this year. We have participated in educating our children in the classrooms on the flag; patriotism and our Veterans. One of our Units holds an Annual Toy and Coat Drive. This is a two week long event to assist families in their community.

We have represented ourselves at all parades in our areas. We distribute and educated the communities and the Poppy and its meaning.

Many of us assisted with placing Flags at Veteran's graves and this year we became part of an ever growing team of units raising money and placing Wreaths on Veterans Graves during the annual Wreaths Across America Campaign.

We were planning a Mission Training and Veterans Art Festival but the Covid-19 delayed that. We hope to have our 100 Year Celebration this June. We plan to restart our membership drive this Fall. And lastly I would like to thank POST 31 for assisting in breathing new life into Unit 31.

Respectfully,  
Kathleen Chamberlain  
District 6 President

**Education  
Year-End Report  
Department of Arizona**

Unfortunately, the activities in this program were affected by the school shutdown in March due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Despite this, the Auxiliary Education projects in the Department of Arizona were extremely successful. Twenty-two Units in the Department of Arizona reported activity in the Education program, with approximately 1182 Auxiliary members, 71 Junior members, and 142 Legion members participating. This Chairman informed the Units and Districts about the Education program via information packets distributed at the Department Fall Conference, as well as bulletins in the monthly Department newsletters.

Units participated in American Education Week by providing lunch, cookies, and treats to teachers at local schools along with Thank You notes for teacher appreciation. Thank you cards were also sent to staff members, including school nurses, custodians, and bus drivers. School supplies and backpacks were distributed to children at local schools. Units presented videos and booklets on flag etiquette and Halloween safety, collected school supplies, and donated craft supplies. Schools were presented U.S. flags and Arizona state flags to replace old flags in front of schools and in classrooms.

Units participated in the *Give 10 to Education* program by providing school supplies and educational materials to schools. Members of all Post entities donated either school supplies or money toward purchase of school supplies. Backpacks, notebooks, journals, paper, tissue, stickers, crayons, pencils, pens, glue, story books, toiletries, and shoes were collected and distributed to local schools. School wish lists were fulfilled.

All Units reporting also assisted needy students in a number of ways. Clothes and school supplies were donated and delivered to a school district clothing bank where every student in need has access to free goods. Food pantries were stocked. Members made and distributed backpacks while feeding families of needy students at the local food bank. Christmas Angels worked with local schools to provide gifts, toys, and food baskets for needy students. Units also delivered Christmas and Thanksgiving food baskets.

Units reported awarding 27 Unit scholarships, totaling \$16,930. Units raised funds for scholarships in a number of ways including dinners, raffles, contests, and sales. National scholarship applications and information were published in monthly Unit correspondence newsletters. Applications were delivered to local high schools through the mail and in person. Units delivered information regarding the Past Presidents Parley nursing scholarship to community colleges and assisted with the Arizona State University's Veterans Program. Copies of the applications for the *Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship*, the *Non-Traditional Student Scholarship* and *The Spirit of Youth Scholarship* were included in informational packets distributed at the Department Fall Conference. Two applications for the *Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship* were received by the Department. A Department winner was selected and forwarded to the Western Division Education Chairman. All applicants received letters thanking them for their application and informing them of the outcome. The Department winner will receive a \$25 cash award sent in the mail, due to the cancelation of the Department Convention.

The Department of Arizona has established the *Wilma Hoyal/Maxine Chilton Memorial Scholarship*. There are three scholarships of \$1000.00 available annually: one to Arizona State University, one to The University of Arizona, and one to Northern Arizona University. This scholarship is renewable provided the student meets the outlined criteria. Recipients must be enrolled as second year or upper-division students in Political Science, Public Programs, or Special Education.

Units involved the Legionnaires, the Sons and the Legion Riders in donating time, school supplies, money and manpower to all of the Education and Children's programs. Members of these groups also participated in Veterans Day programs at local schools. Legionnaires gave interviews and spoke at assemblies at elementary schools. They assisted with Halloween safety programs, Christmas parties, and Easter parties. Legionnaires acted as judges for an essay contest and attended the awards ceremony.

A number of Units reported presenting "Veterans in the Classroom" programs. Veterans and their wives visited elementary schools for interviews and attended a concert. Veterans spoke at assemblies and in classrooms about the Poppy story, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day. Schools honored veterans on Veterans Day with flags, songs and videos. Units presented programs on the accomplishments of our Veterans by honoring veterans on Veterans Day at local schools.

All Units reporting used many community resources or activities to assist students, teachers or support personnel. Units participated in National Night Out promoting neighborhood safety. Monetary donations were made to a local mentoring program, Junior ROTC awards, Girls State, Girls Scouts, Cub Scouts, baseball teams, Special Olympics, a Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) program, and Christmas family baskets. Units reported participating in programs sponsored by local credit unions, food banks and thrift stores.

The Department of Arizona offers the **JEAN BATLEY PLAQUE** for Units with membership of 150 and under and the **CHRYSTEEN FRITZINGER PLAQUE** for Units with membership of 151 and over. The purpose of these awards is to stimulate interest in good participation in the Education program of the American Legion Auxiliary by giving recognition to the Unit which makes the most use of the available ideas in education, scholarship and loan possibilities.

The Department of Arizona recognizes that our young people are our future and a good education is the key to their success. The members of the Department of Arizona are devoted to contributing to this success.

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie M. Vietri  
Julie M. Vietri  
Education Chairman  
Department of Arizona

(970 words)



American Legion Auxiliary  
Arizona  
**Girls State**

Two Hundred seventy-eight, young women from one hundred forty-four High Schools throughout Arizona were scheduled to attend American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State at the University of Arizona in Tucson from June 7-13, 2020.

