Our Need To Grow

My fellow Legionnaires, I wish to thank all of you for your enthusiastic support and trust in allowing me to serve you as your Department Commander. It is a humble and honorable feeling to represent our 42,000 Legionnaires in this great state of Arizona. I will work to the best of my ability to fulfill your expectations. A huge “job well done” to our outgoing Commander, George Cushing, who’s hard work helped build a foundation to go forward with. Our thoughts are very much alike. A special thank you to the Legion Family of the John P. Burns Post #36 in Tucson for their support and assistance with the hospitality rooms during the Fall Conference and Department Convention. You were a great and appreciated help. Many of you may not know, but to the best of my knowledge, this is the first time in the Arizona Legion history that the Department Commander, the Department Auxiliary President, Kathleen Medalen, and the Detachment Commander, Joe Roberts, are from the same Post. I have worked with Kathleen and Joe for many years and look forward to a very productive and enjoyable year with them.

During a campaign, one realizes just how large this state is and how spread out our Posts are. Not all Posts could be visited but hopefully this year, those that were missed I will be able to visit. To the Posts and District meetings that I attended, thank you all for your courtesy and wonderful friendship.

“Bridging our Generations” is the campaign slogan this year with the emphasis toward our younger men and women from the Persian Gulf era to the present. This by no means dismisses our older veterans of which there are many in our state. We have been asked by many veterans; “What can you do for me and what’s in it for me”. We should be able to respond by informing them; here is what we have done for you, here is what Commander continued page 2
Scouting Committed to the Future

Legionnaires,

At the Opening Ceremony of our 2012 Department Convention, Tim Wiley of Globe, received the Arizona Eagle Scout of the Year Plaque and a check for $500.00. He started in scouting as a Tiger Cub and passed through the ranks all the way to Eagle Scout. Only three out of 100 who start this process actually make it to the rank of Eagle Scout. Tim was valedictorian at Globe High School with a 4.36 GPA. In 2011, he attended Boys State and was elected mayor of his city. He plans on attending Arizona State in the fall majoring in sports medicine. We wish him well in what his future brings.

Under the Americanism pillar, Scouting stands committed to the future. A presentation was given during the Americanism session on the benefits of today’s youth participating in the program. There was much interest in the Scout Venturing and the Legion Jr. Shooting Sports programs. The Jr. Shooting Sports Program was of interest to several attendees. Funding to procure equipment can be done through the “Friends of NRA”. This is a grant that must be submitted before October 5th. Additional equipment is available through the Civilian Marksmanship Program. Please contact me for more information regarding these programs.

On July 5th, a new Cub Scout Pack #119 was chartered which is hosted by Post 41 in Phoenix. The charter was presented by Jose Rodriguez, District Executive for Camelback District (also a member of Post 41) and myself as Assistant Council Commissioner.

Already, there is talk about starting a Boy Scout troop because the Webelos will need someplace to go after they crossover into scouting. The post has really stepped up in getting this pack up and running. The Pack attended Cub Scout Day Camp at the Heard Pueblo Museum in Phoenix where they learned new scouting skills and crafts. They participated in Post 41’s 4th of July celebration. Many thanks to members of Post 41, Commander Alfonzo Aranda, Vivian and Robert Hernandez, Mark Gustin, Angel Juarez, Pat Thomas, Luis and Christina Padilla, and Cub master Mike Weber.

Jose presented the William D. Boyce New Unit Organizer Award to Vivian Hernandez, Unit 41 Auxiliary Member. The award recognizes the efforts involved in starting a new unit. Vivian was very busy attending many meetings, sending e-mails and making a lot of phone calls. This award recognizes her efforts ensuring that new unit leadership is trained, a program is organized and in operation, the new unit committee is functioning, a commissioner is assigned, all paperwork is completed and processed, and the charter is presented to the chartered organization. Congratulations to Vivian and thank you for all your hard work in getting Pack 119 started.

For God and Country,
Wayne Chatfield
Scouting Committee Chairman
602.803.6048
e-mail: whiskeycharlie2503@yahoo.com

Commander continued from page 1

we have to offer you and here is what we are trying to do for you.

What have we done? The American Legion wrote the original G.I. Bill of Rights and just recently was the leading voice of the Veterans Organizations to amend the Post 9-11 G.I. Bill allowing the younger veterans to attend vocational schools instead of having to take two years of college; a big benefit for learning a trade.

What do we offer? Under our children and youth programs, we offer the Legacy Scholarship and Temporary Financial Assistance. Under Americanism, we offer Boys State, American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy (ALLECA), Legion Baseball and Oratorical Competitions just to name a few. Last but not least, our dedicated Service Officers who assist and represent our veterans with benefit claims.

