

# **Making a Brighter World for Our Veterans**

May 2022

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

**Please pay all mandates by May 23, 2022 or NO VOTE. The following Units have not paid their Department Mandates...19,25,30,31,35,46,61,68,73,79,87,90,105,114,117, 125,131,136,138,139,140,141.**

**Dues will be going up...it was a topic at Mid-Year NEC meeting 3-5-2022. Don't be surprised at Convention. The National per capita dues shall be eighteen dollars (\$18.00) per annum for Senior members beginning in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024, with a one dollar (\$1.00) increase in FY 2026 (\$19.00), FY 2028 (\$20.00) and FY2030 (\$21.00) National Junior member dues remain at two dollars and fifty cents (\$2.50) per annum with a \$.50 (fifty cent) increase in FY2026 to three dollars (\$3.00) per annum, FY2028 (\$3.50), and FY2030 (\$4.00)**

**YEAR END REPORTS FORMS...PR has a report form in the packet. WATCH WHO TO SEND THEM TO...DO NOT SEND THEM HERE TO DEPARTMENT EXCEPT THE IMPACT REPORT.**

**FISHER HOUSE PHOENIX...Yes...Friends of Fisher House Phoenix has gotten there 501c3 designation to raise money for the NEW PHOENIX HOUSE. Donations can be sent here, and they will be sent to them. Let's be the largest contributor here like we were in Tucson. You need to identify your Fisher House donation for Tucson or Phoenix starting now.**

**State Veteran Homes...If you have done anything at either home (Phoenix or Tucson) please share with what you have done. Send Department a email...we know nothing.**

**DIRECTORY ADDITIONS / CORRECTIONS...We're good.**

**EXTRA... EXTRA ... "RED TICKET" ... Did you get one? If you get one send Department an email to let us know and the reward will be sent out asap.**

**2023 DUES...DO NOT SEND THEM TO US UNTIL WE NOTIFY YOU. NATIONAL WILL NOT ALLOW THEM TO BE PAID BEFORE THERE ARE READY. We do not want to be responsible for the funds.**

**MEMBERSHIP... "REACHING FOR THE GOAL".** Membership is everyone's job. Legion Act has opened the window of eligibility from 12-7-1941 thru now. **The Department Goal this year 14,282 and we are at 94.14%. We need to be at 100% by May 25, 2022**

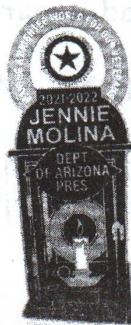
**RENEW MEMBERSHIP BY PHONE...** Call National Headquarters at **(317) 569-4570** with your member ID and debit or credit card ready.

**Applications MUST BE LEGIBLE AND COMPLETE**

- **The original application is sent to DEPARTMENT not copies of them.**
- **Be eligible & USE BLUE INK, SEND ORIGINAL APPLICATION and COMPLETE INFO.**
- **Unit number**
- **Name of Veteran related to and only 1.**
- **NEW "ANYTIME AFTER" Veteran Served...MUST IDENTIFY CONFLICT...CHECK ALL THAT APPLY.**
- **DIRECT DESCENDANT... No longer on NEW application.**
- **Only 1 relationship and do not add any.**
- **Now you have spouse in place of wife, you have to identify female or male spouse.**
- **Must be signed by a Post Officer unless it is woman veterans joining on herself.**
- **Half sheet transmittal both white and yellow copies.**
- **Do not pay for paid online and PUFL members on your transmittals...They are already paid for.**
- **USE THE FORMS PROVIDED BY DEPARTMENT FOR MEMBERSHIP PROCESSING.**
- **DO NOT RECREATE THE FORMS.**

**"What is your favorite thing to do for Memorial Day?"**

**Barbara Matteson**  
**Dept Secretary/Treasurer**  
[secretary@aladeptaz.org](mailto:secretary@aladeptaz.org)



**Pat Stanaski**  
**Dept Membership Processor**  
[membership@aladeptaz.org](mailto:membership@aladeptaz.org)

**2022-2023 UNIT MEMBERSHIP  
NATIONAL AUTOMATED RENEWAL NOTICES**

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

We understand that your Unit has not yet elected officers for the upcoming year; however, we **MUST** have the requested information **on or before May 15, 2022.**

The dues amount listed below will be printed on the upcoming **2023 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICES** that will be mailed to each **SENIOR MEMBER IN YOUR UNIT.** Also listed below is the address to be printed on each renewal notice showing where and whom to mail the dues for your Unit.

