

**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona
District 2
Units: 7, 10, 36, 59, 66, 68, 73, 109, 125, 131, 132
Year End Report for 2022-2023**

First, I want to thank the Units of District #2 for electing me their President and all District #2 officers for their help and support. I have thoroughly enjoyed my year and getting to know the members. My year has included visits to Units #7, #36, #66, #68, #109, #131, and #132 and I thank them for their hospitality.

This past year the Units of District #2 have been very busy continuing our mission of "Service, Not Self". Our units have done a fabulous job fundraising for many projects (ALL special), hosting many special events – most of which seem to include copious amounts of food – and ALWAYS supporting our Posts and their many activities.

Highlights this year included the celebration of the 100th birthday of Dual Member Helen Glass from Post/Unit #73, numerous very successful poppy campaigns, participation in the Christmas Gift Shop, the "Spa-tacular" held in Tucson for our Women Warriors, and continued support of our "American Legion Auxiliary Arizona Girls State."

Also, kudos to Unit #132 for receiving the following email from Region 4 Liaison Team for Wreaths Across America: "Congratulations! You have been identified as the #2 ranked Sponsorship Group in the State of Arizona for Wreaths Across America in 2022. Thanks to your hard work and efforts to support the mission, you helped ensure that veterans in your own community were remembered with a total of 1548.1 wreaths last year."

Unfortunately, I also must report that Organ Pipe Unit #10 has determined that, due to attrition, they are requesting permission from Department to disband. They will be missed!

As with the past two years, Post and Unit #132 in District #2 have served as our hosts for Convention and Conference. I want to take this opportunity to sincerely thank them for all the wonderful work they did to make this happen!

It has been my privilege to serve as District #2 President for this past year and I am grateful to have been elected to serve for the 2023-2024 year as well.

For God, Country, and Our Hometown Heroes,

Jeannie McGaughey
ALA District #2 President

District 3 Year End Report 2022-2023

Unit 11 Unit 16 Unit 24 Unit 45 Unit 52 Unit 141

All units in District 3 had a busy year trying to all attain 100% from our District. All but 2 were able to achieve this with Unit 141 having a remarkable year!

This year all Units participated in the Memorial Services by placing flags on Veteran's graves and attending or helped organize those memorial services. On Veteran's Day they attended parades and celebrations happening in their cities. Fourth of July Units also participated in parades and organized BBQs with their Legion Post. Each Unit was encouraged to continue to make poppies for the Department. Units had poppy parties or did them at home with families and others recruited local high school students that needed community service.

Units held breakfasts, bake sales, dinner fundraisers, Christmas gifts for needy families and Veterans in nursing homes. Units continued to promote Madam President's special project with information to those who would benefit from her special project. Some units contributed by mailing a personal check to help fund the new facilities that are being built and soon will take our Veterans. Units also used art to help those in need, we should see something special coming out of our district this year. District 3 held a Fall Junior Conference at Unit 45, we had a great time and painted rocks will be displayed at the State Convention.

Units participated in memorial service for a MIA soldier and unclaimed soldiers in Sierra Vista and Tucson Veterans Memorial Cemetery

Units continue to lose members and close friends due to accidents or natural causes. Funeral services were attended, by District 3 President and Unit members and charters remained draped all year long.

It has been a busy year for our District trying to recruit and stay healthy. District 3 looks forward to our new President Dawn Davidson, she brings kindness, spirit and years of experience to us.

Respectfully Submitted

Maggie Montijo

District 3 President

District 6 Year End Report 2022-2023

Another year has gone by quickly. As a District we started slow with no officers but we are proud to say for the coming year of 2023-2024 there will be a full slate of officers. We are a small District with just under 600 members but we have worked hard.

Springerville Unit 30 has continued to host the 4th of July Parade, which I attended in a WWII Jeep. They hosted a community lunch after this event. They also host numerous fundraising dinner to provided meals for the under served at holidays. They assist Veterans and their families as needed. They go into the schools to promote Americanism. And presently are joining with the Post to update their kitchen.

Holbrook Unit 37 has been deeply involved in supporting local community activities. They were acknowledged by the community for there involvement. They have provided food boxes for Thanksgiving and in these boxes they have placed gift cards for they families to pay for there meat of choice. This year they sponsored a girl for Girls State and lets not forget they feed just under 400 bikers on there way to the "Run to the Wall" in 45minutes.

Payson Unit 69 is very involved in their community in cooking on Tuesday for the homeless at a local church. They raise money for Christmas to send to Whipple and a truck full of new clothing twice a year. They visit the Veterans in the nursing home several times a year. They run a thrift store to assist local Veterans in need. They hosted a District meeting with a breakfast that was so so so delicious. Presently they are assisting the Post with funds for repairs needed to the facility. And we were most thankful for a donation they made to the District.

