

**DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
SERVING THOSE BEHIND THE BADGE
DECEMBER 2019**

I want to thank every member who contributed to the success of our Department Conference that was held November 8-10, 2019 at The Hilton Doubletree at Reid Park, in Tucson, Arizona. Thank you for the warm welcome given to our Western Division National Vice President Cheryl Park. I also want to congratulate all the National award winners, you make Arizona proud!

With the changes made at this year's National Convention that was held in Indianapolis, we want to extend a welcome to the spouses of our female Veterans. We are also happy to welcome eligible male spouses of veterans. Remember you don't have to be a member of the Auxiliary to volunteer at post or unit events.

UD&R Chairman Jan Cushing and I presented a baby to our newest Unit. They are from Yucca, Arizona. Welcome ladies!

National President Nicole Clapp will be visiting Arizona January 8, 9, & 10, 2020. Her focus is Celebrating a Century of Service. Her social emphasis this year will be on the health and well being of our veterans, military and their families. We are planning events throughout the state so that more members can meet her. The events are being planned for Tucson, Prescott and Phoenix. There will be more information in this packet. Please check with your local District and Unit to get the information on the event that will be planned in your area.

The Presidents Special Project: First I want to welcome the CEO of the 100 Club, Angela Harroll to the American Legion Auxiliary! She became a member at the Conference. Thank you, members, for the warm welcome extended to her, and Thank you for the donations that were made while she was there. I also want to thank the Sons of The Legion for their generous donation that was made when the Chairman of the Special Project addressed their conference. You are Awesome!

I wish each one of you a Happy and safe Holiday!

Patricia Lugo, President
602-475-0208
plugo1@cox.net



Chaplain

December 2019

Greetings American Legion Auxiliary members,

Happy holidays to everyone! I've enclosed the mid-year report for all of you. Please have it to me via email or snail mail by December 15, 2019. I hope that you all have a wonderful holiday season. Also, if you have prayers to send me for Madam President's Prayer Book I'd love to receive 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,

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a wise man, I would do my part;

Yet what I can give him – I give my heart.

Amen.

Stacey Mayberry

Department of Arizona Chaplain

9139 W Harmony Lane

Peoria, AZ 85382

Cell Phone: 702-403-4903

Email: Mayberry.stacey@gmail.com



“Serving Those Behind the Badge”

Cavalcade of Memories

December 2019

Where did the year go? Fall Conference is over, this chairman hopes everyone had a nice Thanksgiving. Are you ready to start working on the programs for the Auxiliary? While next year 2020 we will be 100 years old and your Units should be preparing for lots of celebrations to mark this milestone.

This Chairman knows that our Centennial Chairman has been working hard on this project. Madam President Patricia Logo is our Centennial President what an honor. The rest of the Past Department Presidents will be part of this Centennial year and the Unit Presidents, District President, Honorary Junior President for 2020 year.

Still working on P.D.P. Volume 4 and Honorary Junior Presidents so if you know in past Honorary Junior Presidents. Can you send their names and the year they serve and the Department President they served with? Don't forget the Cavalcade of Memories is a monetary donation for the awards.

I have received a couple of P.D.P. Bios and Pictures, still waiting on Debbie Collins, Doris Thiess, Sharon Doran, Jane Shoemaker and Yolanda Bonilla. If you send it, I won't keep putting your names in my bulletins. What's that saying just do it.

Well soon it will be Christmas and this Chairman pray that everyone will have a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year. May the Lord Bless you all. Be thankful for what you got and if you can help someone else out it would be a blessing to help someone that's less fortunate than you.

Department Cavalcade of Memories Chairman

Paula Burgess

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

December 2019

Hello members of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of AZ.

Per my September bulletin, Every Unit of the American Legion Auxiliary must immediately rewrite the eligibility within each Units Constitution. In my September new verbiage, in item 3 I left out one word **Sisters** corrected verbiage is below.. Please excuse my error.

