

President's Message

January 2023

VETERANS
Our Hometown Heros

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I hope you and yours had a wonderful Holiday and a Happy New Year!

National President, Vickie Koutz, will be visiting Arizona February 16-19, 2023. Any member can attend events that take place while she is visiting. We will be taking her around the East Valley, also to the State Capitol. The schedule of her visit will be posted on Ring Your Bell by the end of January.

A dinner honoring the National President will be held Friday, February 17, 2023, flyer is enclosed.

I had the honor to go to Tucson and help put together 124 bags for the veterans at the SAVAHCS. Due to COVID they were unable to hold a traditional gift shop.

Units were busy in December shopping and holding Christmas parties for the children. Thank you to each and everyone of you for all you did for the children!

My calendar is filling up. Please reach out to me, in writing, if you would like to schedule a visit. My current schedule is on the back.

Happy New Year to every member in the Department of Arizona.

Until next month

Barbara White
Department President
602-908-2980
Barbarawhite99@gmail.com
1616 W Nopal Dr
Chandler, AZ 85224-2244

President's Schedule

2022-2023 President's Schedule

December 28, 2022	MIAP Burial	National Cemetery	
December 31, 2022	PSP Sock Hop	Post 131	
January 2, 2023	Unit 27 Official Visit	Post 27	
January 7, 2023	Department Open House		
January 8, 2023	District 3 Official Visit	Post 45	
January 15, 2023	District 4 Official Visit	Post 54	
January 17, 2023	Unit's 66 and 131 Official Visit	Post 131	
January 21, 2023	District 8 Official Visit	Post 90	
January 28, 2023	District 11 PPP	Post 62	

February 3-5, 2023	Mission Training	Las Vegas	
February 11, 2023	District 6 Official Visit	Post 86	
February 16 - 19	National President's Visit		
February 26 - March 10, 2023	Sailing the Seven Seas		
March 11, 2023	District 12 Picnic		
March 25-27, 2023	Car Show	Post 81	
April 8, 2023	Unit 2 Official Visit	Post 2	
April 20, 2023	Unit 35 Award Banquet and Official Visit	Post 35	
April 22, 2023	District 7 Official Visit	Post 14	
May 12 - 13, 2023	Personal		
June 2 - June 10	ALA AZ Girls State	UofA	

CHECK THE WEBSITE !!!

**SEVERAL MORE YEAR-
END REPORT FORMS
HAVE BEEN ADDED
DURING THE PAST
MONTH**

GO TO:

aladeptaz.org/9.--program-resources--fall-conference-packets--and-year-end-report-forms.html

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona

Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF)

January 2023



Wow! Time is flying by and we're just getting started! I hope you have had a joyous holiday season and are ready to move on with ways to help our Veterans and their families.

This Chairman would love to hear about the variety of ways you or your Unit have promoted the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. Perhaps you have held a fundraiser specifically for the AEF or held a fundraiser and split the proceeds into a variety of programs such as AEF, Children & Youth, Girl's State, or your General Fund. Fundraisers that have been successful for Units in the past are:

- Beef Raffles
- Bake Sales
- 50/50's
- Spaghetti Dinners
- Pancake Breakfasts
- Yard Sales
- Bingo
- A Mile of Pennies
- Marathon

AEF is grateful for your support and appreciates the many ways you have generated additional funds on their behalf.

Did you know that individuals can donate to AEF? Citations and a commemorative pin are awarded to individuals who donate \$50 or more. National has a commemorative pin for individuals who donate \$100 or more. To receive the pin from National, you must send the donation directly to National. Details were included in the Fall Conference packet but feel free to contact me if you need more information. You still have time to contribute and receive an award. Last year, \$10,000 was donated from members of the Department of Arizona. Let's see if we can top that amount this year. Let's shoot for \$15,000 or more!

Year-End reports are due on May 1st. The 2022-2023 form is included in this packet as well as on the Department website: www.aladeptaz.org

For God & Country,
Jonnie Maddox

Department AEF Chairman

Contact Info: Text or Voice: (760) 413.5912 Email: mimi2twins@gmail.com

VETERANS Our Hometown Heroes



Cavalcade of Memories

January 2023

Members:

We are about to embark on a New Year, Members serving VETERANS Our Hometown Heroes. Welcome you to the world of Cavalcade of Memories.

