

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
APRIL 2020

The month of March was a busy month for this President. I visited units from one end of our beautiful state to the other. It was amazing to see firsthand the Legion family coming together in service to our veterans, their families and the community. Thank you all for the hospitality extended to my husband and myself during my official visits. In addition, in the month of March I traveled to Indianapolis to attend the National Executive Committee meetings. The meetings were informative, and I learned a lot.

About membership; The next target date is 95% by April 13, 2020. At the present time Arizona's membership is at 89.42%. We still have time to make the next target date, send in the report every week even if you are just reporting 2 or 3, they add up. Keep up the good work in keeping membership alive!

A reminder, many End of the Year Reports are due to the Department Chairman by May 1, 2020. Be sure to check the due date on the report form for the program. It would be nice to have 100% reporting from the Arizona chairman to the national chairman.

As of this writing, the Coronavirus has upended daily life across the globe. Let us be careful in separating fact from fiction, pay close attention so that our members can stay safe. I want to thank all the Posts/Units that took caution in protecting the lives of our elderly members by adjusting the Post hours and rescheduling events.

Thanks to the members for your continued support of this years Special Project, "The One Hundred Club of Arizona".

As we continue to celebrate the One Hundredth Birthday of the American Legion Auxiliary. Remember our veterans who are residing at the State Veterans Homes across the State, or in rest homes. Plan on regular visits even if just to say Hi! And let's not forget our men and women in uniform serving in harm's way. I'm sure they would like to hear from home also.

The Junior Convention is scheduled for April 25th and 26th, 2020 at Earl E. Mitchell Post 29 in Glendale, Arizona. The Chairman will keep everyone informed of any changes.

Until next month,

Patricia Lugo, President



Chaplain

April 2020

Greetings American Legion Auxiliary members,

If you have prayers to send me for Madam President's Prayer Book, I'd love to start receiving them. As always, if you would like me to send a card to someone, my contact information is listed below. Please send me an e-mail or text message and I'll get a card sent out right away. I'd be happy to send any kind of card – get well, condolences, thinking of you, motivational, encouragement, great job, etc.

Dear Heavenly Father,

This is your garden, Creator God, a thing of beauty beyond understanding. A poem that is being written, not in words but in colors, wind's whispers, soaring birds, gentle rain and sunlight's warmth. This is your garden dear Lord, a thing of beauty beyond our understanding.

Amen.

Stacey Mayberry

Department of Arizona Chaplain

9139 W Harmony Lane

Peoria, AZ 85382

Cell Phone: 702-403-4903

Email: Mayberry.stacey@gmail.com

Community Service

April 2020

Hello Ladies,

IMPORTANT, IMPORTANT, IMPORTANT! Year-end reports are Due May 1st!!!!

"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make." ~Jane Goodall

Community Service month and Earth Day is April. This is a great time to start planning what you and your unit can do.

One idea is to start a recycling program. Have all your members save their cans and bring them to your meetings. Put up a recycling bin at your Post. By turning in cans, you are not only helping the environment, but you are also raising money for your causes.

April 22nd is Earth Day. Organize a group outing on the 22nd to clean up your local park. This is a great way to get out in the neighborhoods and beautify your local community. Don't forget to take pictures and share them with me! You can also post your pics to Ring your bell on Facebook.

Another idea is to organize a spay or neuter program in your area. This is a humane way to keep the growing population of feral cats under control.

Sara C. Decker
Community Service Chairman
SaraCdecker91@gmail.com
480-580-3269



Education April, 2020



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

The rules are the same for both awards:

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

The Education Year-End report form was included in the packet distributed at Fall Conference, as well as previous Department newsletters. **The report forms and narratives are due to this Chairman by May 1st.**

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

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

Julie Vietri

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

FINANCE

“Time is wasting” and it won’t be long until FINANCE REPORTS ARE DUE TO THIS CHAIRMAN FROM BOTH ALL UNITS AND DISTRICTS. DEADLINE DATE TO BE RECEIVED BY ME IS MAY 15, 2020.

Surprises in store for most complete & well written report using the Department Presidents theme of “Serving Those Behind the Badge”. Now to the nitty gritty – there will be no “lame” excuses for not filing a report. Ie. I never got a report form. Every Unit President, Secretary & District received a copy of the report form some months ago – so there goes that poor excuse – FIND IT& GET YOUR FACTS TOGETHER & REPORT.

As I have stated many times, Units must an EIN number with the Internal Revenue Service-this is a MANDATE FROM THE NATIONAL ORGANIZATION and you must file yearly, if you do not file yearly and miss reporting for 3 years you are no longer have your EIN and to refile with the Internal Revenue Service. Also you need to be registered with the Secretary of State as a Veterans organization as a 501-C-3 group, same as with IRS you should be registered with the AZ Corporation Commission. These 3 should be registered yearly by each Unit.

