

ELECTION

American Legion Auxiliary elects junior officers

By Marge Christianson

SPECIAL TO INDEPENDENT NEWSMEDIA

The American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Department of Arizona announced its honorary junior leadership team for 2017-18 as elected at the Junior Convention held in Glendale.

Emily Quigg, member of the Peoria John J. Morris Auxiliary unit, was elected President of the Arizona Junior Program. Ms. Quigg, 12, has been a member since 2013. She has held numerous positions at the local unit and state level, including poppy princess, Unit President, Department Historian and Chaplain. Based on her volunteer work with veterans and military, Ms. Quigg recently was selected as the Western United States Division Poppy Princess. Ms. Quigg attends Desert Springs Preparatory School in Scottsdale and will be attending junior high school next year.

Five honorary Junior members from the Travis L Williams Unit 65 in Phoenix were elected to leadership positions for the Department of Arizona ALA Junior program.

Each of these young ladies has held leadership positions at Unit 65 and each has participated in numerous programs, including UMOM, an organization that assists homeless families.

Aliya Coleman, 14, was



From left to right, Jasmine Perry, Stashanique Stewart, Alexis (Lexi) Coleman, Jan Cushing, Emily Quigg, Aliya Coleman, Jada Perry, Dayza Hernandez. [Courtesy of American Legion Auxiliary]

elected Department Vice President. Ms. Coleman attends Canyon Breeze Elementary School where she plays basketball, cheer leads, and is in the drama club. She is an active Junior member of Unit 65 and volunteers for programs that feed the homeless.

Alexis Coleman, 17, was elected Department Secretary. Ms. Coleman is a senior at West View High School. She is active in sports and dance and mentors younger ALA Junior members. .

Jasmine Perry, 16, was elected Historian. She is a sophomore at Washington High School.

Jada Perry, 14, was elected Sergeant at Arms. She also attends Washington High School.

Stashanique Stewart, 15, was elected Sergeant at Arms. Ms. Stewart is a sophomore at Pinnacle High

School. She is involved in Top Teen of America and is part of the Praise Team at her church.

Elected as Chaplain was Dayza Hernandez from the Tony F. Soza-Ray Martinez Unit 41 in Phoenix. Unit 41 recently won National accolades for their homeless lunch program.

“We are proud to have these young women as members of our organization—they represent not only our future, but the future of this country” said President Jan Cushing.

Also at the convention, nine honorary junior members received leadership certificates having demonstrating knowledge about the Auxiliary’s programs and activities. Plans for the coming year include a focus on the Auxiliary’s Patch Program. To earn a patch, participants must complete activities in cate-

gories such as Americanism, Community Service, Education and Leadership among others.

Engaging the next generation in the American Legion Auxiliary’s mission to support veterans, military and their families is the purpose of the Junior Activities Program. Junior Auxiliary membership is open to girls from infancy through age 17. The Junior Activities Committee prepares girls to become active adult volunteers by providing positive volunteer experiences that instill the ideals of the Auxiliary. These girls develop leadership skills while having fun. For more information, membership or volunteer opportunities, email aladeptazpr@gmail.com

Editor’s Note: Ms. Christianson is a Public Relations Volunteer for American Legion Auxiliary.