“Better Protection of Our Children”

Child Welfare Foundation

The needs of disadvantaged children weighed heavily on the minds of The American Legion’s founders. As they assembled in Paris, St. Louis and Minneapolis that first year after World War I, the earliest Legionnaires fully understood that many of their comrades were not coming home at all. Their wives and children were now widows and orphans. Many newly discharged veterans were permanently changed shell shocked, gassed or physically disabled and unable to care for their loved ones as they once did. America was not equipped to handle the needs of so many disrupted families. It was up to the Legion to provide what our founders called “a square deal for every child.”

Over the years, the Legion has fulfilled that obligation in uncountable ways. In 1952, Dr. Garland D. Murphy Jr. gave to The American Legion a large contribution that would benefit children. The Legion and Murphy entered into a trust agreement that established the Child Welfare Foundation (CWF), approved by the National Executive Committee on October 15, 1953.

Though created by the Legion, The CWF is a separate 501(c)3 corporation. They accept funding proposals from non-profit organizations for projects that contribute to the physical, mental, emotional and spiritual welfare of children.

The grants are awarded for focused projects that help non-profit organizations better communicate to those who need assistance. A CWF grant allows an organization to concentrate on the mission at hand, helping kids, by reducing some of the marketing burden; they are not awarded for day-to-day operating expenses or special operating expenses. If you think about it, there is no better way to spread a charitable contribution dollar than by granting it to spread the word far and wide, it’s a real multiplier effort.

Since the early 50’s, one of the most far-reaching Legion programs to fulfill one of our core values has been the Child Welfare Foundation, which has provided more than $9 million in grants to worthy causes over the years. Last fall alone, the foundation awarded $506,683 to 18 non-profit organizations dedicated to improving the lives of young people who have been dealt difficult circumstances.

Commander’s Message

Rachel Moses Our 2012 Oratorical Winner

The Department Finals of the 2012 Oratorical Program were held in Ahwatukee on Saturday, March 3, 2012. Selected to represent Arizona at the National Finals in Indianapolis was Rachel Moses, a home schooled Junior, from Cave Creek. The title of her oration was “Remembering Their Sacrifice”.

This year’s program was incredibly successful, and Department Chairman Roger Munchbach would like to thank all of the following for “Serving Arizona” with such enthusiasm: Area A Chairman Lance Hurst; District 2 Chairman Jim Barrett; Post 109-Corona and Commander John Suhay; Post 132-Oro Valley and Commander Ed Davis; Area B Chairman Andy Jaime;
Today’s History Sustains the Future...

According to Wikipedia, the earliest existing Christian writings on the age of the world according to the Biblical chronology are by Theophilus (AD 115–181) – now as the Post Historian you may not be truly interested in this fact, but it and lots of other good “stuff” is available to you and everyone else, because someone recorded the information!

Old and new history is not only important, but also invaluable when you’re looking back and trying to use it for a present project. For instance, recently I received a call from an Auxiliary member who was trying to gather information highlighting the Post’s contributions to the community for an article celebrating Arizona’s 100th Anniversary.

The Post’s original charter dated back many years, and at one point the charter had been turned in. Then after several years, the Post number had been reissued to another Post.

That was only problem one; others included the attrition of the original Post members so interviews with them was impossible; lack of written historical records (Post history books) for reference material; and lastly, absence of local newspaper publishers, so that she could research for related stories concerning the Post.

After a lengthy discussion, we were able to develop a plan of action for her to “try” to gather the needed information to accomplish her mission. Unfortunately for her, nobody had taken the time to record the Post history and maintain it in a safe place for future use; had they, her job would have been “snap” - just a matter of gathering, selecting appropriate information and possibly photos and presenting the article for publication!

If you’re the Post Historian, please remember your job is not just important today – but tomorrow! If you’re undecided on how to the best to record your post history – call me at 928-649-3374 or email me at: sicily84@cableone.net, so we can come up with a plan for you too!

Jeri Strande, Department Historian

Commander continued from page 1

At Department, we received a letter from Children’s Organ Transplant Association (COTA), who was adopted by the National Executive Committee on May 6-7, 2009 via Resolution No. 33 to adopt and participate in programs of Children’s Organ Transplant Association to ensure that the children receive the life-saving organ transplants they need. The purpose of the letter was to inform us of a patient campaign within Arizona. Currently, volunteers are raising funds for COTA in honor of Noah Swanson, a 2-year old boy from Phoenix who is in need of a life-saving bone marrow transplant. Volunteers in his community are raising an estimated $50,000 to assist with transplant-related expenses.

