



Army Women United
Women's Army Corps
Veterans' Association

E-NEWS – MARCH 2026

Chapter 68 Saguaro – Army Women United (Women's Army Corps Veterans' Association since 1941)

"The last horses in military service were mustered out of the Army in 1940; the first WACs mustered in two years later. Until the Corps could prepare its own members for command functions, a few veteran Cavalry officers and cadre, some still resplendent in boots, campaign hats, and swagger sticks, had been dragooned into training the new fillies."

– Ethel A. Starbird, Women's Army Corps, WW II, *When Women First Wore Army Shoes* (2010)

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH–MARCH 2026

Join in celebrating women by learning our history in America. The Smithsonian American Women's History Museum offers the following ...

WE DO DECLARE is their oral history project exploring what independence has meant in women's lives since the 1970s. To commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, the museum conducted over 30 oral histories and interviews across the country and listened as American women declared that independence is not only essential but also deeply tied to financial power. womenshistory.si.edu/we-do-declare



WHERE ARE ALL THE WOMEN? NOTABILITY AND DIGITAL DISCOVERY

A fascinating overview about women's contributions, which received scant historical study until the mid-19th century. Since the 1960s, research about women's history started to gain momentum with scholars and now in the 21st Century with the public.

womenshistory.si.edu/blog/where-are-all-women-notability-and-digital-discovery

MARCH 28, 2026: CHAPTER 68 SOCIAL

THANK YOU TO MEMBER JOY ISBAN who will host our March social. We meet at 1 PM at the **Guardian Garage** whose mission is "restoring people and cars." Sounds fascinating! Located near 75th Ave and Greenway. No Cost. Light refreshments. Details soon. www.guardiangarage.org/

APRIL 18, 2026: BABY SHOWER HOSTED BY CHAPTER 68 - ARMY WOMEN UNITED

Hope you can join us. Even better if you would like to donate baby items or cash. See pg 8 for Wish List of items to donate.



YOU ARE INVITED TO A

BABY SHOWER



Honoring Military Women and Families
in conjunction with Veterans First, Ltd

SATURDAY, APRIL 18TH 2026
11:30

Luke-Greenway American Legion Post 1
364 N 7th Ave, Phx

LUNCH COST – \$18
MEXICAN FOOD BUFFET
(DRINKS ON OWN FROM BAR)

**Baby items and New Mom drive to benefit
Phx & Prescott VA Maternity Care programs
and other veteran families**

HOSTED BY ARMY WOMEN UNITED CHAPTER 68
AND
MILITARY WOMEN ACROSS THE NATION UNIT 155

RSVP by 4/12 to Karen Craig
Zelle: 480.213.5769
Venmo: @Karen-Craig-111

50/50 DRAWING AND GAMES

SHEREE BIGGE, 623-680-3016, SHEREEBIGGE@GMAIL.COM



Phoenix, Arizona

UPCOMING CHAPTER 68 SOCIALS

If you are available to host, contact Sheree.

Date	Host (s) / Theme
Mar 2026 1 PM	Host: Joy Isban. Meet at Guardian Garage by 75th Ave & Greenway
Apr 18, 2026 See flyer on pg 1	2nd Annual Baby Shower Hosts: Chp 68-Sheree Bigge, MWAN-Martha Alderman Luke-Greenway Am Legion Post #1, 364 N 7th Ave, Phoenix, AZ
May 2026	WAC Anniversary Host needed
June 2026	Host needed
July 5, 2026 4 PM	Host: Sue Wudy, Aunt Chilada's, 7330 N Dreamy Draw Dr, Phoenix

JOIN US – CHAPTER 68 BUSINESS MEETING

EVERYONE WELCOME!
2nd Tues of month / 1:00 PM (AZ time)



Find out more about Chapter 68.

