

NEC
National Executive Committee Member
2023-2024

Denise "Dee" Smith –Prince-Rhodes, Unit 112, McCrory, AR



Denise "Dee" Smith, of Prince-Rhodes Unit 112 in McCrory, AR. Smith is eligible for American Legion Auxiliary membership through her father, Daniel P. Marchese, a WWII Army Signal Corps veteran, and her husband, Tony K. Smith, an Army Infantry and Army National Guard, Iraqi Freedom veteran.

Smith has been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arkansas since 2009 and serves as the vice president of Prince-Rhodes Unit 112 in McCrory. She is a past unit president. She has been a member of the Department Executive Committee since 2017 and served as Northeast Division Vice-President, 2021-2022, and National Security Chairperson, 2018-2022. Smith was appointed as a Corporate Donations and Grants Development Committee member and served as District 6 President from 2019-2021. Smith served as the Department Membership Chairperson, 2017-2018. She is the Immediate Past Department President, 2022-2023

As a single mother, Smith graduated Summa Cum Laude from the University of Massachusetts in 1987 with a B.S. in Business Administration, concentrating in Marketing with a focus on Human Resources and Writing.

Smith worked as a project management facilitator and marketing consultant while also a writer-for-hire for Simon and Shuster, NY. Smith was employed as a general manager for the Alarm Center, an AT&T affiliate. She spent over a decade overseeing all aspects of the business until brokering a multi-million-dollar sale of the business. In 2005, Smith became a disaster relief worker for the American Red Cross where she worked to help individuals and communities recover from the devastation of both natural and man-made disasters. As a Staff Relations (human resources) manager, her work focused on protecting the rights of volunteers.

Among her deployments was a six-month assignment with the Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief Operation in New Orleans, where she met and later married her husband of nearly 18 years. They moved to Arkansas, and she continued her work with the American Red Cross. She spent many weeks in Arkansas and surrounding states working with disaster relief operations.

Smith has three adult daughters, one adult granddaughter, and twin toddler granddaughters. All are members of the ALA Department of Arkansas.

Smith enjoys many hobbies including writing short stories and poetry, gardening, cooking, baking, candy making, sewing, reading, and jewelry making.