

District 1 Year-End Report
Units 19, 46, 56

District 1 reports \$50,800.00 in money and goods donated to all programs.
They also report 6170 hours of service to all programs.

Kimberley Woodward, District 1 President

Book of Reports

District 11 2024-2025

District 11 had 8 strong units out of 10 attending meetings, giving reports, keeping track of volunteer hours, volunteering in many different events for our veterans, military, and our children, and raising funds for the President's Special Project. Unit 1 officers did not participate in District level meetings. Unit 12 in Wickenburg did not attend meetings due to the distance of the drive. However, they were busy with their events like the other units. District 11 President was invited to Unit 12 for an official visit. Unit 12 members talked about what they had accomplished, the plans for the rest of the year and the intent to try to come to some meetings at District 11 next year. District 11 President had an official visit with all units except Unit 1.

District 11 officers continued with education of units by continually reminding them of the resources available on the Department website. The monthly bulletins were brought up at every meeting as well as keeping track of volunteer hours and the importance of the Impact Report. Mission Training was promoted and happy to say that members were eager to attend. District 11 promoted sharing information on Band App, the various social medias and of course, Ring Your Bell. Legion College was discussed as well as ALA online classes.

The District President and the Vice President put together an event to improve meeting attendance, reach a goal of 100% membership, and to raise funds for the President's Special Project. The membership and the PSP events joined together. Each officer and Unit President were given a burlap bag for meetings. At least one Unit member and the bag had to attend a meeting to get a charm. If you remember, Marge Christenson had done something similar and had no problem with the idea being used again. The charm theme was for the PSP and consisted of dog items such as a paw, a doghouse, a dog bone, food dish, puppy, etc. This was fun. Some members pinned, glued or sewed their charms onto the bag. Each bag is different. The second part of the PSP was

adopting stuffed dogs. Vice President, Kathy Amery, prepared the dogs for adoption by preparing their adoption papers and putting a starter charm in their carriers. The carriers were made by the Unit 62 Juniors. The carriers made it easier to take dogs home and bring back to meetings. The dogs were kept together in a fenced yard until adoption. The adoption fees paid will be given to President Stacey. It was a lot of fun. Kathy also planned a contest of whoever could make the best story of the travels of their dog. These stories should be creative. The contest for Membership of 100% charms had to do with Department Vice President, Dolores Chavez, theme of membership being hot and rising. We had charms of flames, campfire flames, red hot peppers, and hot balloons to be earned if a certain % was met at each meeting. To top it off, all members were given "I love my soldier" charms and a sponsor's branch of service charm. District 11 was first to reach 100% and a dog tag necklace was given to each membership chairman that reached that goal.

District 11 beginning balance at the beginning of the year was \$ 2,540.00. At the last District meeting it was decided to split our excess funds on Girls State, President's Special Project and Veterans First. Our ending balance at the time of this report was \$2,034.00

District 11 flag needed replaced. Unit 105 graciously purchased a new flag.

Girls State Chairman, Nicki Cruz, organized the Arizona Girls State Orientation for District 11 at Unit 62. There was a great turn out. The special guest was the National Girls State President, Carmen Mirmelli. The girls were very attentive during her speech. Carmen is a member of Unit 62.

District 11 goals for next year are to continue to share knowledge and to improve parliamentary procedures and writing reports. We are going to improve record keeping of volunteer hours with more accurate , reporting and more narratives to be completed. Fund raising is also at the top of the list.

District 11 began the year with half of the units experiencing serious problems for one reason or another. District 11 is so very

appreciative for the leadership and mentoring by Ginger Cox. She did not hesitate to guide and mentor these units. District 11 is forever grateful to Ginger. The members assisted are helping others and are diligent about practicing what they learned.

In closing, the ALA Mission is clear. Goals are set. As with all ALA members, District 11 is dedicated to serving our Mission to the best of our ability. District 11 is dedicated to building stronger units and working as a team. I have enjoyed working with the Unit Presidents, Unit officers, and all members.

For God and Country,

Donna Aronoff

President

American Legion Auxiliary, Dept of Arizona

District 11

Book of Reports

American Legion Auxiliary – Department of Arizona

District 12 2024 – 2025

District 12 has 18 units within our District. The units are unit 2, 26, 27, 34, 35, 39, 41, 44, 58, 64, 65, 84, 91, 107, 114, 117, 124, and 138. District 12 had six Schedule meeting this year. July 14, 2024 was our Organizational Meeting, hosted by Post 27, September 15, 2024 Our first meeting held by Unit 2, November 17, 2024 hosted by Unit 58, January 19, 2025, hosted by Unit 44, March 16, 2025 hosted by Unit 27, and our May 18, 2025 hosted by Unit 91.

July 14, 2024 – Newly elect Barbara Aubrey held District 12 Organizational Meeting. President Barbara stated she was looking forward to a great year, communication being the key pillar. Her motto for the year was TEAM = (Together Everyone Achieve More). President Barbara attending all 18 units meetings this year and also attended activity's some of our units were hosting for fundraisers. She also joined the District 12 Commander with a car show judging event in Chandler AZ.

District 12 continued to set and achieve our Goals. We are dedicated to building stronger units and membership working together for our mission. All District members and units are continuing to be educated, about ALA programs, and chairmanship. Giving and showing them the tools they need to be a successful unit and members.

Unit 117 – Christmas card challenge was a success. District 12 had 20,171 Christmas cards sent to our active military this year up from last year.

District 12 Rehab dinners was held at post 26 in Mesa, the silent auction was so much fun. The cheesecake went to unit 27 for a whopping \$400.00. The food was great and we raised funds for our Veterans. Unit 26 donated \$5,000.00 for Service to Veterans.

District 12 Officers and members attended Mission Training in Las Vegas NV. Where we were educated on our programs and what ALA means to each and every member.

Lots of units showed their spirit and participated in the fun events at the District 12 annual picnic held at Desert Breeze Park in Chandler.

Volunteers and members of unit 41 attended at the Candlelight Vigil for the public who attended the Sunrise Service at Piestewa Peak. Unit 41 along with Post 41 American Legion Tony F. Sosa/Ray Martinez hosted a Homecoming Dinner for Department President Stacy Mayberry and Department Commander Manny Beltran, Sons of American Legion Detachment of Arizona Commander Mike Bryant, and American Legion Riders State Representative Tracy Lindsey. Theme was "It's a Family Affair"

Cindy Queen Girl State Chairman, organized the Arizona Girls State Orientation for District 12 at Post 35, hosted by Unit 35. There was a fanatic turn out. 2025 National Girls State President Carmen Mirmelli was in attendance for this event.

District 12 Units cranked up their creative juices and produced some innovative ideas to raise funds for Auxiliary Programs. District 12 units have shown resilience and strength in forging ahead to a greater tomorrow. Members are committed to the mission of “service, not self” and are always looking for ways to enhance membership and support our Veterans.

For God and Country,

Barbara Aubrey
District 12 – President



Department of Arizona

Auxiliary Emergency Fund

Katherine Pittman, Dept. Chairman

15805 Members Strong

The members of the Department of Arizona embody the powerful vision of "Service not Self", conducting activities to assist and serve those in need both locally and nationally. Arizona members volunteer their time and energy to fundraise for this wonderful program.

With the hurricanes, flooding after said hurricanes went inland and the devastating fires in Southern California, along with smaller wildfires and tornados across our great nation. Arizona was their raising funds and helping members in need.

We cannot forget about those that life handed them challenges this past year, and for those, Arizona helped too.

Units across Arizona held 50/50 raffles, bar bingo nights, dinners, and dances. Pat Tillman Unit 117 in Phoenix held a left, right, center tournament,(dice game) in September and once again in January. Unit 29 in Glendale, Arizona held a Sweetheart Dinner Dance and served pork roast, with potatoes, carrots and onions, a green salad with cake and ice cream for dessert.

In doing these activities \$14,997.75 was raised and sent to the National AEF fund. Seven members reported making personal donations totaling \$1365.00 of that amount.

Six members filed for and received help through the National AEF Fund totaling \$18,000 in grants received.

Twenty-one Units have their own unit AEF Fund and they in turn helped nine members with utility bills, deductible for medical procedure, rent for a member escaping an abusive relationship, hotel room for a member to visit her ill son out of state, to name a few.

Instructors of Arizona Mission Training taught members about the program and how they can help others with their donations, and the importance of members helping members. Through these efforts the Department of Arizona has actively promoted the AEF program, ensuring that its benefits are understood and appreciated. By balancing local and national support, units in Arizona strive to provide the highest quality of assistance to those in need, reinforcing the commitment of "Service not Self."

For God and Country,

Katherine Pittman

AEF Chairman,

Dept of Arizona



American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona

Chairman – Maggie Montijo

azamericanism@gmail.com

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Pomerene, AZ 85627

520-904-1814

This Americanism Chairman for the Department of Arizona is excited that we doubled our reporting from our Units! Units in Arizona participated in the Memorial Services and Veteran's Day Events and parades, that took place around the state. Most units helped with flag placement on the graves of Veteran's and those that have Juniors also had them participate. Poppies were distributed on Memorial weekend and units continued to have poppy making parties to help to help distribute them to other around the state of Arizona.

