

Educating Tomorrow's Veterans Today

November 2023

MANDATES: The 2024 mandates are available on the Department website.

Website: Aladeptaz.org

1. Hover your mouse on the Members Resources tab
2. Click on *5. Monthly Bulletins & Programs Information*



Please pay your mandates sooner than later. Any questions regarding Mandates, contact the Department Office at 602-241-2080.

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 meeting or have any questions, contact Shannon at shannonmead@live.com or 623-521-1269.

2024 DIRECTORY: There are updates/changes to the 2024 Department Directory. The directory on the website is up-to-date. The changes will be in the December bulletin.

POPPY: You can 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)

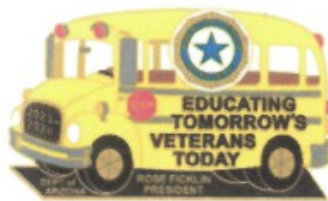
MEMBERSHIP: "AZ-Diterod, Sledding to Our Goals 23-24". Membership is everyone's job. Thank you to EVERYONE who renewed, recruited or rejoined members. 2024 membership renewals, rejoins and new members can be sent to Department. Don't hold on to membership, please send in weekly. One transmittal per envelope.

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.

If you have ALA MIS access, thank you for entering your membership!

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

If your Unit would like 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.



Barbara White for

Barbara Matteson
Dept Secretary
secretary1@aladeptaz.org

Pat Stanaski
Dept Membership Processor
membership@aladeptaz.org

NOVEMBER 2023

First, I would like to tell everyone that I, nor any other Department officer, will ever email members about purchasing gift cards. THIS IS A SCAM. The past few ALA Presidents have had this happen to them. It isn't even an email hack they just use my name and an email that looks official. Believe me, if I have something sensitive to talk to you about, I will call you on the phone. The State Veterans Homes and VAMC's will ask for gift cards but you deliver them to the respective agency NEVER BY EMAIL.

October was quite busy. I enjoyed my trips to Cottonwood for the District 8 meeting, and Unit 32 in Safford rolled out the red carpet for their Early Bird Dinner and District 5 Meeting. They also had a Mission Training.

I wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving,

Until next month

Rose

PRESIDENTS SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
July 22, 2023	AZ Mission Training	Post 86
July 29, 2023	Officer and Chairman Meeting	Post 26
August 12, 2023	Luau Unit 35	Post 35
August 19, 2023	Family Wedding	
Aug. 25 - Sept. 3, 2023	National Convention and Family visit	Charlotte, NC
September 9, 2023	Unit 117 Christmas Cards	Post 117
September 14, 2023	Official Visit Unit 5	Post 5
September 23, 2023	Unit 135 Car Show Cottonwood	Galipin Auto
September 23, 2023	PSP Fundraiser Unit 25	Post 25
September 30, 2023	AZ Mission Training	Post 24
October 7, 2023	Mission Training	Unit 41
October 14, 2023	District 8 Official Visit	Post 25
October 20, 2023	Post 32 Early Bird Dinner	Post 32
October 21, 2023	District 5 Official Visit	Post 32
November 3 -5, 2023	Fall Conference	El Conquistador
November 10, 2023	Tucson Veterans Day Parade	Tucson
November 11, 2023	Veterans Day Parade Mesa	Mesa
November 12, 2023	Luncheon Female Veterans Unit 117	Post 117
November 14, 2023	Official Visit	Post 39
November 18, 2023	District 7 Official Visit	Post 14
November 19, 2023	District 12 Official Visit	Post 27
November 21, 2023	Unit 66 Official Visit	Post 66
November 21, 2023	Unit 131 Official Visit	Post 131
December 2, 2023	Missin Training Unit 115	Post 29
December 3, 2023	Cake Walk	Post 26

