**Commander’s Message**

As we start the last quarter of The American Legion year and the most active quarter, there is plenty of work to be accomplished.

Membership in our Department is doing great so far, but we’re at the time of the year when things start to slow down. At this time, we have two 100% Districts and 46 100% Posts. A special thank you goes out to all that have achieved this.

We are approaching the time of the year that the Consolidated Post Report will be due. Last year, Nationally only achieved 57% reporting. Let’s show National what the Department of Arizona has contributed. This is where National obtains the figures on how we support our programs and how we serve our communities and veterans. These reports are gathered from each Department and submitted to Congress. We are an organization of volunteers so be proud to let them know what your members and your Post have done. As I said in my last article, this will be one of the two requirements to receive Bruce’s “Ground Pounder’s” Award. This report is due into Department by May 15th.

I had the opportunity to attend the Area “B” Oratorical Contest but was unable to make the finals due to schedule conflicts. With the final contest being over, I would like to wish this year’s winner, Michael Fleming from Mesa High School, success at the National competition level. I want to thank all those present from the Legion Family that attended these contests to show their support and especially to those who helped out in the contest from the Oratorical Chairman, Jim Burke, to the Judges, time keepers, ushers and all others who helped in making this another big success this year.

Since my last article, I have again had the opportunity to make my official visit to many Posts and to represent The American Legion Department of Arizona at several other events, meetings, etc.

Shortly after our Department “Open House”, on January 19th, Sandy and I were invited to Post 36 for their dinner dance and the next day I attended the District 2 meeting at Post 102 in Tucson. As far as Post visits, on February 2nd we attended a dinner/dance at Post 41 in Phoenix. February 16th, we were up at Post 81 in Lake Havasu City and then came back the next day to attend the Post 83 Mesa Annual Dinner at the Pier De Orleans Restaurant in Mesa. February 23rd, we were invited to attend the dinner at Post 29 Glendale, honoring our National Auxiliary President, Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan. We all enjoyed what she had to say and she has a wonderful personality. She is one very dedicated and knowledgeable lady for sure. The next day we were celebrating at Post 2 Tempe, for their Birthday and Americanism Awards Dinner.

In the beginning of March, several of us from the Legion Family filled up our gas tanks and headed north for the traditional “Northern Run” which included visits to Post 6 Prescott; Post 42 Grand Canyon; Post 3 Flagstaff and then wrapped up in Post 13 Williams. The weather was a little chilly for us Southerner’s but we really lucked out this year and although we did see some snow, it wasn’t on the road and it didn’t create any problems traveling as it has in the past. The weekend of the 15th and 16th we found ourselves in the southwest part of the state in Post 19 Yuma, for The American Legion Birthday and Awards Banquet and the next day attending the District 1 meeting.

As for the events that I was able to attend during this period there was the following: Recruit.Military.com Job Fair (January 17th); Salute America’s Heroes, at Post 35 Chandler (January 27th); Military.com Job Fair (February 7th); Phoenix V.A.M.C. Creative Arts Festival (February 14th); Iwo Jima Parade in Sacaton, (February 23rd); Wesley Bolin Plaza, for the dedication

**American Legion National Commander Visiting Arizona**

National Commander, Martin Conatser, will be making his official visit to the Department of Arizona May 18th through May 21st. A banquet in his honor has been scheduled at Apache Post #27 in Apache Junction for Sunday May 18th. No host cocktails 5:00 PM and Dinner at 6:00 PM. Please contact Department at 602 264-7706 for further information and tickets. A flyer will be going out in the All Post Mailing so check with your Post Commander and Adjutant for details.

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**Inside This Issue:**

- National Convention Registration
- Baseball Tradition
- Overflow Hotels
- Volunteers Needed
- Scholarships Letter
- Having A Successful Event
- Tuba City Win Air Rifle Match
- Catalina Repeats In JROTC
- Department Hosting Western Regional
- Post Everlasting
- Chaplain’s Corner
- Membership Report
- State Convention Info
- Baseball Fund Raiser
- Vets For Freedom Tour
- Done Fishin’

**State Oratorical Winners**

On March 8th, the Department Oratorical Contest was held at The American Legion Post 44 in Scottsdale. Representing Area A was Katherine McMurray and from Area B Michael Fleming. We didn’t have a contestant from Area C this year.