UNITS need to be informed of the various regulations in the UNIT GUIDEBOOK REVISED 2019. It’s up to your Unit Officers to be informed of the regulations therein, what you can do & can’t do. This last National Convention brought about some of the most drastic changes to the ELIGIBILITY RULES for someone to join our American Legion Auxiliary.

As officers you all need to know of these changes and how you can educate your membership. This is a learning experience but necessary to every member.

The last few days have brought to everyone challenges that may affect the health and livelihood of every United States citizen – Remember who you are and the fine organization that you belong to.-Remember your neighbors, your Families and FRIENDS.

Thank you for the work, the hours and finances you have contributed to the AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY and to letting your communities know of your accomplishments.

THE DEPARTMENT FINANCE COMMITTEE

Helen Stout, Chairman, Patricia Lugo, Department President, Cindy Queen, National Executive Committeewoman, Penny Maklary, Helen Griffin and Barbara Matteson, Department Secretary-Treasurer.

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona

Junior Program – April 2020

Junior Spring Conference – April 25-26, 2020 at Post 29. *See enclosed flyer for more details*

Still on the calendar but watch for updates depending on the availability due to the current COVID issues.

Who's YOUR Hero?

During Junior Spring Conference, we will be honoring each of our own Heroes: the Veteran that makes us eligible for membership with American Legion Auxiliary. Juniors should plan on sharing with the group: a photo, their veterans name, their relationship to the veteran, veterans current age, what branch they served, when and where were they stationed and something fun about their time in the service.

Care Packages for Troops

Juniors will be putting together packages for Troops currently deployed. Each unit is asked to bring items from the list below to add to the boxes. For more information reach out to Lexie or Sara.

- Candy: Twizzlers, Star bursts, Jolly Rancher, Tootsie Rolls.
- Food: Oatmeal (instant), Ramen Noodles – any flavor, Beef Jerky or Slim Jim's, Granola Bars, Individual crackers and cookies, Canned fruit (pop top cans), Gum, Tuna packets.
- Toiletries/Hygiene: Baby Wipes, Travel size body wash, Deodorant, Foot powder, Hand Lotion, Razors (disposable).
- Other: Socks (cushioned white calf high) very much needed w/ foot powder

REMINDER: Children of Warriors – National President's Patch

A special Junior patch has been created for our Junior members and SAL Youth to be involved in raising money for the National President's Scholarship Fund. Any Junior or SAL youth can earn this patch if they raise at least \$5 for each year old. For example, 17-year-old would raise a minimum of \$85 (17 x \$5 = \$85). For more information on the patch, contact Lexie or Sara. For more information on this scholarship check out

<https://www.alaforveterans.org/Scholarships/Children-of-Warriors-National-Presidents--Scholarship/>

Patch Program

With all Arizona schools closed, now is the perfect time for your Juniors to work on earning their patches and learning about the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary. You can download the packets in the Members Only section on www.ALAforveterans.org

Have questions? Contact us at:

Lexis Nicole Escudero

Chairman

623-221-7132

Lescudero@camdenliving.com

Sara Ward

Co-Chairman

520-840-4585

Saraelizabethward@hotmail.com

Legislative

April 2020

Greetings,

First and foremost, I want to thank National and the Department of Arizona to allow me the opportunity to attend the 2020 Washington DC Conference last month.

I learned so much while I was in DC. On Monday March 9, 2020, I attended the National Security Commission meeting and the National Cemetery Committee meeting, which is a VA and R subcommittee. Legislative and National Security go hand in hand. Many of our bills that Congress and the State Legislatures pass are National Security related. The National Security meetings had panel speakers from USAID and the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition. USGLC is a non-partisan, and non-profit organization based in Washington DC. We also had podium speakers at the meeting. One in particular was LT General Karen H. Gibson US Army, who was a Girls State delegate, advocate for female veterans and speaks very highly of the American Legion. She is in Army Intelligence with specialty in National Security and Counter Intelligence.

On Tuesday, your American Legion Department of Arizona Delegation stormed Capitol Hill. First we met with Senator Martha McSally. Next stop on the Hill was Congressman Andy Biggs, then Congresswoman Debbie Lesko, and Congressman David Schweikert. Our meetings with our Senator and Representatives were very productive and went very well. All seemed to be interested in what the American Legion had to say.

Tuesday night concluded with a dinner in honor of our Boys' State Samsung Scholarship recipient Mason Whitaker and family.

Wednesday I attended the National Commander's Call, before his testimony before Congress. That afternoon, we were all on our way home.

