Let’s Win the Five Membership Challenges

Hello again to my Department of Arizona Legion Family. Time sure flies when you’re having fun.

Since my last writing, I attended The American Legion National Fall Commanders Meeting in Indianapolis, IN. The two days of training was intense and informative and I have been challenged by five other Department Commanders on this year’s membership goals. So, I’m asking everyone in the Department of Arizona to help me out. These are five challenges I don’t want to lose!

Other travels have included my invitation to Safford Post 32 for the Early Bird Dinner followed by the District 5 meeting on Sunday. I am so proud of all the volunteerism District 5 members are involved with in their communities. It’s an honor for me to address the membership and thank the Posts and Units for their dedication and selflessness.

This was followed by invitations to Fountain Hills Post 58 PPP Fund Raising Dinner for nurses training and Phoenix Post 1’s Auto Show. It’s amazing how some Posts come up with great ideas that have a large draw of people that participate.

I saw a lot of you at our Fall Conference in Tucson and I want to personally thank all of you for attending. This year’s attendance was the largest in the past three years. I was really happy to see all of the breakout sessions filled with members; mornings and afternoons. I hope you all were inspired and learned something new. Share with your members back home and talk them into going to our Department Convention in Carefree in June. Our National Western Region Vice Commander, Jake Jacobs, was very impressed on how the

Commander continued on page 4

It Has Been A Busy Time in the Prescott Area

The past couple of months have been very busy in the northern part of the state. On September 16th and 17th, I volunteered at the Stand Down in Prescott Valley held at Tim’s Toyota Center; attended the District 6 Meeting/Picnic and the District 7 and 8 Meetings. I have also visited a few of the Posts in my area.

On November 10th, I was honored to be one of the many that read names of those killed in action in Iraq and Afghanistan during the National Roll Call. I also participated in the Veterans’ Day Parade in Prescott on November 11th with my Post 108 American Legion Family.

I hope everyone had a very enjoyable Thanksgiving and wish you a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

For God and Country,
Doug Keller, Area C Vice Commander

Getting ready for the Veterans’ Day Parade in Prescott

Index

Fall Conference Photos........... 2  Area B Report....................... 7
Americanism.................... 3  Legion Open House............... 7
NEC Report..................... 3  Post Everlasting.................. 8
District 12...................... 3  Chaplain’s Corner............... 8
Area A Report................... 3  Oratorical Schedule.......... 9
ALR Face of Legion.............. 4  Membership Report.......... 10
Membership Challenge......... 5  Holiday Greetings.......... 11
ALLECA.......................... 6  Veteran Suicide Awareness... 12
District 12...................... 6  Sweepstakes Winners........ 12
“GTKYP” Winners............. 6
2014 Fall Conference Photos

All pictures are from Roy White, Department Historian

Our 2014 Fall Conference Golfers after a brisk morning of Golf.

PDC Kenny Dowse receiving the Membership Recruiter of the Year Award from PDC Judi Beischel

LtoR: Jane Shoemaker, Auxiliary Department President; Joe Miller, S.A.L. Detachment Commander; Susan Diaz, Western Division National Vice President; and Andy Jaime, Department Commander.

Commander Andy and Department President, Jane Shoemaker presenting a wreath at the Sunday Memorial Service

PDC Judi Beischel presenting the “Legionnaire of the Year” Award to Tom Miller from Irving B. Selmer Post 107-Phoenix

Jake Jacobs, Western Region National Vice Commander addressing the Opening Session at Fall Conference in Tucson
A Busy Schedule Ahead for Glenn White

I’ve had a very good, but slow start to my year as your District 12 Commander, but I’m looking forward to seeing and meeting everyone at my official visits. In November, I attended five meetings and have seven scheduled in December. Don’t forget District 12’s “Veterans Helping Veterans” Dance and Dinner on January 24th at Post 2 in Tempe. I’ve been invited to attend two functions so far in December; the first ever Arizona National Guard Full Muster on Pearl Harbor Day, December 7th. Governor Jan Brewer will do a Pass and Review of all Arizona National Guard. This is a free half day event at ASU with displays for the public; and I’m also honored to have been invited to the Bushmasters Post 114 Christmas Dinner in Scottsdale.

