

E-NEWS – JUNE 2026



Army Women United
Women's Army Corps
Veterans' Association

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

On June 12, 1948, President Truman signed the *Women's Armed Services Integration Act*, allowing women the right to permanently serve in the regular armed forces.

JUNE 14, 2026: HAPPY 251ST BIRTHDAY U.S. ARMY

THIS WE'LL DEFEND

Since 1775, America's Army has stood ready to protect the nation and its people and will fight to defend its values. Help the Army celebrate its 251st birthday on June 14! More info: <https://www.army.mil/1775/>



TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP



Renew Your Membership

FY 2026/2027
Dues

Members - \$45
Affiliate - \$30



Army Women United
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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

**If you've already submitted your dues,
THANK YOU!**

JUNE 13, 2026: CHAPTER 68 SOCIAL

"A cup of tea shared is a cup of joy doubled."



Army Women United
Women's Army Corps
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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

JUNE 12 **WOMEN VETERANS RECOGNITION DAY**

The *Women's Armed Services Integration Act* of 1948 allowed women to serve as permanent members of the military.



More info:
<https://news.va.gov/105206/dispelling-the-myths-of-women-veterans-recognition-day/>



Phoenix, Arizona

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – SHEREE BIGGE



The end of the fiscal year is upon us. We have our Zoom Business Meeting plus a June Social this month, then we officially break for the months of July and August with no Zoom meetings. Although we have a social event planned for July 5 at Aunt

Chilada's. There is no Social planned for August. We will resume normal schedule in September.

Incoming Board of Directors: The incoming board for the next fiscal year will receive the Oath of Office at the June Zoom Meeting. Julie Augeri has agreed to assume the position of Chaplain. Beth Johnson will continue as eNews Editor and I am very grateful as she produces a spectacular newsletter.

The role of 1st Vice President is still open.

Dues for FY 2026/27: The Dues for the upcoming Fiscal year are Due now. We had a drawing of all who paid their dues prior to May 15th. **The winner of two tickets to The Lavender Farm is Dana Ramsey.** Chapter 68 earned the Eagle last year while at Convention for having the most new and renewed members within the National organization. Hoping to retain that Eagle this year.

WACVA-AWU National Convention: July 31 – August 2 in Chester, VA. Gabe F will be attending as a delegate, and Shirley V will be attending the social functions offered at Convention and reconnecting with a few friends that she knew while in service. The side tour to the U.S. Army Women's Museum located near Ft Lee, VA, promises to be interesting. See pg 6 of the eNEWS to purchase a Legacy Brick.

Community Service: If you have not already, please submit your Community Service hours and monetary donations to Julie Augeri immediately. She compiles the Chapter information then submits to the

National level Community Projects Chair. All of the Chapter reports and the MAL members are then tallied and presented in the National Convention Handbook. Your hours and funds through the end of May and all of June can be a guesstimate.

501c3 Transition: There is no update to report for the 501c3 transition as still awaiting confirmation of the incorporation. Moving forward as best we can.



Next virtual Business meeting on Zoom, Tuesday, June 9, 1:00 PM AZ.

Have a wonderful summer!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – BINGO AT PHOENIX VA

Chapter 68 needs volunteers & VA badged members to help with the Community Living Center (CLC) Bingo for these dates:

Sunday, June 7

Sunday, July 12

August – no bingo



For June and July dates, volunteers are requested to show up at the VA Community Living Center by 1 PM. Bingo will be conducted from 1:30 – approx 3 PM.

An increasing number of CLC residents have been participating and it's an activity they and our volunteers really enjoy.

UPCOMING CHAPTER 68 SOCIALS

If you are available to host, contact Sheree.

Date	Host (s) / Theme
June 13, 2026 3- 6 PM Tolleson Park & Rec Ctr	Tea Party Host: Darlene Perkins, Karisma Tea Services See Flyer pg 1
July 5, 2026 4 PM See Flyer pg 5	Host: Sue Wudy, Aunt Chilada's, 7330 N Dreamy Draw Dr, Phx
August 2026	No social



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=NnUwbysvdIZ2YkhGemJ4bWFtT0h0UT09>

Meeting ID: 986 7106 2738

Password: Chap68

Upcoming Chapter 68 Business Mtgs:

- June 9, 2026
- July – no meeting
- August – no meeting
- Sept 8, 2026
- October 13, 2026
- November 10, 2026

ISSUED: STORIES OF SERVICE V4

Released May 2026

Featuring over 60 new poems and narratives by military-affiliated writers. Two **Chapter 68 members**, Lea Seago and beth Johnson have pieces included in this volume.

ISSUED is a journal that highlights veterans' voices through poetry and prose that upholds the standards of military-inspired literature, which has undeniably shaped the American literary landscape. Sponsored by the Office for Veteran and Military Academic Engagement at Arizona State University.

Available for purchase:
<https://issuedjournal.com/>



Phoenix, Arizona

CHAPTER 68 COLOR GUARD

Chapter 68 Color Guard Gabe Forsberg and Nanc Ruiz opened the 2026 Women Who Lead Summit hosted by Vanguard Veteran in Tempe on May 28.

The theme was
“Brand First,
Influence
Always: How
Personal
Branding
Shapes
Effective
Leadership.”



On Memorial Day 2026, **Chapter 68 Color Guard**, Martha Alderman, beth Johnson, Shirley Vega, Nanc Ruiz, performed at the National Memorial Cemetery of Arizona.