1st Place – Michael - $1,500
2nd Place – Katherine - $800

Michael advances to the National Competition being held in Indianapolis in April. He automatically wins $1,500 for competing in the first round. If he advances to the second round, he will win another $500. If he wins that round, he will then compete in the final contest where the third place winner receives $14,000; second place $16,000 and first place $18,000. Good Luck Michael!

Four Districts were represented by the following students: Katherine McMurray, Sonoran Science Academy – District 2; Jessica Ridings and Jackelyn Skiles, Coolidge H.S. – District 4; Jaclyn Weeman, Xavier College Preparatory – District 11; and Michael Fleming, Mesa H.S. – District 12. Each of these students did an outstanding job and we congratulate them.

Thank you to the judges and all of the volunteers who continuously make this program such a big success. A special thank you to all of The American Legion Family members and officers who came to the contests and showed their support for the students. I know they appreciate seeing you out there. I would like to thank John P. Burns Post 36 in Tucson, William Bloys Post 2 in Tempe and Sipe Peterson Post 44 in Scottsdale for hosting the contests. Your officers and membership did an outstanding job!

Jim Burke, Department Chairman
### 2008 National Convention

Phoenix, Arizona August 22 - 28, 2008

The Arizona Delegation has been assigned to the Arizona Biltmore Resort & Spa, 2400 East Missouri Ave. (602) 955-6600

Rooms are limited and reservations will be on a first come, first served basis. **Please indicate arrival & departure dates**

#### NATIONAL CONVENTION RESERVATION FORM

**RESERVATIONS TO BE LISTED IN THE NAME OF:**

**ADDRESS:**

**TELEPHONE:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Additional occupants shall include</th>
<th>Leg/Aux/SAL</th>
<th>Arrive/Depart</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Check appropriate boxes:

- [ ] King bed, 1 or 2 people: $106.66 *
- [ ] Double, 2 beds, 1 or 2 people: $106.66 *
- [ ] Additional Occupants: $10.00 per day
- [ ] Arizona Party: Mexican Dinner & Mariachi Entertainment: $30.00 per person
- [ ] Registration (mandatory for Legion, Auxiliary and guests): $15.00 per person
- [ ] Past President=s Luncheon: Call Auxiliary
- [ ] States Dinner: $45.00 per person
- [ ] National Commander's Banquet (limited to first 30): $45.00 per person

**TOTAL DEPOSIT**

$_____

---

*The registration fee and 1 night's lodging deposit, plus any other fees must be submitted with this reservation form.

**ALL RESERVATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED AT DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS BY JULY 14, 2008**

- Occupancy Tax in the amount 12.27% per room/night is **already included** in the room rate.
- **$2.00 per room night** is returned to the National Convention Corporation by the hotel.

**CANCELLATION MUST BE RECEIVED AT DEPARTMENT HEADQUARTERS BY JULY 18, 2008**
American Legion Baseball Long Time Tradition

This year, Arizona will host the 2008 State American Legion Baseball Tournament as well as the 2008 Western Regional Baseball Tournament. These events will be held in August at the Surprise Sports Complex, Surprise, AZ. We must realize that The American Legion here in Arizona is about to conduct one of its most important years as we will also host the 2008 National Convention. This is our chance to stand out among The American Legion Family nationally and demonstrate the dedication we possess.

On August 15th, the opening ceremonies will begin for the 2008 Western Regional Baseball Tournament where Arizona will host the five State Championship teams that include Utah, Nevada, New Mexico, California and Hawaii.

As you already know, The American Legion is committed to America’s youth and that is why we have sponsored American Legion Baseball since 1925. The goals of American Legion Baseball are the development of team discipline, individual character and leadership development qualities in young people.

Here in Arizona, during the regular American Legion Baseball season, more than 300 ball players, managers, coaches and assistants are on baseball fields, eager to play baseball as they represent The American Legion. Many of these youngsters will become community leaders, and many will go on to serve our country. A number of their parents and grandparents were and currently are American Legion Family Members. These players may go on to become baseball professionals and possibly join the prominent list of the Baseball Hall of Fame, which more than 45% of the inductees started their career in The American Legion Baseball Program.

Volunteers Needed

Volunteers are needed at the Arizona State Veteran Home in their “Adopt-A-Vet” program.

This program matches volunteers in the community with a veteran living in their nursing home. Volunteers come in to visit, play a game of checkers or take them for a stroll in the park next door. There are three levels of commitment depending upon your availability.

