



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
2024 DEPARTMENT CONFERENCE**

Past Presidents Parley Luncheon
Saturday, June 22, 2024

MENU

Spaghetti with Meat Sauce
Garlic Bread
Salad
Chocolate Cake with Berry Sauce

Cost \$30.00

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA

MAIL TO:

ALA Department of AZ
Attn: Luncheon
4701 N 19th Ave Suite 100 Phoenix, AZ 85015

*Seating is limited to 90...Please make your reservation on or before **June 12, 2024***

	NAME	Unit #
1		
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10		

PUT ADDITIONAL NAMES ON BACK.

\$30 X number of tickets _____



AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA CONVENTION JUNE 20-23, 2024

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY REGISTRATION \$10.00

REMINDER AT CONVENTION \$20.00

PLEASE RETURN FORM WITH CHECK MADE OUT TO:

American Legion Auxiliary Dept. of Arizona 4701 N. 19th Ave. Suite 100, Phoenix, AZ 85015

UNIT NUMBER _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED _____

NAME (PRINT) POSITION/TITLE (PRINT) ALR Rider ?

1 _____
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PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE JUNE 7, 2024 NO REFUNDS OR SUBSTITUTIONS



**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA CONVENTION
JUNE 20-23, 2024
RESOLUTION**

SUBMITTED BY: _____

SUBJECT: _____

DATE: _____

Resolution No. _____

(Assigned by Resolutions Committee)

DO NOT TRY TO SQUEEZE THE RESOLUTION INTO THIS SPACE. PLEASE ATTACH TEXT OF RESOLUTION AS A SEPARATE PAGE

Routing: _____

Submitted by: Name and Signature _____

Submitted by: Name and Signature _____

Submitted by: Name and Signature _____

_____ Approved _____ Rejected _____ Revised _____

_____ Approved _____ Rejected _____ Revised _____

_____ Approved _____ Rejected _____ Revised _____

Convention Action: Approved _____ Rejected _____ Date _____

One "hard" copy, signed by at least two (2) qualified delegates, and an unsigned "soft or electronic" copy of all resolutions are to be forwarded to the Department Secretary before Convention if possible. Resolutions originating at Convention need to be written as a "hard" copy with two delegate signatures, and a "soft or electronic" copy forwarded to the Department Secretary as soon as possible so that discussion and vote may take place. (2013) Resolutions presented by the vote of a unit need to be signed by at least two (2) qualified delegates from the Unit and forwarded to the Department Secretary thirty (30) days prior to Department Convention for registration and classification and issuing to respective committees. A resolution which has not been presented through the proper channels will not be considered.

American Legion Auxiliary Program Donations

Updated April 2, 2024

Donations for the American Legion Auxiliary programs are to be sent to Department for distribution.

Donations to the State Homes and VAMC'S are to come to Department for distribution of funds.

All other donations are to be sent directly to the program (i.e., Tucson Fisher House, 4 Chaplains, ALLECA)

Below is information on where to send information for the popular organizations Units donate to.

<p>Tucson Fisher House Donations are made to the C.H.A.M.P. Foundation. Website: https://champfoundation.org/</p>	<p>The Chapel of Four Chaplains Send donations to: The Chapel of Four Chaplains 1201 Constitution Ave Philadelphia, PA 19112-9901</p>
<p>Friends of Fisher House Phoenix A 501c(3) organization for the Phoenix Fisher House. Friends of Fisher House Phoenix PO Box 720 Phoenix AZ 85022</p>	<p>Child Welfare Foundation Send donations to: The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, Inc PO Box 1055 Indianapolis, IN 46206</p>
<p>ALLECA Send donations to: ALLECA PO Box 750 Cortaro AZ 85652-0750</p>	<p>Spirit of Youth Send donations to: ALA Foundation 3450 Founders Rd Indianapolis, IN 46268</p>
<p>USO – Sky Harbor Airport Send donations to: USO Administrative Office 3800 E Sky Harbor Blvd USO Center Phoenix AZ 85034</p> <p>Specify where you would like the money to go. i.e., Sky Harbor, one of the military bases in AZ. More information can be found on their website.</p> <p>Website: Arizona.uso.org</p>	<p>National Cemetery of Arizona Send donations to: 23029 N Cave Creek Rd Phoenix AZ 85024</p> <p>History Flight* Send donations to: 317 William Street Suite 1 Fredericksburg, VA 22401</p>

If you are unsure as to where to send donations to, please contact the Department Office at 602-241-1080.

***Flight History Information**

History Flight is a 501(c)3 so all donations are tax deductible.

