

VOLUME 2009

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA •

ISSUE 3

It Has Been A Successful & Prosperous Year

Fellow Legionnaires, once again I bring you greetings. This will be my final article to you, as we move towards our Department Convention in Glendale (June 18 through 21, 2009). We have experienced a year of excellent service to the Department of Arizona with honor and good responsibility. Many goals were achieved and accomplished that we can be proud of. It has been a busy and prosperous year for us, as it comes to conclusion.

My vision as your Commander was to provide sound leadership, improve communications and work the Legion programs. I thought we had a good effort in all phases. From the beginning to end, with the State Baseball Tournament, the Western Regional Baseball Tournament, hosting the 89th Annual National Convention, the Fall Conference and National Commander Rehbein's visit, the Department Open House, the National Auxiliary President Stoy's visit and the most recently, National S.A.L. Commander Tommie Cisna's visit. All were completed with wonderful results.

We accomplished much, with there being some honorable noteworthy achievements. We had an amazing and outstanding membership team, led by our Membership Chairman Jeri Strande that added seven (7) new posts. Our most recent new posts are in Yucca (Post 136), San Tan Mountain (Post 97) and in Laveen, (Post 134) We are working to keep pace with the population



growth and service to veterans in Arizona. According to National, we have set a new standard for post start-ups and revitalization. It has been over 10 years since a state (Michigan) added as many new posts in a year (1997). I also appreciate our National Vice Commander Harley Ray (Oregon) returning to Arizona to work and help us obtain these new posts.

Key accomplishments were done in Children & Youth/ National Security, Housing for Veterans, Heroes to Hometown, High School Oratorical Contests, National Emergency Fund (NEF), the Military Hospitality Room, Operation Wounded & Comfort Warriors, the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund Run, the Legislative Committee and others. I must give credit to the chairmen of these committees who were responsible for the success

of the programs. I believe we still have much to do with all we achieved, but, overall we had an excellent year.

Other noteworthy actions included our service to veterans during this historic recession by sponsoring stand-downs and supporting job fairs. Many of our posts stepped up to help the homeless, disabled, and needy veterans during the holiday season. This goes to the core of why we, the "Legion Family" were founded. With all the hard work, donations and contributions, I think we strengthened the "four pillars" of The American Legion!

Ann and I appreciated the opportunity to serve this year. Again, we thank all the posts and members for the warm hospitality and honor displayed to us. Thanks to all the officers (Department, District & Posts) who worked to make the year a success. My Department Commander's Homecoming was held in South Phoenix (Post 65), on May 9, 2009. It was a huge success with numerous dignitaries and members in attendance. Thanks, to DJ Gino for the very smooth music and Post 65 members preparing and serving the superb barbeque rib tips and smoked chicken dinners.

I want to give a "special thanks" to my Area Vice Commanders; Louie Romero (Post 59), Ariel Rodriguez (Post 2), and Jim Strande (Post 25). I appreciate the

Commander continued on page 2

Original Charters Discovered

Several years back, The Hazelton-Butler Post 53 in Buckeye, Arizona, lost their Post home and most of the items of value were being kept by some of the Legion members. Membership kept dropping until there were approximately only 17 members. Then some new members started to take an active part in the Post. Membership grew. Now the Post has been looking to acquire a building in buckeye to have as a Post home. Learning that a house next to the Buckeye Valley Sun was vacant, I stopped by to inquire as to who owned

Inside This Issue:

Baseball2
Convention Reservation Form2
Convention Agenda3
Homecoming Photos4
CFA Report4
Membership5
Chaplain's Corner
Post Everlasting
S.A.L. Report7
Arizona Military Women's Conference7
Membership Report7
National Convention Form Back
Call To Convention Back

the house. It was owned by the Adolfson & Peterson Construction Company. I stopped by the company to ask about the house and Ken Gregory, Project Manager, informed me that the house was unsafe and due to be demolished.

After talking to Ken, he said he had something

interesting to show me. Taking me down the hallway, there was an old document that turned out to be the original charter for the Auxiliary. He then showed me another document that was the Legion charter. These documents were hung on the wall and displayed for their historical value. There were other various items that had been found and saved during property reinventions when Adolfson & Peterson Construction Company acquired the abandoned Buckeye Cleaners approximately three years ago. It was previously owned by Pete Clemits, a member of the Legion.