Caring Companions are those who have a lot of time and are able to come in once a week to visit with their assigned veteran. These people are matched with someone who has no family or friends in town.

Friends of Veterans are for those volunteers who have busy schedules but still want to make a personal connection with a veteran. Typically they are matched with someone who is more independent, but would still benefit from a friendly visit once in a while. We ask that volunteers visit at least one time a month, but may come more often if time allows.

Special Event Escorts are volunteers who are willing to be placed on our e-mail notification list. We let you know when we need people to help out for special events such as trips to the zoo, serving special holiday meals or helping with a carnival.

If you would be available to volunteer, please contact Leslie Goin at 602-263-1808 or lgoin@azdvs.gov.

I look forward to hearing from you,
Dorelia Brooks
Volunteer Coordinator
Arizona State Veteran Home

Sons of The American Legion
“Past Squadron Commanders”
4 Person Scramble Golf Tournament
Where: April 26, 2008
8:00 am shotgun start
7:00 am registration
Where: LINKS Golf Club, 445 E. Ocotillo Rd., Queen Creek
480-997-9195

Cash Raffle
1) $250.00 (1) $150.00 (1) $150.00 with 144 players
2) $50.00 Driving control
3) Closest to the pin (1) Longest drive (1) Longest putt
Entry Fee: $70.00 per player
Includes green fees, cart, and lunch and (1) “casino” raffle ticket.
“All American Legion Family and Friends are Welcome”
Benefiting: Sons of The American Legion Children Charities

Sons of The American Legion
“Past Squadron Commanders”
Registration Form
Contact: Jeff Frain
Phone: 480-629-3216
Email: Jeff.Frain@azdvs.gov

Name: __________________________ Address: ____________________________________________
City: __________________ State: _______ Zip: _______ Phone: ____________________________
If entering a full or partial team please fill in the following information:
Name: __________________________
Total # players: ________ @ $70.00 each
Total amount enclosed: $ _______

Checks must be included with registration for entries.
If you would like to sponsor a hole or be presenting sponsor please contact Jeff Frain at jeffreecv@cox.net for more details.

Assisting Veterans with VA Disability Claims - Appeals Only*

Theodore C. Jarvi, Attorney at Law
Retired JAG - Legion member
1050 E. Southern Avenue, Suite B-3
Tempe, Arizona 85282
Tel: 480-838-6566; Fax 480-838-8810
E-Mail: TheodoreJarvi@azbar.org

* Federal law prohibits the payment of attorney fees by the veteran for assistance with any VA claim prior to final, negative Board of Veterans Appeals decision.
Letter to the Editor

Scholarships Go A Long Way

I want to pass this on to y’all about my youngest daughter Collette Monique Thorngerson (nee Wayne), and her older sister, Brigette Denell Elgie (nee Wayne).

The support of the United Submarine Veterans, Inc. and The American Legion scholarship awards that two of my daughters have been able to use towards their college education makes me proud to have been able to serve in the military and then watching how these two lovely ladies continue the legacy of living in a free country where people can pursue their dreams.

Brigette received her undergraduate degree at Smith College and has gone on to get her Masters while Collette graduated from the University of California, Davis and is working towards her Doctorate at Purdue. All of my children have received recognition and awards for outstanding deeds. Both Brigette and Collette have always been service oriented. Brigette was involved in the treatment of homeless troubled vets and continues to set examples for those around her and her daughter and two young sons. She has temporarily taken time off from the workplace for motherhood until her children are all in school.

Collette is working very hard to complete her education while raising a young daughter (also one in dry-dock), attending work-study programs overseas during semester breaks, doing volunteer work in the states and teaching undergrads. She herself served on active duty in the Air Force during Operation Desert Shield.

I have every reason to believe these achievement-oriented women would not have made it to where they are now without the monetary scholarship awards and I know that both of these organizations provided inspiration as well as some cushion comfort that they would not have had otherwise. It is with that thought that I want to thank the Sub Vets and The American Legion and the spouses, including the Auxiliary and the SAL, whose efforts to help the progeny of our American service veterans does itself proud. I myself have continued to support the ways and means to help contribute to fundraising for scholarships to help our youth. As a father, I know first hand how you have helped and continue to do so.

