



High Priestess

Arvida X Curry

Recorder



Cactus Chatter

Sphinx Court #65 - Phoenix, Arizona
April—May 2025

Lady LaDonna Seger, Grand High Priestess

Motto: “Believe in yourself and you will be unstoppable.”

CONGRATULATIONS to the Sphinx Court Members, Officers, Aides, Unit and Club Leaders! As we embark on the 2025-2026 Whimsical Mystic Ladies Year, we do so with renewed energies and a zest for friendship, fellowship, growth, and an eagerness to help the Shrine Children and our community.

Thank You ladies for a beautiful Installation and amazing reception; it could not have been done without you. The day was filled with laughter, memories, gorgeous ladies, friends, and guests who wanted to celebrate us. If you were not able to join us at the Installation; this year, as it has been 5 years since a Global Pandemic placed us into a year of virtual learning and supporting each other, we will be honoring Lady Debbie Smith, PHP.

As we kick off this year with the Unit and Club installations, I encourage all the ladies to go out and visit the units. If you have not found a unit where you can share your talents or learn new ones, or are new to the Court and are curious about the units and what they do, there is no better time to come out and see what they do.

Our first Court meeting is on April 28th at 7pm, with dinner beginning at 5:30pm. If you would like to join us for dinner, don't forget to RSVP to Lady Margie, 2nd Ceremonial Lady; look for her article for more information. If you haven't been to a meeting in a while, it would be lovely to see you and catch up. Please come out and join us if you can't make the April meeting, I am putting a challenge out to come and visit us at least at one meeting. Plus, you will see how we will honor our Lady Debbie Smith, PHP.

Before we head off to our Summer plans and travel, Grand Council will be held May 18 – 24th in Kansas City, MO, followed by our May meeting. **IMPORTANT UPDATE MAY MEETING** Due to the Memorial Day holiday, the May meeting has been moved to **Tuesday, May 27th** at 7pm with dinner at 530 pm.

While we are busy enjoying Summer plans, watch for communications about the Ways and Means Kick-Off, the visit of our Grand High Priestess, Lady Cyndi Rudd, September 13-15, and WAOUM, September 18-20, and how we can help prepare for our friends to visit us for a fun-filled weekend.

In closing, I would like to Thank You, the members, for your support and confidence in electing me as your High Priestess. I am honored to represent and serve Sphinx Court. Here's to making a mess and having fun cleaning it up.



Mermaid Splashes and Butterfly Kisses,

Lady Mechelle Gaines, High Priestess

Phone: 719-229-9226

Email: emeraldmermaid2526@gmail.com

Officers' Offerings

Princess



Hello Ladies, I can't believe another year has gone by. I would like to say welcome to all the ladies that joined our court this past year. Please check out the units and join something as you will get more out of it, and have fun.

I would like to thank each and every one of you Ladies of Sphinx Court for all your support for my year as Associate Princess. Our court did such a fantastic job raising money for the St. Louis, MO, Hospital. Way to go Ladies!

As Princess I hope to do a good job for our Court, have fun, make new friends, and make lots of new memories. Congratulations to our new High Priestess Lady Mechelle Gaines and to our line Officers Lady Dennice, Associate Princess, Lady Debbie Sise, First Ceremonial Lady, and our new mushroom Lady Margie Brakefield as Second Ceremonial Lady. We will have our first meeting with our new High Priestess in April. Then it's off to Kansas City, MO, for Grand Council. We have so much fun when we take these trips together. May will be our last Court meeting until September. Everyone have a safe and wonderful summer.

May The Force Be With You!

Lady Lou Ann Speas, Princess

Phone: 480-510-2896, Email: littletyrant1960@aol.com

Associate Princess



Congratulations to all the elected officers and welcome to the line, Lady Margie Brakefield. I'm looking forward to my new position as Associate Princess. I have been in contact with many of our hospitals and I hope you will be excited about our Court Hospital Project. You always come through with donations to support the Shrine Children. You are all awesome!

