

American Legion Auxiliary VA&R REPORT
TUCSON VA MEDICAL CENTER
4-29-24

Major changes to mask requirements have finally happened. 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. Creative Arts awards ceremony was held on March 21st to honor all of last year's medal winners and to promote participation for other Veterans. ALA provided refreshments. An Adaptive Sports Clinic was held for April 17th. ALA provided refreshments. We need volunteers for the third Wednesday for Bridging at Building 90. Please contact me if your Unit can 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. Thank you Unit 8, Unit 62 & 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.

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. Thank you Unit 66, Unit 73, Unit 131 and Unit 132 for your generous donations.

The grand total of monetary donations for the American Legion Auxiliary for May 1, 2023 to April 29, 2024 is \$1,352. Thank you Unit 32 for your generous donation to Fisher House.

The grand total of material and activity donations for the American Legion Auxiliary for May 1, 2023 to April 29, 2024 is \$20,219.63. Thank you Unit 62, Unit 73, 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, 2023 to April 29, 2024 is 1,580. Twelve occasional volunteers have contributed 114 hours as of April 29, 2024. We have on-boarded two new volunteers whose hours will benefit the American Legion Auxiliary. The Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE formerly Voluntary Service) is bringing back many volunteers. VA Female Volunteer of the Year is Marilyn Zabowsky, member of ALA Unit 36. ALA Deputy Dawn Davidson was nominated for the three year term on the VAVS Executive Committee with the election to be held on July 31, 2024.

This chairman has volunteered 201.5 hours and logged 2,480 miles this year in service to the Tucson VA Medical Center as of April 29, 2024. This chairman has now logged over 4,600 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 is finishing 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. National Creative Arts winners were announced in December. Tucson had four medal winners and we are planning a celebration with refreshments on March 21st. Unit 73 provided refreshments for this event. A NVCA virtual planning meeting was held on April 18th. Both Dawn Davidson & I to attended. NVCA Meet & greet is planned for May 21st. Annual Joint Review was completed November 28, 2023. VAVS Committee voted to support the Patriot Pantry with a donation of \$3,000 on October 25, 2023. Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Szakonyi, VAVS Representative