New Verbiage: can also be found on the national website: <https://www.alaforveterans.org/Members/Consitution---Bylaws/>

When the Legion changes the eligibility, **our Auxiliary eligibility automatically changes.** No vote for approval at your meetings is needed.

New Verbiage:

The American Legion recognizes and auxiliary organization, known as The American Legion Auxiliary....

Membership in The American Legion Auxiliary shall be limited to the:

- (1) **grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses and direct and adopted female descendants of members of The American Legion; and**
 - (2) **grandmothers, mothers, sisters, spouses and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who served in either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918, and any time after December 7, 1941, who, being a citizen of the United States at the time of their entry therein served on active duty in the Armed Forces of any of the governments associated with the United States during either eligibility periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge;**
 - (3) **grandmothers, mothers, sisters spouses, and direct and adopted female descendants of all men and women who were in the Armed Forces of the United States during either of the following periods: April 6, 1917, to November 11, 1918; and any time after December 7, 1941 who served on active duty in the Armed Forces of the United States during eligibility periods and died in the line of duty or after honorable discharge; and**
 - (4) **to those women who of their own right are eligible for membership in the American Legion**
- The latest version of our Constitution & Bylaws document includes an update to the **ALA's Preamble** in which "**the great Wars**" becomes "**all wars**". Please trash all old copies of Preamble and replace with new copies for your members.
 - So you think Constitution & By Laws are boring and dull? It can be very interesting.
 - Consider a Unit without rules or guidelines. There would be chaos at all meetings. Everyone would be talking at once, no one would understand what anyone was stating and no agenda. Could you really see your Unit being productive in that type of atmosphere? The Constitution & By laws allow governing of your Unit and states in black and white what the formal policies and procedures are.
 - Your Unit's Constitution & By Laws should be reviewed and revised as needed, each year and changes need to be sent to the Department Constitution & By Laws chairman.
 - Each Unit operates under their own C&B altered to meet their local conditions. However, a Units C&B cannot violate any provisions of the Department or National organizations rules. I.E. payment for mileage cannot exceed what the Department pays.
 - Post/Units should have chairman to keep their members abreast of any changes to Department or National Constitutions as well as Policies and Procedures.
 - **Please send a revised copy to this chairman.** Since September, I have received info from only 2 units. I see a problem here.

Ginger Cox, Constitution & Bylaws Chairman, Dept. of AZ 4355 E. Charleston Ave. Phoenix, AZ 85032

Phone: 602-616-2811 Email: gingercee@cox.net



Merry Christmas



Creative Arts

December 2019

As your units celebrate Christmas, your Creative Arts Team is already working on the Creative Arts shows for your local VA hospitals. The Tucson CAF will be held January 28 & 29. Prescott will be February 10, 11, 12, and Phoenix will be held Feb 12 & 13. It is truly a memorable experience to see and hear all the wonderful creations by the veterans.

Did you look at your November issue of *Auxiliary* magazine, special centennial issue? There were several mentions of the CAF as well as several pictures of the national CAF's. While ALA is 100 years old, the ALA official involvement in CAF celebrated its 20th year this year. On page 30, it states "YOUR DONATION CAN CHANGE SOMEONE'S LIFE." There is an example of a veteran whose life was changed by CAF.

The magazine quoted artist Pablo Picasso as saying; "Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life."

Your Department Creative Arts Team is here to help you.

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

Prescott: Sally Fine mightyfine123@gmail.com

Tucson: Kathy Szakonyi N3SAD@aol.com



Education December, 2019



Welcome to the exciting world of education! Education is a lifelong process that starts at birth and continues to the last breath of life. This year you have the opportunity to make an impact on the lives of students and educators. Brainstorm, be creative, and encourage your members to do the same. How many lives can we touch? We are limited only by the number of people living in our communities, states and nation.

I hope you all received the packet distributed to all Units, Districts and Department Officers at the Fall Conference.