ShowLow Unit 76 is thankful for the Post in allowing them to have a Bake Sale at their monthly breakfasts. They have worked with the VFW 9907 in providing food baskets and gifts for Veterans and their families at Christmas. We visit the local nursing homes at Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Valentines Day and Christmas with gifts and cookies. We collect and distribute coats, shoes and blankets as needed. We go to the schools monthly to teach Americaism. We also make and distribute Valentine Card to three grade schools. We attend all Patriotic Ceremonies. We participate in fundraising for Wreaths Across America and then placing the Wreaths at the graves. This year they are planning to celebrate Female Veterans Day with a paint party at a local coffee shop.

Heber Unit 86 I am not sure I have enough room to tell of all their deeds. July 4th is always a great turn out. They have had a lot of new ideas to distribute their poppies, some of which I copied. They have famous bake sales to raise money for veteran activities. They have toy drives and family food boxes at Christmas. They mentor youngster at an after school program. They help sponsor another Veterans program by supply can goods and hygiene bags for homeless Veterans in the area. They are presently planning their 2nd Annual Female Veterans Luncheon at the Post next week. They hosted the District Meeting in February and our State President, Barbara White was in attendance. They also participate in Wreaths Across America.

Concho Unit 130 has worked hard the start of they year with only 6 members, 4 of which were new. They fundraised with 3 community breakfasts and a few bake sales. They used to funds raised to donate to the local food pantry, buy school supplies for the local grade school and clothing for children in need identified by the school. Sadly their President, Laurie Guiso passed away suddenly on January 4,2023.

District 7

(Colorado River /I - 40 Corridor)

Units 3, 13, 14 ,22 42, 57 81 ,87. 88, 103 and 136

Not unlike every other District, the members of District 7 have been busy throughout the year.

We have cooked hundreds of meals including probably 100 lbs of spaghetti.

Stood in flag lines of respect and honor with the Patriot Guard Riders, The Nation of Patriots, Run for the Wall and MIAP (Missing in America Project) .

Our Units have put on and / or assisted our Posts with major Car shows and a Motorcycle event (Road Rash Rodeo)

We have taken part in events honoring veterans on their special days.. Memorial Day, Vietnam Veterans day and Pearl Harbor day and Veterans day.

A PAST PRESIDENTS PARLEY luncheon, raising funds for Nursing scholarships

Bake sale and blind auction to assist a family who had a house fire.

Hundreds of troop boxes sent to our military who are deployed.

We have sponsored parties for Valentines day, ST Patrick's day New Year's Halloween and Easter.

There have been angel trees at Christmas.

Community dinners at Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter

Knitted caps and scarves made for and donated to our school children.

We have taught Flag etiquette in our schools.

Have Supported the Young Marines.of Northern Arizona.

Held Poppy Drives with Poppy awareness.

Supported PTSD awareness.

In support of our currently deployed military we wear red on Fridays.

The members of District 7 are proud to be a part of this great Family.

On a personal note It has been my honor to Serve as District 7's President for the past 4 years.

Thank you I know that we will continue to thrive under the guidance of Rebecca Faris.

Ellen Hampton
District 7 president



American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona

Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF)

May 2023

By the time you receive this bulletin, you will most likely have submitted your Unit's Year-End Reports. I want to thank all of you for your diligence in getting those reports in by the deadline of May 1st. (Just a reminder, the reports need to be **received** by the deadline, not postmarked by the deadline).

The National AEF Chairman, Kelly Elliott, reminded the Department Chairmen that the need does not stop at the end of the administrative year. Donations to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund are accepted year-round. Perhaps as we all plan for the holidays, we can include a donation to the AEF. One year our family elected to forego our annual ornament exchange and instead donated to an agreed upon charity. I know it's early to be thinking about holiday giving but it's something to consider.

This year seems to have had an abundance of natural disasters on top of the personal emergencies that arise. Please be aware that members of the Auxiliary that face an unexpected financial need can turn to the AEF for short-term assistance. There is a page on the National website (alaforveterans.org) that has the information you need to apply for the Disaster Grant, or the Temporary Assistance Grant and the applications can be submitted electronically.

For God & Country,

Jonnie Maddox

Department AEF Chairman

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

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona
Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF)
June 2023

We made it! This Chairman received 28 Unit reports and 8 included Narratives with their Year-End reports. Kudos to all of the Units that submitted a report, even if they did not work the AEF program.

