

# Hands to Help, Paws to Save

JANUARY 2025

**UNITS OWING MANDATES:**

1,5,8,9,12,16,19,24,25,26,34,37,41,44,46,51,53,54,58,66,68,69,84,87,88,97,114,117,125,129,133,136,140

**DISTRICTS OWING MANDATES: 4**

Units are reminded that per Page 12, ALA Policies and Procedures Manual, updated June 2024: **“Units not having their current District, Department and National Mandates paid thirty days prior to Department Convention shall not be entitled to vote.”**

**NATIONAL PRESIDENT’S VISIT:** National President Trish Ward will be visiting the Department of Arizona April 7 – 10, 2025. Plans are still in the works, but we will be taking her to the Flagstaff State Veterans Home, anyone wanting to come along is welcome. There will be dinners in her honor at Post 25 in Cottonwood on April 8<sup>th</sup> and a dinner at Post 107 on April 9<sup>th</sup>. If your unit would like a visit from her or would like to host a lunch or meet and greet, please let Rose know.

**PRESIDENT’S SPECIAL PROJECT:** President Stacey’s project this year is P.A.W.S.S. (Pup’s and Warriors Side by Side) Christine Rodriguez from Unit 117 is the PSP Chairman. You can reach her at, [Chrisrodz25@gmail.com](mailto:Chrisrodz25@gmail.com) if you want her to visit your Unit or District, or to get more information.

**MEMBERSHIP:** Membership is everyone’s job. Thank you to EVERYONE who renewed, recruited or rejoined members. 2025 membership renewals, rejoins and new members can be sent to the Department. Don’t hold on to membership, please send in weekly.

Make sure your Units **HLM Honorary Life Members** have all been processed on a transmittal.

**RENEW MEMBERSHIP BY PHONE or ONLINE:** Call National Headquarters at 317-569-4570 with your member ID and debit or credit card ready or [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org)

**FLAGSTAFF STATE VETERANS HOME:** Is open for business!!!!

Lojray Alvarez from Unit 123 is the chairman. If you are interested in volunteering, please email her at [mrs48csm@aol.com](mailto:mrs48csm@aol.com)

**POPPY:** If you didn’t pick up your poppies at fall conference, then they are available for pickup at Department HQ. If you want them mailed, please call for shipping rates.

**Unit Goals:** 100% Unit Award Deadline is January 31, 2025

The Office is open, and we are here to help. Office hours are Monday through Friday 7:00 a.m. to 4p.m. Evenings by appointment. (please don’t be afraid to ask).

Rose Ficklin  
Department Secretary/Treasurer  
[Secretary1@aladepaz.org](mailto:Secretary1@aladepaz.org)

Rae Hopf  
Department Membership Processor  
[membership@aladepaz.org](mailto:membership@aladepaz.org)



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

**AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND  
Contribution Form**

**PERSONAL INFORMATION**

*Please Type or Print*

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Member ID#: \_\_\_\_\_ Department of: \_\_\_\_\_

**PAYMENT INFORMATION**

**Payment Type:**

Check

**Check Number:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Check Amount:** \_\_\_\_\_

*Make check payable to: American Legion Auxiliary, National  
and indicate "AEF" in check memo*

Credit Card

**Type:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Name on Card:** \_\_\_\_\_

*MasterCard or Visa ONLY*

**CREDIT CARD NUMBER:** \_\_\_\_\_ **EXP. DATE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SIGNATURE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **DONATION AMT:** \_\_\_\_\_

**SEND THIS FORM TO:**

American Legion Auxiliary  
National Headquarters  
ATTN: Development  
3450 Founders Road  
Indianapolis, IN 46268  
Fax: (317)-569-4502

**QUESTIONS:**

(317) 569-4563 – Ask for Marti Drake  
or email: [aef@alaforveterans.org](mailto:aef@alaforveterans.org)

**ONLINE DONATIONS TO AUXILIARY EMERGENCY FUND:**

**<https://donate.legion-aux.org/CSiDonate/Give.aspx/QPOMDNR5#c>**

**The form is also available by texting "AEF" to (844) 940-3450**

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**ALL YEAR-END REPORT FORMS ARE  
NOW AVAILABLE IN TRADITIONAL AND FILLABLE FORMATS  
AT [aladeptaz.org](http://aladeptaz.org)  
MEMBER RESOURCES TAB #5  
under their proper program.  
Get a Junior to help print them for your Unit !!!**



**Chaplain Report January 2025**  
**January is National Security and Legislative Month**

Please go on-line to [aladep taz.org](http://aladep taz.org) to review the Chaplain packet from Fall Conference. If you have not started your prayer book the time is now! No matter what your religious beliefs is, all prayers are needed for a successful prayer book. I have asked Ruth Virgil-Kerr from Unit 115 and Wanda Amado from Unit 145 to assist me in preparing Stacey's Prayer book. Please contact us, with your prayers.

