**VOLUME 2008** 

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Issue 5

## Training is the Key To A Sucessful Organization

Greetings fellow comrades. By the time you read this message, the Labor Day Holiday will have come and gone, however, I wish our American Legion Family a safe and sound holiday. September 11th, the infamous World Trade Center Towers attack in New York will have passed too, but, our posts did a good job recognizing this historic day with ceremonies, remembrance walks and memorial services in commemoration of those who passed. We must continue to proudly support our troops fighting the war on terrorism.

Our Membership Director, Department Vice Commanders and District Commanders have attended training at the membership workshops at National Headquarters. This valuable training will assist our officers in meeting our membership goals. During the workshops, each Department was encouraged to return to our basics with pride and purpose. The objective is to work on The American Legion's four basic core values: Veteran Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Youth and Education, and Patriotism.

Have you committed to attending a training session? Membership Director, Jeri Strande, conducted training in Sierra Vista at Post 52, one in Chandler at Post 35 and one in Camp Verde at Post 93. My hope is for good dissemination of information and widespread attendance by members. There will be additional training at the Fall



Conference on membership, programs and other areas. A special note in the membership race, Post 53, Buckeye, has surged to the front to reach 100% of their goal.

Thus far, we have completed three wonderful Legion events in August 2008. The first event was the State Legion Baseball Championships which were played at the Surprise Sports Complex in Surprise. Tucson High School won the state championship for the second successive season. Congratulations to the team and coaches and they are sponsored by Post 7 in Tucson. This concluded a great Legion baseball season.

Second, we hosted the Western Regional Legion Baseball Tournament at the same sports complex. It was a huge success, from the Opening Banquet to my throwing out the opening pitch for the final championship game. Nevada won the tournament with excellent play and moved on to Shelby, NC to compete in the Legion Baseball World Series. Hawaii was a hard playing runner up. The organizing team at hosting Post 29, Glendale, did an outstanding job. Congratulations and a big "high five" for a job well done!!

Third, we played a gracious host to the National Convention for 2008-2009 and the Department of Arizona national leadership and distinguished guest teams were up to the task. This national organization event was done with awesome flair under Director Dick Holmes. Numerous laudatory comments were received from the Legion Riders on over 250 motorcycles roaring into Post 2 in Tempe, to the Arizona Party's Mexican food and Mariachi Band, to the Four Corners Party at Post 41, the excellent steak dinner during the National Commander's Banquet, and the election of new National Commander Dave Rehbein.

Our Arizona American Legion Family can be proud and I am sure our guests from across the country enjoyed themselves. Again, thanks for your exceptional performance and "hat's off" to our Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion and Legion Riders!!

Commander continued on page 2

## **Time to Plan for 2009**

The baseball season is over and the tournaments are done. Now is the time to start planning for the 2009 season. Bob Longoni (Area "A") and Tom Kusek (Area "B") are already working on plans for the next season. It is also time at the post level to begin looking for a way in which your post can support the baseball program . The first step is to contact the local high school and see what their needs are and what they would need to play in the Legion program. There are many ways in which to secure funds to support a baseball team. Contact one of the area chairman and they will be more than happy to assist you in any way possible.

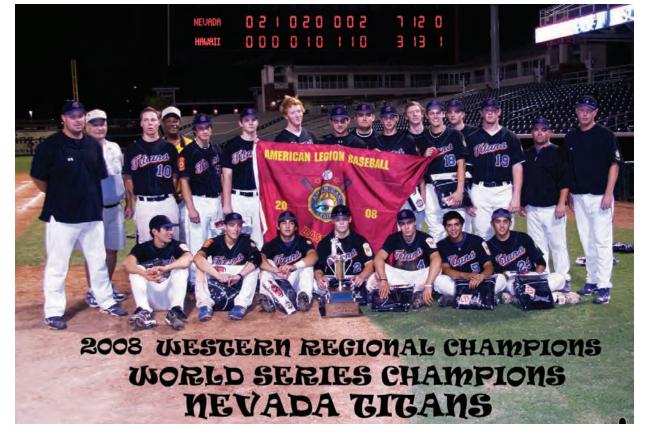
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The 2008 season ended with the Department certifying 25 teams with more than 450 young men competing in friendly competition vying for the eight slots (4 from Phoenix and 4 from Tucson) to be filled in the Department

Tournament. The Department Tournament was held at the Surprise Recreational Campus on the practice fields for the Texas Rangers. Paul Frie and his staff did an excellent job in having everything prepared for us. Once again, the Post 7 Tucson High team bested the Kentucky Fried Chicken team to win the tournament.

Baseball continued on page 7



#### THE ARIZONA

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For the Latest Legion Info www.azlegion.org Commander continued from page 1

All Departments in The American Legion have been tasked and challenged by the National Commander with three incentive plans. Incentive Plan #1 will require all District Commanders to visit all the posts in their districts. An emblem sales award up to \$500 value (depending on district size) will be given for 100% completion. Incentive Plan #2 is for all posts to adopt at least one American Legion program and it requires active participation by the posts, not just monetary support. Incentive Plan #3 is a belt buckle to be awarded to any member who recruits at least eight new members. We are currently asking National for further clarification on these incentives and additional information will be forthcoming.