PRESIDENTS SCHEDULE

December 4, 2023	Unit 27 Official Visit	Post 27
December 10, 2023	Post 26 Christmas Party	Post 26
January 4, 2024	Official Visit Unit 41	Post 41
January 6, 2024	Department Open House	Department
January 13, 2024	PSP Fundraiser Dist 3	Post 24
January 14, 2024	District 3 Meeting	Post 141
January 20, 2024	Mission Training Unit 125	Casino Del Sol
January 21, 2024	District 2 Meeting	Post 36
January 26 -28, 2024	National Mission Training	Las Vegas
Febuary10, 2024	Official Visit Unit 2	Post 2
Febuary 17, 2024	Mission Training Unit 81 Lake Havasu	Post 81
Febuary 24, 2024	Mission Training Dist 8	Post ??
March 16, 2024	Post 19 Birthday Ball	Post 19
March 17, 2024	District 1 Official Visit	Yuma
March 20 - 24, 2024	NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S VISIT	YUMA/MESA
April 6, 2024	Mission Training 202 District 3	Post 24
April 19- 21	SAL Campout	Cottonwood
April 28 - May 3	Northern Run	
May 1, 2024	REPORTS DUE TO CHAIRMAN	
May 19, 2024	Official Visit Dist 4	Post 133
June 2 - 9, 2024	Girls State	U of A
June 8, 2024	Girls State Banquet	U of A
June 20-23, 2024	Department Convention	El Conquistador



November 2023

This observance originated in 1919 on the first anniversary of the 1918 Armistice Day that ended World War I. President Woodrow Wilson, declared on the 11th hour of the 11th Day of the 11th Month we celebrate Armistice Day. In 1926 the US Congress passed a resolution authorizing the president to recognize and honor the armistice on November 11. An act approved by Congress in 1938 to make it a legal holiday. In 1954 Armistice Day was renamed Veteran's Day to honor our veterans of the armed forces and those killed in the country's war. President Eisenhower issued a Veteran's Day Proclamation to include all service members of all wars to be honored.

What is your unit doing to help promote Veteran's Day? Parades, speeches, luncheons, volunteering at your local VA state nursing home..

How are you promoting Veteran's Day in your schools and your community please share with me or on social media.

Happy Thanksgiving to you all from my family to yours!

**DID YOU KNOW
Veteran's Day - A
celebration of
honor America's
veterans for their
patriotism, love of
country, and
willingness to
serve for the
common good.**

Don't forget
your District
or Unit
banner flags
for Fall
Conference



THINGS THAT MAKE YOU GO HUMM.....
Turkeys are related to the dinosaurs.
Turkey's wishbone, called a furcular is the
connecting point for muscles and a brace
for the wings. Researchers found that the
wishbone dates back more than 150m yrs
to a group of meat-eating dinosaurs that
include T-rex and Velociraptor

Maggie Chavez-Montijo
520-904-1814

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**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona
Chaplain**

RESPONSIBILITIES OF AN AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY CHAPLAIN

The chaplain should attend all meetings and have an opening and closing prayer at each meeting. These prayers may come from any source: Reflections in the quarterly Auxiliary magazine, www.ALAforVeterans.org, self-composed prayers, or those found elsewhere.

As a chaplain, the most important thing for you to remember is that the American Legion Auxiliary does not promote any one religion. We must not offend anyone by promoting our own religion.

Suggested activities:

- Reporting the names of members who are ill and sending them cards
- Sending sympathy cards to family members. If possible, visiting the funeral and doing a memorial service for the deceased member.
- Being in charge of religious services for the unit.
- Visiting members and veterans in nursing homes or those who are shut-ins.
- Keeping in contact with Gold Star Families and remembering them on holidays.
- Volunteering at community projects.
- Making a prayer book or devotional book. In doing this, encourage member participation.
- Complete a death notice for all members. Send it to the Department Chaplain promptly for best follow up.
- Ceremonies may be found in the Manual of Ceremonies of American Legion Auxiliary.

Please remember to send a prayer for Department President Rose's Prayer Book. The goal is to have at least 100 prayers for this special book. Please send them to the Department Chaplain by May 1st to be included in the book.