The link to the Year End report Forms is below, Please take a few minutes to look at the forms it will help you with your reports and for my report.

<https://nebula.wsimg.com/e00020c9131d105b0d32bae76ef6c92e?AccessKeyId=7183A42B060A47F6515F&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

**I am looking forward to receiving prayer submissions for Department President Mayberry prayer book.**

You can email them at [stephaniemcmullenala62az@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniemcmullenala62az@gmail.com) or bring them to me at Convention in June. A few things to remember: They must be signed; the prayers can be shared with your District Chaplain as well as yours truly me Department Chaplain. Encourage all your members' participation. Have a prayer book making party.

- Prayer calms our heart & mind
- Praying grows our trust
- Prayer provides guidance
- Prayer gives us perspective
- Prayer leads us to forgiveness

**Resources**

**Join the National Chaplain Facebook Page:** American Legion Auxiliary Chaplains

**Chaplains Manual:** This American Legion Auxiliary Chaplains Manual was created to aid ALA Chaplains.

**Chaplains' Prayer Book:** The prayers are a compilation of those submitted by Past Chaplains of the American Legion Auxiliary.

**Manual of Ceremonies:** This manual provides examples of suggested ceremonies for Unit meetings and special occasions.

If you know of someone who could benefit from a card or phone call, please let me know:  
Stephanie McMullen Chaplain, [stephaniemcmullenala62az@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniemcmullenala62az@gmail.com), (623) 910-4716



## Education January 2025



The 1st semester is already at an end! Each month I am focusing on one of the areas mentioned in the August newsletter. This month: **Assist and support veterans pursuing higher education and vocational education.**

There are a number of ways that Members and Units can assist veterans in furthering their education:

- Volunteer to collaborate with a Student Veterans of America chapter or other campus student veterans group at colleges and universities in your community.
- Sign up to receive The American Legion's Legislative Action Alerts, and support the alerts regarding the GI Bill.
- Arrange for your post home to be available for off-campus events/chapter meetings.
- Provide information/handouts to members on organizing and delivering presentations on career and life skills topics to student veterans.
- Promote events through local media and your Unit social media accounts.
- Promote the American Legion Auxiliary Non-Traditional Student Scholarship, available for students who are returning to the classroom after some period of time.

Please continue sending me updates on your Unit activities for the Education program. The year-end report form is posted on the Department website with the other chairmen's report forms.

I look forward to hearing how your Units promote the Auxiliary education programs throughout the school year.

In the Spirit of Service, not for self,  
For Veterans, God and Country,

*Julie Vietri*

Education Chairman  
Department of Arizona  
jvietri@msn.com  
480-495-1558

**Happy New Year!!!**

**Continuing the Policies and Procedures section on Finance below for the second installment on Finance:**

**The Department Finance Committee shall be set up as prescribed by the Constitution and Bylaws. The Department President and the National Executive Committeeman shall by virtue of office be members of the Department Finance Committee with vote. (89) Family members may not serve on the Department Finance Committee at the same time. Vacant positions on the Department Finance Committee when members leave an unexpired three-year term will be filled only at a regular or special meeting of the Department Executive Committee. (2006)**

**Budget The Department Finance Committee shall prepare the yearly budget. If they recommend that either Department dues or per capita be raised to produce a viable budget, both the old and new amounts are to be included in the Budget Proposal along with the bottom-line difference it will make in Income vs. Expenses for the coming fiscal year. Following ratification of a Budget by the Department Executive Committee and the Convention Delegates, the Finance Committee supervises the expenditures of the funds under the approved Budget. (2005) They shall set up the General Fund Budget and the Welfare Fund Budget. The Welfare funds are to be kept in a separate "paper" account and will provide for both Veterans' Rehabilitation and the Welfare of Veterans' Families. The Finance Committee is responsible for recommending each year the cost to Units for purchasing poppies and the amount paid to Veterans per poppy assembled. These will be approved in the Department Budget at Convention. (See "Poppy Making" under "Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation" this book.) (2005) (At Convention 2023 cost of poppies was set at \$15.00 per 100 beginning in 2024-2025.) The \$25 cash awards made to the Department winners of the Children of Warriors National Presidents Scholarship, Spirit of Youth Scholarship for Junior Members, and Non-Traditional Scholarship referred to under Education shall be a line item in the annual budget. (95)(2012)(2017)**

**The Finance Committee is responsible for considering annually the pay scale for any and/or all paid Department Employees. This is their only authority in reference to said employee. Any expenditures exceeding \$200.00 not provided for in the annual budget must have a written approval or rejection from the entire Executive**