As the son of a Veteran and “Auxiliary” Mom, I grew up in The American Legion Family and benefited as a youngster with Boy Scouts sponsorship and later in American Legion Baseball. As a Navy Veteran and member of the Submarine Veterans I have enjoyed the ongoing fellowship of my shipmates as we watch the changing tides of our “Navy Ways” and the changing face of our nation. As a disabled military veteran who has received care from our Department of Veterans Affairs Hospitals, I have seen how The American Legion and its Auxiliary has been there for me, veterans all over, and service personnel currently serving our nation.

If you could pass my thanks on to the national organizations it would be gratefully appreciated from a humble veteran who is a very proud papa of six children. Keep up your good works for the good of our nation and be proud of your efforts for the American way.

Respectively,
Kenny Wayne, USN (SS) - Member of American Legion Post 79, Yarnell

Bonding Together For A Successful Event

This month my article is directed more towards the smaller to medium posts that sometimes have trouble getting their activities advertised in the local media. That may be because the event just needs a little “pizzazz” or maybe the public just needs to be able to tie the event to another organization that is getting ink in the paper.

One possible way you might be able to get that “pizzazz” is by “partnering”. For those of you who are not familiar with the phrase “partnering”, it’s a new buzz word that refers to two or more organizations working together for “mutual helpfulness”. Their reasons for coming together may be due to limited personnel, location, financial deficiencies or all of the above, but in the long run share in the benefit.

For instance, if your post wants to sponsor a blood drive or some other community event, but due to age or afflictions of your membership are not good sources for donating blood, then partnering is the answer! You may have the facility and with the “pull” of the local blood service, your event will more than likely be front page news!

Of course, partnering for a blood drive is just a suggested event - you may have some other community service that you feel is important like a membership drive, a school supplies drive. The events are limitless, but working with another organization may be the wedge you need to get your foot-in-the-door with the press.

In closing, always keep in mind Public Relations is one of those necessary evils that requires planning, patience and prudence – make a plan, put a good person on the project and watch for your name in the paper!

For God and Country,
Jeri Strande, Dept. PR Chairman

1ST Brigade (Separate) 101st Airborne Division in Viet Nam July 1965 through January 1968

The 11th Biennial Reunion of the 1ST Brigade (Separate) 101st Airborne Division will be in Hampton, Virginia September 25-28, 2008. All members of assigned and attached units who served between July 1965 and January 1968 are welcome. For more detailed information, contact: Ivan Worrell - PO Box 675, Sweetwater, TN 37874-0675 phone and fax (423) 337-5983, e-mail: firstbrigades101@magazine@yahoo.com


The American Legion Purchase Program

We make it – easy – to purchase the latest appliances for your home, particularly if you are remodeling or relocating.

In addition, you can select and purchase these additional great products for your home:
- Craftsman® Garage Storage
- Sealy® and Sears-O-Pedic® Mattresses
- NordicTrack® Exercise Equipment
- Craftsman® Lawn Tractors
- Kenmore® Outdoor Grills, Televisions and more!

This unique program from Sears Commercial features —
- A private selection consultation, with a professionally trained specialist
- Preferred Affiliate Program Pricing, backed by our Price Matching Plan policy
- Program and pricing is only available through Sears Commercial Sales
- This offer is not available through Sears retail or dealer stores.

3 Easy Steps

Step 1: Members simply go to sears.com and find the product(s) they are interested in and write down the product/model numbers.

Step 2: Members email the product number(s) to Company’s designated contact at Sears Appliance Select: americanlegion@sears.com for a quote. To receive the pricing, a member must include their Company discount code D0076549 in the email. They can also call a dedicated phone number for Legion Members at 214-382-5088.

Step 3: Members can then use a credit card to purchase the discounted item and it will be delivered via a custom freight company. All manufacturer warranties apply with the option to purchase extended Sears Protection Agreements. Installation is not included with delivery.
Catalina Repeats

Pictured is the team from Catalina High School who won the overall team trophy at the 2008 JROTC Skills Meet at Cesar Chavez High School.

A Skills Meet consists of both Drill and Physical Fitness Competition. The 10 person Armed Team took first in Regulation and Exhibition Drill, the Color Guard and the Dual Unarmed Exhibition Team also took first place. The Fitness Team took third place. The Overall Champions is decided by totaling scores from all the events.

Rattling with 19 other High School Junior ROTC Units, this is the second year in a row that the Catalina Teams have won the overall Championship.