Additional Resources You Can Use

1. www.ALAforVeterans.org
- **American Legion Auxiliary Unit Guidebook**
- **Guidelines for National Chaplain of the American Legion Auxiliary**
- **Chaplains' Prayer Book of the American Legion Auxiliary**

Department Chaplain

**Lynda Griffin
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Lynda4ala@gmail.com**

Resources for Unit & District Chaplains

National Chaplains Facebook page

Daily inspirations and information from the National Chaplain, Karen Peel (2022-2023). Ask to join: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALACHaplains>

Chaplain's Manual

This American Legion Auxiliary Chaplains Manual was created to aid ALA chaplains. You will find that it contains prayers for numerous occasions, memorial services, as well as other services such as the Four Chaplains service. The prayers and services in this manual are to be used as guidelines in your work. If you have your own prayers and services, we encourage you to use them. It is not mandatory that you use this manual. You may download it from: https://member.legion-aux.org/cmsdesk/ALA/media/PDF/Guides/Chaplains_Manual.pdf

Chaplain's Prayer Book

At the 86th National Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah, a vote was taken to create an American Legion Auxiliary Chaplains' Prayer Book. This book is the result of that vote. The prayers on the following pages are a compilation of those submitted by past chaplains of the American Legion Auxiliary. Wherever possible, credit has been given to the individual who contributed the prayer. Although the material contained in this book may be changed or altered to suit the user, it should be noted that care has been taken to revise and edit the material to reflect the true non-denominational and non-sectarian views of the "Service to God and Country" programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.

Please use this book when and wherever possible. It has been written with love and prayer for all that these words touch. You may purchase it at emblem sales: <https://emblem.legion.org/Books-Pamphlets-CDs/products/40/> (Item #: 355.111 for \$2.95) or download it from: https://member.legion-aux.org/cmsdesk/ALA/media/PDF/Guides/ALA_Chaplains_Prayer_Book.pdf

Manual of Ceremonies

This manual provides examples of suggested ceremonies for Unit meetings and special occasions. The use of ceremonies in the form presented here is not required by any official action of the American Legion Auxiliary National Organization. Ceremonies may be altered in accordance with the occasion; however, great care should be taken to ensure that no ceremony is objectionable to persons of any religious denomination. https://member.legion-aux.org/cmsdesk/ALA/media/PDF/Guides/ALA_MANUAL_OF_CEREMONIES.pdf

Your District and Department Chaplains!

We're here to help!



Education November 2023



The 1st quarter is already at an end! Each month I am focusing on one of the areas mentioned in the August newsletter. This month: **Promote American Legion Auxiliary scholarships and award local scholarships at the department and unit levels.**

There are a number of ways that Members and Units can promote scholarships:

- Assign a member to communicate with school guidance counselors/teachers regarding scholarship applications. Make copies of the applications (found at www.ALAforVeterans.org/Scholarships) and provide them to the schools.
- Inform school-aged children in your community about National, Department and Unit scholarship opportunities.
- Volunteer to be on the scholarship selection committee in your District or Unit.
- Make a donation to American Legion Auxiliary education scholarship funds (Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship, ALA Foundation at www.ALAFoundation.org or Department, District or Unit scholarships).
- Create a Unit scholarship fund to award scholarships to local students.
- Prepare a news release with scholarship information for local media and your Post/Unit newsletter.
- Publicize the winners of Auxiliary scholarships at a school presentation and through the media.

National American Legion Auxiliary scholarships awarded in each Division include the Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship, the Non-Traditional Student Scholarship, the Spirit of Youth Scholarship and the Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship. The Department of Arizona also awards the Wilma Hoyal-Maxine Chilton Memorial Scholarship to a second-year or upper division student in Political Science, Public Programs or Special Education at Arizona State University, Northern Arizona University or the University of Arizona.

Be sure to review all the material in the Education packet available on the Department website following the Fall Conference. It contains links to the rules and application forms for all of these scholarships, as well as the report forms for the year-end report. Don't forget *American Education Week*, November 13 - 17, 2023.

I look forward to hearing how your Units promote the Auxiliary scholarships.