Commander Rehbein believes these incentives will help spur membership and post activity in the community. He also believes if we accomplish these goals, it will bring us a new sense of service. I am asking the posts to support your District Commander because this will require quarterly reporting to National.

In veteran rights and benefits, the President has signed into law a new enhanced GI Bill of Rights. The American Legion's continued hard work and persistence helped to ensure its passing. Eligible veterans and their families can take advantage of the educational benefits and opportunities offered by the bill.

Earlier this year, I attended an awards function at Post 27, Apache Junction for wounded Iraq war veteran Chris Ellington. Chris is an Army National Guard and Post 27 member who received The American Legion's Honored Service Award for his combat service. The Legion Riders (Wounded Warriors) sponsored the event and me, Post 27 and Post 129 Commanders had the honor

of presenting this award to Chris.

I also attended the Abused Children Fundraiser hosted by Post 107, Phoenix and Post 117, Phoenix. Past Department Auxiliary President, Ginger Cox, organized this distinguished benefit and auction to help families in their community. Many members from different posts were in attendance and contributed greatly to the success of this event.

In closing, The American Legion stands for what's good in America and all the goodness we do should be reported in our Consolidated Post Reports (CPRs). When recruiting new members "Just Ask" are you a veteran and would you like to join our team? Until next time, may God bless you.

#### FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

Henry Branch Department Commander

## David K. Rehbein New American Legion Commander

Dave Rehbein of Ames, Iowa, was elected National Commander of the 2.7 millionmember American Legion on Aug. 28, 2008

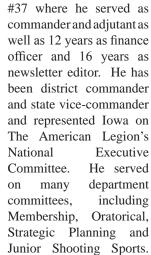
in Phoenix during the 90th National Convention of the nation's largest veterans organization.

A U.S. Army veteran of the Vietnam era, Rehbein served as an infantryman with the 4th and 1st Armored Divisions in Germany from 1970 to 1971. After leaving the Army, he attended Wayne State College and Iowa State University, graduating with a bachelor's degree in physics and a

master's degree in metallurgy. Following graduation, he accepted a position as research metallurgist at the Ames Laboratory, U.S. Department of Energy, where he remained

until his retirement in July 2008.

Nat. Cmdr. Rehbein is a member of Ames Post



During his term as department membership chairman, Iowa achieved target membership three times in 1991, 1992, and 1993. He was appointed by Iowa Governor Tom Vilsack to a position on the Iowa Commission on Veterans Affairs.

Rehbein served on the National Americanism Commission 1989-99, with service as an instructor on the National Information Conference staff, conducting the judge's briefing for the National Oratorical Contests and as Match Director of the Junior Shooting Sports national finals. He has served as chairman of the National Foreign Relations Commission, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission and the Legislative commission.

Cmdr. Rehbein resides in Ames with his wife, Ann. His son Chris, and his wife Beth, and daughter, Jennifer, are all active members of The American Legion family. Ann is a past department president of Iowa; Chris is a past squadron commander and Jennifer is the current Unit President and holds dual membership in The American Legion and The American Legion Auxiliary. The commander and his wife have two grandchildren, Greyson and Devin.



## **A.L.L.E.C.A. ENCAMPMENT 2008**

This past year's program was rather unique in that we had to utilize a facility that was different from past years. For the first time in many years, we were not able to utilize Camp Navajo because of the National Guard demands on that site.

The installation we finally found that could accommodate the program was a church camp, Emmanuel Pines Camp, located a couple of miles outside of Prescott. This camp, surrounded by National Forest, has turned out to be an ideal location for the training of our young people in various aspects of law enforcement.

Being the first year in a new site, it was a learning experience for the staff as well as the cadets. The greatest problem for this encampment was not the new site, but rather the flu-like illness that was brought in by one cadet which rapidly spread especially through the staff including both the Camp Commandant and the Assistant Commandant. Even with that problem, however, the program

was a success given the fact it was shortened to only five days.

Thirty one cadets were graduated. I should note that of that number, 15 were paid for by the parents, 10 by various Legion family posts, units and squadrons, 4 police Explorer groups and 2 police agencies. Thus, the program was well supported.

Next year's program will again be at Emmanuel Pines Camp with the dates set for the arrival of the staff on Friday, June 19<sup>th</sup> and the cadets on Saturday, June 20<sup>th</sup>. Graduation will be on Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup> with the camp being totally cleared by that afternoon.

In 2008, we dropped the allowable age down to 13. The two 13 year old cadets performed just as well as their older counterparts. This year we may go even younger, but that remains to be seen.

The tuition fee for this coming year has been raised to \$225. This is necessary given the

additional costs incurred with the new site. If this program is to continue, we must be able to keep up with rising costs of providing a unique experience for the young people of our State.