<https://zoom.us/j/98671062738?pwd=NnUwbysvdIZ2YkhGemJ4bWFtOTh0UT09>

Meeting ID: 986 7106 2738
Password: Chap68

Upcoming Chapter 68 Business Mtgs:

- Mar 10, 2026
- Apr 14, 2026
- May TBD – Social
- Jun 9, 2026

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – SHEREE BIGGE



As I am writing this note, it is a beautiful day, and the weather is reason why so many winter here and move to the area. Hope this finds you doing well.

Chapter Transition. The progress towards the transition to a 501c3

continues. The Chapter Bylaws were approved by the membership and forwarded to National for review. The Articles of Incorporation have been filed and now we wait until the next steps can be taken. This transition will allow many opportunities for us, which is exciting. With the updated Bylaws, the committee will be updating the Duties and Procedures manual.

WACVA-AWU National Convention – Jul 31 in Virginia. For those interested in attending, the WACVA-AWU National Convention is July 31–August 2 at the Springhill Suites in Chester, VA (\$149 per night). There will be a side tour on Saturday afternoon to the US Army Women's Museum located near Ft Lee, VA. Air would be into Richmond International Airport. I would suggest flying in on Thursday so that you could attend the opening ceremony on Friday. (I will be flying in on Wednesday 7/29). You could then catch a flight home on Sunday, 8/2, if desired, as the last event is scheduled to end at 1 PM. We will be allowed 3 delegates and alternates. If you attend as a delegate, you will be asked to attend all of the business meetings with me. If interested, please let me know.

March Social. Joy Isban volunteered to host the social on Saturday, March 28 at 1:00 PM. We will meet at the Guardian Garage located near 75th Ave and Greenway. More details to come. No Cost and light desserts with tea and lemonade, courtesy of Joy.

April Social. The social will be our 2nd Annual Baby Shower on April 18, 11:30 AM, at American Legion Post 1, 364 N 7th Ave, Phoenix. Lunch is \$18 for a Mexican food buffet. We are co-hosting with MWAN Unit 155. We will gather donated items for Babies and new Moms for the Maternity Outreach and Veteran Families program administered by Veterans First, Ltd. This program benefits both Phoenix and Prescott VA Maternity Care programs as well as other veteran families. RSVP and



Zelle prepayment is strongly encouraged **by April 12** to Karen Craig, 480-213-5769.

May Social. May is one of two months in our Chapter calendar that is a dedicated social event rather than a business meeting. In May, we honor the formation of the Women's Army Corps Veterans' Association. We generally refer to this as the Birthday or Anniversary party. A date, time or venue has yet to be selected but more information will be forthcoming.

June Social. Host needed.

July Social. Sue Wudy will host at Aunt Chiladas on Sunday, July 5 at 4:00 PM at the Dreamy Draw location.

Officer Slate Presented at March Meeting. I look forward to seeing you on our virtual Business meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, March 10, 1:00 PM AZ. The Slate of Officers for the next fiscal year will be presented. If interested in retaining or stepping into a position within the Chapter, please contact Sue Wudy, Nominating Committee Chair.

Have a great March and the great springtime in AZ!



CHAPTER 68 HOSTS BINGO AT VA CLC



Chapter 68 volunteers will conduct Bingo at the VA Community Living Center (CLC) Phoenix VA Hospital, 650 E. Indian School Rd on the first Sunday of every month. We

meet at 1 PM to set up and the

games are held from 1:30 PM until 3 PM.

March 1: Lead Jaqueline Jackson, Volunteers needed.

April 12: BINGO pushed one week so that no interference with Easter plans. Lead Gabe Forsberg. 1 – 2 Volunteers needed.

May 3 & June 7: We are also looking for 2 – 3 volunteers If you want to get on the schedule, please contact Karen Craig.

MARCH 2, 2026: WHERE DO MILITARY WOMEN STAND? VIRTUAL WEBINAR

NAACP Armed Services and Veterans' Affairs

WHERE DO MILITARY WOMEN STAND?