Please understand that **“NO CHANGE IN THE AMOUNT OF DUES OR THE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE DUES ARE TO BE SENT CAN BE MADE AFTER “MAY 30, 2022”.** Please return this form to: **ALA Dept Headquarters, Attn: Barbara Matteson; 4701 N. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave. Suite 100 Phoenix, AZ 85015.**

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

\*\*\*\*\*NO EXCEPTIONS\*\*\*\*\*

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DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA	UNIT NUMBER _____
2023 SENIOR DUES OF THE UNIT ARE	\$ _____
2023 JUNIOR DUES OF THE UNIT ARE	\$ _____

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

\_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_  
(Street, or R.R. & Box)

**CITY** \_\_\_\_\_ **STATE** \_\_\_\_\_

**ZIP CODE** \_\_\_\_\_

**AREA CODE** \_\_\_\_\_ **TELEPHONE NUMBER** \_\_\_\_\_

**DATE** \_\_\_\_\_ **SIGNATURE** \_\_\_\_\_

**TITLE** \_\_\_\_\_

DEPARTMENT OF AZ AMERICAN LEAGION AUXILIARY

BALLOTING FOR MAY 2022

GREETINGS FROM THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT. AS WE GET CLOSER TO THE END OF THIS YEAR I AM VERY HAPPY TO VISUALIZE THE WORK YOU HAVE ALL DONE FOR OUR ORGANIZATION. MEMBERSHIP IS GALLOPING ALONG AND I DO NOT DOUBT THAT WE WILL WIND UP IN FIRST. YOU HAVE RECRUITED AND TAKEN THE TIME TO BRING BACK SOME OF OUR OLD MEMBERS. KEEP IT UP

MAY IS A VERY EXCITING MONTH FOR EVENTS TO HAPPEN AND FOR US TO SHARE WITH OTHERS. WE HAVE GRADUATIONS, PLANNING FOR VACATIONS AND MOST OF ALL WE HAVE CELEBRATIONS TO HONOR OUR VETERANS. MEMORIAL DAY IS MAY 30. START PLANNING HOW YOU WILL DISTRIBUTE POPPIES IN REMEMBRANCE OF OUR VETERANS. USE THIS AS A TIME TO EDUCATE YOUR COMMUNITY ON THE TRUE MEANING OF THE POPPY. REMEMBER IT IS A HOLIDAY TO CELEBRATE BUT MORE IMPORTANT TO REMEMBER.

IT IS TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT LEADERS FOR OUR ORGANIZATION. REMEMBER, ANY MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING MAY TRY TO GET ELECTED TO RUN FOR OFFICE. IF YOU FEEL YOU ARE UP TO IT MAKE SURE YOU GET NOMINATED.

I WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU FOR THE SUPPORT YOU HAVE GIVEN FOR THIS YEAR'S SPECIAL PROJECT, BUILDING AWARENESS AND EDUCATION ON PTSD. WHEN OUR NATIONAL PRESIDENT, KATHY WAS HERE SHE WAS IMPRESSED WITH THE ATTENTION AND DEVOTION YOU GAVE HER. THANK YOU!!!

SO AS THIS YEAR MOVES ALONG, KEEP THAT LIGHTED CANDLE ALIVE AND BURNING.

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

Jennie Molina

truelepa@gmail.com

Department of Az, President

(520) 220-8460

American Legion Auxiliary

PO Box 448 Douglas, AZ 85608

## **Americanism**

### **Mental Health Month**

**May is the month for Veterans Mental Health. Many soldiers or veterans have had struggles due to stressors during military service. Mental health issues can be silent and unnoticed or just thoughts in passing, or behaviors acted out. These events may continue to occur during their life time either during time served or after discharge/retirement. Not every episode is the same. Suicide is the one most known event as it affects everyone.**

**Too many veterans and active service members have been lost to suicide. Family for Veterans and active duty are those related by blood and those brothers and sisters whom they know and have served with.**

**Identifying problems in life that cause stress is a great beginning. Being aware of potential or real issues prior to a crisis is important. Issues include finance, housing, a place to feel safe, relationship issues and those triggers for post traumatic stress. Developing a plan with a case manager can assist in treatment especially to avoid a disastrous outcome. The problem is complex and getting help can be difficult, the maze of organizations and resources is overwhelming. Be proactive in knowing your resources and how to access the systems.**

Linda Lopez  
Americanism Chair

Happy  
Mother's  
Day!



