

CREATIVE ARTS

OCTOBER 2023

The arts can be powerful therapy and the American Legion Auxiliary recognizes that. Veterans with physical and psychological wounds are treated at U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs facilities through visual and performing arts. Each year, the artistic achievements of our veterans are displayed at Creative Arts Festivals at local VA Medical Center for the public to see. The annual competition recognizes the progress and recovery made through therapy and promotes the visibility of creative achievements of our Nation's Veterans.

Due to my sciatica, I was unable to attend the Creative Arts Festival held in Tucson on August 23, 2023; however, Kathy Szakonyi and Dawn Davidson were in attendance. They reported 36 entries were submitted and provided photos of some entries which I posted on Ring Your Bell. The support of Units 24, 73, and 104 are appreciated.

I attended the Creative Arts Festival in Prescott on Friday, September 8, 2023. Twenty-nine veterans submitted 56 works in 23 categories. First place winners will compete in the 43rd National Creative Arts Festival in Denver, Colorado. I want to thank Sally Fine and members of Unit 105 for their warm welcome and assistance with the Festival. Several photos were also posted on Ring Your Bell.

Working together, we can and will make a difference in the lives of those who served and now need our help. Your donations will help to purchase art supplies for the rehabilitation of our veterans. Please let me know what events your Unit is holding to raise funds for our Creative Arts Program. I know you are creative and will support our Veterans. For a fundraising dinner in August, I cooked Chicken Fajitas, rice, and beans with rice pudding for dessert at my Post 41; it was well attended.

The 2023-2024 Creative Arts team members in your area are:

Phoenix:	Anita Ritter, Chairman	Ritmar@cox.net
Prescott:	Sally Fine	mightfine123@gmail.com
Tucson:	Kathy Szakonyi	N3SAD@aol.com

I look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new ones at Department Conference in November. Remember, if you have any questions regarding Creative Arts, fundraising, etc, please contact me at 602-679-1785.

For Service not Self,

Anita Ritter, Creative Arts Chair