What are we trying to do? Last March while back in Washington D.C., we visited our Congressmen and Senators, we discussed and asked their support on some of the following; 1) Protecting VA and DOD from the 2011 Deficit Reduction Law, 2) Disabled Veterans Tax – remove the tax on disabled veterans receiving less than 50% disability, 3) Flag Amendment – protect Old Glory from acts of physical desecration, 4) Maintaining a large and strong National Defense. There are more but too many to list.

I will be asking our National Executive Committeeman, NEC Alternate, our members who have commissions and our members who go on call-ins on committees, to provide a report of what was accomplished and submit it to the Legionnaire for publication. You should know what we are doing.

Remember membership is always an ongoing commitment. How many have ever thought that the larger our membership, the more powerful our voice on State and National issues. It is the power of your voice that gets issues accomplished.

A year ago, Our National Commander, Fang Wong, while addressing us at the Arizona caucus stated; “The American Legion is not a social club. Rather we have the most unique organization as no other”. Think about that comment for a moment. We truly do have a most unique organization. Let our younger veterans know this and ask them to add their voice to ours. Let’s all work at “Bridging our Generations”.

For God and Country,
Ken Dowse
Department Commander
installation of 2011-2012 officers started our year journey together. Memorial Day was a flag raising, potluck and music. Flag Day, June 14th, Boy Scout Troop #239 did a special Flag Retirement Ceremony at Post 62. Department Convention was fun and informative. Unit 62 made a lot of noise and won a lot of awards.

July 4th saw a flag raising, potluck and music. The Post 62 Family hosted the District 11 Organizational meeting at our Post home. District Commander, Jim McCrady, is a member of Post 62. Christmas in July was a Children & Youth fundraiser with a dinner and an angel tree for donations going to Luke Elementary School for back to school supplies and shoes.

Labor Day we had a pot luck and music in our social quarters.

The Four Chaplain Ceremony was presented at our February general meeting along with our District President, Robbie Salomon’s official visit to the Auxiliary meeting.

Our adopted Marine, Jessica Paz Swaim, had day care issues with her being stationed on east coast and husband (also a Marine) on west coast. The Auxiliary donated $1,200.00 to help with day care until they are reunited as a family. A Marine family stationed in Yuma was airlifted to Phoenix Children’s Hospital. Their son was born premature and needed around the clock care. The parents are living at the Ronald McDonald House. Through many donations from dinners and different program funds, the Unit donated $500.00. Also, the Legion donated $500.00 and Legion Riders donated $693.00.

Make a Difference Day was celebrated with an Auxiliary donation of $500.00 to Phoenix Children’s Hospital, a Senior Action Day was at Post 62 with visiting State Legislators and Unit 62 donated 200 calculators to the 7th and 8th graders at Luke Elementary School.

Our Girls/Boys State dinner was held. The Post 62 Family sponsored 21 girls and 19 boys.

For the “Legion National Family Week” we held our Golf Cart Poker Run and raised money “To Educate Children of Warriors”.

Our Fourth Annual “Christmas Party for Children of Deployed Parents” from Luke AFB was a smashing success. The committee and elves did a spectacular job. Santa came, there was a petting zoo; arts and crafts; face painters; jumping castle; balloon masters; a magician; lunch and a make your own ice cream sundae bar. The Legion Riders donated $1,600.00; one Post member donated $4,000.00 and a Legion Rider donated $1,000.00 (Secret Santas!!) so each family had extra money. All families were given a turkey to take home and all the gifts and memories for a life time. Many thank you cards were received.

For April, “Children & Youth Month” (Month of Military Child) and May, “Month of Military Spouses”-children of deployed parents were treated to a donation from the Auxiliary of $5,000.00 to send them to a camp of their choice and the parents left behind got to enjoy either a car detail or manicure.

**Booster Sign Up Conference**

**NOV. 16-18, 2012**

**NAME & POST/UNIT/SQDN #**

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$2.00 per name

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MUST BE RECEIVED BY NOVEMBER 5, 2012
Top Left... Commander George receiving his Past Department Commander Pin and cap from his wife, Jan.

Top Right... Seated: Newly installed Department Commander, Ken Dowse; Past Department Commander George Cushing
Standing: The American Legion National Adjutant, Daniel Wheeler; Department Adjutant, John Aldecoa

Left... Commander George became an “Honorary Blues Brother” for a night. He did a really good job keeping up with his new “Brothers”.