Girl State delegate information was to be in by March 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, most schools were going on Spring Break and then something we had not planned for happened. **CORONAVIRUS**...Life as we knew it took on another dimension and with it came actions that we had never imagined had to happen. Schools were closed and everyone was asked to stay home. National and Department Legion and Auxiliary activities started to be cancelled. We took a wait and see attitude if this year's session of American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State would be cancelled too. If this happened, we needed a plan.

After much soul searching and core group of staff brainstorming, we decided to do a virtual Girls State, if the regular session at the University was cancelled. Easiest thing would be to cancel but at a loss to the education of the delegates. Many said we should just cancel and it will never work. We are so grateful for all the patience shown as we waited to see how Girl State would proceed this year and for listening to our plans with open minds. Then the University cancelled all student activities programs for the summer. There was our answer. If Girls State was to happen, it would be virtual.

Two Hundred Fifty delegated have signed up to attend the virtual program. We thank the chairman for their help again in making those numbers happen. American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State is a "Citizenship Education Program", that education will continue this year as well as some social interaction though the computer session. We will be electing a Governor and Secretary of State to set the ground work for next year's session. A Girls State Handbook will be mailed to each delegate attending prior to the start of the program. Programs of the Auxiliary will be promoted as they are in a regular session. Plans are for each delegate, after completing the program, to receive an Arizona Girls State pin, certificate and t-shirt. Through brainstorming, more and more things are being introduced into the planned session.

Now you know the start of the story but will have to wait for the rest....We anxiously await to see how this will all work out!

We will continue to promote enrollment for Girls State Alumni Association and "Friends of Girls State" for the cost of \$2.00.

We thank each of you for your **dedicated service and assistance** to the Girls State program. **Extra Donations** (Not Girls State Fee...those sent through Department) please note, Girls State is **MOST** grateful for. **MANY THANKS** on behalf of the Program.

We cannot wait to tell you the rest of this year's story. Until then.....

Penny Maklary...Chairman/Director

Committee Members: Judy Van Matre...Alisha Matteson...Mary Jo Ficklin

HISTORY  
BOOK OF REPORTS  
2019-2020

Across the great state of Arizona, ALA units have been busy, working not only the ALA programs, but also celebrating 100 of Service. Unfortunately, I received only 4 mid-year reports, and 13 Year end reports. So after going through unit Facebook pages and minutes that 5 units have sent in this is all I have.

- 5 Districts, and 20 units held Centennial Celebrations most of which were picnics and outdoor gatherings where the public was invited
- 10 Units worked VA Gift shops in their area
- 10 Units held Veterans Day potlucks and/or were involved in community parades and activities
- 4 Units helped less fortunate veterans or active duty military with Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets
- 1 Unit has an ALA Color Guard and they posted colors at 12 community events
- 4 Units hosted a First Responder Event. (Breakfast, Dinners etc)
- One Unit hosted Heal her Art if not at a VA then virtually
- At least 10 members made masks during the quarantine
- Members volunteered at food banks across the State

Corona virus brought all of our lives to a screeching halt. But members called, texted and emailed members to check on each other. We are all a little crazier because of this, but we are still fun, and we all can't wait to go back to our post homes and get back to work.

For God and Country

Rose

# **BOOK OF REPORTS**

## **LEGISLATIVE 2019 - 2020**

At the end of the 2020 year, the Department of Arizona had 18 out of 86 Units actively working the Legislative Program. There were four Units that had nothing to report, but contacted the Chairman with an update. One Unit did not work the program, but sent in a report stating such. Out of the 18 reports, only one included some type of narrative and met the guidelines for an award.

The committee educated members in the legislative issues promoted by the American Legion, by sharing with members in the Department Monthly Bulletins upcoming legislation the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary supports, how to find polling locations, and newly elected officials and their contact information. Information was also shared on social media.

There were no special legislative meetings held. There were no legislative rallies held. There were four town hall meetings. Unit 81 (Robert A. Eckert), Unit 65 (Travis L. Williams), Unit 11 (Fred Hilburn), and Unit 27 (Apache). There were two Units that held a "Meet the Candidates Night", Unit 81 (Robert A. Eckert), and Unit 11 (Fred Hilburn). Three Units promoted and discussed the Dispatch at meetings and in emails. 19 subscriptions were purchased.

There were over 245 letters sent to US Senators, US Representatives, State Officials, Local Officials and the White House. There were over 186 other contacts with US Senators, US Representatives, State Officials, Local Officials, and the White House. There were over 129 replies received from US Senators, US Representatives, State Officials, Local Officials, and the White House. Several Units and Posts also have members that are State and Local officials.

Members connected and met personally with State and Local officials at rallies, and town hall meetings. Others made contact through phone calls, letters and emails. Some officials were invited to speak at Post special events and holiday functions. They were able to communicate with State and Local officials on a personal one on one level. Members discussed their concerns and issues they faced.

Units in the Department promoted and supported women veterans by donating funds to charitable organizations, encouraged women veterans to join the Auxiliary with paid memberships for the first year, held luncheons and sponsored Heal Her Art events.

In March members from the American Legion Department of Arizona and American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona Legislative Chairman attended the National Conference in Washington D.C. The Arizona delegation along with other delegations from the nation, stormed Capitol Hill to get Congress to pass legislation that the American Legion supports.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, National Convention and Department Conventions have been cancelled. Posts have been closed and Units have been unable to meet.

Department of Arizona Auxiliary members continue to advocate for veterans, active duty military and their family's rights.