This coming year, I will be visiting Posts and several of the Districts in an effort to raise funds for the program. In addition, our Camp Commandant (a fellow Legion member) and I will seek to find other sources of support. We are able to start everything early this year, because we have a contract in force with the Camp and have the dates firmly set.

I would like to thank all of the Legion Family for the support shown for this program over the years. Without that support, The American Legion Law Enforcement Career Academy (ALLECA) would not be possible.

Frank Whitten, Director 623-872-0886 f.whitten@cox.net

## Legislation to End Delays in Veterans Health Care Funding

New National Poll Shows Large Majority Supports Funding Reform

WASHINGTON (Sept. 18, 2008) -- Nine of the nation's largest veterans service organizations, representing a combined 8 million members, today praised Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii), House Veterans' Affairs Committee Chairman Bob Filner (D-Calif.), and a group of bipartisan cosponsors for introducing legislation to reform the budget process to assure sufficient, timely and predictable funding for veterans' health care programs.

The Partnership for Veterans Health Care Budget Reform (www.fundingforvets.org), which worked closely with the bill sponsors in drafting the legislation, is comprised of The American Legion, AMVETS, Blinded Veterans Association (BVA), Disabled American Veterans (DAV), Jewish War Veterans (JWV), Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH), Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA), Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA).

"For almost two decades, veterans health care funding has either been insufficient or late, and usually it is both," said PVA President Randy Pleva, speaking on behalf of the Partnership. "While funding bills have increased in recent years, especially the last two years, they are still consistently late. We must reform the funding system if we are to assure comprehensive and timely health care services for current and future generations of veterans," he said.

American Legion National Commander David K. Rehbein, also speaking for the Partnership, praised the bill's bipartisan cosponsors, Senators Olympia Snowe (R-ME), Russ Feingold (D-WI), and Mary Landrieu (D-LA), and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK) and Congressmen Walter Jones (R-NC), Michael Michaud (D-ME), and Phil Hare (D-IL). "We applaud all of the bill's sponsors who have taken the lead in Congress to create a lasting legacy for our veterans by reforming the budget process to ensure that veterans health care funding is sufficient, timely and predictable," Rehbein said.

The new legislation, called the "Veterans Health Care Budget Reform Act", would authorize advance appropriations for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) health care programs one year in advance of the start of the fiscal year, an idea favored by more than 80 percent of American voters, according to a survey released today by the Disabled American Veterans.

The Veterans Health Care Budget Reform Act would also require the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to audit VA's budget forecasting model and report to Congress and the public on the integrity and accuracy of the model. With these estimates in hand, Congress would be greatly enhanced in their ability to develop and enact sufficient funding levels for VA health care.

"While funding levels have increased in recent years, particularly over the past two years, Congress has failed to approve a new VA appropriation bill on time for 19 of the past 21 years," said DAV Commander Ray Dempsey. "Our polling results show that the American people overwhelmingly support a proposal to have Congress approve VA's health care funding one year in advance to once and for all end these delays," Commander Dempsey said.

The poll released by DAV this morning, which was conducted by Belden Russonello & Stewart, found that Americans believe veterans health care funding is at the top of our national priorities; strongly believe that the government is not doing enough to support veterans; and overwhelming favor requiring Congress to determine the budget for veterans' health care one year in advance to prevent delays. The nationally representative telephone survey of 827 adults was conducted

between August 20 and 24, 2008 and has a margin of error of  $\pm$  3.4%. Full details of the survey are available at <a href="https://www.dav.org/voters/documents/veteran\_survey\_memo.pdf">www.dav.org/voters/documents/veteran\_survey\_memo.pdf</a>.

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**National Editor's Note:** I recently helped purchase a Dell laptop for my daughter who will begin college this fall. I can attest to the courtesy and professionalism of the representative who assisted by phone when we called Dell's toll free number 1-800-695-8133.

## Yahoo for a Job Well Done!



Kudos and congrats to the entire state for hitting the 50% target date - with time and membership to spare! Our next target of 55% is on October 8th, and as you know, the further we get into the "membership process" the more difficult it seems - please hold steady and continue to "rustle up" even more folks.

In the past two months, I've been on the road providing training to Area A, B, and C – all of the classes have been a big success and I want to thank each and everyone who took time to attend them. As the year progresses, I plan to visit district meetings in order to report any membership challenges, program changes or just pass out a few "patson-the-back!"

Drawing in new members is an on-going process that requires your diligence and, your efforts are recognized at the highest level. For that reason, the National Commander, Dave Rehbien, has set forth his membership

## Navy NMCB 128 Reunion

Navy NMCB 128 will hold its reunion April 14-17, 2009 in Biloxi, Mississippi at the IP Casino, Resort & Spa in Biloxi. Phone: 1-888-946-2847.

For more information, contact George McDanel (618) 259-4694 or email McDanelGK@aol.com. This event is open to all MCB 128 Seabees.

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\* Federal law <u>prohibits</u> the payment of attorney fees by the veteran for assistance with any VA claim prior to final, negative Board of Veterans Appeals decision.



incentive awards for the year.