History Flight needs your help. Though our fundraising efforts contribute greatly to support our efforts to find our Missing in Action service members from World War II, Korea, Cold War, and Vietnam the cost of research expeditions increases significantly each year. Your financial support to keep our research efforts on track is urgently needed. Please select one of the options below to help us by sending in a donation to support History Flight's mission. We offer an option to donate online, by phone, and by mail.

www.historyflight.com



Education April 2024



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

The rules are the same for both awards:

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

The Education Year-End report form is available on the Department website [Education Year-end Report Form](#). **The report forms and narratives are due to this Chairman by May 1st.**

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

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

Julie Vietri

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

Finance

April 2024

You are reminded that your End of Year Finance Report is due to this Chairman on May 1, 2024. Please keep in mind that all information furnished to Department is confidential.

Some excellent Accounting Practices:

Use your Unit legal name, hint, this information is found on Unit Charter. You are a Unit, 501 C(19) , National Group #0964

Create a recording keeping system, either manual or computer. Keep a copy of every check or cash disbursement and attach invoice. Set up filing system, either manual or computer.

Share Financial Reports, with Executive Committee Meeting and General Meeting. Keep copies of all monthly check book reconciliations.

Checks should be deposited within seven working days if physically possible. Pay all invoices with a check. Cash transactions should have a petty cash receipt.

Keep copies of 990s and Corporation Commission Filings. Annual Audis of all Auxiliary accounts is recommended. Work with Unit President to set up Audit Committee, with Unit Treasurer available to answer questions. Remember that the purpose of an Audit is to review transactions within the year.

Work with your Unit President to set up a Budget Committee, using last year's budget, income, expenditures and program expenses for the new year. Remember that records need to be kept for seven years.

Yolanda Bonilla Chairman, 602-989-3321, yodobo@msn.com

Penny Maklary, Member, 520-364-5038, ahhpenny@aol.com

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

Members by Virtue of Office: Rose Ficklin, President, Barbara White, NEC, Barbara Matteson, Sec/Treasurer (No Vote)

Legislative Division Weekly

GRASSROOTS ACTION UPDATES

This week, we are asking Legionnaires to contact their elected representatives to [pass H.R. 1413 Expanding America's National Cemeteries Act of 2023](#) to safeguard the crucial benefit of full military honors at burial for more veterans. This Act will enable VA-run national cemeteries to conduct full military ceremonies for our fallen heroes, and expand a key resource. *Go to the [Action Center](#) to quickly email a letter of support to your member of Congress.*

Have you had a recent meeting or phone call with your member of Congress? Report your contact today! Click [here](#) to register your Congressional contact and demonstrate the power of The American Legion advocacy in action.

The American Legion's legislative agenda for the 2nd Session of the 118th Congress. To review our priorities, you can check out our [Advocacy Toolkit](#).

ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS WORKING IN BALTIMORE

This article's original publication can be found [here](#).



The Army Corps of Engineers has a tentative timeline of restoring access to the Port of Baltimore to "normal capacity" by the end of May, it said in a statement Thursday night. Also, the Corps said engineers plan to open a channel 280 feet wide and 35 feet deep by the end of April to allow barge container service and some vessels that move automobiles and farm equipment to pass the wreckage of the Francis Scott Key Bridge, which collapsed March 26 when it was struck by a container ship.

"These are ambitious timelines that may still be impacted by significant adverse weather conditions or changes in the complexity of the wreckage," Army Corps of Engineers Lt. Gen. Scott A. Spellmon said in a news release. Spellmon is the Corps' commanding general. Rain and lightning in the Baltimore area this week prevented crews from operating cranes to lift shipping containers and parts of the bridge onto barges, the Key Bridge Response Unified Command said.

Legislative Division Weekly

The news came on the eve of Democratic President Joe Biden's visit Friday to inspect the massive salvage effort to help the port recover from the bridge collapse.

Until Thursday night, officials had declined to specify a timeline for restoring normal access to the port. "This evening's announcement by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers that they've outlined a tentative timeline sends a strong message to the City of Baltimore and our entire country," Mayor Brandon Scott said in a statement. "Some of the best engineering minds in the world and our most important resources have been made available for this critically important project."

The container ship struck one of the bridge's support piers, sending the spans plunging into the Patapsco River and blocking the channel. Six men who were working on the bridge repairing potholes are presumed dead. Divers have recovered two of their bodies from the area, which is clogged by the damaged ship and the wreckage of the bridge.