**Committee. (2004) In case of a financial emergency which cannot wait for a specially called or regularly convened meeting of the Executive Committee, the Department President has the privilege of having a vote of the Executive Committee by regular letter, by email, or by a combination of the two. Each member of the Executive Committee must be contacted and a “hard” copy of the response to the question is to be kept for the record. A written report of committee members’ votes will be given at the next ensuing Executive Committee meeting and the results recorded in the meeting minutes. Only one item of business may be handled in each communication. (2016) Reimbursement for ground transportation may not exceed the lowest air fare available. Statement of air fare must accompany the mileage claim. Rate reimbursed per mile is determined by the Department Finance Committee on a yearly basis. (2008) Amounts voted by Convention action or as authorized by the Department Executive Committee which are special expenditures for the year, shall be taken from the revenue in the General Fund. The budget shall set forth an estimated yearly expenditure and the amount including the reserve shall not exceed the estimated amount of the yearly revenue. The Department Finance Chairman is responsible for securing the Girls State and Junior Department Meeting Budgets for approval by the Department Finance Committee. Any contract relative to the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona whether it be for meeting rooms, meals, equipment or the like shall be signed by the Department President and Department Finance Committee Chairman after approval of the entire Finance Committee. (2004)**

**To be continued in February....**

**Yolanda Bonilla, Chairman, 602-989-3321, [yodobo@msn.com](mailto:yodobo@msn.com)**

**Penny Maklary, Member, 520-364-5038, [ahhpenny@aol.com](mailto:ahhpenny@aol.com)**

**Barbara White, 602-908-2980, [barbara.white99gmail.com](mailto:barbara.white99gmail.com)**

**Members by Virtue of Office: Stacey Mayberry, President, NEC, Rose Ficklin, Sec/Tres. (no vote)**

**ALA Department of Arizona  
Finance Committee**

The following Units owe 2024-2025 mandates as of 1/2/2025:

1,3,5,8,9,12,16,19,24,25,26,30,34,37,41,44,46,51,52,53,54,58,66,68,69,84,87,88,90,91,97,107,  
114,117,125,139,133,136,140

Units are reminded that per Page 12, ALA Policies and Procedures Manual, updated June 2024:

“Units not having their current District, Department and National Mandates paid thirty days prior to Department Convention shall not be entitled to vote.”

**Yolanda Bonilla, Chairman, 602-989-3321, [yodobo@msn.com](mailto:yodobo@msn.com)**





# AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY FOUNDATION TO GIVE TWO AWARDS IN 2025

★ The Donor Champion Award will be given to the department that makes the largest per capita donation to the Foundation and the Veterans Champion Award will be awarded to the department with the most approved grants.

AWARDS WILL BE BASED  
ON GRANTS GIVEN AND  
DONATIONS RECEIVED FROM  
**JUNE 1 – MAY 31.**

AMERICAN  
**LEGION**  
AUXILIARY  
FOUNDATION

## NEW NATIONAL AWARD

Veterans Champion Award:

This award celebrates the outstanding department who has secured the most ALA Foundation grants to support veterans and military families in their state. This award includes Veteran Projects Fund grants and Veterans Creative Arts Festival grants awarded to ALA units, districts, and departments. By securing vital funding, these champions demonstrate unwavering support for initiatives that provide critical services, opportunities, and resources to veterans and their families.

### LET'S DO THIS ARIZONA!

Not sure if your idea qualifies? Need help?  
Contact Marge Christianson, AZ VA&R Chair  
763-234-9852  
alaunit62az@gmail.com



This honor is designed to recognize the incredible generosity and commitment of our ALA community. This award includes donations from units and individuals as well as the department itself that makes the largest per capita donation to the Foundation from June 1 – May 31.

This award celebrates the individual, unit, and department whose contributions, relative to their size, have made an outstanding impact. It highlights not just the scale of giving, but the spirit of collective generosity and the power of unity in supporting a shared cause.





**AZ Girls State Foundation has been approved for  
Fry's Rewards.**

To Use the Fry's Community Rewards Program visit <https://www.frysfood.com/>

Sign in or set up an Account  
Go to My Account  
Choose Community Rewards

Search for American Legion Auxiliary AZ Girls State Foundation either by name or  
PG305 and then click Enroll

**REMEMBER**, purchases will not count for our organization until after you register your *rewards* card. You must swipe your registered Fry's *rewards* card or use the phone number that is related to the registered Fry's *rewards* card when shopping for each purchase to count.

You are required to re-enroll your Fry's V.I.P Card on an annual basis.