Hopefully when you prepare your budgets for the next administrative year, you will consider some of the different fundraisers that other Units used to raise funds for the AEF. Those fundraisers do not have to be large to make an impact. 50/50 raffles, having bottles of water for sale at your meetings, or even a change bucket in your lounges or at a pancake breakfast are simple ways to generate proceeds that can be designated for the AEF program. Every little bit helps, and our members are very grateful to be able to call on the Auxiliary for help when they need it. Some Units have created their own emergency fund for those that do not qualify for a grant.

This Chairman is very grateful for the many ways members, Units and Posts have participated in making a difference and easing the burdens faced by members that have a financial need.

Thank you for your support this year and this Chairman looks forward to what you will do in the years to come.

For God & Country,
Jonnie Maddox
Department AEF Chairman
Contact Info: Text or Voice: (760) 413.5912 Email: mimi2twins@gmail.com

Chaplain's Report 2022-2023; Marge Christianson, Department of Arizona

Supporting our "Hometown Heroes" was an inspiring 2022-2023 theme for the Chaplains of the Department of Arizona. Thirty-one Units, representing nearly 9,000 members (65% of Arizona's overall ALA membership!), provided a Chaplain's report. And the impact for God and Country was overwhelming!

Every Unit and District Chaplain reported delivering opening and closing prayers, many personally written, at regular meetings. But they didn't stop there! Prayers were also included at:

- Patriotic events including Memorial Day, Independence Day, 9-11 , Veteran's Day, Wreaths Across America etc., (at Post homes as well as public locations);
- Special recognition events including POW/MIA ceremonies, poppy pinning, new member initiation, officer inductions, memorials, National President's visit, Four Chaplains, homecomings, even during the presentation to "rename" a room at a Post Home;
- Fundraising events like PPP events, Rider trips, Luaus, awards dinners, First Responder recognition
- Prayers were said for children before leaving on bus trips!

Other notable Unit and District activities:

- Juniors participated in "God and Country" too! Prayers were said by designated Junior members at Junior meetings, including at their Fall Conference; Junior members sent Holiday and Valentine's Day "blessing" cards to troops; Junior's visited veterans over the Holidays and served food and provided blessings;
- In support of Department President Barbara's Special Project to help the State Veteran Homes, five Units reported regularly sent personal birthday/blessing cards to veterans at their State Home.
- One Unit reported providing 106 veterans with Bibles!

And now the Unit and District numbers:

- Over 4500 cards were sent by reporting Units and Districts:
 - 310 Sympathy, 425 Get Well
 - 229 Thinking of You; 3397 Joy/Blessing cards, including many to troops overseas
 - 163 phone calls
- 52 charter drapes and 46 memorial services donating \$3200 to ALA Girls State, Chapel of the Four Chaplains and impacted families

This Department Chaplain thoroughly enjoyed and was humbled fulfilling the Chaplain role this past year. It was personally rewarding to help and recognize Junior members performing the Chaplain role with Chaplain pins at their Fall Conference and Unit meetings. Participating in the Legion Family Memorial Services at Fall Conference and Department Convention was an absolute honor--as was delivering the opening and closing meeting prayers. Participating as Chaplain and Officer for the National President's Visit was amazing. Laying a ceremonial ALA wreath on Pearl Harbor and Memorial Day was a highlight-- the American Legion Family was even on the local news! Opening the Phoenix Christmas Shop was heartwarming. Invitations to Units were the best: Initiation of new members, Four Chaplains ceremonies and fundraisers were all inspirational.

As for numbers, this Chaplain sent just over 200 cards:

- 73 birthday cards to Veterans residing at the State Veterans Home. Each card was handmade and included a love gift of \$5 and an inspirational prayer blessing.
- 26, many handmade, sympathy cards sent across the country
- 15 Get Well cards which included an inspiration prayer blessing
- 41 inspirational "thinking of you" cards and 48 miscellaneous "Joy" cards
- And made numerous phone calls, texts.....

Thank you, Department of Arizona members, for entrusting me with this important role. God Bless & Keep You!

BOOK OF REPORTS COMMUNITY SERVICE 2022-2023

What a wonderful year of service within the communities of Arizona by the members of the American Legion Auxiliary! This chairman knows that more was done than reported by 38 of Arizona's 85 units, but those reporting indicated much was accomplished.

Included in the eleven issues of the Department of Arizona monthly packets were bulletins offering suggestions Units could do as community service. Some Units came up with their own special ideas.