This year a lot more units in Arizona participated in Wreaths Across America giving their cemetery a beautiful remembrance. A lot of Units worked together with their Posts and Sal, Units commanding the lead or helping the Legion with side dishes, set ups and clean ups. This chairman is proud to say that the reports that were sent ALL units participated in providing meals or helping with dinners and breakfasts at their Posts.

Units this year have started to honor our Blue Star and Gold Star families. They gave those families their appropriate flags so that they would know that they are being thought of and that Americanism runs deep in the families of their communities.

Units have been working hard to continue with card signing parties to send cards to VA Homes and to those who are serving abroad. They signed over 200 cards that were to be delivered to the VA Hospital and the VA Nursing homes in Arizona. Units didn't just send cards for Christmas, they sent them for all holidays and even the months with no holidays, just a simple, "thinking of you cards", sent on months with no holidays.

We officially have 5 state homes in Arizona, Yuma, Flagstaff, Prescott, Phoenix and Tucson. Units continue to provide these nursing homes with snack donations, furniture and the monthly birthday parties filled with cake and ice cream.

Units in Arizona unfortunately didn't have many participate in the Americanism Essay Contest but the ones that did were well received and we were able to send up 3 from Arizona to national with one from each class IV, V and II. There were a total of 19 essays submitted to this chairman. Units have worked hard to get into schools but still find it hard to have faculty be receptive, but they continue to make contact. I know these efforts will pay off!

We had units help with donations to the ALLECA and donations to the JROTC in their communities. We have units sending delegates to Girl's State, with them raising money to help support the program not only by helping assist in fees but also helping with donations for the delegates to have drinks and snacks for over 250 girls. Units also raised money to help offset costs with agenda books, and t-shirts. The Star-Spangled Kids were used in the schools that units visit. We had units hand out stickers, real flags, and coloring flags for children in their community, students were given flag etiquette presentations throughout

Arizona. We have a unit that has set up an Americanism poster board located in the main area of the elementary school's hallway and has pushed to educate students on the different branches of the service, they even had fun facts on the military which children enjoyed. Units participated in Seeds for Autism and helped them understand their American civic duty. Another unit participated with schools in their area to help those students in need of supplies, they created a popup Prom boutique for those who needed formal wear to attend this event.

This year an American Legion Family decided to team up with a local nursing home to provide meals and companionship to those veterans that don't have family. This has been a huge success not just with the veterans but other lonely patients in the care home. What a wonderful contribution to helping the lonely.

This Americanism chairman was excited to see that so many units, even small ones. They all did mighty acts that made a huge impact in their communities.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maggie Montijo Department of Arizona, Americanism Chairman

BOOK OF REPORTS

CHAPLAIN 2024-2025

At the end of the 2025 year, the Department of Arizona had 40 out of 85 Units actively working the Chaplain Program. Two Districts sent in reports. Two Unit's reports did not meet the criteria by Department of Arizona Guidelines for reporting for awards. Out of the 40 reports, only three included some type of narrative that was eligible for a Department award. Those three were then judged by three persons not affiliated with the American Legion Family. None were sent after the May 1 deadline.

The Chaplain educated members and fellow chaplains by sharing information in the Department Monthly Bulletins, and the BandApp. Information was also shared on social media.

Of the Units reporting, there were 202 "Sympathy" cards sent to members and families. There were 221 "Get Well" cards sent to members. There were 467 "Thinking of You" cards sent to members. There were 782 "Joy" and birthday cards sent to members; and 195 check welfare phone calls made to members. Several Units and Posts also have members that regularly visit nursing homes and hospitals, including the VA clinics, hospitals, and homes throughout the state.

Unit and District Chaplains conducted 669 Invocations at Unit and District meetings, special events and holiday functions. They conducted 543 benedictions. Units and Districts also conducted 84 charter draping ceremonies and presided over 58 memorial services. They promoted and supported "Gold Star" families by paying their dues, sending cards and monetary and non-monetary gifts. These donations totaled \$361.00. Donations from members for "Gold Star" families and memorial donations totaled \$5194.00. Some held luncheons in their honor.

There were 576 members that attended 98 funerals for members and members of the remaining entities of the Post Family. There were 147 grave markers placed. This included "Wreaths Across America", where many Units participated in some capacity.

In February, all the Units reporting participated in a Four Chaplains Ceremony in some capacity, either on their own or with the Post Family.

Eleven Unit Chaplains are creating a prayer book for their Unit President. Thirteen are helping with the Department President's Prayer Book, and four are participating in sending in prayers for the National President's Prayer Book.

In August, the Department Chaplain attended the American Chaplain's and Children and Youth Conference in Indianapolis. The Chaplain was the only chaplain from Arizona and the only Auxiliary Chaplain in attendance. The Chaplain gained a wealth of spiritual knowledge, as well as Children and Youth programs, while attending the Girls State meetings with the Arizona Girls State Director, after her meetings concluded for the session.

Upon returning home to Arizona, the Chaplain promoted what she had learned at the conference and continued to support members and their families.

Unfortunately, this Chaplain and the Department lost five Past Department Presidents this year. Those Past Department Presidents were Josephine Herrera, Helen Stout, Jennie Molina, Centennial Tyson-Stewart, and Joyce Arent. Legion Family Memorials were held by the families of two of the Past Department Presidents, in which the Chaplain attended, while the other three held private family memorials. The Department Chaplain sent 30 "Sympathy" cards, 15 "Get Well" cards, and made 28 welfare check phone calls, checking on members and Past Department officers, whom had medical procedures, and deaths in the family. The Chaplain also conducted ten invocations, and seven benedictions throughout the year at various events, dinners, and meetings, including the DEC meeting after Convention and meetings at Fall Conference.

The Department of Arizona Auxiliary Chaplains and members will continue to "Lead the Way" to support veterans, active-duty military, and their families.

For God and Country,

Stephanie M. McMullen, Department Chaplain

Children & Youth
Book of Reports
2024 – 2025
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona

Daphne Coleman, Chairman
11355 E Jupiter Drive
Apache Junction, AZ 85120

The unit and legion family members from Arizona are diligent, reliable, dedicated, and creative, however, they have under reported or have not reported to this Chairman. The numbers and activities that were reported include fundraising for all aspects of the Children and Youth Program. Units donated money, needed items, time, they cooked, hugged, and brought smiles and joy to military and community kids. There were many ways to volunteer some helped high school juniors with Girls State, some collected, counted, packed, and delivered Back to School Supplies. There were holiday fundraisers and holiday parties for the children, Breakfast events for Gold and Blue Star families, Care Closet – for kids that need a little extra help, some adopted needy families for the holidays, some legion families toured group homes, foster care facilities, and then there were those that attended a Readiness event at a local National Guard Base. These are but a few of the activities and events that were planned and executed in our state.

Collectively units contributed \$1,050 to the American Legion Child Well-Being Foundation. The ALCWF was promoted by educating and having open discussions with members at monthly unit meetings and district meetings. We also acknowledged the name change from Welfare to Well-Being.

How members celebrated April - Children & Youth Month:

Most members wore purple shirts on April 15th which is Military Kids Day. Units announced in their monthly meetings, posted on social media, created flyers and posters. Some set up tables to bring awareness of April 15th Active Military Kids Day with Purple-Up T-Shirts - Kids are Heroes too.

Honored Veterans and Families:

One unit planned a Baby Shower for an expectant mother at Luke Air Force Base. They raised funds, bought gifts, and showered the new mom with love and supplies. Parties were held for

children; Halloween with candy, games, and spooky houses, Christmas with gifts and photos, Easter Baskets and stuffed eggs, and one unit has the popular Polar Express “train” where photos were taken with Santa. A few units adopted families at the holiday to improve their situations with food, gifts, and love. Many units helped their Post and Legionnaires with the Veteran’s Day Events. Some units had educational functions at schools where the student council asked a panel of Veterans questions. A demonstration of the 13 Folds was given for students. Some units hold flag retirements and etiquette. One local Brownie Troop assisted with a 9-11 memorial and observed POW/MIA table. On a tragic note, suicide entered the ranks of our military at Luke Air Force Base. Unit 62 reached out to “Be The One” to support the 8-month pregnant widow and her 10-year-old daughter. The family was showered with diapers, various sizes of clothing, and needed items including love gifts for the daughter.

Giving and donating:

Many Back-to-School Supplies and Backpacks were donated to all ages of students. Care Closet for instant easy to eat food, Pop-up Prom Store for donated evening wear and accessories for men and women, Care Closet for hygiene items for special needs students to be used for their Life Training Skills. Some toured and donated to a Group Home for “aged out” youth and some went to an independent foster home facility Sunshine Acres, where they do not “age out” youth.

