

Educating Tomorrow's Veterans Today

March 2024

Greetings from Department Headquarters.

The 2025 membership dues form is available on the Department website. If you will be increasing your unit membership dues, this form must be to Department on or before, April 1, 2024

Department has started working on issuing credits due to units for members who have paid online or by calling National. The Units will be receiving a live check with an explanation of why they are receiving the amount of money due to the Unit.

**IF UNITS DO NOT CASH THE CHECK WITH IN 90 DAYS
DEPARTMENT WILL NOT ISSUE ANOTHER CHECK UNLESS THE
ERROR IS ON END.**

Mandates: Thank you to the units who have paid Department mandates; *72% of the units have paid their mandates.*

The following units have NOT paid their mandates.

1, 3, 5, 8, 9, 16, 19, 22, 30, 37, 40, 46, 57, 61, 84, 88, 90, 97, 103, 107, 114, 125, 130, 141

REMINDER mandates must be paid 30 days before Department Convention, if not your unit will lose their right to vote at Department Convention

The 2024 mandates are available on the Department website.

If you have any questions regarding mandates, please call Department at 602-241-108.

Special Project: President Rose's Special Project this year is Girls State. Shannon Mead is the Special Project Chairman. If you would like Shannon to attend your Unit or District meeting or have any questions, contact Shannon at shannonmead@live.com or 623-521-1269.

Poppy: You can still order poppies; however, your Unit will not be eligible for Department awards because they were not ordered on or before September 30. The Poppy order form can be found on the Department website. (Member Resources --> 7. Special Forms)

Membership: "AZ-Diterod, Sledding to Our Goals 23-24". Membership is everyone's job. Thank you to EVERYONE who has renewed, recruited, or rejoined members. As of the writing of this bulletin, Arizona is 883 members above this time last year! THANK YOU to all who is working membership.

As of March 6, 2024, Arizona is in FIRST place in the Western Division. Keep up the awesome work. Our very own Jan Cushing, Western Division National Vice President, will be making Department visits. Let's show her Arizona is the BEST IN THE WEST!

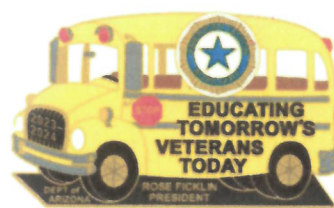
Don't hold on to membership, please send in weekly. One transmittal per envelope.

The weekly membership report is posted on Friday's

If your Unit would like full access to ALA MIS, the ALA MIS access form must be completed and sent to Department along with your payment. The form can be found on the Department website under Member Resources → 7. Special Forms

If you have ALA MIS access, thank you for entering your membership!

Renew Membership By Phone: Call National Headquarters at 317-569-4570 with your member ID and debit or credit card ready.



Barbara White
Interim Dept Secretary
secretary1@aladeptaz.org

Rae Hopf
Dept Membership Processor
membership@aladeptaz.org

2024 Directory Updates

District 6

President position is currently open.

Unit 8

Correct PO Box number is 10224

Unit 24

New mailing address

PO Box 624

Tombstone AZ 85635

Unit 51

Mailing address city is Coolidge

President

Rechelle Jackson

520-340-0823

Jackson.rechelle74@gmail.com

Secretary

Maria Pablo

480-688-9072

Nakshel75@gmail.com

Membership

Gina Thomas - Enos

520-483-6175

gthomasenos@gmail.com

Unit 52 Membership Chair

Jamie Callaghan

520-266-2651

jaimecallaghan@hotmail.com

Unit 53

Vice President

Dottie Madsen

Secretary

LeAnn Baukol

leannbaukol@gmail.com

Unit 88

President Cynthia Anderson

702-908-1462

Unit 109

Membership name change. Tracy Goodwin to Tracy KOSTER.
Tkoster0422@gmail.com

Unit 123

Membership Chairman

Kristine Wood
PO Box 1206
Ash Fork AZ 86320-1206

Unit 136

Correct PO Box number is 432

President

Betty Noel
619-733-6039
rbnoel@att.net

Secretary

Helen Hammond
602-568-3198
Helen.hammond@gcu.edu

MARCH 2024

Hello Department of Arizona,

I can't believe it's March already, this year has zipped by. I want to thank all the Units that have invited me to come and take part in meetings, and events so far this year. I really enjoyed myself. Pretty much every weekend is booked with events and Unit visits until Convention. Whew...