As a result of this effort and COTA’s official program status with The American Legion, local Posts in Arizona may be approached about joining COTA for Noah Swanson’s campaign. Additionally, coin collection boxes with Noah’s photograph and The American Legion, Auxiliary and SAL logos may be placed in local convenience stores. If you or your Post, Unit or Squadron wishes to participate, please contact:

Children’s Organ Transplant Association
2501 West COTA Drive
Bloomington, Indiana 47403
800-366-2682
cota@cota.org • www.cota.org

For God and Country,
George E. Cushing, Commander

Timothy Wiley 2012 Eagle Scout

The Scouting Committee is proud to announce that Timothy Wiley of Globe is the winner of the 2012 Eagle Scout of the Year for Arizona. The awarding of this honor was based on his academic record, his scouting record participation in events within the scouting program, and his Eagle Scout Project and how it helped the community. Tim received the Pope Pius XII Scouting Religious Award for service to his church. He will receive a check for $500.00 and a plaque at the Department Convention this June. As our representative, his application will be forwarded to National where it will be judged for The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year. First place is a $10,000 scholarship and the next three recipients will each receive a $2,500 scholarship.

In the past nine years, Arizona has produced three Eagle Scouts placing in the top positions at National. Last years’ runner up was Bradley Garr from Scottsdale who is in the Venturing Crew chartered by Sipe-Peterson Post #44. In 2006, Nicholas Coury from Glendale was the National Eagle Scout of the Year. In 2003, his brother Jamil was a runner up. The State of Arizona should be very proud of these youth, they represent our future.

The committee would like to thank Eagle Scout Aidan Heigl from Gilbert and Eagle Scout Kent Waters from St. John for submitting their applications. Next year we would like to see more applications from other Eagle Scouts. If your Post sponsors a Scout Troop, Team or Crew, please sponsor an Eagle Scout for this award.

We are still waiting to hear from Posts about our placement of flags for Memorial Day. Let us know, we can get the youth to help, we just need to know which cemeteries need flags.

For God and Country,
Wayne Chatfield, Scouting Chairman

American Legion
2012 Convention
Program Book Advertising

Outside Back Cover .............$300 (SOLD OUT)
Inside Back Cover .............$300 (SOLD OUT)
Full Page B&W Only .............$200
Half Page ..................................................$120
Quarter Page .................................$80
Business Card Size .....................$40
Boosters—Per Name .....................$2

ALL ADS MUST BE PRINT READY
Mail your Ad and/or Booster along with payment made out to:
PAT TILLMAN POST 117,
Attention Steve Allen
16428 N. 32nd St, #102, Phoenix, Az 85032
ALL ADS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN JUNE 1, 2012
Thank You

To my American Legion Family and Friends,
I wish to thank all of you for your thoughtfulness, kind words, prayers and condolences for my husband, Louie. My family and I were overwhelmed by the amount of people that attended his services; he would have been proud to know that he touched so many lives. He was loved by all and he loved everyone. Thank you for keeping us in your thoughts and prayers and for the gifts that I received in memory of Louie.
Sincerely, Gilda Pellon

To my fellow Leggionnaires,
Thank you all so very much for your concern about my health. I have gone through radiation and surgery and am looking forward to getting back in the “swing of things”. We Past Department Commanders can handle anything. Again, thank you all so very much. Love you all and The American Legion Family.
PDC Jim Phillips

It is with much appreciation, that so many Legion brothers and sisters remembered me with your cards and good wishes. I’m getting better each day and hope I will again be able to attend the meetings and get-togethers of our Legion Family. Thanks so much—the prayers really helped.
Sincerely, PDC Ted Martinson

To the members of our American Legion Family,
On behalf of Jeannie and myself, our sincerest thanks to all of you for the wonderful cards, your kind thoughts and prayers that all of you have sent to us. Thank you to the Legion Post who sent us a donation; it was applied to payments for my treatments; to those of you who put the paperwork together for the grant and a very special Thank you to the owners of the fifth wheeler that has become our main home in Tucson during these treatments. Not many would do what you have done; you will always be in our prayers. To each and every one of you, we ask God every day to bless you with all his graces and to always walk by your side.
Sincerely, PDC Joe & Jeannie Aguilar