Hopefully by now you have a cavalcade of memories chairman national has add Cavalcade of Memories under History and they can go hand and hand.

In the November packet it would have the December 2022 on the bulletin. This Chairman is still waiting for the answers to the question I ask; the deadline is December 31, 2022.

Here are the questions again Arizona 1st Convention was held in what city and what year? The Area Caucuses Women was called what back in 1921? In 1952 a resolution change the Area Caucuses women to what name? What year was 10 District accomplished? What year did they combine the Secretary and Treasure Office and made her a paid employee? You must have all question correct to receive an award lottery scratch ticket. Your next sat of question needs to be answered and sent to me by February 13, 2023 before National President Vickie Koutz visit. 2nd set of questions, What year did the book of Instructions for the Units and Chairman's came out? The wearing of the Auxiliary Cap was approved at Department Convention what year? What was the Auxiliary Bulletin called in 1923? You have to have all questions answered and correct to receive award.

This Chairman is still looking for information on All Past Department Honorary Junior Department President that served with them, for the Honorary Past Junior Cavalcade of Memories Book. Please send any information to me.

Department Cavalcade of Memories Chairman

Paula Burgess – pngb62@hotmail.com

Chaplain Report January 2023

I hope you've had the opportunity to review the Chaplain packet from Fall Conference. It contained lots of information and even two signed prayers to get you and your Junior Chaplain (if applicable) a start on a prayer book.

- Wondering more about your role as Chaplain?
- Looking for Year-end report forms?
- Need information on Chaplain prayer books and awards?

**Important Chaplain Information is available on the
Department website under the “member resources”
tab:**

www.aladeptaz.org >> “member resources”>> “#9 program resources, fall conference packets, year-end report forms”>> Chaplain

or click here:

<https://www.aladeptaz.org/9.--program-resources--fall-conference-packets--and-year-end-report-forms.html>

I am looking forward to receiving prayer submissions for Department President White's prayer book. They can be emailed, but preferably they are signed and mailed or brought to the Department Convention in June. Remember, a single prayer can be shared by you with your District Chaplain as well as me. Remember to encourage member participation:

- Prayer calms our heart & mind
- Prayer provides guidance
- Prayer leads us to forgiveness

**If you know of someone who could benefit from a card or phone call from the
Department of Arizona, please let me know:**

**Marge Christianson, Chaplain, alaunit62az@gmail.com, (763) 234-9852;
9611 W Bonita Ct, Sun City AZ 85373**

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona
Children and Youth Program
January 2023

The past few months have been a busy and fun filled time for many of our units. From Christmas parties and bazars (with Santa in attendance and children's craft tables), flag folding demonstrations, an elementary school veteran thank you poster coloring contest, participation in holiday parades, delivery of bicycles to an elementary school, and the teaming up with other entities for the many Toys for Tots events, our auxiliary members have gone above and beyond to educate and support our children and youth. Continue to work with your local schools, churches and service organizations for opportunities to help educate our children and youth about the American Legion and the many programs and resources available. Some of those are:

- Star Spangled Kids - ALA program to educate children and youth on United States History.
- Girls/Boys State
- Youth Hero Awards/Good Deed Awards - to recognize outstanding youth in our community
- KDH2 - Kids of Deployed are Heroes - buttons and stickers are available
- Josh Dogs - Stuffed animal and storybook used to ease separation fears for military children.
- The American Legion Oratorical Contest

Some suggestions to help locate our outstanding youths and determine what needs our communities may have are:

- Contact local schools and youth groups to make them aware of our Youth Hero and Good Deed awards. Ask them for nominations.
- Host a dinner, game night, community fair, etc. that will bring military and non-military families together.
- Contact local churches, homeless shelters and food pantries to identify homeless veteran's children. Ask what specific needs they may have and offer to supply them as needed.
- Plan a special celebration of military children during April in honor of the Month of the Military child.
- Wear purple on April 15 in honor of Purple up! For Military Kids day. Information, ideas, nomination forms and instructions can be located at ALAforVeterans.org.

