



To ensure that Arizona's veteran community is kept "up to date" on what is happening with the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services (ADVS), we offer this monthly update sent out to our veteran contacts throughout the State of Arizona. Please visit our website at: [www.azdvs.gov](http://www.azdvs.gov)

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## ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME-PHOENIX (ASVH-Phoenix)

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## January Report

At the Arizona State Veteran Home – Phoenix, the new year began with a apple cider toast, and New Years' Resolutions.

This January marks our fourth annual "ASVH Open," where veterans and members participate in an adaptive golf class. Each week, they practice their skills and have a tournament during the last week of the month, near the Phoenix Open.

Adaptive Golf – preparing for the ASVH Open.





On January 16, our veterans enjoyed a BBQ Hamburger and Hot dog lunch, provided by the American Legion Auxiliary! This lunch was to celebrate a visit from the ALA National President, Sharon Conaster. The lunch was enjoyed by all, and Sharon presented the veterans in attendance with a commemorative pin.



The ASVH – P is grateful for the kindness of the Veterans Medical Leadership Council. They have kindly donated funds to purchase an aviary for the C1 Memory Community. This therapeutic aviary is specially designed to help our veterans be engaged. The birds are beautiful and our veterans enjoy watching.





ASVH Veterans attended an outing to Cooties Pup Tent #11 at VFW Post 9400 on January 22. They were provided with a fish and chicken dinner, and the Post Commander read a proclamation honoring Vietnam Veterans. Then each Vietnam Veteran was presented with a pin to thank them for their service.



(Below) ASVH – Phoenix is looking forward to February, and an outing to the Martin Auto Museum, Mardi Gras, and the Valentine's Day Party.





**ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME-TUCSON (ASVH-TUC)**

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- Contents submitted by Sam Nanez & Ellen Bittman



**January in Review**

The New Year's Eve party was hosted by the Knights of Columbus. Party goers enjoyed champagne and light refreshments, with party hats and favors. We look forward to the Knights of Columbus hosting the party in 2016, which will make their fourth year.





POW-WOW was a great success in January. We doubled the number of customers at our site, raising \$1,400 and support our community with well-needed fruits and vegetables. Volunteers were very helpful in distributing close to 400 copies of the POW-WOW flyers in the surrounding neighborhoods.





Our Beer & Pizza party was a great success. Those who attend have been more vocal about requesting particular toppings, which we have been able to accommodate.





Our fourth annual Chili Cook-off was a great success. We had five wonderful chili entrants from mild to spicy, two with turkey and three with beef. It was a heated completion between last year's first and second place winners (Sam Nanez, Therapeutic Program Manager and Barbara Kasper, Housekeeping Manager). This year the roles were reversed and Kasper took home the first place honors, with Sam coming in second. Special congratulations to Derek Duncan, who won third place in the chili cook-off (pictured below with his fiancé). Delene Sabol and Nancy Morrow were recognized with participant ribbons.