---

2012 National Convention
Indianapolis, Indiana August 24 - August 30, 2012

The Arizona Delegation has been assigned to the Crown Plaza, Union Station, 123 W Louisiana St, 46225 (317) 631-2221

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:_________________________________________TELEPHONE:_____________________

ADDRESS:__________________________________________TELEPHONE:_____________________

Check appropriate boxes:

- King, 1 or 2 persons $ 139.23*  
- Double, 2 beds, 1 or 2 persons $ 139.23*  
- Roll Away rate (additional occupant $10.00) $ 22.00 per day  
- Arizona Party – Dinner and entertainment (Eddie Cash) $ 35.00 per person  
- Registration (mandatory for Legion, Auxiliary and guests) $ 25.00 per person  
- Past President= Luncheon *** (payable to Auxiliary)*** Call Auxiliary  
- States Dinner *** (payable to Auxiliary)*** $ 45.00 per person  
- National Commander's Banquet (limited to first 20) $ 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 16, 2012

- Occupancy Tax in the amount 17% 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 24, 2012

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Oratorical continued from page 1

District 11 Chairman Harold Stern; Post 29-Glendale and Commander Jim Gallagher; District 12 Chairman Roland L’Heureux; Post 27-Apache Junction and Commander Jim Phillips; Post 27 Color Guard; Post 35-Chuck Chandler and Commander Dan LeFebvre; Post 44-Scottsdale and Commander John Hyde; Post 64-Ahwatukee and Commander Rod Green; Post 134-Laveen and Commander Chuck Thomas; Post 137-Tonopah and Commander Tom Sloan;

Area C Chairman Jim Strande; District 8 Chairman Joe Duggan; and Post 108-Prescott Valley and Commander Bob Davis. In addition, the following teachers and school administrators went far above and beyond helping their students: Dr. Mark Joraanstad of Saddle Mountain Unified School District; William Kibler of Cesar Chavez High School; and Shannon Houser of Push Ridge Christian Academy.

There were requests for information on the Oratorical Program from 151 students and teachers in Arizona. Thirty students filed papers indicating their intent to participate, and 18 students actually took the stage to deliver an oration. Posts hosted nine “local” opportunities for the students to practice and earn extra scholarship money. There were three District Contests, three Area Contests, and one Department Contest. Over 550 people were in the audiences of the 16 different contests. To date, $7,435 in scholarship money has been awarded by Posts, Districts, and the Department of Arizona.

The National Finals will be held in Indianapolis, April 13-15, 2012. The last round of competition will be streamed live on www.legion.org at 7:00 am, Arizona time, on Sunday morning, April 15th.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered and helped make this year another successful one!
LtoR: Commander George Cushing; National Vice Commander, Merv Gunderson; Post #36 Commander, Tony Rigney; Auxiliary Unit #36 President, Kathleen Medalen; S.A.L. Detachment Commander, W. L. Foster and S.A.L. Squadron #36 Commander, Dave McGee. John P. Burns Post #36 hosted the Department Commander’s visit on February 21, 2012.

Above Photo: There were so many types of food that some people had to look it over before choosing.

Open House January 7, 2012
Thank you to everyone for coming to the Open House; it was great to see so many of our old friends and meet some new ones also!
TEAM ARIZONA, we are doing pretty darn good and we only have a few months left before the end of our 2011-2012 Legion year. Our goal date for 100% is May 7th, but you know what, I’m thinking we are going to make it before then. The Friday membership reports we’ve been receiving lately from our Department Bulldog have 100% Posts each and every week. Is that exciting or what!! The report I can’t wait to see is when TEAM ARIZONA is at 100%; now that will be a great day and one we will all celebrate together.