There are probably 300 resolutions and bills to be brought before Congress relating to veterans and their families. Key ones are Toxic Exposures and Burn Pits, Healthcare for Women Veterans, Support VA's Suicide-Prevention Efforts, Reaffirm Commitment to our Allies, Fully Fund a Superior National Defense, Pay our Coast Guard, Implement and Oversee New Laws, Protect the GI Bill, Help End Veteran Homelessness, Support for Gold Star Families, and to Protect the American Flag. These key legislative points were discussed with all our Senators and Representatives while on the Hill.

Again, thank you for this opportunity and let's look forward to Congress passing these bills and resolutions for our veterans and families.

"A primary object should be the education of our youth in the science of government. In a republic, what species of knowledge can be equally important? And what duty more pressing than communicating it to those who are to be the future guardians of the liberties of the country?" - George Washington

For God and Country,

Stephanie M. McMullen

Chairman

15239 W. Taylor St.

Goodyear, AZ 85338

(623)910-4716, stephanieemr@yahoo.com

APRIL 2020
MEMBERSHIP

TO ALL MEMBERS OF OUR GREAT ORGANIZATION—I BRING YOU GOOD THOUGHTS AND HOPES FOR A BRIGHTER FUTURE THAN WE ARE CURRENTLY HAVING. SPRING IS IN THE AIR AND I HOPE WITH IT COMES THE BIRTH OF NEW IDEAS FOR MEMBERSHIP AND CONTINUING GROWTH.

I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU ALL FOR THE EFFORTS YOU HAVE MADE IN RECRUITING AND BRINGING BACK MEMBERS THAT HAVE LEFT THE FOLD. I HOPE YOU PLANNING TO USE THE WEEK OF SHARING AND CARING NOT ONLY TO SHOW YOUR COLORS BUT ALSO AS A WAY OF ENTICING OTHERS TO BE A PART OF YOUR PLANS BY LETTING THEM KNOW WHAT YOU ARE DOING AND INVITING THEM TO ALSO PARTICIPATE.

HERE ARE SOME WAYS TO BUILD UP FOR BOTH MEMBESHIP AND SHARING AND CARING WEEK;

TAKE THE TIME TO MAKE PHONE CALLS AND INQUIRING ON MEMBER'S WEL BEING AND THAT OF THEIR FAMILIES.

LET THEM KNOW THEY ARE VALUED AND MISSED

INVITE THEM AND MAKE THEM FEEL WELCOMED

ASK WHAT INTEREST THEY HAVE AND IF INTERESTED IN HELPING OUT WITH WHAT THEY LIKE.

INFORM THEM OF EVENTS THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY IS DOING

THANK THEM FOR WHATEVER PART THEY HAVE PLAYED AND ASSURE THEM EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS.

THANK THEM FOR HONORING THEIR VETERANS BY THEIR PAST OR PRESENT MEMBERSHIP.

REMEMBER THERE IS AN INCENTIVE OF WINNING A \$25 AWARD OUT OF 100 TO BE GIVEN. PART OF THIS IS REJOINING ONE FOMRER MEMBER AND SHE MUST BE PROCESSED BY THE DEPARTMENT BY APRIL 24TH 2020. ALSO THE CERTIFICATION AWARD FOR THE WEEK OF CARING AND SHARING MUST BE COMPLETED AND SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT.

WITH ALL THAT IS GOING ON, TAKE THE TIME TO EXTEND A HELPING HAND TO THOSE IN NEED AND NOT BE OFFENDED WHEN IT IS NOT RETURNED. (I MEAN THIS LITERLY). DO THE BEST YOU CAN

GOD BLESS YOU AND KEEP YOU SAFE AND GOD BLESS AMERICA

Jennie Molina

truelepa@gmail.com

Dept of Az. Vice-president

P.O .Box 448 Douglas, Az. 85608

Membership chairman

(520) 220-8460

From: GEORGE STICKLIN <gsticklin@cableone.net>
Sent: Sunday, March 22, 2020 11:21 PM
To: secretary aladeptaz.org
<secretary@aladeptaz.org>
Cc: plugo1@cox.net
Subject: AZ mission training

I am canceling all training for the remainder of this year. Our Post has been closed since Friday and they say we have another new case since then. All counties where I would be training are experiencing the same issues with the virus so since training is not mandatory this is a moot subject this year. All is well with the members as far as I know right now. Our Unit has savings that we can fall back on if we need it. Take care.

Kat

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
NATIONAL SECURITY

APRIL 2020

Hello ladies of the great state of Arizona!!! At this writing this chairman is hoping that everyone is doing everything they can to stay safe during the Coronavirus epidemic.

Many Posts have already shut down, and each day we hear of more and more that are taking extra precautions to ensure the safety of all Legion family.

The President of the United States and our Governor of Arizona have suggested that families stay home and not be around large crowds.

One of the things that would be important is to make sure that your home is also in safe mode. Are your smoke alarms up to standard...are the batteries needing changed? Do you have a carbon monoxide detector in your home?