**MANY THANKS TO FRY'S AND THE KROGER  
CORPORATION FOR MAKING IT POSSIBLE TO RAISE  
FUNDS FOR THE ARIZONA GIRLS STATE PROGRAM.**

## **Leadership/Arizona Mission Training**

**January 2025**

**I wish everyone a Happy and Wonderful New Year. Let us take a moment to reflect on what we have done for our Veterans and our Community in the past year. Were goals set and met? Let us continue to work on what we do best “Service not Self.”**

**Pam Seely, our Western Division Leadership Chairman has a “Word of the Month.” This month it is VISION: THE ABILITY TO THINK ABOUT OR PLAN THE FUTURE WITH IMAGINATION OR WISDOM. Check out “Wednesday Wisdom” postings on our Facebook page. [ALA Leadership Program/Facebook](#). There is useful information and helpful tips available to us.**

**We as members can think about and do what we see as our Unit’s vision. Do we want to focus on Veterans, Children & Youth or perhaps your Community. Our larger units can work many of the programs, while the small units may have to focus on certain areas and try to cover most areas. Continue your vision and REPORT!**

**Please check out the department website: [aladeptaz.org](http://aladeptaz.org) for scheduled Mission Trainings. Contact the chairperson listed if you wish to attend any of them. Requirements remain the same to schedule – 10 members signed up, \$10 each mailed to department 10 days prior to training.**

**Please contact me if you wish to schedule a training.**

**Karen Smith, Chairman (520) 249-1119 [ksmith111@cox.net](mailto:ksmith111@cox.net)**

**(As always, please text first if you are calling. Thanks!)**

## **SCHEDULED ARIZONA MISSION TRAINING EVENTS**

**2-22-25 Unit 41 Phoenix Virginia Romero**  
**602-551-5261 [vzromero0817@gmail.com](mailto:vzromero0817@gmail.com)**

**3-8-25 Unit 25 Cottonwood Dede Dexter**  
**546-370-0080 [deb Dexter2010@yahoo.com](mailto:deb Dexter2010@yahoo.com)**

**3-22-25 Unit 16 Bisbee Ria DuBois**  
**860-508-7330 [texasct2@gmail.com](mailto:texasct2@gmail.com)**

**3-29-25 Unit 62 Peoria Kathy Amery**  
**623-640-0134 [Luv2p8@gmail.com](mailto:Luv2p8@gmail.com)**

*Information added as available*

## MEMBERSHIP JANUARY 27, 2025

		UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	JUNIOR	SENIOR	TOTAL	PERCENT
		0100	Phoenix	171	2	137	139	81.29%
		<b>Total</b>		<b>171</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>81.29%</b>
	<b>Total</b>			<b>171</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>137</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>81.29%</b>
01		0019	Yuma	216	7	147	154	71.30%
		0046	Bouse	58	0	11	11	18.97%
		0056	Yuma	80	0	56	56	70.00%
		<b>Total</b>		<b>354</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>62.43%</b>
	<b>Total</b>			<b>354</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>214</b>	<b>221</b>	<b>62.43%</b>
02		0007	Tucson	45	0	33	33	73.33%
		0036	Tucson	279	3	185	188	67.38%
		0059	Tucson	145	3	98	101	69.66%
		0066	Green Valley	900	0	746	746	82.89%
		0068	Tucson	61	1	48	49	80.33%
		0073	Tucson	35	1	19	20	57.14%
		0109	Vail	390	10	326	336	86.15%
		0125	Tucson	16	0	0	0	0.00%
		0131	Green Valley	580	0	522	522	90.00%
		0132	Oro Valley	85	1	75	76	89.41%
		<b>Total</b>		<b>2536</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2052</b>	<b>2071</b>	<b>81.66%</b>
	<b>Total</b>			<b>2536</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>2052</b>	<b>2071</b>	<b>81.66%</b>
03		0011	Douglas	145	2	107	109	75.17%
		0016	Bisbee	64	0	31	31	48.44%
		0024	Tombstone	415	10	370	380	91.57%
		0045	Benson	50	0	30	30	60.00%
		0052	Sierra Vista	210	3	151	154	73.33%
		0141	Pearce	22	0	20	20	90.91%
		<b>Total</b>		<b>906</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>79.91%</b>
	<b>Total</b>			<b>906</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>709</b>	<b>724</b>	<b>79.91%</b>
04		0008	Casa Grande	35	0	17	17	48.57%
		0009	Florence	125	1	57	58	46.40%
		0051	Coolidge	70	0	2	2	2.86%
		0054	Coolidge	93	0	63	63	67.74%
		0097	San Tan Valley	40	1	29	30	75.00%
		0129	Queen Creek	21	0	11	11	52.38%
		0133	Maricopa	35	1	22	23	65.71%
		<b>Total</b>		<b>419</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>48.69%</b>
	<b>Total</b>			<b>419</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>48.69%</b>

