

American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona

IMPORTANT IMPORTANT IMPORTANT IMPORTANT IMPORTANT

With Units processing membership online, they are not receiving their portion of the dues that were paid online. When members pay online, \$7 of Unit credit stays at Department for Department's portion of the dues.

Example: Unit dues are \$40, National sends Department \$22. Of the \$22, the Unit will receive \$15, \$7 stays at Department.

Due to keeping track of what credits are due to Units we are changing the process Units will receive their credits.

As of February 1, 2024, Department will begin issuing checks to the Units for the credits earned the month before. Except for the February check. We will be issuing unused credits on the February checks.

Checks will be processed once a month. The funds will be for the previous months' transactions.

We will be auditing what has been paid out so far. If you are owed credits from online payments we will mail the Unit a check.

Checks will be processed via Wells Fargo. They will be mailed to the mailing address on file at Department. Please check your mailing address in the 2024 directory and notify us if you would like to use a different mailing address.

The check you receive from Wells Fargo is good for 90 days. If the Unit does not cash the check within 90 days, the bank will notify us and the Unit will forfeit the money to Department.

AGAIN, if the Unit does not cash the check within 90 days, the bank will notify us and the Unit will forfeit the money to Department.

If Department makes an error processing the check, we will generate a second check to the Unit.

If you find your credits do not match Department's number, please contact us.

Barbara White
Interim Department Secretary
602-241-1080
Secretary1@aladepaz.org

Yolanda Bonilla
Finance Chairman
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Educating Tomorrow's Veterans Today

January 2024

Happy New Year

Hope everyone had a wonderful and safe new year!

IMPORTANT IMPORTANT IMPORTANT IMPORTANT

There is an important document for ALL Units and Districts to read and distribute. The information is regarding credits due to Units.

Mandates: Thank you to the units who have paid Department mandates; *70% of the units have paid their mandates.*

Not sure if your unit has paid Department mandates call Department, we will let you know.

The 2024 mandates are available on the Department website.

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 January 3, 2024, Arizona is in second 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. Wouldn't it be great if she could brag about her home Department on her visits?

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

As of January 4, 2024 the Department of Arizona is at 68.50%. The weekly report is on the Department website.

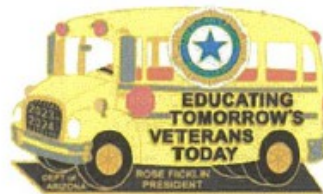
If your Unit would like full access to ALA MIS, the ALA MIS access form must be completed and sent to Department along with your payment. The form can be found on the Department website under Member Resources → 7. Special Forms

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.

2024 Directory Updates

None



Barbara White
Interim Dept Secretary
secretary1@aladeptaz.org

Pat Stanaski
Dept Membership Processor
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January 2024

Happy New Year

I hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. Now it's time to get to work, we have six months left of this administrative year. Where has the time gone?

Presidents special project has raised over 20 thousand dollars and I know of several units planning fundraisers the next few months.

Our National President Lisa Williamson will be in Arizona March 20 thru the 24. A tentative itinerary is after picking her up at the airport, heading to Yuma. Open afternoon, and possibly a no host dinner at a local restaurant. March 21- Yuma State Home lunch with residents and possible service project at the Home. That evening a dinner at Post 56 (more info to follow)

March 22 head to Mesa, possible stop at Phx State Home

March 23 Service Project in Mesa Dinner at Post 26 (more info to follow)

March 24 Take her to airport additional info pending.

Watch the website for Dinner information as it becomes available.

I hope to see you all at these events.

Rose

PRESIDENTS SCHEDULE

DATE	EVENT	LOCATION
July 22, 2023	AZ Mission Training	Post 86
July 29, 2023	Officer and Chairman Meeting	Post 26
August 12, 2023	Luau Unit 35	Post 35
August 19, 2023	Family Wedding	
Aug. 25 - Sept. 3, 2023	National Convention and Family visit	Charlotte, NC
September 9, 2023	Unit 117 Christmas Cards	Post 117
September 14, 2023	Official Visit Unit 5	Post 5
September 23, 2023	Unit 135 Car Show Cottonwood	Galipin Auto
September 23, 2023	PSP Fundraiser Unit 25	Post 25
September 30, 2023	AZ Mission Training	Post 24
October 7, 2023	Mission Training	Unit 41
October 14, 2023	District 8 Official Visit	Post 25
October 20, 2023	Post 32 Early Bird Dinner	Post 32
October 21, 2023	District 5 Official Visit	Post 32
November 3 -5, 2023	Fall Conference	El Conquistador
November 10, 2023	Tucson Veterans Day Parade	Tucson
November 11, 2023	Veterans Day Parade Mesa	Mesa
November 12, 2023	Luncheon Female Veterans Unit 117	Post 117
November 14, 2023	Official Visit	Post 39
November 18, 2023	District 7 Official Visit	Post 14
November 19, 2023	District 12 Official Visit	Post 27
November 21, 2023	Unit 66 Official Visit	Post 66
November 21, 2023	Unit 131 Official Visit	Post 131
December 2, 2023	Missin Training Unit 115	Post 29
December 3, 2023	Cake Walk	Post 26