A brief description of each award follows, complete requirements can be obtained from each district and vice commander along with an incentive award clarification.

Belt Buckle - 8 new members (new member includes someone who did not pay their dues in 2008); 5 drawings in each region - 20 buckles per region - deadline April

Award for Post Visitations – District Commander must visit all posts within district up to 30 posts - districts in excess of 30 posts can be completed by the District Vice Commanders - must verify visit on a spreadsheet with signature of Post Commander or Adjutant - upon completion of 100% achievement, submit reports and verification to your Area Vice Commander who will in-turn send to Department for further distribution to national.

Post Excellence Award - Purpose is to show excellence in four of the main areas of concern:

1. Membership 2. Youth Activities 3. Community Service

**4**. Support to currently serving Troops or Veterans

Criteria is as follows:

#### Membership

One more member greater than previous year;

#### Youth Activities

Must sponsor and actively participate in one of the primary youth programs

not just donation of money;

#### Community Service

Must accomplish a community service project that involves The Legion Family

- again a monetary donation does not constitute active participation!

#### Support to Troops or Vets

Must accomplish a project supporting troops or veterans in the community i.e., H2H Project.

The Department Commander, Henry Branch, and I also have incentive awards for the year, please watch for further information.

For God and Country, Jeri Strande, Membership Director

## **Movers and Shakers**





Left Photo - l to r John Aldecoa; Neal Sundeen; Desiree Stoy, National President-American Legion Auxiliary; Senator Jon Kyl; and David Rehbein, National Commander-American Legion.

Right Photo - l to r Neal Sundeen, Congressman Harry Mitchell and John Aldecoa



#### **New GI Bill Architects**

 $l\ to\ r\ Dave\ Hampton,\ AZ\ Department\ of\ Veteran\ Services;$ Bruce Conklin, Department Commander; John Aldecoa, Department Adjutant; Congressman Harry Mitchell; Senator James Webb (Virginia); Joe Aguilar, NEC; Neal Sundeen, Legislative Commission: Paul Griffin, Alt. NEC.

Senator Webb was the sponsor of the new GI Bill in the Senate and Congressman Mitchell was the sponsor in the House of Representatives.

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## **American Legion Riders Host Picnic for Prescott VA Hospital**

Mel Vinson, Post 40 Commander with the

code talker and his wife

Begun three years ago, the Veterans Picnic has become an event eagerly anticipated by both the American Legion Riders and the guests and staff of the VA Hospital in

Prescott. Post Commander and event coordinator Mel Vinson explained that "three years ago Riders from Post 40-Chino Valley, Post 79-Yarnell, Verde Valley (Post 25-Cottonwood/Post 93-Camp Verde), Post 3-Flagstaff and Post 22-Golden Valley joined together to sponsor the first picnic".

This year, 97 motorcycles left Post 40 in the procession to the hospital. At the hospital they were joined bu riders from Maricopa County who came to show their respect and support. Over 125 motorcycles, and an estimated 150 riders and passengers attended the

and Verde Valley that brought over 150 gift boxes with an estimated value of \$3,750 in clothing, toiletries and

gift cards for the guests of the hospital. The American Legion Riders from Yarnell brought \$1,000 in coupon books for the hospital's canteen for the guests.

> Over 400 guests, hospital staff and Riders enjoyed a Bar-B-Que hosted by Post 40. This was made possible by generous donations from businesses in the Chino valley area. The band "Sky Daddy" donated their time to play at the event. American Legion representatives showing their support included Jim Strande, Vice Commander-Area C, Department of Arizona, Jeri Strande, Membership Director, Department of Arizona, Joe Duggan, Commander-District 8, Mark Ware, Commander Post 93-Camp Verde, and Mel Vinson, Commander Post 40-Chino Valley. We

event. In addition, there were vehicles from Flagstaff were also honored to have State Senator Tom O'Halleran and State Representative Andy Tobin in attendance to honor our veterans.

But the important guests at the picnic were those in the hospital, nursing home, hospice, domiciliary and US Vets. Two unexpected, but very welcome guests were a Navajo Code Talker who were at the hospital and joined us at the event. These are the men and women who have given their all to this country, and deserve our respect and support. Everyone enjoyed the day, the camaraderie and the chance to meet other veterans. The goal for next year according to event coordinator Mel Vincent, "We will be back larger and better. This is a privilege for the American Legion Riders to host this event to honor our brothers and sisters who are at the VA Hospital. We look forward to next year's picnic."







**Scenes** From the 90th **National** Convention in Phoenix



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**Branch Honorary Rider** 

The American Legion Riders from Post 41 presented Department Commander, Henry Branch, with an Honorary ALR Vest because of his support to the program.