Hummingbird Hugs and Butterfly Kisses,

Lady Dennice Dunaway, Associate Princess

Phone: 602-628-7820, Email: dundealaz@gmail.com

First Ceremonial Lady



Welcome to all our new members! I want to thank the Court for electing me as the First Ceremonial Lady and to express what an honor it is to be part of such a diverse and accepting organization focused on philanthropy. We work with the Shriner kids and their families, the homeless, victims of domestic violence, and foster care, just to name a few. We support and invite like-minded individuals to join us. If you know someone that sounds like this, please forward their names and information to me. This way I can formally invite them to our Membership Teas. Our next Tea (save the date) will be on September 6th.

I would like to thank my aide, Lady Jessica Contreras, for helping me last year. She was unable to continue, due to a job change. This year my aide will be Lady Natalie Trainor, whom I think you all will like to get to know.

Thank you, Ladies, for all you do,

Lady Debbie Sise, 1st Ceremonial Lady

Phone: 810-923-0024, Email: mypolasha@icloud.com

Second Ceremonial Lady



I would like to thank the Court for electing me as 2nd Ceremonial Lady. I will do my best to make you proud. I have the permanent list for dinners, if you would like to be removed or added please let me know. I also need to know any dietary restrictions you may have.

The April 28, 2025 Court dinner at 5:30pm will be a Taco Bowl with ground beef, lettuce, tomatoes, red beans, cheese and sour cream. The dessert will be ice cream. Please let me know if you are planning to attend the dinner on April 19, 2025.

The May meeting has been moved to Tuesday, May 27th, due to the Memorial Day holiday. The Court dinner at 5:30pm will be a Baked Potato Bar with chili, cheese, onion, sour cream and broccoli. The dessert will be lemon bars.

I am looking forward to the Court having a great year.

Lady Margie Brakefield, 2nd Ceremonial Lady,

Phone: 928 587-2133, Email: davenmargie2000@gmail.com

Officers' Offerings

Recorder

A BIG WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Stephanie Alvarez, 2 East Geneva Dr, Tempe, AZ 85282-3637, 209-594-5839

stephanie010@outlook.com

Brooklyn Connaughty, 4893 Mesa Verde Dr, Fort Mohave, AZ 86426-6754, 928-296-4439

boo.connaughty@gmail.com

Darla Moore-Guinn, 2132 W Angelo Way, San Tan Valley, AZ 85144-1890, 210-439-6751

darlafmoore@gmail.com

Leaha Hazlegrove, 2436 E Midgo Dr, Fort Mohave, AZ 86426-7026, 928-435-2572

leaha17.LL@gmail.com

Karen Perry-Laird, 10719 E Lupine Ln, Florence, AZ 85132-7329, 503-654-5704

kepe@q.com

Victoria Smith, 2535 W Broadway Rd, Mesa, AZ 85202-1009, 480-246-9683

vsmithstuff@gmail.com

Cassandra Staley, 8268 W Charter Oak Rd, Peoria, AZ 85381-8160, 602-909-1906

cstaley2023@gmail.com

Cynthia Staley, 8268 W Charter Oak Rd, Peoria, AZ 85381-8160, 602-799-1550

mikncnd@gmail.com

Nicole Torres, 19650 Aubrey Cir, Maricopa, AZ 85138-2487, 619-865-6715

nikkisue23@yahoo.com

Carla Ward, 17120 N 51st Ave, Apt 5303, Glendale, AZ 85308-1531, 951-634-3642

calaward56@icloud.com

ROSTER CHANGES

Jennifer Griffin, email crazyredhead@gmail.com – correction

Pat Bandhauer new email patricia.bandhauer@gmail.com

Jennifer Bohlman address 445 E Germann Rd, Apt 1077, Gilbert, AZ 85297-3137

Heather Sygrove address 3328 E Mountain View Rd, Phoenix, AZ 85028-3955

Sharon Harrison address 9501 E Broadway Rd, Lot 65, Mesa, AZ 85208-2443

*******2025 DUES of \$35.00 WERE DUE ON APRIL 1, 2025*******

Make your check payable to Sphinx Court #65

Mail to c/o Linda Curry, 1550 N El Camino Drive, Tempe, AZ 85288-1426

Your self-addressed, stamped envelope for return of your dues card is greatly appreciated.