Showing appreciation for our Youth:

One unit has developed a Veteran Rock Painting Project, where younger students paint rocks that they may keep or donate to a veteran. Many units show appreciation for JROTC with scholarships, medals, and certificates.

Fund Raising:

Units held events for fund raising such as Octoberfest, Luau, New Year's Eve Dance, Grease Tea Party, 4th of July BBQ, and Past President's Parley Dinner for Nurses Scholarships was a Movie Themed night costume dinner.

Finally, the impact and results from the Units combined with their Legion Families raised a combined \$46,815 to go towards the Children and Youth Program, 4,136 kids were educated, challenged, fed, assisted, honored, entertained, clothed, awarded, or touched in some way by volunteers who kindly donated 7,901 precious hours, by many more than the modest 155 reported volunteers. Those who have volunteered anonymously are held in high esteem and are very much appreciated by the officers they have worked with over the course of this year. Service, Not Self is exemplified by many units and legion family members throughout the Department of Arizona.

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona

Community Service Program

2024 – 2025

Submission Date: May 15, 2025

Chairperson

Lisa Young

2230 W High Country Drive

Cottonwood, AZ 86326

Department President

Stacy Mayberry

4701 N. 19th Ave, Suite 100

Phoenix, AZ 95015

**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona
Community Service
Year-end Report 2024 – 2025**

The Arizona American Legion Auxiliary is a very proud organization that focuses on veterans and their families as well as local communities. Department of Arizona is proud that all community service programs were supported this year. Members from all over the state have put in countless hours volunteering and many miles on their vehicles to support our veterans. Every unit raised money to support many projects within the American Legion family.

Forty-one of the eighty-seven Arizona units turned in reports on the community service they provided. The programs that many units worked on were helping at VA Hospitals, local homeless shelters, and nursing homes. Units also provided support local schools, churches, and food banks. Units gave countless hours volunteering in many others ways as well.

Many units worked with their American Legion family to support school supply drives, adopt families during holidays, help local food banks, and award scholarships to students at local schools.

Borderlands P.O.W.W.O.W (produce on wheels without waste) and Sleep in Heavenly Peace for children were two programs supported by units.

Over ten units worked on the community support for troops in various ways. Many units spent countless hours on the beautification of their communities.

Unit members volunteered many hours to their oratorical contests. They volunteered as judges, tabulators, timekeepers, and contestant escorts.

All units supported and raised fund for the Arizona President's Special Project, P.A.W.S.S (Pups and Warriors Side by Side). This project is a program that recognizes critical needs for Veteran service animals.

Many units volunteered hours to blood drives, local libraries, senior citizen centers, and youth programs. Auxiliary also supported Girls State, Girl Scouts, and other community youth programs.

The Arizona American Legion Auxiliary is a proud organization that helps veterans and their families as well as their communities.

Total Mileage: 93,370

Total Donations: \$320,000

Total Volunteer Hours: 113,099

Lisa Young

American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Arizona
Community Service Chairman

CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS ANNUAL NARRATIVE

DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA AUXILLIARY

DANNY MURPHY, DEPARTMENT CHAIRMAN, CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

I was appointed as the Chairman by Department Madam President, Stacey Mayberry for year 2024-2025. Units and Districts were requested to review and submit their C&Bs initially by me via the Department Orientation, whereupon I explained the purpose and importance of these governing documents.

Department, Districts, and a majority of Units upon my request, have conducted annual reviews of their C&Bs, and if necessary, made the appropriate changes to meet National and Department verbiage and compliance. It was emphasized that a review should be annually conducted to ensure equity and compliance.

Ongoing Mission and Leadership Trainings were conducted throughout the state. They were very helpful, especially to Units in educating and explaining the purpose and importance of C&B components. Areas of finance, membership eligibility, and officer responsibilities were the most asked and covered areas in each training. To ensure continuity among all members, it was encouraged that all members receive the most current copy of their C&B.

Districts and Units were very receptive in reviewing their documents. Three(3) Districts and approximately 40 Units submitted their C&Bs, mostly after making changes and were even more receptive in the advice given by either me or my committee as to the rewording of their changes, and why. We were very clear in telling them why the change was necessary but also where it is stated in both Department and National C&B in the effort to meet compliance. It is necessary to teach and advocate each District and Unit and allowing them to be part of this process as opposed to coming across as controlling or indignant.

Each District and Unit was also educated on the difference between a Bylaw and a Standing Rule, in addition to the approval process of each. Units were encouraged to use Standing Rules, when applicable, as opposed to writing or revising Bylaws.

There should be an increase in education and communication of C&Bs. Each District and Unit should have an appointed Parliamentarian. Ongoing training should be conducted at the Department level specific to Parliamentarians as to the purpose and importance of these vital documents and to ensure their role in communicating and educating their Units on respective changes, writing bylaws and standing rules, the importance of meeting compliance and creating an atmosphere of inclusion and education among members.

Either Madam President or I, were involved in the quarterly ZOOM calls conducted via National regarding Constitution and Bylaws. I found through the Q&A segment of these calls, that the issues coming from Districts and Units are similar across the board with regards to finance and member eligibility.

I am very fortunate as my past two Department Presidents have a strong background and even stronger knowledge in both these areas that they have passed down to Districts and Units via Leadership trainings, conferences or just plain one on one conversations.

Districts and Units must develop and promote continuing and brighter leadership throughout their memberships. Whether it be committee chairmen or officers, we do this by advocating and educating on their governing documents and their purpose and principles. We emphasize our mission and values as well. We do this through encouragement. Constitution and Bylaws are the foundation of building our strong leaders for the future.

Service not Self

Respectfully submitted,

Danny Murphy, Department Chairman, Constitution and Bylaws Committee



DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
4701 N 19TH Ave. Ste 100
Phoenix, Az 85015

The Department of Arizona has been busy updating the Unit and District Constitution and Bylaws. The Department started the year off with a new Department Secretary who uploaded Unit and District C&B's onto the computer, the secretary then printed hard copies of all the Units and Districts that didn't have a current copy in their respective file.

Ten units submitted changes/updates to their bylaws, and all were approved by the Department Chairman. Three Districts also submitted updates/changes to be approved.

This year the Department President asked three Past Department Presidents go through the Department Governing Documents looking for items that need updating and getting those changes ready to go in front of the membership for approval.

With the Department Convention a month away, we currently have nine resolutions submitted to make changes/updates in our Policy and Procedures.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rose Ficklin
Secretary
Department of Arizona

Education
Year-End Report 2024-2025
Department of Arizona

The Auxiliary Education projects in the Department of Arizona were extremely successful. During the 2024-2025 Auxiliary year, thirty-six Units in the Department of Arizona reported activity in the Education program, with approximately 425 Auxiliary members, 28 Junior members, and 165 Legion members participating. This Chairman informed the Units and Districts about the Education program via information packets distributed on the Department website following the 2024 Fall Conference, as well as bulletins in the monthly Department newsletters during the year.

Units participated in American Education Week by providing Thank-you notes, lunches, cookies, and treats to teachers at local schools. Thank-you cards were sent to staff members, including school nurses, custodians, and bus drivers. Units held in-person events, a Stuff-the-Bus event, and drive-through events to collect and distribute school supplies and backpacks to children at local schools. Units presented videos and booklets on flag etiquette and Halloween safety, and donated craft supplies. Schools were presented U.S. flags and Arizona state flags to replace old flags in front of schools and in classrooms.

Units participated in the *Give 10 to Education* program by providing school supplies and educational materials to schools. Members of all Post entities donated school supplies or money toward purchase of school supplies. Other necessities such as backpacks, tissue, hand sanitizer, wipes, story books, toiletries, and shoes were collected and distributed to local schools. School wish lists were fulfilled. Thirty-five *Give 10 to Education* certificates were awarded to Unit Members.

All Units reporting also assisted needy students in many ways. Clothes were donated and delivered to a school district clothing bank where every student in need has access to free goods. Donations were also made to Coats for Kids and Kids in Foster Care. Food pantries were stocked. Christmas Angels worked with local schools to provide gifts, toys, and food baskets for needy students. Units also delivered Easter, Christmas, and Thanksgiving food baskets.

During the 2024-2025 school year, Units reported awarding 27 Unit scholarships, totaling \$26,090. Units raised funds for scholarships in several ways including dinners, raffles, contests, and sales. National scholarship applications and information were published in monthly Unit correspondence newsletters and delivered to local high schools through the mail, email, and in person. Units delivered information regarding the Past Presidents Parley nursing scholarship to community colleges and assisted with the Arizona State University's Veterans Program. In 2024-2025, Nine applications for the *Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship* and one application for the *Non-traditional Student Scholarship*. A Department winner was selected and forwarded to the Western Division Education Chairman for each of these scholarships. Each applicant received a letter thanking them for their application and informing them of the outcome. The Department winners for these scholarships were invited to attend the Department Convention and will receive a \$25 cash award as a token of congratulations for their accomplishments.

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

overseas with the United States Marine Corps and has already earned Bachelor's degrees in Journalism and Mass Communication and Political Science. He is now hoping to earn a Masters degree in Public Administration from Arizona State University. A \$1000 scholarship was awarded this year to Andrew Wei.