Included in the packet, you will find:

1. Rules for National and Department awards in Education.
2. A copy of the **Education Mid-Year report** form to be submitted to the Department Chair by **December 15, 2019**.
3. A copy of the **Education Year-end report** form to be submitted to the Department Chair by **May 1, 2020**.
4. Copies of the applications for the **Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship, The Non-Traditional Student Scholarship, The Spirit of Youth Scholarship**, and new this year **The Junior Member Loyalty Scholarship**.
5. A copy of the rules and application for the **Wilma Hoyal-Maxine Chilton Memorial Scholarship**.
6. Scholarship brochures.

The entire plan of work from the National Education Chairman, Debra Albers, can be found on the American Legion Auxiliary website at <https://www.alaforveterans.org/members/programs-action-plan/>

Please feel free to contact me for further information or assistance. I look forward to seeing the creative ways that the Units promote the Education Program. Be sure to get the Education Mid-Year report to this chairman by December 15, so that your good work can be included in the report to the Division Education Chair.

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



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For Veterans, God and Country,

Julie Vietri

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

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FINANCE REPORT

DECEMBER 2019

Honesty - Integrity & Reporting: Has your Unit/District filed their annual reports with the IRS? With the Secretary of State? With the Arizona Corporation Commission? This is not an option. This is a requirement every year. It only takes a few minutes and then you are in compliance and have met your reporting requirements. How awesome would it be if Arizona had 100% reporting?

The last report from National states that Arizona now has nine (9) units that have lost their IRS status for not reporting for three consecutive years. Why????

If you are a Department Chairman and have a bank account to maintain for your program, please keep your receipts and record all deposits and withdrawals in your check register. Keep this information in your Black Bag so it doesn't get lost. The Black Bags that have your program materials and checkbooks are to be turned into Department at the Department Convention every year so that they can be updated with materials and the books audited.

Department Finance Chairman,
Helen Stout

(written and submitted by Helen Griffin on behalf of Helen Stout)

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
JUNIOR PROGRAM
December 2019-2020**

“Serving Those Behind the Badge”

Special 100th Anniversary History Program Facts: In 1934, the following change to the American Legion Auxiliary Constitution was adopted: To strike out Section 2, Article III, which is the article on Eligibility and substitute the following:

“Section 2. There shall be two classes of membership, Senior and Junior. (a) Senior membership shall be the functioning (or active) group composed of members over the age of eighteen years. (b) Junior membership shall consist of that group under the age of eighteen years, whose activities shall be supervised by the senior membership. Upon reaching the age of eighteen years, Junior members shall automatically be admitted into active membership with full privileges. (c) Dues of both classes shall be paid annually.”

In the 1936-1937 year, under National President Scar W. Hahn, the Junior Program was launched. Junior membership grew from 29,000 to 40,000 during that following year due to the great work the Juniors were doing.

Taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission is worth doing! It helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Just two simple steps to add our part to the national success story:

Junior Activities Reporting:

Mid-Year Reports Mid-Year reports reflect the program work of units in the department and are intended as an opportunity for mid-year correction. Each department Junior Activities chairman is required to submit a narrative report by December 15, 2019 to the department Junior Activities chairman.

WISHING EVERYONE A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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

November 2019

Greetings Members,

Now that we have all returned from Fall Conference, I have a few things.

10/24/19 - A bill requiring the POW/MIA flag to be flown with the American flag is on the verge of becoming law.

The bipartisan bill -- the National POW/MIA Act, introduced in the Senate by Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Massachusetts, requires the POW/MIA flag to be flown with the American flag at certain memorials and federal buildings, including the White House and the U.S. Capitol, to honor unaccounted for servicemen and servicewomen from across more than 50 years of wars and conflicts. "As the sister of three veterans, I understand the importance of honoring the sacrifices of those who have fought courageously for our country," said Warren, who is a presidential candidate for the 2020 election. The bill passed through both chambers of Congress, and now President Donald Trump must sign it into law.

11/08/19 – Trump signed POW/MIA Flag Bill into law.

11/14/19 – Public hearings started on the impeachment of President Trump.