For God and Country,

Stephanie M. McMullen

Chairman

## **AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY**

### **MEMBERSHIP JUNE 2020**

HI THERE TO ALL YOU WONDERFUL ARIZONA MEMBERS!!! WE ARE STILL BEING VERY CAREFUL OF HOW WE INTERACT WITH EACH OTHER. THIS COVID QUARANTEN HAS GREATLY AFFECTED OUR LIVES AND STILL WE GO ON.

I REALIZE WE HAVE NOT HAD A MEMBERSIP REPORT IN THE PAST BUT I SENT ONE OUT AND REQUESTED SOME INFORMATION. THE REASON FOR THIS WAS SEEKING INFORMATION ON HOW THE CHANGES BY NATIONAL AFFECTED OUR GOALS IN MEMBERSHIP. I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU THAT SENT ME REPORTS. I ESPECIALLY WANT TO THANK THE ONES WHO ANSWERED ON HOW THEY HAD INCORPORATED THE THEME STAYING ALIVE INTO BUILDING MEMBERSHIP THROUGH ACTIVIITES, PROMOTIONS AND BRANDING.

IT APPEARS THAT DUE TO THE CURRENT STATE WE WILL NOT BE HAVING CONVENTION AND NONE OF THE OTHER WONDERFUL ACTIVITES SHARED IN THE PAST. LAST JUNE I ASKED, DO WE NEED MEMBERSHIP? I AM OVERWHELMED HOW YOU HAVE RESPONDED. 96.16 % AT END OF APRIL. LET'S SHOOT FOR OVER 100 %. EVEN WITH ALL THE RESTRICTIONS, SOCIAL DISTANCING, AND STAY AT HOME ORDERS YOU MEMBERS HAVE OVERCOME. YOU HAVE CONTINUED TO PROVIDE FOR OUR VETERANS, OUR COMMUNITIES AND HELPED OUR ORGANIZATION GROW STRONGER.

MY HOPE IS THAT I WILL GET A CHANCE TO SEE YOU ALL IN NOVEMBER FOR FALL CONFERENCE AT THAT TIME WE WILL HAVE MORE UPDATES ON MEMBERSHIP CARRYING ONTO THE NEXT YEAR. WE DONE GREAT AND SO WELL THAT IF WE LOSE CHALLENGE TO THE LEGION AND THE SONS IT WILL BE A SURPRISE.

I CANNOT LEAVE WITHOUT SAYING SOMETHING ABOUT PRESIDENT PATRICIA'S SPECIAL PROJECT, SUPPORT FOR FIRST RESPONDERS. WHO KNEW LAST YEAR HOW THIS PROJECT WOULD BE HELPING OUR HEROS WHO HAVE BEEN PUTTING THEIR LIVES ON THE LINE ALONG WITH SO MNY OF OUR OTHER HEROS SUCH AS MEDICAL PROVIDERS AND ALL THOSE OTHERS WHO WORK TO PROVIDE THE NECESSITIES OF LIFE.

AGAIN THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU DO. GOD BLESS YOU AND GOD BLESS AMERICA.

JENNIE MOLINA

truelepa@gmail.com

DEPT OF AZ VICE PRESIDENT

P.O Box, 448 Douglas, Az 85608

MEMBRERSHIP CHAIRPERSON

(520) 220-6460

## MEMBERSHIP BOOK OF REPORTS

2019-2020

DURING THE WRITING OF THIS REPORT I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO LOOK BACK AT ALL THE WORK DONE BY WONERFUL AND CARING MEMBERS. TO SAY THIS YEAR WAS UNUSUAL IS A SMALL UNDER STATEMENT. WE MAY NOT BE ALIVE FOR CELEBRATING THE NEXT HUNDRED YEARS BUT WE SURE ARE FOR THE FIRST ONE HUNDRED.

WE WERE ALL SO EXCITED ABOUT THE CHANGES WE RECIEVED FROM NATIONAL AND THE NEW GOALS WE KNEW WE COULD MEET. OUR DEPARTMENT THEME *STAYING ALIVE* CAME ALIVE WITH ALL OF US DANCING AND SINGING TO BRING IN NEW MEMBERS. WE HAD A NUMBER OF UNITS THAT TOOK THE CHALLENGE AND HAD MALE AUXILARY MEMBERS JOIN FOR THE FIRST TIME BASED ON THIER VETERAN SPOUSES. THE RACE WAS ON TO WIN AWARDS . WE HAD INCENTIVES OF 10X10 NEW MEMBERS BY NOVEMBER 10TH, RECRUIT AND REJOIN 5 BY PRESIDENT'S DAY ON FEBRUARY 17 AND THE SECOND ON FLAG DAY ON JUNE 14, 2019. THERE WERE ALSO UNIT AWARDS FOR 100 % BY NOVEMBER 10TH, DEPARTMENT AWARDS FOR 75% OF GOAL BY PEARL HARBOR DAY AND 95% BY ARMED FORCES DAY.