05	0004	Globe	40	2	19	21	52.50%
	0028	Clifton	85	0	47	47	55.29%
	0032	Safford	155	0	106	106	68.39%
	0095	Solomon	82	5	66	71	86.59%
	<b>Total</b>		<b>362</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>67.68%</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>362</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>245</b>	<b>67.68%</b>	
06	0030	Springerville	90	0	72	72	80.00%
	0037	Holbrook	25	0	26	26	104.00%
	0069	Payson	130	0	45	45	34.62%
	0086	Overgaard	415	2	369	371	89.40%
	<b>Total</b>		<b>660</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>77.88%</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>660</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>512</b>	<b>514</b>	<b>77.88%</b>	
07	0003	Flagstaff	73	3	40	43	58.90%
	0013	Williams	50	2	43	45	90.00%
	0014	Kingman	145	2	99	101	69.66%
	0022	Golden Valley	150	4	114	118	78.67%
	0042	Grand Canyon	38	6	25	31	81.58%
	0057	Ash Fork	80	2	52	54	67.50%
	0081	Lake Havasu City	670	7	607	614	91.64%
	0087	Bullhead City	132	0	97	97	73.48%
	0088	Dolan Springs	10	0	25	25	250.00%
	0103	Meadview	43	0	40	40	93.02%
	0123	Seligman	40	0	21	21	52.50%
	0136	Yucca	15	0	10	10	66.67%
	<b>Total</b>		<b>1446</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1173</b>	<b>1199</b>	<b>82.92%</b>
<b>Total</b>		<b>1446</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>1173</b>	<b>1199</b>	<b>82.92%</b>	
08	0006	Prescott	263	5	226	231	87.83%
	0025	Cottonwood	306	6	231	237	77.45%
	0040	Chino Valley	95	0	75	75	78.95%
	0078	Humboldt	160	2	118	120	75.00%
	0079	Yarnell	183	0	140	140	76.50%
	0090	Black Canyon City	75	1	49	50	66.67%
	0093	Camp Verde	112	0	97	97	86.61%
	0108	Prescott Valley	38	1	25	26	68.42%
	0135	Cornville	47	8	29	37	78.72%
	0140	Prescott Valley	23	4	12	16	69.57%
<b>Total</b>		<b>1302</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1002</b>	<b>1029</b>	<b>79.03%</b>	
<b>Total</b>		<b>1302</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>1002</b>	<b>1029</b>	<b>79.03%</b>	

11	0001	Phoenix	127	0	24	24	18.90%
	0005	Phoenix	65	3	41	44	67.69%
	0012	Wickenburg	220	2	119	121	55.00%
	0029	Glendale	250	5	179	184	73.60%
	0053	Buckeye	30	0	30	30	100.00%
	0061	Avondale	215	2	185	187	86.98%
	0062	Peoria	1000	31	878	909	90.90%
	0105	Phoenix	215	7	210	217	100.93%
	0115	Glendale	35	2	19	21	60.00%
	0134	Phoenix	22	0	0	0	0.00%
	0145	Peoria	14	0	16	16	114.29%
	<b>Total</b>		<b>2193</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>1701</b>	<b>1753</b>	<b>79.94%</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>2193</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>1701</b>	<b>1753</b>	<b>79.94%</b>
12	0002	Tempe	111	1	88	89	80.18%
	0026	Mesa	235	2	197	199	84.68%
	0027	Apache Junction	1920	4	1659	1663	86.61%
	0034	Cave Creek	320	1	218	219	68.44%
	0035	Chandler	316	7	227	234	74.05%
	0039	Gilbert	520	10	458	468	90.00%
	0041	Phoenix	350	9	230	239	68.29%
	0044	Scottsdale	340	0	250	250	73.53%
	0058	Fountain Hills	405	8	364	372	91.85%
	0064	Phoenix	25	0	16	16	64.00%
	0065	Phoenix	350	12	218	230	65.71%
	0084	Sacaton	50	9	47	56	112.00%
	0091	Chandler	275	17	219	236	85.82%
	0107	Phoenix	210	2	172	174	82.86%
	0114	Scottsdale	25	0	3	3	12.00%
	0117	Phoenix	265	3	199	202	76.23%
	0124	Guadalupe	30	4	15	19	63.33%
0138	Mesa	54	0	75	75	138.89%	
	<b>Total</b>		<b>5801</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>4655</b>	<b>4744</b>	<b>81.78%</b>
<b>Total</b>			<b>5801</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>4655</b>	<b>4744</b>	<b>81.78%</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>Total</b>		<b>16150</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>12594</b>	<b>12843</b>	<b>79.52%</b>



**REORDER FORM FOR MEMBERSHIP SUPPLIES**

PLEASE COPY THIS FORM AS NEEDED AND FILL OUT COMPLETELY  
MAIL TO: AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA  
4701 N. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 100  
Phoenix, Arizona 85015  
**ATTENTION: SUPPLIES**

