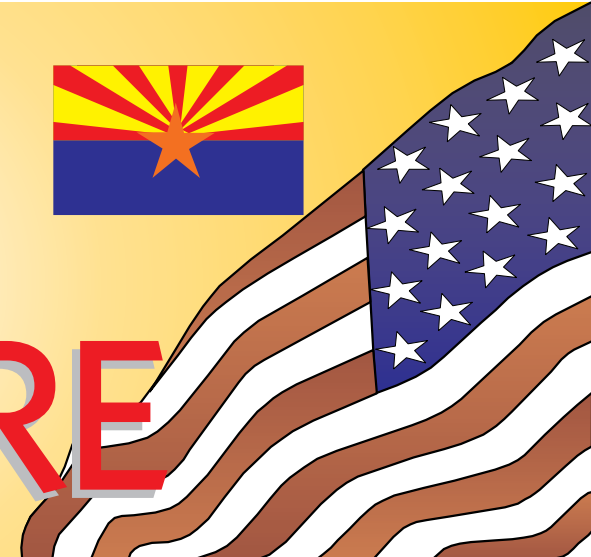




For God & Country



THE ARIZONA LEGIONNAIRE



VOLUME 2010

• OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA •

ISSUE 1

Working Hard To Make Veterans Life Better

The year is half over; and it has been an exciting six months.

A lot of our posts are struggling to meet all of the challenges. This is the time that our Legion Family needs to continue working together to make things happen.

In my travels, I have seen many ways that you are working to make life better for the veterans in your community:

- *care packages to our Troops overseas
- *phone cards
- *Welcome Home/Deployment parties for our Troops and their families
- *Even in this tight economy, we have seen an increase in donations. Thanks to everyone that is able to help!
- *A special Thank You to everyone that contributes their time when called upon.

In the middle of March, report/award packets will be sent out from Department to each Post Commander and Adjutant. Among the many items included, will



be the Consolidated Post Report (CPR). This is very important to complete and return to Department; it is the only way that we can report the amount of time and money that is given to our communities. This report is sent to National Headquarters and then reported to Congress.

We will be having a contest for a \$75.00 Emblem Sales Gift Certificate. Each Post that turns in a CPR gets entered into the contest. Before our Department Convention, one winner will be drawn from all of the entries. A flyer with more details will be going out in future mailings.

MEMBERSHIP...it is starting to slow down; now is the time to set-up your teams to start calling your members that haven't renewed yet. Remind them that they need a 2010 card to attend meetings, use your lounge and to take advantage of The American Legion benefits.

DID YOU KNOW, according to the National Constitution and By-Laws of The American Legion, ARTICLE X, Section 3, the annual dues shall be collected by each Post and transmitted promptly through the Department to the National Treasurer.

Please remember that when a member pays their dues, they have entrusted their Post to process their membership in a timely manner. There are a few Posts that don't send in membership in a timely manner. When the membership doesn't come into Department, it causes a "domino effect" of problems. It doesn't take too much time to send in membership each week, even if it's just one; it does make a difference. With everyone working together, we can make this work. We are a team and we need to "Get Back to Basics".

Commander continued on page 2

The Best Christmas Present

This past November, Marsha Jennings, the mother of PFC Kenneth Jennings, contacted the Family Assistance Administration for assistance. Her son is in the 101st Airborne Division at Ft. Campbell, Kentucky, and was scheduled for an 18 month deployment to the middle east. His grandmother is extremely ill and is not expected to live throughout the term of his deployment. The family could not raise the necessary funds to bring him home to Tucson for the holidays. Family Assistance contacted Department, who sent the info to Area A Vice Commander Ken Dowse.

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L to R: (Mom) Marsha Jennings, PFC Kenny Jennings III, (Dad) Kenneth Jennings Jr, (Sis) Kortney Jennings, (Grandfather) Dennis Johnston at John P. Burns Post 36.

Ken contacted John P. Burns Post 36 Service Officer Adam Grose.

This matter was brought to the attention of Post

members. A member, Frank Payne, donated money and challenged all members present to match his donation. Within fifteen minutes, \$622 was collected.

Christmas Gift continued on page 3

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Let's Play Ball

High School baseball season will soon begin 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, Bob and Bud, our local chairmen, are working diligently to enhance American Legion Baseball and need your help to improve the program within the state. Call me and get some brochures to pass out at the high school game, make parents aware of our program.