I ASKED UNITS TO SEND ME A REPORT ON MEMBESHIP AND WHAT THEY DID TO PROMOTE RETENTION, RECRUITING AND BRINGING BACK OLD MEMBERS. TWENTY FIVE RESPONSES WERE RECEIVED. ONE OF THE MOST COMMON COMMENTS I RECIEVED IN BRINGING IN NEW MEMBERS WAS USING AN INVITING VOICE , HAVING A SMILE ON THE FACE AND MAKING THEM FEEL WELCOME. OTHERS USED INVITATIONS TO HELP OUT AS VOLUNTEERS AS A WAY OF SHOWING THE TRUE PURPOSE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY OF '*SERVICE NOT SELF*'. MEMBERSHIP CHARIRMEN SENT BACK IDEAS THEIR UNITS USED TO ENTICE NEW MEMBERSHIP. THESE ARE JUST SOME OF THE ACTIVITES REPORTED THAT WERE SUCCESFUL: SETTING UP TABLES WITH PAMPHLETS, POPPPIES AND GIVING INFORMATION THAT COULD BE TAKEN HOME AND REVIEWED AND SHARED WITH OTHERS. THESE TABLES WERE SET UP AT THE POST, AT OTHE LOCATIONS SUCH AS THE FARMER MARKETS AND OTHER SOCIAL EVENTS. OTHER UNTIS OFFERED REDUCED DUES FOR INITIAL JOINING OR RETENTION. INVITING GIRL STATE DELEGATES TO JOIN ALSO PROVED SUCCESSFUL IN SOME UNITS. AGAIN, THE ONE THING EMPHASIZED BY SUCCESSFUL UNITS REACHING GOALS WAS ALWAYS PRESENTING A FRIENDLY, POSITIVE, WELCOMING ENVIRONMENT.

OUR ORGANIZATION WAS GOING FULL STEAM AND THEN WE WERE HIT BY THE COVID PANDEMIC. WITH EFFORTS TO CONTROL THE DEVASTATION CAUSED BY THIS PANDEMIC OUR WORLD AS WE KNOW IT CAME TO A STOP. WITH STAY AT HOME ORDERS, SOCIAL DISTANCING AND FEARS OF SPREADING THIS VIRUS, RECRUITING WAS REDUCED. **BUT ONLY TEMPROARILY!** OUR MEMBERS FOUND WAYS TO REACH OUT TO OTHERS BY PHONE, SOICAL MEDIA, LETTERS AND ANYTHING ELSE AVAILABLE. BY CONTINUING TO PROVIDE SERVICES AS POSSILBE TO OUR VETERANS, COMMUNITY AND RECOGNIZING OUR FIRST RESPONDERS AND OTHER HEROS, WE WERE SEEN FOR OUR MOTTO OF *SERVICE NOT SELF* AND THAT ENCOURAGED OTHERS TO SEE WHAT WE STAND FOR AND JOIN.

THROUGH THE YEARS OUR MEMBERSHIP HAS DECREASED AND NOW WE ARE BACK ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY. IF WE SEE THIS PAST YEAR AS A POSITIVE STEP RATHER THAN FOCUSING ON THE NEGATIVE WE WILL USE THIS AS A MEANS FOR RECOGNIZING THE NEED FOR INCREASING OUR MEMBERSHIP AND *STAYING ALIVE, STAYING ALIVE, STAYING ALIIIIIVE!!!*





## ARIZONA MISSION TRAINING / LEADERSHIP

### YEAR END REPORT 2019-2020

Arizona held only three Mission Training Sessions: one mini session and two full sessions. Several other training sessions were scheduled but had to be cancelled due to various reasons but mostly due to forced compliance with COVID 19 issues.

The training information was divided into individual packets that cover: (1) Protocol and Parliamentary Procedures; (2) Professional Development 1.0 which includes information about the Pledge of Allegiance, Preamble, information on accessing the ALA National Website and training modules, computer safety and keyboard symbol access and Red Shirt Friday information; (3) Unit Officer Duties and Guidelines; (4) District Officer Responsibilities and Guidelines; (5) Budget Procedures and Finance guidelines including information about IRS and Corporation Commission; (6) Professional Development 2.0 which includes information on Code of Conduct, Leadership, Conflict Resolution, Constitution and Bylaws, Public Relations and Resolutions; (7) Goodwill Concepts and (8) Programs. The Training Packet also included an evaluation sheet, a training tracking sheet, and several self-help tests. Each training session includes “hands-on” Poppy Making Training under Programs. This training will allow for units to have poppy makers to assist with the increased need of poppies and to replace poppy makers who could no longer do this task.

- Fifteen (15) Units submitted a report.
- 38 Members reported as utilizing the National Training on-line.
- Of the members attending training and those mentored by the Unit, this Organization has trained at least 52 members this year on Poppy Making. Unfortunately, not all members trained are capable of making poppies for various reasons.
- Goodwill was promoted by all Units this year with most Units utilizing community resources in the individual Unit campaigns.
- Of the Units reporting 12 reported reviewing individual Constitution and By-laws.
- Only 1 Unit reported utilizing the National “Shoutout”.

The evaluation sheet reflected the change from last years Instructor format was more informative and liked by those attending the scheduled training.

Stats for this year include: Out of 89 units capable of reporting, only 15 sent in reports for 5.93% Unit reporting; 41 members completed a full Session; 20 completed a mini session; 38 members completed all or part of the National on-line Training.

*For God and Country in Service to Veterans*

Kat Sticklin, Department Chair  
Arizona Mission Training  
928-428-7431 / 928-322-1550  
[gsticklin@cablone.net](mailto:gsticklin@cablone.net)  
1519 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Safford, AZ 85546



## American Legion Auxiliary

### Department of Arizona

---

#### MUSIC REPORT

2019 - 2020

This Chairman received 24 reports and 5 narratives. Many units reported singing the songs of the various armed services, “Grand Old Flag,” “God Bless the USA,” “America the Beautiful,” and the “Star Spangled Banner” at regularly-scheduled meetings. Others noted that they provided music for funeral services and birthday celebrations. Units regularly visited Arizona Veterans Homes, VA Hospitals, Senior Centers, and Assisted Living Facilities to provide music and song to the residents. Units reported that members were involved with religious services and the choir. One member plays the piano at church and community functions. Other members are involved in Community Chorus. This Chairman was informed that members were involved with their units at the various functions including 4<sup>th</sup> of July, Veteran’s Day Parades, Centennial Celebrations, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Memorials, 4 Chaplains Ceremony, U.S.O. Shows, and others. One Unit sings Christmas carols at their December meeting and potluck. Members also sang Christmas carols at assisted living facilities.

