

VETERANS Our Hometown Heroes

March 2023

This office is open...please call for an appointment before you come to the Department Office for assistance...this is still due to COVID-19.

GIFT SHOPS...Flyers are the first few pages of this packet. Please check them out and help. DO NOT SEND...District or Chairman's mail to this office. Send it directly to their address. Don't know it call them...they are in the Directory.

DUES NOTICE...Dues form is enclosed, if you haven't completed one, you have until March 17, 2023. NO EXCEPTIONS

DEPARTMENT CONVENTION...Watch the Department web site and Ring Your Bell for the ALA registration form. Refer to azlegion.org for hotel information.

STATE VETERAN HOMES...This is President Barbara's Special Project this year. You need to identify the state home because there will be 4 very soon...Phoenix...Tucson...Yuma...and Flagstaff coming soon.

FISHER HOUSE ...You need to identify your Fisher House donation for Tucson or Phoenix starting now.

POPPY...Did you get your Poppy Order in? Just a FYI...WE took them to FC and passed out. Those that were not picked up...are here in the office...you can come to Department and pick them up...we will ship some.

MEMBERSHIP... "REACHING TO OUR GOALS". Membership is everyone's job. Legion Act has opened the window of eligibility from 12-7-1941 thru now. The Department Goal this year is 14,700.

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

ALAMIS ACCESS...Your Unit is not required to have FULL UNIT ACCESS.

If your unit wants to full access to ALAMIS, Units MUST email department requesting to be put on the ALAMIS class sign up. Be advised: classes are held the 2nd week of every month on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Be prepared now so you can take the class if your unit wants to.



President Barbara for

Barbara Matteson
Dept Secretary/Treasurer
secretary1@aladeptaz.org

Pat Stanaski
Dept Membership Processor
membership@aladeptaz.org

**2023-2024 UNIT MEMBERSHIP
NATIONAL AUTOMATED RENEWAL NOTICES**

Type, or Print using blue or black ink
Non-legible forms will be Returned.

We understand that your Unit is working very hard on the program **all year**; however, you must be pro active on this issue...NATIONAL is raising they portion of dues...per capita to \$18.00 per senior...that means a dues increase at the Unit level...that's you. **You will now be sending to Department \$4.00 for Juniors and \$25.00 for seniors.** Please address this now. We **MUST** have the requested information **on or before** **MARCH 17, 2023**

The dues amount listed below will be printed on the upcoming 2024 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICES that will be mailed to each SENIOR MEMBER IN YOUR UNIT. Also listed below is the address to be printed on each renewal notice showing where and whom to mail the dues for your Unit.

Please understand that **"NO CHANGE IN THE AMOUNT OF DUES OR THE ADDRESS TO WHICH THE DUES ARE TO BE SENT CAN BE MADE AFTER** **MARCH 17, 2023**

Please return this form to Department Headquarters, 4701 N. 19th Ave. Suite 100, Phoenix, AZ 85015 Attn: **DUES REWAL NOTICE**

IF YOUR UNIT FAILS TO RETURN THE NEEDED INFORMATION BY THE DUE DATE, THE CURRENT INFORMATION ON FILE WITH THE DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS WILL BE SENT TO NATIONAL.

*******NO EXCEPTIONS*******

| | |
|---|--------------------------|
| DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA | UNIT NUMBER _____ |
| 2024 SENIOR DUES OF THE UNIT ARE | \$ _____ |
| 2024 JUNIOR DUES OF THE UNIT ARE | \$ _____ |

ADDRESS AT WHICH THE UNIT WILL RECEIVE MEMBERSHIP DUES not the person filling out this form.

ADDRESS _____

(Street, or R.R. & Box)

CITY _____ **STATE** _____

ZIP CODE _____

AREA CODE _____ **TELEPHONE NUMBER** _____

DATE _____ **SIGNATURE** _____

TITLE _____

President's Message

March 2023

VETERANS Our Hometown Heros

Spring is right around the corner. Wild flowers are in bloom, we will have green grass in the parks soon, and it will start to warm up. What a great time to take a veteran for a ride, picnic, or just visit in their backyard.

National President, Vickie Koutz's , visit was wonderful. She enjoyed meeting the Arizona American Legion Family, the views of the Valley from Rustler's Rooste and the Orange Sky restaurant at the Talking Stick Resort and Casino.

An extra special Thank You to Patty Palermo for educating us on the Missing in America Project at the National Cemetery and Ginger Cox along with Units 107 and 117 for the lovely luncheon on Saturday. We didn't leave hungry!

Unit and Post 114 family welcomed Vickie at the Talking Stick USS Arizona Memorial Gardens. We were given a personal tour of the Gardens. Thank You to the Post 114 Family!

I have been visiting Unit and District meetings. I am amazed when I hear what the Units are doing for our veterans, military, children and their communities. It is our members that make the difference.

If you would like me to attend a function at your Unit/Post, please send me an email.