"This ambitious timeline proposed by the Army Corps of Engineers offers a level of clarity and certainty that Baltimore needs to hear so we can collectively plan for continued recovery efforts -- related to both our economy and our infrastructure," Gov. Wes Moore, a Democrat, said in a statement. "Now we have a target. We must do everything we can to meet that target."

Temporary 11- and 14-foot-deep channels that pass under remaining parts of the Key Bridge were opened this week to allow a handful of smaller barges and tugboats out of the port.

"I'm grateful to have a timeline that will help guide our recovery and response at the local level," Baltimore County Executive Johnny Olszewski Jr., a Democrat, said in a statement. "I am confident that they have the best people and resources at their disposal to meet this timeline."

Seven commercial ships and four military ships that support the overseas deployment of U.S. military forces have been stuck in the port since the 984-foot container ship Dali collided with the bridge. Spellmon credited "the exhaustive work" of the Key Bridge Response Unified Command -- which is led by the Corps, the Coast Guard, the Maryland Department of the Environment, the Maryland Transportation Authority and the Maryland State Police -- in making progress toward the ultimate goal.

"Thanks to the exhaustive work of the Unified Command during the last two weeks, including underwater surveys and detailed structural analysis of the wreckage, we've developed a better understanding of the immense and complex work that lies ahead," Spellmon said in the statement. "A fully opened federal channel remains our primary goal."

AIR FORCE OSPREYS IN JAPAN REMAIN GROUNDED

This article's original publication can be found [here](#).



The Air Force is still not flying Osprey aircraft in Japan despite getting the green light to lift a monthslong flight hold following a deadly crash off the country's southern coast, but the [Marine Corps](#) has put its aircraft based there back in the skies. Rebecca Heyse, an Air Force Special Operations Command spokeswoman, told [Military.com](#) on Tuesday that none of the service's units have resumed flying the Osprey yet.

In contrast, the Marine Corps' 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, which is based in Okinawa, quickly moved to fly its MV-22s, announcing a return to flight status on March 14 -- less than a week after the hold was lifted, according to a statement released the same day. The aircraft -- which is flown by the Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force -- was allowed to return to flight in early March after Naval Air Systems Command and the V-22 Joint Program Office announced that they had discovered a new and not fully understood mechanical failure as part of the investigation into the Nov. 29 Air Force Osprey crash off the coast of Yakushima Island that left eight airmen dead.

The Navy doesn't have any Ospreys permanently stationed in Japan. A Navy spokesperson told [Military.com](#) on Tuesday that its CMV-22Bs based in San Diego, California, have begun the process of returning to flight. Officials who allowed the aircraft to return to flight argued that data analysis led to the decision to deem the Osprey safe -- while refusing to disclose any information about what part failed or any major details on procedural changes that were made as part of the grounding being lifted.

"We have high confidence that we understand what component failed, and how it failed," Marine Col. Brian Taylor, the V-22 program manager, told reporters in a briefing in early March. "I think what we are still working on is the 'why,'" Taylor said, noting that "this is the first time that we've seen this particular component fail in this way."

The Air Force's more cautious approach evokes parallels to how the public discovered the other yet-to-be resolved issue with the aircraft in 2022.

In August 2022, the Air Force briefly grounded its fleet of Ospreys after they experienced a series of hard clutch engagements that worried leaders in the service.

However, the very next day, the Marine Corps said not only that its Ospreys would keep flying but that its pilots could handle the issue, which it has known about for years. The hard clutch problem is an issue with the Osprey's complex system of clutch assemblies that are supposed to enable one engine to fly the aircraft in the event of an engine failure. However, in some instances -- at least 15 mishaps -- those clutches have failed.

Legislative Division Weekly

Military.com reported one such mishap with an Air Force Osprey that could have become fatal in 2017. Despite assurances from the Marine Corps that the problem was under control, the clutch issue became deadly in June 2022 when one of its Ospreys crashed in the California desert, killing five Marines. After that incident was investigated, Taylor also argued that data analysis of some of the more recent incidents involving the clutch led his office to conclude that replacing a critical component -- the input quill assembly -- more frequently was 99% effective despite skepticism from a Marine Corps widow of one of the pilots.

Now, the Marine Corps is again saying it has utmost confidence in the aircraft. "The flight clearance by our NAVAIR, our adherence to proven operational risk management practices, our confidence in this amazing aircraft, and our faith in the professionalism of our pilots, crew and maintenance teams undergird our decision to return the Osprey to service," the 1st MAW said in its statement.

The Marine Corps is also very dependent on the Osprey. It owns nearly 350 aircraft, compared to the Air Force's roughly 50 airframes.