Congratulations to all the Posts who are already at 100%; hope you’ve gotten the letters I’ve been sending to you. It truly warms my heart when I see Posts hitting the magic 100% because there’s a lot of hard work behind it. To the Posts that met 100% and are STILL growing and sending in their membership to Department, GREAT JOB!! Doing membership is no joke and there are members out there wanting that 2012 card. When we traveled to Bullhead City in January, the room was packed. The Sergeant at Arms checked everyone’s Legion card to ensure their card was current; are you showing your 2012 card? I cannot believe it when I hear stories that people don’t have their cards on them when they go into Posts or that they get upset when someone asks to see it. What is up with that? I’m pretty darn proud of my Legion card and you should be too. Remember, it isn’t the price we pay to be a member; it’s the price we paid to be eligible. We are all proud Veterans and take pride in our service to Mother America.

There are still Posts out there NOT reaching the goals set for us and TEAM, that breaks my heart. I want to challenge each and every one of you; right now; today. Take your Legion card out of your wallet or purse and look at the year. If it’s a 2012 card, pat yourself on the back. If it’s a 2011 card, you’ve got some actions to take. Get your $$$ in to your home Post so they can get you that 2012 card to maintain your membership. If you’ve paid your dues and haven’t gotten your 2012 card, get in touch with your Post and have them get on it. To the Post leadership, it is imperative membership cards are sent out right away, the monies are processed through your finance officer, and the reports and money are sent to Department – RIGHT AWAY. Each Post should be sending in membership every week to Department; this isn’t an option…it’s a necessity. It doesn’t matter if it’s ONE or TWENTY; each and every member matters. You matter, TEAM ARIZONA!

We sometimes take membership for granted, but folks, we can’t. Each and every member across our great nation is vital to our existence; I cannot stress that enough. Without our members, we will fail. And the last time I checked, Veterans are not failures. We are truly a force to be reckoned with! When you watch the news and see what is going on in the political world, there is a movement afoot to raise Tricare costs and co-pays for much needed medicine. I don’t know about you but that really chaps my hide. I use Tricare and I’m sure there are lots of you out there in the same boat. This is one of the greatest benefits we have and it is under attack. Our political leaders look at the Veteran pool as this huge resource to cut funds. The American Legion is the largest Veteran organization in our country and ladies and gentlemen, numbers speak volumes! Our Legion leaders go to Washington, D.C. and meet with these folks that NEVER served in the military who are making decisions against us; well, I’m sure we could all gather around the campfire and talk about the injustice of that for many days. Let’s give them the ammunition they need and that is by maintaining your membership, volunteering, writing the members in Congress and the Senate; give them a piece of your mind and get involved. If you don’t vote or write our political leaders, shame on you.

Ok, I’m off that soap box but you know, WE MATTER! The Veterans, YOU, matter. There are many Veteran organizations and each one has so much to offer. When I’ve been out talking about membership, I talk about your Post being friendly. Step back for a minute and look at your Post from an outside view; is it friendly? When folks walk in, do you greet them? Ask them where they are from? What did they do in the military? If you don’t think this is important, you’re fooling yourself. We’ve talked to folks that moved to Arizona and really searched for a friendly Post to join; no kidding. I mean, it was their mission to find a place to become a part of and when they found it, man, they just jumped in, joined up, and started volunteering. Is that awesome or what!!

In June we have our Department Convention and I’d like to personally invite you to the Membership Workshop. At Fall Conference, we had almost 50 folks in attendance. Some folks don’t attend because they feel they know everything about membership or they’ve heard it all. My thoughts, if we have people out there that know everything about membership, why in the heck aren’t we at 100% already? TEAM ARIZONA, let’s just do it. We voted strongly for Commander Cushing so let’s support him and his Commander, Jan, and make Arizona NUMBER ONE!!

For God and Country,
Jackie Salter-Miller (Your Proud Membership “Mom”)

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Assisting Veterans with VA Disability Claims - Appeals Only*
Theodore C. Jarvi, Attorney at Law
Retired JAG - Legion Member
1050 E. Southern Avenue, Suite G3
Tempe, AZ 85282
Tel: (480) 838-6566; Fax: (480) 838-8810
E-Mail: tfjarvi@jarvilaw.com

*Federal law permits the payment of attorney fees by the veteran for assistance with any VA claim if Notice of Disagreement is filed after June 20, 2007.