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

| DATE | EVENT | LOCATION |
|------------------------------|--|----------------------|
| 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 | Desert Breeze Park |
| March 18, 2023 | Birthday Ball and District 1 Meeting | Post 19 |
| March 25-27, 2023 | Car Show | Post 81 |
| March 30 - April 2 | SAL Campout | Patagonia State Park |
| 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 |
| April 27 - 30, 2023 | Northern Run | |
| May 12 - 13, 2023 | Personal | |
| May 20, 2023 | Homecoming (ALA President and TAL Commander) | TBD |
| June 2 - June 10 | ALA AZ Girls State | UofA |

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona

Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF)

March 2023



We are coming into the stretch, and for some Units, a very busy time. The weather is warming up a bit and those outdoor activities just seem to fill our schedules.

I would like to encourage all of you to look for ways to not only enjoy the outdoor activities, but maybe even create an event that would benefit the Auxiliary Emergency Fund such as a campaign that collects 'pocket change' in a water bottle or mason jar that once full, can be converted into a cash donation to the AEF program. Some banks or credit unions have coin counting machines that provide a receipt that can be deposited into your bank account so it's easy to write a check to your Unit, Department, or National. If you choose to send it directly to National and it is \$100 or more, National will send you the new AEF pin. They are sent quarterly so be patient, it could take a couple of months. Unit donations must go through the Department. Mark the memo section of the check with AEF donation.

A recent report received by this Chairman from National, the **Department of Arizona contributed \$1,455 to the AEF program** between October 1 and December 31, 2022. Nationwide total donations were \$54,162.42 during the same period. A summary report provided by National also listed the following:

AEF Grant Awards - 1st Quarter, Fiscal 2022-2023

- ★ AEF Dollars Awarded: \$137,610.35
- ★ Total Members Awarded: 103
- ★ Total Awarded Disaster Applications: 82 – Amount: \$110,460.74
- ★ Total Awarded Temporary Assistance Applications: 21 – Amount: \$27,149.61

Keep up the good work and let's see if we can double our next quarter donations!

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

March 2023



Members:

Here is the answer to the first set of questions that I had submitted in December, from the Cavalcade of Memories.

1. Question: When was Arizona's 1st Department Convention was held in what city and what year? Answer: Prescott Arizona, 1921.
2. Question: The Area Caucuses (3) Women was chosen Northern, Central, Southern area to represent units and serve on the Department Executive Committee what were they called back in 1921? Answer: Committee Women. Same division remained until 1947. Arizona expanded to (4) Committee Women.
3. Question: In 1952 a resolution changed the title from Committee Women to what? Answer: District Presidents.
4. Question: Redistricting presented 10 Districts was accomplished in what year? Answer: 1976.
5. Question: What year did they combine the Department Secretary and Treasure Office and to make her a paid employee? Answer: 1930 Department President Florence Smith to combine Secretary and Treasure Office and make her a paid employee.

The second set of question from your January bulletin will be in April bulletin.

This Chairman is still looking for Past Department Honorary Junior Department President.

Department Cavalcade of Memories Chairman

Paula Burgess

Chaplain Report

March 2023

Chaplains: in your fall conference packet, you received 2 signed prayers to get you and your Junior Chaplain (if applicable) started on a prayer book for your Unit President. **It can be difficult to gather prayers from other members.** Here is one idea that may help:

- At an Executive, General, Junior &/or other Meeting hand out sheets of paper that have preprinted the beginning of various prayers. Ask those in attendance to take a few minutes to compose a short “universal” *but personally relevant* prayer using the first sentence on their sheet. Here are some examples:
 - Dear God, please help my friend because _____
 - Heavenly Father, thank you for _____
 - Lord, please help me to _____
 - God Almighty, please forgive me for _____....
 - Lord, please be with me when _____.....
- You might want to provide ideas on “universal” prayers such as:
 - Help my friend who is: in poor health, struggling in her family life, recently lost a loved one...
 - Thank you for: the goodness in my life, helping me resolve a problem, bringing joy into my friend’s life...
 - Help me: be a more patient person, achieve my goals, put my faith in you...
 - Forgive me for: doubting you, hurting another....
 - Be with me when: I start my new job, doubt my abilities, when others hurt me...
- Be sure they understand that their prayer will become part of their Unit President’s prayer book and potentially included in the District or Department President’s Prayer Book. Ask them to print as neatly and legibly as possible, sign and date the prayer, adding any position they may hold in the Auxiliary.

Chaplains: please check out the prayer book rules on the www.aladeptaz.org website:
<https://www.aladeptaz.org/10.--department-awards---narratives--.html>

If you know if anyone who would 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 (call or text)

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona
Children and Youth Program

March 2023

The holidays, big car show, big golf tournament and football is over. Time for us to refocus or continue to focus on ways to support, protect, educate and care for the children and youth, particularly those of veterans and military families.