Mid-Year reports are due to me by either email or snail mail no later than December 15, 2019. I need your input for my report to National.

In conclusion, please write letters to your Congressmen and women about healthcare and Medicare benefits and to ensure long term adequacy and stability of social security.

For God and Country,

Stephanie M. McMullen

Chairman

15239 W. Taylor St.

Goodyear, AZ 85338

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

ARIZONA MISSION TRAINING / LEADERSHIP



December is upon us and we need to look to the months prior to May to get some training in. Remember training can be scheduled for any day, not just Saturday or Sunday.

A schedule of training and open dates has been provided. Please review and contact me with your potential dates.

Last year a paper was introduced about bullying in the Fall Conference packet. This information was also included in the training. The following is an addition to the information that is being provided this year. For those that have already attended training, a longer information document about discrimination will be provided at Convention.

Discrimination – *"discriminate" means to distinguish, single out, or make a distinction. ... But in the context of civil rights law, unlawful discrimination refers to unfair or unequal treatment of an individual (or group) based on certain characteristics, including: Age. Disability.* Please note, this can happen to anyone at any time for the simplest of reasoning. Thesaurus gives us these alternative words to describe: Judgement, perception, bias, prejudice, unfairness, bigotry and many others. These same words are used to describe bullying.

TEN RULE – 10 signed up and paid to Department ten days in advance of training. 8-hour course is \$10 each; 4-hour course is \$5 each.

How many words (3 or more letters-no proper names) did you make from the word PREAMBLE? (61) LEADERSHIP (153) Can anyone beat these totals? Well, let's try another AMERICANISM.

For God and Country in Service to Veterans

Kat Sticklin, Department Chair
Arizona Mission Training
928-428-7431 / 928-322-1550
gsticklin@cablone.net
1519 S. 2nd Avenue
Safford, AZ 85546

Open, Northern Co-Chair

Pending Approval, Southern Co-Chair

Open, Central Co-Chair

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For God and Country in Service to Veterans

Kat Sticklin, Department Chair
Arizona Mission Training
928-428-7431 / 928-322-1550
gsticklin@cablone.net
1519 S. 2nd Avenue
Safford, AZ 85546

Open, Northern Co-Chair

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American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona

“SERVING THOSE BEHIND THE BADGE” MUSIC REPORT DECEMBER 2019

Greetings:

What a wonderful Fall Conference we had in Tucson last month! I hope those in attendance came away with some good ideas to take back to the various Units and Districts. We rocked and rolled to get members revved up and dancing in the aisles, literally! We celebrated our 100th birthday and blew up Ring Your Bell Arizona ALA with many posts. Thanks to those units and districts who have already submitted mid-year music reports. The Auxiliary rocks.

As the winter holidays approach, let's keep in mind our many service men and women who might not have a family celebration this year. If the Unit or District will be making and distributing food baskets to Veterans during this season, remember to include festive songs in your delivery. The gift of music can touch the heart and soul in ways no other gift can.

Information regarding the Music Awards can be found on the website: www.aladeptaz.org under Ruling Documents. Click on ALA Department Awards Book and go to page 48. This will list the rules and the scoring for the awards.

Department Music Awards will be handed out at Convention in June as follows:

MUSIC PLAQUES

Frances Aros Memorial Music Plaque awarded to Unit with membership of 151 and over
Millicent Kasun Music Plaque awarded to Unit with membership of 150 and under

Monica Rae Stein, Department Music Chairman
11533 E. Kilarea Ave., Mesa, AZ 85209
steinent@cox.net
480.272.1255 cell

Salute our Veterans this Holiday Season!!!

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
NATIONAL SECURITY

DECEMBER 2019

Hello ladies of the great state of Arizona!!! ***Don't forget that your mid-year summary blurb is due by the 15th of this month to me. No form to fill out, just send me your name, Unit number, and phone number in an email, and I will be able to add all your information to my report due to National.***

December can be a hard month for our active, reserve and those transitioning military service members and their families. So what can we do??