Tuba City Best Shots

The Arizona State Air Rifle Match was held at the Ben Avery Range on January 19, 2008. The meet is sponsored by The American Legion, Department of Arizona and hosted by T. G. Browne High School JROTC. Nine teams competed representing the Army, Navy and Marine Corps JROTC programs. The Match was tight with Tuba City winning with a score of 2073 followed by Alhambra with a 2070 and T. G. Browne with a score of 2022.

Ashley Manygoats was the “Top Gun” of the meet with the highest individual score. She also won the shootout scoring five out of ten bullseyes from the standing position. The coach for the Tuba City team is GySgt. Tim J. Shaner (Ret.).

The next major event for the JROTC Units will be the Desert Classic Drill meet to be held on the campus of Alhambra High School commencing at 8:30 on April 12th.

Department of Arizona Hosting Western Regional Baseball Tournament

High School baseball season has begun around our great state with many young men aspiring to enhance their skills on the diamond. Take some time and go out to the local high school and watch baseball as it should be played. As a matter of fact, don’t just watch the game, become involved with their program, introduce yourself to the coach and publicize The American Legion program.

Coaches are always looking for persons to support their program. Tom and Bud, our local chairman, are working diligently to enhance The American Legion Baseball program and need your help to improve the program within Arizona.

The Department Tournament will be held at the Surprise Complex beginning on Friday August 1st. All games will start at 4:00 PM. Field locations will be published in the next Legionnaire. I certainly hope that we can have a few more of our Legionnaires in attendance than we have had in the past. Admission to the tournament is free. Come out and watch some exciting baseball.

The 2008 Western Regional will be held at the Surprise Recreational Campus starting on August 13th with the Banquet of Champions on the concourse of the stadium and the tournament starting the following morning at 9 AM. In order for this tournament to be a success I need your help. Advertising in the program is $300.00 per page, $200.00 per half page, and $125 for a quarter page. Any post selling an outside ad for the program will get a business size card ad in the program. Any individual will get their name mentioned on the Booster Page. Tickets to the game are $30.00 for a tournament pass, $10.00 for a ticket and the tournament starting the following morning at 9 AM.

This is made possible by a Government-Guaranteed FHA Insured Program with a Home Equity Conversion Mortgage, known as a “Reverse Mortgage”, for Seniors age 62 and older who qualify.

• No monthly house payments
• No possibility of ever losing your home
• No income or credit requirements
• You preserve and receive income from your home equity, tax free
• Your title and all rights of ownership remain in your name
• Will not affect your social security or medicare benefits

We are Seniors helping Seniors. For over 30 years, we have been helping Seniors take care of their retirement.

Please call or write for more information that will answer any questions that you might have.

ROY BRANCH
Reverse Mortgage Specialist
602-682-5111 PHX
520-237-7780 TUC
MBR A.L. Post 36 World War 2 Vet
Post Everlasting

1 Nick Bernardo
Donald Coghill
George A Curry
Frank J Fiorucci
Robert A Hays
Nello Rosato
Tom Votou

2 John Amish
Paul Bridges
Louis Franco
Comer K Hammmonds

Glenn R Compton
Robert George
Scott James
Mark A Sapp

Harry G Scheiner

2 Wilson J Wilson
William E Berry
Clyde Evans
Vincent R Gallogly
Denis E Graham
William D Kahl
Fritz M Kirsch
Margaret M Mitchell
James E Muenker
Milton C Remy
Arthur G Schreiber
William A Stearns

Frank Borman
O John O Cotton
Joseph E Gaines
Ken K Kerber
Ezra KARL
Robert E McEerry
Dallas D Wynn

Joseph N Helmick
Lloyd Henning
Edward Martinez, Post 31

10 Joseph Soderi
William H Weiss

11 William L Floyd
Enrique G Marquez
Trinidad C Segovia

12 Robert J Cousins

Francis W McDonough
Donald J Thill
Jay S Zimmerman
James E Graves
Kenneth E Howard
Alma C Nelson
John H West
Glen N Brown
Linda A Calkins
Leslie E Hale

22 Victoria/Argostino
24 Robert/Wiegand

17 James Murphy

28 Daniel B Lauro

29 Ralph G Basket
Wilfred R Braden
William C Braden

Thomas W Chabran
James Lee
J P Maher
Peter J Roque
Juan D Sanchez
Henry H Soto
Harry H Shible
Norman R Tucker
Carl C Vaco