Bottom Right... W. L. Foster, Detachment Commander; Commander George; and Department Auxiliary President, Sharon Doran, placing the wreath at the Memorial Service on Sunday morning.

Bottom Left... Commander George speaking at the 2012 S.A.L. Detachment Campout in Cottonwood. It was a great weekend!
Robert Hernandez New Department Historian

My first article will be short as I would like to just introduce myself. My name is Robert Hernandez, and I am a member of Tony F. Soza-Ray Martinez Post 41. I have been a member for 31 years and have held the positions of Adjutant, Commander, Historian and Public Relations Officer.

I am honored to be given the opportunity to hold the position as your Department Historian. I look forward to supporting our Department Commander, Ken Dowse, and the membership. I’d like to thank Jeri Stande for the support she has given me.

I really look forward to learning and sharing as much

as I can about the Historian’s job. I can be reached at the following;

(602) 330-8274 Cell
(602) 262-9243 Post
robert@alpost41.phxcoxmail.com

If anyone feels like sharing ideas, has any questions or just needs help with your position as District or Post Historian, please let know. You can leave a message, text or email me.

For God and Country,
Robert P. Hernandez
Arizona Department Historian

Congratulations To Our Sweepstakes Winners

1ST PRIZE: $3000.00
Joseph R. Urbalejo Post 73

2ND PRIZE: $2000.00
Carlos Santa Cruz Post 41

3RD PRIZE: $1000.00
Ray D. Warren Post 27

8 -- $500.00 Winners:
James R. Wilhelm Post 6
Robert I. Rose Post 27

The winners were drawn on June 24, 2012 at our Department Convention held in Carefree. Thank you all for participating in the Sweepstakes drawing. We do appreciate your continued support of The American Legion programs.

THANK YOU
THANK YOU!!!!

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each of you for the honor and privilege of serving as your Department Commander this year.

This was the most rewarding and humbling experience of my life. The comradeship and hospitality that you showed Jan and me, was outstanding and very much appreciated. As we traveled around the state, we were humbled to be in the presence of such hard working and dedicated Legionnaires and their families. As a team, we were able to accomplish many successes; over 60 Posts have met or exceeded their 100% membership goals, three districts over 100% of their goals and over 95% of our Posts turning in their Consolidated Post Reports (CPR’s) just to name a few.

Jan and I are looking forward to continuing to meet and visit with as many of you as possible.

Thank you for your friendship and commitment to our great organization.

For God and Country,
George Cushing
Past Department Commander

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Tempe, AZ 85282
Tel: (480) 838-6566; Fax: (480) 838-8810
E-Mail: tjarvi@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.
Post

Everlasting

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Bernie Carlson

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Edward E Hunt

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Irving Levy

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Robert H Norcom

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C J Smith

6
David F Woodbridge

7
Justin M Solberg

8
Albert J Winker

9
Russ W Agnew

10
Jack K Foster

11
Bob Mack

12
Marshall W Wahlman

13
Rollin B Allen

14
Jack E Goss

15
Henry W Frahmman

16

The Arizona Legionnaire

August 2012

Ask Not For Whom the Bell Tolls...

It tolls for thee; calling you back from your summer solstice (albeit brief). It’s time to get back into the swing of things and jump in up to your knees in American Legion projects. Some of you, I know, will wade into even deeper waters.

Even though we’ve taken a short break from most of our activities, our needy have not had that option. Veterans remain homeless on our streets; alone and unvisited in our hospitals. Children nation-wide continue to search for guidance through our many and far reaching children and youth programs. Our country is trying desperately to struggle its’ way out of a depression. You can help this effort by remembering to exercise your citizen rights by casting your VOTE in November for the candidates of your choice.

Each and every Legionnaire is called upon from time to time to fill the role of Chaplain. A Chaplain is merely a guide, a leader - showing the people we come in contact with a clearer path to success - not monetary success - but peace of mind. As we involve those around us in Americanism programs, make available to our youth the intricacies of running a democracy through our Boys and Girls State and Nation and teach them about law enforcement with the ALLECA Program; we are being a Chaplain in our own way.

I ask that you remember that any time you are out in public in either a Legion cap or a shirt or blouse, you are telling everyone who sees you what you believe in. A simple bumper sticker or a veterans license plate speaks volumes about who you are and what you stand for. Remembering that and always conducting yourself in the proper manner, will bring great credit upon The American Legion and its’ members. Remember, we are all Chaplains in one way or another.

For God and Country,
Carol Stensby, Chaplain
Annual Dining Out. The Auxiliary Juniors tied yellow ribbons with poppies in the Americanism Awards to the Air Force JROTC from Peoria High School at their ceremony.

