

## CREATIVE ARTS

SEPTEMBER 2024

Creative Arts offers opportunities for healing for the men and women who have sacrificed so much for our country by their participation in various mediums, such as painting, sculpture, leatherwork, jewelry, woodwork, creative writing, dance, and music. This program helps veterans cope with service-related trauma (PTSD) and physical disabilities. Some veterans suffer feelings which often lead to depression, anger, drug and alcohol abuse, and even suicide.

Programs such as provided through Creative Arts have shown to be effective in improving the health, well-being, and quality of life for veterans exposed to trauma, as well as their families and caregivers.

Veterans eligible to receive care through Department of Veteran Affairs and are enrolled at a VA Medical Center, Outpatient Clinic, or reside in a state veterans home. Creative Arts Festivals are held to showcase their talents and promotes the benefits of arts therapy. Arizona VA Hospitals plan festivals in Tucson, Prescott, and Phoenix. Plan to attend and be amazed at the talent of our veterans and feel rewarded that your donations make this rehabilitation program possible.

I attended the Arts Festival in Tucson on August 15, 2024, which had 97 wonderful entries. I was happy to meet and converse with several veterans regarding their works. I posted several photos on Ring Your Bell. Thank you Kathy Szakonyi and Dawn Davidson, for your hard work in the success of another Southern Arizona VA Health Care System Creative Arts Show.

The American Legion Auxiliary and Department of Veterans Affairs are the only two sponsors for this program. Funds raised by your Unit through dinners, raffles, craft shows, etc. will help our Veterans receive therapy to rebuild their emotional and physical health. When sending donations to Department, please specify it is for your local VA festival or it will be forwarded to the National Creative Arts Festival. Poppy funds can be also used for the Creative Arts Program.

Additional information can be found at [creativeartsfestival@va.gov](mailto:creativeartsfestival@va.gov).

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or a team member in your area:

Phoenix:	Anita Ritter, Chairman	<a href="mailto:Ritmar@cox.net">Ritmar@cox.net</a>
Prescott:	Sally Fine	<a href="mailto:mightfine123@gmail.com">mightfine123@gmail.com</a>
Tucson:	Kathy Szakonyi	<a href="mailto:N3SAD@aol.com">N3SAD@aol.com</a>

For God and Country.

Anita Ritter, Chairman  
8020 East Thomas Road, Unit 128,  
Scottsdale, AZ 85251-6668  
[Ritmar@cox.net](mailto:Ritmar@cox.net)  
602-679-1785