## **Post Everlasting**

Waite M Blake John L Brey William M Davis Lester B Palmquist Douglas L Reutter George S Williams 2 Charlie J Hengtgen Don F Krell Richard D Pryle **Ewert Varney** Keith Dawson Jodie J Filleman John A Giovando John Henscheid William T Howells Kenney Pavledakes Maryann T Stolp 6 Harold G Blank 7 Jose L Lopez Gertrude M McDiarmid John F Molloy Robert O'Connor William R Wortman Tom L Young 8 Linas E Boeding 10 Vernon L Rockwell 11 Jimmy J Boatner 12 Donald J McGill William H Prichard 16 Ralph B Adcock

Raymond Pietraszewski

17

Boyd C Hicks

18

Darvin Olson

Courtney G Dilley Carl A Lamb Horacio F Reyes James W Riesland Joseph Ruttle Emil A Sanchez LeRoy G Stoddard Donald E Weiler William L Yancey 22 Robert F Reichard 24 Francis D Butler Gustave Zielke 25 Joseph E Clarkson Louis W Cox Sophie A Cruver Peter N Doyle James E Krieger Dana C Momany Robert J Perry 26 William Coltrin Frank G Gazzano Richard D Meyerhoff Floyde R Revoir Ralph C Woodward 27 Donald E Carmichael James E Dobson Elwyn H Greenstrand Lloyd D Hahn Charles W Hoehn Richard C Kanak Richard H MacNaughton Willie B Meador Arthur J Shadbolt John G Winchester Thomas R Wright Stephen K Zuilkoski 28

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Alcide J Bernardin Gus A Burruel Raymond R Butterfiled Charles R Denver Frank Ebner Elmer J Hoover Franco Medrano Gus H Muldner Samuel Provence Milford M Quiring Eugenio Remo Clarence E Rouse Theodore H Siek Joseph G Sullivan Oliver M Ware Eldon L Waters Joseph T Yagunic 30 Matthew T Hicks James F Nissen 32 H L Grant J N Hanson Chester W Peck Stanley E Rieck 34 Michael R Moore 35 Karl F Ermisch 36 Dennis P Bennek Gerald A Bradley William F Mills Merton V Smith Philip L Washburn Charles Wertzbaugher Paul F Whittemore 37 Walter S Carpenter 39 Jerome F Billman 40 Alvin J Johnson Ed Kasun Theodore E Klimkowski Harold A Saxlund 41

David E Froehlich Michael G Gannon David A Henderson Roy E Jacobsen Loren H Langslet Frank Lindsey Dennis N McClung Walker M Riddle Victor A Root Robert H Sigholtz Clarence N Surrarrer Donald Van Law 46 Joleo B Champoux Donald R Kinney 47 John V Contreras Phillip R Veon 52 David J Cormier Gordon S Larson James McGriff Frank B McLaughlin Norman R Moses Walter F Quast Guyce E Tennison Cameron H Vize 54 Jimmie D Davis 55 John J Stecchi 57 Ernest Ripertc 58 William T Bearer 59 Marvin G Middle Herman G Vedder 61 Joseph H Harwood Terrence E Hurley Bernard P Tymorek Kenneth W Watkins 62 William Albright Paul C Beck Stephen D Benson John R Chapman Billie J Eberhart Robert C Ferguson Anthony Ferreira Lawrence E Greeno Fred Hammerle

Archie L Hardeman

Gerald L Hineline

Harlan Hunter William F Kimmel Troy D Miller Richard M Mov Hubert M Powell Homer D Pratt Curtis Price Loy J Russell Donald J Schiesel Richard F Slepicka Frank J Stump James L Vantreeck Robert Word Matt Worklan Michael C Yovino 64 Richard L Dunn Francis J Kirinich Henry H Ubowski 66 William V Bierd Harald W Dalby E Wayland Edwards David L Ghrist Richard G Hamilton Joseph L Johnston Andy D Koster Jerome E Kupper Donald F Leveille Harold M Melvin John A Newkirk Albert Ornelas Norman J Searle Stephen Williams Rocco J Youse 68 Louis M Alvarez Jesus B Martinez Juan A Ouintero 69 John E Howell John E Kovacs Keith B La Forge Robert B Mc Phaden Jack C McDoniel Charles L Weber Charles A Wilson 76 Martin M Boyle Carl W Everett George Ruston 79 Edward C Criner 81 Ronald A Cookingham James Hutton Jerry D Lee Jon W MacLellan Norman Peterson Benjamin K Robey Don C Stephens Louis Zimostrad 83 John F Brady

**Edward Contreras** 

86

Adam Bialke

Richard L Fennell

Richard Jepsen

Harold D Waters

87

Orval Fick

Jack A Stetter

Albert Villagran

88

Allen R Blackman

Terry D Kline

Gary L Smith

91

Bernard P Fabritz

Jack L Brookshire Don D VanDusen Roger Q Barnard James Koob Frank W Watt

93 Dale H Carter Donald E Kriske 94 Charles Fellows Glen E Hastings Raymond A Roben Orion L Rogers George Speaker Hugh E Templeton 95 Mike Bibb Robert W Cress Enrique Lopez 96 John R Jamack Charles L Murray 100 Carl M Arnert Charles W Arnett William D Babb Raymond L Biery Leonad M Brown Richard J Carlson Alvin C Christiansen **Edward Coffee** Gary R Corey William H Dowell Bernard P Eitniear Francis M Farmer Charles W Feedback Samuel Garcia David Gawlik Robert L Goad Donald Godby Daniel C Gonzales Ronald Gossett Roy A Haglund Joseph W Hayes Orlin B Huston Carl Kiesgen Charles Knox Vincent J Landy Ralph Limes Paul W Lowe John S Marin James Parady Albert D Pena Raymond C Reeve John L Roberds Merril Sandoval John L Saunders Frank Silvas David E Stanton Larry E Tenney William M Vandenheuvel Joseph A Woloschek 101 Merlin C Annett Harold F Hoprich 103 Joseph W Korotenko 105 James R Crouse Philip A Pickens