Last year, more than 600 American Legion Baseball games were played in Arizona. This represents an investment of over \$60,000.00 in the future of our young men, the future leaders of our great nation. Each year the costs to operate the program continue to grow. It is necessary to have the continued support of The American Legion posts and members of the Legion family. If your post is supporting the program, I extend the thanks of the Baseball Committee. If your post is not supporting the program, go to the local high school coach and ask what he would need to play in the Legion program. Publicize the baseball program within your post. I am always surprised when someone says, "I didn't know that we have a baseball program in Arizona".

Rollin Kohrs, Baseball Chairman

Citizen's Flag Alliance A Grass Roots Effort

The year 2010 sees the 21st year of trying to get a flag protection amendment. The Citizen's Flag Alliance started as a grass roots movement made up of garden clubs, woman's clubs of many kinds and many concerned citizens. In 1994, National Commander Bruce Thiesen was asked if The American Legion would head this movement. Since then, The American Legion and CFA have worked diligently for a flag protection amendment.

In April of 2009, Rep. Jo Ann Emerson (R)-MO introduced House Joint Resolution 47. In May of 2009, Senator David Vitter (R)-LA, introduced Senate Joint Resolution 15. So far, not enough co-sponsors have signed up to support these bills.

The American Legion has pledged to continue fighting for an amendment to prevent flag desecration no matter how long it takes. All Legionnaires are asked to contact our Senators and Representatives asking for their support. Millions of Americans want this to happen. It is hoped that the second session of the 111th Congress will take action.

Fly your Flag,
Maria F. Currie, C.F.A. Chairman



Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame

Class of 2009 - S. Larry Bahill, Patrick F. Chorpenning, Gene Fenstermacher, William, "Bill" P. Hess, Jerry E. Houston, John "Hut" G. Hutson, William C. Jenkins*, David F. Lucier, Peter Martinez, Joseph McDowell*, Jon Sams, Alfonso Santillan, Jr., Carl G. Schneider, Joseph A. Schneider, Joe G. Schoggen, John D. Sentz, Jr., Joan E. Sisco, Simon Suhler*(MOH), and Kenneth R. Symes.

*Deceased

Photo By: Larry Mishler Photography

Commander continued from page 1

you as possible.

I would like to thank all of you that attended and brought a dish to Department's Open House on January 9th. Everyone had a great time and the food was delicious! It was great to see so many of you from all over the state.

For God and Country,
Carol Hamburger
Department of Arizona

I will be traveling around the state visiting many Posts in the next six months and look forward to talking with as many of

P.S. Sheila just let me know that we did succeed in getting 80% for our January target. Thank you to all of you who rallied and got the membership in!

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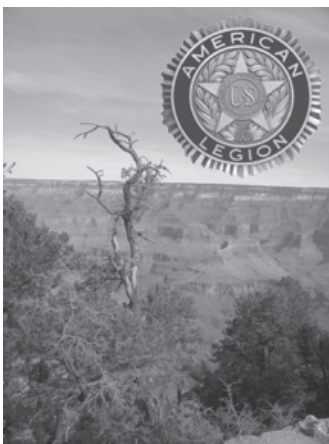
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Veterans Be Counted in 2010!

The census is a count of everyone living in the United States that's required by the U.S. Constitution and happens every 10 years. So it's the law that every person living in the U.S. must complete the 2010 Census questionnaire. What's more, filling out the brief, 10-question census form will guarantee the services you need. For Arizona Veterans, each person counted means \$400 in federal and state funds for community services, we all depend on:

- Safe and clean parks

- Neighborhood fire stations
- Libraries with bilingual materials
- Senior services
- Head Start programs

Getting an accurate count in the census also:

- Determines boundaries of Council districts

- Draws state legislative districts
- Allocates Congressional seats per state
- Fairly distributes more than \$400 billion annually in federal, state, city and tribal funds to the State based on an accurate population count
- Each veteran not counted in the 2010 Census, means a loss of \$400 per person in state and federal funds for community services. So the census truly "counts" for each of us!
- And much more!

Christmas Gift *continued from page 1*

The Legionnaire who won the 50/50 drawing donated his prize back and the winner of the two free dinners donated his prize also. These monies were turned over to the Service Officer.