Units involved the Legionnaires, the Sons of the American Legion, and the Legion Riders in donating time, school supplies, money, and labor to all the Education and Children's programs. They helped work in a school garden, a Run to the Guns event, and a fundraiser for the Future Business Leaders of America. They assisted with Halloween safety programs, Christmas parties, and Easter parties. Legionnaires acted as judges for an essay contest, promoted scholarships, helped with Girl Scout activities, and attended the awards ceremony.

Units reported presenting "Veterans in the Classroom" programs. Veterans visited elementary schools for interviews, spoke at assemblies and in classrooms about the Poppy story, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day. Schools honored veterans on Veterans Day with flags, songs, and videos. Units presented programs on the accomplishments of our Veterans by honoring veterans on Veterans Day at local schools. A Veteran read books during Story Time. Veterans spoke about what it means to be a Veteran.

All reporting Units used many community resources or activities to assist students, teachers, or support personnel. Units donated to the Shop-with-a-Firefighter program. Monetary donations were made to a local mentoring program, Junior ROTC awards, Girls State, Girls Scouts, Cub Scouts, baseball teams, Special Olympics, and Future Business Leaders of America programs. A Unit worked with the Political Action Committee for Constitutional Education. Unit Members and Legionnaires volunteered at Fort Huachuca and the Purple Up for Military Kids program.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Julie M. Vietri

Julie M. Vietri
Education Chairman
Department of Arizona

(975 words)

Finance

On June 1, 2025, reporting on the Year End Finance was 70%, a huge improvement in reporting financial status. Pat yourselves on the back, since the prior two years reporting hovered around 49 per cent.

Financial rules are governed by IRS: Gross receipts under \$50,000, file Form 990N (epost card) or Gross receipts over \$50,000 and less than \$200,000, file Form 990EZ.

Arizona Corporation Commission requires yearly reporting by districts and Units. National ALA Headquarters recommends record retention of 7 years for accounts receivable/payable, budgets, internal audits, check registers, and 10 years for bank statements and reconciliations for all Units and Districts.

Please continue to send to Department:

Department Mandates, Dues, Creative Arts, Poppies, (10% of net profit), Welfare Pledge, Christmas Pledge, Hospital parties and social services, Gift Shop, Past Presidents Parley, Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Juniors, Girls State, Arizona Campaign Fund, Department Overhead, Cavalcade of Memories, Department Special Project. Please do not send funds to the Department office for other non-profits.

Funds belong to your Unit and Arizona is improving record keeping and reporting. Keep up the good work ALA Arizona!

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

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

Barbara White, Member, 602-478-4909, barbara.white99@gmail.com

Virtue of Office: Rose Ficklin, President Stacey Mayberry



One Hundred Ninety-Six, young women from one hundred-forty High Schools throughout Arizona were scheduled to attend American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State at the University of Arizona in Tucson from June 1-8, 2025. Forty Units reported some form of Girls State Activity.

Fifty-one Units sponsored one or more delegates to attend the 78th session. Eleven High Schools without Unit representation sent delegates. These numbers are **up** from previous years.

You name a way to make money...members of the Auxiliary did it, to generate the funds needed to sponsor each delegate. Because of today's economic conditions and the rise in Girls State fees, many Units needed contributions from other organizations, people and agencies...Legion Posts, Junior Groups, Legion Riders and SAL Squadrons.

Again, major focus was placed on a standard Orientation with everyone receiving the same information through a power point presentation. Orientations were emailed to all delegates who were not attending and downloaded to phones during Orientations.

We are missing a membership opportunity by not asking delegates if they are eligible to become a member of the Auxiliary. Information on the Samsung Scholarship was sent to delegates again this year...to apply you must be a **DIRECT** descendant of a Veteran. Were girls asked?

Two Units submitted an entry for the **Yvonne Granger Plaque**, and it was a hard decision for the judges to make. Girls State publicity was from local newspapers that covered the events as daily doings, from the Girls State website and Ring Your Bell.

Units rewarded contributors with certificates, plaques and thank you cards. Several Units reported returning the money paid by the Delegate if they attended Girls State and reported back to the Unit.

Two new or gently used books were requested from each Delegate as a Community Service Project. They will be given to first responders to distribute when needed.

The Girls State Yearbook is a success and we will be taking orders again. We will continue to promote enrollment for Girls State Alumni Association and "Friends of Girls State". This helps with funding of the two scholarships that are awarded each year.

REMINDERS: The political workings of the Department should not be a part of Girls State. The Units work within established Girl State guidelines and policy. This makes it fair for all schools and Units. Allotments and schools are changed each year to accommodate enrollments and bed capacity or Unit problems. **ONLY SPONSOR** of Girls State is the American Legion Auxiliary. All **OTHERS** are **CONTRIBUTORS** to the program. We need to work on payment with one check. We will be working on completion of forms, pictures, school signatures and notarized signatures by email.

We still need to work on the March 1st deadline. You don't have to wait until March to get started as packets are sent to school around January 15th each year. This year many Units did not contact schools or become involved. Many schools non participation was due to no Unit involvement. Hopefully we can work on this for next year.

We thank each of you for your **dedicated service and assistance** to the Girls State program. We more than appreciated that when asked to help with extra schools or delegates or take on other responsibilities, you were willing to do so for the program. We also appreciated your thoughtful contributions over the required fees.

There will be a Girls State update at Convention. **FLASH...FLASH!** Who will be elected Governor and Secretary of State at the 78th session? Who will be the Girls Nation Senators going to Washington D.C.? Who will receive the Samsung Scholarship? Until then...**Look to Girls State and you'll find...tomorrow's leaders of mankind.** Girls State...**The Best State in the Land!**

Penny Maklary...Chairman/Director

Committee Members: Donna Arnoff...Alisha Matteson...Mary Jo Ficklin



American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona

Historian

2024-2025

Submission Date: May 09, 2025

Lynda Griffin
Department of Arizona Historian
11615 W. Holly St.
Avondale, AZ 85323

End of Year Summary 2024-2025

The American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Arizona 2024-2025 started in June of 2024 at the El Conquistador Resort, hosted by American Legion Post 132. The Auxiliary Convention had 328 registered attendees. The installation ceremony was officiated by past Western Division National Vice President Ginger Cox. Past Department Presidents Cindy Queen and Yolanda Bonilla performed the Sergeant at Arms role, while past Department Helen Griffin performed the role of Chaplain. President Stacey Mayberry and the rest of the newly elected Department officers were installed and President Stacey Mayberry announced the theme of "Pups And Warriors Side by Side" as well as the special project of "P.A.W.S.S."

July brought many 4th of July celebrations to Districts and Post homes around the state. There were many BBQ's, parades, picnics and tournaments to celebrate the holiday and our Nations independence. Some Districts and Units also completed their annual organizational meetings to start planning their new administrative year.

Late July mean back to school in Arizona. Units all over the state worked hard to help students get ready to go back to school by providing school supplies, gift cards, backpacks, school pantry supplies and clothing. Units also helped the teachers and bus drivers with items they needed as well

In August the Department of Arizona's Officer and Chairman meeting was held at Post 107 in Phoenix Arizona. The Chairman was trained on their role as Chairman and their duties and responsibilities as such. There was a great exercise where each Chairman could ask questions and Department handed out important dates for the year to have poppy's orders in and mandates due dates. Questions and Answers could be discussed collaboratively amongst the group.

Later in August the Arizona delegation attended the National Convention in New Orleans LA. The Department of Arizona was very proud to have the National Convention to show their dedication and service to the American Legion Auxiliary.

Many of our units along with the American Legion Family hosted the Safe Night Out "Truck A Treat" for the children of the Legion and for the community in which their post was located. This was a safe environment for our Children and youth of our post and community. One Post coupled with a farmer's market (Big Catz) event which allowed the parents of the children to shop for fresh produce, various food trucks and naturalist vendors selling their wares.

Fall Conference was held at the El Conquistador Resort, hosted by American Legion Post 132, Ora Valley, Arizona from November 1 – 3, 2024. Our special guest was Mr. Ryan and Janna Newman and their team from Pups and Warriors Side by Side (P.A.W.S.S) to speak about the effects of PTSD on Veteran's and how the American Legion Auxiliary can help to raise funds for the P.A.W.S.S. Mr. Newman story of his personal struggle with PTSD and life struggles after he returned home from duty was very moving, and emotional everyone was in tears. P.A.W.S.S is a well-being is at the forefront of what we're working together towards. Our program and activities are designed to be a catalyst that helps Veterans, First Responders and their Families reach their goals and fulfill their potential. Learn more about the positive impact we have and join us in bringing about positive change. There were announcements made for nomination consideration for the 2025-2026 year and members participated in a memorial service held in conjunction with the American Legion Family.