With the Holidays coming up, I hope all remember to be thankful for what we have. Spread happiness around by volunteering somewhere that helps our Community, State and Nation.

For God and Country,
Glenn White, District 12 Commander

Legionnaires Play Vital Role in National Elections

On November 4, 2014 Americans from around the country exercised their civic duty and went to the polls to vote. Generations of selfless Americans have served their country at home and abroad to ensure freedom and provide all Americans the right to elect their government officials. One in six voters were Veterans. The American people made opinions known and elected many new candidates.

Congress continues to experience a downward trend in the number of Veterans elected. In 1977, three out of every four elected officials had some degree of military service experience. Today, less than one in five have served.

The new Congress will soon begin work on the annual budget while finding a way to steer the ship of state.

Educating members of Congress about the sacrifice military service members and families make is essential to ensuring the military community continues to receive a square deal. Rather than jumping into work on technical glitch correction or executing sweeping reforms, let’s start with the building blocks of why certain programs exist in the first place. Often that requires dispelling myths and informing members of Congress about the true conditions of service and sacrifices our men and women who serve have made and are making.

Throughout the 238 years of this great Republic, only one weapon system has never let us down. That is the men and women who wear the uniform. What does this mean for us? In 2016 sequestration returns. How will this affect the issues and what kind of effect will it have on the direct All Volunteer Force? We must maintain pressure on our Congress to do what is right to maintain a strong defense force and give our service members a strong backing so that their morale can remain high.

Get acquainted with all the issues that face our great nation. Be active with our government.

Thank You,
Dick Perry, National Executive Committeeman

Americanism Session Well Attended

The Fall Conference in Tucson was a roaring success for the Americanism Committee. The session was attended by 35 Legion members. Speakers included Dan Palmer and Dave Hornung for ALLECA; Al Dunnaway spoke about Boys State; and Tom Kusek spoke about Baseball. He introduced the new Baseball Chairman, Bob Krumweide along with Committee member Scott Ehrens. Al Reyes covered the Children and Youth activities portion and I covered the Scouting Program.

As Vice Chairman of Americanism, I would urge every Post in the state to have an Americanism Program. If your Post is looking for a strong youth program, look to the Americanism Pillar. Included in the pillar for youth activities are Boys State, Baseball, American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy (ALLECA), Scouting, Jr. Shooting Sports, and Oratorical. These are all good programs and worth the effort to promote in your Post.

At the closing session on Sunday morning, Commander Andy told a story of an individual who was unaware of the Americanism Program. He stated, after attending the session, he had a much better knowledge of the program. This serves as a very good example of why members should attend the sessions held at convention and conference each year. Department puts these events on for a purpose to educate members of the Legion. It is up to all members to attend and learn about the programs. If you are interested in building a strong Americanism Program, please contact me at whiskeycharlie2503@yahoo.com or call me at 602-803-6048.

Let us not forget our brothers and sisters still in harm’s way.
Wayne Chatfield, Vice Chairman Americanism

Area A Report

Happy Holidays To All

To the Department Staff, District and Post Commanders, I hope that all of you had a safe and happy Thanksgiving with your families. You are all doing a great job on membership and community service. Keep up the good work!

For God and Country,
Al Reyes
Area A Vice Commander
Arizona American Legion Riders

Riders Are the Face of The American Legion

American Legion Riders throughout Arizona have been keeping busy this fall. In addition to ALR Riders attending dozens of funerals for our veterans, welcome homes and send-offs for our active duty troops at Patriot Guard Rider “missions”, they have also attended numerous fundraisers and community events specifically for the ALR.

On Columbus Day, all of the ALR Chapters in District 8 (Post 6-Prescott; Post 25-Cottonwood; Post 40-Chino Valley; Post 78-Dewey-Humboldt; Post 93-Camp Verde; Post 108-Prescott Valley; and Post 140-Prescott Valley) joined together to put on their annual BBQ at the Prescott VA for the patients and staff. There were 145 meals served at no cost to our Veterans and VA staff.

