

**Arizona Federation of Republican Women
Armed Services/Homeland Security Committee
June 10, 2010**

In cooperation with the National Federation of Republican Women (NFRW), the Arizona Federation of Republican Women (AzFRW) is initiating a statewide Armed Services/Homeland Security Committee. By virtue of their respective missions, all of our 29 member clubs have enjoyed opportunities to support our troops—active, deployed, reserve, wounded and veteran. And many of our clubs are involved with ongoing projects on behalf of our soldiers.

Here are **highlights** of some of our clubs' current projects:

- Yuma County Republican Women and Tempe Republican Women: Projects in conjunction with local American Legion posts (e.g., collecting telephone cards for wounded warriors and sending care packages);
- Huachuca Area Republican Women: Projects in conjunction with local bases (e.g., coordination of projects with Fort Huachuca chaplain, based on soldiers' needs); food drives for Fort Huachuca food lockers;
- Thunder Mountain Republican Women: Through the auspices of Adopt-a-Platoon (adoptaplatoon.org), sending care packages and funds to deployed soldiers;
- Flagstaff Republican Women: Participation in local Armed Forces Day activities, including parades; participation in other Marine Army Navy Air Force (MANA) activities;
- Republican Women of Prescott: Monthly preparation and mailing of care packages to troops who are residents of the member community; "adoption" of wounded serviceman of local community (cards, packages, letters, family support);
- Tempe Republican Women: Three to four times per year, preparation and mailing of packages under the auspices of Packages from Home (an Arizona charitable organization specializing in packaging and sending items to troops); preparation and mailing of packages to soldiers who are residents of the local community (club members receive soldiers' names and addresses from relative, friends, acquaintances and church members);
- Arrowhead Republican Women: Sewing and collecting pillowcases; collecting "Moist Wipes," pocket flags, Bibles and books for transport and delivery to deployed troops;
- Central Republican Women's Club: Working with the Wounded Women Warriors Project in conjunction with the Arizona Department of Veterans Services, participation in the Second Annual Military Women' Conference with a \$130 scholarship and chocolate basket donation;
- Estrella Republican Women's Club: Projects (e.g., care packages, funds for mailing) in conjunction with the local chapter of Blue Star Mothers of America; in addition, Club members collect funds and purchase gift cards (e.g., from Starbucks, local fast food restaurants). A gift card is taped to a member's seat at a general meeting and the member sitting on that seat has the opportunity to give the gift card to a soldier she/he encounters during the next month--and then report about the encounter at the next general meeting.
- Paradise Republican Women: Developed and executed a "Diapers Galore and More" baby shower for wives of National Guardsmen.

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Many clubs have participated in the collection and mailing of packages, greeting cards, telephones and telephone cards for our troops.

In addition to current projects, here are some **future project ideas** from club presidents:

- Projects on behalf of women—active, deployed, wounded and/or veteran
- Projects for deployed soldiers from the local community
- Projects for families of military troops
- Recognition in newsletters of troops who are members' relatives and friends
- Recognition of members who are soldiers (active, reserve, veterans), mothers, grandmothers, sisters, aunts of soldiers (active, deployed, reserve, veterans)—and all of their male counterparts

We seek to develop a committee that facilitates opportunities for all member clubs to share in the service of our armed forces through meaningful projects. And we'd like to ensure that projects are most effective for our troops and are also easy to implement on a regular and timely basis. Importantly, we want to be able to share with member clubs ideas and information from NFRW as it pertains to participation in Armed Services/Homeland Security activities. And so we seek a state **committee structure** that includes a member from each club to facilitate activities and communication, with support from NFRW and AzFRW. With a committee member in each club, we'll have opportunities to coordinate activities regionally and even statewide.

What are the **next steps**? Please take this information back to your clubs, take a few moments to discuss project ideas, request the participation of eager and enthusiastic members to join the AzFRW Armed Services/Homeland Security Committee, and—**by September 15, 2010**--send project ideas, along with members' names and contact information to:

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