Lt. Gen. Karsten Heckl said in February that the Corps has seen "dramatic impacts" from the flying halt, while 1st MAW's commander, Maj. Gen. Eric Austin, said the Osprey is "key to the success" of his unit. In the March statement, Austin said the Osprey "plays a central role in our ability to campaign, to respond in time of crisis, and ultimately to partner with our allies and maintain a free and open Indo-Pacific."

Japan's Ground Self-Defense Force, which also flies the Osprey, also resumed flights last week, according to a report from Japan Times.

LEGIONNAIRE OF THE WEEK

To recognize the weekly accomplishments of our Legionnaires, we will spotlight an individual every week. These individuals demonstrate exceptional grassroots activism by meeting with/contacting their Congressional Representative/Senator to advocate for veterans. Efforts like these truly make a difference and give veterans a voice in Congress.

Joseph Burns, New York

Mr. Burns, for your steadfast advocacy of Legion priorities, we are honored to name you Legionnaire of the Week!

Mr. Burns met with Congressman Andrew Garbarino (R-NY-02) in Turlock, CA. In Mr. Burn's report, he shared that he discussed the US Coast Guard and the GI Bill Parity Act, as well as the Major Richard Starr Act. These are all key Legion priorities!

Thank you, Mr. Burns, for your report and the time you have dedicated to the Legion's legislative priorities.

Legislative Division Weekly

If you have made a Grassroots effort and would like to be considered for next week's "Legionnaire of the Week," please fill out the Congressional Contact Report Form [here](#). You can also email us at grassroots@legion.org with the details.

LEGISLATIVE DIVISION UPDATES

FAREWELL to Katherine Ryan! Our energetic Legislative Coordinator has been promoted to Policy Analyst for the National Security Division and will transfer Monday April 8th. Please keep in touch with us at grassroots@legion.org!

WELCOME to our newest Legislative Associate Patrick Johnston. Patrick is a Navy veteran, and will work on veterans' economic opportunities, education, and employment legislation.

Legislative staff in DC participated in several meetings on Capitol Hill this week, including with staff from the offices of Representatives Issa, Foxx, Schultz, Van Orden, Cartwright, and Ciscomani, as well as Senators Lujan, Rubio, and Sullivan. We also worked with staff of the Senate Veteran Affairs Committee to discuss upcoming legislation on education issues and veteran homelessness.

GRASSROOTS INFORMATION

Interested in what the Legion is advocating for in Congress on *Suicide Prevention & Peer Support*? Check out our information paper in the [Legislative Toolkit](#). This is a great starting point for a conversation with your elected officials!

As part of our ongoing Grassroots efforts, LegDiv staff is available to provide **Grassroots Training** tailored to the hosting Department's needs. If you are interested in hosting a Grassroots training event, please contact grassroots@legion.org or ejohnson@legion.org. Congratulations to the Department of California for scheduling Grassroots Training during their Legion College session in April!

UPCOMING CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS

As Friday, April 5th, at Noon ET, the following hearings are scheduled:

April 9th: HVAC - VA Supply Chain Modernization

April 9th: SASC - DoD Budget Request Testimony

April 10th: HVAC – Disability Assistance and memorial Affairs Subcommittee on Pending Legislation

April 10th: SVAC – Ensuring Equity for Women Veterans at VA

April 10th: House Appropriations – Fiscal Year 2025 Request for the United States Army

April 10th: House Appropriations – Fiscal Year 2025 Request for the United States Navy and Marine Corps

April 10th: HASC – U.S. Military Posture and National Security Challenges in Europe

Legislative Division Weekly

April 10th: HASC – U.S. Cyber Command Budget Request

April 10th: House Appropriations – Budget for Army Military Construction

April 11th: - Testimony on United States European Command and United States Transportation Command

April 11th: HASC – Member Day Hearing on NDAA

April 11th: HASC – Joint SPF-RDY Hearing

April 11th: HASC – A Review of Defense Intelligence to Counter China

April 11th : HVAC – Oversight Hearing on Budget Requests

April 11th: House Appropriations- Budget Hearing for Navy & Marine Corps

April 12th: HASC – FY25 Budget Requests for Missile Defense and Missile Defeat Programs

Previous HVAC hearings can be viewed at: [Calendar Home | House Committee on Veterans Affairs](#)

Previous SVAC hearings can be viewed at: [Hearings - U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs](#)

Leadership/Arizona Mission Training

April 2024

Greetings to members of this great organization! Time is moving fast for the end of year reports and awards. Has your Unit selected a Member of the Year yet? Or perhaps a Vickey Zwall Mentor of the Year? I am sure that those of you who attended an Arizona Mission Training this year learned the importance of reporting all that you do. And if you want to make your Unit or District look really GOOD write a narrative for an award. Selected items from your narratives are sent on to the Western Division and National Chairmen and are often included in their convention reports. It is a great feeling for your members to be recognized for their achievements!