I would like to tell everyone, that we have made a personnel change at Department. Rae Hopf is our new Membership Processor, so if there is an issue with your membership, please email her at membership@aladeptaz.org

There is a flyer/sign up sheet for the National President's dinner at Post 26 on March 23rd. Please get it turned in as soon as possible.

President Lisa requested; In lieu of personal gifts, please donate to the American Legion Auxiliary's greatest funding need, the Spirit of Youth Scholarship program. To do so, go to alaforveterans.org sign in, go to Committee's, and click on Education, scroll down and there will be a donate button.

Detachment Commander Chris "Baz" Balsley and I will be having a combined Homecoming Dinner at Post 26 on April 13th. Please mark your calendars, and the flyer/sign up sheet, is on the website.

Until next month....

Rose

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S VISIT

MARCH 20 – 24, 2024

March 20th

12:00pm – National President arrives in Phoenix.

12:00- 5:00pm - personal time/ALA business

5:00 pm – Leave for Yuma

9:00 pm – Shilo Inn Yuma, AZ

March 21st

10:00 am – Arizona State Veterans Home Yuma Meet and Greet, tour of facility, and lunch with residents.

2:00 pm – Shilo Inn

4 pm – 9 pm – American Legion Post 56 Dinner in Honor of President Lisa

March 22nd

10 am - tour Yuma Territorial Prison

12 pm – Head to Mesa Hotel Courtyard by Marriott 1221 S Westwood Mesa

March 23rd

5:30am - Leave Hotel

6:00 am – Arrive Piestewa Fallen Heroes Memorial Service Piestewa Peak Phx.

10:30 am - Brunch American Legion Post 117

2:30 pm - Hotel

March 23rd con't

4:30 – 9:30 – American Legion Post 26 Dinner in President Lisa's Honor

March 24th

6:00 am – Leave for Airport

All events are open to any member that wishes to join us. Please contact Kim Woodward at Unit 56 to RSVP for that Dinner and Mary Dunn at Unit 26 for the Dinner there. Please RSVP to Christine Rodriguez at Unit 117 for the Brunch, all numbers are in the directory.



**Chaplain Report February 2024
March is Community Service**



March Madness Prayer Book Time, I hope by now you have stated your prayer books and they are more than half way completed. If you haven't started your prayer book yet and having trouble getting started this bulletin will help you jump start your creative side.

The fall conference packet to the Chaplains is attached to the Chaplain Bulletin located on our website <https://www.aladeptaz.org/5.--monthly-bulletins---program-information.html> . Find Chaplain Lynda you have National Chaplain Resources and November 2023 and Fall Conference 2023. Everything you need in one Click.

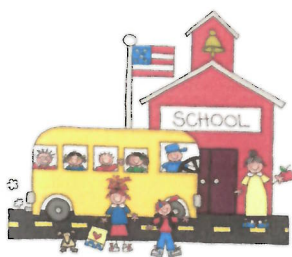
- Get your junior's involved in helping you put a prayer scrapbook together.
- Working with our youth, middle age, and Senior's we can all learn from each other.
- Did you know you can also use the same prayers you use for your units can also be sent to yours truly me for your Department President Rose Ficklin Prayer books.

Provide ideas for "Universal" prayers such as:

- Help my friend who is: struggling in her family life, recently lost a love one
- Forgive me for doubting you, hurting another
- Be with me when I doubt my abilities, when others hurt me.
- Help me to be more patient person, achieve my goals, put my faith in you
- The prayer will become part of their Unit President's prayer book, and potentially include in the District or Department President's Prayer Book. As them to print as neatly and legibly as possible, sign and date the prayer, adding any position they may hold in the Auxiliary.