Keep looking for those wonderful children who give that extra something. We need to recognize those exceptional youths who go out of their way to be good citizens and caring individuals. Previous winners of the Youth Hero and Good Deed Award, the Youth Caregiver Certificate of Appreciation and Hero Stickers were nominated for serving as inspirational role models, holding food drives for a food pantry, collecting donations for a homeless veteran and caring for elderly family members. Western Division Chairman Pam Seelye has asked that each Department submit at least one Good Deed Award this year. Let's see if we can make that happen.

April is the month of the military child with April 15th being Military Kids Day. The theme is "PURPLE UP. Do you have any purple items or treats that you can hand out to military children? Can you decorate an area of your Post with purple things? Designate an area to display available programs and photo of our great kids. Plan a special celebration during the month of April. These type things are not only fun but can help to educate our youth about the American Legion. Also, wear purple as often as possible during April (but especially on April 15th). It's just another way to show how much we appreciate and support the children and youth in our communities.

Please be sure to send me any information, pictures and creative ideas of events and activities that your unit is doing for Children and Youth. It's amazing how creative some of our units have been by sharing ideas with other units.

Just a reminder, please be sure to document your hours volunteered, dollars spent, number of children served and donations made in conjunction with the Children and Youth program. This information will be needed for year end reports that are due May 1st as well as for any plaques that you may submit a narrative for.

Community Service

March 2023

“VETERANS -- Our Hometown Heroes”

Here we are Unit chairmen and members. According to the Auxiliary Wheel, MARCH is the month to emphasize COMMUNITY SERVICE activities.

With only two months left before end-of-year reports are due, this chairman hopes many interesting services have been accomplished in Arizona's communities and that Units will be excited to tell of them.

Even though Arbor Day is next month (April 28), plans can start being made now to celebrate. Perhaps your park, schools, or other areas used by the citizens can benefit with a tree or two, plants, or flowers that use little water and are able to survive in the cold or hot climates in our state. Can your community park use a new bench or two – or could the Unit help refurbish what is already there?

As always, numbers of hours, mileages, costs and of members and friends helping your community service projects should be kept so that it will be easier to complete your end-of-year reports and thus the Unit's Year-End Impact Report.

“This country will not be a good place for any of us to live in unless we make it a good place for all of us to live in.” Theodore Roosevelt

Rebecca Faris
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928-715-4926

PO Box 3122
Kingman, AZ 86402-3122



Education February 2023



As we all know, college is very expensive, and all of our high school students should be taking advantage of any and all scholarships available to them. Units and departments are responsible for promoting American Legion Auxiliary scholarships and making sure the schools have them in ample time for students to apply. The American Legion Auxiliary offers four scholarship opportunities to students:

1. **Children of Warriors National Presidents Scholarship:** Scholarship is awarded to children of veterans who served in the armed forces during eligibility dates for The American Legion. Three \$5,000 scholarships will be awarded in each division. Fifteen outstanding students will be awarded a total of \$75,000 to further their education. The applicant must complete 50 hours of community service during their high school years to be eligible for one of these scholarships. **Applicants must submit this scholarship online this year by March 1, 2023. It will be forwarded to the Department Secretary by the National Organization.**
2. **The Non-Traditional Student Scholarship:** One scholarship in the amount of \$2,000 will be awarded in each American Legion Auxiliary division. Applicant must be a member of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary or Sons of The American Legion and shall have paid dues for the two preceding years and for the calendar year in which the application is made. Applicant must present the completed application to the American Legion Auxiliary unit president on or before March 1, 2023 to be forwarded to the **Department Secretary by March 15, 2023.**
3. **Spirit of Youth Scholarship:** One Junior member in each division will receive a scholarship valued at \$5,000. The applicant must have held membership in the American Legion Auxiliary for the immediate past three years, hold a current membership card and continue her membership in the American Legion Auxiliary during the four-year scholarship period. Applicant must present the completed application to the American Legion Auxiliary unit president on or before March 1, 2023 to be forwarded to the **Department Secretary by March 15, 2023.**
4. **Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship:** American Legion Auxiliary Junior members are the future of our organization. To reward those who retain their membership into adulthood, the American Legion Auxiliary offers the Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship to current college students. Ten scholarships, in the amount of \$2,500 each, will be awarded to a current college student for 2020. Two scholarships will be awarded in each division of the American Legion Auxiliary. The scholarship is a grant; not a loan. Applicant must present the completed application to the American Legion Auxiliary unit president on or before March 1, 2023 to be forwarded to the **Department Secretary by March 15, 2023.**

Please promote these American Legion Auxiliary scholarships to enable our children of veterans to apply and receive funds the American Legion Auxiliary has so graciously provided. Applications are available online at www.ALForVeterans.org/Scholarships. Links to the scholarship applications can also be found on the Department website.