Virtual Webinar | March 2, 2026 | 8:00PM ET

Join the NAACP Armed Services & Veterans' Affairs Committee (ASVA) as we kick off Women's History Month with a powerful conversation centered on the experiences, challenges, and progress of women who have served in the military. This discussion will explore where military women stand today—past, present, and future—and highlight advocacy, equity, and transformational pathways forward.

Opening remarks will be provided by our National NAACP ASVA Chairman Edward DuBose; National NAACP Vice Chair Karen Boykin-Towns; Mr. Arnold Gordon-Bray, Brigadier General U.S. Army (Ret.); Ms. Patricia Jackson-Kelley, LT Colonel, U.S. Army (Ret.); and Mr. Alphonse Bragg, U.S. Navy (Ret.). Questions? Email: awilliamson.mba@gmail.com

Why You Should Attend:

- Honor the service and sacrifices of military women
- Engage in dialogue around policy, access, and equity
- Learn from leaders and advocates advancing change
- Celebrate Women's History Month with purpose

REGISTRATION

MODERATORS/PANELISTS:

MODERATOR

MODERATOR

SPEAKER BIOS

The 6888

NAACP.ORG

AMERICA 250 IN 2026

On July 4, 2026, our nation will commemorate and celebrate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Info at: america250.org/



MARCH 12–13, 2026: 2026 MARICOPA COUNTY STANDDOWN



8:00 AM – 3:00 PM

Arizona State Fairgrounds

Arizona Housing Coalition hosts the Maricopa County StandDown to serve veterans and their families who are experiencing homelessness and housing insecurity. Attendees receive complimentary resources for housing assistance, veterans' benefits support, haircuts, employment opportunities, hot meals, clothing, medical/vision assist, veterans' court assistance, mental health support, personal care products, survivors' benefits, and much more. Info at: <https://azhousingcoalition.org/2026-maricopa-county-standdown/>

MARCH 16–19, 2026: MILITARY WOMEN'S SPORTS VIRTUAL CERTIFICATION SEMINAR



Military women include active-duty service members, veterans, spouses, and Gold Star family members. More info at: courses.soldierstosidelines.org/MW-03-26-Virtual-Signup-Page

MARCH 12, 2026: HEALTHY AGING – WOMEN VETERANS' TOWN HALL



Women Veterans Town Hall

JOIN THE PHOENIX VA WOMEN VETERANS' TELE-TOWN HALL

Thurs., March 12
4:30 - 5:30 PM

TOPIC: HEALTHY AGING

With presentations from Psychology, Nutrition, Recreation Therapy, and Community Care

Three ways to join
Streaming online: <https://access.live/PHXVAWomenVets>
Accept the VA phone call to automatically join
Dial in by calling 855-962-1525