- Wear red on Friday's to "Remember Everyone Deployed."
- Hand out "Yellow Ribbons" at your Post meetings; or give them out to those coming home at our airports. Hang some on the trees in your neighborhoods.
- Provide support to a spouse or family member who may just need for you to lend an ear. Refer to the ALA Military Family Readiness Action Guide for additional help.
- Become more informed about issues surrounding PTSD, TBI, domestic violence or those dealing with separation anxiety.
- Refer service members to your local VSO for local information they may need.

Don't forget dates for December

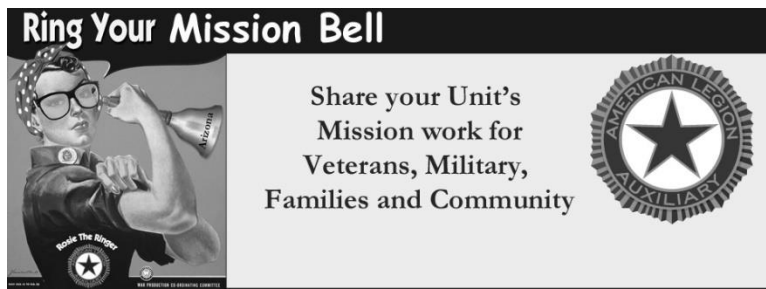
- ❖ 7th is Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day
- ❖ 15th Bill of Right Day
- ❖ 25th Christmas Day

WISHING EACH OF YOU A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

Until next month with more news!!

Cindy Queen
National Security Chairman
2019-2020
cynqueen53@cox.net
602-316-7647 (cell)

Public Relations: December 2019



Public Relations = Membership

If you were at the Fall Conference, you know:

- every Auxiliary member is a Public Relations Ambassador
- a typical consumer needs to be exposed to something 16 times before they are ready to buy (or become a member)
- by getting our brand in front of the public, you are contributing to those 16 exposures--leading to membership even if your name isn't the "recruiter" of record

So what are some of these 16 things you can do outside the post/unit to recruit members through branding?

- 1) While wearing the brand, just "smile and say hello"
- 2) Invite a friend or neighbor to an event at the Post
- 3) Wear a poppy pin
- 4) Carry a branded bag to the grocery store
- 5) Take time to compliment a homeowner on their flag
- 6) Engage the spouse of a Legion member
- 7) Wear a Red Shirt on Friday
- 8) Wearing the brand, thank a Veteran for their service
- 9) Display the emblem while having fun at Community activities
- 10) Submit an interesting or cute photo with ALA caption to the local paper
- 11) Post ALA info to your *personal* Social Media page
- 12) Talk about the Auxiliary at a neighborhood association meeting
- 13) Wear emblem brand when visiting schools
- 14) Talk about your ALA project when purchasing materials at the store
- 15) Send branded Thank You cards to businesses that support your efforts
- 16) Have a poppy-making party with neighbors and friends

Have fun engaging the public!

For mid-year reporting—just send an e-mail about your Unit's efforts to engage the public—especially as related to the ALA Centennial year. Thank you for your attention and support.

Marge Christianson, Department of Arizona PR Chairman- aladeptazpr@gmail.com 763-234-9852

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA
PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT
100 CLUB
“SERVING THOSE BEHIND THE BADGE”**

The Presidents Special Project will have a ‘THANK YOU DAY’ for First Responders on February 8, 2020. The event will take place at The American Legion Tony F. Soza/Ray Martinez Post 41. The event will be a day long recognition of the work of our First Responders in our community. I hope that everyone will join us that day.

At the present time we are putting together a flyer that will give all the details. We are looking for volunteers that can help throughout the day. We will be starting the day with a pancake breakfast, followed by a lunch and ending with a fun evening of fun, games, food, music and comradery.

First Responders Shirts are available. If you are interested, you may contact me at 623-340-5936 and I will relay the message to the person in charge of the shirts.

Thank you for all you are doing for The President’s Special Project.