In the Spirit of Service, not for self,

Julie Vietri

Education Chairman
Department of Arizona
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Finance

November 2023

Units, you are responsible as follows:

Fiduciary Responsibility – One who holds special trust, confidence or responsibility to others, more specifically to your Unit or District. Whether you hold an elected or appointed position as President, Vice-President or Treasurer. You are a Fiduciary in that position.

Wikipedia defines fiduciary responsibility as a person or organization that has a legal obligation to act in the best interests of another party. The fiduciary is responsible for managing the assets of the other party and must act with the utmost care, loyalty, and good faith. The duties and responsibilities of a fiduciary include:

- **Duty of care:** The fiduciary must act with reasonable care, skill, and diligence when managing the assets of the other party.
- **Duty of loyalty:** The fiduciary must act in the best interests of the other party and avoid conflicts of interest.
- **Duty of good faith:** The fiduciary must act honestly and in good faith when managing the assets of the other party.
- **Duty of confidentiality:** The fiduciary must keep all information about the other party's assets confidential.
- **Duty to disclose:** The fiduciary must disclose all material facts to the other party.

And do remember that this topic will be covered at Fall Conference. Do you have questions, please call the Department office or drop me an e-mail?

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/Tres. (no vote)

**History
November 2023**



How awesome would it be for our Department President Rose if EVERY UNIT was included in this year's Department History book?! Together we can make that happen.

Share your activities on *Ring Your Bell Arizona ALA* Facebook page or send to me at alaunit62az@gmail.com. Marge Christianson, Dept Historian. (763) 234-9852--call or text me!

Leadership/Arizona Mission Training

November 2023

A blessed Thanksgiving to everyone! Thank you for renewing your membership as we continue the American Legion Auxiliary mission. There are so many needs out there, anything that we can do in any of our programs is so welcome.

Thank you to those who have set up Arizona Mission Trainings for their units or district. It takes time and effort but is very beneficial to our members. The training gives us important knowledge about our organization, and allows us to learn how to listen to each other and work together for the best result. Once again, please contact me if you wish to schedule a Mission Training for your unit or district. Together we will set a date and make plans. You must have a minimum of 10 attendees, \$10 each sent to department 10 days prior to the training. I ask that you contact me if you have questions.

All of our members can go to the national website for the American Legion Auxiliary courses available. It is a good idea to take them and keep current in our membership. I have listed just some of those courses available.

www.alaforveterans.org/ala-academy

They are designed for you to take whenever you have time with no need to pre-register.

ALA101

Communications 201

Culture Basics

ALA Branding and Why it Matters to me.

How to Deal with Conflict

ALA Fundraising

Juniors e-learning course

I would appreciate hearing about your experience with the courses in the year-end report.

"It's never about the Role – it's always about the Goal"

Karen Smith

ksmith111@cox.net

520-249-1119

Legislative Bulletin
November
Educating Tomorrow's Veterans Today

Greetings,

Welcome to fall! Pumpkins, cooler weather and fun things to do.

There is a lot happening on Capitol Hill. We avoided a government shut down, but we are not out of the woods so to speak yet.

Did you know you can download a legislative Handbook?

<https://www.legion.org/publications/223496/legislative-handbook> This has lots of good information!

We can keep up to date by going to <https://www.legion.org/legislative> and checking out what is happening.

- Legion-supported a bill to protect rural veterans' access to emergency medical transportation introduced in the Senate.
- Afghanistan Pact Act and others.

Three additional documents are featured in this update.

- 1st is an image of how the legislative process works within our government structure.
- The 2nd one is a recap of priority agenda of bills.
- Lastly our year end report.

The year end report will be due no later than May 24,2024. I would love to see 100% participation in at least the reports. With today's technology it is so easy to reach out to our Senators and Congressmen. I hope that everyone is reaching out and showing support for these bills.

Please share with your Units! I look forward to seeing you at the Fall Conference!

Questions? I am here to help you! Be in the know!