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



Education March 2023



The 2nd semester is under way! Each month I am focusing on one of the areas mentioned in the August newsletter. This month: **Assist and support military children with educational opportunities.**

There are several ways that Members and Units can assist military children with educational opportunities:

- Identify and reach out to military children in your local classrooms.
- Encourage Junior members to contact their school guidance counselor and volunteer to be a mentor to new military children at their school.
- Offer individual tutoring/assistance to a military child who is struggling.
- Provide your local school with a copy of the *Educator's Guide to the Military Child During Deployment*:
[Educator's Guide to the Military Child During Deployment | National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments \(NCSSLE\)](#)
- Inform schools of a free tutoring website for military children: [Free Tutoring for Military Spouses & Families - Tutor.com & more \(mymilitarybenefits.com\)](#)
- Assist schools in working with military children. Resources are available at www.militarychild.org
- Organize a classroom recognition event for military children to share the accomplishments of their relative who is serving.

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

March 2023

Unit Presidents and Treasurers heads up. The following Funds need to be paid directly to Department:

Department Mandates (not District) and are due 30 days prior to Convention. If not paid you forfeit your Unit Vote at Department Convention.

Dues

Poppies -10% of the Net profit.

Welfare Pledge

Christmas Pledge

Hospital Parties & Social Services –designate to desired VAMC

Gift Shop- Designate desired Gift Shop

Past Presidents Parley – Funds for nursing and health care students

Spirit of Youth

Auxiliary Emergency Fund

Juniors

Girls State

Arizona Campaign Fund

Department Office Overhead/Expense Fund

Cavalcade of Memories

Departments Special Project –designate which, Phoenix, Tucson, Yuma or Flagstaff

You are reminded to send other funds to the designated non-profit, and not to Department. Your donation will be returned to your Unit. Please report donations on the year end reports and the Impact Report. Any questions on this information please call or email this Chairman.

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)

HISTORY

March 2023

History is valuable for many reasons. It reminds our members “who we are, and how we got here,” thereby creating a strong bond that unites and inspires long time friendships. History is being made every day.

This month, March 15, 2023 many posts across the country will be celebrating the birthday of the American Legion, the organization will be 104 years old and still going strong.

The nation’s largest wartime veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security, and continued devotion to our fellow servicemembers and veterans.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY members of THE AMERICAN LEGION!

Thank you to the 11 units and 6 districts that sent me copies of your minutes. I look forward to having more sent to me, it will help me do a History Book for Madam President Barbara. My contact information is in the directory and in the monthly bulletins, you can send by snail mail or email.

Our state convention will be upon us very soon, if your unit is going to submit a history book, please visit the Dept. website for information on criteria for Dept. History awards, if your unit doesn’t have access please let me know and I can send you a hard copy of the criteria.

In the Spirit of Service, Not Self
For our Hometown Hero’s
For God and Country

Dolores Chavez
Dept. Historian
chebeejs@cox.net
928-386-0841



Arizona Mission Training/Leadership

March 2023

WANTED:

“HOMETOWN HEROES AWARD.”

Criteria: 250 words or more

Content: Tell us about a member who encouraged you to join the American Legion Auxiliary. And how the member continues to encourage you to go forward and support you in this wonderful organization.

Deadline:

May 1, 2023

The Department has held three Mission Trainings since September 2022. We have two more scheduled.

March 5, 2023 Unit #62

April 22, 2023 Unit #105

Please contact me if you wish to know more about the trainings. Or if your unit or district would like to schedule one.

All of us need to work on mentoring our annual and new members. Work to stop new members from going out the back door. Mission Training and Leadership is our program to help to keep our membership roster alive. Send a text or email if you have questions.

Karen Smith

ksmith111@cox.net

(520) 249-1119

Legislative

March 2023

Greetings Members,

At the State Capitol, several rallies/demonstrations have been held in reference to Tyre Nichols, Roe vs. Wade and the 2nd Amendment.

Things are kinda crazy at the moment and busy for law enforcement. Fortunately, nothing too serious has happened.

Many legislative days at the Capitol have also taken place. These are events, where groups and legislators can mingle and discuss topics important to them. The event calendar is filling up fast.

On February 17th, National President Vickie Koutz made her official visit to Arizona. She visited the State Capitol where she and a delegation from Arizona including Department President White were given a personal guided tour of the museum and grounds by the Department Legislative Chairman.

As for Congress, the 118th Congressional session convened on January 3rd, 2023. On January 23rd, the Senate began 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.

The 2023 State of the Union Address was given by President Biden in the House Chambers on February 7th. A full transcript of Biden's State of the Union Address can be found at www.nytimes.com.

There is an important House bill that was voted on in the 116th Congress that passed affecting all veterans. It is called the Veterans Compact Act of 2020.

How is this beneficial? In short, starting Jan. 17th, Veterans in acute suicidal crisis will be able to go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for emergency health care at no cost – including inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days and outpatient care for up to 90 days. Veterans do not need to be enrolled in the VA system to use this benefit.

This expansion of care will help prevent Veteran suicide by guaranteeing no cost, world-class care to Veterans in times of crisis. It will also increase access to acute suicide care for up to 9 million Veterans who are not currently enrolled in VA.

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.

Remember your reports are due to the Department Chairmen on or before May 1st, 2023. Make sure to include a narrative meeting the requirements of the program to be considered for an award.