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James M Cole

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Charles L Petty

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Robert C Cheropko

129

Patrick J Daddabbo

PR Begins at the Post

To all Legionnaires – Public Relations begin at your Post, the most basic unit. It starts with how your post looks to the public. So let's start there. Legionnaires - look around your post, how does it appear? Can it be improved? The American Legion is recognized nationwide as a respected Veteran's organization. That's why it's important that each Post be neat.

Next, we should look at the ceremonies we perform. Do we look sharp? There is nothing worse than Legionnaires looking disheveled. Do we know the ceremonies we are to be performing? Do we practice the ceremonies? Do we know what we are going to say? If we don't know and we try to wing it, we're going to look bad. Be precise on what you are going to say and do.

Now we're ready for the public. Call or e-mail the newspapers, radio and T.V. stations. Always tell them who you are and how to get in touch with you in case they have questions. Remember the four "w's" Who, What, Where and When! Let them know what your Post is doing.

Invite your neighbors to your Post functions. Make an

effort to get to City Hall and invite the Mayor and Council members or a representative from their office to attend your functions. They want P.R. too, so by going to your Post, you both get recognition.

Dick Perry, Public Relations Chairman

Erasmo Corrales

Ozia Hasker

Henry V Quihuis

44

Howard Barger

Melvin D Cornelius

Robert N Dunn

## **USMC Birthday Ball**

East Valley Marines will host a USMC Birthday Ball on Saturday, November 8 at the Oakwood Country Club, Sun Lakes Boulevard in Chandler at 5:30 PM. All active duty Marines, their spouses, and Navy corpmen serving with the Marines are welcome to attend free of charge. For all other Marines, young and old, cost is \$40 for a served prime rib dinner, with dancing, bagpipes, mascot, ceremony and tradition.

Individual and business sponsors for these young warriors are appreciated. A portion of the funds will go to the Wounded Warrior program.

See Eastvalleymarines.org for ticket and sponsor forms or call Rich Hippner at 480-883-9393.

## **American Legion - Department of Arizona**

**Membership Report** 

**September 14, 2008** 

Area		Goal	2009	% of Goal
A	Louie Romero	8,951	5,101	56 99
В	Ariel Rodriguez	19,408	10,991	56 69
C	Jim Strande	8,799	4,864	55 28
HQ	Henry Branch	12,029	11,744	97 63
GrandTotals:		49,400	25,650	51.92