In November, Wayne V. McMartin Unit 91 hosted a turkey bowling activity to raise funds—and turkeys—for the local food bank and in March participated at the Ostrich Festival where members distributed flag education comic books, poppy coloring books, flags and poppies. Fred Hilburn Unit 11 makes condolence cards to hand to families at funeral/memorial services of their veteran. The Unit also participates in "Cell Phones for Soldiers", which helps soldiers around the world keep in contact with their loved ones, and "Guitars for Vets", a program that uses the healing power of music and community for struggling veterans. Ernest A Love Unit 6 picks up unserviceable U.S. flags throughout the community and replaces them.

Many Units reported supporting clothing and school supply drives within their communities, food bank drives, "adopting" families at Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, and supporting schools by presenting awards to outstanding students and JrROTC members. A seemingly growing trend is for Units to raise funds to participate in the "Wreaths Across America" program to place on graves in their local cemeteries in addition to flags.

School and Veterans Resource Fairs are additional ways Units helped spread the word in communities about the programs of The American Legion Family.

From the annual reports, members donated 78,817 volunteer hours and \$173,588, drove 57,654 miles, and gave 525 pints of blood. Just think how much it could have been with 85 units reporting.

Rebecca Faris, Chairman

**Education
Year-End Report 2022-2023
Department of Arizona**

The Auxiliary Education projects in the Department of Arizona were extremely successful. During the 2022-2023 Auxiliary year, thirty-six Units in the Department of Arizona reported activity in the Education program, with approximately 532 Auxiliary members, 33 Junior members, and 258 Legion members participating. This Chairman informed the Units and Districts about the Education program via information packets distributed at the Department 2022 Fall Conference, as well as bulletins in the monthly Department newsletters during the year.

Units participated in American Education Week by providing Thank-you notes, lunch, cookies, and treats to teachers at local schools. Thank-you cards were sent to staff members, including school nurses, custodians, and bus drivers. Units held in-person events, a Stuff-the-Bus event, and drive-through events to collect and distribute school supplies and backpacks to children at local schools. Units presented videos and booklets on flag etiquette and Halloween safety, and donated craft supplies. Schools were presented U.S. flags and Arizona state flags to replace old flags in front of schools and in classrooms.

Units participated in the *Give 10 to Education* program by providing school supplies and educational materials to schools. Members of all Post entities donated school supplies or money toward purchase of school supplies. Other necessities such as backpacks, tissue, hand sanitizer, wipes, story books, toiletries, and shoes were collected and distributed to local schools. School wish lists were fulfilled.

All Units reporting also assisted needy students in many ways. Clothes were donated and delivered to a school district clothing bank where every student in need has access to free goods. Donations were also made to Coats for Kids and Prom Dresses for Special Needs students. Food pantries were stocked. Christmas Angels worked with local schools to provide gifts, toys, and food baskets for needy students. Units also delivered Easter, Christmas, and Thanksgiving food baskets. Monetary donations were made to the America Reads Program sponsored by Arizona State University.

During the 2022-2023 school year, Units reported awarding 61 Unit scholarships, totaling \$54,630. Units raised funds for scholarships in several ways including dinners, raffles, contests, and sales. National scholarship applications and information were published in monthly Unit correspondence newsletters and delivered to local high schools through the mail, email, and in person. Units delivered information regarding the Past Presidents Parley nursing scholarship to community colleges and assisted with the Arizona State University's Veterans Program. In 2022-2023, sixteen applications for the *Children of Warriors National Presidents' Scholarship* were received by the Department. A Department winner was selected and forwarded to the Western Division Education Chairman for this scholarship. Each applicant received a letter thanking them for their application and informing them of the outcome. The Department winner in 2023 was unable to attend the Department Convention and received a \$25 cash award sent in the mail. The scholarship winner from Arizona was selected as a National winner!

The Department of Arizona has established the *Wilma Hoyal/Maxine Chilton Memorial Scholarship*. There are three scholarships of \$1000.00 available annually: one to Arizona State University, one to The University of Arizona, and one to Northern Arizona University. This scholarship is renewable provided the student meets the outlined criteria. Recipients must be enrolled as second year or upper-division

students in Political Science, Public Programs, or Special Education. Submissions for this scholarship are not due until May 15 so results are not yet available.

Units involved the Legionnaires, the Sons of the American Legion, and the Legion Riders in donating time, school supplies, money, and labor to all the Education and Children's programs. They helped work in a school garden. They assisted with Halloween safety programs, Christmas parties, and Easter parties. Legionnaires acted as judges for an essay contest and attended the awards ceremony.