For God and Country,

Stephanie M. McMullen

Department Legislative Chairman

16575 W. Moreland St.

Goodyear, AZ 85338

(623)910-4716, stephaniemcmullenala62az@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

MARCH 2023

Hello all,

By the time you read this, March 1st will not quite be here, but, I will be posting on Ring Your Bell the final numbers. I will announce the final numbers once Pat gets every transmittal **RECEIVED BY MARCH 1ST**. **If the transmittal is mailed BUT not received at Department by March 1, IT WILL NOT COUNT!!!! So everyone needs to get on to their membership chairman and get those transmittals either mailed in time OR dropped off at department DURING OFFICE HOURS!**

We are currently at 84.24% (as I write this) we need 2,231 to make 100%. We are also in 2nd place in the western Division. We went from 4th place to 2nd in one week. WAY TO GO

PLEASE REMEMBER, new member applications MUST BE FILLED OUT ENTIRELY. If Pat has to stop and call a new member on every transmittal received then it bogs her down. **Applications SHOULD BE CHECKED BEFORE BEING PUT ON A TRANSMITTAL AT THE UNIT!**

Remember to tell your members that they can pay the Unit, Pay online on the National website And National will send out their new card, or they can call National at **(317) 569-4570** and pay over the phone talking to a real live person.

I have been growing my hair out just in case I have to wear a dress, and I hope I don't have to see my girl at Sports Clips to cut it all off.

Until next month...

Rose

FEBRUARY 21, 2023

| | | UNIT | CITY | OBJECTIVE | TOTAL | PERCENT |
|----|--------------|--------------|----------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|
| | | 0100 | Phoenix | 158 | 141 | 89.24% |
| | | 0115 | Glendale | 0 | 15 | |
| | | Total | | 158 | 156 | 98.73% |
| | Total | | | 158 | 156 | 98.73% |
| 01 | | 0019 | Yuma | 198 | 174 | 87.88% |
| | | 0046 | Bouse | 54 | 25 | 46.30% |
| | | 0056 | Yuma | 63 | 72 | 114.29% |
| | | Total | | 315 | 271 | 86.03% |
| | Total | | | 315 | 271 | 86.03% |
| 02 | | 0007 | Tucson | 71 | 34 | 47.89% |
| | | 0010 | Ajo | 25 | 15 | 60.00% |
| | | 0036 | Tucson | 278 | 179 | 64.39% |
| | | 0059 | Tucson | 157 | 115 | 73.25% |
| | | 0066 | Green Valley | 929 | 794 | 85.47% |
| | | 0068 | Tucson | 60 | 46 | 76.67% |
| | | 0073 | Tucson | 29 | 29 | 100.00% |
| | | 0109 | Corona | 341 | 277 | 81.23% |
| | | 0125 | Tucson | 16 | 1 | 6.25% |
| | | 0131 | Green Valley | 534 | 437 | 81.84% |
| | | 0132 | Oro Valley | 82 | 76 | 92.68% |
| | | Total | | 2522 | 2003 | 79.42% |
| | Total | | | 2522 | 2003 | 79.42% |
| 03 | | 0011 | Douglas | 175 | 143 | 81.71% |
| | | 0016 | Bisbee | 73 | 65 | 89.04% |
| | | 0024 | Tombstone | 414 | 261 | 63.04% |
| | | 0045 | Benson | 50 | 41 | 82.00% |
| | | 0052 | Sierra Vista | 174 | 133 | 76.44% |
| | | 0141 | Pearce | 10 | 16 | 160.00% |
| | | Total | | 896 | 659 | 73.55% |
| | Total | | | 896 | 659 | 73.55% |
| 04 | | 0008 | Casa Grande | 41 | 34 | 82.93% |
| | | 0009 | Florence | 89 | 38 | 42.70% |
| | | 0051 | Coolidge | 63 | 63 | 100.00% |
| | | 0054 | Coolidge | 107 | 74 | 69.16% |
| | | 0097 | San Tan Valley | 25 | 28 | 112.00% |
| | | 0129 | Queen Creek | 17 | 9 | 52.94% |
| | | 0133 | Maricopa | 37 | 35 | 94.59% |
| | | Total | | 379 | 281 | 74.14% |
| | Total | | | 379 | 281 | 74.14% |