High Area - A

		High Area – High District			
	1	High Post – 53 – E			
Diet	rict 1 - Commander:D	tala Hillar			
	Name	City	Goal	2009	% of Goal
19	H H Donkersley	Yuma	1,086	593	54 60
46	Chic Chisom	Bouse	120	79	65 83
47 56	Somerton Floyd G Jefferson	Somerton Yuma	15 164	5 92	33 33 56 10
67	Frank Mick	Roll	32	21	65 63
70 Dist	Freman Sharp rict Totals	Parker	36 <b>1,453</b>	21 <b>811</b>	58 33 <b>55.82</b>
	rict 2 - Commander:K	en Dowse	1,100	011	20.02
	Name	City	Goal	2009	% of Goal
7	Morgan McDermott	Tucson	514	300	58 37
23 36	Ridge-Igo John P Burns	Nogales Tucson	85 1,246	77 764	90 59 61 32
59	Cocio-Estrada	Tucson	321	149	46 42
66	Green Valley	Sahuarita	1,515	903	59 60
68	Sahuaro	Tucson	342	183	53 51
73 74	Casas Adobes Calabasas	Tucson Rio Rico	169	112 2	66 27 13 33
102	Tucson Mountains	Tucson	15 147	93	63 27
	McCulloch-Wagner	Vail	617	248	40 19
111	Patagonia	Patagonia	16	1	6 25
	Burton E Buck	Sonoita	33	24	72 73
	Yoem rict Totals	Tucson	34 <b>5,054</b>	1 2,857	2 94 <b>56.53</b>
Dist	rict 3 - Commander:D	avid Lambert	ŕ	ŕ	
	Name	City	Goal	2009	% of Goal
11	Fred A Hilburn	Douglas	343	168	48 98
16 20	L A Engle Jr Tenely - Lopez	Bisbee Willcox	108 50	65 26	60 19 52 00
20 24	Roy Fourr	Tombstone	659	354	53 72
45	Vicente Manzo	Benson	80	41	51 25
52	Bill Carmichael	Sierra Vista	901	534	59 27
Dist	rict Totals		2,141	1,188	55.49
	rict 4 - Commander:Jo Name	erry Boales City	Goal	2009	% of Goal
8	Fred A Humphreys	Casa Grande	216	139	64 35
9	McClellan-Parsons	Florence	194	137	70 62
17	William P Kern	Superior	32	28	87 50
18 48	PAL Francis M Bunch	Kearny San Manuel	34 71	29 9	85 29 12 68
51	Haskel Osife Antone	Blackwater	30	ó	0 00
54	William David Hood	Coolidge	126	72	57 14
	Duane Ellsworth rict Totals	Queen Creek	99 <b>802</b>	58 <b>472</b>	58 59 <b>58.85</b>
Dist	rict 5 - Commander:G	eorge Sticklin			
	Name	City	Goal	2009	% of Goal
4	Henry Berry	Globe	202	145	71 78
28	Lloyd C Hill	Clifton	145	88	60 69
32 49	Swift-Murphy McCulloch-McNair	Safford Duncan	476 33	277 14	58 19 42 42
95	Lopez-Hernandez	Solomon	98	60	61 22
Dist	rict Totals		954	584	61.22
	rict 6 - Commander:T Name	om Alstatt City	Goal	2009	% of Goal
15	Frank Perkins	Winslow	97	60	61 86
30	John H Slaughter	Springerville	185	116	62 70
31	Greer-Dewitt	Saint Johns	34	18	52 94
37 60	Navajo Whiteriver	Holbrook Whiteriver	93 42	50 27	53 76 64 29
69	Tonto Rim	Payson	534	315	58 99
76	WilliamHouse	Show Low	232	154	66 38
77	Hickson-Bia	Window Rock	0	2	0 00
80	Hopi	Kykotsmovi	39	1	2 56
82 86	Warren L Dempsey John D Wibby	Ganado Overgaard	15 427	4 264	26 67 61 83
126	Snowflake - Taylor	Snowflake	45	18	40 00
	Joseph McCarthy rict Totals	Carrizo	22 <b>1,765</b>	0 1,029	0 00 <b>58.30</b>
		C	1,703	1,047	20.20
	rict 7 - Commander:A Name	nn Seney City	Goal	2009	% of Goal
3	Mark A Moore	Flagstaff	630	324	51 43
13	Cordova	Williams	100	72	72 00
14 22	Swaskegame Golden Valley	Kingman Golden Valley	323 236	198 115	61 30 48 73
33	Jerry & Daw	Golden Valley Tonalea	236 19	0	48 /3 0 00
42	John Ivens	Grand Canyon	192	82	42 71
57	Robert Fulton	Ash Fork	115	48	41 74

Robert Fulton Robert A Eckert Mohave Valley

Dolan Springs Meadview Curtis Huskon

Ernest A Love Verde Valley

Bobby Bisiak

Dewey Taylor-Keehner Black Canyon City David C Johnson

Dennis S Pike Gary Streeter Cordes Lakes Mem

Forrest C Longwell Mohave Valley

District 8 - Commander:Joe Duggan

Ash Fork Havasu City Bullhead City

Dolan Springs Meadview

Mohave Valley

City Prescott Cottonwood Chino Valley

Humboldt Yarnell Black Cyn Cty Camp Verde

Bagdad Prescott Vly

Mayer

812 894 447

Leupp

Seligman

District Totals			3,204	1,926	60.11	
District 11 – CommanderBob Hicks						
Post	Name	City	Goal	2009 %	6 of Goal	
1	Luke-Greenway	Phoenix	1179	636	53 94	
5	Southern Meadows	Phoenix	81	20	24 69	
10	Organ Pipe Cactus	Ajo	85	49	57 65	
12	Kellis-Draper	Wickenburg	362	227	62 71	
29	Earl E Mitchell	Glendale	1,580	1,026	64 94	
43	Hazel Morton	Phoenix	19	19	100 00	
50	Thomas Tang	Phoenix	59	37	62 71	
53	Hazelton-Butler	Buckeye	41	39	95 12	
61	Crandall-Palmer	Avondale	654	280	42 81	
62	John J Morris	Peoria	2,283	1,340	58 69	
72	Dwight Eisenhower	Phoenix	25	11	44 00	
92	Robert C St Clair	Peoria	0	0	0 00	
94	Sun City West	Sun City West	365	241	66 03	
96	Surprise	Surprise	144	75	52 08	
101	John H Harries	Sun City	178	128	71 91	