Our plans were to meet his flight and have a detachment of the Post 36 American Legion Riders escort him to his home. But ... the best laid plans, etc. He arrived in Tucson earlier than expected to surprise his family ... so the Service Officer, Adam Grose, leapt into action and an impromptu gathering was arranged at

the Post home for the service member and his family. He was feted, introduced around and interviewed by our local NBC affiliate KVOA Channel 4. Post 36 made him a member of the post and paid his first years dues. Present were Ken Dowse - Department Vice Commander for Area A, Adam Grose - Post 36 Service Officer, Tony Rigney - Post 36 Historian, and many members of Post 36 and the Post 36 American Legion Riders.

His parents and other family members were overwhelmed at the attention that was paid to this young soldier. They were extremely grateful for

everything that was done.

On Saturday of the next week, the Post treated the soldier and his family to a steak dinner on our Saturday Steak Fry. Music was furnished by The Desert Knights. By the time this is published, Kenny will be in Afghanistan as a 240B/Mk-19 gunner with the 1st Plt, Dco, 3-187 of the 101st Airborne. All members of The American Legion John P. Burns Post 36 are keeping Kenny and his comrades in their prayers, and are really glad that we were able to present him and his family with such a great Christmas present.

Children Helping Those Less Fortunate

Three years ago I asked the local elementary schools to join us in a Tots-4-Tots effort. The goal is to collect items that our service men and women can pass out in local villages, hospitals and orphanages. Del Rio Elementary in Chino Valley took up the challenge.

Each year I have filled the bed of my pick up with their donations. When I ship them, I ask the recipients to respond to the school, not to me. The school has a double display case with letters, emails, pictures and even a flag flown in Afghanistan. This has proven to

be an excellent civics lesson for the children. It also places us in contact with the school, to participate in other programs such as drug awareness.

This is something any Post could do on a local level. We are exceptionally proud of what these children have done.

Murrell Worth, Commander
Post #40 Chino Valley

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All types of policies are being considered for transfer and the dollar value may be higher to the owner than its cash value or just letting it lapse. So, if you are 65 years of age or older with a \$100,000 or more face value policy and are considering one of these two options, a **Life Insurance Settlement Plan** may be to your immediate advantage.

This program is brought to all Arizona Veterans and immediate family members and friends by H.E. Schwartz & Associates, Inc., which has been providing insurance related programs to Veterans since 1969. For complete information, please contact the Arizona Program Director, Jonathan D. Haley, of Oriole Financial Services Inc at JDHaley103@msn.com or call 480.252.1173.

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- **Oberammergau Passion Play** - Aug. - Tour begins in Rome, Italy and visits Austrian Alps, Germany, Prague, & Vienna.
- **Russia** - Aug. - St. Petersburg, Moscow, and the heartland.

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American Legion's Something From Home Program

In June of 2006, American Legion Post 122 of Cordes Lakes found that there were quite a few Arizona National Guard units stationed in Iraq. Through contact with servicemen, it was discovered that many personal hygiene items, favorite snacks, games and movies were not readily available in Iraq. This was the start of the "Something From Home" program.

The post members found that packages could not be shipped without a specific recipient. Their first order of business was to find someone in Iraq that would be willing to be the recipient and distributor of the boxes and contents. The first several boxes were shipped, received, and contents distributed mostly to the FOB (Forward Observation Base), which is the front of the front lines where there are no stores.

The person distributing started asking what items the troops were unable to get that they needed or wanted. Since some would have to travel miles to get a bar of soap, this would be a requested item. Other items were solid deodorants, model paints, almonds, chewing gum, toothbrushes – many items that the average person takes for granted.

In order to meet these requests, outside sources were contacted for help. One source provided 450 games and movies, another store sent outdated magazines that didn't sell, paperback books were donated. Some of these donations were one-time only and others were on a monthly basis. Some restrictions on what could be sent were season driven. Frozen pops were great for summer as they could be frozen, then the links placed around the neck to keep cool. When they melted, the troops would drink the liquid. Of course, chocolate couldn't be sent during the summer. Being a Muslim country, Christmas decorations and items couldn't be sent, so items for Halloween, 4th of July and other holidays were sent instead.