Quite a few of the Units reported that karaoke was a great opportunity for the members to sing at the Post. Although a wide selection of songs were sung, patriotic songs were always a crowd favorite.

This Chairman has been made aware that many of the Units do not have a Music Chairman or participate in singing at meetings. For those Units not having a Music Chairman, the President or Chaplain chose the song. One Unit reported that the 50/50 winner from the previous month chose the song.

Narratives judged by Department of Arizona, American Legion Auxiliary Department Awards, Rules and Regulations for Department Awards, revised 2017.

For God and Country,

Serving Those Behind the Badge

Monica Rae Stein

Department Music Chairman

National Security  
Book of Reports  
2019-2020

The National Security Program promotes a strong national defense by supporting servicemembers and their families. Department of Arizona Units were very busy starting at the beginning of the fiscal year. However, in light of the Corona Virus known as COVID-19, effective March of 2020 Posts, restaurants, some stores, and those entities deemed non-essential closed until further notice. However, keeping on a positive note, Units have worked the mission making sure that the National Security program is supported.

The objective is to develop, implement and monitor programs and activities that contribute to the practical, emotional and social well-being of military servicemembers and their families. So what did our Units do this year?

JROTC...Over 145 members, ALA, TAL and SAL participated in 12 programs volunteering 635 hours and donating \$1,500.

Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)...Five Units volunteered 32 hours in hosting this class.

Wear Red on Fridays; REMEMBER EVERYONE DEPLOYED...although not included on the report form, almost all of the Units have indicated that they are supporting this endeavor.

Yellow Ribbons...A symbol to [support our troops](#) and to give us hope. It is also a symbol for POW/MIA (Prisoners of War, Missing in Action), suicide prevention, and much more. Fifteen events were held with 85 ALA, TAL and SAL contributing \$50 and volunteering over 20 hours.

POW/MIA...Auxiliary members (176), Legionnaires (82) and Sons of the American Legion (76) held 132 ceremonies donating \$50 with 20 hours of volunteerism. It is nice to hear such dedication honoring and recognizing these individuals each month at meetings as well as military/Legion events.

Pocket Flags...Only a few Units shared that they had schools fold these flags **intended for active duty deployed or deploying troops**.

Blue Star banners are used as a symbol to recognize the **family member or members that were away, in service of their country**. The blue stars, amidst the white field, represent **each member of the family that is in active duty**. Fifty Auxiliary, along with a few Legionnaires presented 5 banners at a cost of \$25 and reported 9 hours of service.

Gold Star Banners...Two Units gave out banners with 55 Auxiliary members in attendance. The Gold star represents a family member killed during active duty and stands for sacrifice made for honor and freedom.

USO (United Service Organization)...Over 21 events were reported with 50 Auxiliary supporting this program by volunteering 750 hours and donating \$1,500.

Welcome Home Events...Twenty events were held with 132 Legion family members volunteering 188 reported hours and donated over \$630.

Operation Comfort Warriors...Units reported holding 12 events with 20 members present and giving 336 hours of volunteer time and donating \$200.

Family Readiness Groups...Six events were held with 75 Legion family members volunteering 30 hours and donating \$3,400 with 250 children involved.

Blood Donor...Eighty-eight blood drives were set up with 185 members giving their time to donate and made a monetary donation of \$50.

Go Bags...Several Units shared that they used the bulletin (October 2019) as a guideline to gather items in case of an emergency and have to leave their house.

Other items that Units reported included yard work, social calls, telephone calls, child-care, cooking meals, transportation and much more...320 members to include the Auxiliary and Legion volunteered 5,200 hours and donated \$1,700. Units cut coupons to send to troops overseas in the amount of \$110,000. Multiple Units hosted free meals to First Responders, as well as Veterans from the Blind Centers at the VA hospitals in Phoenix and Tucson. Quite a few Units sent Christmas cards to the troops and all three Veterans' State Homes. The amount of miles driven exceeded well over 6,000.

In addition, over 60 hours and \$915 supported the Honor Flight program. Twenty-five hours and \$275 supported the Quilts of Valor program.

The National Security seminar was held on February 2, 2020. This year the seminar included not only Children & Youth, but also Americanism and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation. There were multiple speakers for each program. Approximately 70 Legion family members were in attendance. Units continued to promote this program with 60 volunteers of 142 hours and a generous donation of \$1,230.

This Chairman would like to extend a thank you to those Units who sent in their year-end reports so that the figures above could be recorded.

Stay safe, stay healthy, and stay strong.

For God & Country

*Cindy Queen*

National Security Chairman

American Legion Auxiliary  
Past Presidents Parley  
June 2020

The Department of Arizona is committed to enhancing the lives of veterans, military and their families by “Serving those Behind the Badge” in this year’s quest to fulfill the National goal of “Century of Service”. Thus, Past Presidents Parley Program in 2019-2020 honors our veterans and military through meaningful service, Units in the Department of Arizona support the emotional and social needs of active, reserve and transitioning service members and their families.

Units are actively participating in fundraisers to support the program. Their fundraisers consist of dinners, raffle baskets, post garage sales, 50/50 drawings, bingo events and special events such as Fashion Shows. With ten districts in the Department of Arizona, there are three active district parleys. This chairman actively encourages Units to contribute to the Department Fund for Past Presidents Parley which has the responsibility of raising funds for Nursing Scholarships and Health Care Occupation Scholarships and to date Units have contributed \$3,117.