In October, ALR Riders from throughout the state converged on Post 14 in Kingman for our quarterly statewide AZALR meeting; ALR 107 in Phoenix had their annual ride to benefit the Fisher House Foundation. With all the activities and donations, they were able to raise over $7,000. This ride was to raise money specifically for the Fisher House that is to be built in Tucson. It will be the first one to be built in Arizona.

ALR 143-Goodyear, hosted 24-hour security for the Vietnam Moving Wall in Estrella Mountain Ranch, Goodyear 10/2/14 thru 10/6/14. ALR 29-Glendale, ALR 62-Peoria, and ALR 96-Surprise partnered in this event also. These West Valley Posts worked together to make this event seamless.

Since our last newsletter, we have lost a couple of our riders to Post Everlasting, one of which was our Vice Chairman, Fred Manske, ALR 29.

Daryl Zimmerman (ALR 29) had to step down as AZALR Representative for District 11 due to health reasons after faithfully serving a number of years; and Don Graham had to step down as AZALR Representative for District 4 because of a change in position – so there have been some changes in leadership. Don Graham (ALR 8) is our new AZALR Vice Chairman; Gary Vigneault (ALR 29) is the new AZALR District Representative for District 11; and Wil Large (ALR 133) is the new AZALR District Representative for District 4.

If you are ever interested in seeing what is going on with all of the ALR Chapters in Arizona, feel free to visit our website at www.azalr:yolasite.com. If you want to start an ALR Chapter in your Post, please contact me at the e-mail address below for information on how to get started.

For God and Country,
John Moffitt
prescottbikers@hotmail.com

Member
American Legion Riders National Advisory Committee
Chairman
American Legion Riders, Department of Arizona (AZALR)
prescottbikers@hotmail.com
Membership Director Challenge 2014-2015

MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE ENDS: 05/29/15

I want to see each Post compete for these Awards; EACH category listed below will be awarded First Place, Second Place and Third Place for highest membership total reached by May 29, 2015 (that is a total of 15 awards):

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>15-75</th>
<th>76-200</th>
<th>201-500</th>
<th>501-1,000</th>
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</table>

In order to determine which category you belong to, use your 2015 Goal.

The awards are:

1\textsuperscript{st} Place - $100.00 National Emblem Sales Gift Certificate  
2\textsuperscript{nd} Place - $50.00 National Emblem Sales Gift Certificate  
3\textsuperscript{rd} Place – The American Legion Certificate Maker CD

It may be possible for one Area to win all of the awards! Your Membership Committee and I will be keeping track as to how everyone is doing. This is a great challenge and I tried to make this year’s awards as fair as possible to all post sizes as well as awarding something that a Post could use.

Good Luck to everyone!

Beth Nehring  
Department Membership Director
2015 Arizona’s Junior Law Cadet Program

The American Legion Law Enforcement Cadet Academy (ALLECA) is proud to announce that it’s 2015 class will occur May 30th to June 6th and will once again be held at the St. Josephs Youth Camp (within Mormon Lake Village), which is approximately 23 miles South of Flagstaff.

ALLECA is a joint program that has been in existence for 34 years between The American Legion and the Department of Public Safety, which provides a first hand look at the role of a police officer in promoting and safeguarding America’s freedom and rights. Law enforcement officers from various Arizona police agencies participate as counselors, where they supervise 5-7 youths assigned to their squads. We are considered a National model as a youth program and we assist other states in developing their own programs. Additional information about the ALLECA program can be found by visiting our web site at www.alleca.org.