PRESIDENTS SCHEDULE

December 4, 2023	Unit 27 Official Visit	Post 27
December 10, 2023	Post 26 Christmas Party	Post 26
December 16, 2023	Wreaths Across America	Various Cemetarys
January 4, 2024	Official Visit Unit 41	Post 41
January 6, 2024	Department Open House	Department
January 13, 2024	PSP Fundraiser Dist 3	Post 24
January 14, 2024	District 3 Meeting	Post 141
January 20, 2024	Mission Training Unit 125	Casino Del Sol
January 21, 2024	District 2 Meeting	Post 36
January 26 -28, 2024	National Mission Training	Las Vegas
Febuary10, 2024	Official Visit Unit 2	Post 2
Febuary 17, 2024	Mission Training Unit 81 Lake Havasu	Post 81
Febuary 24, 2024	Mission Training Dist 8	Post ??
March 2, 2024	Mission Trainig Unit 2	Post 2
March 16, 2024	Post 19 Birthday Ball	Post 19
March 17, 2024	District 1 Official Visit	Yuma
March 20 - 24, 2024	NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S VISIT	YUMA/MESA
April 6, 2024	Mission Training 202 District 3	Post 24
April 19- 21	SAL Campout	Cottonwood
April 28 - May 3	Northern Run	
May 1, 2024	REPORTS DUE TO CHAIRMAN	
May 19, 2024	Official Visit Dist 4	Post 133
June 2 - 9, 2024	Girls State	U of A
June 8, 2024	Girls State Banquet	U of A
June 20-23, 2024	Department Convention	El Conquistador



Chaplain Report January 2024
January is National Security and Legislative Month

Thank You All for your wonderful Cards, love and support you continue to show me, what a blessing you all are!

Please go on-line to aladeptaz.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.

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/60b004b78e8e335af77baef20fbe553c?AccessKeyId=7183A42B060A47F6515F&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

I am looking forward to receiving prayer submissions for Department President Ficklin prayer book. You can email them at lynda4ala@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:
Lynda Griffin Chaplain, Lynda4ala@gmail.com, (623) 349-3979



Education January 2024



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
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480-495-1558

Leadership/Arizona Mission Training

January 2024

I hope that all of you had a wonderful and meaningful time during the Holidays while serving our veterans and spending time with family and friends. Especially those who shared the two and held various activities in which we included those who may not have families.

The Department of Arizona has reassigned responsibility for choosing the Arizona Unit Member of the Year and presenting the individual and Unit awards involved to the Department Leadership/Mission Training Chairman and Committee. This was done officially at the Executive meeting during Fall Conference 2023. This form along with the Leadership report form is on the department website aladepaz.org. Go to Member Resources Tab #5. We advise you to check into this site regularly to see any updates or changes. You will find a wealth of information. The Unit Member of the Year Award recognizes those serving at the unit level who exemplify the values and ideals of the Auxiliary and whose accomplishments significantly impact the program work in their units. This award form will also be on our website. Go to the Awards tab and be sure to look at the criteria for Unit member of the Year. This criteria is very specific and must be followed as there are many entries for this award. More to come on additional awards in this program.

It is not too late to schedule a Mission Training. Please contact me if you would like to plan a Training. The date must be scheduled with me along with instructors. The rule of 10 applies. \$10 per member, 10 members (minimum) signed up with this information sent to Department 10 days prior to training. Please follow directions carefully. Thank you!!

Karen Smith, Chairman

ksmith111@cox.net

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Legislative Update

January 2024

Well, we made it. 2024 is here whether, we are ready or not.

There are 3 priority bills that are still being supported. You can continue to submit your support.

Pay Our Troops Act (H.R. 5641), which currently has 112 bipartisan cosponsors. The current continuing resolution expires November 17.

Additionally, we are giving our support to the ***Keep Our Border Agents Paid Act (S. 2999)***, which would ensure that U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement are paid in the event of a government shutdown.

Finally, Congress is running out of time to pass the ***Afghan Adjustment Act (H.R. 4627 / S. 2327)***. So please take the time to contact your representative and encourage them to support the *Afghan Adjustment Act*.

The house recently passed 3 bills supported by the Legion.

- **The Cope ACT** supports family care givers by the VA through training and counseling.
- **The Elizabeth Dole Home Care-** supports home healthcare for Veterans. increasing the number of affordable alternatives to VA nursing home care
- **The Home Act-** more funding to protect homeless Veterans. AKA *the Housing Our Military Veterans Effectively Act*, increases the maximum rate of per diem payments homeless veterans may receive.