The criteria for Leadership awards “Lavan Erickson Leadership Plaque” and “Unit Member of the Year” plaque have been included in past bulletins. Please check the Department web site (aladeptaz.org) for past bulletins, report forms and awards in each program. This month I include **the “Vickey J. Zwall Mentor of the Year Plaque.”**

The plaque will be awarded at the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Arizona Department Convention and will be retained by the recipient. A new plaque will be furnished each year, financed by Vickey J. Zwall.

Any member can be placed into nomination for the Mentor of the Year Plaque, and can be nominated by any Auxiliary member. A not-to-exceed 1,000 word resume of the nominees’ activities for the current year must be submitted. The resume will be sent to the Department Leadership Chairman no later than the date set annually at the Officers and Chairmen meeting at the beginning of the program year. The Department Leadership Chairman will choose a committee of three individuals to assist in judging.

QUALIFICATIONS: Current membership dues paid.

Revisions to this plaque can only be done by Vickey J. Zwall or a relative.

I hope to receive many report forms and award narratives by May 1st. If you have further questions please text and I will return your call and do my best to help you.

Karen Smith, Chairman

(520) 249-1119

ksmith111@cox.net

1133 Carmelita Drive

Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

Leadership is not about a title or designation. It's about impact, influence and inspiration. Amy Luft

Legislative Update

April 2024

Guess what time it is? Yes, it is time to think about reports and narratives. I have included the requirements for the narratives and the information about the two awards to be given.

The report for the year end in must also be submitted with the narrative in order to be considered for the awards.

The report form is self-explanatory except for one question.

Did the Unit submit an account of Unit Activities to be included in the Congressional record?

No Yes

Give details on a separate sheet or make sure to include them in the narrative.

The answer is: A piece of major legislation that was passed by grassroots efforts from a Unit. If you did, that would be awesome. But if you didn't just check no.

The report form can be found [here](#)

E-MAIL YEAR-END REPORT BY MAY 1, 2024, TO

Luv2p8@gmail.com- in the subject line put Unit # Leg 23-24 Year End-

I will respond within 24 hours of receiving. If you do not hear from me-
call 623 640 0134

If you prefer to mail Kathy Amery | 9902 W Desert Hills Drive| Sun City, |AZ | 85351.

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

I so look forward to receiving your reports and narratives.

Kathy Amery

Department Legislative Chair 2023-2024

Luv2p8@gmail.com or 623.640.0134



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

Greetings Musicophiles (“music lovers”),

Please continue to promote music within your Unit and Post. Let’s get the love of music out to everyone. Use your imagination and spread the love of music and our Country. Together, we’ve got the music in us!. Turn other people on to music. Here’s a suggestion to use your talents as a fundraiser. This could add to your President’s Special Project , Girl’s State. Speaking of Girl’s State, did you know Girl’s State has a “Glee Club”?

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

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

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

“Music expresses that which cannot be said on which it is impossible to be silent. ”

William Shakespeare

amblonde01@gmail.com

602.999.4054 cell

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

Alma Mattingly, Department Music Chairman

16575 W. Moreland Street, Goodyear, AZ 85338

Educating Tomorrow's Veterans Today

April 2024

Greetings from Department Headquarters.

Thank you, to the units who submitted their dues increased, to Department Headquarters. If your unit did not submit the form, your dues will be the same as the 23-24 membership year.

Unused credits from members paying online should have received their checks.

Starting this month, units will receive a check from Wells Fargo. Department will send an email to the Unit president with the amount of the check.

IF UNITS DO NOT CASH THE CHECK WITH IN 90 DAYS DEPARTMENT WILL NOT ISSUE ANOTHER CHECK UNLESS THE ERROR IS ON END.

REPORTS REPORTS REPORTS REPORTS REPORTS

It's that time of the year! Reports are due to Program Chairman on or before May 1, 2024. All the report forms are on the website. The report forms are now FILLABLE!

When sending your report to the Department Chairman please copy President Rose and Department on your email.

Don't forget the Unit Impact Report. This report is due to Department on or before May 1, 2024.

There is a link to the Unit Impact Report on the Department website. Members Resources → 10 Department Awards and Narratives // Impact Report // National Award Forms

Mandates: Thank you to the units who have paid Department mandates; *85% of the units have paid their mandates.*

The following units have NOT paid their mandates.