Many members and units throughout the Department participated in Veterans Day activities which included parades, cemetery ceremonies, potlucks and acknowledgements honoring all Veterans

November also starts the season of giving. Many Units throughout the state of Arizona adopted veterans' families for Thanksgiving. Units provided gift baskets with turkey, ham and all the fixings so

that struggling families could enjoy a hearty meal for the holiday. Some Units also included gift cards so that the families could also purchase every day needed items or purchase gasoline to get to work. These gift cards were essential to many families because of job losses due to the pandemic. Many Units also provided a free meal to Veteran's at the Post home for the Thanksgiving holiday. Once Post cooked and serviced Thanksgiving dinner to homeless veterans, providing food and companionship.

In December, the Department of Arizona hosted three Christmas Shops in conjunction with the Phoenix, The Phoenix Christmas Shop, coordinated by Chairman Christine Paulson from Unit 27, was held December 2nd to 4th. Invitations to veterans went out through the VAMC and through local veteran support organizations. The Tucson Christmas Shop was Department of Arizona Legion Commander Manny Beltran; Department of Arizona Auxiliary 2nd Vice Marge Christianson attended the opening ceremony. Department of Arizona has three (3) Gold medal winners from Tucson heading to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Our chairman's has a big heart and support of the healing benefits of art.

Over thirty Auxiliary members from Arizona attended the National Mission Training session held on February 1, 2025, in Las Vegas, Nevada at Tuscany Suites. National President Trish Ward

On January 5, the Department of Arizona Legion Family held its annual Open House. Officers and members from the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons and Riders from across the state attended the pot luck festivities. It was an honor to also have in attendance the National Commander of American Legion James A. LaCoursiere, Jr.

Members from all over Arizona traveled to Las Vegas, Nevada to attend the annual Mission Training and National Junior meetings February 1, 2025. There were round table discussions about how to put together a "menu" for each Unit. The menu was meant to be a guide for each Unit to keep members focused on the programs and mission. Constitution and bylaws, VA & R and membership were also

discussed. Once meetings were completed, members enjoyed all the fun and excitement Las Vegas has to offer.

Many units along with the Legion Family celebrated the 106th Birthday of the American Legion by have cake, ice cream, and fun and games .

Department of Arizona Post 26 family provided breakfast burritos and snack bags for a Arizona Army National Guard unit that deployed overseas. 308 burritos, 151 snack bags, and they were able to escort the unit to the airport.

A car show was held at Arizona State Veterans Home sponsored by the Veterans. Vietnam Veterans got pinned, by Veterans Affinity Group. The residents crafted signs, tie-dyed tee shirts, jewelry, paintings, etc. A great time was had by all.

Unit 86 along with Post 86 hosted Soldiers R US. 24 boxes were packed to be sent to Guantanamo Bay and Korea.

National President Trish Ward visit to Arizona was April 6 – April 11, 2025. She arrived at Sky Harbor Airport on April 6, 2025, and was here until Friday April 11, 2025. During her visit the Department of Arizona kept her real busy, and made sure she did not go hungry. Along with Department President Stacey Mayberry and other Department officers they traveled to the northern part of the state. They visited Flagstaff State Veterans Home where President Tish was able to visit with Veterans and participate in activities with some of the veterans, she was also able to eat lunch with them. She also visit Montezuma Castle, Old Fort Verde, Post 93 Museum Alcantara, She attended a couple of Meet and Greet at Post 44, and Post 26.and a Luncheons at Post 62. Post 25, and 107 hosted dinner for the President Trish.



National President Trish Ward at Arizona Capitol Museum with a piece of the Hull from the USS Arizona. This was a very moving moment. She stated she could feel the heartbeats of the sailors that perished.

April is designated the month of the military child. Units across the state wore purple in support of these kids and Units with military bases nearby held activities for them.

Sunday April 26, 2025 our Department of Arizona Auxiliary held their annual junior convention and Elections at American Legion Auxiliary Unit 41, in Phoenix, AZ.

May is also Poppy month and Units were able to hold poppy breakfasts, lunches and dinners to raise donations for this program. Many Units also held poppy distribution events throughout their communities to raise awareness of The American Legion Auxiliary. The end of May brings Memorial Day. Units all over Arizona placed flags on headstones at the National Cemetery. Many BBQ's and potlucks were held.

Department of Arizona Auxiliary has had a wonderful year. As I look back on the past year, I am overwhelmed with emotion and gratitude. We have shared in countless moments of joy and sorrow and through all; we have formed an unbreakable bond. The loss of five Past Presidents this year has left an indelible mark on our hearts. Centennial Steward (1993 – 1994) -Sunset

December 27, 2024, Joyce Arent (2022-2021), National Historian (2009-2010), Sunset December 2024, Josie Herrera (2015-

2016) Sunset October 17, 2024, Jennie Molina (2021 – 2022) Sunset November 1, 2024. Their Legacies will continue to guide us.



Centennial Steward
(1993 – 1994)



Joyce Arent
(2022-2001)



Josie Herrera
(2015 – 2016)



Helen Stout
(1988 – 1989)



Jennie Molina
(2021 – 2022)

God bless the United States of America!

Lynda Griffin, 2024 – 2025 – Historian, Department of Arizona

Word Count: 1,563

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES
YEAR-END REPORT
2024-2025

As a group the Chairman and chaperones for the Junior group worked diligently to recruit Juniors and help them work to get their patches. A guest speaker came to speak to the girls. We had a conference in November and a convention in April where we elected new officers. The girls had fun, played games, ate pizza and had root beer floats. Everyone had a blast including the chaperones.

Patricia Lugo, Chairman

Book of Reports

Leadership/Arizona Mission Training 2024-2025

The Department of Arizona Leadership Team is committed to the development and education of our members as they diligently traveled around the state to communicate this passion. Being able to communicate this passion was evident in comments from those who attended.

The Leadership Team held twelve Mission Trainings this year. Eighty per cent of our ten Districts held a training and forty-one per cent of our units were in attendance. The majority of the trainings were led by Rose Ficklin, PDP and Department Secretary and Stacy Mayberry, Department President. They were assisted by Shannon Mead, Yolanda Bonilla, Barbara White, Ginger Cox, Marge Christianson and Rae Hopf. The Department purchased a slide projector and screen to assist in the trainings.

Three of the Trainings were a Level 202. Those attending are asked to choose 3 areas they would like covered. Some of the areas covered this year were: Constitution and Bylaws, Impact Report, Voting and Discipline issues.

Leadership Awards were promoted through social media and monthly bulletins. This committee had seven entries for “ Unit Member of the Year”, four entries for the “Lavan Erickson Leadership Plaque,” and four entries for the “Vickey Zwall Mentor of the Year Plaque.” All were outstanding entries. This program had forty percent reporting this year. We continue to hope for higher reporting next year.

Karen Smith, Chairman

BOOK OF REPORTS

LEGISLATIVE 2024 – 2025

The American Legion, through grassroots advocacy has an agenda for the 119th Congress. The most effective way to support the American Legion's Agenda is through grass roots efforts and individuals having their voice heard.

Units were encouraged to contact U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives, State Officials, Local Officials, and the White House through the grass roots effort. This included online letters, phone calls and direct contact.

At the end of the year 2025, the Department of Arizona had 33 out of 85 reports for year-end were submitted which is an increase over last year. 8 Units actively worked on the Legislative Program. There were 25 Units that had nothing to report but submitted a report. Out of the 33 reports, five included a narrative that was eligible for a Department award. Those five were then judged by three people not affiliated with any of the participating Units. One report received after the May 1st deadline.

Information was communicated to Unit members on a regular basis by posting information on the Department website, including call to action alerts. Links to the Dispatch and various other vital information is posted there as well and members are encouraged to reach out to their Senators and Representatives. Legislative chair spoke with several District Presidents to encouraged units to vote and get their reports in. Members were also encouraged to sign up online for the Dispatch about upcoming legislation and other vital information the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary supports. 17 members subscribe to the Dispatch.

Information on how to find all of Arizona local Senators and Representatives was shared in a monthly bulletin posted on the Department website.

There were 912 letters sent to U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives, State Officials, Local Officials, and the White House through the online grass roots effort. There were 624 letters mailed via US Postal Service. There were 282 other contacts with U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives, State Officials, Local Officials, and the White House. There were 296 replies received from U.S. Senators, U. S. Representatives, State Officials, Local Officials. Six replies were from the White House. Replies were received by email, letters, and phone calls.

Members connected and met personally with State and Local officials at rallies, and other events. One Unit met with local Secretary of State officials to discuss upcoming events in the state and discuss Veterans' concerns. ALR riders and Unit members attended the annual "motorcycle day

at the dome" event this year, supporting the passage of the motorcycle safety fund extension, which provides funds for motorcycle safety and training.

Ten Units promoted voting, by telling members how important voting is and to get out and vote. Several Unit members also worked at polling places and helped members that needed assistance filling out mail in ballots.

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

Through the grassroot efforts, the Department of Arizona has been a vital part of this year's success in Legislation that has passed and will continue to make calls and write letters as needed to advocate for veterans, active-duty military, and their family's rights.