VA 

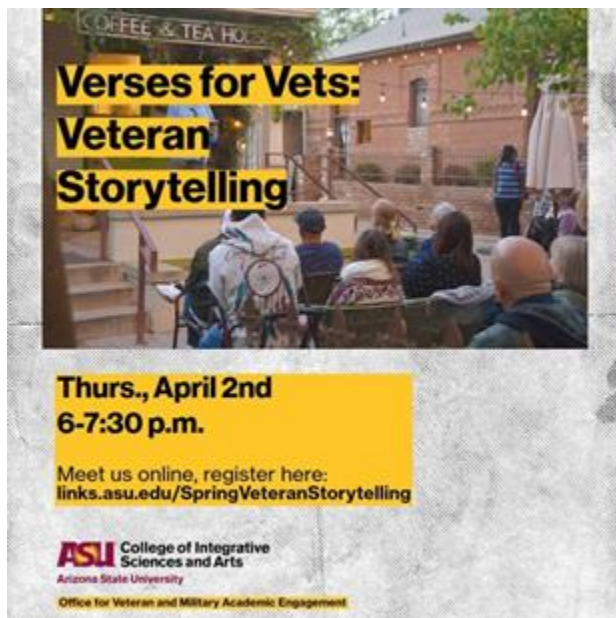
MARCH 21–22: LUKE DAYS 2026, LUKE AFB

<https://www.lukedays.com/>



Phoenix, Arizona

APRIL 2, 2026: VERSES FOR VETERANS: STORYTELLING



APRIL 11, 2026: SURPRISE VET FEST

5 - 8 PM

Surprise Stadium, 15850 N. Bullard Ave.
The City of Surprise is seeking organizations and businesses interested in hosting a table at this year's event, along with sponsors for Vet Fest. Register online or view sponsorship levels at [//surpriseaz.gov/VetFest](https://surpriseaz.gov/VetFest)



APRIL 9–12, 2026: WALL THAT HEALS

The City of Surprise is honored to welcome The Wall That Heals, a three-quarter scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, along with its Mobile Education Center. The exhibit will be open 24 hours a day beginning at 5 AM on April 9 to 2 PM April 12. Free for the public. **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**
thewallthatheals2026.surpriseaz.gov/volunteer



APRIL 22, 2026: MST LUNCHEON

Support for survivors with connections to resources to promote recovery and healing.

MST Luncheon

April 22, 2026 | 11 AM - 2 PM

Our Mission: Honor and support military sexual trauma (MST) survivors and create opportunities for connection.

Please Join Us!

Luke Greenway
American Legion Post 1
364 N. 7th Ave
Phoenix, AZ 85007
7th Ave North of Van Buren

For more information:

Dr. Nadia Alexandrova
MST Coordinator
602-234-7147
Nadejda.Alexandrova@va.gov



Phoenix, Arizona

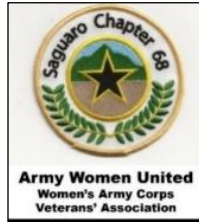
INTERESTED IN JOINING CHAPTER 68, ARMY WOMEN UNITED?

DUES ARE NOW HALF-PRICE FOR JANUARY–JUNE

Membership is open to ALL currently serving and honorably discharged women veterans of ANY branch of service.

Regular \$45: Army, ARNG, ANC, USAR,

Affiliate \$30: USMC, USN, USAF, USSF, USCG



Benefits:

- Fellowship and camaraderie with other women veterans and military members from ALL services.
- Volunteer opportunities within the community.
- Access to general education and programs of civic interest.
- Receipt of the Chapter 68 e-NEWS and *The Channel* (WACVA-AWU National news publication).

CHAPTER 68 ARMY WOMEN UNITED 2025/26 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PRESIDENT	Sheree Bigge
1st VP	OPEN
2nd VP Membership	Shirley Vega
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY	Gabe Forsberg
RECORDING SECRETARY	Jacqueline Jackson
TREASURER	Karen Craig
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS	Nancy Ruiz
CHAPLAIN /e-NEWS Ed	beth Johnson

To contact a board member

CALL: 602-551-7368

EMAIL: AZSaguaro.Chapter68@gmail.com



COMMUNITY SERVICE WITH CHAPTER 68

To volunteer, connect with member listed.

2025/2026 Standing Committees	Contact
Color Guard	Shirley Vega
Community Service	Julie Augeri
Ctr for Development & Civic Engagement (was VAVS Hosp)	Gabe Forsberg
e-News Editor	beth Johnson
Grant Support	Julie Augeri
JROTC Liaison	Sue Wudy
Nominate Comm & Board Elect	Sue Wudy
Outreach	Julie Augeri
Parliamentarian	Gabe Forsberg
Publicity (Facebook)	Gabe Forsberg
Unified Arizona Veterans (UAV)	Nan Molina
Ways & Means Comm	Shirley Vega Julie Augeri LaChella Boson
2025/2026 Special Committees	Contact
Ashley's Place	Gabe Forsberg
Audit	Appointed
Records Retention	Gabe Forsberg



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

– George Santayana,
The Life of Reason, 1905.