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

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

“HAPPY HOLIDAYS”

New Units/Unit Development & Revitalization

DECEMBER 2019

At Fall Conference in November our new “Baby Unit” Yucca 136 received their charter and new Baby (doll) at the Department Executive Committee Meeting held on Friday. Again we say CONGRATULATIONS to Yucca Unit 136.

Charter Cancellation

A Unit voting to relinquish a charter for cancellation shall vote at a regular meeting of the Unit, with advance written notice to the membership. The Unit charter cancellation shall be voted on by the Department Executive Committee and then forwarded to National headquarters for vote by the National Executive Committee.

Happy Holidays!!!

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

Southern Arizona VA Healthcare System

American Legion Auxiliary

Tucson VA Gift Shop

7,8,9,10,11,16,19,24,28,32,36,45,51,52,54,56,59,66,68,73,95,97,10
9,125,129,131,132,133

I wish to thank all the units that made a monetary donation to the Tucson VA Gift Shop, also a special Thank You for all the volunteers that were able to take the time out of their busy schedule to come out and help to make the gift shop a success.

A Special thank you to Becky for helping me get this year's gift shop on the right track with all the changes that we encountered, and we overcame them and for steering me in the right direction.

I would like to wish all American Legion Auxiliary members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and be safe.

Dolores Chavez

Tucson VA Gift Shop, Chairperson

928-386-0841

chebeejs@cox.net

ARIZONA STATE VETERANS HOME – TUCSON (ASVH-TUCSON)

DECEMBER, 2019

Happy Holidays!

Units hosting monthly Birthday Cake & Ice Cream Socials are as follows: Unit 131 – Dec & Unit 7 - Jan
Please contact Terry Soto to schedule your day soon. For questions call Terry Soto at 520-551-3628.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY FOR OCTOBER & NOVEMBER ASVH-TUCSON RESIDENTS **BEST WISHES ALWAYS TO YOU**

<u>December:</u>	E. Zahm 3	J. Janacek 4	K. Chenoweth 4	S. Garza 5
	F. Romo 10	R. Budak 10	M. Johnston 11	R. Nanna 11
	C. Angus 13	E. Zabel 15	G. Jelten 19	R. Huskey 20
	L. Rushing 21	L. Levine 21	C. Sells 22	V. Guerrero 24
	A. Pettway 24	F. Flores 25	R. Moreno 25	A. Ostrander 30

<u>REMINDER:</u>	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."

Thank you American Legion Auxiliary Roy Fourr Unit 24. We missed recognizing you for stockings at the Fall Conference. Your idea has started an annual tradition

UPCOMING EVENTS - DECEMBER

Dec 14 ALA hosting Christmas party at 2:00 p.m. Handing out Christmas gifts and providing desserts. Assembling and filling the Christmas gift bags is at 9:00 a.m. on this day.
We will meet in Bldg. 1 at 9:00 a.m. across from Chapel Room. We need coffee cups to complete the gift bags.
POWWOW – Set up at 7:00 a.m. and distribution starts at 8:00-11:00 a.m.

WISH LIST – UPDATE – REMAINS THE SAME

Recreation therapists are still in need of 300 piece puzzles (residents specifically want 300 pieces only) and CD players (portable or boom box style). Also, need batteries AA, D, and C. Chocolate candy bars plain or with almonds a Number 1 request, also Milky Way, Kit Kat, and Reese's Cups. Candy used as prizes for bingos hosted by ASVH-Tucson Recreation Department. **Also, oodles of colored foam noodles (aka pool toys).**

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

HAPPINESS AND ENTERTAINMENT IS ALWAYS NUMBER 1 THERAPY!

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

December 2019

IMPORTANT - Midyear reports are due December 15. They can be emailed to me or send snail mail.

Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends. To those Units that provided meals and/or assistance to our veterans, THANK YOU! I want to hear what you did.

It was great seeing those who attended Fall Conference. Did you learn something new? I know I did.

Were you able to assist at one of the Gift Shops. What a rewarding experience it is. I look forward to going every year.