ATTENTION:

We can now accept Zelle payments. Use the following email address:

recorder@sphinxcourt65.org Be sure to include the purpose of your payment.

If you would like to have your email address in the next Court roster, please send an email to lkcurry1@cox.net from the address you would like included giving permission.

Lady Linda Curry, PHP

Phone: 602-619-4313, Email: lkcurry1@cox.net

Unit and Club Happenings

Ceremonial Pageantry

What a great Spring Ceremonial! We are so excited to welcome our new members! Many thanks to those who helped on stage with the Story. It went smoothly and without a hitch!

Speaking of the Story, our Unit is looking forward to sprucing up our set by investing time and money into new props. We know you will want to be at the next Ceremonial to see our new look.

We had our election of officers: Lady Jane Sheldon, President; Lady Gina Baird PHP, Vice President, Lady Bobbie Balthazor, PHP, Secretary; Lady Nancy Beffel, Treasurer. Our next meeting is our Installation on April 9th at 6:30pm. Since this is the last issue of the Cactus Chatter before our summer break, we hope you and your families stay happy, healthy, and wise until we meet again.

Lady Bobbie Balthazor, PHP—Secretary

Director Staff

WOW!!!! Where has the time gone. Another year in the books. Congratulations to our new Line Officers and to Lady Mechelle, our new High Priestess. Congratulations to all the new Unit Officers.

To our new members, Ladies please come and check out Director Staff. We are a fun group of wild Indians, and we do a lot of good work for the Shrine and for our community. We are in charge of the Fun Night for our Western Area Meet in September! We need everyone to help. Please reach out to Judy and Mary and let them know where you can help.

We will be having dance practice before we head out to Grand Council, so keep an eye out for that. Remember Ladies we are the Travel Unit this year! Let's make Lady Mechelle our High Priestess Proud!!

Lady Debbie Smith, PHP - Assistant Chief

Clown Unit

Our Unit met on March 13, starting with our new member, Lady Barbara Roth. She plays the ukulele and will bring fun and music. Member Lady Susan Manley, aka Chuckles, has decided to return to the world of clowns. We planned our summer training days on June 8 and July 20 at Lady Pam Wade's house. We will be working on our face painting and costumes while eating and drinking the lazy Sunday away.

The Clowns will be performing at Grand Council this summer. We have some upbeat clowns who jumped up to volunteer for the New Year committees too; thank you, Ladies Greer Baldwin, Janet Labell, PHP, Debbie Smith, PHP, Andria Granada, Emy Bartula, and Marsha Young, PHP. This year will be crazy fun between marching in parades, learning new techniques, and laughing, and sipping at the Christmas party.

Come and see our installation on April 10; everyone is invited. Congratulations to President Lady Pam Wade, Vice President Lady Greer Baldwin, Treasurer Lady Nancy Beffel, and Secretary Lady Marsha Young. Shhhhhh! Our Clown of the Year will be announced. Wait for our next chatter article to see who that is, or come and see for yourself. The New Year will bring lots of fun and excitement. If you want to join the Clown Unit we meet on the 2nd Thursday of each month at 7 pm at El Zaribah. Come at 530 pm to eat dinner with us and chit chat.

Lady Greer Balwin, aka Glitter - V.P.

Dancing puppets in parades,
Shriners kids with painted faces,
Creative costumes made with love,
Clowns excel in many places.

