


**AMERICAN
LEGION**
AUXILIARY
Department of Arizona
Annual Report of District 7
2023-2024

Represented By:

Mark A. Moore Unit 3, Flagstaff; Cordova Unit 13, Williams; Swaskegame Unit 14, Kingman;
Golden Valley Unit 22; John Ivens Unit 42, Grand Canyon; Robert Fulton Unit 57, Ash Fork;
Robert A Eckert Unit 81, Lake Havasu City; Mohave Valley Unit 87, Bullhead City; Dolan Springs Unit 88;
Meadview Unit 103; Forrest C Longwell Unit 123, Seligman; Yucca Unit 136

District 7 covers all of Mohave County and parts of Yavapai and Coconino Counties. Units are spread from Meadview to Flagstaff (219 miles); from the Grand Canyon to Lake Havasu City (226 miles) and eight towns in between. Because of the distance it is often difficult for representatives from all of the units to be present at all District meetings.

Officers elected and appointed to serve the members of District 7 were: Rebecca Faris, President (14); Diane Gear, Vice President (81); Marlene Fowler, Chaplain (14); Lojray Alvarez, Historian (123); Deborah Tripp, Sergeant-at-Arms (14), and Laurie Bellizzi, Secretary/Treasurer (14). Those who finished the year as Unit Presidents/District Executive Committee members were: Ellen Hampton, Jr Past President; Wildean Rodriguez, Unit 3; Cathy Hart, Unit 13; Kristen Avila, Unit 14; Tammy Smith, Unit 22; Shannon Mead, Unit 42; Ricarda Gutierrez, Unit 57; Judy Harvey, Unit 81; Chris Rollin, Unit 87; Debbie Bibby, Unit 88; Carol Browning, Unit 103; Ellen Hampton, Unit 123; and Betty Noel, Unit 136.

The District's first meeting was held September 30 in Leupp, AZ with 17 in attendance. VP Gear informed the attendees of the new packets for membership and told of this year's membership slogan and challenges. Chaplain Fowler was pleased to announce that District 7 took the award for the District Prayer Book competition at the 2023 convention and requested members send her prayers for the 2023-24 book. President Faris highlighted information received at the officers' and chairmens' workshop held on July 29 held at Post 26 in Mesa. Yucca Unit 136 received the attendance plaque for the September meeting.

Department President Rose Ficklin made her official visit to the District on November 18 held at Post 14 in Kingman with 28 in attendance. VP Gear displayed a poster map of Arizona with sleds representing the Units' current membership in the Arizona Iditarod race. President Faris reported on the activities and information received at Fall Conference. Another guest in attendance was Shannon Mead, Department President's Special Project Chairman, who gave an overview of ALA AZ Girls State and the importance of this program. District 7 has an allotment of 16 eligible candidates and this President encouraged those Units to work hard to get girls appointed. Department President Ficklin thanked those who attended Fall Conference and announced that her goal for the special project is \$50,000 and that Department is working on making ALA AZ Girls State a 501.3(c) so they can get sponsors to offset the cost of the program. Lake Havasu City Unit 81 received the attendance plaque.

The January 27, 2024 meeting was held in Lake Havasu City with 43 in attendance. VP Gear reported an update of the District's membership with Unit 22 leading the sled race with 89.1% of their goal reached. She also reported that Unit 81 will be hosting an eight-hour mission training/leadership course on February 17. District President passed along information received from the Department and that she had already made four official visits to units, has four more scheduled, and is waiting to hear from the final four for dates. Nominations were held for the 2024-25 officers.

The final District 7 meeting for the year was held on April 20 in Williams with 43 attendees. The membership report by VP Gear showed Unit 22 at 120% of goal. Way to go, Golden Valley!! Historian Alvarez thanked the four Units that sent their meeting minutes to her for the history book

and Chaplain Fowler also thanked those who sent in prayers for the prayer book. Both are scheduled to be turned in at convention. Attendees were informed of the retirement of long-time Department Secretary/Treasurer Barbara Matteson. Final nominations were made for next year's officers, election held, and officers installed with the following elected/appointed for 2024-25: President, Ellen Hampton (123); Vice President, Diane Gear (81); Historian, Lorjay Alvarez (123); Chaplain, Marlene Fowler (14), Sgt-at-Arms, Deborah Tripp (14), and Secretary/Treasurer, Rebecca Faris (14). Ash Fork Unit 57 again won the attendance plaque for this meeting. Each Unit was then asked to state what they felt was their finest accomplishment this past year.

- Unit 3 Finally able to get two delegates to ALA AZ Girls State.
- Unit 13 The upcoming car show.
- Unit 14 Their PPP function that raised \$1,200 for nursing student scholarships.
- Unit 22 Donations of snacks and juices to the VA Infusion Center
- Unit 42 Providing support for a Jr. member who is receiving cancer treatment and donations of 1,200 hats and scarves to children in need.
- Unit 57 Serving 150 at the Veterans Day and Thanksgiving meals and their meat raffles for the Emergency Veterans Fund.
- Unit 81 Their 6th Annual Car and Bike Show raised over \$40,000 with 339 entries. This project finances their troop boxes.
- Unit 103 The Lady Veterans Tea and raffles to support local veterans.
- Unit 123 Got their Charter reinstated and members are being truly active. Looking for to receiving their Charter at this year's convention.

At all the meetings, a patriotic song was sung during opening ceremonies and a friendship song at the closing. The members generously "Filled the Bus" for the DPSP and will be donating \$600 at convention. This was a wonderful year for District 7 and this President truly enjoyed working with the officers and members. Only one Unit didn't get an official visit because of emergency surgery of the President on the day scheduled.

Rebecca Faris
District 7 President
2023-2024