For God and Country,

Kathy Amery, Legislative Chairman 2024-2025

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPT OF ARIZONA-MEMBERSHIP REPORT
2024-2025

The Department of Arizona's membership theme for 2024-2025 was "Our P.A.W.S.S. are on Fire."

Members worked furiously renewing and recruiting members throughout the state.

Membership packets were provided to each Unit President, District President and Department Officers.

The packets contained membership processing instructions, membership cards, ALAMIS Information, Membership awards, Recruit/Rejoin 10 and Volunteer Interest Forms.

District 12 had their theme "The Olympics" where units were given an inflatable torch to each unit membership chair and was asked to use the Olympic torch as part of their membership drive for renewing and recruiting members. One unit used the Olympic theme and challenged members by email to renew and recruit, they increased their membership by 34 members. Another Unit had a booth at their Post BBQ and gained 10 members, 6 were new members, another unit recruited members during an Art Fair that was held.

District 11 American Legion Legionnaires and Unit 115 Auxiliary members held a joint event at the Arizona State Fairgrounds during the Home and Garden Show 2025. The unit provided 400 goodie bags, along with Auxiliary poppy coloring book, crayons, an American Flag, small toys, and stickers. Poppies were handed out to veterans, other vendors, and attendees. TAL and Auxiliary were able to answer questions and give their elevator speech for membership and direct Legionnaires to the closest post in their area for assistance. At this event they were able to help over 90 veterans get their benefits from the VA, with the help of the Service Officers present.

Membership drives were held at community events, early bird dinners, during poppy distribution at various locations. Interest Forms sent by National were followed up in hope of bringing new members and sharing the purpose of our organization and programs. This has been a very instrumental tool in increasing membership in Arizona.

There are so many unique ways units have been used to build membership based on the culture of each unit's location.

Department of Arizona

Dolores Chavez- Membership Chair

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona
National Security Report
Chairwomen Barbara White
2024/2025

American Legion Auxiliary members in the Department of Arizona were busy this year supporting the active military, cutting coupons, delivering supplies to active military in the California fire, attending CERT classes, hosting and attending blood drives, handing out Blue and Gold Star banners to families, supporting JROTC programs, volunteering at the USO. These are just a few of the programs that were reported.

Thomas Friendlander, National Security Chairman for the Irving B Selver Unit 107 assisted military families stationed at Naval Base Ventura County Port Hueneme. Unit 107 was mobilized to assist in family relocations and emergency response efforts. Thomas went above and beyond, personally dedicating 22 hours and driving 907 miles to help affected families evacuate and settle into temporary accommodations. His actions exemplify the Auxiliary's mission to protect and uplift those who defend our nation.

Coupons were clipped and shipped overseas for a total of \$10,190. Erenest A Love Unit 6 sent coupons four times a year with 200-300 coupons. (No dollar amount was provided.) They in turn, received a Certificate of Appreciation for their effort from Federica Lemauk, the Army Community Service Officer in Germany. They were informed they supported over 55,000 families with coupons in all their commissaries overseas.

At the District 8 meetings, items were collected for active military for a total of 18 boxes. Personal items, books, snacks, sewing kits, wet wipes, hats, and toiletries were collected.

Twenty-four members of the Roy Fourr Unit 24 attended a CERT program.

A bell for the U.S.S. Arizona submarine is being built. The bell will be made from the grommets of retired flags. The project is being led by Past Detachment Commander, Chris Balsley, member of Squadron 91. ALA members of the Wayne V McMartin Unit 91 had several "Grommet Cutting Parties". They also strung the grommets on wire for the left-over fabric to be 'burned' off the grommets.

Roy Fourr Post 24, Wayne V McMartin Post 91 and Merrill-Mitchell Post 39 families had the honor of hosting the USS Arizona Legacy Foundation members.

Member units invited JROTC's to perform the POW/MIA ceremony. Units also presented the Military Excellence and Scholastic Excellence medals. ALA members were honored to present the medals to the students.

The Units also donated money to the JROTC programs they support. Roy Fourr Unit 24 donated \$1,500, Apache Unit 27 donated \$300, Fred A Humprey Unit 8 \$500, and Mathew B Juan Unit 35 \$1,000,

Blood drives were scheduled and ALA members participated. A total of 217 members participated in blood drives.

John J Morris Unit 62 supports the Luke Air Force Base. Sponsoring seven families at Christmas, sponsoring 30 children to go to the Wildlife Zoo, and providing Christmas gifts, to name a few. Unit 62 is the closest Unit to Luke Air force Base.

Units signed Christmas cards to send to the troops overseas. Children from several schools made cards. ALA President Stacey Mayberry was invited to sign Christmas cards with members at Pat Tillman Unit 107 Christmas Card signing party.

Units donated \$5,370 to the Phoenix Sky Harbor airport USO. ALA members donated 108 hours working at Phoenix Sky Harbor USO.

Units reported displaying the POW/MIA flag/chair cover at unit meetings. It was also displayed at the Department Fall Conference and Department Convention.

Supporting military families is extremely rewarding. Units reported helping 435 families, 11,694 hours, and \$17,181 was spent assisting the families. Some of the tasks were babysitting, cooking, hosting baby showers / diaper drives, yard work, spending time with families

Two units participated in Welcome Home "Parties". Forty-nine ALA members and 120 hours were donated to these events.

Only 3.2% of the Units in the Department of Arizona reported to this Chairwomen.
However, of those 3.2%, the members did an outstanding job in serving the active military and their families, donating time and money, and helped where it was needed.

Word Count: 642



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA

PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY

2024-2025
CONVENTION FLOOR REMARKS

Floor Remarks

June 28, 2025

Good morning Madam President Stacey and members of this wonderful organization. It was my pleasure to fill in again as the PPP chairman for the year.

I would like to thank all the Units that donated approximately \$4,300 for the Nurses Scholarship program. We had 6 applicants, two unfortunately did not qualify.

The Nurses Scholarship for \$600.00.

Janet Grom

Ashley Gonzales

The Health Care Scholarship for \$500.00

Mariah Gisele Meza Perez

Raquel Case

All the ladies have been contacted and are very grateful for the help in progressing their careers.

Now on to the Awards:

The Cora Grigg Plaque:

Runner-Up: Irving B. Selmer, Unit 107, Ginger Cox, Chairman

Winner: William Bloys Unit 2, Becky Prince, President

The AAPP Plaque (Arizona Active Past Presidents Plaque:

Runner Up: Merrell-Mitchell Unit 39, Erica Bailey

Winner: Ernest A. Love Unit 6, Terri Doran

Madam President, this concludes my floor remarks. My recommendations were discussed at the DEC meeting on Thursday.

Cindy Queen
2024-2025 Past Presidents Parley Chairman
Email: cynqueen53@cox.net
Phone: 602-316-7647 (cell)



DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA

POPPY YEAR END REPORT 2024-2025

Although all units work the Poppy Program in their own way, most do not report their activity under this program. 20,300 poppies were distributed in state to the Units this year. Several Units made poppies this year and some have assistance with making and distributing poppies from Girl Scout Troops

Arizona has 86 active Units with 40 submitting reports which is an increase of seven (7) from last year and seven (7) submitting narratives for awards which is the same as last year.

The reports represent less than 50% reporting by units. Due to mailing the reports instead of email, reports were accepted until May 10th to allow for slow delivery.

Two Units sent in Posters for judging, This is an increase of one Unit from previous years. Two units who do not submit Posters have agreed to judge them.

In checking with the Junior Chair no Miss Poppy Books were submitted this year at the Junior Convention although reports reflect Units have Miss Poppy Juniors. No Miss Poppy Books were received last year at convention. Unit 115's Little Miss Poppy was featured in the May 2025 American Legion Auxiliary magazine edition. Awesome!

Units reported an estimated 3448 hours working the poppy program this year. An estimated 701 veterans or veteran families were assisted. Some of the assistance provided was in kind work or donations of goods rather than money

Unit 2 was awarded the National Unit Award last year from the Western Division. Great job! Arizona Department was awarded the National Department Award from Western Division. In consultation with a Unit 41 member, the Department Award shall be given to Unit 41 to display to honor PDP Josephine Herrera. Unit 86 had two posters that received national recognition.

This year a Poppy Power Point was created so information about Poppy and all the National and Department Awards could be reviewed from one document to save Unit members the hassle of locating the information from several computer sites.

A poppy hat contest was started last year after members asked for a contest for that purpose. Although there were not a lot of entries, Units had a chance to see what could be done and hopefully more Units will join in this year.

I thank the Units for their dedication in working this program this year.

Kat Sticklin, Poppy Chair
928-322-1550 katsticklin2025@gmail.com



**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona
Public Relations Report 2024-2025**

**Shannon Mead, Chairman
Department Public Relations
8938 W. Hilton Ave.,
Tolleson, AZ 85353**

This year was a great year for the Units in Arizona! Many stepped outside of the box this year with public relations ideas. It has been difficult getting into the main stream media for a lot of units these past years. One great thing that has helped has been social media.