The House and Senate Armed Services Committees announced that the conference for the fiscal year 2024 (FY2024) National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) was completed. The 3,000 plus page document, details the appropriations for the Department of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force, guides research and development within the Department of Defense, and determines personnel benefits and recruitment strategy.

A couple of things positive that came out of this was:

- 5.2% pay raise for service members which is the largest in 20 years! (Can you imagine, not having a decent raise in 20 years and I am not even sure this is decent, since some of our service members struggle with basic needs.)

- Improving living conditions on base (some of these barracks have not been updated in years) This also will also increase access to Base Housing Allowance.

As always, for more information check the American Legion Website and get in the know in 2024.

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

Kathy Amery

Department Legislative Chair 2023-2024

Luv2p8@gmail.com or 623.640.0134



January 2023
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. Let’s do this together. 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.

We have given the choir a new name, “The American Legion Family Choir”. They are wearing their name proudly. I’m certainly proud of the men and women who lend their voices to the American Legion. Please continue to encourage your members and Post to participate in “The American Legion Family Choir”. The more voices participating the better we sound. On that note, I was asked by District 11 President, Stephanie McMullen, to attend a Unit 115 meeting. There I met two potential new choir singers. Both are female Veterans. One, is a Unit 115 new member.

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.

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

“Music is healing. Music holds thing together.”

Prince

amblonde01@gmail.com
602.999.4054 cell

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

Alma Matttingly, Department Music Chairman

Presidents Special Project
Girls State
January Bulletin 2024

Happy New Year!!

This month is going to be great and we are already off to a great start with over 20K in donations for Girls State since November 1. Thank you all so very much for making this program an important one.

This year is going to be a wonderful learning experience and such a fun time for Arizona Girls State.

Did you know that have extended Girls State to now run Sunday to Sunday!
ONE MORE Full day of an experience that will shape a life time!

What does this mean?

This means one more day to allow time for voting, creating of city decorations, city and county books, perhaps another guest speaker or two. The options are amazing and so exciting!!

Please remember that we have President Rose's special fundraising theme this year for Girls State.

STUFF THE BUS

- This is such a neat idea to help with Arizona Girls State. Each District President has their cute yellow bus to help gather donations during this year as well as at each meeting.
- Feel free to get a cute bus for your Unit meetings as well and consider just a few dollars each month per member. It really does add up.
- Also this PSP Chairman will have one of those cute little busses with me at all times as well.

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. Please note that I do work Sun-Thurs so will need to plan in advance for travel. Thank you!

Visit www.azgirlsstate.com for more info as well

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

Service to Veterans

January 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,

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. Be the ONE.

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
11-30-23

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 need 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.

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 132 for your generous donation.

The grand total of monetary donations for the American Legion Auxiliary for May 1, 2023 to November 30, 2023 is \$872. 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 November 30, 2023 is \$9,744.59. Thank you Unit 62, 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 November 30, 2023 is 569.5. 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 102 hours and logged 1,220 miles this year in service to the Tucson VA Medical Center as of November 30, 2023. 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 Veterans Creative Arts Festival was held August 22 & 23, 2023. I am also attaching the wrap up report for this year's festival. 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



EDUCATING TOMORROW'S VETERANS TODAY

Cavalcade of Memories

January 2024

Member:

Here are the answers to last month bulletin questions.

Can anybody tell me when Arizona's 1st Department Convention was held in what city and what year? **It was held in 1921 in Prescott Arizona.** What year did they combine the department Secretary and Treasure Office and to make her a paid employee? **1930 Department President Florence Smith to combine Secretary and Treasure office and made her a paid employee.**

How many National Historian has Arizona had? **Three Jeanne McQuown 1946, Joyce Arent, Sharon Doran.** And how many National Chaplain Arizona has had? **1 Carmelite Staker.** How many Western Division Vice Presidents have Arizona had? **12- Wilma Hoyal, Harriet Southworth, Florence Snodgrass, Mrs. Guy J. Aston, Faye Dorsett, Maxine Chilton, Nell Wiston Burt, Adene Smith, Adelene Smith, Penny Maklary, Ginger Cox, Jan Cushing.** How many National Presidents have Arizona had? **2- Wilma Hoyal, Maxine Chilton.** Last one what Unit has the Most Department President? **Unit #1 Luke Greenway has 15 Past Department Presidents.** Next Questions?

How many Past Presidents has Arizona had so far? Which President theme was Look to the Future and Arizona's Pride is showing, Above and Beyond. Answer these Questions by January 31, correctly will receive scratch tickets from this chairman. Send Answers to me. I am in the Directory or e-mail me pngb62@hotmail.com

Department Cavalcade of Memories Chairman

Paula Burgess