Sincerely,
Kathy Amery
Arizona Department Legislative Chair
Luv2p8@gmail.com 623-640-0134



Support our Afghan Allies

In the U.S. military, there is a code: "no one left behind." For two decades, members of the U.S. Armed Forces fought shoulder-to-shoulder with brave Afghan allies who served with and protected Americans, fighting for the freedom of Afghanistan and its people. The United States must honor its promises and provide genuine, lasting protection for the Afghans who have made it safely to the United States, and for those who were left behind. The American Legion urges Congress to reintroduce and pass legislation that would grant permanent legal status to Afghan refugees and improve the Special Immigrant Visa process for Afghans who served alongside U.S. servicemembers.

Military Quality of Life

The U.S. military's greatest resources are individual servicemembers and their families. Without highly qualified and committed men and women, even the most sophisticated weaponry will not provide the deterrent necessary to defend our nation. Factors that contribute to quality of life include proper compensation, career development, appropriate housing, quality healthcare, reasonably priced commissaries and access to affordable daycare. The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation that would increase access to child care for military families, increase appropriations to address matters involving servicemember food insecurity and increase funding to renovate military housing.

Pay the Coast Guard

U.S. Coast Guard personnel carry out vital national security missions, but they are the only U.S. military branch that works without pay during government shutdowns, due to their status under the Department of Homeland Security. The common threat of government shutdowns brings severe and unnecessary hardship on these men, women and their families. The American Legion urges Congress to reintroduce and pass the Unwavering Support for our Coast Guard Act, which would guarantee that Coast Guard personnel are paid without delay, even in the case of a government shutdown.



DoD Photo

Protect the American Flag

The American Legion urges Congress to approve an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would allow Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the U.S. flag. Additionally, The American Legion urges Congress to pass the Flag Code Modernization Act of 2021 to amend the U.S. Flag Code to codify multiple common patriotic customs and practices, as described in American Legion Resolution No. 19: Flag Code Amendment.



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The American Legion Legislative Agenda

For the 118th Congress, 1st Session

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The American Legion Legislative Agenda FOR THE 118TH CONGRESS, 1ST SESSION

The American Legion is the voice of nearly 1.6 million U.S. military veterans and servicemembers. A resolution-based organization, The American Legion's positions represent the views of its membership and shape the organization's legislative priorities for the 118th Congress:

Mental Health & Suicide Prevention

The leading issue facing the veteran community is suicide. The suicide rate among veterans is nearly double that of their civilian counterparts, with more than 6,000 veterans taking their lives annually. It is imperative to destigmatize asking for mental health support. Simultaneously, access to such support must increase. The American Legion encourages Congress to enhance access to alternative therapies, robustly fund VA's suicide-prevention outreach budget and continue to invest in mental-health research.

VA Healthcare Modernization

The future of VA healthcare is as a hybrid system consisting of Veterans Health Administration provided inpatient and outpatient care, telehealth and community care. Ensuring VA is equipped to meet the unique needs of an increasingly diverse veteran population requires that VA fully leverage all healthcare modalities and ensure a seamless transition between them. Modernizing electronic health records, veteran-centric access standards, and a transparent online scheduling system for VHA-provided care and community care alike are all essential to ensuring veterans receive the care they deserve. The means by which VA delivers care may change, but one thing will not: VA should continue to provide the best care anywhere to our nation's veterans.

PACT Act: Implementation & Oversight

Passage of the SFC Heath Robinson PACT Act in the 117th Congress ensured millions of toxic-exposed veterans will now have access to healthcare and compensation they rightfully deserve. VA estimates there will be up to 7 million new disability claims filed, due to eligibility expansion under the PACT Act and that the claims backlog will increase to 450,000 by October 2023. The efforts put forth by the VA workforce to reduce claims backlogs in recent years have been admirable, but substantial backlogs of hundreds of thousands of claims for sustained periods of time are not acceptable. It is imperative that VA fully leverage the resources made available in the PACT Act to assist in the continued modernization of information technology systems, as well as the hiring of additional employees to ensure veterans claims are adjudicated in a timely manner. The American Legion urges Congress to provide necessary oversight and funding to ensure VA has the resources needed to properly implement this legislation.

