

HELLO, ARIZONA ALA LOCAL UNITS!!

Did you know that purple has a significant meaning in the world of survivors?

Purple honors both survivors and those who died, symbolizing courage, survival, and commitment to ending domestic violence.

When you see white encompassed with a purple ribbon it represents a personal pledge to never commit, condone, or stay silent about violence. Together, purple and white represent survivor support, honoring victims, and community solidarity.

October is domestic violence awareness month. Our National ALA speaks on what defines Community Service, it is an engagement plan that challenges ALA members to become visible within our communities by working on service projects and collaborating with other organizations so that more people recognize the ALA's local efforts to support our veterans, servicemembers, their families, and our communities.

Keeping the above in mind, our August & September challenge is to engage agencies/organizations that assist in ending domestic violence in our local communities. Here are a few ways to research that information:

- Research by a zip code at Domesticshelters.org; or contact the National Domestic Violence Hotline 24/7 at 1-800-799-SAFE (7233); or
- Text "START" to 88788. Ask to speak to the Shelter/Center Director, or CEO of Operations to discuss how you may partner with awareness and prevention!

Please remember that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Your community is hungry to partner with you! Plus, starting early in your planning process is super helpful and makes a positive impact on our veterans.

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH KNOWLEDGE

VA research indicates 15%-50% of veterans report intimate partner violence (IPV) at some point, with a Yale study showing 51% of surveyed veterans reporting IPV use compared to lower rates among active – duty personnel. Approximately 35%-48% of veterans report having been victims of domestic violence or IPV. PTSD correlation among military couples where a partner experiences PTSD, over 55% report experiencing domestic altercations or physical violence. October 1st marks the start of National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Lighting ceremonies serve as a symbolic kickoff to launch a month of honoring survivors and raising public

awareness. Or you can interview the local agencies/organizations to see what their needs are and coordinate accordingly.

LOCAL UNIT 27 COLLABORATION TESTIMONY

I served as the Apache Unit 27 Community Service Chairman for three years. This Chairman reached out to the Director of Hope Women's Center to discuss their current needs and how we might collaborate. The Unit Chairman learned the facility had suffered major flooding from a broken water heater over the weekend. Unit 27 immediately launched a donation drive to provide essential cleaning & hygiene products, paper goods, and toiletries. During a follow-up call to conduct an impact report (highly recommend doing this after a service project), the Chairman discovered the center also required manual support to move heavy furniture back into the newly renovated facility. Rallying the American Legion family, volunteers completed the move in under an hour. Please enjoy the photos from this great service effort!

Chairmen, you can collaborate in many ways, conduct a supply drive, attend a lighting ceremony, wearing purple and white ribbons during the month of October to raise awareness, volunteer to make a plead to end domestic violence and have your unit members sign it in agreement. Take your unit's service project to another level and engage the YOUTH! Chairmen you can do this by encouraging the youth in your community to wear a ribbon, participate in a supply drive, or attend a lighting ceremony. If anyone needs help birthing, planning, or engaging a service project please reach out to JoJo Baldwin at 520-788-9714 or jbaldwinlaw.atty@gmail.com.