Units reported presenting "Veterans in the Classroom" programs. Veterans visited elementary schools for interviews, spoke at assemblies and in classrooms about the Poppy story, the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the difference between Veterans Day and Memorial Day. Schools honored veterans on Veterans Day with flags, songs, and videos. Units presented programs on the accomplishments of our Veterans by honoring veterans on Veterans Day at local schools. A Veteran read books during Story Time. Veterans spoke about what it means to be a Veteran.

All reporting Units used many community resources or activities to assist students, teachers, or support personnel. Units participated in National Night Out promoting neighborhood safety. Units donated to the Shop-with-a-Firefighter program. Monetary donations were made to a local mentoring program, Junior ROTC awards, Girls State, Girls Scouts, Cub Scouts, baseball teams, Special Olympics, Helen's Hope Chest for Foster Kids, and Future Business Leaders of America programs. A Unit worked with the Political Action Committee for Constitutional Education. Donations were solicited from a local children's book warehouse.

The Department of Arizona offers the **JEAN BATLEY PLAQUE** for Units with membership of 150 and under and the **CHRYSTEEN FRITZINGER PLAQUE** for Units with membership of 151 and over. The purpose of these awards is to stimulate interest in good participation in the Education program of the American Legion Auxiliary by giving recognition to the Unit which makes the most use of the available ideas in education, scholarship, and loan possibilities. There plaques will be awarded at our Department Convention in June.

The Department of Arizona recognizes that our young people are our future, and a good education is the key to their success. The members of the Department of Arizona are devoted to contributing to this success.

Respectfully submitted,

Julie M. Vietri

Julie M. Vietri
Education Chairman
Department of Arizona

(929 words)

Finance

Arizona ALA are you compliant? As of June 1, 2023 reporting on the Year End Finance was 49% and translated into layman's language a little over half of the Department did not report. Veteran's non-profit financial rules are governed by Internal Revenue guidelines: Gross receipts under \$50,000, file Form 990N (epost card) or Gross receipts over \$50,000 and less than \$200,000, file Form 990EZ. Arizona Corporation Commission requires yearly reporting.

National ALA Headquarters recommends record retention of seven years for accounts receivable/payable, budgets, internal audits, check registers, and ten years for bank statements and reconciliations.

The following funds need to be paid directly to Department: Department Mandates, Dues, Poppies (10% of net profit), Welfare Pledge, Christmas Pledge, Hospital parties and social services, Gift Shop, Past Presidents Parley, Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Juniors, Girls State, Arizona Campaign Fund, Department Overhead, Cavalcade of Memories, Department Special Project. Before mailing any other donation please call this Chairman.

Unit Treasurers and Unit Presidents funds belong to your Unit. Your responsibility lies in tracking/paying all required donations, record retention, and filing with IRS and the Corporation Commission.

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)

Book of Reports
Leadership/Arizona Mission Training
2022-2023

The Department of Arizona held six Mission Trainings throughout the year that were attended by one-hundred forty-four members. The surveys were very positive giving credit to our Leadership Instructors. There was a total of 40% reporting. Thank you to all who attended the trainings. And a huge thank you to Stacy Mayberry and Rose Ficklin. They were assisted by Shannon Mead, Yolanda Bonilla and Lynda Griffin. We are fortunate that we have capable members who are willing to put in the time and effort for our organization.

Mentoring was stressed this year in this program with several bulletins addressing this by the "Hometown Hero Award." There were five entries and all will be recognized during convention. Each entry wrote about a person or persons who had mentored them during their American Legion Auxiliary journey and continues to mentor them.

The "LaVan Erickson Leadership Plaque had one entry this year. The Vickey J Zwall Mentor of the Year plaque had three entries which will also be announced during convention. The "Unit Member of the Year" award had ten entries. The winner of this award as well as all entries will be recognized with a certificate and gift. The Department of Arizona will pay her/his expenses to National Convention in Charlotte, NC as well as the Public Spirit Award Luncheon.

It was an exciting, informative year for the Leadership program in the Department of Arizona. We aim to "Honor Our Veterans Every Day," and make "Veterans, Our Hometown Heroes."

Karen Smith, Leadership Chairman 2022-2023

(comments: many questions answered, great discussions, updated information, meeting and sharing information encouraging, very informative & fun, we learned SO much!)

BOOK OF REPORTS

LEGISLATIVE 2022 – 2023

At the end of the 2023 year, the Department of Arizona had 23 out of 87 Units actively working the Legislative Program. There were six Units that had nothing to report but reported to the Chairman. Three Units did not work the program but sent in a report stating such. One Unit's report did not meet any of the criteria by Department of Arizona Guidelines for reporting, nor did the Unit turn in a Report Form. Out of the 29 reports, only five included some type of narrative that was eligible for a Department award. Those five were then judged by three persons not affiliated with the American Legion Family. None were sent after the May 1 deadline.