Protect Veterans from Predatory Actors

America's veterans are targeted by predatory actors that seek to profit from an array of benefits that have been rightfully earned by those who have served our nation. From claims companies that charge exorbitant fees (for services provided free by veterans service organizations) to lawyers vying for billions of dollars set aside for victims of diseases associated with contaminants, veterans and their families are met by promises of large payouts if they agree to surrender substantial portions of their benefits. Predatory actors often attempt to overwhelm veterans with aggressive marketing tactics and complicated contracts. The American Legion urges Congress to oppose legislation that elevates the standing of unaccredited claims companies or legitimizes predatory practices that target veterans and encourages Congress to impose a cap on legal services provided in association with the Camp Lejeune Justice Act.

Concurrent Receipt

Currently, 50,300 military retirees with combat related injuries qualify for DoD retirement pay as well as VA disability compensation. However, for retired veterans with disability ratings less than 50%, the VA compensation is deducted from their DoD retirement pay. The American Legion strongly supports ending this unfair policy. The Major Richard Star Act would repeal this draconian offset, allowing disabled veterans to concurrently receive their retirement pay and disability compensation.

Guard & Reserve GI Bill Parity

Despite the same duties, National Guard and Reserve servicemembers are deprived of education benefits that active-duty servicemembers enjoy. According to current law, National Guard and Reserve servicemembers only accrue GI Bill entitlement when called to active duty under federal orders. When National Guard and Reserve servicemembers are activated under state orders, they do not accrue eligibility for Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits, as do their active-duty counterparts. The American Legion believes that every day in uniform counts and urges Congress to recognize the service of National Guard and Reserve servicemembers as eligible for the GI Bill.

GI Bill for Honorable Service

To receive most VA benefits, a veteran's characterization of discharge from service must be "under honorable conditions." However, education assistance benefits within the GI Bill, require that servicemembers receive an "honorable discharge." If the characterization of service is "general under honorable conditions," the Post-9/11 GI Bill remains out of reach for these veterans. The American Legion urges Congress to correct this statutory incongruity by amending U.S. Code to allow access to VA educational assistance to veterans with "general under honorable conditions" discharges.



November 2023

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona
MUSIC REPORT 2023

Greetings Musicophiles (“music lovers”),

Please continue to promote music within your Unit and Post. Let’s get the love of music out to everyone. Let’s do this together. Use your imagination and spread the love of music and our Country. Together, we’ve got the music in us!. Turn other people on to music.

We have given the choir a new name, “The American Legion Family Choir”. They are wearing their name proudly. I’m certainly proud of the men and women who lend their voices to the American Legion. Please continue to encourage your members and Post to participate in “The American Legion Family Choir”. The more voices participating the better we sound.

Fall Conference is upon us. I’ve found a couple songs for the Sunday morning Memorial Service. I’m excited about these choices and hope the attendees will enjoy hearing the Choir lend their voices to these selections. Please encourage your members to participate in the Choir. We have some surprises in store for the audience. Remember the suggested attire is an American Legion branded polo and dark pants or skirt. See you there!!!!

“Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without.”

Confucius

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

Alma Mattingly, Department Music Chairman

16575 W. Moreland Street, Goodyear, AZ 85338

amblonde01@gmail.com

602.999.4054 cell

American Legion Auxiliary

Past President's Parley

November 2023

Spooks and Goblins have come and gone but have been deterred from bothering our organization.

You all know what PPP is and what its goals are. This group of members are persons who have in the past held a leadership position of being president of the unit, District or Dept. What fun for others to ask questions and request ideas and share information. As with all our organization roles we are here to provide service and support to our veterans, and communities.

One of the main functions we have is to award Nursing scholarships. All this information on awards will be in your Fall Conference packets.

We also Honor Female Veterans, and past presidents.

I look forward to seeing ideas for fund raisers for scholarships. I am sure you have all received an invitation to the Midnight Masquerade being held at John Morris on Jan 20. What a great idea for fun, honoring our Lade veterans and raising money for Nursing scholarships.

As the year goes by, I hope your Units have ideas you can share, the success obtained and how others can support other Units when possible.

Thank you all for the work you do, God Bless you and God Bless America.