The American Legion Service Office
3333 N. Central Ave., Ste. #1048
Phoenix, AZ 85012

Department Service Officer
Arthur Brest, Jr. (602) 627-3284

Service Officer
Tanya De Jesus (602) 627-3282

Area A – South - Tucson
Barry Mosman (520) 982-5660

Area B – Central - Phoenix
Byron Weston (480) 802-6623

Area C – North - Flagstaff
Ed Pennell (928) 774-0084

Veterans seeking legal advice may contact: Veterans’ Legal Clinic
at the Phoenix Law School
(602) 464-7820
Email: vetsclinic@phoenixlaw.edu
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For God and Country,
Carol Stensby, Department Chaplain

You’ve heard the phrase many times; usually when someone is displeased with the outcome of a particular situation. “Oh for the love of God” they sigh. You might then guess that they have come to the conclusion that if only God had loved them a little more, the end result would have been more in their favor.

Please put your fears to rest. God loves you; He has boundless love for all of His children. He has favored you with a free will thereby granting you the ability to control many of the outcomes in your life. God, most likely, does not concern Himself with things like who wins The Daytona 500 or the Super Bowl. Note that Tim Tebow’s public acknowledgement of His love for God in front of millions of fans didn’t get him a Super Bowl bid.

Within that enduring love He has for us, just like our love for our own children, is the wish for us to follow in His footsteps. God wishes for us to show how much we love Him by being more God-like. You’ll recall the phrase “imitation is the highest form of flattery”? Let flattery begin!

Show God how much you wish to emulate him by an expression of your own boundless love for your family, friends, neighbors, the less fortunate and of course, your fellow veterans. Are you “sideways” with someone in your life? If so, reach out that olive branch; put in the effort it takes to make things right.

Whenever you find yourself in a discomfiting situation, ask yourself “what would God do?” and then act accordingly. Things will likely turn out well more oft than not. Thus, you’ll not hear yourself muttering “Oh for the Love of God!”

Please keep PDC Dave Roun, PDC Paul Griffin, PDC Jim Phillips and PDC Joe Aguilar, PDC Mac Mclary in your prayers. They are dealing with some health issues. Also, please pray for the eternal rest of our comrade PDC Louis M. Pellon who transferred to Post Everlasting on Feb. 12, 2012.

For God and Country,
Carol Stensby, Department Chaplain

Chaplain’s Corner

For The Love of God

Upcoming Events

April 20-22 - Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Arizona Campout, Dead Horse Ranch State Park, Cottonwood, AZ. Tent and RV sites available. For registration and information, contact Dana Dobson (480) 603-7099 or Jeff Frain (602) 418-0508.

April 28 - Fourth Annual Veterans Helping Veterans Picnic, Encanto Park in Phoenix 11:00am to 4:00pm. There will be music, entertainment, hamburgers, hot dogs and salads. Donations from all area Legion Family members are welcome. For further information or to donate, contact Domingo Bonilla (480) 628-1191 or Keith Bartz (623) 972-9505.

May 12 - Department Commander Cushing’s Homecoming hosted by Earl E. Mitchell Post #29 in Glendale, AZ. Cocktails 5:30PM Dinner 6:30PM Prime Rib or Baked Chicken Breast. Donation $15.00 per person. Please RSVP by Monday, May 7, 2012 to Post #29 at (623) 972-9505 or email amerleg29@yahoo.com – no walk-ins. Music provided by R & B Project.

Hotels: Motel 6 (623) 939-9431; Hampton Inn 1-800-992-2694; Holiday Inn Express 1-877-786-9480.
### American Legion Department of Arizona Membership Report

**March 18, 2012**

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<th>District</th>
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### The Arizona Legionnaire

**April 2012**

**Department of Arizona American Legion 2012 Annual Convention June 21-24, 2012**

**Carefree Resorts & Villas**

37220 Mule Train Road, Carefree, AZ 85377

**ROOM RATE:** $95.00 per room per night single/double occupancy

**Please make reservation by MAY 15, 2012 to Receive $95.00 discount rate**

**Check In time is 4:00 pm**

**Check out time is 12:00 pm**

Email to: cpettjohn@carefree-resort.com

Phone Reservations: 1-520-579-9293 / Cory Pettijohn, Group Rooms Coordinator

For Hospitality Rooms contact: Steve Allen 602 908-4311
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**PRE_REGISTRATION DEADLINE JUNE 8, 2012**

**DO NOT MIX LEGION WITH SAL**

**NO REFUNDS OR SUBSTITUTIONS**