1, 3, 8, 9, 37, 46, 84, 88, 90, 103, 107, 114, 125, 130, 141

REMINDER mandates must be paid 30 days before Department Convention, if not your unit will lose their right to vote at Department Convention

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

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

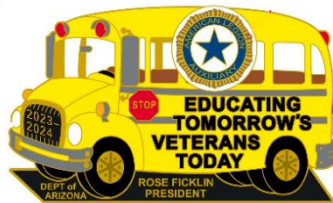
Membership: "AZ-Diterod, Sledding to Our Goals 23-24". Membership is everyone's job. Thank you to EVERYONE who has renewed, recruited, or rejoined members. As of the writing of this bulletin, Arizona is 883 members above this time last year! THANK YOU to all who is working membership.

As of March 27, 2024, Arizona is in second place in the Western Division. 😞 Keep up the awesome work. Our very own Jan Cushing, Western Division National Vice President, will be making Department visits. Let's show her Arizona is the BEST IN THE WEST!

Don't hold on to membership, please send in weekly. One transmittal per envelope.

The weekly membership report is posted on Friday's on the Department website.

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



Barbara White
Interim Dept Secretary
secretary1@aladeptaz.org

Barbara Matteson
Department Secretary
secretary1@aladeptaz.org

Rae Hopf
Dept Membership Processor
membership@aladeptaz.org

2024 Directory Updates

Unit 44

New email address for the Unit.

auxiliary@azpost44.org



NATIONAL POPPY DAY MAY 24TH

POPPY POSTER NEWS FLASH!!! SEE MAY BULLETIN FOR CHANGES

~~DO NOT send the original poppy posters for judging. **Photograph and send them by email only.** This allows for forwarding to the Western Division. I have been advised this is the new tactic this year as they do not want all the miscellaneous paper work at Western division and National. Sorry I was not advised of this sooner.~~

~~If you already have posters and want to forward, make sure they are appropriately identified on the poster. I will respond by email when received and download into a file for judging. After the confirmation of receipt, you may return or utilize the posters.~~

~~Rules and cover sheet are provided on the website. Please send the Unit winning posters for Department judging by **May 10th**.~~

MISS POPPY

For those Units with Juniors consider working the Poppy Girl part of this program. They are considering allowing the Junior Sons to participate in the future. This subject may be brought up at the National Convention. Some Units in other states have already developed an internal policy addressing this issue.

MISS POPPY PLAQUE

Awarded each year to the outstanding Miss Poppy in the Department and is the property of the recipient. **RULES:** Must be a Junior American Legion Auxiliary member in the age limits as specified by the National Organization categories.

- A Miss Poppy Scrapbook is mandatory for competition, judging based on:
 - **A.** Costume;
 - **B.** Promotion of the Poppy program through the American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and outside Groups or Organizations;
 - **C.** Publicity through media of radio, television, newspapers and direct approach to the Poppy Program such as Personal visitation.
- Pictures included may be black and white and/or colored pictures.
- Loose-leaf cover which uses standard 8 ½ x 11 inch filler sheets. The Department Chairman shall select a committee of three to judge entries at the Junior Department Conference.
- Scrapbooks may be brought to the Department Junior Conference or mailed to the Department Poppy Chairman.
- The plaque will be presented at the Junior Conference and winner announced at the Department Convention

MARIE COONEY MEMORIAL PLAQUE: Poppy Window/Public Display contest.

RULES:

- 1. Poppy Window/Public Display Contest can be sponsored by the Senior or Junior organization of the Unit.
- 2. The display must be shown the week preceding Unit Poppy Day.

- 3. Each display must have its main object “The Poppy” and must include the wording “American Legion Auxiliary”. The word “buddy” MUST NOT be used.
- 4. Features may include the story of the poppy, benefits derived from Poppy Day, Flanders Field, miniature cemetery, battlefields, field of poppies, poppy decorations, etc. The Star of David (six pointed star), symbol of the Jewish faith, shall be used in Poppy Window/Public Display when the cross is featured.
- 5. To be eligible for this plaque, a black and white or colored picture 8 x 10 inches shall be submitted to the Department Poppy Chairman for judging.
- 6. Name and address of the Unit submitting the entry shall be written plainly in ink on back of picture.
Poppy window entries need to be received by May 5th

MARIE TOWNSEND PLAQUE:

The purpose of the award is to stimulate interest and activity in a well-rounded program in the usage of the Poppy. Any Unit in the Department may compete for this award, provided it complies with the following provisions:

- A. A minimum of 100 Poppies are ordered by September 30 of the year it enters the competition.
- B. The Unit annual Poppy report is forwarded to the Department Poppy Chairman by the deadline date.
- C. A typewritten narrative report of not more than 1,000 words listing the usage of poppies the year round on a month to month basis is forwarded to the Department Chairman at the time of the annual Poppy report.