Ken Gregory presented the charters to me. I then invited him to attend our next meeting to formally present them to our Post. It was an honor for us to be able to retrieve a very important part of our Post history. We are very thankful to Adolfson & Peterson Construction Company for their part of "We Care" in wanting to preserve these historical items.

After the presentation, Frank Villa, Past Post Commander; his brother Alex Villa; and Pete Clemits, made frames for the Post and Unit charters using old saguaro cactus spines.

Trish Carlisle-Thompson, Commander Hazelton-Butler Post 53 Photo by Rick Cochran, IPFX



LtoR: Trish Carlisle-Thompson, Commander; Will Pearson, Past Post Commander; Ken Gregory, Adolfson & Peterson Construction

2

THE ARIZONA

(USPS# - 115-290) Published bi-monthly by The American Legion 4701 N. 19th Avenue Phoenix, Arizona 85015 602-264-7706 e-mail: hdqtrs@azlegion.org

Editor Publisher Sheila Galloway John Aldecoa

Deadline 10th of the month preceding publication. Material submitted after this date is not guaranteed admission. Submissions should be typewritten.

Change of Address &

Circulation Information Subscriptions are \$1.50 per year for members, paid as part of dues. \$10 per year for nonmembers.

"Periodicals" postage paid at Phoenix, AZ and additional mailing offices. **Postmaster:** please send address corrections to: Arizona Legionnaire, 4701 N. 19th Ave., Ste. 200, Phoenix, AZ 85015. Design and copyright belongs to The American Legion.

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Commander Henry Branch (602) 418-0605

Vice Commanders (A) Louie Romero (520) 798-1792 (B) Ariel Rodriguez (480) 897-2332 (C) Jim Strande (928) 649-3374

NEC D.M. "Joe" Aguilar (520) 385-2142

Alternate NEC Paul Griffin (602) 938-0918

Dist 1 Commander Dale Hiller (928) 210-7786

Dist 2 Commander Kenneth Dowse (520) 834-4043

Dist 3 Commander David Lambert (520) 904-1120

Dist 4 Commander Jerry Boales (520) 836-2705

Dist 5 Commander George Sticklin (928) 965-6944

Dist 6 Commander Thomas Altstatt (928) 409-9008

Dist 7 Commander S. Ann Seney (928) 753-3555

Dist 8 Commander Joseph J. Duggan, III (928) 567-5540

> Dist 11 Commander Robert Hicks (623) 486-5192

Dist 12 Commander Thomas Will (480) 726-0991



For the Latest Legion Info www.azlegion.org

Baseball Season's Here

When you receive this edition of the Legionnaire, The American Legion Baseball season will be underway. More than 300 young men will be locked in heated competition to win their respective leagues and vie for a position in the state tournament. Please check with the local area chairman for a schedule and go out to see these future stars as they hone their skills. You will find an evening watching these young men an enjoyable outing. At this time it appears that we will register 25 teams again this year thanks to the effort of Tom Kusek, Bud Grainger and Bob Longoni.

hard work and dedication they brought to

the job. They were truly committed to our

organization and it was a pleasure to serve

In closing, the Commanders come and

go through the years, but the spirit of its

members to further the mission of The

American Legion lives on. As I traveled

to the Districts and Posts, I saw a new fire

burning that I have not seen in a long time.

Commander continued from page 1

with them

N

N

N

N

Ν

N

N

The American Legion has joined with the Diamondbacks for a fund raiser to support the baseball program. There are a total of five games in which you can buy tickets. Unfortunately, the first game is past but the rest of the games are, June 13 vs Houston Astros; July 11 vs Florida Marlins; August 12 vs New York Mets; September 7 vs LA Dodgers. All tickets are \$30.00 with \$5.00 being returned to the Legion provided we sell 400 + tickets. The game with the Dodgers is a bonus game and we will receive \$15.00 for each ticket sold to that game. Seating is just beyond

I see this in the positive attitudes of our new officer's energetic enthusiasm and eagerness to serve with their elections and installations. I encourage you to support your new Commander and give them the same dedication and commitment you gave me.

FOR GOD & COUNTRY

Henry Branch, Department Commander

3rd base in the lower deck. Please contact John Aldecoa to purchase tickets. Support Legion Baseball and enjoy an evening at Chase Field watching the pro's play!!!!

