



Army Women United
Women's Army Corps
Veterans' Association

E-NEWS – MAY 2026

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

"If you compromise your integrity and principles on minor issues,
it gets easier to make bad choices on the big issues."
– General Ann E. Dunwoody, US Army (retired)

MAY 2, 2026: WOMEN VETERANS ANNUAL TEA PARTY

The May Social will be different from our previous May WACVA Birthday / Anniversary celebrations. We have been invited to participate along with West Valley Women Veterans at their Tea Party on Saturday, May 2, 2026. There will be individual checks and cost is \$30 each. Chapter 68 member Stacey Eastwood is the host. This event welcomes members of Chapter 68 Saguaro Army Women United and the West Valley Women Veterans.



Renew Your Membership

FY 2026/2027

Dues

Members - \$45

Affiliate - \$30



Renew by May 15th and be entered into a drawing to win two tickets to The Lavender Farm



Mail

Army Women United Chapter 68
PO Box 26152
Tempe, AZ 85285



Zelle

Karen Craig
480-213-5769

MEMBERSHIP
Matters

UPCOMING CHAPTER 68 SOCIALS

If you are available to host, contact Sheree.

Date	Host (s) / Theme
May 2, 2026 4 – 6 PM The Spicery	Tea Party with West Valley Women Veterans. Host: Stacey Eastwood See Flyer pg 1
June 13, 2026 3- 6 PM Tolleson Park & Rec Ctr	Tea Party Host: Darlene Perkins, Karisma Tea Services See Flyer pg 6
July 5, 2026 4 PM	Host: Sue Wudy, Aunt Chilada's, 7330 N Dreamy Draw Dr, Phx See Flyer pg 7

Women Veterans Annual Tea Party at The Spicery

Join fellow women veterans for an afternoon of tea, conversation, and camaraderie in a welcoming and supportive setting. Bring your children or grandchildren and enjoy time connecting with others who share the experience of military service.

Date: Saturday, May 2nd
Time: 4:00-6:00 PM
Location: The Spicery in Our 1895 Home
7141 N 59th Ave, Glendale, AZ 85301

☕ Tea Service:

- Adult Tea – \$30
- Child Tea – \$24

Each attendee will order and pay individually at the event.
Family-friendly | Dress festive or casual
RSVP by: Friday, April 24
Open to all women currently serving or who have served in the U.S. military.
Call or text Stacey Eastwood with any questions: (405) 814-0205

Scan to register:





Phoenix, Arizona

WELCOME NEW MEMBER: DARLENE PERKINS



I served in the Army and Army Reserves for 22 years from August 1986 to February 2008. I worked in logistics. Now, I'm a member with American Legion Post #65, DAV member, and I work with Wounded Warrior Project,

I was raised in Philadelphia, PA. Most of my military time was in Ft. Hood, TX, Ft. Benning, GA. I've been lots of places. I really enjoyed Ft. Gordon, GA, and Ft. Jackson, SC. All my stuff was burnt up from a house fire years ago, so my husband and I had to rebuild all over. All our memories gone. Life had to go on. Blessed we're still here.

I have my own business **KARISMA TEA SERVICES**. I do Tea Party Events. I'm a Cancer Survivor as well. Contact me at karisma3006@gmail.com for any questions, My new website will be done soon.

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=NnUwbysvdlZ2YkhGemJ4bWFtT0h0UT09>

Meeting ID: 986 7106 2738

Password: Chap68

Upcoming Chapter 68 Business Mtgs:

- May 2, 2026 – Social – no mtg
- Jun 9, 2026
- July – no meeting
- August – no meeting
- Sept 8, 2026



Phoenix, Arizona

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – SHEREE BIGGE



We are winding down our fiscal year which ends in June. This month will see many activities for veterans, students and families. May is also the anniversary of the formation of the Women's Army Corps. Several of our Chapter members were

WAC's, but many more served after the WAC was disbanded in 1978 or have served in other branches. We welcome all. Moving forward at this time as best we can.