Many units have created not only websites but Facebook, instagram and LinkedIn pages to help keep their members connected as well as reaching out to the community. Radio and newspapers have been improving this year on the reports as the local community newspapers seem to be opening up a bit more with available space.

Many units continued their monthly meetings with in person as well as zoom to help keep the members active and ready to help. Quite a few units even asked the Department Chairman for help in setting up the zoom meetings as well as making sure they had appropriate branding for backgrounds.

Many units reported the they were not able to locate the fall conference packets or were not given the packets although they were available on the Department website for use and download. Many reminders and walk throughs of what is available on the website have been given during conventions and conferences.

A request from units is also more training in public relations regarding social media. Be it how to set up pages, handle administrator roles and how to hand off accounts when a member leaves office or passes away. Also training for use of social media as well as tips and tricks to help keep the community and manners coming back for more. It would also be a good idea to have some training on which types of group pages are suitable and branding for all social media accounts. Thoughts for the next year's chairman for sure.

Most units used social media, newspaper, newsletters and of course websites to get out their information as well as keeping members informed. Here is a breakdown of some of the Arizona Unit activities this year.

- Robert A. Eckert Unit 81 participated in speak out radio, Murphy broadcasting, live social media broadcasting and radio central. The unit also sent in many press releases to the Riverscene on-line magazine as well as the Today's News Herald and Roddin AZ Magazine.
- Swift Murphy Unit 32 raised funds to put up an advertisement on the Chamber of Commerce billboard outside the chamber building.
- Mathew B. Juan Unit 35 continued to build upon the PR program with use of the constant contact email database where software resends to individuals that had not previously opened the first

attempted emails. The Unit worked closely to help educate both members as well as the community about veteran stand downs and how they can benefit the community.

- John Ivens Unit 42 (and family) put out press releases to the local newspaper as well as the Legiontown USA website for their annual Christmas with the children at the Grand Canyon. Many social media posts as well as flyers were sent out for the event ahead of time. The unit was joined by the District 7 President Ellen Hampton.
- Conrado Francisco Bilducia Unit 124 had a prominent event in August 2024 when they participated with the Post at the funeral of Alcario Flores. For 80 years (WWII) he was missing in France and declared dead. In April of 2024 his remains were found and identified. There were news stations everywhere and drones flying overhead. Most of the publicity of course talked about the Post, but you can see the Unit in the pictures in their matching blue shirts. There is a large posting about the event with pictures on the Guadalupe Historical Society Facebook page.
- Buckeye Unit 53 was busy as always this year with a lot of events that were posted to social media as well as the local newspaper and chamber board. The largest event was a 95th Anniversary for the charter of Post 53 where the unit reached out to the community to help gather local information and stories going back to the 1930's. The unit also coordinated with local schools to have sports teams, JROTC as well as youth leagues participate at the post home with dinners, and other social events. The unit is also creating low cost calendar events for the community to attract different interested and educate more about the foundation of the Legion family.

A total of 32 reports were turned in to the Department PR chairman out of 87 units. This has always been a struggle to get units to report at year end.

There were several Units put in for National Public Relations awards as well as Department awards. In all 2024-2025 was a great year and lots of events and promotion took place along with more use of the branding out in public to help start those elevator speeches.

An end of year is not something to be sad about. It is a great start to the next year with a great path to continue to change, evolve and follow. Blessings for the 2025-2026 year.

Shannon Mead

American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Arizona

Public Relations Chairman

DEPARTMENT VA&R YEAR-END REPORT 2024-2025

Arizona embraced the opportunity to support rehabilitation of veterans through arts, crafts and hobbies:

- 236 Veterans participated in 3 Arizona VCAF events. 11 awards were recognized at the National level with 2 First Place winners.
 - The Tucson ALA VAMC team replicated a fancy art show by serving non-alcoholic sparkling wine and charcuterie plates **(photo 1)**. Local winners' submissions were then shown at the local Mall.
 - To engage the public, the Prescott VAMC event was held during a popular event at the County Fairgrounds.
 - With Unit donations, the Department of Arizona purchased banners and flags to promote the Phoenix event **(photo 2)**. A dual Legion member and professional artist, assisted with setup and judging for the competition **(photo 3)**.
- Ray Fourr Unit 24 provides supplies and volunteers with the Tucson VAMC Blind Rehab group making cards, decoupage glass jars, paracord keychains, luggage tags and more. **(photo 3.5)**
- 7 Units supported "HEAL HER Art", an Arizona art wellness program specifically for women veterans **(photo 4)**. Fourteen year-old Honorary Junior President is leading an effort to engage these veterans in poppy-making by instructing and distributing poppy supplies **(photo 5)!**
- Multiple units support "Guitars 4 Vets"--providing guitars and lessons for veterans. The ALR at Wayne V. McMartin Post 91 initiated a ride to raise funds to establish a scholarship honoring their Post Commander's artist son who was murdered. Raising over \$9,000, the event is now an annual Legion Family event **(photo 6)**.

Families and caregivers were not forgotten by the Arizona ALA:

- Arizona Officers attend remembrance services honoring veterans and families on Memorial Day and Pearl Harbor Day each year.
- Wreaths Across America is promoted through the Department website and social media—17 Arizona Units reported supporting the program.
 - Yuma's Sunset Vista Cemetery was featured in the WAA calendar **(photo 7)**. Legion Family members, as local coordinators, ensure that all 724 graves are honored.
 - Oro Valley Unit 132, with fewer than 100 members, worked within their community to have 2000 wreaths sponsored through their Unit!
- Many organizations of the Yuma community, including the American Legion Family, came together to honor Gold Star Families with a By-way marker **(photo 8)**.
- Thirty-member Conrado Francisco Bilducia Unit 124 has four dual members in the Post's Honor Guard. They brought peace to families by conducting 11 funerals/ceremonies including honoring the remains of a WWII veteran found in France **(Photo 9)**.
- McCulloch-Wagner Unit 109's Memorial Blanket committee provides hand-made blankets to veterans who have passed so family members can rest assured that their loved one's last journey is made in comfort and dignity.
- Providing *Be The One* support at a local home show, Daniel Guajardo Fernandez Unit 115 and Post members provided resources to a mom whose veteran son was considering suicide **(photo 10)**

Arizona ALA avidly supports their 3 VAMC's (and CBOCs) and 4 State Veterans Homes.

- Four Arizona State Veterans Homes:
 - \$6050 was donated by Units; two State Homes each received Wheelchair accessible Billiard tables (**photo 11**).
 - Birthday, Valentine's, Holiday cards and events, by local Units, are coordinated monthly with individual State Home Chairmen.
 - HH Donkersly Unit 19 purchased neck fans for the Yuma State Home veterans and participated in a birthday party for a 102-year old WWII veteran (**photo 12**). They also purchased a granite bench.
 - Car Show, Art classes, Motown Live entertainment, Bingo, Carnivals are some of the activities that Units supported (**photo 13**).
 - Ray Fourr Unit 24 annually hand-makes 300 Christmas stockings for Tucson State Home and hospitalized veterans stuffed with goodies donated by various organizations (**photo 14**).
 - All veterans at two State Homes received holiday gifts from their personal wish list from William Bloys, Unit 2 and HH Donkersley Unit 19 (**photos 15**).
 - November 11, 2024, a Purple Heart Wall was dedicated in Yuma for 6 Purple Heart recipients (**photo 16**).
 - To help keep ongoing costs down, Swaskegame Unit 14 donated a \$500 engraving machine to the Flagstaff State Home.
- 3 VAMCs:
 - Nearly \$13,000 was donated by Units to support the 3 VAMC annual Gift Shops (**photo 17**). 510 Veterans and approximately 150 family members were served, including 50 robotic "Joy for All" pets provided to the veterans in the Phoenix memory care program (**photo 18**).
 - Sipe Peterson Unit 44 donated \$1,420 and 30 wigs and 210 hand knitted scarves and hats valued at \$6,500 to the Phoenix VAMC women's oncology department. (**photo 19**)
 - Tony F. Soza-Ray Martinez Unit 41 donated \$1,000 in daily bus passes so veterans without transportation could get to health care appointments.
 - Tucson VAMC received a new \$10,000 bingo board from the Units in Arizona! The Auxiliary also regularly supports the food pantry at the main facility and one CBOC.

The Units in Arizona reported supporting 17 Standdowns across Arizona:

- Luke Greenway Unit 1 hosted a women-veteran only standdown by providing the location, provider set-up, food and clothing distribution.
- Apache Unit 27 provided volunteers at two standdowns that served over 1000 veterans.
- Overgaard-Heber Unit 86 volunteers traveled hundreds of miles to cover 3 standdowns in northeast Arizona small towns.
- Conrado Francisco Bilducia Unit 124 members attended 6 standdowns across southern Arizona.
- A member of Sipe Peterson Unit 44 administered flu and COVID vaccines at a standdown.
- Ernest A Love Unit 6 members supported 3 standdowns across Northern Arizona.