The program was developed for youths between the ages of 11 and 18 who are interested in becoming police officers or joining the military. The cadets are quartered in cabins at the St. Josephs Youth Camp, where they are responsible for the maintenance and cleanliness of their quarters. The cadets are provided three meals a day. Each cadet is issued a uniform and they are responsible for the cleanliness and ironing of the uniforms. Discipline is strict with vigorous physical training, running and calisthenics. Training begins at 5:00 a.m. and concludes at 9:00 p.m. each day after which, clothes will be washed and facilities cleaned. Obstacle courses, defensive tactics, SWAT and K-9 presentation, building searches and active shooter drill, as well as other classes are planned. Various government and criminal justice officials will be guest speakers and instructors for classes provided to the cadets.

We will begin accepting applications on January 1, 2015. The deadline for submission of applications is April 3, 2015, so hurry and sign your child up for a rewarding and educational week.

Any questions can be forwarded to Sgt. Dan Palmer, AZ DPS at 602-223-2625 (work) or 602-309-8531 (cell).

Thank you for your continued support of the ALLECA Program.

Hospitality Room

Great Success

The American Legion District 2 Family welcomed all of our out of town guests at this year’s Fall Conference to the Old Pueblo with a two day hospitality room for all registered Conference guests and family members. The hospitality room was a complete success with music, food, refreshments and adult beverages on both Friday and Saturday night. Oh, did I mention the Karaoke on Saturday night! Well, it was a real blast that brought out some real talent from across state lines that included our National Vice Commander Jake Jacobs.

Due to the overwhelming support from the District 2 American Legion Family members, we hope to make this an annual event. So, if you missed this last Fall Conference, I would encourage you to make plans to attend the next one and be our guest for a few nights. Maybe some of the other Districts will think about having one of these at Convention and/or Conference next year. Respectfully,

Steve “Chico” Aguirre, District 2 Commander

1-285th Battalion Family Day Enjoyed By All

Well, another very successful 1-285th Battalion Family Day is behind us. We were fortunate to have 38 individuals who volunteered their time, energy and smiles to ensure that the soldiers and their families enjoyed the special day. In addition to the 38 volunteers we fielded, the Post provided three roving magicians and three face painters to entertain and delight the attendees. Post 132 also paid for the food, drinks and many of the 26 children entertainment activities. We also held a successful raffle during the event and all proceeds were donated to the Battalion’s Family Readiness Group to help fund family events in the future.

We didn’t just perform the many volunteer functions freeing up the soldiers to spend time with their families and friends, but we entertained and socialized with them. The estimated 1,600 attendees were free to simply have a good time, and a good time they indeed had based on the feedback the battalion command received. Thank you all for your personal contributions to another Post and Unit supported over-the-top successful activity.

Ed Davis, Oro Valley Post 132

“Get To Know Your Post” Winners

Here are the 2014 “Get To Know Your Post” Winners that were drawn Friday night at the Department Fall Conference:

1st Place Prize $1,000.00 Ronald Minner - Post #29
2nd place Prize $400.00 W.L. & Terry Foster - Post #117
3rd Place Prize $300.00 Jerry Yopp - Post #117
4th Place Prize $200.00 Jan Chaney - Post #109
5th Place Prize $100.00 Julieta Knight - Post #26

Four - $50.00 Winners were:
Lars Peterson - #117
Beth Nehring - #105
A.J Sprague - #4
Dan Byrnes - #117

Thanks to everybody that participated this year and hope to see you again next year. We will be starting up again in April 2015. More details will be published soon.

W.L. Foster – ALR #117
Area B Report

Volunteering Is an Inspiration

Welcome back Legionnaires to another exciting story of my travels in Area B, (sounds like a great novel doesn’t it)!

Let’s start with October a very hot month, I visited Post 94 in Sun City West and enjoyed again meeting with Commander Gerry Berger and the Post members. October 4th, I attended the 4th Annual Dinner honoring Arizona’s Viet Nam Veterans. This was a very moving tribute with special keynote speaker and MOH Recipient Col. Jack Jacobs, USA (Ret).

Another worthwhile event was attendance at the National Cemetery where the MIA group held services for eight, newly identified veterans. It was another moving tribute to all. Then off to Laveen for the general meeting of Post 134 visiting with Commander Ken King and the members in attendance.