ALLOW 3-5 BUSINESS DAYS AFTER RECEIPT OF THE ORDER INTO DEPARTMENT OFFICE

Send to Name & Unit Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

**Select and Indicate Amount Needed**

Junior Activities Handbook (online download at National Auxiliary website or buy at Emblem Sales)

VA&R Rehab Guide (online download at National Auxiliary website or buy at Emblem Sales)

Emergency Fund \_\_\_\_\_

Auxiliary At A Glance (membership application) \_\_\_\_\_

The American Legion Family (all entities application) \_\_\_\_\_

Unit Guide Book (\$10.00 ea. plus shipping) \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Blank Cards 8 cards/sheet (\$1.00 per sheet) \_\_\_\_\_

Youth Programs \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*Youth Programs now include Girls State and Youth Activities

**Note:** The above supplies are free except for the membership cards and Guide Books. If you are asking for a bulk supply of these items, please order them from Emblem Sales. Any other items such as certificates, National Constitution and Bylaws and many other resources can be downloaded from legion-aux.org.  
**There will be no phone orders accepted.**



## Annual Reporting

*Submitted by Central Division Chairman Sue Hembrook*

### Why is it so important to report?

Reporting is important for so many reasons. By reporting, we can share with other units and even departments all that we have been able to accomplish. It also helps us realize that we have contributed significantly to our support of veteran issues. Submitting our time and talent numbers to Congress tells them that we are serious about our support of the issues that come before them. Our numbers matter, so do your best to provide an accurate accounting.

Many people sigh about reporting, but if we stay organized and maintain clear communication with our members, it doesn't have to feel overwhelming. Reporting is a collective responsibility, not just the task of those filling out the forms. Begin the process early, consider requesting figures monthly, or use whatever schedule works best for you.

### Each Department chairman must submit an annual report:

Department chairs' annual reports reflect the cumulative summary of units' mission service in the department. Each department Poppy Committee chair must submit a narrative report **via email** to their Division Poppy Committee chairman, plus a copy of the National Poppy Committee chairman, by May 15, 2025.

The annual report is separate from the submission for national award consideration and impact number reporting. However, department reports may be taken into consideration for national awards.

Photos (in a high-resolution format) that show unit mission Poppy Committee activities accompany these reports.

*Note: Individual members and units should follow their department's guidelines and deadlines.*

### Department Chairs' Annual Reporting Guidelines:

Department chairs' reports share the positive impact of our mission! They help us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Just three simple steps are needed to add your part to our national success story:

1. Department reports are limited to 1,000 words.
2. Provide details/examples about the activity. Be sure to include specific information such as unit name and number.
3. Submit your department chair report to your division and national chair with photos by email by May 15.
4. Photos should be in a high-resolution format (at least 300 DPI) or sent using the high-resolution option on your smartphone. When emailing the photo, select "actual size" for attaching to the email.

## Important Dates and Deadlines

**January 8<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 P.M. EST. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarterly Poppy Committee Meeting** - Department Chairs, Department Presidents, and Department Secretary are all encouraged to attend. Registration link: [https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/poppy\\_quarterly\\_meeting\\_registration](https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/poppy_quarterly_meeting_registration)

**May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Department Annual Reports Due** – Annual reports are due by email to the Division Chairman and National Chairman.

**June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025 Department and Unit Award Nomination Form Completed and Submitted** - <https://member.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>

## Resources

### National Poppy Facebook Group

Join us on Social Media for additional information and ideas. Do not forget to answer the questions!

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALAPoppy>

### Committee-Specific Reporting Guidelines:

As part of your narrative report, please include answers to the following questions:

- How have you promoted the Poppy Program and increased revenue?
- How have you educated your community on the meaning and the history of the poppy?
- How have you celebrated National Poppy Day? How have you increased the number of poppy makers in your community?
- How have you increased the number of poppy makers in your community?

January 2025

# PUBLIC RELATIONS

Ladies,

Great work so far this year with public relations. I have seen many wonderful articles in the papers as well as on Social Media. Please remember to share with me for our Department President Stacy's press book that I will give to her at Fall Conference in November of 2025.

We are getting close to our year end and please remember that your Annual Reports and National Award applications are due May 1st. Please send me those National Awards as soon as possible so we can get them in for sure. Please remember that the Department PR awards require a press book and a narrative (for one).

See the fall packet for more details on the awards for both Department and Nationals.

Remember that I will be doing certificates and perhaps something more for those who create new websites, facebook, and instagram pages and share them with me. Just a quick email to state you have created one between June 2024 and May 1, 2025. Please include the links so I can check and see all the fun new posts.

If you have any questions with reports, awards or creating those websites and social media pages please do not hesitate to reach out. I am always happy to help. Please be sure and leave a message if I do not answer and I will get back to you.