I look forward to seeing the creative ways that our units will continue to use in protecting, caring for and supporting our children and youth.

Joanne Mangis

joannemangis@q.com

602-421-8766

Community Service

January 2023

“VETERANS Our Hometown Heroes”

We now have a new year, a new beginning. What will your Unit be doing to be of service to your community?

According to our Auxiliary Wheel, the programs to carry forth in January are Legislative and National Security. It may seem a bit difficult to determine how those programs can involve community service, but it is possible.

Do you know of families that have not been presented with a Blue Star or Gold Star banner? Perhaps the Unit can have a ceremony to present them. How about collecting supplies for emergency preparedness kits and distribute them in your community. Sponsor a blood drive, or at least volunteer to help with a drive. Members could also take Community Emergency Response Training (CERT).

Be aware of bills in our state and national legislatures that involve improving veterans lives and encourage your friends and neighbors to support these bills by contacting your legislators regarding the bills.

“Great opportunities to help others seldom come, but small ones surround us every day.”
Sally Koch

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PO Box 3122
Kingman, AZ 86402-3122



Education January 2023



The 1st semester is already at an end! Each month I am focusing on one of the areas mentioned in the August newsletter. This month: **Assist and support veterans pursuing higher education and vocational education.**

There are a number of ways that Members and Units can assist veterans in furthering their education:

- Volunteer to collaborate with a Student Veterans of America chapter or other campus student veterans group at colleges and universities in your community.
- Sign up to receive The American Legion's Legislative Action Alerts, and support the alerts regarding the GI Bill.
- Arrange for your post home to be available for off-campus events/chapter meetings.
- Provide information/handouts to members on organizing and delivering presentations on career and life skills topics to student veterans.
- Promote events through local media and your Unit social media accounts.
- Promote the American Legion Auxiliary Non-Traditional Student Scholarship, available for students who are returning to the classroom after some period of time.

Please continue sending me updates on your Unit activities for the Education program. The year-end report form is posted on the Department website with the other chairmen's report forms.

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

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

Julie Vietri

Education Chairman
Department of Arizona
jvietri@msn.com
480-495-1558

Finance

January 2023

Happy New Year Arizona ALA!

A reminder that your 2022-2023 End of Year Finance Report is due to this Chairman on May 1, 2023. You will find this Form in the January packet or on the Department website, www.aladeptaz.org and please make sure that you allow enough time to either email by midnight May 1, 2023 or send via regular mail with a postmark of May 1, 2023.

Here's some quick items to help Treasurers:

- **Your Unit is incorporated as a 501(c)(19) – Veterans Organization classification for tax exempt purposes and is able to receive tax deductible donations per the IRS Code Title 26 170 (c)(3) under the National Organization Group Exemption #0964.**
- **It's not too early to work on next year budgets. Review yearly expenditures and be sure to allow for price increases.**
- **When reviewing your budget take time to visit your filing system. Have you outgrown an old system? Is it time to scan receipts, checks, invoices and set up on a thumb drive?**
- **Remember the all-important Record Retention Policy:**

Accounts Receivables/Payable	- 7 years plus the current year
Budgets	- 7 years plus the current year
Internal Audits	- 7 years plus the current year
Check Registers	- 7 years plus the current year
Bank Statement/Reconciliations	-10 years plus the current year

Please any questions or comments, please feel free to ask.

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

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

Helen Stout, Member, 520-294-3593, helenstout84@gmail.com

Virtue of Office: Barbara White, President, Jennie Molina, NEC

Barbara Matteson, Sec/Treas. (no vote)

Leadership/Arizona Mission Training

January 2023

My very best wishes to everyone for the Christmas and Holiday season! We commend those units who have held activities for our military and their families as well as making our presence known in our communities.

It is time to look at the awards for this program as well as other programs you may be focusing on. As you know "Unit Member of the Year" was changed from Past President's Parley program to Leadership program last year.