## ASVH-TUC: Coming in February

- Our residents continue to enjoy their community outings. February outings include: Walmart on February 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>, and 24<sup>th</sup>; Family Dollar on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 23<sup>rd</sup>; and Desert Diamond Casino trips on Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> and Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m.; and Gem & Minerals Show outing at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.
- We are welcoming back Dennis Brewer and his Golden Retriever named Daisy, who will be providing pet therapy starting on February 12<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. She will be visiting our residents throughout the facility and neighborhoods every Friday while her owner enjoys the winter and spring months in Tucson. It is good to have them back!
- Also providing pet therapy for ASVH-Tucson are: Patches and Steve (dogs), who visit Building 2 on Fridays at 9:30 a.m.; Sir William (dog), who visits twice a month on Fridays alternating visits with cats, Jessie and James.
- On Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the Chapel/Community Room, we will be celebrating the Chinese New Year, Year of the Monkey, with Chinese tea, refreshments and education on the Year of the Monkey.
- On Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m., American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) Unit 8 will host Bingo in the Building 2 Recreation Area.
- On Tuesday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 p.m. in the Sports Lounge, it is time for our Pizza and Beer Party.
- On Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, at 10:30 a.m., Friends Honoring Veterans will be visiting our residents, delivering Valentine cards.
- On Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m. in the Chapel/Community Room, the Elks are hosting a Valentine's Party.
- On Saturday, February 13, 2016, Produce on Wheels Without Waste (POW-WOW) returns from 8:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. For a donation of \$10, you may take up 60 pounds of produce.
- On Saturday, February 13<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m., American Legion Auxiliary is hosting a Valentine's Day party in the Chapel/Community Room. The Disabled American Veterans are concurrently hosting Bingo along with cake and ice cream.
- On Sunday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, Recreation staff and volunteers will be passing out individual candy hearts to all of our residents.
- On Tuesday, February 16<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 p.m. in the Chapel/Community Room, the VFW/ALA will host the monthly birthdays' party.
- On Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup> and Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, we will be celebrating the Annual La Fiesta de los Vaqueros (Rodeo Days). ASVH-Tucson will host a BBQ and provide live Country/Western entertainment, and horse & carriage rides alongside Buildings 4 and 5 as we celebrate our Tucson heritage.
- On Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 a.m., Little Hooves and Big Hearts will return with the miniature therapeutic horses.
- On Friday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel/Community Room, ASVH-Tucson and VFW 10188 Ritual Team will host our quarterly Memorial of Remembrance for veterans/residents no longer with us.



Musical entertainment coming in February includes:

- On Friday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m., Georgia's Gift of Music with flute and song.
- On Friday, February 19<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m., Dr. Lois Wilde performs a piano concert in the Chapel/Community Room.
- On Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:30 p.m., Over the Hill Vets performs country music/Bluegrass in the Chapel/Community Room.
- On Thursday, February 25<sup>th</sup>, at 11:00 a.m., Country Duo will perform country music during Rodeo celebration.
- On Sunday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 2:30 p.m., The Expressions/jazz music performance in the Chapel/Community Room.

Donations recently received by ASVH-Tucson:

- On January 6<sup>th</sup>, Elks Lodge #385 donated books to the ASVH-Tucson Library with an estimated value of \$200.
- Over the holiday season (11/30/15, 12/21/15, and 12/30/15), American Legion Auxiliary Unit 101 donated non-alcoholic wine, cakes, candy canes, pretzels, 12 pack of O'Doul's, 12 pack of Budweiser, 18 pack of Lite beer, 24 pack of Coors Light, a cheese tray, worth a total value of \$205.38.
- On January 15<sup>th</sup>, Diana Aragon donated t shirts, hats, beanies, gloves, disposable cameras, audio books, calendars, and journals worth an estimated value of \$150.
- On January 19<sup>th</sup>, American Legion Auxiliary 109 donated four cakes, ice cream, 32 DVDs (Dean Martin Roast set) with an estimated value of \$210.
- On January 21<sup>st</sup>, Green Valley Elks #2592 donated clothes, puzzles and toiletries with an estimated value of \$100.
- In January, Mr. Jim Noonan on behalf of Warner Brother's Entertainment and Mr. Paul Rogers donated approximately 30 DVDs with an estimated value of \$150.
- On January 27<sup>th</sup>, American Legion Auxiliary Oro Valley, Unit 132 donated 80 books with an estimated value of \$180.

*Thanks to all for the much needed and much appreciated donations!!!*



**SOUTHERN ARIZONA VETERANS MEMORIAL CEMETERY - SIERRA VISTA**

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**New Veteran Cemeteries - Dates**

- Dedication of Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery - Marana is Saturday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016.
- Dedication of Arizona Veterans Memorial Cemetery - Camp Navajo is Saturday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

January and February are incredibly busy times for both new cemeteries, with staff hiring, staff training, furnishings being delivered, and everything being set up just right to best serve our veterans, their families, and our visitors.

Reminder: The construction sites are not yet complete, muddy conditions exist, and the roads. ***Please do not visit the sites until notified by ADVS that it is safe and appropriate to do so. At that time, we will publish official location addresses with directions, and update the associated web pages.***

**AVMC - Marana**