That week by an Early Bird Dinner. Pearl Harbor Day was celebrated with a flag and cake. Veterans' Day was celebrated with a flag raising and potluck, followed by the Auxiliary Volunteer of the Year.

The Legion Family celebrated the U.S. Marine Corps 236th Birthday with a ceremony and cake. Pearl Harbor Day was celebrated with a flag raising and pot luck, followed by an Early Bird Dinner.

The Legion Family presented Americanism Awards to the Air Force JROTC from Peoria High School at their Annual Dining Out. The Auxiliary Juniors tied yellow ribbons with poppies in the middle for our deployed troops to return safe. On Sundays, the Legion Family has Bar Bingo and the Auxiliary furnishes lunch with the donations going to Veterans Programs.

Our Color Guard has been active all year with a number of funerals, memorials, grave side burials, flag raisings, meetings, functions and many fun raisers presenting the colors. They consist of nine members from the Legion, S.A.L. and Legion Riders.

The POW/MIA flag is presented at every meeting with Resolution 288 read. All of our entities have attended District Meetings to represent the Legion 62 Family.

Thirteen Unit members went to the Mission Workshop Training in Las Vegas. It was excellent and many new ideas for our programs were brought back. Our Past Presidents’ Parley Dinner was a big success with the money donated to the Nurses Scholarships. The Unit Education Scholarship of $500.00 went to Shauna Scott for her nursing school.

Several press releases were sent to the local media, our website is up to date with information. Flyers have gone to Luke AFB Social Services and their base publications about our events.

Above and beyond our projects that kept us busy this year, our donations are something we are also very proud of: $1,678.00 Auxiliary Emergency Fund; $2,400.00 donated by the Auxiliary to purchase flat screen TVs for the social quarters at the Post; $200.00 Alzheimer Walk; $626.00 Balboa Hospital, San Diego, CA for Wounded Warriors haircuts; $230.00 to Bob Stump VA, Prescott for haircuts; $1,010.00 Child Welfare Home for Ice Cream Social for the Veterans; $25.00 Four Chaplain Ceremony; $75.00 Children & Youth Halloween Party; $1,784.00 Children’s Christmas Party for Luke AFB’s children of deployed parents; $500.00 Children’s Hospital; $1,050.00 Creative Arts Festival; $50.00 Cavalcade of Memories; $500.00 Carl Hayden HS JROTC; $6,300.00 Girls State; $50.00 Eagle Scout; $50.00 Freedom Foundation; $100.00 Fountain Retirement Home for Ice Cream Social for the Veterans; $25.00 Four Chaplain Ceremony; $1,000.00 Fisher House in Landstule, Germany; $100.00 AZ Fish and Game for Handicapped; $200.00 Girl Scout Cookies to be sent to deployed troops; $190.00 Girl Scout patches for Auxiliary Juniors in the local troop; $100.00 Happy Hearts Knitters; $550.00 Luke AFB School for water for everyone and calculators for the 7th and 8th graders; $200.00 to member Margaret Mary Kelsey for when she takes her Father to Washington, D.C. to be a recipient of the “Honor Flight Award”; Legion Family $6,000.00 to Military Support Group to cover postage to send packages to our deployed troops; $500.00 National Presidents’ Scholarship; $100.00 National Cemetery in Phoenix; $59.00 Peoria HS JROTC Awards; $400.00 Peoria School for underwear and water; $300.00 St. Mary’s Food Bank; $25.00 Spirit of Youth; $250.00 Spirit of Youth Scholarship; $1,000.00 the Unit raised for one of our Auxiliary Junior members now going to ASD College; $12,760.00 VA Homeless Shelter for water, dental supplies, etc.; $400.00 VA Gift Shop in Prescott; $500.00 West Valley Food Bank; $50.00 WWII Memorial in Washington, D.C.; $104.00 to cover costs of yellow ribbons for our deployed troops to come home safe.

John J. Morris Post 62 Legion Family has again worked hard together to make these programs work and donations sizable. Unit 62 is a “C.A.M.E.O.”—and we ARE the “WOMEN OF QUALITY MAKING CAMEO APPEARANCES IN THE LIVES OF OUR VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES” as our Department President’s theme states.

This report was read at our May joint meeting and approved by membership. The Unit’s supplemental reports have been sent to the proper program chairman. We are proud and thankful for the opportunity to provide care and strive to help the integrity of Veterans and their families.

For God & Country,
Unit 62 President, Mary Ann San Souci
Post 62 Adjutant, David Broyles
Post 62 Commander, Jack Shoemaker
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