Under the National Security program, we talk about being ready for any disaster to come our way. We are there now!

Stores are dealing with running out of many items needed for all of us who have made the decision to be quarantined in our homes for the next few weeks. Kudos to those entities who are shutting down ensuring our safety, those stores who are opening to the elderly first, and so much more.

At this point in time each of us needs to take extra measures to ensure we stay informed about this virus from our President, Governor and TV news.

Stay home, stay safe and stay aware.

With all that said, please do not forget that reports are due to me by May 1, 2020. If you have any questions with regard to the form, give me a buzz...call or email.

Until next month with more news!!

Cindy Queen

National Security Chairman

2019-2020

cynqueen53@cox.net

602-316-7647 (cell)

New Units/Unit Development & Revitalization

APRIL 2020

HOW TO CULTIVATE ACTIVE MEMBERS

I. Encouraging members to attend meetings and/or participate in volunteer events

Members may or may not attend meetings. They may attend meetings only occasionally or they may attend social meetings only. They may only want to receive a newsletter or mailing from the Unit. They may communicate with others by telephone, getting and giving information about Unit activities. You may never hear from some members except they may pay their dues or send donations regularly. Nevertheless, these members are your Unit and you must never forget, without them, there would be no American Legion Auxiliary.

Your efforts to get members to attend Unit meetings or participate in volunteer projects are just that-efforts. Members control whether or not they choose to attend or participate. You can only control your efforts to motivate them to attend. So, if you make no effort at all, there is almost a 100% probability that no one will come.

2. Develop a program

How do you motivate members to become active members? Develop a balanced program to include meetings, newsletter, personal contact and, more importantly, meaningful opportunities to participate in mission outreach projects.

Jan Cushing
New Units/UD&R Chairman
gcushing@cox.net
623-544-0797

American Legion Auxiliary

Past Presidents Parley

April 2020

Arizona ALA, the time to submit for all PPP Plaques is approaching!

Arizona Active Past Presidents Plaque

Arizona has many past Unit, District and Department Past Presidents who continue to serve ALA programs and should be recognized for their dedication. Qualifications : Must be a PAST Unit, District or Department President who is active in various activities/programs and attends meetings on a regular basis. Do submit a narrative NTE 1,000 words describing qualifications/accomplishments/achievements for this year. MUST BE SIGNED BY Unit President and Unit Chairman and submit to this chairman by May 1, 2020

Unit Member of the Year

Does your Unit have that member that meets the following criteria to serve as Arizona member of the Year? The criteria is: Selection should be based on contribution through a program and/or project for the CURRENT year. Is she a member in good standing? Has not served in an appointed and/or elected office higher than Unit President. Length of membership is not a criterion. Submit a narrative NTE 1000 words describing accomplishments/achievements for this year. INCLUDE COMPLETE NAME AND ADDRESS. MUST BE SIGNED BY Unit President and Unit Secretary and submit to this chairman by May 1, 2020

Dual Auxiliary-Legion members serve the American Legion Family proudly and we continue to honor their commitment to Country. This month we honor Bobbie Kimelton, a member of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary at Post 145. Bobbie proudly served in the Marines and is currently serving the TAL Department of Arizona on the JSSP Committee and District 11 as their Adjutant. Thank you for your service Bobbie!

Please contact me if you have questions about the narratives or this program.

Yolanda Bonilla

Past Presidents Parley Chairman

602-989-3321, yodobo@msn.com

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT LF ARIZONA
PRESIDENT'S
SPECIAL PROJECT
SERVING THOSE BEHIND THE BADGE**

APRIL 2020

**Thank you to everyone for your continued support of
our First Responders!**

**Let us know how we can help you with your
events. Linda and I are here to assist you. Do not
hesitate to call us with your questions.**

Josephine Herrera — Chairman
Jherrera268@aol.com
623-340-5936

Linda Welch – Co-Chairman – Tucson
520-851-5161

UAV 7 MARCH 2020
UNOFFICIAL MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m. by Chairman Dylan Dalzotto. The opening ceremony was conducted and guests were introduced.

Jessica Winter, Public Information Liaison for Arizona Registrar of Contractors gave a presentation on an upcoming event at Chase Field, 401 E. Jefferson Street, Phoenix 85004 on April 1st, 2020. The Arizona Registrar of Contractors is a State agency responsible for investigating complaints and unlicensed contractors. If you need to hire a contractor, they need to have a license. The organization has a veteran on staff to answer any questions from veterans and to help them acquire a license. For more information contact Arizona Registrar of Contractors at 602-771-6711 (office), or 602-882-6084 (cell). Email: Jessie.winter@roc.az.gov.