The Committee educated members in the legislative issues promoted by the American Legion, by sharing with members information in the Department Monthly Bulletins, and the online free Dispatch about upcoming legislation the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary supports, how to find polling locations, provided full sample ballots, and elected officials and their contact information. Information was also shared on social media.

There was one special legislative meeting held. The Unit held a luncheon for local and state officials to speak on legislative topics in their community where the Post home is located. There was one legislative rally held in which the Post co-hosted with U.S. Representative Ruben Gallego, whom is a United States Marine Corps Veteran. There were three reported town hall meetings, and two "Meet the Candidates Night", but no further information was given. Four Units promoted and discussed the Dispatch at meetings and in emails. Seven subscriptions were reported in total.

There were 471 letters sent to U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives, State Officials, Local Officials, and the White House. There were 165 other contacts with U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives, State Officials, Local Officials, and the White House. There were 135 replies received from U.S. Senators, U. S. Representatives, State Officials, Local Officials, and the White House. Several Units and Posts also have members that are State and Local Officials.

Members connected and met personally with State and Local officials at rallies, and town hall meetings. Others made contact through phone calls, letters, and emails. Some officials were invited to speak at Post special events and holiday functions. They were able to communicate with State and Local officials on a personal one on one level. Members discussed their concerns and issues they faced.

Units in the Department promoted and supported women veterans by donating funds to charitable organizations, encouraged women veterans to join the Auxiliary with paid memberships for the first year, recognized them at meetings and special events, and held luncheons in their honor.

Thirteen Units promoted voting, by telling members how important voting is and to get out and vote. Units made calling lists for members that needed rides to polls and provided information in online newsletters. Members helped distribute and put-up yard signs in local elections. Members also worked at

polling places and helped members that need assistance filling out mail in ballots. Units also held voter registration sessions and handed out full Mid-Term sample ballots to members to encourage voting.

Several Units participated in government and civic education by starting a Facebook page for the Unit, distributing pocket flags and flag books to students at a local elementary school. Counselors were educated about Girls State by the Director of Arizona Girls State and Unit Chairmen. Several members attended JROTC awards banquets. One Unit hosts an after-school club called, Patriotic Americans for Constitutional Education. This nationally recognized group allows local youth to gather to learn about government, citizenship, Americanism, leadership fundamentals, and character development.

As mentioned before, several Posts and Units have members that are local and State officials. Many have been keynote speakers at special events.

One Unit has a representative on a local veteran's resource team in their community. One Unit sent letters to U.S. Senate and U.S. Representatives as well as the City and Vice Mayors in their community in recognition of National Poppy Day. Officials were given poppies for them and their staff members to wear to raise awareness.

In March members from the American Legion Department of Arizona and the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona 2nd Vice President, whom is the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman attended the National Conference in Washington D.C. The Arizona delegation along with other delegations from the nation, stormed Capitol Hill to urge the 118th Congress to pass legislation that the American Legion supports. This member was fortunate enough to attend National Commander Troiola's testimony before a joint session of the House and Senate Committee's on Veteran's Affairs. This is the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic that an audience was allowed to witness.

Upon returning home to Arizona, the Chairman helped foster a campaign of letter writing and phone calls to ensure that the issues important to the American Legion Family were kept in the forefront of our Federal, State and Local lawmakers.

The Department of Arizona Auxiliary members continue to advocate for veterans, active-duty military, and their family's rights.

For God and Country,

Stephanie M. McMullen, Legislative Chairman

PRESIDENT'S SPECIAL PROJECT 2022-2023

Veterans, Our Hometown Heroes

ALA Units across Arizona have been busy supporting our hometown heroes at the Arizona State Veteran Homes. This Chairman received only 33 year end reports, but it was very difficult to find impartial judges, as there were many narratives. From adding just the donations reported to this chairman, the amount received is over \$35,000. Reports included donations and fundraisers from American Legion Families. Reports also included events supporting the individual State Home programs.

No unit reported using Poppy funds, but had other great fundraising ideas. The most unique idea to this chairman was a PJ Party. What fun. Units had sock hops, a hoedown, a cake walk, bake sales, and a potato bar. Other units used proceeds from collecting change ,dinners, raffles, bingo, 50/50's, silent auctions, Monday night football parties, meat raffles, holiday baskets, and candle sales.