Have a safe and wonderful New Year!!

*Happy New Year*

**Shannon Mead, PR Chairman**  
**8938 W. Hilton Ave., Tolleson, AZ 85353**  
**623-521-1263 • shannonmead@live.com**

**Department of Arizona VA&R**  
**Western Division Progress Report**  
**Marge Christianson, Chairman**  
**January 5, 2025**

**Department Highlights:**

**VAMCs**

- Two completed Annual Joint Reviews show year-over-year increases in every category! Nearly 2000 aggregate volunteer hours were reported—a year over year increase of 140 hours/8% overall. Over \$20,000 in monetary donations were made, an increase of \$15,000, quadrupling the previous year!
- An ALA volunteer was voted Volunteer of the Year at the Tucson VA.
- A new VAVS Deputy representative for the Phoenix VAMC is in process of being certified.
- 236 Veterans participated in the 3 VCAF events held. All of these programs continue to grow!
- 510 Veterans and approximately 150 family members were served at the 3 Gift Shops held, including 50 robotic “Joy for All” pets provided to the veterans in the Phoenix memory care program.
- National Veterans Sports programs, Patriot Pantry, transportation needs and recreational activity donations for veterans were supported by the Department of Arizona to various VAMCs.

**State Homes**

- A 4<sup>th</sup> Veteran State Home (Flagstaff) was officially opened. The Department of Arizona purchased many games, including a handicap accessible pool table, for the facility and participated in a high-level round table with the Governor to discuss future veteran needs and plans.
- A Purple Heart Wall was established at the Yuma home. It commemorates the names and stories of all Purple Heart recipient residents as well as room for future recipients.
- Four custom therapeutic recliners and \$500 in movie tickets were delivered to the Phoenix State Home
- A plethora of new games, food and clothing (\$5,000) were delivered to the Tucson State home.
- Efforts to engage State Home veterans in the VCAF is underway with the VAMCs.

**External Like-minded organizations/Family support**

- Dept of AZ widely promoted Wreaths Across America to Arizona Units. The program was widely supported at the National Veterans Cemetery, the 3 State Veterans Cemeteries as well as local cemeteries. Unit 132 recruited 2,000 wreaths through their sponsorship group!
- The Department of Arizona’s President’s Special Project P.A.W.S.S. (Patriots and Warriors Side by Side) is an organization that provides training to veteran’s own dogs to become certified service dogs. The organization’s impact goes well beyond supporting the veteran—family members spoke at the Department’s Conference and it ignited a huge interest in support.

**Miscellaneous:**

- VA&R “job descriptions” are being updated to ensure all chairman for VAMCs, State Homes understand their roles, contacts, fiduciary obligations, etc.
- Department Policy & Procedures are being updated.

## **Some Details:**

### **Annual Joint Reviews**

- Both the Tucson and Prescott had modest increases in volunteer hours—driven primarily by occasional hours.
- In aggregate, monetary donations went from \$4,922 to \$20,500 (a 300% increase!!)
- In aggregate, in-kind donations went from \$25,181 to \$31,622 (a 25% increase).
- Phoenix has not yet completed an AJR, but a meeting has been set to discuss.

### **The Department of Arizona held 3 Veteran Creative Arts Festivals (at each VAMC in Arizona).**

The Phoenix VCAF had professional artists judge the works of 96 veterans, while everyone enjoyed art and snacks. People's Choice voting was a hit and the VAMC Director came to the award presentation. As a co-sponsoring organization, it was an honor to address all the attendees.

The Tucson VCAF had a "Wine Tasting" theme (really grape juice) that added an air of elegance to the artworks entered by 97 veterans. Veterans, guests, staff and volunteers enjoyed the charcuterie plate & "wine" while viewing the art. New this year were display boards, donated by the Auxiliary, for the Creative Writing submission which gave them far more visibility than just lying on tables. The winning art was then put on display at the Tucson Mall so the public could view it!

The Prescott VCAF was held for 3 days at the Yavapai County Fair for the second year with 43 veterans participating. The venue enabled far more "pedestrian" traffic than previous years. A beautiful "palette-designed" cake was served during the award presentation.

### **The Department of Arizona held 3 Gift Shops (in conjunction with each VAMC in Arizona).**

The Phoenix VAMC Gift Shop had three separate components which in aggregate served just over 200 veterans.

- Since the VA could not provide space that would accommodate a multiple day event, the primary traditional gift shop event was held for 3 days at nearby Post 1.
- A secondary event was held along with many other exhibitors, on the outdoor patio at the VAMC during the VA's one day annual "Veteran's Extravaganza". Extra garments were given to the Community Living Center for veterans who often come to them from a hospital stay without anything but a hospital gown.
- Finally, and perhaps the most rewarding, was the purchase of 50 robotic pets that went to memory care veterans (both at the VA and through their "At Home" program).