If you would rather smile than frown,
We like your style, become a CLOWN!



Contact the Sphinx Court #65 Clown Unit
Pam Wade, President @ 602-758-2370
sphinxcourtclownunit@gmail.com

SPHINX PATROL



Water Bottle Holders -
\$5.00
LOS Folding Fans
\$3.00 each or 2 for \$5.00
See any Patrol member

Be A
Lady in Red
Join the
Ceremonial Pageantry



Contact LADY JANE SHELDON
480-710-5975



Unit and Club Happenings

Sphinx Patrol

The ladies of the Sphinx Patrol Unit wish to extend a warm welcome to the Sphinx Court's newest members as well as a hearty congratulations to all of the 2025-26 officers of the Court.

The Sphinx Patrol performs choreographed marches and has the honor of acting as escorts during certain Court events, all while remembering to laugh (usually at ourselves). We meet at El Zaribah on the third Tuesday of every month except June, July and August. Practice starts at about 6:15 p.m., followed by our meeting at 7:00 p.m. The Red Fez Room (where you can order off of their normal menu) will be open for dinner starting at 5:30 p.m.

Our next meeting on April 15, 2025, will be the installation of our newly-elected officers for the coming year: Captain, Lady Amy Wilson; Lieutenant, Lady Debbie Smith, PHP; Lady Maria Parish, PHP, Secretary; Lady Andie Lacombe, Treasurer.

As an FYI, an alternate date for our May meeting will be decided at our April meeting because our normal meeting date is during Grand Council week. If you are interested in being a member of a unit that can make getting just a little bit of exercise enjoyable, please join us! All Sphinx Court members are welcome.

Lady Amy Wilson, Captain

Greeters

Ladies: Congratulations to all our new members and welcome to Sphinx Court #65. We had our Installation of Officers and Official Visit on April 5th at the Old Spaghetti Factory with many members, line officers and unit heads attending. Lady Trish Whalen, PHP was our installing officer and did a wonderful job. Ladies installed were: Lady Andie Lacombe, President; Lady Gina Baird, PHP, Vice President; Lady Debbie Smith, PHP Secretary and Lady Nancy Beffel, Treasurer. We have a great slate of officers who do a wonderful job and make me look good—congrats ladies!

Our next meeting will not be until September - more information to come on where. We hope to have an un-birthday party during the summer months not to interfere with WAOUN - maybe in June or July. More information to follow in an update on this party as well.

We have several ladies traveling to Grand Council in May - I wish them safe travels!

Lady Andie Lacombe, President

Past High Priestess Club

Hi Ladies, it is such a busy time around our Court. Congratulations to all our new line Officers and our new High Priestess Lady Mechelle. I also want to congratulate all the new Unit and Club Officers.

I am honored to be the new President of the Past High Priestess Club and to welcome our newest member, Lady Marcia Cherry, Jr. Past High Priestess. The Ceremonial was beautiful, and I am so excited to see the new Ladies and what they will join.

To our new Members, although you cannot join the PHP Club right away, please go and visit all the Units. That is where the real friendships begin! The PHP Club has something very exciting coming soon, so stay tuned! Safe Travels to those Ladies going to Grand Council.

Lady Debbie Smith, PHP, President



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NOTICE

If you would like to have your email address in the next Court roster, please send an email to lkcurry1@cox.net from the address you would like included giving permission to publish it.

CACTUS CHATTER UPDATE EMAILS

If you are not receiving emails from the Cactus Chatter Updates list, please contact Linda Curry, PHP to be added. lkcurry1@cox.net



Director Staff

Fez Hard Cases \$55
Plastic Fez Cases \$15
Ginny Fain
480-548-2725

Unit and Club Happenings

Ladies of Mohave

The Ladies of Mohave are proud to be the newest club within Sphinx Court #65, residing in Mohave County, Bullhead City. We meet at the Mohave Shrine Club on the last Tuesday of every month, beginning with fellowship at 6 PM and our meeting at 7 PM. Please note that we go dark in June. Our group consists of active members and also offers honorary membership for ladies living outside of Mohave County who are members of Sphinx Court. We are excited to congratulate two new ladies from Mohave, Leaha Hazlegrove and Brooklyn Connaughty, who were initiated at the March ceremonial. We hope they will become our newest active members of Ladies of Mohave!