President White and this chairman traveled to districts and units throughout the state and were shown the hard work and great generosity of ALA members. Some items have already been purchased for the Yuma Home. President White became aware that the Phoenix Home is saving money to purchase a bus to transport the residents to outside events. Some of the funds from this Special Project will go a long way to making that happen. Plans are underway to provide the Tucson home with some items from their wish list. It is a great disappointment that the Flagstaff Home has not yet opened. It is the hope of this chairman that donations from this Project will help to get that home up and running for our hometown heroes.

For God and Country,
Margaret Ellis, Chairman

Unit Development and Revitalization

Book of Report

2022-2023

REVITALIZATION is about identifying new and existing members with new ideas that breathe like into Units that are declining in membership and mission outreach. It is more than just organizing new unit sand trying to help keep their charters. Revitalization is also about providing mentors for struggling Units, providing training for new members, and finding leaders to replace long-time chairmen and officers. More importantly, revitalization is about finding, exploring and trying new ways for all members to become engaged in meaningful opportunities for mission outreach. While revitalization is not focused on solving Unit disharmony and personality conflicts with the Units, conflict resolution training can help members learn to solve many of the problems that damage the Auxiliary's reputation, discourage members and distract from our mission and purpose.

Some Units had problems but managed to work them out and thank you for that.

We have one new baby Unit in District 11 and will be receiving their Charter and new baby at Convention and working on another new Unit in District 12 and hopefully will receive their Charter and new baby at Convention as well.

In the near future we might have two more Baby Unit's, one in District 1 and another in District 7.

I want to thank Madam President Barbara White for this appointment.

For God & Country,
Jan Cushing
New Units/UD&R Chairman

This chairperson is extremely excited to report on the activities of the members of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Arizona. The members have been remarkably busy working this program.

The members of the Department of Arizona reported the following:

<u># Of Veterans Served</u>	<u># of Volunteer Hours</u>	<u>Donations</u>
24,058	100,203	\$251,167.38

These numbers are a great achievement. Units of the Department of Arizona worked extremely hard on the VA & R program and here are some highlights:

- A member that has been active since 2008 has been volunteering at the VA hospital and VA State Home in Tucson. She has volunteered over 4000 hours and has driven more than 20,000 miles to serve our AZ Veterans. She has been named the Female Volunteer of the year.
- Another Unit celebrated the 103rd birthday of a WWII Veteran with a parade and car show to thank him for his service.
- Several Units in the East Valley of Phoenix worked together to arrange an event to honor the victims of Agent Orange. Auxiliary Units worked together to make this event a celebration of service for those Veterans affected by Agent Orange. There was food and fun for everyone who attended. The Veterans were given gift cards and other items to honor their service.
- There were multiple Units throughout Arizona that celebrated the accomplishments of our female Veterans. Female Veterans are not always recognized; Units in Arizona have made it a point to celebrate our female Veterans and their service to the United States. Several luncheons and parties were held where our Arizona female Veterans were celebrated.
- Many Units provided funds for the USO at Sky Harbor Airport and also participated in send off and homecoming events for the Honor Flight Veterans.
- There are three Veteran's hospitals in Arizona which always host a Gift Shop. Every Unit in Arizona participated in providing for the Gift Shop events by either donating funds, shopping for supplies and gifts or working the event. The VA hospital in Tucson is still not allowing a gift shop event because of the covid pandemic. Units in Southern Arizona have produced a wonderful way to serve Veterans by providing a duffle bag with clothing, socks, toiletries and gift card for whatever else they would like or need. This is a great way to serve our Veterans even with restrictions in place.
- Arizona had a new State Home open up in 2022-2023 in Yuma. Every Unit in the state sent monetary contributions to the new State Home so the residents can enjoy their new

residence. As the Department President's special project (AZ State Homes), it has been a major focus for all Units to work diligently for this project. There is a new State Home opening in Flagstaff, AZ in the next few months. Members are gearing up to raise funds and collect donations to support this new State Home.

- Arizona only has one Fisher House, which is in Tucson, AZ. Members do frequent fundraisers to continue to support the Veterans and their families that need to utilize this facility.
- Homeless Veterans are a very prominent issue in Arizona. With our extreme heat issues in the summer, it is especially important that Auxiliary members provide water, food and shelter to these Veterans. There are many facilities in the state that focus on this issue. Members of the Auxiliary work diligently to raise funds and work with our communities to assist these Veterans.
- In February 2023, this chairman was able to attend the Washington, DC National Conference. American Legion Auxiliary National President Vickie Koutz asked the American Legion if the VA&R chairman from each Department could participate in the "March on the Hill" and was granted permission. What an honor for this chairman to have been invited to participate. This chairman was able to meet our Arizona congressional staff to help fight for the causes that the Legionnaires are supporting. This chairman was also honored to have attended the testimony of our National Commander Vincent J. "Jim" Troiola at the Joint Session of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs on March 1, 2023. This experience was awe inspiring and I will never forget it for the rest of my life.