David Valencia
John L Van Duzer
Ray Walker
Sarah Warnick
Jane R Widden
James R Yeager

John Zumbroegel
Kenneth B Armstrong
Michael D Cranford
Orrive A Green
Miles E Mann
Gerald L Mc Queen
Ray M Robinson
Dennis V Shurtz
Carl M Alpecek
James E Boyd
Henri Fischer
Frederick J Howard
Raymond C Kunsmeeller
Jay Barnstone
George E Neis
Kenneth L Nellermoe
Flavious J Patterson
David W Bratton

31 Rant M Cota
Louis H Duran
Tony Duran
Jesus M Hernandez
Mike Velasquez

42 James K Pierce

44 Lynn C Altmyer
Chad M Gobel
Eugene J Dosthonne
Anthony P Lombardi
John G McFarlane
Clarice F Pollard

74 Michael J Wilson

97 John J Lynch

110 Larry Grace
Donald J Schrubakis

126 Daniel B Lauro

127 Ralph G Basket
Wilfred R Braden
William C Braden


Chaplain’s Corner

Greetings Comrades

I hope everyone had a glorious Easter Sunday. It seems that the Fall Conference was only yesterday and here we are looking forward to the upcoming Department Convention. We also are looking forward to the National Convention which the Department of Arizona will be hosting. We look forward to meeting friends and making new ideas across from the U.S.A. I am excited about seeing fellow Chaplains that I met at the National Chaplains’ Conference.

Many good things have happened in The American Legion Family, like the dinner hosted by our National Auxiliary President, Jan Pulvermacher-Ryan, at Post 29 and having the opportunity to meet her. We are confronted with the sad part of losing some of our American Legion Family members and those brave men and women of our Armed Forces.

We were honored to co-celebrate with Unit #62 Peoria, the celebration of life for Aunt Sadie Rady 101 year old matriarch of Unit #62 who had volunteered for thirty years.

Heavenly Father, we thank You for all the gifts you have bestowed on us. We must remember to thank You for them and also praise You for our wishes not granted.

We ask Your blessings on our American Legion Family and especially on our gallant men and women serving in war torn lands. We ask all those things in Your Holy Name. Amen

For God and Country,
Bill Schneider
Department Chaplain

Welcome Back!

Mistakenly, these members were listed as deceased and they aren’t:

Lugo, John Post 44
Edward Martinez, Post 31
Sherwood Propst, Post 62

hosts continued from page 3

fund raisers to help us with these expenses. These officers, and many officers in the Tucson Area, understand the hard work that goes into the program’s preparation throughout the season and they distribute this information to the many audiences they speak with.

I have received wealth of information in the past year from two outstanding mentors. These are two dedicated directors who work hard to provide these young team members the opportunity to expand their leadership and sportsmanship abilities. Bud Grainger (Tucson, Area A) and Rollin Kohrs (Phoenix, Department: Area B), are prime examples of true dedication as their efforts go far beyond what is expected.

Together, Bud and Rollin have a combined total of time working with the Baseball Program that exceeds 65 years! Not to mention the many offices they have held over the years and they still hold with the same solid dedication. They are models examples of The American Legion investing in America’s young people! There is a need for future enthusiastic leaders with the same dedication and loyalty to America and the American Legion has prospered and have clearly and unquestionably demonstrated over the years. They continue to give countless hours of their time and have made this program, and other programs they are involved with, number one priorities in their lives. As any American Legion Officer or Chairman knows, it takes valuable time away from family and personal lives when you are a committed volunteer and leader.

Calling upon The American Legion and corporate sponsors for funding, support and voluntarism is a very humbling task. Asking for help and often experiencing rejection towards youth programs can make it difficult to “stand tall” and keep moving ahead. But these directors continue to move ahead with the program year after year. These two prime examples of what the founders of The American Legion had in mind when they developed the Baseball Program in 1925.

I ask that you gather with your family or in your community to support The American Legion Baseball Program in your area as it too are fairly new to the program. Before August Meyer, Post 157 Branchville, NJ. Although he is not longer with us, he was a strong supporter of American Legion Baseball for many, many years. I can only hope that I can demonstrate the same impassioned commitment as he has shown. I ask for your support to help me achieve my whole-hearted goals and obligations as the Sons of The American Legion Detachment Baseball Chairman and Area B Baseball Chairman.