“Making a Brighter World for Our Veterans”

Cavalcade of Memories

May 2022

Here are some memories for you in Arizona there were 5 Department Lady Commanders. Four have passed on and there is one still living. The Cavalcades wanted to remember them for their service as Department Commanders. And the Department Presidents they served with.

1984 – Catherine Kay Compton Department Commander Post #3 Mark A. More Served with Department President Monica Jarvis Unit #35 Mathew B. Juan.

1993 – Maria F. Currie Department Commander Post #19 H.H. Donkersley Served with Department President Centennial Stewart Unit #65 R.H. Hamilton-now Travis L. Williams.

2000 – Mary Ellen Piotrowski Department Commander Post #94 Ellen Piotrowski Served with Department President Joyce Arent Unit #117 Pat Tillman.

2009 – Carol Hamburger Department Commander Post #105 Christopher J. Lapka Served with Department President Debbie Collins Unit #29 Earl E. Mitchell.

2013 – Judith S. Beischel Department Commander Post #58 Fountain Hills Served with Department President Kathleen Medalen Unit #36 John P. Burns.

Out of these Presidents only two of these Presidents have passed away Monica Jarvis and Kathleen Medalen.

Department Cavalcade of Memories Chairman

Paula Burgess

*Chaplain*

*May 2022*

*“To those who live to make the world a better place:*

*“Ye are the salt of the earth”*

*-Matthew 5:13*

**Here we are at the end of another fabulous year, and you are truly the salt of the earth! Volunteerism is alive and well in the American Legion Auxiliary.**

**I want you to think of the things your units have accomplished this year, even with the pandemic we have had to adjust and still are adjusting to the fact that this pandemic has affected our lives in one way or another, but you still strive to volunteer however and wherever you can.**

**I hope that you are preparing a prayer book to enter for those awards applicable to your unit at convention. I continue to ask for poems, prayers, or something spiritual that you would like to share for President Jennie’s Prayer Book.**

**Thank you to all the units and individuals that have sent me prayers, also to the units that have sent in their reports early.**

**I would like to thank every one of you for your support and encouragement you gave me as your Department Chaplain throughout the year.**

*You are the Salt of the Earth!*

*“May your blessings outnumber the flowers that grow and may trouble avoid you wherever you go.”*

*“May Our Lord hold our troops in his loving hand, protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in time of need. May he also hold in his loving hands those we have lost in the American Legion Family and in our own personal lives.” Amen*

**Dolores Chavez**

**928-386-0841**

***chebeejs@cox.net***

# Community Service

*May 2022*

Hello ALA Members,

*"The act of giving is the heart of happiness and community." ~Glen C. Stewart*

*The following are key program statements for Community Service by National*

- Making our communities better places in which to live is something Auxiliary members strive for each day across this country.
- A major outreach program of the Auxiliary since 1926, Community Service also demonstrates our longstanding commitment to supporting the work of American Legion posts and other organizations in providing assistance with blood drives, first aid and CPR training, child safety programs, support for women in shelters, and disaster and emergency preparedness programs.

If you are looking for ideas, I encourage you to visit the National Facebook page for Community Service at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/110203022459992/> or search Facebook for ALA Community Service.

You can also post your pics and events to Ring your bell on Facebook.

If you have any questions on the Community Service program, please, don't hesitate to contact me! Thank you!

Sara C. Decker  
Community Service Chairman  
[SaradeckerAZ@gmail.com](mailto:SaradeckerAZ@gmail.com)  
480-580-3269



## What not to do in your Constitution & Bylaws

Not sure if you need to update your Constitution & Bylaws? Here are some examples of wording you may not want to have in your constitution, bylaws, and standing rules:

1. "Organization of women" or "the world's largest women's patriotic service organization." As of 2019, the membership eligibility changed to "spouses."

2. Membership eligibility that still lists "wives." It might be easier to just align with the national wording: "Eligibility for membership in the American Legion Auxiliary is determined by The American Legion. The eligibility requirements from The American Legion governing documents shall be provided as a footnote to this Constitution for information purposes and shall be updated as appropriate." See page 6 of the ALA National Constitution on the My Auxiliary portal of the national website at [www.ALForVeterans.org](http://www.ALForVeterans.org).