Many in the public square learned about Maj Charity Adams of the Women's Army Corps in *The Six Triple Eight* 2024 film by Tyler Perry. In *One Woman's Army* (1995), Adams tells of her struggles and successes as the WAC's first black officer and commanding officer of the only organization of black women to serve overseas during World War II. Thankfully, there are many others who wrote their stories:

- Kara Dixon Vuic, US Army, Officer, Nurse, *Woman: The Army Nurse Corps in the Vietnam War* (2009)
- Ethel A. Starbird, Women's Army Corps in WW II, *When Women First Wore Army Shoes* (2010)
- Sarah Rosetta Wakeman, *An Uncommon Soldier: The Civil War Letters*

of Sarah Rosetta Wakeman, Alias Private Lyons Wakeman, 153rd Regiment, NY State Volunteers, 1862–1864 (2002)

Books Written By Women Who Served

Over the years, I have compiled a list of books (and now websites) written BY women (from ALL services, ALL ranks) who served in the military, Red Cross, and 3-letter agencies from the Civil War through the Global War on Terror. The list started with non-fiction, but now includes poetry, fiction, and art. If you'd like a copy, drop me an email. I'd be happy to send.

Bless you dear sisters as you face the joys and challenges of life. Remember only you can fill the spot you hold. **Be bold.**
– beth Johnson, Chp 68 chaplain

CHAPTER 68 FEBRUARY 2026 SOCIAL

Chapter 68 Members met at the Lavender Farm at Chateau de Vie in Chandler for the February social hosted by Prez Sheree who also provided a photo. A great time all around!





MOVF PROGRAM

Maternity Outreach for Veteran Family's NEEDS LIST

BABY

Baby Bottle Brushes
Baby Body Wash
Baby Lotion/Oil
Baby Shampoo
Burp Clothes
Clothing 0-9, months
Diapers Newborn & Size 1
Diaper Rash Cream or
Petroleum Jelly
Pacifiers
Safety Q tips
Teething Ring
Thermometers Digital

When buying clothes, we are also in need of gender-neutral clothes. Sometimes parents do not want to know the gender before birth. Thank you

MOMS

Bath Pouf
Body Wash "Fragrance Free"
Body Lotion
Shampoo and Conditioner
Deodorant
Hairbrush
Hair Ties
Hand Sanitizer
Maxi Pads (small packages)
Nipple Balm
Nursing Apron
Perineal Cooling Pads
Razors and Shaving Cream
Socks Heavy Sole Ankle
Toothbrush, Toothpaste
Tucks

Amazon Gift Cards are also appreciated; we use them to buy supplies for mom and baby.

Your donations help us ensure that an adequate supply of baby and personal items for mom are provided to expectant veteran families to better assist with their upcoming birth. We collaborate with the Phoenix and Prescott VA Maternity Programs and Social Workers whose families are not engaged with the VA Maternity Programs. We provide the supplies every month for Phoenix and quarterly for Prescott Maternity Programs and on as needed basis for other Veteran Parents not engaged with the VA for Maternity Care.

Thank you for supporting our Maternity Outreach Program for Veteran Families Program. This program helps relieve some of the financial burden of having a new baby by supplying the items needed for a newborn baby and a care bag of supplies that help mom after the birth of their baby.

IN 2025 YOU HELPED US PROVIDE SUPPLIES FOR 243 BABIES AND 239 MOTHERS.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact.

**Joan Sisco • (Cell) 602-487-7022 • jsisco@veteransfirstltd.org or
Program Manager: Jennifer Little • 602-989-7207 • jlittle@veteransfirstltd.org**

Veterans First Ltd. • 8433 N. Black Canyon Hwy • Suite 164 • Phoenix, Arizona 85021
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Serving Arizona Veterans Since 2003

2/26