In conclusion, it has been an honor to serve as the VA & R Chairperson for the State of Arizona for 2022-2023. This program can be overwhelming; there is so much that Auxiliary members do for our Veterans but there is so much more that we can do. I can only hope that the great work of our organization continues forever.

Respectfully submitted,

Stacey Mayberry

2nd Vice President, Department of Arizona

American Legion Auxiliary VA&R REPORT
TUCSON VA MEDICAL CENTER
4-30-23

The American Legion Auxiliary has been asked to do two events in April. We're very excited about this. The ALA will be hosting refreshments for events on April 17th & 18th for Polytrauma and the Director's office. We will also be hosting refreshments for a Creative Arts Awards Ceremony on May 3rd. Thank you Dawn Davidson for your help with these activities.

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 & Unit 66 for your generous donations. 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. Got to actually visit Ward W2 to see a Veteran that I know personally and deliver a robotic cat for his comfort during March.

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 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. VA funds can now be used to purchase the food and 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 66, 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 April 30, 2023 is \$8,450.94. 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, the Patriot Pantry 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 April 30, 2023 is \$21,017.23. 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 April 30, 2023 is 1,166.5. We have on-boarded two new volunteers whose hours will benefit the American Legion Auxiliary.

This chairman has volunteered 192.5 hours and logged 2,040 miles this year in service to the Tucson VA Medical Center as of April 30, 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

VAVS

BOB STUMP NORTHERN ARIZONA VETERANS HEALTH CARE CENTER

Greeting from up North! As of last week there were no reported covid cases at the VA! Masks are still required when visiting patients but otherwise we are mask free.

We continue with bingo but all volunteers have to be tested for covid prior to entering and if one tests positive the game is off! Not a problem this last time.

Our great volunteers are the heart and soul of the VA. They really appreciate all our time and efforts.

A big thank you to Trish Alljets for all her amazing assistance this past year.

The following list of hours is for 2022/23:

Total of all RS hours	236.75
Total occasional hours	0
Total All Hours	236.75
Total Monetary donation	\$2,495.00

May you all have a joyful and productive convention.

God bless all,

Juanita Moffitt

VAVS Representative

PRESCOTT ALA WHIPPLE CHRISTMAS GIFT SHOP
BOB STUMP NORTHERN ARIZONA VA HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

DECEMBER 14 & 15, 2022

Due to a spike in COVID 19 infections, we were not able to host the ALA gift shop distribution in 2022. With the help of Recreation Therapy staff, Veterans receiving treatment through the Domiciliary were given an expandable backpack filled with many useful items and treats, some of which could be used as gifts for family members. Members of American Legion 108 and the Auxiliary packed 106 backpacks with a fleece blanket, socks, hygiene supplies, stocking cap, \$5 gift card to the Canteen and treats.

Veterans in the Community Living Center received gifts of their choosing for which the chairman shopped. They also received a gift bag loaded with useful items and treats.

Each unit was also supplied with decorations and specialty cupcakes to make their distribution party special.

I would like to thank those units that supported us with donations this year: #4, #6, #14, #25, #40, #57, #62, #76, #78, #86, #108, #135, #57, #22, #25, 8th District American Legion and Auxiliary, and AL Post 108. A message from Cory Sanders, Lead Recreation Therapist, "Please let the ALA know how much they made the Veterans feel appreciated. All our Veterans are away from their families over this holiday season which makes this an extra difficult journey for them, but such thoughtfulness really helps! Thank You." I do hope that units will continue to step up and support the Whipple Gift Shop. Donations are accepted all year long so please consider helping us out. Monetary donations should be sent to Department, earmarked for Prescott.

NOTE: For those of you who would like to support the Prescott VA in other ways, our needs include all sizes colored long/short sleeve t shirts, sweatshirts, sweatpants, and hoodies. Also new Queen/Twin sheets, blankets, cleaning products, toilet paper, paper towels for those Veterans moving into housing. And Recreation Therapy staff always appreciate monetary donations or gift cards to places like Walmart, restaurants and movie theaters.

We are again accepting fleece blankets, quilts or afghans – PLEASE make them at least 60" x 72" and tightly knit/crocheted so that toes and fingers cannot get caught in the holes!

Items we do NOT need right now include socks, women clothing, and those tiny "hotel" size hygiene products.

Thank you for this appointment.

Patricia (Trish) Aljets

Chairman, Whipple Christmas Gift Shop