Unit Member of the Year: This award open to senior members who are not currently, nor have ever been, in an elected or appointed leadership role higher than Unit President.

LaVan Erickson Leadership Plaque: Any Unit in the Department of Arizona may receive this plaque. The greatest per cent of Senior & Junior Unit members attending a Seminar plus narrative (1000 words or less).

The Vickey J. Zwall Mentor of the Year Plaque: Member selected by Unit with 1000 word resume of her/his activities for the current year. Member must be current on dues and attend meetings on a regular basis.

Veterans, Our Hometown Heroes: Awarded current year only to members who have submitted a brief narrative of her/his experience with a mentor on path to leadership.

For further information on awards please check on department website or the national website alaforveterans.org. Please give me a call if you have questions.

Please contact me if you wish to schedule a Mission Training in the New Year! Remember to text first and I will return your call.

Feliz Navidad!!

Karen Smith, Chairman

ksmith111@cox.net

(520) 249-1119

Legislative

January 2023

Greetings Members,

Did everyone have a nice holiday season?

Well now that the new year is upon us, we can concentrate on working the Legislative Program in our Units more.

Governor-Elect Hobbs is having her inauguration as well as newly elected and re-elected officials on Thursday January 5th. On January 9th the State Legislature will convene.

Needless to say, things are definitely ramping up at the State Capitol.

As for Congress, the 118th Congressional session will convene on January 3rd, 2023. But the bulk of activity will wait until January 23rd, when the Senate will begin its first work period of the year. The House has opted for two weeks of recess in February, and both chambers will be away for two weeks at the end of June and beginning of July. The Congressional Calendar can be found on www.rollcall.com.

It is important to know who your State Representatives are, as well as your Congress members. Some are new, some have been re-elected. Please stay in the loop on the agendas these officials are working, especially when it affects veterans, active duty service members and the four pillars.

For God and Country,

Stephanie M. McMullen

Department Legislative Chairman

16575 W. Moreland St.

Goodyear, AZ 85338

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MEMBERSHIP

JANUARY 2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR,

If you receive this bulletin and read it by January 1st there will be 59 days left to get the Department of Arizona to 100% by the March 1st deadline, for me to wear a formal gown for processional the Friday of Convention. I have started to grow out my hair just in case. But when you get February's bulletin, I will have made my appointment with the barber for March 2nd. At this writing we are at 56.93% That means we need to get 43.07% more WE CAN DO IT IF EVERYONE WORKS AT IT.

Remember to remind your unit members that as of January 1st, if they haven't renewed, they will no longer have privileges at the Legion, and will be a member NOT in good standing.

I want everyone to understand the following rules for ALAMIS Training. Call or email me if you have any questions.

#1 Email Department that your membership chairman is interested. Give her name, phone number, and email address.

#2 Classes are held by national, virtually. They only have classes the 2nd week of the month on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays. So please specify what works.

#3 The Department Executive Committee voted at fall conference that the new ALAMIS access would only be available to membership chairman that have been doing membership for at least 2 years (if they can't do the current membership properly, we don't want them to "learn" on this.)

#4 Wait until National invites your chairman to attend. They will set it up from there.

#5 Have patience, National is doing the whole country, and that is a lot of units, so it may be a while. **So please do not call or email them about when they are going to schedule you.**

See you soon

Rose



American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona
MUSIC REPORT 2022

January 2023

Greetings Melomanos (“music lovers”),

Well, 2022 is in our past and I’m looking forward to what 2023 has in store for me and for our Music program. I hope you’re finding ways to promote music within your Unit and Post. I promote music every month and everyday. 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!.

I’m currently researching music for Convention and the Memorial choir. If you have any suggestions, please don’t hesitate to let me know. I welcome all suggestions.

“You know what music is? God’s little reminder that there’s something else besides us in this universe; harmonic connection between all living beings, everywhere, even the stars.”
Robin Williams, 2007

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

Alma Matttingly, Department Music Chairman

16575 W. Moreland Street, Goodyear, AZ 85338
amblonde01@gmail.com
602.999.4054 cell

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

NATIONAL SECURITY

JAN 2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR AUXILIARY MEMBERS. I AM SURE YOU HAVE HAD A HECTIC MONTH AND ARE READY FOR A LITTLE REST. I HOPE YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES ARE WELL AND HAVE BEEN TAKING CARE OF YOUR HEALTH. WE CANNOT DO MUCH IF WE ARE NOT FUNCTIONING AT OUR BEST.