This program is rapidly growing in Arizona. As we are now in the 2008 season, your support and contributions are greatly needed to keep this program active and moving forward. The American Legion is committed to organizing teams and supplying insurance, field maintenance and lighting, baseballs, the cost of professional umpires and many other functions that will be conducted in 2008 especially for the Regional Championship games. From January through May, we organize the teams as we reach out to high school coaches and ask for their participation. Each year, there are high schools that have financial difficulties and therefore cannot participate. Your contributions can help towards the sponsorship of such teams or help towards many other financial obligations we face each year.

Please visit http://www.baseball.legion.org/history.htm and you will get an understanding of what this program consists of. We are asking all Posts to please contribute to this worthy cause. Your support and contributions will be an investment in our youth and continually go on to be recognized by The American Legion and The American Legion Baseball Program. The players and committee would like to extend a thank you to those who have supported and continually support this activity.

Thank you,
Thomas Kasek
American Legion Baseball,
Arizona Detachment Baseball Chairman
Area B” Chairman,
### American Legion - Department of Arizona

**Membership Report**

**March 14, 2008**

**District 1 - Commander: Gregory Luna**

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**District Totals**

- 1,365
- 1,382
- 101.25

**District 2 - Commander: Carol Stensby**

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<td>1,185</td>
<td>97.85</td>
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<tr>
<td>Navajo Holbrook</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>85.00</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Mountain</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>86</td>
<td>100.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surprise</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>67</td>
<td>103.13</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**District Totals**

- 4,915
- 4,795
- 97.56

**District 3 - Commander: Ernie Smith**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post Name</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>% of Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. R. Hilsenbeck Douglas</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>100.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. E. Engle Jr. Bisbee</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>90.52</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Earl E. Mitchell Glendale</td>
<td>1,536</td>
<td>1,501</td>
<td>97.72</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwight Eisenhower Queen Creek</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>118.13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**District Totals**

- 2,078
- 2,027
- 97.85

**District 4 - Commander: Jerry Builes**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post Name</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>% of Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>S. A. Huffman Casa Grande</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>196</td>
<td>117.97</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCallum-Jones Tucson</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. E. Rayman Safford</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwight Eisenhower Queen Creek</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>118.13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**District Totals**

- 713
- 768
- 107.71

**District 5 - Commander: Ernie Rodriguez**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post Name</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>% of Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>C. E. Rayman Safford</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McCallum-Jones Safford</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwight Eisenhower Queen Creek</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>118.13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**District Totals**

- 980
- 911
- 92.96

**District 6 - Commander: Catherine Cosgrove**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post Name</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>% of Goal</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>M. A. Huber Flagstaff</td>
<td>333</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>101.18</td>
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<tr>
<td>J. H. Slaughter Springerville</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank W. Wright Cave Creek</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>105.99</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwight Eisenhower Queen Creek</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>118.13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**District Totals**

- 1,874
- 1,640
- 87.51

**District 7 - Commander: Edward Rocha**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post Name</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>% of Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. R. Hilsenbeck Douglas</td>
<td>335</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>100.30</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L. E. Engle Jr. Bisbee</td>
<td>116</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>90.52</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank W. Wright Cave Creek</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>105.99</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwight Eisenhower Queen Creek</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>118.13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**District Totals**

- 3,803
- 3,564
- 93.72

**District 8 - Commander: Joe Duggan**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post Name</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>% of Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mark A. Moore Flagstaff</td>
<td>672</td>
<td>732</td>
<td>87.79</td>
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<tr>
<td>Don M. E. Maines Prescott</td>
<td>386</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>108.23</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. M. Ritter Cordes Lakes</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>100.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwight Eisenhower Queen Creek</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>118.13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**District Totals**

- 3,503
- 3,140
- 88.90

**District 9 - Commander: Jim Takas**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Post Name</th>
<th>City</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>% of Goal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>William Blyos Tempe</td>
<td>449</td>
<td>459</td>
<td>101.55</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Frank W. Weight Care Creek</td>
<td>267</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>105.99</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tony F. Sessa Gilbert</td>
<td>519</td>
<td>532</td>
<td>103.52</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard H. Hamilton Phoenix</td>
<td>531</td>
<td>598</td>
<td>112.77</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**District Totals**