Units report that they pay dues for women currently serving in the military and Women Veterans. Unit 27 reported that they hold a yearly luncheon honoring women veterans. Unit 62 states that they honor Women Veterans by holding a dinner in the spring. Unit 35 honors both active duty and women veterans by supporting WIMSA, Women In Military Service for America Memorial, by yearly adding qualified women members to this federal memorial who have served in the Armed Forces. Unit 131 supports an organization for female veterans, “Women Warriors”, by their \$1,500 donation and they have donated clothing and toiletries valued at \$2,100. A member of Unit 109 volunteers at the “Tucson Women Warriors” organization.

Communication with all Units is made monthly by this Chairman in the form of the distribution of the Parley Newsletter encouraging Units to participate in the program by promoting the experience and knowledge of past Auxiliary leaders for training and encouragement of future Auxiliary leaders; thus, promoting the ever watchful mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. Also, each month a dual Auxiliary-Legion member is featured in the monthly Newsletter.

At Fall Conference packets were distributed by this Chairman that contained Program details, Committee contact names and all of the National and Department Awards available in the Past Presidents Parley Program and information about the Salute to Servicewomen Award Nomination and the Department Member of the Year.

Currently this Chairman is on the hunt for prior Members of the Year in the Department of Arizona, and is happy to report that two, this Chairman who received the honor in 2003-2004 and Patricia Lugo, our current Department President who was named in 2007-2008. This is an on-going project, since some past members of the year have moved out of state, however, the quest continues.

Please be aware that due to the cancellation of the National Convention, National President Nicole Clapp announced that the current Program Action Plan would continue until the end of 2021, thus there will not be a Unit Member of the Year or Service Woman of the Year for 2020. There will be recipients in 2021 which will be nominated in June 2021. The mission continues in spite of bumps in the road!

Yolanda Bonilla,  
Past Presidents Parley Chairman

602-989-3321, yodobo@msn.com

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA  
PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT  
“SERVING THOSE BEHIND THE BADGE”**

At the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona Convention newly installed President Patricia Lugo announced that her Special Project this year would be **“The 100 Club of Arizona”**. She explained that the mission of The 100 Club is to provide financial assistance to families of public safety officers and firefighters who are seriously injured or killed in the line-of-duty, and to provide resources to enhance their safety and welfare.

Units throughout the state have held fundraisers and invited First Responders to join their members at their events to thank them for their service to our community.

This chairman would like to thank everyone who participated in the Department's Special “Thank You Day” for our First Responders, that was held in February of this year.

I am honored to have served as the chairman for the President's Special Project and thank Linda Welch for serving as chairman in the Southern area of the state.

As we go into the coming year, I am excited to continue the association with “The 100 Club of Arizona,” in raising funds to provide resources to enhance the safety and welfare of our First Responders. I hope you continue to support this worthwhile cause.

We look forward to seeing you in the Fall!

Josie Herrera, Chairman  
Linda Welch, Chairman, Southern Area  
Presidents Special Project

## **Department of Arizona Public Relations Year End 2019-20 Book of Reports**

**The Units in the Department of AZ do a great job engaging their communities!**

### **Centennial Celebration**

- The Department of Arizona secured a Gubernatorial Proclamation identifying Nov 10<sup>th</sup> as American Legion Auxiliary Centennial Day. In addition to a giant 100 year birthday cake and birthday poster that members signed, the Proclamation was read to the attendees of the Fall conference. SAL Officers visited the Auxiliary meeting and sang “Happy Birthday” to the ALA!
- The department PR chairman distributed “generic” proclamation wording to Arizona Units (as well as to a few out-of-state members) of which several took advantage:
  - The Mayor of Peoria, AZ read the Proclamation at its City Council meeting where senior and junior Unit 62 members alike attended. The reading was live-streamed, covered in local papers, and shared by the Mayor and Unit on social media.
  - The Mayor in Gilbert read the Proclamation from Unit 39 at their City Council Meeting.
  - In addition to a Mayoral Proclamation, a Green Valley Unit 66 had an open-to-the public ceremony where the local High School Band performed, they served meals, birthday cake and planted an Southern Live Oak seedling!
  - Two Units (35 & 91) joined forces and had a fun open-to-the-public day: they wore branded clothing, had Centennial-branded bean bag toss boards and shared a branded birthday cake. They each also had a Mayoral Proclamation!
  - Oro Valley Unit 132 held a Centennial Picnic that was advertised in local paper and the public invited at Riverfront Park, Oro Valley

### **COVID**

- The Arizona Department of the American Legion Family assisted Veterans thru Food Banks and food delivery across the state. Three local television stations covered Valley food distribution through Compassion food banks.
- Hundreds (perhaps thousands!) of home-made facemasks have been made by Auxiliary members across the state and delivered to hospitals, healthcare workers, assisted living homes, Fisher House, businesses and more. Countless veterans and families have been assisted with groceries, social visits, phone calls and child care. Bags and bags of clothing, towels, sheets, blankets and more have been brought to organizations and people in need. Members have taken those in need to doctor appointments, shopping, etc.
- The Arizona Department of the American Legion Family is providing stress relief through a program founded by the American Legion Auxiliary; Heal Her Art is sponsoring Facebook Live Art Classes through May. Veterans, military, family, members & children are invited to join in free virtual art session on Facebook from their home. Each session begins and ends with recognition of the American Legion Family, logos are in sight throughout the class. Art is often patriotic! Posts have reached over 46,000 with engagements over 7,000 in the last 30 days.
- American Legion Family at Post 35 in Chandler runs CDC compliant Parking Lot Bingo, bringing the community together—apart!