One fun item sent to the contact person was promised as a "Personal Foxhole Refrigeration Unit complete with MRE" (meals ready to eat). He was very excited and after a few e-mails about this great unit, it finally arrived. A battery operated hand fan with candy in the handle!

Another requested item was Slime for bicycle tire repairs and other parts. The roads in Iraq are very rough and hard on bicycle tires. In order to keep the children going to school, the troops would help repair the bicycles of the local children so they would have transportation to get their education.

The Military Welfare & Recreation (MWR), which is similar to what we used to know as the USO, has computers and game modules available, but snacks and games were needed. Boxes were sent there, also. Remote locations would have boxes sent by air, the waiting trucks would go to that location. In turn, troops returning would wait at the airport to catch a



Ron Johnson, Commander, Cordes Lakes Memorial Post #122

plane for hours with no snacks, games, etc. Boxes were sent there as well.

As packages kept coming, and as many requests as possible filled, many of these recipients were shipped home, to other units, and also back to Iraq. They contacted Post 122 Commander Ron Johnson and before long boxes were being shipped to South Korea, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Kuwait, U.S. Naval ships in the gulf and many other places, as well as to specific recipients. People hearing of the program donated specifically for their children, grandchildren or friends. The contact persons would change over time and a new person would take the responsibility for receiving and distribution.

So far, one thousand five hundred eighteen boxes have been sent out. It started with about fifteen to twenty boxes per month going to Iraq. This has reduced to about five per month now, as donations are down considerably. Mailing costs have also risen. The value of each box ranges between \$25 and \$50 with a current shipping cost of \$12.

With the downturned economy, donations have dwindled. While the boxes are provided by the Post Office, address labels, clear sealing tape, contents and shipping costs are still there.

Several Arizona National Guard units have recently been sent to Afghanistan. Post 122 could use help in supporting our Troops. Contact Ron Johnson at 928-632-7819 if you are able to supply items for the boxes, know a supplier that would be willing to help, or if you want to donate cash to help with the postage. Something From Home continues to support our troops.



Department Commander Carol and American Legion Auxiliary Unit #15 Miss Poppy

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Posts Struggling

Happy New Year to our American Legion Family. I'm hoping 2010 will be a better year for all of us.

Membership is doing well but it seems that we have

some Posts who are struggling. I would like to ask that all Legion members check your membership card; it should have the year 2010 printed in red numbers. If it doesn't, please help your Post by renewing your membership, pay your 2010 dues if you haven't already done so. Your continued membership in The American Legion as well as bringing in new members, not only helps your Post, it also helps veterans in our state in more ways than you might know.

This is the time of year when all Legion members will be asked to show their membership cards, in some cases more than once. Be proud to show that card, you earned the right to be a member.

Finally, I would ask all Post Adjutants, Sr. Vice Commander and Commanders to send in all membership renewals to Department at least weekly so that your

members remain in good standing at Department and National levels. The American Legion is a national organization and you cannot hold on to dues paid to the organization. Dues paid by members must be turned into Department in the month that they are paid.

In closing, I want to say thank you to all of the Posts and Districts that I have been able to visit; your hospitality and friendship is in keeping of the camaraderie of what The American Legion is, a veteran's organization serving veterans and their families.

Still serving,
For God & Country
Andres "Andy" Jaime, Jr., Membership Chairman

Christmas For 61 Homeless Veterans



Christopher J. Lapka American Legion Post #105 family hosted a Christmas party for 61 of our homeless veterans from the Madison Street Veterans Association. There was a gift tag for each veteran and/or their family on our annual "Angel Tree". All of the homeless veterans received gifts delivered by Santa Claus and his helpers, followed by snacks. Though it was very emotional, everyone attending had a great time.

Post #3 Donates Wii's to VA Hospital

The American Legion Post #3 Flagstaff, along with M.A.N.A. Support Network donated two Wii games to the V.A. Hospital in Prescott, AZ for use in their therapy program to assist our wounded warriors. The games were purchased through donations from American Legion Post #3, Marine Corp League Det. 912, VFW Post #1709, and MHOP, Dale Creek Chapter in Flagstaff.