May Social: Our May meeting is traditionally a social celebration honoring the WAC anniversary. This year, we are joining the West Valley Women Veterans at the tea held on May 2nd at the Spicery in Glendale. The invite and all details are being handled by Chapter 68 member Stacey Eastwood. As a result, there will not be any other recognition specific to the Chapter. We do hope you will join us. See Flyer pg 1.

Incoming Board of Directors: Since we voted on the incoming Board of Directors for FY2026–2027 at our April meeting, we have received a resignation from one of the incoming BOD. Currently, we have an opening for the First Vice President and Chaplain position. The Chaplain is encouraged to attend all the Membership and BOD meetings offering invocation and benediction. That position is also noted on the membership cards to be able to contact in case of need. She also sends cards to members and makes visits if possible. Interested in filling this position, please contact Sue Wudy or Sheree Bigge.

July 31 – Aug 2 WACVA-AWU Convention: If interested in attending the WACVA-AWU National Convention as a delegate, please let me know. Registration deadline is approaching and we need to submit Chapter information. The dates for Convention are **July 31–August 2 in Chester, VA**. The Springhill Suites has a room block

for \$149 per night. There will be a side tour on Saturday afternoon to the US Army Women's Museum located near Ft. Lee, VA. Flight would be into Richmond International Airport. I suggest arriving on Thursday so that you could attend the opening ceremony on Friday. (I will be flying in on Wednesday 7/29). The last event on Sunday, 8/2, is scheduled to finish at 1 PM so a flight home that afternoon is possible. If you attend as a delegate, you will be asked to attend all business meetings. If planning to join me at Convention, please let me know. So far, Gabe Forsberg is attending and we are on the same flights.

Welcome Bags: Chapter 68 has been asked to supply Welcome Bags for Convention. Several members have been busy acquiring items. The final packing will take place once we arrive at Convention on Wednesday evening. However, we may have a packing party prior to the end of June to pre-pack what we can. Location and date to be determined. Due to the weight of the donated bags and literature from the VA, plus other items, the Welcome Bags will be shipped ahead of our arrival.

501c3 Transition: No update to report for the 501c3 transition as still awaiting confirmation of the incorporation.

Community Service Hours Due: A reminder to submit your Community Service hours and monetary donations **to Julie Augeri by May 15**. Please guesstimate your hours/funds through the end of May before submitting. This report is then compiled and presented at the National Convention. Due to the early date of Convention, the report needs to be submitted to National in a timely manner.

I look forward to seeing you at the next virtual **Business meeting via Zoom on Tuesday, June 9, 1:00 PM (AZ time)**
Have a safe Memorial Day!



CHAPTER 68 COLOR GUARD PERFORMS FOR ALL-WOMEN HONOR FLIGHT

On April 7, 2026, members of Chapter 68 Color Guard, Gabe Forsberg, Nanc Ruiz, Martha Adlerman and beth Johnson presented the colors for the all-women Honor Flight hosted the by Daughters of the American Revolution at Sky Harbor Airport. Chapter 68 members Gena Wilson and Joan Sisco were both on the Honor Flight.



Next Chapter 68 Color Guard event:

Memorial Day Service, 8 AM, May 25, 2026
National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona
2929 E Pinnacle Peak Rd, Phx, AZ



MAY 4, 2026: GARDENING WITH WANDA, EAST VALLEY (5 – 7 PM)

Chapter 68 member Wanda Wright is hosting this gardening event.

EAST VALLEY WOMEN VETERANS

EVENT: Monday Night Muster

Date: May 4, 2026
Time: 5pm - 7pm

*Gardening with Wanda
Part 3*

Come join us for another gardening class with Col(R) Wanda Wright at her home garden in Tempe. There will be refreshments, seed trading, plant and fruit giveaways and lessons on soil and planting.



LOCATION

Wanda's home garden in Tempe
Address provided upon RSVP


RSVP to:
eastvalleywomensveterans@gmail.com

2026: 50-YEAR CELEBRATION OF WEST POINT WOMEN



West Point is planning a year-long celebration of 50 years of women in the Corps of Cadets, starting July 7, 2026—marking the first day women entered the Academy with the Class of 1980. Events throughout the academic year will honor the history, challenges, and

achievements of women at the Academy. Publications, including a creative writing collection and a pictorial monograph, will showcase their journey and contributions to West Point.