Woody Cline, Gila County Supervisor gave an update on the "Young Project". The Federal Forestry Services has abandoned the property in Young, Arizona which they previously maintained as their corporate offices for forestry personnel and operations and moved their headquarters to Payson. The property in Young has numerous buildings, most of which are in excellent condition. Working with Representative Gosar, the community is working to have the 90 acre property turned over to Young to convert the property into an area for veterans retreats and seminars. There are some historical buildings on this property which the program would have to maintain. Additionally there are two sets of barracks with ten bedrooms. Young has a population of about 1,000 people and the elevation is 5157 feet. Representative Gosar is introducing a bill to transfer the ownership of this property to the Gila County within the next couple of weeks. People are encouraged to contact Representative Gosar in support of this endeavor. Point of contact: Palmer Miller at: palmermiller@msn.com.

Roll call was taken, a quorum was established. Carol Culbertson made a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting as written, second and approved.

Treasurer Ray Boucher gave the treasurer's report. Starting balance was \$97,114 and ending balance was \$97,085.

Dr. Maureen McCarthy from the VA Medical Facilities updated the group on some of the construction ongoing at the VA. The new elevator to take patients from the emergency room to other floors for tests and housing is almost complete. The SAIL scores have improved from 79% to 84%. More people are responding to the surveys. The TeleICU opened this past month. There were 17 veterans in the U.S. who tested positive for the Corona virus. The symptoms do not show up for 10 to 14 days after exposure.

Rachel Charles from the National Memorial Cemetery updated everyone on the ongoing construction at the cemetery. The administration offices still have not moved into the trailers. Help will be needed for placement of the flags on the graves for Memorial Day. The flags will be placed on Saturday, May 23rd.

Nicole Baker from Arizona Department of Veterans Services advised that the new Veterans Homes in Yuma and Flagstaff are ahead of schedule and should be opening soon. They will be hosting a Women's Veterans Seminar in Lake Havasu. The new Pre-911 MFRF opened in January. So far they have been able to assist 4 families. There are also funds available to help veterans in need of additional schooling to advance their careers. Another project the ADVS is undertaking is an attempt to have more affordable housing for veterans. The Arizona Department of Veterans Services currently has 400 people in their employment.

Terry Araman gave a Legislative update. There are 2 bills the UAV is concentrating on. The one to increase the number of Benefits Counselors and the one to eliminate state taxation of military retirement. The bill for 12 additional Benefits Counselors has been amended to 6 additional counselors, with the intent to go in next year to ask for another 6.

Working with Arizona Housing Coalition to support HB2732, which will make it more feasible for developers to build more affordable housing.

Also SB1494 is an attempt to reinstate the Housing Trust Fund to help people facing eviction, or problems paying for their utilities.

Chairman Dalzotto announced that they are still seeing nominations for the Class of 2020 AVHOF. Deadline for submission is March 31st.

The Spring Gala will be on May 8th at the Double Tree Resort in Scottsdale.

There being no further business to come before the membership, the closing ceremony was held and the meeting adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith Hatch". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with a large initial 'J'.

Judith Hatch

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

April 2020

Year-end Reports are due May 1! You can snail mail or email your report to me. Any questions on the Year-end report, don't hesitate to give me a call or send me an email. I will get back to you.

Can we get 100% participation this year? I sure hope so.

Also, narratives for awards are due May 1.

- Carmelite Staker Creative Arts Plaque
- Lola M. Dunbar Plaque for Units with membership of 150 and under
- Nellie M. Baldwin for Units with membership of 151 and over
- Leona Proper Hospital Volunteers Plaque
- Ethel M. Jarvis Junior Service to Veterans Plaque
- Avonell Smith Service to Veterans Plaque for Unit membership of 150 and under
- Esther Gaston Service to Veterans Plaque for Unit membership of 151 to 300
- Sharon Alley Service to Veterans Plaque for Unit membership of 301 to 599
- Adene V. Steffen Service to Veterans Plaque for Unit membership of 600 +

I'm sure at least one person in your Unit provided service to a veteran outside of a VA Facility that is not related to them. The Service to Veterans report is to be sent to Carletta McDaniel, Service to Veterans Chair.

Remember to thank a veteran! They love it when you take the time to say "Hi" and thank them for their service!

Don't hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Until next month . . .

Barbara White
Department 2nd Vice President
602-908-2980
Barbarawhite99@gmail.com
1616 W Nopal Dr
Chandler AZ 85224-2244

ARIZONA STATE VETERANS HOME – TUCSON (ASVH-TUCSON)

APRIL, 2020

Units hosting monthly Birthday Cake & Ice Cream Socials are as follows:

Units 132 and 68 April 21, 2020; and Unit 59 May 19, 2020. Please contact Terry Soto to schedule your day soon.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO OUR ASVH-TUCSON RESIDENTS FOR MARCH AND APRIL **BEST WISHES ALWAYS TO YOU**

REMINDER: **Second Monday monthly** Arizona State Veterans Home-Tucson, Steering Committee Meeting at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel Room, Bldg. #1

Third Tuesday monthly **Auxiliary hosted a Birthday Cake and Ice Cream Social at 1:30 p.m. Set up is at 1:00 p.m. in the Chapel Room in Bldg. #1**

Second Tuesday monthly Pizza and Beer Party – Cost is \$120 which includes pizza and chicken wings – need sponsors. Yup, cost decreased with a vendor.