I'm sure most Units are gearing up for Christmas. I have seen on Ring Your Bell and Unit Facebook pages members are busy signing Christmas cards for the troops, VA Home residences and VAMC patients. I want to hear from you how many cards your Unit has signed and given out. Let me know if any outside groups also provided cards to you and I WANT PICTURES, please.

The Holidays are in a few weeks. Please remember those who don't have family members or friends. Invite them to your Post for some fun. This time of year can be very lonely for veterans. Think about going caroling to the VA Home or a senior home near by.

Please send me pictures on what you have been doing with veterans. I would like to include them in my midyear report to the Western Division Chairman.

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

Until next month . . .

Barbara White
Department 2nd Vice President
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Chandler AZ 85224-2244

UAV UNOFFICIAL MINUTES
2 NOVEMBER 2019

The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m. by Chairman Dylan Dalzotto, the opening ceremony was conducted and special guests were introduced.

David Lucier gave an update on the attempts to establish a Fisher House in Phoenix. A Fisher House is a comfort house for the family of hospitalized Veterans. Applications are only accepted during a designated period. The next date to make application is in September 2020. This is a multi-million dollar project and is a joint venture between the UAV and AVHOFS. First we need to acquire the land. To find out more about the process to apply for a Fisher House you can google Fisher House Foundation. Phoenix is the last major city in America that does not have a Fisher House.

Rick Clark & Pennie Jensen, Loan Officers, from US Bank briefed the members of their program for veterans desiring to purchase a house. When you apply, they lock in the interest rate and it will only change if the interest rate goes down upon signing. For more information you can go to "home for heroes.com" or you can reach Rick at 206-369-5196 (cell) or 623-547-6209 (fax). His email is rick.clark@usbank.com

Lee Lange from the Arizona for Fair Lending Act, briefed on the procedures that the Title Loan Companies charge in interest. Currently they can charge up to 200% which results in 1 in 3 goes into default, and 1 in 5 lose their car. They are trying to get an initiative on the ballot in 2020 to stop these companies from doing business in Arizona. For more information you can contact Lee at lflange48@gmail.com

Roll call was taken and a quorum was established. A motion was made and second to approve the minutes from the previous meeting and approved.

There was no financial report given this month.

A representative from Congressional Representative Stanton's office gave a report on legislation that Representative Stanton is working on. (see attached flyer)

Dr. Alysia Smith, Interim Medical Director for the VA Medical Facilities updated the membership on several issues the VA is currently dealing with. She reported that the newly established Veterans Resource Center has serviced over 9,000 veterans and has been able to resolve most of their problems. The VA is hosting a "VetsGiving" on Saturday, November 23, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (See attached flyer)

Trey Austin and Rachel Charles updated everyone on the activities ongoing at the VA National Cemetery here in Phoenix. The current Administration Building will be undergoing repairs so they will be moving into a temporary trailer. The maintenance building will also be undergoing major repairs. The entire project is expected to last about three years and will add about 25 more acres to the facilities. San Carlos has a National Cemetery and was officially opened a few weeks

s ago when the interned their first veteran's remains. A second internment is scheduled to take place in about two weeks. They also informed the membership that there are two GS-06 positions open. The closing is November 7th.

John Scott from ADVS briefed on the newly established pre-9-11 MFRF. They have finally put together the board to oversee the fund and had their first meeting on October 31st. To qualify for money from this fund, you must have deployed from the State of Arizona. Currently there is \$11,000 in the fund. They recently had a Gold Star Member dedication ceremony.

They interned the remains of 37 unclaimed veterans at the Marana Cemetery.

There is no cap on the amount of money they can accept into the MFRF, but anything over \$1 million there is no tax credit. When they reach the million dollar amount the contact the donator to see if they want to put the money somewhere else.

They just completed a VBC Conference. They have the conferences twice a year.

The VBC bring in \$18 million a month to the Arizona economy.

The State Legislative session will be opening soon. If you wish to speak on any of the subject legislations you need to be registered. If you are not registered and need help, please contact Jennifer Harris at the Department of Veteran Services.