### **Department President Special Project**

- A Gubernatorial Proclamation was issued for First Responders Day on Feb 8.
- Phoenix Unit 41 held an “all day” open-to-the-public welcome event for First Responders
- Peoria Unit 62 collaborated with Chick-fil-A Arrowhead to hold a 1<sup>st</sup> Responder’s Breakfast covered in the local newspaper and attended by their councilwoman, firefighters, police.

- Chandler Unit 91 held a free First Responders breakfast and Fat Tuesday Gumbo!
- Vail Unit 109 donated, prepared and served numerous free meals to 1st responders

### **Social Media**

Public Relations “Ring Your Mission Bell” Facebook group remains popular :

- 747 members—624 active in the last 60 days!
- Averaging nearly 100 posts per month; 150 comments per month; more than 900 “reactions” (“likes” etc.) per month

Nearly all reporting Units have one or more social media pages!

### **Just SOME Unit Highlights**

- Radio coverage of Cards for Troops Unit 117 (Phoenix) & 29 (Glendale):  
<https://www.facebook.com/Pattillmanauxiliaryunit117/videos/2239726809664453/UzpfSTE1NDQzMjMzMTY6Vks6MjY4NTM4NTQyODE2NDUyMg/>
- Community Events—Gilbert (Unit 39) Rodeo Days, Yuma (Unit 19) Veterans Day, Oro Valley (Unit 132) Veteran Resource Fair & Legion Centennial event, Fountain Hills (Unit 58) float in the Thanksgiving Parade. Unit 45 (Benson) made flag presentations at local schools, while Unit 65 (Phoenix) held a “tools for schools” backpack event. Avondale (Unit 61) had a membership/poppy table at the local college. Scottsdale Unit 44 participates in the “Parada Del Sol” parade and their float entry won 1st Place for Most Patriotic again this year. They also participate in Memorial Day ceremonies at Camelback Cemetery and Scottsdale Civic Plaza. Guadalupe Unit 124 engages the community through bingo with donated prizes! Unit 65 held a Halloween party for children.
- Newspaper coverage - POW/MIA table at local Community Center (Unit 62); Flag Retirement Ceremony (Buckeye Unit 53); Ads by Fountain Hills Unit 58 for Art Fair Food Sales and St Patrick’s Day; Unit 4 in Globe advertised their monthly dinner in newspaper and radio!
- Community Collaboration—Legion Family in Buckeye (Unit 53) sharing space/resources with multiple community veteran service organizations; Chick-fil-A /ALA collaboration for Soldier’s Best Friend, First Responders, Veteran Food Bank with Unit 62; Junior Girls worked with Vail 109 Family sponsored Boy Scout Troop 770 to create a shadow box containing a replica of the American flag made entirely from poppies. Giant Casino Billboard (Golden Valley Unit 22)
- Unique Branding—Unit 65 ALA Hats
- Wreaths Across America was supported in multiple parts of Arizona including Oro Valley, Pinetop and Phoenix area.
- Avondale (Unit 61) Mayor attended and spoke at a breakfast at the Post.

**Thank you Arizona members for all you do for our veterans, military, families and communities! Marge Christianson, PR Chairman Dept of AZ 2019-20**



## Unit Development and Revitalization

### Book of Reports

2019-2020

REVITALIZATION is about identifying new and existing members with new ideas that breathe life into Units that are declining in membership and mission outreach. It is more than just organizing new Units and trying to help Units keep their charters. Revitalization is also about providing mentors for struggling Units, providing training for new members, and finding leaders to replace long-time chairmen and officers. More importantly, revitalization is about finding, exploring and trying new ways for all members to become more engaged in meaningful opportunities for mission outreach. While revitalization is not focused on solving Unit disharmony and personality conflicts within the Units, conflict resolution training can help members learn to solve many of the problems that damage the Auxiliary's reputation, discourage members and distract from our mission and purpose.

At Fall Conference 2019 you were introduced to our new baby unit, Yucca Unit 136. Unit President Carol Ross was presented their Charter and New Baby (doll) from Department President Patricia and myself. It was an honor to travel to Yucca the end of July with Barb Matteson and Pat Stanaski to provide a mini leadership training, to install new officers and initiation of new members.

I am pleased to say we are working on another baby unit, not quite there yet but hopefully in the near future.

I want to thank the Units for not having any conflicts this year and if you did you resolved them within the Unit, you made my job EASY. We are working on a Unit to get revitalized and be a working Unit again. Thank you for all you do for our great organization.

I want to thank Madam President Patricia Lugo for this appointment and look forward to working with you in 2020-2021.

For God and Country,  
Jan Cushing  
New Units/UD&R Chairman

## **VA&R Book of Reports**

The ALA members of the great state of Arizona have been busy since May 2019 planning and executing meals, gift shops, birthday celebrations, crocheting, and visiting veterans, to name a few. Twenty-four Units reported their year-end activities, hours, monies spent, and miles driven on the VA&R program.

Gift Shops were held at the Phoenix, Tucson, and Prescott Medical Centers. This Chairman had the honor to attend the opening ceremony of the Phoenix and Prescott Gift Shops. Units reported serving 570 veterans, 1183 volunteer hours, \$5,630 spent and 1,431 miles driven by members.

For Service to Veterans, it was reported 457 veterans were assisted. Two organizations that provides services to veterans are Soldiers Best Friends and Arizona Heroes Hometown. Assistance members assisted veterans at these two organizations. Over 1,150 volunteer hours was reported.

Bingo was held at three Medical Centers and the two VA Homes (Phoenix and Tucson). Birthday parties were also 'sponsored' by different Units in Phoenix and Tucson.

The VAVS representative in Tucson is busy coordinating and volunteering. She has been busy, logging 3,750 hours and 3,860 miles from May to November 2019. Two Units in the Tucson area have volunteered at the Bridging Ceremony for the Substance Use Disorder Treatment Program through December 2019.