Sun City Phoenix

128 Daisy Mountain

District Totals			7,690	4,467	52.23	
District 12 - Commander:Tom Will						
Post	Name	City	Goal	2009	% of Goal	
2	William Bloys	Tempe	484	296	61 16	
26	Mesa	Mesa	1,069	765	71 56	
27	Apache	Apache Jct	2,454	1,271	51 79	
34	Frank W Wright	Cave Creek	302	176	58 28	
35	Mathew B Juan	Chandler	684	430	62 87	
39	Merrill-Mitchell	Gilbert	573	332	56 20	
41	Tony F Soza	Phoenix	888	453	51 01	
44	Sipe-Peterson	Scottsdale	1,195	677	56 65	
55	James O Shroeder	Sun Lakes	213	151	70 89	
58	Fountain Hills	Fountain Hills	421	248	58 91	
63	Lena Vaughn Whitney	Mesa	33	19	57 58	
64	Ahwatukee	Ahwatukee	140	97	69 29	
65	Richard H Hamilton	Phoenix	334	141	42 22	
75	Sunnyslope	Phoenix	409	204	49 88	
83	East Mesa	Mesa	95	55	57 89	
84	Ira H Hayes	Sacaton	56	42	75 00	
91	Wayne V McMartin	Chandler	200	13	6 50	
107	Irving B Selmer	Phoenix	539	284	52 69	
114	Bushmasters	Scottsdale	34	3	8 82	
115	North Scottsdale	Scottsdale	61	26	42 62	
117	Pat Tillman	Phoenix	64	33	51 56	
124	Guadalupe Veterans	Guadalupe	17	7	41 18	

## **Housing Problems A National Concern**

There is an ongoing housing problem endangering families in our Community, State and Nation; specifically Military Members and Veterans within these same Communities. Due to the times and circumstances, the housing problem may be out of their control. The Department of Veterans' Affairs, Arizona Department of Veterans' Services and The American Legion are committed to mutual helpfulness whenever and wherever possible. The Temporary Financial Assistance Program is very helpful and understandably limited.

Commander Branch asked me to attend an informative meeting regarding a solution to this problem at the Neighborhood Housing Services of Phoenix, AZ, in August 2008. The Project Manager is Mr. Thomas Wilson III, an In-Country Vietnam Veteran and longtime American Legion Member. Mr. Wilson is very active within the Community and a very good Point of Contact for similar contacts within Arizona. Mr. Wilson's Phone Number is: (602) 258-1659. Questions and Answers (Q&A) follow:

- Q: What activity is your Organization engaged in to help Military Members and Veterans currently within the Community?
- A: We are moving forward with efforts to expand their outreach to Veterans. Veterans who are facing foreclosure, seeking to become home owners, need credit counseling, or want financial and home buyer education can get those services at no cost. We also have ADDI funds (maximum \$10,000) and HOME funds (up to \$40,000) available for down

payment and closing cost assistance. These HUD funds that pass through the City of Phoenix can be used in conjunction with VA mortgage insurance programs.

- Q: Is there a prominent class of Military Personnel that has come to your attention?
- A. It has come to our attention that military personnel serving overseas have been hit with foreclosure notices. If any of you know of affected families, please have them call our office to schedule a meeting with one of our counselors. This is a real hot issue. Some lenders are not complying with the law, and some Reservists returning from overseas assignments are returning home to find their families have abandoned homes that they worked hard to purchase.
- Q. May individuals contact you directly and what sampling of services is expected?
- A. We provide the following services: Counseling, Orientation, Homebuyer Education, Financial Fitness, Down Payment/Closing Cost Assistance and Flexible Mortgage Programs.

Thomas Wilson III-Project Manager Neighborhood Housing Services of Phoenix 1405 East Mc Dowell Road, Suite 100 Phoenix, Arizona 85006 Telephone: (602) 258-1659

Baseball continued from page 1

40 85

62 16 50 00

of Goal

The 2008 Western Regional Tournament was held at the Surprise Recreational Campus in the main stadium. Thanks to Bob Hicks and the Post # 29 Legion Riders for meeting the teams at the airport and getting them to the Holiday Inn Express Hotel in Surprise. Keith Bartz, Housing Chairman, met the teams at the hotel and insured that they received a briefing and got them into their rooms. The Banquet of Champions was held on the concourse of the ball park. Decorations were done by the Unit #29 Auxiliary and the food was catered by the stadium concessions. Meal consisted of BBQ Beef, BBQ beans, potato salad, and cookies for dessert. Jerry Kindell, former baseball coach of the University of Arizona, was the guest speaker and he related to his days in American Legion, collegiate and professional baseball. The video of Michael Peterson "Who We Are" was played on the giant screen in center field and was well received by the players, coaches and guests in attendance.

The tournament kicked of promptly at 9:00 AM on Thursday and was played through Monday with the Gorman High School "Titans" from Nevada, defeating Hawaii in the final game to earn the right to represent the Western Region in the World Series at Shelby, NC. The "Titans" went on to win the World Series by defeating Washington in 15 games. Once again, Paul Frie and his staff at the ball park did an outstanding job in making sure that we had whatever we needed to insure a successful

I express on behalf of myself and the Baseball Committee. a most sincere thanks to those who supported our program throughout the year and especially those who took time out of their busy schedule to come out to the Department and Regional Tournament.

Rollin Kohrs Department Baseball Chairman