| | | | | | | |
|----|--------------|--------------|-------------------|-------------|------------|---------------|
| 05 | | 0004 | Globe | 48 | 36 | 75.00% |
| | | 0028 | Clifton | 76 | 93 | 122.37% |
| | | 0032 | Safford | 121 | 112 | 92.56% |
| | | 0095 | Solomon | 74 | 66 | 89.19% |
| | | Total | | 319 | 307 | 96.24% |
| | Total | | | 319 | 307 | 96.24% |
| 06 | | 0030 | Springerville | 79 | 76 | 96.20% |
| | | 0031 | Saint Johns | 10 | 1 | 10.00% |
| | | 0037 | Holbrook | 41 | 32 | 78.05% |
| | | 0069 | Payson | 142 | 66 | 46.48% |
| | | 0076 | Show Low | 30 | 18 | 60.00% |
| | | 0086 | Overgaard | 301 | 276 | 91.69% |
| | | 0130 | Concho | 10 | 2 | 20.00% |
| | | Total | | 613 | 471 | 76.84% |
| | Total | | | 613 | 471 | 76.84% |
| 07 | | 0003 | Flagstaff | 92 | 46 | 50.00% |
| | | 0013 | Williams | 42 | 34 | 80.95% |
| | | 0014 | Kingman | 123 | 110 | 89.43% |
| | | 0022 | Golden Valley | 109 | 108 | 99.08% |
| | | 0042 | Grand Canyon | 25 | 15 | 60.00% |
| | | 0057 | Ash Fork | 70 | 11 | 15.71% |
| | | 0081 | Lake Havasu City | 559 | 521 | 93.20% |
| | | 0087 | Bullhead City | 144 | 91 | 63.19% |
| | | 0088 | Dolan Springs | 16 | 13 | 81.25% |
| | | 0103 | Meadview | 57 | 32 | 56.14% |
| | | 0136 | Yucca | 14 | 15 | 107.14% |
| | | Total | | 1251 | 996 | 79.62% |
| | Total | | | 1251 | 996 | 79.62% |
| 08 | | 0006 | Prescott | 229 | 211 | 92.14% |
| | | 0025 | Cottonwood | 265 | 227 | 85.66% |
| | | 0040 | Chino Valley | 102 | 68 | 66.67% |
| | | 0078 | Humboldt | 152 | 127 | 83.55% |
| | | 0079 | Yarnell | 152 | 97 | 63.82% |
| | | 0090 | Black Canyon City | 44 | 33 | 75.00% |
| | | 0093 | Camp Verde | 97 | 102 | 105.15% |
| | | 0108 | Prescott Valley | 41 | 36 | 87.80% |
| | | 0135 | Cornville | 64 | 49 | 76.56% |
| | | 0140 | Prescott Valley | 27 | 11 | 40.74% |
| | | Total | | 1173 | 961 | 81.93% |
| | Total | | | 1173 | 961 | 81.93% |

| | | | | | | |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| 11 | | 0001 | Phoenix | 115 | 97 | 84.35% |
| | | 0005 | Phoenix | 71 | 35 | 49.30% |
| | | 0012 | Wickenburg | 208 | 161 | 77.40% |
| | | 0029 | Glendale | 296 | 231 | 78.04% |
| | | 0053 | Buckeye | 19 | 21 | 110.53% |
| | | 0061 | Avondale | 185 | 161 | 87.03% |
| | | 0062 | Peoria | 787 | 702 | 89.20% |
| | | 0105 | Phoenix | 209 | 149 | 71.29% |
| | | 0134 | Phoenix | 18 | 20 | 111.11% |
| | | Total | | 1908 | 1577 | 82.65% |
| | Total | | | 1908 | 1577 | 82.65% |
| 12 | | 0002 | Tempe | 100 | 82 | 82.00% |
| | | 0026 | Mesa | 242 | 220 | 90.91% |
| | | 0027 | Apache Junction | 1815 | 1466 | 80.77% |
| | | 0034 | Cave Creek | 316 | 265 | 83.86% |
| | | 0035 | Chandler | 305 | 232 | 76.07% |
| | | 0039 | Gilbert | 411 | 403 | 98.05% |
| | | 0041 | Phoenix | 315 | 253 | 80.32% |
| | | 0044 | Scottsdale | 309 | 258 | 83.50% |
| | | 0058 | Fountain Hills | 295 | 305 | 103.39% |
| | | 0065 | Phoenix | 286 | 263 | 91.96% |
| | | 0084 | Sacaton | 62 | 54 | 87.10% |
| | | 0091 | Chandler | 200 | 182 | 91.00% |
| | | 0107 | Phoenix | 213 | 174 | 81.69% |
| | | 0114 | Scottsdale | 55 | 56 | 101.82% |
| | | 0117 | Phoenix | 188 | 200 | 106.38% |
| | | 0124 | Guadalupe | 17 | 19 | 111.76% |
| | | 0138 | Tempe | 35 | 41 | 117.14% |
| | | Total | | 5164 | 4473 | 86.62% |
| | Total | | | 5164 | 4473 | 86.62% |
| Total | Total | | | 14698 | 12155 | 82.70% |



March 2023
American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona
MUSIC REPORT 2022

Greetings Melomanos (“music lovers”),

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. I have a couple music selections in mind and currently finding ways to interpret them.

It was my pleasure to be the DJ/KJ when our National President visited Arizona for the dinner in her honor at Post 35, February 17. I was super excited about this opportunity. Lots of fun times.