Jennie Molina

(520) 220-8460

Past President Parley

truepela@gmail.com

Department of AZ

Service to Veterans

November 2023

Hello fellow Auxiliary members,

"On this Veterans Day let us remember the service of our veterans and let us renew our national promise to fulfill our sacred obligations to our veterans and their families who have sacrificed so much so that we can live free." ~ Dan Lipinski

Veterans Day is upon us. It is Saturday, November 11th. What will you and your unit be doing this year to honor our Veterans?

Did you know that Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day? It was changed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1954, to honor all who had served.

Question: is it appropriate to say, "Happy Veterans Day?"

Answer: Yes! As opposed to Memorial Day, a solemn occasion, saying "Happy Veterans Day" can be used as a greeting like saying Happy Thanksgiving. Don't forget to thank a Veteran!

Please continue to share your STV hours with me monthly. If you need to purchase the starter pin, it is \$26.00 and can be ordered thru Dept. Please send the recipients' name and membership number along with the check to Dept.

Keep up the important work you are all doing!

For God and Country, Sara C. Decker
Service to Veterans Chairman

Saradeckeraz@gmail.com

480-580-3269

VA & R

November 2023

Hello members of this great organization-THE ALA

It is November and Fall Conference is in the works, I hope to see many of you at the conference, our President Rose has fun things in store for us.

VA&R Key Program Statements:

*Support rehabilitation and healing for our Veterans through arts, crafts, hobbies

*Support Veteran caregivers, family members and survivors

*Recruit Auxiliary members for VA Voluntary Service (VAVS) volunteers at VA health care facilities

*Help The American Legion, State Department of Veterans Affairs and communities promote job fairs and resources for veterans and their families

There are so many resources on our National ALA website to use to support your VA&R program for your unit or district. I find myself so overwhelmed with this program, not realizing what it all entailed, there are so many programs that follow under VA&R.

Let's continue to check and reach out to our veterans, friends, family, and community members.

Reach out and BE THE ONE to save ONE veteran or family.

www.Legion.org/betheone.

For Service, not Self

Dolores Chavez: Dept 2nd Vice President

chebeejs@cox.net 928-386-0841

American Legion Auxiliary VA&R REPORT
TUCSON VA MEDICAL CENTER
9-30-23

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 need volunteers for the second Saturday for Bingo at the community Living Center. 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. 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.

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 \$1,000. 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.

The grand total of monetary donations for the American Legion Auxiliary for May 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023 is \$832. 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 September 30, 2023 is \$7,559.86. Thank you Unit 62, 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 September 30, 2023 is 373. 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 68.5 hours and logged 800 miles this year in service to the Tucson VA Medical Center as of September 30, 2023. 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 Veterans Creative Arts Festival was held August 22 & 23, 2023. I am also attaching the wrap up report for this year's festival. Annual Joint Review was completed December 8, 2022. VAVS Committee voted to fully fund transportation for the gold medal winners from NVCA at SAVAHCS on February 1, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Szakonyi, VAVS Representative



Can we believe that fall is here and almost Thanksgiving. Time is going by fast. I am so happy and glad that the sleeping giant woke up. I got two units who struggle to get involved to do the November birthday parties. Units 68 and 125 are going to be working together as a team and help each other. This is what it's all about. Coming together as family and helping the veterans.

The Arizona State Veterans home is looking for volunteers. It is nice to get involved. It doesn't just make you feel good, it puts a smile on the veterans face. Most times all they see is staff members. I have had a few emails from units that didn't understand about the State Veterans home and what times the birthday parties were and dates. The birthday parties are always the third Tuesday of each month and they start at 1pm.

If your unit would like me to speak at your monthly meeting. Feel free to email me or call or text. I am also always on Facebook. I am working with Sam to try and do something for Christmas for the home. If any one has any ideas, I would love to hear it. Remember there is no I in team. We are in this together. I am still looking for information. If your unit has a chair for the Arizona State Home. Please let me know. I look forward to seeing all of you at Fall Conference. If you would like a business card with my information on it look for me. I will be around.

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