- 10,179
- 9,629
- 94.60

---

**DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA 2008 STATE CONVENTION**

**JUNE 19 THRU JUNE 22**

**HOSTED BY JOHN P. BURNS POST 36**

5845 E. 22nd STREET

**TUACON, ARIZONA 85711**

**PHONE: (520) 746-2700**

**CONVENTION HOTEL**

**HOLIDAY INN**

4550 S. PALO VERDE ROAD

**TUACON, ARIZONA 85711**

**ROOMS AVAILABLE JUNE 18TH THRU JUNE 21ST (CHECK OUT – 22ND), SINGLE ROOM (KING OR QUEEN BED) OR DOUBLE ROOM (2 DOUBLE BEDS)**

**$56.00 + TAXES**

**HOSPITALITY SUITES $66.00 + TAXES**

**LIMITED ADDITIONAL SUITES AVAILABLE (KING BED)**

**$76.00 + TAXES AND $86.00 + TAXES**

**LIMITED SMOKING ROOMS AVAILABLE**

**PETS ALLOWED WITH A $50.00 NON-REFUNDABLE DEPOSIT**

**CUT OFF DATE: MAY 8, 2008**

**IT IS REQUESTED THAT YOU DO NOT BLOCK OUT ROOMS**

---

**WHEN MAKING RESERVATIONS INFORM THE HOTEL “AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION 2008”, RESERVATION #: (520) 746-1161 OR 1-800-HOTEL**

---

**POOLSIDE HOSPITALITY SUITES WILL BE ARRANGED THRU POST 36, HOSPITALITY SUITE RESERVATIONS WILL REQUIRE A CREDIT CARD NUMBER, DEPARTMENT, AUXILIARY AND S.A.L.PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR REQUIREMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.**

**CONTACT NILS NILSEN AT:**

**HOME: (520) 750-0757**

**CELL: (520) 603-5991**

**E-MAIL: nilsenates@tucson.com**

---

**POST 36 WILL HANDLE ALL SPECIAL FUNCTIONS: MEMBERSHIP BREAKFAST, PALS DINNER, GNUTS LUNCHEON, PDC LUNCHEON.**

---

**POST 36 PLANS TO SERVE FOOD FROM THURSDAY DINNER THRU SATURDAY BREAKFAST.**

---

**SHUTTLE SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED FROM THE HOTELS TO POST 36**

**POST 36 WILL SPONSOR A GOLF TOURNAMENT ON THURSDAY, JUNE 19TH.**
On March 18, 2008, the Vets For Freedom Tour came to Tucson to meet the media, the veterans, the public and to spread their message of hope, success and support for our men and women in uniform and especially in harm’s way in the middle east. They were hosted by the John P. Burns Post 36 of The American Legion.

The event was attended by a wide swath of veterans, public and local media. Post 36 was proud to host this meeting. All attending found the presentation extremely inspiring and uplifting. The speakers were informative and emotional and brought the audience to their feet with applause many times. We wish them much success with the rest of the tour.

Thank you to Antonio Rigney, Historian Post 36 for the picture and article.

What do you get when you have 150 challenged students and their counselors, AZ Game & Fish Rangers from around the Valley, volunteers from The American Legion Family, LOTS of fish and you put them all together at Red Mountain Park in Mesa? You have the 10th Annual AZ Game & Fish FOP Lodge #71 Regional 6 Fishing Clinic which was held on February 21st.

It was a fun-filled day for everyone involved, especially the students. They are given fishing equipment and bait so that they can participate in the catch and release of fish freshly stocked in the pond that morning. The students actually get to help put some of the fish in the pond. The excitement when the students catch the fish is contagious. Everyone there is clapping and cheering. Pictures are taken for bragging rights back at school and the pride that you see on the student’s face stays with you. It’s a huge accomplishment that they did on their own.

Each student gets to keep the fishing equipment they use that day in hopes that they will go fishing with family and friends in the future. This is the only fishing clinic where the students can keep the equipment. There are other fishing clinics but the students have to turn in the equipment when they are done. Some of the sponsors for the equipment include Bass Pro Shops and Remington.

The students also have lunch provided (donations from Basha’s). The Rangers and volunteers cook hamburgers and hot dogs, serve salads, chips, cookies and soda and water. It was lots of fun and everyone looks forward to doing this again next year!