A traditional gift shop was held for 3 days at the Tucson VAMC and served 150 veterans and 114 veteran family members.

- Hospital wards, where veterans were mobile, were assigned timeslots for bringing veterans for their shopping experience.
- For those wards not mobile, gifts were brought to the ward and replenished as to sizes etc.
- Veterans associated with the VA's homeless program were selectively invited by hospital social workers to receive necessity items on the final day.

The Prescott VAMC gift shop served 160 veterans in a three-part single day event.

- It began with a party with Santa and Mrs. Claus, sparkling grape juice, cookies and visiting with the “mobile” veterans in the Community Living Center.
- ALA Volunteers then went to the memory care unit and room to room with treats, gifts and good cheer.
- That afternoon, there was an “assembly line” gift selection, along with food and entertainment, for those in the Domiciliary.

### **The Department of Arizona supported four State Homes**

The ALA & Yuma State Home unveiled the Purple Heart Commemorative wall celebrating the resident veterans honored. A local Unit donated a bench on the grounds, and held a holiday party fulfilling individual veteran gift wishes.

- Flagstaff State Home held an opening celebration which included the Governor, Veteran Services Director and other dignitaries. ALA Department NEC Ficklin attended a veteran’s roundtable to discuss future needs and plans.
- In addition to delivering new games, food and clothing, the ALA holds monthly birthday parties and held both a Holiday decorating party and holiday party for veterans at the Tucson State Home. Local Units and other Legion entities delivered 380 pairs of socks and 7 standard recliners.
- The Phoenix State Home was given \$500 in movie tickets in addition to the 5 custom therapeutic recliners. A local unit fulfilled resident gift wishes.

**Wreaths Across America** was promoted via the Department website and the popular Department Ring Your Bell Facebook page (which has 1,200 members). Units in Yuma, Marana, Safford, Bisbee, Heber-Overgaard, Scottsdale, and the entire Phoenix area participated (in addition to others not yet reported).

### **As always, Units in Arizona have been busy supporting our veterans.**

- Unit 107 held a “bachelor auction” to raise funds to the Phoenix VAMC.
- Unit 16 gathered warm clothing for veterans for the upcoming cold weather in southern Arizona.
- Unit 105 collected models, handmade quilts and cards for veterans.
- Unit 44 donated 85 scarves and \$4,000 to the cancer ward at the Phoenix VAMC and provided gifts to senior veterans.
- Unit 53 hosted art events for women veterans
- Auxiliary Units are supporting events like Stand downs and seminars in and out of their Post Homes.
- Junior members are distributing poppies and helping at fundraising pancake breakfasts.
- **AND SO MUCH MORE!**

American Legion Auxiliary VA&R REPORT  
TUCSON VA MEDICAL CENTER  
12-31-24

We are working very hard with the Recreation therapists to get our traditional events back up and running. We have wonderful volunteers for the second Saturday for Bingo at the Community Living Center but can use more help.

Ward W2 (Dementia Ward) in Building 60 is currently seeking twin size blankets for their patients (this is an ongoing need). They request that the blankets be different colors/patterns so each patient will recognize their personal blanket.

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 \$1,500. VA funds can now be used to purchase the food and different donors are shopping and delivering the items to SAVAHCS. There is also a Patriot Pantry program at the Sierra Vista CBOC.

ALA is working with CLC therapists on the need for a new Bingo machine and an interactive therapy machine. Both are large ticket items so donations will be appreciated.

The grand total of monetary donations for the American Legion Auxiliary for May 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 is \$5,251. Thank you Unit 131 and Unit 136 for your generous donations to support our programs.

The grand total of material and activity donations for the American Legion Auxiliary for May 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024 is \$18633.87. Thank you Unit 24, Unit 39, Unit 66, Unit 131 and Unit 73 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, 2024 to December 31, 2024 is 751.75. Twenty occasional volunteers have contributed 243.55 hours as of December 31, 2024. The Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE formerly Voluntary Service) is bringing back many volunteers

This chairman has volunteered 13 hours and logged 1,680 miles this year in service to the Tucson VA Medical Center as of December 31, 2024. This chairman has now logged over 4,880 hours in service to SAVAHCS. This chairman was privileged to present the honorary check to the directorship of SAVAHCS in the amount of \$2,199,900 representing value of volunteer hours and donation this past fiscal year. This chairman finished 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 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. 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. NVCA. Festival was held October 12 through October 15<sup>th</sup> with the first place winners going to Tucson Mall for display for a month. ALA purchased steel mesh screens for displaying entries. Annual Joint Review was held on November 26, 2024. VAVS Committee voted to support the Patriot Pantry, Building 95 Recreation and Fisher House with donations on July 31, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Szakonyi, VAVS Representative