The state tournament will be held in Tucson starting on July 28th and the championship game will be played on August 1st. The first two rounds of the tournament will be played at Cherry Field and Reid Park Annex. All games will start at 6:00 PM. Please come out and support these young men and let them know that we Legionnaires do care for the future of our young men. **WEAR YOUR BLUE CAP!**

If your post has supported the program by sponsoring a team or by a direct donation to the area program, I extend the sincere thanks of not only the chairman but the players and coaches. If you do not sponsor a team, visit with the local high school coach to see what it would take to sponsor his team in The American Legion program.

Only with the support of the Legion Family can the many great youth programs of The American Legion survive.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

ROLLIN H. KOHRS Baseball Chairman

The American Legion • Department of Arizona 90th Annual Convention • June 18 – June 21, 2009 Hosted by

Earl E. Mitchell Post #29, Glendale, AZ (623) 937-3411

Renaissance

Phoenix Glendale Hotel, 9495 W. Coyotes Boulevard, Glendale, AZ 85305 (623) 937-3700 or FAX (623) 937-3703

Pre-registration Form –PLEASE DON'T MIX LEGION, AUXILIARY OR S.A.L.

Please Print

lame:	Post#	Title:
Jame:	Post#	Title:
lame:	Post#	Title:
lame:	Post#	Title:
Jame:	Post#	Title:

Send completed form and \$10.00 per person pre-registration fee to: EARL E. MITCHELL POST #29 6822 N. 57TH Drive, Glendale, AZ 85301

Registration fee at the Convention will be \$12.00 per person.

June 2009



The American Legion Department of Arizona Annual Convention - June 18-21, 2009 **Glendale**, Arizona



General Information:

****NOTICE**** ALL Attendees must be REGISTERED to attend EVENTS

All meetings are held at the Renaissance Glendale Hotel, 9475 W. Coyote Blvd. Hospitality Suites (check at registration desk) Registration hours: Registration Desk Thursday, June 18th Noon until 5:30 PM Friday, June 29th 7AM until 5:30 PM Saturday, June 20st 7AM until 3:00 PM Sunday, June 2qnd 7AM until 9:00 AM

Special Events:

0AM, Falcon Dunes Golf Course, Waddell Membership Breakfast, 100% Post, District & Area Vice Commanders, Friday, 7:00AM, Post 29 PALS Dinner, Friday, 5:30PM, Post 29 GNUTS Luncheon, Saturday, 11:30AM, Post 29 PDC Luncheon, Sunday, 1PM, Post 29 ****SERVICE OFFICERS SEMINAR** Friday...1:00PM to 5:00PM... ****American Legion Extension Institute Course** Saturday...1:00PM to 4:30PM...

Thursday, June 18, 2009

TIME	EVENT	SPEAKER CHAIRMAN	LOCATION							
2:30PM	Finance Committee Meeting		steria Boardroom							
4:00PM	Rules Committee	Joe Aguilar, NEC	Aurora A							
6:00PM	Joint Opening Session	Joe Agunai, MEC	Solana E							
0.001 101	Call to Order	Henry Branch, Department Comman								
	Advancement of Colors	Carl Armbruster, Sgt-At-Arms	luci							
	P61 Color Guard	Carl Annolusici, Sgi-At-Anns								
	Invocation	Richard Kepler, Chaplain								
	Pledge of Allegiance	All								
	Preamble to Constitution	All								
	Opening Remarks	Henry Branch, Commander								
	Call to Convention	John Aldecoa, Adjutant								
	Report of Rules Committee	Joe Aguilar, NEC								
	Welcome, Host Post 29	Ruben Gonzalez, Commander								
	Greetings:	Ruben Gonzalez, Commander								
	Mayor, City of Glendale	Elaine Scruggs								
	Chief of Police, Glendale	Steven Conrad								
	Luke AFB Commander	BG Kurt Neubover								
	Sons of The American Legion	Jim Ashley, Detachment Commande	۹r.							
	The American Legion Auxiliary	Vickie Zwall, Department President								
	The American Legion Auxiliary	Barbara Matteson, NEC								
	Jr Auxiliary	Jessica Matteson, President								
	Disabled American Veterans	John Adkins, Department Command	ler							
	Veterans of Foreign Wars	Joe Reagan, Department Commande								
	Korean War Veterans	Les Nagy, Department Commander								
	MOPH	Robert Puskar, Department Commander	nder							
	40 et 8	Ron DeGonzaque, Grand Chef de G								
	20 et 4	Judi Beischel, Director VIP	uie							
	8 & 40	Sherry Hall, Departmental Chapeau								
	Arizona Dept of Veterans Services	Joey Strickland, Director								
	VA Regional Office	Sandy Flynn, Director								
	e									
	Introduction of Guest Speaker	Joe Aguilar, NEC								
	Keynote Speaker	Jake Comer, Past National Comman	der							
	EXECUTIVE COMMIT	FEE MEETING TO FOLLOW								
Friday Jur	ne 19, 2009									
7:00AM	Membership Breakfast	100% Post, District, Area Vice Cmd	rs Post 29							
8:30-11:30	Legion Riders	John Moffitt	Solana A							
0.30-11.30	Chambring? Service on									