Third Wednesday monthly Bingo in Bldg. 2 hosted by Fred H Humphreys Auxiliary Unit 8
Please advise if your unit is donating items to ASVH-Tucson so that the steering committee can recognize you in these monthly bulletins. The steering committee is great to attend as we plan out monthly and future events. And, yes by all means we greatly support, “Adopt a Building.”

UPCOMING EVENTS AND WISH LIST

Unfortunately, ASVH-Tucson has imposed a shutdown on its facility until further notice. However, the recreation department, our department committee, and steering committee will support the continuance in events with restrictions. We have found a way to support our residents at ASVH-Tucson.

Per Sam Nanez if we provide donations (food/items) we are to call him, at 520-603-9612 to make arrangements to deliver to him directly. He will set a time with us to meet, and we are to meet outside Building #1 door entrance to give the donations. All food products and items must be new and sealed (no homemade food or items allowed at this time). Continue to ensure that any monetary donations are sent to Department as always.

We are so sorry for these restrictions as our residents always look forward to our events. We found a way to still provide for the scheduled activities at least. As time goes by, hopefully our observance of social distancing will decrease. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call me or Terry.

For God and Country, **Anna Marie Arenas**
 ASVH-Tucson Chairman
 aarenas@cox.net
 520-404-7646

Terry Soto
ASVH-Tucson Co-Chairman
bravo1107@yahoo.com
520-551-3628

Please take a moment with us to hope that our residents at ASVH-Tucson continue to be healthy and strong to avoid this pandemic and that their protectors also remain healthy and strong as well.

HAPPINESS AND ENTERTAINMENT IS ALWAYS NUMBER 1 THERAPY!

VA&R REPORT

TUCSON VA MEDICAL CENTER

1-31-20

Upcoming Events (Volunteers & Monetary Donations Needed):

Bingo parties which are held on the **third Saturday of each month at 1:30PM in Building 60** at the VA hospital. Volunteers are needed to assist with this activity, which is much appreciated by our hospitalized Veterans. Please consider sponsoring the Bingo program. We are now welcoming Veteran patients from the Building 95 Substance Use Treatment Disorder Program to our Bingos. Thank you Unit 54 & Unit 7 for your generous donation to support the Bingo program. Many thanks to the new Bingo volunteers, Kathy & Marilyn. Thank you Unit 68 for volunteering and providing funds for the August & September Bingos. Unit 68 will be sponsoring Bingo for the balance of the year.

Bridging Ceremony refreshments for the Substance Use Disorders Treatment Program (SUDTP) on the **third Tuesday of each month and any month that there is a fifth Tuesday**. We sponsored refreshments on January 15, 2020. The time is 2PM and the venue is Building 90 at the VA hospital. Thank you to members of Unit 131 & Unit 68 who have volunteered to help with this program. Special thanks to Fire Woman (Ku Istan) and Jude for all their assistance with this activity.

Employee Appreciation Luncheon is scheduled for March 4, 2020. The venue is the Auditorium. Volunteers are needed between 9AM and 2PM to help set-up, serve and clean up. We will be serving between 11AM and 1PM. Units are requested to provide salads and desserts.

Wish Lists

Golf clubs, Gloves, Gift Cards and Meals for PGA Hope Golf Program POC Scott Strzyzewski (520) 792-1450 X6367. Unit 109 contributed six sets of golf clubs with bags for this program.

Yuma CBOC (Community Based Outreach Clinic) is seeking donations of gift cards to local food stores (Fry's, Walmart, Albertsons, Sam's Club, Food City). These donations will support a collaboration between American Legion Post 19 and the Yuma CBOC. The Registered Dietician, Kelly Hamlin, MA, RDN is coordinating the effort to provide a cooking class for Veterans who would benefit from these skills. Many Veterans at the Yuma CBOC suffer from diabetes, obesity, high blood pressure and kidney issues due to a diet of processed foods. They want to teach these Veterans to prepare some healthy, simple meals to help improve their health. POC: Kelly E. Hamlin, MA, RDN; phone (520) 403-0217; mailing address 3111 S. 4th Ave., Yuma, AZ 85364. Should you decide to support this effort, please make sure that you submit a donation form to Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System.