Next, it was Bingo (every 3rd Monday) at the AZ Veterans Home, sponsored by District 12; the Veterans really look forward to this. Then over to Post 1 for the monthly meeting of Veterans Helping Veterans, which is a VA&R part of Districts 11 & 12. On October 24th, I attended the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame induction ceremonies, where we had one member from District 11, one from District 12 and one from District 2 respectively: Don DeMarte (Post 128), John Aldecoa (Post 41), and Jeff Olson (Post 131).

On November 1st, I volunteered for the Veterans Stand Down in January Committee by being an usher at the State Fair (the state pays my wages to the Stand Down. It would be great if we could have more volunteers, and you get to watch the shows from the grand stand). On the 4th, Post 94 had their Annual Pancake Breakfast, what a treat! Then it was off to the Fall Conference where they had some really good classes and got to see a lot of old friends, it was a short weekend!

The following Monday, I attended the ground breaking at Victory Place on E. Jones Street for a new section of low cost housing for the homeless. This is where the Veterans Helping Veterans have an annual picnic for the tenants. The next day was the Annual Veterans Day Parade in Phoenix, which had over a 100 entries, Department was #96, a long wait to get moving!

I hope that you had a wonderful Thanksgiving Day and Wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

In the meantime, remember “Volunteering Is an Inspiration”. Have a safe Holiday season!

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY,

Danny Bugh, Area B Vice Commander
Peace On Earth - Good Will Toward Men

Okay, it’s hard to imagine since at every juncture, we are inundated with the horrors that surround us, not only in other parts of the world but right in our own country and our own hometowns. We are literally forced by the media to witness horrific acts of brutality by the very same people who claim their faith to be one of peace. But for today, let us set aside thoughts of trying to attain World peace and concentrate on finding peace within ourselves.

We now find ourselves embroiled in what could be described as the most stressful season of the year. It seems there is so much to do, no matter your chosen faith. There’s the buying, wrapping, baking, decorating and meals to be prepared. Most of us, being who we are, put many things off until the last moment thereby creating the STRESS which becomes an active player in disturbing the peace we seek. Remember, that those around us are also stressed resulting in a large segment of society being on edge.

A good combatant for all this anxiety is to take several breaks daily to have a short chat with the Lord. You can unload on Him, He’s heard it all! Just a few moments of prayer will ease the tension you feel and help to redirect your endeavors. One step at a time to completion is the encouragement He frequently provides. Having peace in our own hearts reach out to their fellow man with kindness and love. Be sure that once you have that peace firmly ensconced in your heart that you do, no matter your chosen faith. There’s the buying, wrapping, baking, decorating and meals to be prepared. Most of us, being who we are, put many things off until the last moment thereby creating the STRESS which becomes an active player in disturbing the peace we seek. Remember, that those around us are also stressed resulting in a large segment of society being on edge.

While the season can be unnerving, it is also a time where those with peace in their hearts reach out to their fellow man with kindness and love. Be sure that once you have that peace firmly ensconced in your heart that you reach out and pass some of it around. Like a great idea, it’s much better when shared.

May you all receive the blessings you so richly deserve and always remember to “pay it forward”.

A very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

Please remember our ill and infirm veterans in your prayers.

For God and Country,
Carol Stensby,
Department Chaplain
ORATORICAL SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 7TH, 2015: Individual training at Department Headquarters, by appointment (Chairmen outside the valley could set up a time to talk with students not close enough to come to headquarters).