Chaplains: Check out the prayer books rules at [www.aladeptaz.org](https://www.aladeptaz.org/5.--monthly-bulletins---program-information.html) website:
<https://www.aladeptaz.org/5.--monthly-bulletins---program-information.html>

If you know of someone who could benefit from a card or phone call, please let me know:
Lynda Griffin Chaplain, Lynda4ala@gmail.com, (623) 349-3979
My new Motto for 2024 "Better Together"



Education March 2024



The 2nd semester is under way! Each month I am focusing on one of the areas mentioned in the August newsletter. This month: **Assist and support military children with educational opportunities.**

There are several ways that Members and Units can assist military children with educational opportunities:

- Identify and reach out to military children in your local classrooms.
- Encourage Junior members to contact their school guidance counselor and volunteer to be a mentor to new military children at their school.
- Offer individual tutoring/assistance to a military child who is struggling.
- Provide your local school with a copy of the *Educator's Guide to the Military Child During Deployment*:
[Educator's Guide to the Military Child During Deployment | National Center on Safe Supportive Learning Environments \(NCSSLE\)](#)
- Inform schools of a free tutoring website for military children: [Free Tutoring for Military Spouses & Families - Tutor.com & more \(mymilitarybenefits.com\)](#)
- Assist schools in working with military children. Resources are available at www.militarychild.org
- Organize a classroom recognition event for military children to share the accomplishments of their relative who is serving.

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

ALA Arizona, its Spring! And just a quick reminder that Department Convention is just around the corner in June.

Per Policies and Procedures page 25, "Unit Related Finance Policies", you are reminded that Mandates are to be paid no later than 30 days prior to Department Convention, and if not paid your Unit will lose voting privileges at Department Convention.

The following Units owe mandates as of February 15, 2024:

1,3,5,8,9,16,19,22,30,37,40,46,57,61,78,84,88,90,97,103,114,125,130,141

Please make arrangements to meet Financial Obligations as soon as possible.

Here's some quick items to help Treasurers:

Your Unit is incorporated as a 501(c)(19) – Veterans Organization classification for tax exempt purposes .

Work on next year budgets. Review yearly expenditures and be sure to allow for price increases. When reviewing your budget visit your filing system. Have you outgrown an old system? Is it time to scan receipts, checks, invoices and set up on a thumb drive?

Remember the all-important Record Retention Policy:

Accounts Receivables/Payable, Budgets,

Internal Audits, Check Registers

- 7 years plus the current year

Bank Statement/Reconciliations

-10 years plus the current year

Please any questions or comments, please feel free to ask.

Yolanda Bonilla, Chairman, 602-989-3321, yodobo@msn.com

Penny Maklary, Member, 520-364-5038, ahhpenny@aol.com

Helen Griffin, Member, 602-478-4909, hgriffin6868@gmail.com

Members by Virtue of Office: Rose Ficklin, President, Barbara White, NEC, Barbara Matteson, Sec/Tres. (no vote)

History--March 2024

Are you making headway on your History Book? Here is a refresher!

- A Appearance – 10 points**
1. Cover: Soft cover binder for loose-leaf paper, preferably blue with 2.5 inch gold foil American Legion Auxiliary seal centered on the cover or a regulation binder with imprinted seal.
 2. Paper: Plain white, 8 ½ x 11 inches.
 3. Page Setup:
 - a. Margins – Left and right margins should be 1.25 inches; top and bottom margins should be 1 inch.
 - b. Pagination – Page numbers should begin on the first page of the Historical Content. They should be centered and placed 0.5 inches from the bottom of the page.
 - c. Spacing: Double-spaced with the exception of the introductory pages. (i.e. Title Page, Foreword or Dedication...), which shall be centered in the middle of the page. Paragraphs may be indented or in block form.
 - d. Text: 12 point font. Times New Roman or Arial Style font. Paragraphs may be indented or in block form.
 - e. Technology: Computer preferred, however a typewritten or handwritten history is permissible. If typewritten or handwritten, the page set up should not vary from what is required of computer users.
- B Arrangement – 10 points**
1. Written in third person.
 2. Clear, concise language with correct spelling.
 3. No decorations, computer graphics, pen or ink drawings, illustrations, extra materials, or newspaper clippings.
 4. Be original and unique in thought and presentation.
- C Introduction – 10 points**
1. Title Page:
 - a. History of Unit (Name and Number).
 - b. Department of Arizona.
 - c. Date (20__ - 20__).
 - d. Total Membership: _____
 - e. Unit Historian Name and Address should be in the lower right hand corner of this page.
 2. Foreword or Dedication.
 3. Photograph of Unit President (optional), (if used, 5x7 black and white or color).
 4. Prayer.
 5. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.
 6. First verse of the "Star Spangled Banner".
 7. Preamble to the Constitution of the American Legion Auxiliary.
- D Historical Content – 70 points**
1. List of elected and/or appointed Unit Officers for current administrative year.
 2. List of Unit Chairmen and committee appointments for current administrative year.
 3. List of Department Officers and Chairmanships held by Unit members.
 4. List Department Awards and Citations won by the Unit at the previous Department Convention.
 5. The History shall be written as factual narrative in chronological order of events beginning with the Installation of Unit Officers at Department Convention and follow through the end of the administrative year as closely as possible.
 6. The signature block of the Unit President and Unit Historian on the last page, placed under the end of the last paragraph of the history.
 7. Index (optional).