“Music has healing power. It has the ability to take people out of themselves for a few hours .”
Elton John

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

Alma Mattingly, Department Music Chairman

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

New Units/Unit Development & Revitalization

February 2023

Thought this was worth reposting for Unit President's and Chairmen:

Be Knowable

Be Passionate

Listen

Have a positive attitude

Lead with integrity

Lead by example

Be Confident

Act Professionally

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

New Units/Unit Development & Revitalization

March 2023

If a Post has no Auxiliary Unit this is the process:

The Post Commander must send American Legion Auxiliary at Department an email or letter requesting that. Make sure the request goes to Department President Barbara White, New Unit Chairman Jan Cushing and Department Secretary Barbara Matteson.

A new Unit requires 10 BRAND NEW SENIOR MEMBERS.

You can have JUNIORS and TRANSFER Senior members BUT 10 BRAND NEW SENIOR MEMBERS ARE REQUIRED.

CHARTER LOST OR DESTROYED

If a charter has been lost or destroyed, a duplicate can be requested by the department secretary with the payment of the charter fee. Duplicate charter rolls can also be obtained by the same procedure.

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

POPPY
March 2023

Hello Everyone,

Hopefully the weather will start to warm up. Time to plan for the National Poppy Day on May 26, 2023. This is the start of Memorial Day weekend. Memorial Day is the day we honor our deceased veterans. Very important to be active and let ALA shine. Include the Legion & Sons, Miss Poppy, Juniors in this. Let people know the history of the poppy (and us) and what the money is used for. Good time to bring out Flander's Field information. Participate and Promote!

Suggestion, use pringles cans, cleaned and decorated for the donation containers. A slit in the top and you are good to go, quick & easy.

End of Year report forms can be found on the Dept website Under Member Resources, #9. Please fill them out. This information is important! It demonstrates our effectiveness to the world. Our reports go to TAL, they include it their reports that's sent to Congress. Congress needs to know our value.

National statistics: 2021-2022 Annual Impact Report shows we have 7,760 Units nationwide. Only 42% of the Units report. An average of members reports is only 9%. Money raised and spent on Veterans and Military families combined is \$12,358,430. Keep in mind- only 42% of Units reported.

This doesn't include hours or money for other areas we as ALA raise funds donate for.

I encourage you to share pics on the National Poppy fb site.

Legion Family Branding information can be found on the Dept. web site.

Reminder April 21,2023 deadline for me to receive your Unit Poppy Posters.

Thank you for everything you do for the Poppy programs and to support our Veterans!

For God and Country,

Julie Ross
Dept. of Az. Poppy Chairman
juliedistrict3@gmail.com



PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT

MARCH 2023

ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOMES

Thank you to all the Units and individuals who have sent in contributions for the President's Special Project. I have witnessed bake sales, raffles, sock hops and other fundraisers. You are **awesome!** Keep up the good work. I have enjoyed meeting so many of you at your meetings. I know not all of you can attend the conferences and conventions, so I feel privileged to be able to visit you. Remember your year-end reports are due on or before May 1. I encourage each unit to write a few paragraphs describing those fundraisers in a narrative so I will have plenty to choose from for awards.

Watch the next bulletin for more information on the Flagstaff Veterans Home. I hope to have the opening date soon. This is an area long in need of these services. The Yuma Home is continuing to grow. Last I heard there were twenty residents. These brand new facilities are state of the art. I hope many of you will be able to visit them at some point. Volunteering is still in the COVID guidelines so I know it is difficult. But they still need things to make these facilities more of a home with enjoyable activities. That's what the PSP is all about this year, supporting our home town heroes.

Thank you for your hard work and dedication!

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

From the desk of the ALA Department of AZ Creative Arts Chairman :

I am so grateful to have a good news for our Creative Veterans in Arizona. We will have our State well represented in the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. We have 1st, 2nd and 3rd place awards representing each area of Arizona this year. It's so awesome to see these creative veterans be recognized. We can be very proud to send these artists to St. Louis in April. Congratulations to all the winners. You can view the list I posted last week on our "Ring your Bell" FB site! Check it out! See if you recognize the winning artists! Congratulations to our talented veterans!

Please get your Creative Arts donations into department lickity split! I'll post the Creative Arts awards criteria and applications next month. You will want your donations to be counted and recognized as soon as possible. I look forward to seeing you're applications and am so grateful for all the volunteers that help our local creative arts festivals so wonderful. Thank you! Let's get those volunteer hours counted!

Respectfully submitted:

Dawn Davidson
ALA Dept of AZ Creative Arts Chairman
763-221-8047

AZ STATE VETERANS HOME – PHOENIX

March 2023

Spring is in the air. You might not be able to tell with all this cold, wet weather we've been having, but it really is. It won't be long until there are BBQ's and outdoor activities on the patio. Plus the VA has finally relaxed some of the former restrictions for visiting our Vets, so if your Unit is interested in hosting an event (Bingo, Ice Cream Social, Game Day) etc, please let me know and we'll get it organized.

There are a few Units that did wonderful things for our Veterans for Valentine's Day. I received this information from the staff there. I would much prefer to hear it from the Units so I can give you a shout out. So please, when you or your Unit do wonderful things for our Veterans at the AZ State Veterans Home in Phoenix, please share that with me so I can brag on you for a minute. I love to see credit go where credit is due.