FI

7:00AM	Membership Breakfast	100% Post, District, Area Vice Cmd	rs Post 29
8:30-11:30	Legion Riders	John Moffitt	Solana A
8:30am	Chaplains' Seminar	Richard Kepler	Aurora A
010 0111	Constitution & By-Laws	Neal Sundeen	Aurora B
	Resolutions	Jim Burke	
	VA&R Commission		Cira Ballroom A
	Rehabilitation	Mike Espinosa	
	Employment	Tony Valenzuela	
	Cemetery	Mel Zacko	
	Club Committee	Bud Hansing	Solana C
	Membership Committee	Jeri Strande	Cira Ballroom C
	Children & Youth Commission		Cira Ballroom B
	Children & Youth	Roland Matteson	
	Education	Keith Bartz	
	ALLECA	Frank Whitten	
	Jr Shooting Sports	Mike Jurczak	
	National Security Commission		Solana D
	National Security	Larry Cox	
	POW/MIA	Shaun Shields	
	Law & Order	Scott Miller	

Friday continu	ied		
TIME	EVENT	SPEAKER CHAIRMAN	LOCATION
10:00am	Convention & Conference Committee	Louis Pellon	Solana C
	Americanism Commission		Cira Ballroom C
	Americanism	Charles Vawter	
	Baseball Boy Scouts	Rollin Kohrs / Tom Kusek Ariel Rodriguez	
	Boys State	Charles Vawter	
	Citizens Flag Alliance Oratorical Chairman Meeting	Maria Currie	Aurora C
	Uniform Groups & Contest	Roger Munchbach Bob Hammerel	Aurora C Aurora D
Terrary all of the	Legislative Committee	Paul Griffin	Cira Ballroom B
Immediately following	Legislative Council Bingo Committee	Neal Sundeen Frank Whitten	Cira Ballroom B Aurora A
	Trophies & Awards		Asteria Boardroom
	Public Relations Commission	D 1 D	Aurora B
	Public Relations Press Association	Dick Perry Richard Kepler	
11:30	Lunch		
1:00-5:00	Service Officers Seminar	Art Brest, Department Service Of	
1:30 pm	Convention Reconvenes Credentials Report	Henry Branch, Commander Marge Ahrens	Solana E
	Helping Our Veterans	Vernon Bagley, Project We Remen	mber
	Constitution & By-Laws Report	Neal Sundeen	
	Resolutions Report Legislative Report	Jim Burke Paul Griffin	
	Children & Youth Report	Roland Matteson	
	National Security Report POW/MIA Report	Larry Cox Shaun Shields	
	Law and Order	Scott Miller	
	Legion Riders	John Moffitt	
5:30 PM	Legionnaire Insurance Trust PALS Dinner	John Aldecoa Post 29	
Saturday,	June 20, 2009		
TIME	EVENT	SPEAKER CHAIRMAN	LOCATION
8:30am	SAL Convention	Jim Ashley, Commander	Solana A
8:00am	Convention Reconvenes Distinguished Legislator Award	Henry Branch, Commander Paul Griffin –	Solana E
	Distinguistica Degistator Trivara	Congressman Harry Mitchell	
	Credentials Report	Marge Ahrens Jeri Strande	
	Membership Report & Awards Trophies & Awards Report	Bob Nixon	
	Convention & Conference Report		
	Club Committee Report Americanism Report	Bud Hansing Charles Vawter	
	VA&R Committee Report	Mike Espinoza	
10:30am	Area AA@ Caucus	Louie Romero, Vice Commander	Cira Ballroom A
	Area AB@ Caucus Area AC@ Caucus	Ariel Rodriguez, Vice Commande Jim Strande, Vice Commander	Cira Ballroom C
11:30am	Lunch	GNUTS Luncheon	Post 29
1:00-4:30 1:00-3:00	ALEI Class Suicide Prevention Briefing	Sean Sparks, IA National HQ Ali Cassidy, Prescott VA	Solana B Solana C
4:30pm	40 et 8	Ron DeGonzaque, Grand Chef	Aurora A
4:30pm	20 et 4	Judi Beischel, Director VIP	Aurora B
Sunday Ju	ne 21, 2009		
TIME	EVENT	SPEAKER CHAIRMAN	LOCATION
8:30am	Joint Memorial Service	Richard Kepler, Chaplain Kathleen Medalen, Auxiliary Cha	Media Center
9:30am	Convention Reconvenes	Henry Branch, Commander	Solana E
	Credentials Report	Marge Ahrens	
	SAL Report Final Convention Report	SAL Liaison, Richard Kepler Louis Pellon	
	Election of Department Officers:		
		Commander	
	Farewell Speech	3 Vice Commanders Henry Branch	
	Installation of Officers	Louis Pellon	
	Acceptance Speech Announcements	Newly Elected Commander John Aldecoa, Adjutant	
	Benediction	Richard Kepler, Chaplain	
	Retirement of Colors	Carl Armbruster, Sgt-At-Arms	
	Executive Committee Meeting	Newly Elected Commander	
1:00pm	PDC Luncheon	Henry Branch, Host	Post 29