Due May 1st.

NITA KIMBALL COMMUNITY POPPY AWARENESS AWARD:

Award for the most original “hand-out” item utilizing the poppy and designed by a Unit for distribution to the public, eg bookmarks, hair clips, lapel pins, etc. Any Unit in the Department of Arizona may receive this award.

- 1. (10 pts.) The entry must include 5 items of similar design representing those distributed by the Unit, mounted on a poster board no larger than 20” x 20”. Pictures taken during the item distribution may be mounted on the poster.
- 2. (40 pts.) A 100 word summary of the Community Poppy Awareness Project must be mounted on the poster. It must include the following:
 - a. Unit Name and Unit Number
 - b. How many members worked on the items presented and how many hours of preparation
 - c. How the items were presented to the community
 - d. How many items were made and handed out and the total amount of donations received for the items
- 3. (30 pts.) The item design must showcase the poppy
- 4. (20 pts.) Originality

Must be placed in the marked area to be judged no later than 1:00 pm Friday afternoon or will not qualify for judging. In the event of a tied score the Poppy Chairman of the tied Units will be requested to present a verbal description of their Community Poppy Awareness entry.

PATRIOTIC POPPY DECORATION PLAQUE:

Any Unit in the Department of Arizona may receive this plaque to recognize poppy “decorations” brought to Department Convention for display, eg dolls, centerpieces, hats, 3-D posters, etc.

RULES:

- 1. Overall dimensions of the decoration should not exceed 15” x 15” x 15”.
- 2. (20 pts.) Must contain at least 20 official crepe paper poppies with tags properly removed.
- 3. (30 pts.) Theme must be Patriotic.
- 4. An 8x10 written description will be placed by the decoration. This will include the following:
 - a. (10 pts.) Name of the Unit and Unit Number

- b. (10 pts.) Description of the decoration and why it is Patriotic.
- c. (10 pts.) Names of everyone who worked on decoration and how many hours of preparation.
- d. (10 pts.) Signed and dated at the bottom by the Unit Poppy Chairman.

Must be placed in the marked area to be judged no later than 1:00 pm Friday afternoon or will not qualify for judging.

DO NOT CONFUSE THIS AWARD WITH THE SPECIAL HAT CONTEST FOR THIS YEAR ONLY!!

ALL YEAR END REPORTS AND NARRATIVES ARE DUE MAY 1ST UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED

Kat Sticklin, Arizona Poppy Co-chair
1519 S. 2nd Avenue, Safford, AZ 85546
928-322-1550
kat2sticks@gmail.com

April 2024

Greetings,

I want to start by thanking all the Units, Posts and American Legion Family members who came out and welcomed our National President to Arizona. President Lisa had a great time and was very impressed with the work our Arizona Units are doing. Thank you from the bottom of my heart to everyone who had a hand in planning an event for her.

At this writing Arizona has hit 100% in membership. WAY TO GO!!! That also means that I will be wearing a dress for the opening processional at the convention on June 21st 8:15 am at El Conquistador in Tucson. Please be early to get a seat.

Detachment Commander Chris “Baz” Balsley and I will be having a combined Homecoming Dinner on April 13th at Post 26 505 W 2nd Ave Mesa, AZ 85210. No host starts at 4:30pm. The Program starts at 5:30. Please contact Mary Dunn at 602-999-7481 or at dunnworks@cox.net to RSVP ASAP.

I can't believe this year is less than 80 days away from completion. I have had a great time representing you all.

Until next month,

Rose



**JOIN US FOR THE HOMECOMING DINNER FOR
DEPARTMENT COMMANDER
STEVE "Sqerrly" SPERL
MAY 11, 2024**

No Host Cocktails 4:30 p.m.

Program Begins 5:30 p.m.

Dinner Served 6:00 p.m.

Music and Karaoke by DJ Blackie 7 p.m.

Cost: \$25.00/20.00

MENU: Prime Rib or Vegetarian Option

DRESS CODE: Business Casual, Branded shirts/blouses

DINNER LOCATION: American Legion Post 36
5845 E 22nd St
Tucson, Arizona 85711

QUESTIONS? Call or text 2nd Vice Commander,

Hotel: Varsity Club Tucson Hilton Grand Vacations

3855 E Speedway Blvd

Tucson, AZ 85716

commander@azlegion.org

Email Commander Sperl for reservations- as they will be under his name and remain in his name for the Block to receive this negotiated rate, you will be added as a guest. Decide if you need a 1 or 2 BR, if so, names of roommate will be needed.