3. National Executive Committee *woman*. See No. 1. Try "member" instead.

4. "Her" or "she" or "hostess" – there's no easy fix here, so you have to go through it line by line and make it inclusive and gender neutral. We know. It's a lot of work. We're not asking you to do anything we didn't do ourselves, though!

5. Rules on withdrawal of membership: "A unit member may withdraw providing her current dues are fully paid." Nope. Get out your red pen and mark out the whole sentence. If a person does not pay dues, that's their way of saying they no longer want to be a member. They do have to be current on their dues in order to *transfer* from one unit to another.

6. A rule requiring units to file their C&B with the department. Nope. Units are independent affiliates (see the national Standing Rule XI). Yes, departments can ask *nicely* with sugar on top, but should think twice if it's in their bylaws – are you ready to assume risk for the unit, department?

7. A rule requiring lapsed members to pay "back dues" before reinstating into membership. Sorry, no! Also, you can't discipline a member for not paying dues. If they no longer want to pay dues and belong to the organization, that is the decision of the member. If a member wants to keep "continuous years of membership," the member *may* opt to pay all the back dues owed, but it's not a requirement for reinstatement.

8. A department rule telling a unit how to discipline its members. That's the unit's job.

9. Empowering an officer with "executive powers." That's not really a thing. Spell out the duties of the office clearly. Check Robert's Rules if you aren't sure.

10. Having a rule that your unit will pay for any member to go to National Convention. True story. If it says it in your bylaws, you must do it.

11. A rule on who can run for national office. Those rules are determined by the National Convention body, not the unit or the department.

12. A rule that states a unit must follow a procedure "as stated in the Unit Guide." What happens if that part of the Unit Guide no longer exists? Better to just state the rules in your document instead of referring to an outside document.

13. "Recommend." A recommendation is not a rule.

14. "Chaplin." Charlie Chaplin is not a member of the Auxiliary (wink!). But there is a "chaplain."

Josephine Herrera

## EDUCATION

May 2022

The school year is coming to end and, despite ongoing restrictions in our schools due to COVID-19 this year, I want to thank the Units who turned in a report.

One Unit submitted an Application for the American Legion Auxiliary Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship and it has been forwarded to National for consideration.

May is Military Appreciation Month

May 2-6: Teacher Appreciation Week (ThankATeacher)

May 8: Mother's Day

May 11: National School Nurses Day

May 30: Memorial Day

Even though this school year is coming to a close, please continue to support our Education Program and continue your donations of school supplies (pencils, pens, crayons, rulers, paper, notebooks, etc).

The education of our children is essential for the future of our nation. I hope you will continue supporting the American Legion Auxiliary's role in promoting the basic rights of all children to receive a quality education beyond high school.

*"I hear and I forget. I see and I remember. I do and I understand."*

*"What I learn today does not make yesterday wrong, it makes tomorrow better."*

Anita Ritter  
Education Chair  
Department of Arizona  
Ritmar@cox.net  
602-679-1785

## Legislative

May 2022

Greetings,

I hope this finds all of you in good health and spirits. Are you ready for Convention? Did you get your reports in? Your End of the Year Reports **WERE** due into the Department Chairman **by May 1, 2022. Reports must include a narrative with a cover sheet to be considered for an award.**

Now that I am off my soap box, for those that turned in reports, thank you. Your work is appreciated. I cannot stress how important it is for Units to turn in their reports. Even if you just turn in the fillable form from Department and not necessarily a narrative for an award, at least I have an idea of what to report to National. Which is due May 15<sup>th</sup>?

We are getting to kind of lull at the State Capitol. Session is winding down and all the candidates running for office have turned in their petitions to get on the ballot. Everyone at the State Capitol is anticipating a Sine Die, meaning the adjournment of the Legislative Session. We have been told that it is going to be a long session. Right before session is adjourned, the Legislature must pass a budget for the physical year to be approved and signed by the Governor. Some interesting things I have heard on that budget. Some pertaining to LEO's and their retirement for one. Which I am watching in particular because it affects me. Others are for military and veterans that Legislators like Senator Sonny Borrelli are trying to get passed.

In closing, please stay healthy and positive. Remember, we are all in this together. Please remember, to be kind and patient with one another. I miss you all and care deeply about you and hope to see you soon. If there is anything you need to talk about, call or email me. I am but a few clicks away.