FEBRUARY 21st, 2015:
District 2 at 10:00 am at Post 102
District 11 at 2pm at Post 29
District 12 at 10:00am at Post 35
Area C at 11:00am at Prescott VA

FEBRUARY 28th, 2015
Area A at 1:00pm at Post 102
Area B at 10:00am at Post 27

MARCH 7th, 2015
Department at 10:00am at Post 64 (Ahwatukee Rec Center)
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Happy Holidays and a Blessed Christmas to all!
PDC Al & Donna Tercero

Here’s wishing you a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year and Holidays to all The American Legion Family throughout our wonderful state.
Let’s keep our serving military personnel and their families in our hearts.
PDC Kenneth Dowse

May the love and peace of the Lord descend on you throughout this Holy Season and in the coming New Year
Carol Stensby, Department Chaplain

Happy celebrations to our Legion Family honoring the various holidays this month and best wishes for a great 2015!
Ernie & Rebecca Faris

Merry Christmas and may all your wishes come true. Have a safe New Year.
Andres “Andy” Jaime, Jr. Department Commander

Merry Christmas to The American Legion, Auxiliary, S.A.L. & ALR-Love you All!
In Memory of Bunny Hamilton from her Family

Merry Christmas to The American Legion Family. Thank you for serving Veterans.
Michelle “Rene”, Jacob & Armando Jaime

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year Arizona American Legion Family
Lori, Scott, Justin, Angel, Cadence, Sis Jo from Oceanside, CA

A Very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year to all our Legion Family!
PDC Joe & Jeannie Aguilar

Greetings to all the members of our Legion Family and prayers to our troops for their safe return to their loved ones.
20&4 Honor Society of Women Veterans
AZ Echelon 35

Holiday Greetings!
NEC Dick & Elaine Perry

May your holidays be blessings to you and may our troops serve with pride and are able to return home soon.
American Legion Auxiliary Swaskegame Unit #14

Best wishes for a successful Legion Year.
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.
PDC Bud Hansing & Sandy Adams

The officers and members of District 7 are happy to wish all of our Legion Family wonderful holidays and a prosperous 2015.
American Legion Auxiliary District 7

Wishing our Legion Family a healthy and happy holiday season.
PDC George and Jan Cushing

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
Al & Jan Seitzer

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year.
PDC Larry & PDP Ginger Cox

May you all have a Very Merry Christmas!
The Frain Family

Merry Christmas with wishes for a healthy and Happy New Year.
C. Danny & Stella Bugh

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to our Legion Family. Come visit us!
John J. Morris Post #62 Family

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to our American Legion Family.
Your Department Staff☺

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.
Keep recruiting!
Beth Nehring, Dept. Membership Chairman

God bless our Troops, their families and All of You!
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year.
Kenny & Sheila☺

Blessings for you and yours during this wonder filled time of year!
Angel & Tommie Juarez & Family

Feliz Navidad “y” Prospero Ano Nuevo.
John & Sylvia Aldecoa

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
Keep recruiting!
Buddy & Karen Adams

God Bless our servicemen and women serving and their families at home! Keep them safe!

NEC Paul & PDP Helen Griffin
On Sunday, November 2nd, 28 people ventured out on a 22 mile journey to raise awareness of Veterans Suicide. The suicide frequency is 22 a day, one every 65 minutes; suicidal thoughts - 30% of all Veterans have considered suicide. The 28 people were a very special group comprised of Veterans and the family members of Veterans who had committed suicide.

They started this 22 mile journey at American Legion Post 29 in Glendale and finished at Tempe Town Lake where there was a Candlelight Walk for Military Veterans and their families. Not all 28 finished but that wasn’t the point, they started out and hung in there as long as they could. The walkers got sponsors and funds raised went to support the La Frontera EMPACT Rally Point Military Navigator Program.

Thank you to everyone who walked for THE 22 in hopes that each year that number goes down! Our own Department Adjutant, Angel Juarez, participated and made it the 22 miles...way to go Boss!

To get more info on Rally Point, go to: www.rallypointaz.org

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2014 Sweepstakes Fall Conference Winners

$3,000 John M. O’Malley Post 100
$2,000 Domingo Vega Post 95
$1,000 Chuck Wallace Post 62
$500 James E. Barrineau Post 52
  Gerard Ienuso Post 75
  Mike Wasilewski Post 56
  James Clulow Post 44
  Chuck Wallace Post 62
  Gerard Ienuso Post 75
  Richard Haskell Post 73
  Eugenio A. Flores Post 59

Thank you to ALL of you for your continued support of The American Legion Programs!