The Ladies of Mohave are committed to supporting Shriners Children's hospitals and giving back to the community. In the coming months, we will be hosting a toy and stuffed animal drive and delivering these donations along with quilts and blankets we have made or received. A special thank you to the Director's Staff for the beautiful blankets! We are also excited to share that we will be traveling to Shriners Children's Salt Lake City on July 11, 2025, to personally deliver these much-needed items. In addition to our charitable efforts, we are hosting a Greeting Mixer on May 2nd at the Mohave Shrine Club. This is a great opportunity for ladies interested in learning more about LOS and the meaningful work we do.


Following the success of our Mad Hatter Tea Party, we are thrilled to announce our next themed tea party: A Beach Party Tea! Join us on August 9th as we swap traditional hot tea for specialty iced teas, all while enjoying a fun, beach-themed atmosphere. We are also excited to co-host the 2nd Annual Masonic Family Picnic on August 23, 2025, at Hualapai Mountain Park. This event is a collaboration between Ladies of Mohave, Mohave Shrine Club, Mohave Valley Lodge #68, and Order of Eastern Star Sunrise #60. It will be a day filled with games, fellowship, and fun for families within our Masonic community. We look forward to another wonderful gathering and hope to see many of you there!

We also want to extend a heartfelt congratulations to High Priestess Marcia Cherry for a fantastic year and express our gratitude to her and all the ladies who helped us form Ladies of Mohave. Their support and dedication have been instrumental in making our club a reality, and we appreciate all their efforts.

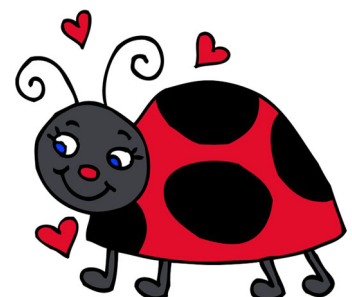
The Ladies of Mohave continue to grow, serve, and support our community with warmth and dedication. If you are interested in joining us or attending one of our events, we would love to welcome you! Stay connected, stay involved, and let's continue making a difference together!

Jessica Tary, President



SPHINX NO. 65 	GREETERS Court and Unit Name Tags Choice of Red or Blue Ink Magnetic Name Tag - \$15.00 Pin Back Name Tag - \$10.00 Unit Bar - \$7.00
<small>Contact: Andie Lacombe 602-359-2015 Andie@curtismanagement.biz</small>	

	Welcome New Members and Congratulations to our new Officers!! Past High Priestess Club
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Committee Reports

Sunshine Report

03/25—Lady Debbie Smith, PHP, grandson needs prayers
 03/21—Lady Dorothy Netherton, passed
 03/14—Lady Mary Lou Salyer, PHP—needs prayers
 02/27—Lady Beatrice Hillman, PGHP—passed
 02/07—Lady Trudy Mullins, PHP—needs prayers

If you hear of anyone with good news or sickness, contact Lady Linda Curry, PHP at 602-619-4313 or email lkcurry1@cox.net. She will send out the Cactus Chatter Updates via email and Lady Karen MacDougall, PHP, is her back up. Lady Kacy Baxter and Lady Taime Ben-gochea will be sending out cards.