History books are due no later than noon Friday at Department Convention!

Questions? Comments?

Marge Christianson, Dept Historian. (763) 234-9852--call or text; alaunit62az@gmail.com

Leadership/Arizona Mission Training

March 2024

“Educating Tomorrow’s Veterans Today”

Greetings to all, as we begin the last quarter of our year. **A Reminder** that reports are due in all programs by **May 1st**. Leadership reports may be sent to me by email or regular mail. My address is at the end of this page.

Last month I included the **Unit Member of the Year** criteria, this month is the **LaVan Erickson** Leadership Plaque.

LaVan Erickson Leadership Plaque

Rules:

1. Any Unit in the Department of Arizona may receive this plaque.
2. The plaque shall become the permanent property of the Unit willing it three (3) consecutive years. The permanent winner will place another plaque in the Department for competition, rules and name remaining the same.
3. Engraving should include the Unit Chairman’s name, Unit number and year of winning.
4. The Department Leadership Chairman will judge the entries and award this plaque.

Basis of Award:

1. The greatest percent of Unit members, Seniors, Juniors and Legionnaires attending the Seminar.
2. A narrative report of no more than 1,000 words. Include number of Leadership sessions held in your Unit meetings, include materials used and their sources. Do not include pictures, clippings, scrapbook, folders of any kind.
3. All entries to be sent to Department Leadership Chairman by the due date set annually at the Officers and Chairman meeting at the beginning of the program year.

I hope that this will help your Units and Unit Chairmen as you begin to work on your reports. If you have any questions, please text and I will return your call.

“Together everyone achieves more”

Karen Smith, Chairman
1133 Carmelita Drive

520-249-1119
Sierra Vista, AZ

ksmith111@cox.net
85635

Legislative Update

March 2024

I was able to attend the National Legislative Zoom meeting last month. The focus and topic of discussion was the upcoming conference in Washington. The Washington Conference is being held from February 23-28 and Legion and Auxiliary members will be attending special workshops in addition to meeting with legislative members from their states. The priority agenda although not available at this writing, will be able to found at this link

<https://www.legion.org/washingtonconference/legislativepriorities>. However, the National Commander will not be testifying before congress until later in March.

Our elected are working again. Taking care of the military families is a focus in this next session.

The Military Family Protection from Debt Act (H.R. 5190) was introduced by Congressman Andy Kim (D-NJ-3) in August of 2023. The bill aims to ensure that the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, which caps interest rates for servicemembers at 6%, can be extended to both military spouses and dependents.

The Military Spouse Hiring Act (H.R. 1277/S. 596), which has the support of 143 lawmakers in the House and 47 in the Senate, also aims to support the military families who are critical to the readiness of servicemembers. ***The Military Spouse Hiring Act would amend tax code, allowing business to receive the Work Opportunity Tax Credit when they hire military spouses.***

A big push this last month for the American legion was the **Afghan Adjustment Act**



**Legion Staff, National Security Chairman, Matthew Shuman
and Senator Amy Klobuchar at a press conference for Afghan Adjustment**

Reporting is coming soon so be sure to encourage your Units to reach out and support these bills. It is so easy these days with the click of a button. Next month we will talk about reporting.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out!