Superintendent LTG Gilland '90 appointed Donna Brazil '83 as project coordinator. For suggestions or to assist with this historic milestone, contact

Donna.Brazil@WestPoint.edu.

More info at:

<https://www.westpointready.org/fund/50-years-of-women-at-west-point-project/>

MAY 7, 2026: 250TH CELEBRATORY COLLABORATIVE PAINTING UNVEILING CEREMONY (10 AM)

Several Chapter 68 women veterans painted part of this project.



*250th Celebratory Collaborative Painting
Unveiling Ceremony*

You are cordially invited to attend the Phoenix VA Creative Arts Festival.

The event marks the unveiling of

Wildflowers of Liberty:
(A HEAL HER Art Community Mural)

A powerful work created through shared creativity of women Veterans in our community.

In addition to this featured work, guests are invited to experience a collection of artwork by Phoenix-area Veterans.
Light refreshments will be served.

The unveiling will take place at the beginning of the exhibition, marking the first public viewing of this collaborative work. A group photo with participating women Veterans is planned immediately following.
The artwork will then be available for viewing throughout the event.

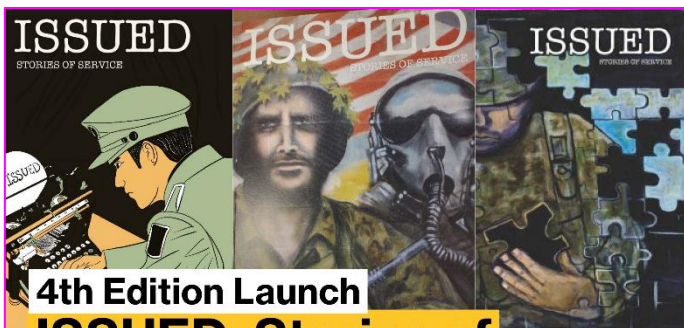
★ Event Details ★
May 7, 2026
10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Recreation Therapy Clinic (formerly Topaz Clinic)
Basement of the ACC
Carl T. Hayden VA Medical Center

Sponsored by The City of Peoria's Arts & Culture Grant Program



MAY 7, 2026: LAUNCH OF 4TH EDITION ISSUED STORIES OF SERVICE (5 – 7 PM)

Two Chapter 68 members have stories in this edition. Come out & support them. FREE – must register.



4th Edition Launch ISSUED: Stories of Service

Celebrate the release of the 4th edition of ISSUED: Stories of Service, a military journal featuring authentic stories from those who have served. Come connect, reflect, and honor the voices behind the uniform.

**Thursday, May 7th
5-7 p.m.**

**Poisoned Pen Bookstore
4014 N Goldwater Blvd,
Scottsdale, AZ 85251**

Register: links.asu.edu/ISSUED4thEditionLaunch

ASU College of Integrative
Sciences and Arts
Arizona State University

Office for Veteran and Military Academic Engagement



MAY 7, 2025: GENERATIONS OF SERVICE (7:30 AM)

Aunt Chilada's Restaurant
Dreamy Draw, Phoenix

Learn about Veterans and their "Generations of Service," what they need when they come home, and how we are celebrating our Semiquincentennial and 30 years of the HAV Veterans Day Parade.

More info at:

<https://honoringamericasveterans.org/2026-veterans-forum/>

MAY 9, 2026: MILITARY & VETERAN CELEBRATION (2 – 6 PM)

Martin Auto Museum
4320 W. Thunderbird, Glendale, AZ
FREE for military & veterans. Hosted by Southwest Veterans & American Veterans.