2025 W.A.O.U.M. Coming to Sphinx!

Howdy Ladies! We are moving along. Our Party under the Sonoran Sunset is really coming together. The Units have their bag swag and activities are in place. Our Fun Night is going to be a BLAST!!! Remember to wrangle up your partners to attend. We will be inviting our Pote and his Divan to come and party with us. Be on the lookout for your registration packet. Please plan to attend! This is a Unit and Club function, and everyone benefits! We will need all hands-on deck once we get closer. August we will be putting together all the registration and goody bags together. Our next meeting is April 23rd at 6:30pm at the Shrine.

Lady Debbie Smith, PHP
W.A.O.U.M. Committee President

Membership @01/27/2025 211

Correction	-2
Initiated	10
Dual	0
Reinstated	0
Demitted	-5
Deceased	-0
Suspended	-5

Membership @03/16/2025 209

Cactus Chatter Editor

Lady Karen MacDougall, PHP
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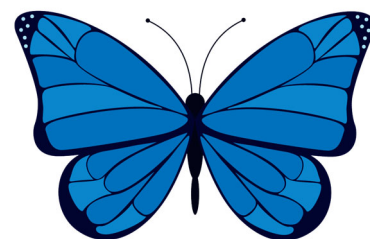
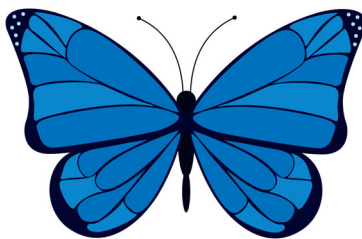
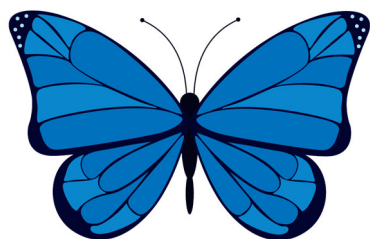
Sphinx Court Ways and Means

The Ways and Means Committee is excitedly working on fundraisers for the 2025-2026 year that will create memories, fellowship, and fun. Stay tuned for more information on fundraisers that can be shared with our family and friends. These fundraisers will begin the summer of 2025!

Lady Connie Massey, Chairman

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Lady Kerri Baumann
Lady Christy Connelly
Lady Maria Parrish, PHP
Lady Deonna Ruff



Sphinx Court No. 65
Ladies' Oriental Shrine
of North America

Linda Curry
1550 N. El Camino Dr.
Tempe, AZ 85288-1426

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Calendar of Events for 2025 - UPDATED 3/30/2025
All activities are at the Shrine Auditorium unless otherwise stated.

April 2025

04/01—Director Staff Mtg/Installation, 7pm
5:30pm—Chompies, 3212 E. Cactus Rd.
04/05—Greeters OV/Installation, 11:30am
Old Spaghetti Factory, 1418 N. Central Ave.
04/09—Ceremonial Pageantry Mtg/Installation, 6:30pm
Dinner, RSVP to Shrine Office
04/10—Clowns Mtg/Installation, 7pm
04/15—Sphinx Patrol Mtg/Installation, 7pm
04/24—PHP Club Mtg/Installation, 6:30pm
04/28—Court Meeting, 7pm
Dinner at 5:30pm

May 2025

05/07—Director Staff Meeting, 7pm
05/08—Clowns Meeting, 7pm
05/17—05/24—Grand Council—Kansas City, MO
05/27—DATE CHANGE—Court Meeting, 7pm
Dinner at 5:30pm

June-July 2025

TBD—Greeters UnBirthday Party—Stay tuned!
TBD—Court Fundraiser—Stay tuned!

August 2025

08/23-08/24—CornFest –Shrine Even

September—2025

09/03—Director Staff Meeting, 7pm
09/06—Membership Tea—11am
09/11—Clowns Meeting, 7pm
09/12—GHP Court Practice, 5:30pm
09/13—GHP Visit—Casual Dinner, Location/Time TBD
09/15—GHP Official Visit, 5:30pm
Dinner 5:30pm
09/18—09/20—W.A.O.U.M
Scottsdale Embassy Suites