For God and Country,

Stephanie M. McMullen

Chairman

16575 W. Moreland St.

Goodyear, AZ 85338

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

## Reaching for the Goal!

May 2022

As of the writing of this article Arizona is 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Western Division! THANK YOU to everyone!

Thank you to everyone who submitted narratives for year end awards. Also, to those Units who provided a summary of their membership activities throughout the year.

Keep watching Ring Your Bell for membership information. There are now 26 Units in the 100% Club.

ARIZONA, we did it. We made 95% by April 27. The Department of Arizona will receive \$250 from National.

Until next month . . . .

Barbara White  
Department Vice President  
602-908-2980  
[Barbarawhite99@gmail.com](mailto:Barbarawhite99@gmail.com)



American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Arizona

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**“Education and Awareness of Our Veterans With PTSD”**  
**MUSIC REPORT**  
**MAY 2022**

Greetings Melomanos (“music lovers”),

I do hope you have enjoyed working your Music program within your Unit. Music selections for Convention Memorial Service are done and I’m excited about these selections. If you missed the opportunity to lend your talents at Fall Conference, you will have an opportunity at Convention in 2022. I’m looking forward to seeing your beaming faces singing your hearts out at Convention, as well as the Legion and Sons of the American Legion members. Please encourage your Post and Unit members to attend and participate as well. The choir at Fall Conference was amazing for a small group. They produced such an amazing and glorious sound. Imagine how wonderful a larger group would be! Once again, we will not be using the choir robes. Please bring your Legion attire in red, white or blue with black or navy pants. Remember the Convention is June 23-26 at Conquistador Resort, Oro Valley.

Year End reports were due May 1, 2022. I’m looking forward to reading about the wonderful things your Unit has done. I’m certainly looking forward to bragging about your accomplishments and presenting awards at Convention.

See you at Convention!

“Singing exercises your heart, lungs, and releases endorphins, making you feel good.”

With a song in your heart.

For God and Country,

Alma Mattingly, Department Music Chairman

16575 W. Moreland Street, Goodyear, AZ 85338  
[amblonde01@gmail.com](mailto:amblonde01@gmail.com)  
602.999.4054 cell

**NATIONAL SECURITY**  
**MAY 2022**

What types of National Security activities and/or projects were done by your unit?

**Did the Unit:**

- Support the emotional and social needs of active, Reserve, and transitioning military service members and their families.
  
- Wear Red on Fridays to “Remember Everyone Deployed”.
  
- Decorate your community with yellow ribbons as a gesture of appreciation for local service members’ military service. Encourage others to do the same.
  
- Assist military spouses in getting and maintaining employment.
  
- Become more informed about issues affecting a military family’s home life, such as PTSD, TBI, domestic violence, financial literacy, and other issues.
  
- Support the National Security programs of the American Legion.

As the National Security Department Chairman, I would like to hear from you so I can report your work to the National Chairman. Reports are due!

Patricia Lugo, Chairman

plugo1@cox.net

602-475-0208

## New Units/Unit Development & Revitalization

MAY 2022

### Relationship Between Unit and Post

The relationship between the two organizations is one of cooperation rather than regulation. The American Legion Posts and American Legion Auxiliary Units are related but independent organizations each with separate EIN's, financial records, Bylaws, etc.

The National Judge Advocate of The American Legion issued the following ruling:

“It is crystal clear that The American Legion Post has no authority to control the Unit related to It.” The Post may not revoke nor threaten revocation of its Unit's charter.

The Unit should regard its connection with the Post as a distinct honor. It should strive unceasingly to carry out the National Constitution's pledge “to participate in and contribute to the accomplishment of the aims and purposes of The American Legion.”

Jan Cushing  
New Units/UD&R  
[gcushing@cox.net](mailto:gcushing@cox.net)  
623-544-0797



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
PAST PRESIDENT PARLEY

MAY 2022

This month we celebrate Unit 14 in Kingman. Please enjoy the pictures below that they are sharing with all of us. Congratulations on a successful event!!



**NATIONAL CHANGED THE TWO AWARDS LISTED BELOW TO THE LEADERSHIP PROGRAM: Please send your reports and narratives to Karen Smith, [Ksmith111@cox.net](mailto:Ksmith111@cox.net)**

**UNIT MEMBER OF THE YEAR and**

**NATIONAL SALUTE TO WOMEN VETERANS**

The remaining awards listed below are due by May 1<sup>st</sup> to me, PPP Chairman.