KUDOS TO CHAPTER 68 MEMBERS FOR COMMUNITY SERVICE 2025/2026

Once again this year our Chapter members have outdone themselves in serving and giving. Below is a comparison between the past few years and 2025/26. It's amazing what we can do when join our efforts together.



Chapter 68	Community Service Hours	Donations
2025-26	14,895	\$153,865.00
2024-25	8,693.5	\$ 59,317.58
2023-24	7,849	\$ 50,814.13
2022-23	10,572	\$ 53,163.94

Respectfully Submitted,
Julie Augeri, Chair, Community Services
Project Reporting, Chapter 68

"WILDFLOWERS OF LIBERTY"

250th Celebratory Collaborative Painting

Several **Chapter 68 members** painted 6X6" squares in this powerful work created by 56 women Veterans. The painting was unveiled at the 20th Annual Creative Arts Festival, *Honoring Veteran Creativity and Healing*, at Phoenix VA on May 7, 2026. The project was conceived and led by **Chapter 68 member** Dana Ramsey of HEALHERArt.



VA RECOGNIZES VOLUNTEERS

Chapter 68 members recognized for their service to the Phoenix VA Healthcare System.

**Karen
Craig –
500 hours**



**Joy Isban –
1000 hours**



**Gabe
Forsberg –
4000 hours**



JUNE 10, 2026: CHAPTER 68 MEMBER DR CHERYL SCHMIDT – GUEST SPEAKER



Leadership | Education | Assessment | Development
Connecting Women Veterans & Non-Veterans

TIMES: 7:30 am PST | 7:30 am AZ MST
"Advocating for Military Veteran
Healthcare: A Leader's Responsibility"
SPEAKER: Dr. Cheryl Schmidt, ASU Nursing
Instructor, Army Vet, AZ Veterans Hall of
Fame

The in-person
location is
Fairway
Mortgage
20359 N. 59th
Ave, Ste. 100,
Glendale, AZ



The War Horse reports on the U.S. military
and veterans issues, exposing the true cost
of military service and rebuilding America's
reporting ecosystem to inspire an informed
citizenry that holds the military-industrial
complex accountable. Our team
accomplishes this through bulletproof
journalism, education programs, and
community-building events.
More info: <https://thewarhorse.org/>

JULY 5, 2026 CHAPTER 68 SOCIAL



**Phoenix VA Community Care
Important Phone Numbers**

VA  U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Phoenix VA Health Care System

PHOENIX VA IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

For ALL Emergency Department visits, call the VA 72-Hour Notification Hotline within 72 hours of presenting to a Non-VA Community ER.
VA 72-Hour Notification Hotline: Call 844-724-7842

Emergency Room Bill or Pharmacy Reimbursement: Call the VA Community Care Contact Center (C4) 877-881-7618
Urgent Care bill: Call 800-698-2411
Community Care bill: Call 877-226-8749
Ambulance bill: Call Bene-Travel 602-277-5551 ext. 7903
VA Co-pay/bill: Call WCPAC 888-827-4817

Unable to travel to the PVAHCS Veteran Resource Center (VRC) or unsure who to call: Call C4 877-881-7618



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.



Phoenix, Arizona

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/>

LEGACY BRICKS AT U.S. ARMY WOMEN'S MUSEUM, FT. LEE, VA

The Friends of the Army Women's Museum ask you to Donate a Tribute Brick and help us:

Build a Legacy, One Brick at a Time



Your customized brick will be placed in landscaped areas around the outside of the US Army Women's Museum surrounding the LT FAWMA statue at Fort Lee, VA.

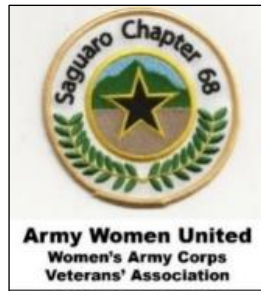
The brick is a lasting tribute to honor a service member, a civilian, a spouse, a friend, a family member, a retiree or yourself. Each brick donation provides funds to support the museum to help with exhibits, outreach and educational events.

More info:

<https://www.thatismybrick.com/armywmnsva>

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 /eNEWS Ed	beth Johnson

To contact a board member

CALL: 602-551-7368

EMAIL: AZSaguaro.Chapter68@gmail.com

WOMEN VETERANS SELF-SCHEDULE YOUR GYN AND MAMMOGRAM APPOINTMENTS

Phoenix VA Expands Access for Women Veterans: Self-Schedule GYN & Mammogram Appointments

Here at the Phoenix VA, we are committed to making it easier and more convenient for Women Veterans to access the high-quality care you have earned. Guided by our mission to honor and serve Veterans with excellence, we continue to expand access to timely and personalized Women's Health services.

Women Veterans can now self-schedule GYN and mammogram appointments—no referral needed.



To schedule your appointment
call: (602) 277-5551
Select Option 2, then Option 5

Thank you for allowing us to support your health and well-being. We are honored to serve you.



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Phoenix VA Health Care System

650 E INDIAN SCHOOL RD
PHOENIX, AZ 85012
(602) 277-5551



Phoenix, Arizona

CHAPTER 68 MAY 2026 SOCIAL

On May 2, **members of Chapter 68** joined women veterans from West Valley Women Veterans for a tea party at The Spicery in Glendale.