The following was submitted by Mary Lu Bushnell, Psy.D., Phoenix VAMC: "As one of the group leaders, I would like to share one example that was particularly memorable. Although each was initially reluctant, four veterans (including one WWII Veteran, two Vietnam Veterans and one OIF Veteran) all engaged in a heated game of doubles tennis on the Wii. Even more exciting was to see the look of accomplishment and excitement on the 88-year-old WWII veteran's face when he served and aced his opponents two times in a row! All of these veterans individually commented on how much they enjoyed (and benefitted from) participating in this novel activity."

Hats off to all of the Veterans groups who worked together to accomplish this!



L to R: Bob Reyes, Adjutant Post #3; Kathleen Jones, Jr. Vice Post #3 and M.A.N.A. Support Network; Prescott VA Representatives, Paula Moran, Brad Eadleman (Mobile Vet Center), Robert Fields, Readjustment Counseling Tech (Mobile Vet Center) and Melissa Davis, OEF/OIF Services.

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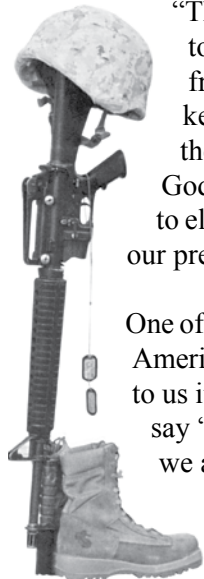
1	14	27	41	John Zimmerman	Harwell E Cooper
Neil Ailes	Leland O Barker	Thomas C Bennington	Oscar A Aguilar	65	Gordon M Fraize
Pete T Engard	Floyd L Cruse	Chauncey C Considine	Henry Eylicio	Allen P Jackson	Johnny E Gallett
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William C Compton	Wilfred J Bean	Jim Coopridger	Richard L Colosimo	75	John Perez
4	Conrad C Buker	Earl F Gieseke	Richard K Guyer	Armand J Guyon	Tom Perez
Jim R Enfield	Billy J Campeau	Clarence Keeton	Michael A Hanna	Cletus W Kobold	Louis F Schuler
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Chaplain's Corner

“God Bless” “Thank You” “I’m Sorry”

There are many things that we need to stop and consider. Many times we must stop and say “Thank you”, “God Bless” and “I’m sorry”. “God Bless” and “Thank you” for this beautiful day. “God Bless” and “Thank you” for our friends. “I’m sorry” for misspeaking and causing you pain. “Thank You” for loving me to your mate. “Thank You” to our veterans and active duty personnel for our freedoms. “Thank you” for our many volunteers in The American Legion Family. “Thank You” for our own involvement in these same activities.

The American Legion is a “God Bless” and “Thank you” organization in that we help others through our programs, but we need to start saying “I’m sorry” for not knowing and acknowledging all aspects of this American Legion Family of programs. Very few of us understand even half of the programs we have in The American Legion. We know Baseball, Oratorical, Boys and Girls State; but do we understand why Legislative, School Medal Awards, and the Auxiliary’s Field Service Volunteers programs are also important? Do we understand the full extent of the Child Welfare Foundation, Spinoza Bear and Josh Programs?



How many Posts/Units/Squadrons have a Four Chaplains Memorial in February? How many are involved in Fire Prevention, Halloween Safety, Get Out the Vote, Blood Drives, Meet the Candidates for local elections? Open their Post homes to public service programs such as youth shooting instructions, hunter safety courses, to our public service organizations to hold their meetings?

We do need to say “I’m sorry” “God Bless” and “Thank you” for the things we have, the ability to even meet as we do, the rights we enjoy. The freedoms we have are not free; we must always keep vigilant against those that wish to erode these rights and privileges. Say “Thank you” to God for the right of worship as we will, the right to elect our representatives and spread the words of our preamble “For God and Country”.

One of the best aids to understand the programs of The American Legion is the Post Officer’s Guide. We need to us it more, we need to find our middle ground and say “God Bless” and “Thank you”. But remember, we are never too big to say “I’m sorry”.