Kathy Amery

Department Legislative Chair 2023-2024

Luv2p8@gmail.com or 623.640.0134

The American Legion is the voice of U.S. military veterans and servicemembers. A resolution-based organization, The American Legion's positions represent the views of its nearly 1.6 million members and shape the organization's legislative priorities for the 118th Congress:

Suicide Prevention & Mental Health

Suicide remains a top issue in the veteran community. The suicide rate among veterans is nearly double that of civilian counterparts. It is imperative that we simultaneously destigmatize mental health assistance, while increasing access. The American Legion encourages Congress to robustly fund VA's suicide prevention outreach budget and peer support programs. We encourage all Americans to "Be the One" who is willing, ready, and able to have a difficult conversation about suicide and other mental health issues.

PTC Joseph P. Dwyer Peer Support Program (H.R. 2768)

VA Zero Suicide Demonstration Act (H.R. 16339)

Alternative Treatments

Data from the National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH) shows that in 2021, approximately 2.8 million veterans experienced an illicit drug or alcohol use disorder, with 92.4 percent not receiving treatment. More must be done to ensure veterans have access to the effective treatments they desire. This includes expanding research and access into alternative treatments and emerging therapies.

TBI and PTSD Treatment Act (H.R. 1051)

VA Healthcare Modernization

The biggest issue in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Healthcare Modernization is the implementation of the new electronic health record modernization program (EHRM). VA has experienced difficulties as the EHRM rollout has progressed. Some

issues identified were the differences in the training software compared to end-user software, along with inexperienced instructors providing the training to VA staff. VA made improvements on these identified issues. As the EHRM rollout is set to resume in 2024, The American Legion continues to call on Congress to provide oversight and to hold VA and other relevant parties accountable for the implementation and functioning of the EHR system.

The Department of Veterans Affairs Electronic Health Record Modernization Improvement Act (H.R. 592)

PACT Act: Implementation & Oversight

Since the implementation of Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics (PACT) Act, VA has screened more than 5 million veterans for toxic exposure. The average time to complete a PACT Act-related claim is 157 days. It is imperative that VA fully leverage the resources made available in the PACT Act to assist in the continued modernization of Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) information technology systems as well as the hiring of additional employees to ensure claims are adjudicated in a timely manner. The American Legion urges Congress to provide the necessary oversight and funding to ensure VA has the resources to properly implement this legislation.

Safeguard Veteran Benefits

Veterans are facing a growing threat from exploitative entities aiming to capitalize on the benefits rightfully earned through military service. These predatory actors range from claims companies charging exorbitant fees to lawyers seeking sizable portions of VA disability benefit payments. The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation to: restore criminal penalties for persons or companies that represent or charge veterans fees to file, prepare or prosecute initial VA claims without VA accreditation, and to oppose any legislation that would allow unaccredited parties to become legal representatives without completing the accreditation process. The American Legion's advocacy role remains focused on safeguarding the well-deserved benefits of those who have served.

Veterans Benefits Improvement Act (H.R. 1530)

Concurrent Receipt

There are currently 42,000 military retirees with combat-related injuries who are eligible for retirement pay from the Department of Defense (DOD) and compensation for service-connected disabilities from the VA. However, retired veterans with a disability rating below 50 percent have their VA compensation deducted from their DOD retirement pay. The American Legion strongly supports ending this inequitable policy, where many military retirees must forfeit their retired pay to receive equal amounts of disability compensation.

The Richard Star Act (H.R. 1282)

Guard & Reserve GI Bill Parity

National Guard and Reserve servicemembers are being deprived of education benefits that active-duty servicemembers enjoy, despite completing the same duties. According to current law, National Guard and Reserve servicemembers only accrue GI Bill entitlement when called to active duty under federal orders. When Guard and Reserve servicemembers are activated under state orders, they do not accrue eligibility for Post 9/11 GI Bill benefits like their active-duty counterparts do. The American Legion believes that every day in uniform counts and urges Congress to recognize the service of Guard and Reserve servicemembers as eligible for the GI Bill.

GI Bill for Honorable Service

To receive most VA benefits, a veteran's character of discharge or service must be "under honorable conditions." However, GI Bill education assistance benefits have a requirement that servicemembers receive an "honorable discharge." If the character of service is "general under honorable conditions," this benefit remains out of reach for these veterans. The American Legion urges Congress to correct this statutory incongruity by amending U.S. Code to allow access to VA educational assistance to veterans with general under honorable conditions discharges.