Speaking of credit due – Dept 2nd Vice, Stacey Mayberry was on hand to help deliver the Nurse Survival Kits gifted by the D11 PPP and Unit 62. I hear they were very well received and greatly appreciated. Far too often, our caregivers go unnoticed. Thank you all for letting them know they are loved and appreciated too!

March and April birthdays are listed below. There are some Units still mailing them to Department. Please mail them 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.

March:

4- Rosemarie M. 6- Ken T. 7-Allen T. 8- Louise W. 9- John M. 11- David V. 17- Leslie B. 23- Victor M. 31- James St.

April:

1- Richard Br. 4- Richard A. 7- George G. 10- Thomas R. 11- Doug H. 20- Rex G. 21- James W. 23- Charles B. 26- Terry O.

THANK YOU ALL, You are appreciated.
Keep being your AMAZING selves. Until next time,

Cat Ludwick, Chair ASVH-PHX
480-226-3967
Cat4vets@gmail.com

VA&R REPORT
TUCSON VA MEDICAL CENTER
1-31-23

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. Thank you Unit 8 for your generous donation. 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 second donation from the American Legion Auxiliary. Thank you to Units 109, 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 January 31, 2023 is \$7,975.00. 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 January 31, 2023 is \$14,128.43. Thank you Unit 7, Unit 24, 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 January 31, 2023 is 738. We have on-boarded two new volunteers whose hours will benefit the American Legion Auxiliary.

This chairman has volunteered 138 hours and logged 1,440 miles this year in service to the Tucson VA Medical Center as of January 31, 2023. This chairman has now logged over 4,000 hours in service to SAVAHCS. This chairman was re-elected to be the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the VAVS Executive Committee at the meeting on October 12, 2021. This chairman has been elected to fill a three year term on the VAVS Executive Committee. This chairman has attended every Executive Committee meeting and every VAVS meeting this year. This chairman 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 December 8, 2022. VAVS Committee voted to fully fund transportation for the gold medal winners from NVCA at SAVAHCS on February 1, 2023.
Respectfully Submitted, Kathy Szakonyi, VAVS Representative

AZ STATE VETERANS HOME – TUCSON

March 2023

Thank you to Unit 16, Bisbee, for the 210 Valentine Cards! They were divided between the Tucson State Veteran Home and the VA Hospital. A big Thank You for the time your Unit took to sign all of those cards. Thank you to Madera Unit 131 for the birthday cards. The Residents really enjoy receiving cards for any and all occasions, so think about having a card signing event.

If you wish to get more involved with volunteering directly at the Tucson State Veteran Home, please contact Sam and fill out a volunteer form. They can always use assistance with the gift shop, library and Bingo. Plus, there is a need for escorts to walk residents over to the VA so they can visit the Cantina. You just have to be vaccinated and wear a mask while in the Home.

I really want to thank the Units that have come to my rescue and stepped up to deliver the cupcakes and ice cream cups to the Residence for the monthly birthday party. Thank you, Unit 132 for the February delivery! It is one of the events that ALL of the residents really look forward to each month. With that being said, I still need someone to donate 100 cupcakes and 100 ice cream cups for September! PLEASE, reply and let me know if your Unit is able to help for September (alabonnidistler@gmail.com).

The Gift Shop is always in need of full-size candy bars, soda (regular and diet) of all kinds and individual bags of chips (variety packs work 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, Target and Amazon. Plus, anything for a nice restaurant. They love the chance to go out to dinner.

Please remember to mark on your donation 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

To volunteer at the Tucson State Veteran Home, you must be fully vaccinated against COVID and wear a mask at all times you are inside and around the residents.

Tucson SAVAHCS Christmas Gift Shop

Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System

American Legion Auxiliary Units of Southern Arizona

7,8,10,11,16,19,24,28,32,36,45,46,51,52,54,56,59,66,68,73,95,97,109,125,129,131,132,133

As I write this report I am bursting with pride. Pride for the women of the American Legion Auxiliary who so generously donated to this year's Gift Shop program. YOU made it possible to bring joy to those who are hospitalized, or less fortunate. YOU are truly the spirit of this program.

On December 13th, 6 volunteers including Department President Barbara and Department Secretary Barbara gathered to pack 120 duffle bags. Each bag contained hat, scarf, gloves, and socks in addition to 48 men's hygiene kits, 24 ladies hygiene kits, and \$10 in canteen books for the remaining 48 bags. With the canteen books veterans were able to purchase items they needed, or perhaps pick out a small gift for a loved one.

The distribution of the bags went to: Community Living Center – a total of 87 – includes men and women and 33 to the Southwest Blind Rehabilitation Center, of which 3 were women.

YOU made sure that there were *presents 'round the tree*.

To Kathy Szakonyi's Unit for signing all of those Christmas cards a big *Thank You*.

Madame President Barbara thank you for giving me this opportunity to chair this committee and help spread the Christmas cheer.

Kathy Roche, Chairperson

Tucson VA Gift Shop