*The AAPP (Arizona's Active Past Presidents Plaque)*

*Cora Grigg Past Presidents Parley Plaque*

*Jarvis Plaque (Auxiliary Member of the Year)*

Cindy Queen  
Past President Parley Chairman

[cynqueen53@cox.net](mailto:cynqueen53@cox.net)

602-316-7647





## THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY Poppy Report

Hello everyone!

**Reports are due to me by May 1st.** Please try to send them before hand so I have enough time to send in my report. You may mail them to me or email, whichever you prefer.

**My address is 9026 W Palo Verde Ave, Peoria, AZ, 85345.**

If your unit did anything special please let me know. I'd love to inform everyone in these reports.

### **Honorary Mention:**

Unit 44 had their first poppy princess represent the ALA in the Prada Del Sol parade. After years of entering a float, they finally added their poppy princess, 8 year-old Moyrah Benevides. She is pictured below with her mom and Unit 44 President, June Moyer.



Juniors are the future of the American Legion Auxiliary and I appreciate hearing about how your juniors are getting involved. Do not forget to include them!

I appreciate all of your hard work and look forward to seeing all that you do!

### **Jessica Vaupel (Unit 11)- Poppy Chair**

jessicavaupel23@hotmail.com      623.764.0369

# PUBLIC RELATIONS

Happy May to all members and family!

Most of your units will be helping to get ready for the Memorial Day celebrations this month! Be sure to share on social media as well as any local public media outlets to help get the word out about the services.

A great tool for your website with holidays and events is a calendar. Google has a free calendar that you can use to incorporate into your website and help keep members apprised of up coming events.

A blog is also a great way to share upcoming events as well as any events that have come and gone. Photos, editorials and even videos. These all help those members that could not attend still be a part of each event.

Encourage your juniors to help with all the wonderful events happening this month and see how much fun it can be to participate.

We are less than 2 months out from June Convention. Please be sure to read through the awards for Department and Nationals and get those in and ready. We love to see all those awards go out each year!!

Please feel free to send any and all press related events, posters, flyers, and articles in for the President's Press Book. I have been searching social media and all unit websites to gather some wonderful PR representations for her book. All submissions are welcome and appreciated.

Please note that many year end reports are due this month. Be sure to get those numbers and such in to your Unit Chairman so that they can get them in to our Department Chairman.

Amazing job this year ladies. Cannot wait to see you all at Convention.

**Shannon Mead, PR Chairman**  
**8938 W. Hilton Ave., Tolleson, AZ 85353**  
**623-521-1263 • [shannonmead@live.com](mailto:shannonmead@live.com)**



# American Legion Auxiliary Public Relations Annual Report Form

**Please send complete forms to: shannonmead@live.com  
or mail to: Shannon Mead • 8938 W. Hilton Ave., Tolleson, AZ 85353**

<b>Unit:</b>	<b>REPORT DEADLINE: MAY 1, 2022</b>
<b>Unit PR Chairman:</b>	
<b>Total Members in Unit:</b>	

Please Report Numbers Where Applicable:	Total:
Interviews with local news media	
Articles Published <i>(Do Not Include Letters To Editor, Calendar, Community Notes Or Ads)</i>	
Letters To The Editor/Op-Eds	
Aired Programs/Interviews/Event Coverage	
Public Television Announcements	
Public Service Announcements <i>(Community Notes, Monthly Calendars, etc.)</i>	
Print Advertisement <i>(Paid: Newspaper Ads, Magazine Ads, Etc.)</i>	
Letters Of Appreciation Sent <i>(To Anyone And Everyone)</i>	

List All Other Print Materials Used <i>(Fliers, Banners, Posters, Invites, Etc.)</i>

List All Unit Publications <i>(website, newsletter, social media, bulletins, etc.)</i>

Social Media/Online Presence	Yes or NO
Does your unit have an active social media presence?	
Do your members use the Ring your Bell Facebook page?	
Did your Unit subscribe to the E-News through Nationals?	
Does your junior unit have a facebook page or share yours?	

How Did The Unit Promote The Dept. Presidents Visit?

How Did The Unit Work To Display The ALA In Your Community?