The new Residential Mental Health Rehabilitation facility is now open. This added 25 new beds to house Veterans in various treatment programs with on-site housing on the hospital campus. The staff requesting donations has put forward that donations in kind, rather than monetary donations, would best fill this need. This program has requested 300 backpacks and 400 water bottles at

this time. Any Unit which would like to support this need should send checks to Department with the memo "Building 95 Needs". Very generous donations from Unit 66 and Unit 132 have made it possible to fill this need.

The grand total of material and activity donations for the American Legion Auxiliary for May 1, 2019 to December 31, 2019 is \$28,387.70. We would like to express special thanks to Elaine Yates and Yuma Unit 19, Unit 7's Ann Reatherford, Unit 24, Unit 131, Unit 132, Unit 73 and Unit 109 members and unaffiliated volunteers for their constant support of VA programs through their donations. The Legion family is the largest supporter of the Arizona Fisher House. Currently, Arizona Fisher House is funded for the foreseeable future. Other programs are in dire need of donations (ie. Homeless, Building 95, Social Services, Bingo, etc.). Units 58, 62, 75 and various other Units forwarded funds in the amount of \$7,295 for the Fisher House with their year-end donations. Total monetary donations for the American Legion Auxiliary for May 1, 2019 to January 31, 2020 are \$20,335. Thank you Unit 7 for your donations to support social services, July parties, mental health and Creative Arts.

The American Legion Auxiliary provided refreshments for the Psychosocial Recovery & Rehabilitation Center graduation on January 10, 2020. There were three graduates at this celebration. This is the first graduation they have held since June, 2018.

Nine registered hospital volunteers and three summer youth volunteers donated time which was credited to the American Legion Auxiliary. The grand total of registered volunteer hours May 1, 2019 to January 31, 2020 is 3,829.25. Occasional hours are 532.25 donated by one hundred thirty three volunteers. Please consider volunteering at SAVAHCS if you can possibly devote the time. We have signed up one new volunteer and are processing three more. Thank you new volunteers!

This chairman has volunteered 266.5 hours and logged 3,420 miles this year in service to the Tucson VA Medical Center as of January 31, 2020. This chairman was elected to be the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the VAVS Executive Committee at the meeting on October 1, 2019. This chairman volunteers at the monthly Bingos and coordinates the refreshments for the Bridging Ceremony celebrations on the third Tuesday of each month. This chairman is responsible for entering all material & activity donations and acknowledging all donations, monetary and material, for SAVAHCS each year. These donations were in excess of \$1,000,000 for the last two years. This chairman made a motion at the July meeting of the VAVS Committee to fund Veteran Sports Programs (Wheelchair Games, etc.) in the amount of \$3,000. Motion carried. This chairman volunteered three days at Christmas Gift Shop. We will distribute the Christmas Pledge money and cards on December 17, 2019. AJR was completed November 12, 2019 and forwarded to National. This chairman assisted at the Veterans Creative Arts set-up, judging and display on January 28 & 29, 2020.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Szakonyi, VAVS Representative

VA&R REPORT

TUCSON VA MEDICAL CENTER

2-29-20

Upcoming Events (Volunteers & Monetary Donations Needed):

Bingo parties which are held on the **third Saturday of each month at 1:30PM in Building 60** at the VA hospital. Volunteers are needed to assist with this activity, which is much appreciated by our hospitalized Veterans. Please consider sponsoring the Bingo program. We are now welcoming Veteran patients from the Building 95 Substance Use Treatment Disorder Program to our Bingos. Thank you Unit 54 & Unit 7 for your generous donation to support the Bingo program. Many thanks to the new Bingo volunteers, Kathy & Marilyn. Thank you Unit 68 for volunteering and providing funds for the August & September Bingos. Unit 68 will be sponsoring Bingo for the balance of the year.

Bridging Ceremony refreshments for the Substance Use Disorders Treatment Program (SUDTP) on the **third Tuesday of each month and any month that there is a fifth Tuesday**. We sponsored refreshments on February 18, 2020. The time is 2PM and the venue is Building 90 at the VA hospital. Thank you to members of Unit 131 & Unit 68 who have volunteered to help with this program. Special thanks to Fire Woman (Ku Istan) and Jude for all their assistance with this activity. This activity has been suspended until further notice.

Employee Appreciation Luncheon was held March 4, 2020. We fed almost 600 staff and donated 100 meals to the Homeless Program, which they greatly appreciated. We had a good turnout of volunteers. Many thanks to Onita Davis and Unit 132 for their additional donations and volunteers who made this luncheon a great success.

Wish Lists

Golf clubs, Gloves, Gift Cards and Meals for PGA Hope Golf Program POC Scott Strzyzewski (520) 792-1450 X6367. Unit 109 contributed six sets of golf clubs with bags for this program.