The construction is on track for the Veterans Home in Yuma.

Request for Veterans Donation Fund Grants is on the Web.

Reggie Yates gave a report of the AVHOF Luncheon. This was the 19th Anniversary and there were 537 in attendance. They are looking for some suggestions for next year's 20th Anniversary.

Reggie Yates, chairman of the nomination committee presented the slate of officers for the upcoming year, Judith Hatch motioned that the slate be accepted and that the chair cast one vote for the selections, motion was second and approved.

The newly elected officers were sworn into office.

There will be no UAV meeting in December, since it falls on Pearl Harbor Day. The next meeting of the UAV will be on Saturday, January 4, 2020 at the VA Medical Center.

There being no further business to come before the membership, the closing ceremony was conducted and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judith Hatch".

Judith Hatch



“It is not only Congress’s responsibility, but our duty as Americans, to honor our veterans for the sacrifices they made for our country” **said Rep. Greg Stanton.** “I am committed to ensuring the brave men and women who served in the Armed Forces have the equipment and support they need during their service, as well as access to the benefits, health care, and affordable housing they deserve once they leave the service.”

Congressman Stanton’s Actions:

- **BECAME LAW: Cosponsor, H.R. 299, Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act.** This law will restore Department of Veterans Affairs benefits to over 90,000 Blue Water Navy veterans who had their disability eligibility taken away in 2002 after regulatory changes. This law will also help other veterans and their families who suffer from conditions related to toxic exposures during the Vietnam War.
- **PASSED HOUSE: Cosponsor, H.R. 886: Veteran Treatment Court Coordination Act.** This bill directs the Department of Justice to establish a Veterans Treatment Court Program to provide grants and technical assistance for state, local, and tribal governments to develop and maintain Veterans Treatment Courts, which allow veterans charged with a non-violent crime attributed to physical or mental condition tied to their military service to receive court-supervised, comprehensive treatment.
- **PASSED HOUSE: Cosponsor, H.R. 95: The Homeless Veteran Families Act.** This bill authorizes the Department of Veterans Affairs to pay partial per diem for children accompanying a homeless veteran as part of the Homeless Providers Grant Program.
- **Cosponsor, H.R. 2435: Accelerating Veterans Recovery Outdoors Act.** This bill will create a task force of federal agencies to identify barriers to utilizing U.S. public lands in order to treat veterans and provide recreation programs. Outdoor recreation is proven to help veterans suffering from PTSD.
- **Cosponsor, H.R. 955, Women Veterans and Families Health Services Act.** This bill improves the reproductive assistance provided by the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs to severely wounded, ill, or injured members of the Armed Forces, veterans, and their spouses.
- **Cosponsor, H.R. 4137, Jennifer Kepner HOPE Act.** This bill provides for the eligibility of veterans exposed to burn pits for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- **Cosponsor, H.R. 3598, The FREED Vets Act.** This bill requires that the Department of Education automatically discharge the student debt of veterans with total and permanent disability designations.
- **Cosponsor, H.R. 2056, WWII U.S. Cadet Nurse Corps Service Recognition Act.** This bill will recognize and honor the service of nurses who served as WWII cadet nurses.
 - *Included in the House passed National Defense Authorization Act.*
- **Cosigner, funding for veterans’ programs.** Signed two letters requesting increased funding for veteran suicide prevention programs and funding for the Veteran Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) Program, which provides housing vouchers for homeless veterans.

Inaugural Phoenix VA
VETS GIVING

A free event featuring Food, Fun & Freebies

More than 25 Community and VA organizations attending

Free Turkey & Fixings for Enrolled Vets



Free
Food

Games

Live Music

Door
Prizes

Sponsors
DAV
Elks Lodge
SYSCO
Basha's

10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 23

Carl T. Hayden Medical Center

North Parking Lot - 650 E. Indian School Rd.

Phoenix, AZ 85012

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Veterans Health Administration
Phoenix VA Health Care System