Phoenix, Arizona

**MAY 14, 2026: VEGGIES FOR VETERANS,
PHOENIX VA (9 – 10:30 AM)**

Veggies for Veterans



9:00–10:30 a.m. Distribution to begin at 9:00 a.m. for 600 bags
Thursday, May 14, 2026 | Carl T. Hayden Medical Center
ACC Hallway and Drive Thru

Gregory's Fresh Market

State Farm LEGACY Peddler's Son DELTA DENTAL

JUNE 13, 2026: CHAPTER 68 SOCIAL



Army Women United
Women's Army Corps
Veterans' Association

Chapter 68 June Social
by Karisma Tea Services

 **When:** June 13th 2026

 **Where:** Tolleson Park and Recreation Center
9251 W Washington Street
Tolleson AZ 85353

 **time:** 3pm til 6 pm

There will be a 50/50 Raffle
Tickets \$25
Payable by Zelle

Sheree (623)680-3016 or Darlene (254) 892-2604

RSVP by May 29, 2026

**MAY 25, 2026: 3RD ANNUAL DR. ADAM
MCCRAY MEMORIAL DAY EVENT
10 AM- NOON**



You're invited!

Honor the Fallen. Support Veterans.

Join Us Memorial Day Morning!

This meaningful Memorial Day gathering brings together veterans, families, and community members for a morning of remembrance, connection, and support for veteran-serving nonprofits making a difference in Arizona. Register today!

Honor those we have lost, connect with others in the community, and help fund programs that support veterans through outdoor healing, equine-assisted learning, and wellness initiatives. **Must Register.**

Vietnam Veterans Memorial Trailhead

11022 W Jomax Rd, Peoria, AZ

MEMBER DUES

A reminder that Member Dues for the upcoming FY2026–2027 year are due.

If interested in paying early, all dues received by **15 May** will be entered into a drawing to receive two tickets to tour The Lavender Farm. Pay via Zelle to Karen Craig (480-213-5769), OR mail check to Karen (Chapter 68, PO Box 26152, Tempe, AZ 85285).

Annual Member dues: \$45

(Army, ARNG, USAR)

Affiliate dues (non-Army branches): \$30

This covers the period of 1 July 2026 – 30 June 2027.



JULY 24 – 25, 2026: WOMEN VETERANS- VA SW REGIONAL SUMMIT

Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center
San Antonio TX



The Center for Women Veterans in partnership with the Office of Women's Health announced the launch of a bold new national effort — Women Veterans Enrollment Initiative, “Boots on the Ground for Boots on the Ground.”

This national initiative aims to help the VA enroll one million women Veterans that are not currently using their VA benefits and services that they have earned and deserve. The summit will also focus on educating and assisting transitioning servicewomen, returning citizens and women Veterans with information on VA health care, benefits, pre-need services, program, and support services that may be new to them.

This initiative will be comprised of five regional summits throughout the United States.

First Stop is the Southwest! This summit will kick off in San Antonio, Texas at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center on Friday, July 24, 2026, and Saturday, July 25, 2026.

Each summit provided an opportunity for women Veterans to meet with representatives of VA and discuss issues related to their needs in employment, whole health, mental health, military sexual trauma, suicide prevention, entrepreneurial resources, and end of life planning.

Register here:

<https://whova.com/portal/registration/blpBmx5GL4oTJcmYk45h/>

JULY 5, 2026: CHAPTER 68 JULY SOCIAL (4 – 7 PM)

A special annual event hosted by Chapter 68 member Sue Wudy.



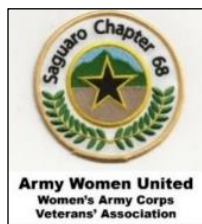
Phoenix, Arizona

INTERESTED IN JOINING CHAPTER 68, ARMY WOMEN UNITED?

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

CHAPTER 68 APRIL 2026 SOCIAL

Chapter 68 joined the Salt River Chapter of Military Women Across the Nation (MWAN) for a baby shower at American Legion Post #1, Phoenix, AZ. Members and others donated LOTS of items for new veteran mothers: clothes, diapers, quilts, wipes, lotion, etc.



L-R: Joan Sisco (UMSC vet)-Founder Veterans First Ltd, Sheree Bigge (USA vet)-President Chapter 68 Army Women United, Martha Alderman (USN vet)-President Salt River President MWAN