JUST A REMINDER OF OUR PREAMBLE "FOR GOD AND COUNTRY WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES": AND YOU ALL KNOW THE REST.

THERE ARE SOME MANY WAYS TO PROMOTE NATIONAL SECURITY IN OUR COMMUNITIES. HERE ARE A FEW IDEAS TO GET STARTED. LOOK AROUND AND FIND PROGRAMS OR AGENCIES THAT SUPPORT VETERANS. DONATE YOUR TIME OR VOLUNTEER SERVICES. FOOD BANKS ARE IN DESPERATE NEED TO FILL THEIR PANTRIES. COORDINATE WITH YOUR POST ON FUNDRAISERS TO BUILD UP ATTENDANCE AND SUPPORT.

JANUARY IS NATIONAL BLOOD DONOR'S MONTH. GIVING A PART OF YOURSELF HELPS NOT ONLY OUR VETERANS BUT ALSO OUR COMMUNITIES THAT ARE IN NEED OF BLOOD DUE TO ACCIDENTS, ILLNESS OR SUPPORT. AS YOU HAVE SEEN IN THE NEWS MANY OF OUR COMMUNITIES ARE EXPERIENCING HARDSHIPS DUE TO EXTREME WEATHER CONDITIONS. WHAT CAN YOU DO AND HOW CAN YOU HELP?

JUST A LITTLE TIDBIT; WHILE THE VIETNAM WAR WAS STILL ACTIVE, THE DELEGATES IN 1973, PASSED A RESOLUTION TO THE NATIONAL CONVENTION SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL LEAGUE OF FAMILIES AND DECLARED MEMORIAL DAY 1974 AS A DAY TO SHOUT TO CONGRESS TO QUOTE 'GET OUR MEN HOME'. WE ARE STILL SHOUTING THIS OUT AS WE WEAR OUR RED EVERY FRIDAY!!

SO TO ALL- HAVE A GREAT YEAR AND REMEMBER WHAT MAKES OUR ORGANIZATION THE BEST IN THE WORLD AS WE FOSTER PATRIOTISM AND RESPONSIBLE CITIZENSHIP.

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

Jennie Molina

truelepa@gmail.com

Nec Dept of Az.

P.O. Box 448 Douglas, Az. 8d5608

New Units/Unit Development & Revitalization

January 2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR

HOW TO BE A UNIT MENTOR

Mentoring is an invaluable service we give our new members and our successors in the American Legion Auxiliary. What is mentoring? Mentoring is the art of teaching, counseling, listening to and advising others so they can be successful. A mentor is a knowledgeable person who is willing to give their time to explain the programs of the Auxiliary. A mentor provides encouragement and guidance and is enthusiastic about teaching others. A mentor is patient and understands that a new member may be hesitant and unsure of their selves.

How to do mentor a new member or a member wishing to become active in the Unit?

- Sit with the new member during meetings.
- Offer to car pool together to meetings, volunteer events.
- Introduce them to others, particularly to the chairmen of any committees in which they have an interest.
- Encourage them to participate in unit activities and projects.
- Answer and questions they may have about procedures.
- Answer their questions about the Auxiliary mission, programs and volunteer opportunities.
- Follow up with the member is they miss a meeting or event. Let them know that they were missed. Remember some members may not enjoy meetings but would love to use their time and talent to serve veterans and their families.
- Invite them to attend a District meeting, Department workshop and other Auxiliary events.

Jan Cushing

New Units/UD&R Chairman

gcushing@cox.net

623-544-0797



PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT

JANUARY 2023

ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOMES

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2023!

Thank you to all the units who sent Christmas cards and gifts to the Arizona State Veterans Homes. I know the residents appreciate them. Those are the things you have been doing each year for the individual State Home Programs. Keep supporting them that way!