Units supported many other like-minded organizations:

- Merrell Mitchell Unit 39 participated in an Honor Flight Homecoming

- To date, Units have donated over \$50,000 to Department President Stacey Mayberry's Special Project "Pups and Warriors Side by Side" (P.A.W.S.S.)—an Arizona organization that provides service dog training, for free, to veterans with PTSD.
- Other organizations supported included U.S. Vets, Grounded No More (an AZ organization that takes veterans for demo flights in historic aircraft), Leashes of Valor, Tunnels to Towers, Imprints of Honor (connecting students with veterans to document their story), USO, among others.

Other

- Sipe Peterson Unit 44 held a women veteran's luncheon where they provided gifts and a flower bar **(photo 20)**!

Submitted by Marge Christianson, Second Vice President

Floor Remarks Department Convention 2025

Good Morning ALA members,

How is everyone this morning? I am honored to be your Service to Veterans chairman.

Service to Veterans started as Field Service and Home Service but was combined in 2014 to encompass both. We are now also including hours for those volunteering at the VA homes. Service to Veterans is any service you provide to a veteran inside or outside of the home.

Remember, we can now include spouses in these hours. If you live with your Veteran spouse, you can claim 10 hours a week, if you do not live with them, you can still claim 5 hours per week.

The Service to Veterans chair, tracks all members hours monthly. It is important to email, or snail mail your hours in.

This year, 31 units sent end-of-year reports. You reported to this chair, 106,180.7 hours with 37,373 veterans served, you drove 176,614.1 miles in service to veterans. Please give yourselves a hand! What a wonderful accomplishment.

Now on to the awards.

This year I only received six narratives.

For the..

Ethel M Jarvis Plaque for Junior Service to Veterans

No Runner up/ No Winner

Avonell Smith Plaque for Membership 150 and under.

For this plaque, I received two narratives, unfortunately, one of the units did not get Poppies and is not eligible to receive an award. So, there is

No Runner up

And the winner is: William Bloys Unit 2 Chairman
Dixie Becker

Next:

Esther Gaston Plaque for Membership of 151-
300

No runner up,

And the winner is: Ernest A. Love unit 6, chairman
Katherine Casey-Iadarola

Next:

Sharon Alley Plaque Membership of 301-599

No runner up

And the winner is: Matthew B Juan Unit 35,
chairman Stacy Riebold

Next:

Adene V Steffen Plaque for membership of 600
and above

runner up is Robert A Eckert Unit 81 Chairman
Susan Culler

Winner: John J Morris Unit 62 Chairman Pamla Daft

Next up is the Service To Veterans Hour bars. I am excited to be giving out a whopping 54 bars!

If I call your name, please come up and get your bars from my lovely assistant, Barbara White.

Thank you, Madame President, it has been an honor serving as your Chairman. I have no recommendations or resolutions.

Sara Decker, Service to Veterans Chairman
480-580-3269
SaraDeckeraz@gmail.com

Units reported- 31
narratives written- 6
total Hours- 106,180.7
total Vets served- 37,373
total expenses- \$140,789.15
total Mileage- 179,614.1

CREATIVE ARTS FOR VETERANS JUNE 2025

The Tucson Arts Festival was held August 15, 2024, and 97 veterans submitted entries. Six veterans from Tucson received seven ribbons at the National Festival in Denver, Colorado, on May 18, 2025.

Prescott held their Arts Festival on September 6, 2024, at the County Fairgrounds. Several veterans shared the story behind their works. I was invited to help present the awards to the winners. Three veterans won medals at the National Festival in Denver. Sally Fine graciously treated me to lunch before I returned to the Valley.

The Creative Arts Festival was held at the Carl T. Hayden Medical Center in Phoenix on May 8, 2025, and we had many veterans, their family and friends in attendance. Seventy-five veterans participated with 145 entries, an increase over last year. Margaret Ellis and I handled the refreshments which were a big hit. Please view the video on the VA website and on Face Book.

Your financial contributions enable our veterans to express their creative talents. Thirteen Units donated a total of \$5,657. Funds were raised by holding Bar Bingo, Meat Raffle, Karaoke Contest, 50/50 Raffles, Queen of Hearts, and food sales. A member purchased 100 Diamond Art Kits which were donated to Tucson, Prescott, and Phoenix.

There are 86 Auxiliary Units in Arizona. Thank you to the Thirty-three Units who submitted reports this year.

The Creative Arts Representatives are Margaret Ellis in Phoenix, Sally Fine in Prescott, and Kathy Szakonyi in Tucson. Their continued dedication and commitment in being part of the Team and assistance with the local Creative Art Festivals are greatly appreciated. Thank you to the Units who volunteered and donated to make therapeutic programs for our veterans possible.

It has been a great experience serve as Chairman for the Creative Arts for Veterans program. Meeting the veterans and having them share the stories behind their projects were really moving.

I hope to see many of you at Department Convention.

In the spirit of service, not self,

Anita Ritter
ALA Creative Arts Chairman, 2024-2025
Department of Arizona

American Legion Auxiliary VA&R REPORT
TUCSON VA MEDICAL CENTER
5-31-25

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.

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.

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.

ALA is working with CLC therapists and the new Bingo machine has been received.

ALA sponsored refreshments for the NVCAF medal winners on April 15, 2025.

The grand total of monetary donations for the American Legion Auxiliary for May 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025 is \$5,251. Thank you Unit 131 and Unit 136 for your generous donations to support our programs.

The grand total of material and activity donations for the American Legion Auxiliary for May 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025 is \$35,848.00. Thank you Unit 24, Unit 39, Unit 66, Unit 131, Unit 132 and Unit 73 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, 2024 to May 31, 2025 is 1,119.25. Twenty occasional volunteers have contributed 289.55 hours as of May 31, 2025. The Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE formerly Voluntary Service) is bringing back many volunteers

This chairman has volunteered 166.25 hours and logged 1,980 miles this year in service to the Tucson VA Medical Center as of May 31, 2025. This chairman has now logged over 4,900 hours in service to SAVAHCS. This chairman was privileged to present the honorary check to the directorship of SAVAHCS in the amount of \$2,199,900 representing value of volunteer hours and donation this past fiscal year. This chairman finished 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. NVCA Festival was held October 12 through October 15th with the first place winners going to Tucson Mall for display for a month. ALA purchased steel mesh screens for displaying entries. Annual Joint Review was held on November 26, 2024. VAVS Committee voted to support the Patriot Pantry, Building 95 Recreation and Fisher House with donations on July 31, 2024. VAVS voted to fund NVCA in the amount of \$3,000 which was the total requested on February 26, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Szakonyi, VAVS Representative

Year-end Report 2024-2025
State Veterans Home Phoenix

Over the course of the fiscal year, the Department of Arizona spent \$4,454 for the Veterans staying at the State Home. This spending is made possible primarily by donations from Units in the Phoenix metro area.

In October, 4 specialized recliners were purchased (\$3,600) and delivered to the State Home at their request.

Throughout the year, the Department coordinated personalized birthday cards to veterans from Units by providing lists of birthdays by date with first names.

In December, 7 members of Unit 62 went to the State Home and decorated for the Holidays.

Jan 31, 2025

Delivered 19 sweatshirts-donated by a member of Unit 62, 25 lap blankets made by Happy Hearts of Sun City, Valentine decorations donated.

March 6, 2025

St. Patty's decorations delivered.

March 21, 2025

Monetary donations from Units 41, 61, and 5 in the amount of \$1600.00

March 23, 2025

Delivered tie dye, and t-shirts for veterans to make on craft day.

March 29, 2025

Car Show, veterans held a car show as a fund raiser for a new vehicle for the home. 12 cars attended. Veterans made tie dye t-shirts and socks, made bracelets, and painted pictures for donations. There were also blankets made by Happy Hearts given away to veterans. A food truck was there to feed veterans and guests purchased food too. Donuts and cookies were also donated by the Auxiliary. Veterans Affinity Group pinned the Viet Nam veterans and thanked them for their service. They raised \$1,060.00 in donations.

April 7, 2025

The Auxiliary sponsored Tim Hope with TNT Entertainment to perform for the veterans singing Motown music. The veterans and staff were singing and dancing. Snacks and drinks were provided for them all. Ladies from Unit 62 were there to assist and dance with veterans and pass out snacks and drinks and to visit with them. We also celebrated one of the veteran's birthdays.

Supplies of snacks and drinks were provided to the pantry for future events and afternoon snacks. Supplies of toiletries and small gifts and games were also given for the gift shop. Also aprons and Clothing protector bibs were also made and donated. 2 \$50.00 gift cards were also presented to take some of the veterans out to lunch when they go on outings. Some of the items were given at the Easter trivia event held on Easter... Ladies from Unit 62 made Easter bunnies from wash cloths and eggs were also given. They had inspirational messages and a Kiss included inside. They were given to veterans with their Easter dinner.

I would like to give a special thank you to Units for their support. Without their support we would not be able to do special things for our veterans.

For God and Country
Candy Neagle
State Home Chair