Military Quality of Life

The U.S. military's greatest resources are servicemembers and their families. Without highly qualified and committed men and women, even the most sophisticated weaponry will not provide the deterrence necessary to defend our nation. Factors contributing to quality of life include proper compensation, appropriate housing, quality healthcare, reasonably priced commissaries, and access to childcare services. The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation to expand access to affordable childcare, increase appropriations for military construction projects (including barracks and family housing), and ensuring timely access to mental healthcare.

Military Housing Readiness Council Act (S. 2047)

Pay the Coast Guard

U.S. Coast Guard personnel carry out vital national security missions. Still, because the Coast Guard is under the Department of Homeland Security instead of DOD, its members are more likely to experience pay interruptions during prolonged government shutdowns. The common threat of shutdowns brings severe and unnecessary hardship on these men, women, and their families. The American Legion urges Congress to pass legislation that would guarantee that Coast Guard personnel are paid in case of a shutdown.

Pay Our Coast Guard Parity Act (H.R. 2693)

Access to healthcare for overseas military and families

Military personnel stationed overseas in support of U.S. interests and our alliances provide a key role in deterring adversaries from a myriad of actions. However, even after the realignment of medical services in overseas and remote locations under the Defense Health Agency (DHA), major issues involving access to various types of healthcare continue. Additionally, the lack of access to certain types of care limits overseas assignments and contributes to military families being separated for extended periods of time.

Health Care Fairness for Military Families Act (H.R. 1045)

Improving the military TAP

The American Legion urges Congress to direct the modernization of Transition Assistance Program (TAP) delivery using technology and performance data to ensure the DOD delivers a successful program. The creation of a mobile application, providing servicemembers with an extensive toolkit of on-demand transition-related content would improve participation and increase the benefit of transition resources available. Delivering effective transition assistance will ensure a veteran's proper reintegration from active duty to civilian life and reduce negative experiences. Improved TAP instruction will support our servicemembers in finding education, employment, and entrepreneurship opportunities and send successful citizens back to our communities.

VET/TEC Authorization Act of 2023 (H.R. 1669)

Protect the American Flag

The American Legion urges Congress to approve an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would allow Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the U.S. flag. Additionally, The American Legion urges Congress to pass the Flag Code Modernization Act of 2021 to amend the U.S. Flag Code to codify common patriotic customs and practices as described in The American Legion Resolution No. 19: Flag Code Amendment.

Senate Joint Resolution 34

The American Legion's Grassroots Action Center

Scan the QR code to visit
The American Legion's
Grassroots Action Center



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LEGION**

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LEGION

The American Legion Legislative Agenda

For the 118th Congress, 2nd Session

To receive most VA benefits, a veteran's character of discharge or service must be "under honorable conditions." However, GI Bill education assistance benefits have a requirement that servicemembers receive an "honorable discharge." If the character of service is "general under honorable conditions," this benefit remains out of reach for these veterans. The American Legion urges Congress to correct this statutory incongruity by amending U.S. Code to allow access to VA educational assistance to veterans with general under honorable conditions discharges.

MEMBERSHIP BULLETIN

MARCH 2024

It's been a while since I've submitted a bulletin as I've been posting membership standings (Department and National) on Ring Your Bell on Facebook. If you're not a member of Ring Your Bell I highly suggest you sign up so you are up to date on all the "goings-on" with the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona. Here are some updates -

1. ALAMIS – the form is on our website www.aladeptaz.org under the Membership tab:

Each Unit and District is eligible to have up to two ALAMIS (ALA Membership Information System) users. The cost of ALAMIS is set by National. Only members that are paid up for the current year will be given access to ALAMIS.

Type of Access	Benefits	Cost per User
Unit Full Access	Pay Dues Online, Rejoin Former Members, Edit member data, Add new Members for your Unit	\$20
Unit Write Access	Edit Member Data and Add New Members for your Unit	\$15
Unit View Access	View your Unit, No Change Capabilities	\$10
District View Access	View All Units, No Change – limited to Dist Presidents Only	\$10

If you have requested Full Access and are still experiencing issues, please contact Department or me to find out what is holding up your full access. All full access applications have been reviewed and updated at this point so if you have followed all the directions and completed the training and still don't have full access, your membership chairman and team will find out what is going on and let you know.