Yuma CBOC (Community Based Outreach Clinic) is seeking donations of gift cards to local food stores (Fry's, Walmart, Albertsons, Sam's Club, Food City). These donations will support a collaboration between American Legion Post 19 and the Yuma CBOC. The Registered Dietician, Kelly Hamlin, MA, RDN is coordinating the effort to provide a cooking class for Veterans who would benefit from these skills. Many Veterans at the Yuma CBOC suffer from diabetes, obesity, high blood pressure and kidney issues due to a diet of processed foods. They want to teach these Veterans to prepare some healthy, simple meals to help improve their health. POC: Kelly E. Hamlin, MA, RDN; phone (520) 403-0217; mailing address 3111 S. 4th Ave., Yuma, AZ 85364. Should you decide to support this effort, please make sure that you submit a donation form to Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System.

The new Residential Mental Health Rehabilitation facility is now open. This added 25 new beds to house Veterans in various treatment programs with on-site housing on the hospital campus. The staff requesting donations has put forward that donations in

kind, rather than monetary donations, would best fill this need. This program has requested 300 backpacks and 400 water bottles at this time. Any Unit which would like to support this need should send checks to Department with the memo "Building 95 Needs". Very generous donations from Unit 66 and Unit 132 have made it possible to fill this need.

The grand total of material and activity donations for the American Legion Auxiliary for May 1, 2019 to January 31, 2020 is \$28,387.70. We would like to express special thanks to Elaine Yates and Yuma Unit 19, Unit 7's Ann Reatherford, Unit 24, Unit 131, Unit 132, Unit 73 and Unit 109 members and unaffiliated volunteers for their constant support of VA programs through their donations. The Legion family is the largest supporter of the Arizona Fisher House. Currently, Arizona Fisher House is funded for the foreseeable future. Other programs are in dire need of donations (ie. Homeless, Building 95, Social Services, Bingo, etc.). Units 58, 62, 75 and various other Units forwarded funds in the amount of \$7,295 for the Fisher House with their year-end donations. Total monetary donations for the American Legion Auxiliary for May 1, 2019 to January 31, 2020 are \$20,335. Thank you Unit 7 for your donations to support social services, July parties, mental health and Creative Arts. I don't have the numbers for the month of February and will update next month.

The American Legion Auxiliary provided refreshments for the Psychosocial Recovery & Rehabilitation Center graduation on January 10, 2020. There were three graduates at this celebration. This is the first graduation they have held since June, 2018.

Twelve registered hospital volunteers and three summer youth volunteers donated time which was credited to the American Legion Auxiliary. The grand total of registered volunteer hours May 1, 2019 to February 29, 2020 is 4,068.75. Occasional hours are 570.25 donated by one hundred thirty eight volunteers. Please consider volunteering at SAVAHCS if you can possibly devote the time. We have signed up one new volunteer and are processing three more. Thank you new volunteers!

This chairman has volunteered 275.5 hours and logged 3,660 miles this year in service to the Tucson VA Medical Center as of February 29, 2020. This chairman was elected to be the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the VAVS Executive Committee at the meeting on October 1, 2019. This chairman volunteers at the monthly Bingos and coordinates the refreshments for the Bridging Ceremony celebrations on the third Tuesday of each month. This chairman is responsible for entering all material & activity donations and acknowledging all donations, monetary and material, for SAVAHCS each year. These donations were in excess of \$1,000,000 for the last two years. This chairman made a motion at the July meeting of the VAVS Committee to fund Veteran Sports Programs (Wheelchair Games, etc.) in the amount of \$3,000. Motion carried. This chairman volunteered three days at Christmas Gift Shop. We will distribute the Christmas Pledge money and cards on December 17, 2019. AJR was completed November 12, 2019 and forwarded to National. This chairman assisted at the Veterans Creative Arts set-up, judging and display on January 28 & 29, 2020. This chairman prepared all the chicken and rice for the Employee Appreciation Luncheon held on March 4, 2020.

The situation at the Tucson VAMC is changing every day. Visitation is curtailed. Recreation is suspended until further notice. We are awaiting a policy update regarding acceptance of donations.

Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Szakonyi, VAVS Representative



Creative Arts April 2020

The local shows in Arizona are finished. The winners have been sent on to be judged for the national competition. The National Veterans Creative Arts Festival will be held November 28, to December 5, 2020, at the Bay Pines VA Health Care System in St. Petersburg, Florida. There are 51 Categories of visual arts and 100 categories of performing arts. This is a huge event for veterans from every state. To see pictures of last years NVCAF on Facebook, go to the facebook page @NVCAF.

Your donations will help produce this annual event and provide transportation for veterans to attend. Donations also go for grants to help veterans utilize creative arts, such as the Phoenix “Heal Her Art”. And your donations support your local VA creative arts shows each year.

Questions, contact one of your CAF team.

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

Prescott: Sally Fine mightyfine123@gmail.com

Tucson: Kathy Szakonyi N3SAD@aol.com