Be with God,
Richard Kepler, Department Chaplain

UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, February 20, 2010

Ira H. Hayes Veterans Memorial Park, Sacaton
65th Anniversary Iwo Jima Flag Raising
Commemoration Ceremony.
Parade begins at 9:00 A.M. Ceremonies to follow
Sponsored by Ira H. Hayes
American Legion Post #84
For more information: 520 562-8484 or email:
ihunit84@gila.net

Saturday, March 27, 2010

4th Annual “Legacy” Rally/Run hosted by ALR Post #29 - Registration 8:00 A.M. at American Legion #29, 6822 N. 57th Drive, Glendale
Breakfast available First Bike out at 9:00 A.M. – Last Bike in at 1:00 P.M.
Registration \$20.00 per bike \$10.00 per passenger (includes end of ride Lunch)
All proceeds go to The American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund, which supports children of fallen military heroes since 9/11
Contact Fred Manske at 623 334-4680 or email
fmanske_alr@msn.com

Friday, Saturday, Sunday, April 23, 24, 25, 2010
1st Annual Border Days Activities in Douglas, AZ, hosted by American Legion Riders Post #11
For more information call 520 364-5171

DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA 2010 STATE CONVENTION

JUNE 17 THRU JUNE 20, 2010

**HOSTED BY EARL E. MITCHELL POST #29
6822 N. 57th DRIVE, GLENDALE, ARIZONA 85301
(623-937-3411)**



CONVENTION HOTEL
RENAISSANCE PHOENIX GLENDALE HOTEL
9495 W. COYOTES BOULEVARD, GLENDALE, ARIZONA 85305
(623-937-3700 Fax 623-937-3703)

ROOMS AVAILABLE JUNE 16TH THRU JUNE 19TH (CHECK OUT - 20th)
SINGLE ROOM (KING OR QUEEN BED) OR DOUBLE ROOM (2 DOUBLE BEDS
LIMITED ADDITIONAL SUITES AVAILABLE
SINGLE/DOUBLE \$89.00 + TAXES

**ABSOLUTELY NO SMOKING IN ANY HOTEL INTERIOR
INCLUDING PATIOS AND COURTYARD**

CUT OFF DATE: MAY 17TH, 2010
Check-in time: 3:00 PM Check-out Time: 12:00 PM

IT IS REQUESTED YOU DON'T BLOCK OUT ROOMS WHEN MAKING RESERVATIONS
INFORM THE HOTEL "AMERICAN LEGION CONVENTION 2010".

RESERVATIONS NO.: 1-800-228-9290 (Marriott)
POOLSIDE HOSPITALITY SUITES WILL BE ARRANGED THROUGH POST 29.
HOSPITALITY SUITE RESERVATIONS WILL
REQUIRE A CREDIT CARD NUMBER. DEPARTMENT, AUXILIARY AND S.A.L.
PLEASE PROVIDE YOUR REQUIREMENTS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

CONTACT: Rollin Kohrs, Adjutant HOME: 602-938-1267 CELL: 602-550-0762
E-MAIL: amerleg29@att.net

POST 29 WILL HANDLE ALL SPECIAL FUNCTIONS:
MEMBERSHIP BREAKFAST, PALS DINNER, GNUTS LUNCHEON, PDC LUNCHEON

POST 29 PLANS TO SERVE FOOD FROM THURSDAY DINNER
THROUGH SUNDAY MORNING BREAKFAST.
MENUS AND SCHEDULES TBA

SHUTTLE SERVICE WILL BE PROVIDED FROM THE
RENAISSANCE HOTEL TO POST 29

POST 29 WILL SPONSOR A GOLF TOURNAMENT ON THURSDAY, JUNE 17th.
SHOT GUN START 7:30 AM
\$65.00 PER PLAYER, INCLUDES PRIZES, RAFFLES AND LUNCH



UPCOMING AMERICAN LEGION ORATORICAL COMPETITIONS

DISTRICT 2 – 1 PM
Sunday, February 7, 2010 - Post 102 (Tucson Mountains)
5975 W. Western Way (Tucson Mountain Estates)
Community Center

AREA A – 1 PM
Sunday, February 21, 2010 - Post 102 (Tucson Mountains)
5975 W. Western Way (Tucson Mountain Estates)
Community Center

AREA B – 10 AM
Saturday, February 27, 2010 - Post 2 (Tempe)
2125 S. Industrial Park Ave.

AREA C – 2 pm
Sunday, February 28, 2010 - Post 3 (Flagstaff)
204 W. Birch

DEPARTMENT FINALS – 10 AM
Saturday, March 6, 2010 - Post 44 (Scottsdale)
7145 E. 2nd St.