VA&R

May 2022

Happy May Day,

If you have are reading this before May 1<sup>st</sup>, PLEASE send in your reports. As of this writing, I have received 2. Please report the great work your Units have been doing.

From everything I have heard the new State Veterans home in Yuma is still scheduled to open in July. And I, for one am very excited about this. The Yuma area has quite a few veterans and active-duty personnel, so this will be a welcomed sight.

Now is the time to send in any last-minute donations to the VA&R programs and President Jennie's special Project PTSD. Remember those funds can come out of your welfare/poppy monies, every little bit helps.

If you are a caregiver, please email me at, [auntwosie1990@yahoo.com](mailto:auntwosie1990@yahoo.com), I would like to recognize you for all the hard work caregiving entails.

For God and Country,

Rose

Hello Auxiliary Sisters,

What a year! Even with Covid presences in the background, Auxiliary Units came through with donations to VMAC.

A total of \$14,802 was donated by 12 Units.

Unit #41 donated \$9,452 through Department to provide the funds for the new Cart for the new 32 Street Facility to transport patients from the parking lot to the facility. Bella Ward, a Junior, collected \$7,000 of those funds on her own. The Facility has not been officially opened but by May it will be if all goes well.

ALA Department provided the \$400 in increments of \$2 to 200 Christmas cards donated by Unit #41. These cards were distributed to our Veterans at the Hospital at Christmas time.

There was a Bingo machine purchase but due to the supply shortage it has not been operational. Hopefully shortly.

Donations are still needed for a variety of items for our Veterans. Such as clothing, cash to purchase items at the Hospital store, prize items when the Bingo start operating etc.

Thank you for your generous donations and please continue your donations for this excellent Facility that provides such extraordinary services to our Veterans.

Gloria Torres  
Chairman, VMCA

VA&R REPORT  
TUCSON VA MEDICAL CENTER  
3-31-22

**All events are suspended until further notice. There is communication that some volunteer activities will be restarting. No specifics as of this date. Thank you volunteers for your help!**

**Moderna vaccine has arrived and all staff who desired vaccination have been vaccinated. All Veterans and caregivers have been offered the two dose vaccine. Current numbers are rising rapidly according to Director. This may cause changes to the visitation policies at the hospital. Second booster shots are also now available for those over 50.**

**Southwest Blind Rehabilitation Center is now open and is slowly resuming outings. Visitation at SAVAHCS is slowly reopening. Monetary donations are being accepted at this time. Unit 73 sponsored Thanksgiving meals for Veteran patients at SWBRC.**

**There is a new program in start-up process to assist Veterans patients with food insecurities. A separate food pantry is filling this need. The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Arizona donated gift cards valued at \$1,150 towards this program.**

The grand total of monetary donations for the American Legion Auxiliary for May 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022 is \$10,047.47.

The grand total of material and activity donations for the American Legion Auxiliary for May 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022 is \$24,098.67. Thank you Unit 7, Unit 24, Unit 30, Unit 66, Unit 73, Unit 109, Unit 131 and Unit 132 for your generous donations to support our programs.

Four registered hospital volunteers donated time which was credited to the American Legion Auxiliary. The grand total of registered volunteer hours May 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022 is 1,535.5. **S AVAHCS is in the process of bringing back volunteers. Volunteers will be phased in as needed and the process will be closely monitored by the Director. Volunteers will be contacted by the Voluntary Service office as their services are needed. One more Auxiliary volunteer has been called back.**

This chairman has volunteered 210 hours and logged 2,340 miles this year in service to the Tucson VA Medical Center as of March 31, 2022. This chairman has now logged over 4,000 hours in service to SAVAHCS. This chairman was re-elected to be the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the VAVS Executive Committee at the meeting on October 12, 2021. This chairman has been elected to fill a three year term on the VAVS Executive Committee. This chairman has attended every Executive Committee meeting and every VAVS meeting this year. This chairman worked with all Units to provide beverages and snacks for staff, patients and volunteers who were manning the COVID-19 vaccination sites. This chairman is working with the Homeless Program to ensure that our Homeless Veterans and those in Transitional Housing have the food and beverages that they need during this time of enormous stress on all community resources. This chairman is working with the Recreation departments to purchase needed supplies for the National Veterans Creative Arts Program and other recreational activities. **National Veterans Creative Arts Festival is tentatively planned for August, 2022.** Annual Joint Review was completed November 16, 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Szakonyi, VAVS Representative