The goal of the President's Special Project is to purchase items on the wish lists of each home especially larger high dollar items. When you send your donations for the PSP, please specify that it is for PSP, and the specific home or homes you would like to support. Remember that now we have two new homes, Yuma and Flagstaff, as well as Tucson and Phoenix.

This PSP is a veteran's rehabilitation project, so poppy funds may be used as well as VA&R funds. If your unit is holding a special fundraiser and you have not told me about it, please do let me know. I would love to share any unique ideas with others. Send me a quick email or text message.

Thank you for supporting our hometown heroes!

In the spirit of Service Not Self,

Margaret Ellis, Chairman mellis3166@gmail.com 480-818-3166

President's Special Project Committee

Area A: Cleone Magnuson jazzydoll@cox.net

Area C: Terri Doran theadora70@yahoo.com

Service to Veterans

January 2023

"The most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or touched, they are felt with the heart." ~The Little Prince

Hello ALA members,

Now that the holidays are behind us, it is more important than ever to continue to reach out to our Veterans. Remember that we do not need a special occasion to visit them, send a card or just a 5-minute phone call. Reaching out can save them from the wintery post-holiday blues. Anything you can do; they will appreciate it. Just let them know, they are remembered and that they haven't been forgotten.

Please send me your hours monthly so I can keep track and stay up to date. If you have questions on what hours count, please do not hesitate to call, text, or email me with them. These hours are so very important to report. Remember, any hours you send me are reported to Congress..

Remember, you can now include spouses in these hours. Please download the Service to Veterans monthly reporting page for members and for units on our department website, ALADEPTAZ.ORG you can email me or send in snail mail to me or to Department. Please give these to your members to fill out at your monthly meeting. Thank you for all you do!

Sara C. Decker
Service to Veterans Chairman
Saradeckeraz@gmail.com
480-580-3269

AZ STATE VETERANS HOME – PHOENIX

January 2023

Happy New Year!!!

My Goodness, can y'all believe the new year is already here? Where has this year gone? I write this as we are preparing to deliver Christmas joy, cheer and love to our beloved resident Veterans. There is no way we can express to everyone involved in the Christmas Stars Program and every other program that takes care of our Veterans, especially during the holidays, how greatly appreciated all of your efforts are. Far too many of our Veterans would have little to nothing as gifts without the love and generosity of every one of you. I have seen the tears of gratitude firsthand too many years not to know what it means to these folks.

I have recently learned that the birthday card program has become a "thing" for our Veterans at the Home. In the last couple of months, residents have seen the number of cards being delivered to their friends grow and now they are getting excited to see how many they get. A little birdy told me that some of them even go to the Nurses Stations on the morning of their birthdays to find out what time their cards and goodies will be delivered. They are excited about receiving so many cards each month. To those who send them, it may not seem like such a big deal – but to them – it means the world. It makes their day brighter. I realize I am a mushpot when it comes to our Veterans, but my eyes leak every time I think about the joy such little things bring to their days.

Could you have ever imagined that something as easy as mailing a birthday card, delivering soda pop and other drinks, or supplying gift cards so they can go on an outing would bring so much joy and happiness to our Nation's Heroes????? They deserve so much, and our Auxiliary Units are delivering BIG TIME! Ladies and Gentlemen, you are knocking it out of the park!

Again – saying THANK YOU seems so trivial and inconsequential but that is really all I can do. So, THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

The holidays may be ending for the year, but that doesn't mean the holiday spirit has to. Let's continue showing our men and women who sacrificed so much for us how much they are loved.

As usual, January & February birthdays are listed below. Please mail all cards in one large envelope to the AZ State Veterans Home c/o Brittany Tashner, Rec Therapy Director at 4141 S. Herrera Way, Phoenix AZ 85012.

January:

12th Hubert H. 25th James C.

February:

2nd- Tom Bun. 9th- Harold B. 12th- Leslie T. 19th- Leo K. 20th- Bruce B. 26th- Dan B

Keep being your AMAZING selves. Until next month,

Cat Ludwick, Chair ASVH-PHX

480-226-3967

Cat4vets@gmail.com

AZ STATE VETERANS HOME – TUCSON

January 2023

Welcome to 2023! Sure, hope we have a great year for the Arizona American Legion Auxiliary.