The Chairmen for the Phoenix and Tucson VA Homes have a wish list in their monthly bulletin for Units and members. Some Units have fundraisers to provide items on the wish lists.

An exciting gift was given to the Tucson VA Home in December! Attached is a write up from the VA Home Chairman in Tucson and pictures of the event. With assistance from the American Legion Family in the southern part of the state, they were able to purchase a golf cart so that residents using a wheelchair can now be driven to their appointments instead of having to be pushed in the wheelchair. The residents and staff were thrilled to receive the golf cart! The pictures show it all (attached) show it all. All, how the American Legion Family works together to assist our veterans!!!!

Another exciting event to report is a mother/daughter went on an Honor Flight Arizona in October 22-24, 2019. Mosa Brown a Korean War Army veteran and Brenda Brown, her daughter, her served as her guardian for the trip. The cost of their trip was sponsored by The American Legion Squadron 91 and The American Legion ALR 91 in Chandler, AZ. Mosa is a dual member and Brenda is a member of ALA Unit 91. Another example of the Legion Family working together for our veterans.

Units reported sending Christmas cards to the VA Homes, Medical Centers and the military. Units worked with local radio stations to assist in the cost of mailing the Christmas cards. Many school children also made cards.

Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets were delivered to many veteran families. Thanksgiving dinners were held at Posts where members provided food and helped serve the veterans. In addition, some posts were open for a Christmas potluck in which Auxiliary members provided the meal and served lunch/dinner.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 53 has adopted the James Walton Home in Phoenix. They hold a sock drive in December and provide Christmas gifts for the residents. In the summer they sponsor ice

cream socials. The ice cream socials are co-sponsored with the Buckeye VFW Auxiliary. With their assistance, they can provide lunch and small gifts.

The James Walton Home is sponsored by Project Veterans Pride which is a non-profit organization that provides transitional housing and resources to homeless veterans so they can get back their honor, dignity, and pride.

American Legion Auxiliary 61 has adopted MANA (Marines, Army, Navy and Air Force) House. This organization provides transitional housing for veterans. At Christmas time Unit 61 had 88 angels take an angel off the Christmas tree and buy and wrap the items requested by the veterans. The gifts and food were taken to MANA House for a Christmas brunch. Unit members passed out gifts and served the brunch. One member was able to find size 5X for veteran who was having difficulty finding clothes in that size.

Food, personal hygiene items, blankets, and pillows are collected by members and distributed to veterans who need them.

In January 2020, the Department of Arizona was honored to host National President Nicole. She visited the Tucson VA Home and the Prescott VA Facility. She had a chance to talk to staff adaptive sports. She also had the opportunity to ride in the new adaptive golf cart that is in Tucson.

It was reported 129 lap blankets were made and 100 veterans were given lap blankets. Over 100 veterans were given gloves and/or hats.

Members continue to volunteer and donate items at the Fisher House in Tucson. The Tucson Fisher House is the only Fisher House in Arizona.

As you can see, the Units that reported have been busy. They will continue to support the mission of the ALA throughout the year. Our veterans will be helped any way possible by the members in Arizona.

Members also bought and delivered gifts to veterans at the VA Homes, and decorated Christmas trees at the Medical Centers. They also donated to and assisted in laying wreaths on veteran's graves for Wreath across America in December.

Veterans Day memorial services were held throughout the state where ALA members assisted and provided food for potlucks afterwards.

Many Units sponsored Valentine's Day lunches or snack and delivered cards. Many school children made cards for the veterans.

Hundreds of masks were made by members and donated to the VA Homes and the Medical Centers.

Due to the unfortunate events of the world, COVID-19, Units have not been able to continue their activities at the VA Homes or the VAMC's. However, Units are assisting veterans as needed, who may have lost their job.

## **Creative Arts 2019 – 2020**

Well it certainly has been a different year for everyone! It is appropriate that the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Arizona has worked all year to recognize first responders. Now, more than ever with the COVID-19 virus, they are risking their lives to serve and protect.

Reporting was confusing this year with all the uncertainties surrounding post closures and cancelled events. But Creative Arts Festivals were held at the three Arizona Veterans Hospitals before the restrictions concerning the virus became a reality. Twenty-five Units reported to this chairman as of May 15. Eighteen of these reports were received on or before the deadline of May 1. Units reported 18 Auxiliary members who volunteered and or attended the festivals. Reported donations to Department total \$4,140 to date and hopefully more that was not reported to this chairman. Funds were raised through dinners, selling hand crafted items, and meat raffles. Some fund raising events had to be cancelled due to the virus, but units were still generous to support veterans through creative arts.

Arizona veterans submitted entries to the three Arizona festivals. Categories included music, creative writing, painting, drawing, ceramics, leatherworking, photography, woodworking, quilting, mosaic, and jewelry. ALA members visited with veterans at the shows. Many veterans are return artists and some were there for the first time. The veterans expressed appreciation for having the opportunity to participate and many said they were looking forward to entering next year.

Winning local entries have been judged for the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Results will be announced in June. The National Festival is scheduled at Bay Pines VA Healthcare System in St Petersburg, Florida, for November 28 through December 5, 2020. Hopefully this will still happen.

The local shows could not have happened without the ALA Creative Arts Team, Kathy Szakonyi in Tucson, and Sally Fine in Prescott. Much appreciation goes to Arizona ALA Department Secretary, Barbara Matteson, for her tireless hours of help, and all the units who contributed no matter how small to helping veterans through creative arts.

In the spirit of service, not self,

Margaret Ellis

ALA Creative Arts Chairman, 2019 – 2020

Department of Arizona