2. Transmittals – Please, please, please - Only send one transmittal sheet per envelope. Each transmittal has 25 lines per sheet and you can mark renewal, new, rejoin on the transmittal; you do not need to split them but please make sure you are marking the appropriate year. **IMPORTANT: If the transmittal has ONE application/renewal that can't be processed due to whatever issue (illegible, incorrect information, etc.) THE ENTIRE TRANSMITTAL WILL BE RETURNED TO YOUR UNIT FOR CLARIFICATION.** This means that if you have 10 good applications/renewals and one bad one, the 10 good ones will go back to your Unit to have the ONE fixed and your Unit will need to resubmit it. This holds up processing so before you send your transmittals ensure that every line item can be processed.
3. Do NOT hold membership – it is important that you are sending in your membership transmittals **WEEKLY AT A MINIMUM**. Let me repeat that **WEEKLY AT A MINIMUM**.

4. Challenges:

- a. At the Department Officer and Chairman's meeting July 29, 2023, there were some challenges put on the table!
 - i. District 12 challenges District 11 – highest percentage by 12-7-2023 - \$50.00 to President's Special Project – **District 12 WINS!**
 - ii. Unit 41 challenges Unit 65 – highest percentage by November 11, 2023 - \$50.00 to President's Special Project – Need to check membership report to confirm winner.
- b. A special challenge on the table to ALL Units – If the Department of AZ makes 100% goal by 4-1-2023 our Madam President Rose will wear a dress during her processional at Department Convention! C'mon members! We got a special treat at this last Convention with her beautiful costume for her floor remarks but WE ALL want to see her strut her stuff in a dress at our next Convention! We can do it... I know I want to see that 😊 **Update: Arizona is at 94.29% with National and in 2nd Place, just behind Department of Florida. I need to see Rose in a dress...**
- c. The Western Division challenges with Department of Alaska and Department of New Mexico are listed in the Membership Package on the Department website.
Update: Arizona won both challenges!

5. Congratulations to all of the Units that have hit 100% so far. You are awesome! If your Unit is struggling to get their membership processed, let me know.

I know this is a long bulletin but there is so much information that goes along with membership. Please take the time to share with your Unit members and especially your membership chairman.

Please don't hesitate to reach out to me. My contact information is below. I work full time so I may not always be able to answer a call during work hours but I will return your call if you leave a voicemail. You can also text or email me at any time. My contact information is below.

Thank you for all you do!

Stacey Mayberry
Vice President/Membership Chairman
Department of Arizona
702-403-4903
mayberry.stacey@gmail.com



March 2024

American Legion Auxiliary
Department of Arizona
MUSIC REPORT 2023-2024

Greetings Musicophiles (“music lovers”),

Please continue to promote music within your Unit and Post. Let’s get the love of music out to everyone. Use your imagination and spread the love of music and our Country. Together, we’ve got the music in us!. Turn other people on to music. Here’s a suggestion to use your talents as a fund raiser. This could add to your President’s Special Project , Girl’s State. Speaking of Girl’s State, did you know Girl’s State has a “Glee Club”? Please mention that while interviewing your delegates.

Please continue to encourage your members and Post to participate in “The American Legion Family Choir”. The more voices participating the better we sound. Please remember to bring a “Legion” polo and dark pants for the “Memorial Service”.

Moving forward to Convention in June. I’ve already chosen songs for the “American Legion Family Choir”. Plus adding new songs to play during Convention. I’m always adding new songs. I’m looking forward to seeing you at Convention. See you at Convention!

Please remember “Year-end Reports are due on or before May 1, 2024. I’m looking forward to seeing all the marvelous things the Units are doing.

“Music is moonlight in the gloomy night of life.”

Jean Paul

amblonde01@gmail.com
602.999.4054 cell

With a song in your heart.
For God and Country,

Alma Mattingly, Department Music Chairman

16575 W. Moreland Street, Goodyear, AZ 85338

Presidents Special Project
March Bulletin 2024

Arizona Girls State - The Greatest State in the Land!