I would like to Thank Units 16, 62 & 131 for the Christmas Cards sent to the residents at the State Veteran Home – Tucson. They were so appreciated and loved by all. The residents were kept very busy during the month of December due to outings, bingo, music concerts and Christmas parties. I was able to deliver Christmas bags to each Resident thanks to the money that has been donated to the Tucson State Veteran Home. Please remember to designate which State Veteran Home you wish your donation to be awarded.

Assistance is needed for **Bingo**. This would be on Mondays and Tuesdays. Bingo is one of the times that the residents are allowed to gather together as a group, while wearing masks.

If someone wishes to donate some time at the Home, there is a need for escorts to walk residents over to the VA so they can visit the Cantina.

They finally have a volunteer for the library, but he is only available to be there on Mondays. If anyone is available to offer some assistance on a different day that would be greatly appreciated. Please let me know if you are interested.

Thank you to Unit 59 for offering to bring the birthday cupcakes and ice cream for January. I have sent emails to the Presidents of each Unit in District 2 and District 3 asking if they could assist in a certain month. Thank you to those that have replied, it helps me with scheduling this very important event.

The Gift Shop needs full size candy bars, soda (regular and diet) all kinds and the individual bags of chips (variety pack is always great. If anyone is able to donate some it would be greatly appreciated. Plus gift cards are always welcomed at the home to allow the Residents a chance to shop either online or downtown ... places like Walmart and Target. Plus anything for a nice restaurant.

To volunteer at the Tucson State Veteran Home, you must be fully vaccinated against COVID, and you will be required to wear a mask at all times. Please remember to mark on your donations check which AZ State Veteran Home you wish your donation to go toward (Tucson, Phoenix, Yuma or Flagstaff), plus you need to mark if it is a donation or if it goes towards the Presidents Special Project (PSP).

VETERANS – Our Hometown Hero's

Bonni Distler

Department Chairman – Arizona State Veteran Home – Tucson

360-317-4708

alabonnidistler@gmail.com

VA&R REPORT
TUCSON VA MEDICAL CENTER
11-30-22

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

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. 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.

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 either gift cards or 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. Since VA funds cannot be used to purchase the food, different donors are shopping and delivering the items to SAVAHCs. Our new Deputy Representative Dawn Davidson and I had a wonderful time shopping for and delivering the donation from the American Legion Auxiliary. Thank you to Units 131 and 132 for their generous contributions to this program.

The grand total of monetary donations for the American Legion Auxiliary for May 1, 2022 to November 30, 2022 is \$7,575.00. Thank you to Units 66 & 131 for their generous donations. Through their help, we were able to support the Wheelchair Games, the Community Gardens program and the Gathering of American Indian Veterans program.

The grand total of material and activity donations for the American Legion Auxiliary for May 1, 2022 to November 30, 2022 is \$5,668.27. Thank you Unit 7, Unit 39, Unit 66, 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, 2022 to November 30, 2022 is 577. We have on-boarded two new volunteers whose hours will benefit the American Legion Auxiliary.

This chairman has volunteered 111 hours and logged 1,140 miles this year in service to the Tucson VA Medical Center as of November 30, 2022. This chairman has now logged over 4,000 hours in service to SAVAHCs. This chairman was re-elected to be the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the VAVS Executive Committee at the meeting on October 12, 2021. This chairman has been elected to fill a three year term on the VAVS Executive Committee. This chairman has attended every Executive Committee meeting and every VAVS meeting this year. This chairman worked with all Units to provide beverages and snacks for staff, patients and volunteers who were manning the COVID-19 vaccination sites. This chairman is working with the Homeless Program to ensure that our Homeless Veterans and those in Transitional Housing have the food and beverages that they need during this time of enormous stress on all community resources. This chairman is 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 September 14 & 15, 2022 and this chairman participated both days. Annual Joint Review was completed November 8, 2022.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Szakonyi, VAVS Representative