\$79.00 Per night (1 and 2-Bedroom Suites with fully equipped kitchens)

Mail this page and applicable check to
American Legion Post 36 c/o Commander Sperl's Dinner
5845 E 22nd St, Tucson, Arizona 85711

Make Checks payable to: American Legion Post 36
c/o Commander Sperl's Dinner

Please reserve ____ Prime Rib dinner(s) \$25.00

Please reserve ____ Vegetarian option(s) \$20.00

DEADLINE: SUNDAY April 21st, 2024

Enclosed \$ _____

Please list Names for this event:

Please indicate hotel reservation dates requested and #bedrooms:

Mail this page and applicable check to
American Legion Post 36 c/o Commander Sperl's Dinner
5845 E 22nd St, Tucson, Arizona 85711

American Legion Auxiliary VA&R REPORT
TUCSON VA MEDICAL CENTER
2-29-24

Major changes to mask requirements have finally happened. We are working very hard with the Recreation therapists to get our traditional events back up and running. We have wonderful volunteers for the second Saturday for Bingo at the Community Living Center but can use more help. Currently on the schedule is a Creative Arts awards ceremony to be held on March 21st to honor all of last year's medal winners and to promote participation for other Veterans. ALA will be providing refreshments. An Adaptive Sports Clinic is scheduled for April (either the 10th or the 17th). ALA will be providing refreshments. We need volunteers for the third Wednesday for Bridging at Building 90. Please contact me if your Unit can help.

Ward W2 (Dementia Ward) in Building 60 is currently seeking twin size blankets for their patients (this is an ongoing need). They request that the blankets be different colors/patterns so each patient will recognize their personal blanket. Thank you Unit 8, Unit 62 & Unit 66 for your generous donations. They are also requesting clothing donations (sweatshirts and sweatpants all sizes especially size small in "girly" colors for the two female Veterans, socks and shoes men's sizes 9 and above). Many of the Veterans they serve come in with no clothing. One female patient in Building 60 is 106 years young. She plays Bingo with us each month.

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

Patriot Pantry is up and running at is currently supporting 40 to 50 Veterans with food insecurities. The current monthly cost for this program is estimated at \$1,500. VA funds can now be used to purchase the food and different donors are shopping and delivering the items to SAVAHCS. There is also a Patriot Pantry program at the Sierra Vista CBOC. Thank you Unit 73, Unit 131 and Unit 132 for your generous donations.

The grand total of monetary donations for the American Legion Auxiliary for May 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024 is \$1,352. Thank you Unit 32 for your generous donation to Fisher House.

The grand total of material and activity donations for the American Legion Auxiliary for May 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024 is \$19,194.63. Thank you Unit 62, Unit 73, Unit 109, Unit 131 and Unit 132 for your generous donations to support our programs.

Eight registered hospital volunteers donated time which was credited to the American Legion Auxiliary. The grand total of registered volunteer hours May 1, 2023 to February 29, 2024 is 830.5. Twelve occasional volunteers have contributed 110 hours as of February 29, 2024. We have on-boarded two new volunteers whose hours will benefit the American Legion Auxiliary. The Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE formerly Voluntary Service) is bringing back many volunteers.

This chairman has volunteered 160 hours and logged 1,940 miles this year in service to the Tucson VA Medical Center as of February 29, 2024. This chairman has now logged over 4,000 hours in service to SAVAHCS. This chairman was re-elected to be the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the VAVS Executive Committee at the meeting on October 12, 2021. This chairman has been elected to fill a three year term on the VAVS Executive Committee. This chairman has attended every Executive Committee meeting and every VAVS meeting this year. This chairman is working with the Homeless Program to ensure that our Homeless Veterans and those in Transitional Housing have the food and beverages that they need. This chairman is actively supporting the Patriot Pantry at SAVAHCS. This chairman is working with the Recreation departments to purchase needed supplies for the National Veterans Creative Arts Program and other recreational activities. National Creative Arts winners were announced in December. Tucson had four medal winners and we are planning a celebration with refreshments on March 21st. We have already held an advance planning "meet and greet" and invited all interested Veterans. Unit 73 provided refreshments for this event. Annual Joint Review was completed November 28, 2023. VAVS Committee voted to fully fund transportation for the gold medal winners from NVCA at SAVAHCS on February 1, 2023. VAVS Committee voted to support the Patriot Pantry with a donation of \$3,000 on October 25, 2023. Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Szakonyi, VAVS Representative