A Huge thank you to all those who have helped with donations and making this Special Project an amazing success so far this year!

DRUM ROLL.....\$20, 167.10 and counting for donations!!
Keep Stuffing those Buses!!



- Girls State packets have gone out to the schools!!
- Be sure to meet the deadline for the delegate info to Department!!
- Keep a look out for the Orientation schedule for the delegates!!

Awesome job to all on those amazing fundraisers! We know that you have been working so hard for not only the fee for each delegate but to help with those amazing PSP donations.

Please know that each and everyone of you and your Legion/Auxiliary/SAL Family are great appreciated for all you are doing this year and EVERY year for this amazing project!

This truly is a week that shapes a lifetime for each delegate we send!

KEEP AN EYE OUT

The Girls State Movie will be launching on APPLE TV April 5th, 2024!!
Do not miss this great representation of our Girls State Programs!!

If you would like a visit and presentation or help with event ideas please feel free to reach out to me anytime. I would love to visit and give the presentation to your unit or district this year to help all of our members get a better understanding of Girls State and how beneficial the program truly is. Thank you!

Shannon Mead
Presidents Special Project Chairman
623-521-1263 • shannonmead@live.com

Service to Veterans

March 2024

"The most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or touched, they are felt with the heart." ~The Little Prince

Hello ALA members,

Service to Veterans volunteers are American Legion Auxiliary members who provide service to veterans outside a VAMC. Whether organizing a stand down, assembling care packages/tray favors/greeting cards, assisting with a veteran's burial or gravesite upkeep, sewing, cooking, or shopping for active-duty military/veterans and/or their families, member volunteers are at the heart of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Program structure

★Visit with veterans and remember them on special occasions. ★Offer to drive veterans to doctor appointments. ★Offer to stay with a veteran while his/her primary caregiver goes shopping or out for a break. ★Take a veteran for a Sunday drive, picnic, or maybe to see one of his/her friends. ★Treat veterans to tickets for sporting events or movies

Anything done directly for a veteran outside of a VAMC is considered Service to Veterans.

Now that the holidays are behind us, it is more important than ever to continue to reach out to our Veterans. Remember that we do not need a special occasion to visit them, send a card or just a 5-minute phone call. Reaching out can save them from the wintery post-holiday blues. Anything you can do; they will appreciate it. Just let them know, they are remembered and that they haven't been forgotten.

Please send me your hours monthly so I can keep track and stay up to date. If you have questions on what hours count, please do not hesitate to call, text, or email me with them. These hours are so very important to report. Remember, any hours you send me are reported to Congress..

Remember, you can now include spouses in these hours. Please download the Service to Veterans monthly reporting page for members and for units on our department website, ALADEPTAZ.ORG you can email me or send in snail mail to me or to Department. Please give these to your members to fill out at your monthly meeting. Thank you for all you do!

Sara C. Decker
Service to Veterans Chairman
Saradeckeraz@gmail.com
480-580-3269

American Legion Auxiliary VA&R REPORT
TUCSON VA MEDICAL CENTER
1-31-24

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. 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. 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. One female patient in Building 60 is 106 years young. She plays Bingo with us each month.

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 \$1,000. 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 131 and Unit 132 for your generous donations.

The grand total of monetary donations for the American Legion Auxiliary for May 1, 2023 to January 31, 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 January 31, 2024 is \$17,559.63. 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 January 31, 2024 is 765. Twelve occasional volunteers have contributed 106 hours as of January 31, 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.

This chairman has volunteered 151.5 hours and logged 1,820 miles this year in service to the Tucson VA Medical Center as of January 31, 2024. This chairman has now logged over 4,000 hours in service to SAVAHCs. This chairman was re-elected to be the Chairman of the Executive Committee of the VAVS Executive Committee at the meeting on October 12, 2021. This chairman has been elected to fill 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. We have already held an advance planning "meet and greet" and invited all interested Veterans. Unit 73 provided refreshments for this event. Annual Joint Review was completed November 28, 2023. VAVS Committee voted to fully fund transportation for the gold medal winners from NVCA at SAVAHCs on February 1, 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