****Have a SAFE Trip Home****

Photos from the Department Commander's Homecoming Dinner





- Photo captions clockwise from the upper left
- 1. The cake says it all.
- 2. Commander Henry and National Vice Commander
- 3. There was a big crowd at Post 65 to welcome home Commander Henry.

4. Harley Ray (OR) Henry- I'm almost done!





Since then, a flag protection amendment has come before both houses of Congress for a vote four times. It has always passed the House easily. It has been defeated in the Senate

by a 4, 3, 3, and 1 vote. A positive way of looking at this vote is that is comes closer each

time. As yet, the amendment has not been introduced in this new session of Congress.

As concerned citizens, we need to approach our Senators and Representatives, urging

them to press for the introduction of such an amendment. Once introduced, they should

then become co-sponsors of the Joint Resolution. Ask them to urge their colleagues to

Polls taken by the CFA over the years show that over three-fourths of the American

people favor the amendment and 80% feel the flag should be protected. This symbol

PRESCOTT IS SOLD ON Lindquist, Inc., Realtors® Fred Lindquist CCIM, Broker 424 East Gurley Street Prescott, AZ 86301

Prescott, A2 86301 928-445-7600 Proud to be a Legionnaire

www.lindquistrealtors.com

Citizen's Flag Alliance Congress & Senate at Odds on Flag Desecration

"The Congress shall have power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States." A simple enough solution that would return to the people the right to protect their flag. Unfortunately, the Senate of the United States has not seen fit to grant this right to the people.

In 1989 the Texas vs. Johnson decision by a 5 to 4 vote did away with more than 200 years of laws protecting the U.S. Flag from physical desecration. As a result of this action, a grass roots movement was started to protect the U.S. Flag. In 1994, National Commander Bruce Thiesen was approached to have The American Legion co-ordinate this movement.

Seniors Rejoice Reverse Mortgages Are Here To Help You!

This is made possible by a Government-Guaranteed FHA Insured Program for Seniors age 62 and older who qualify.

RELO

- No monthly house payments
- No possibility of ever losing your home
- No income or credit requirements
- You preserve and receive income from your home equity, tax free
- Your title and all rights of ownership remains in your name Will not affect your social security or medicare benefits

Manufactured home eligibility with qualifications

ROY BRANCH Reverse Mortgage Specialist

520-237-7780 Cell 1-866-615-8125 Toll Free 520-531-9474 Office royb@americanhomemortgage.com MBR A.L. Post 36 World War 2 Vet Member of VFW Post 10008



MB 0018838

has become sacred, it is draped over caskets of men and women killed defending our way of life. This symbol gives hope to oppressed countries, to citizens coming to the United States for a better way of living and it springs up immediately in emergencies. After the September 11th terrorist attacks, huge flags hung from the Pentagon and Ground Zero. When it is so obvious that the flag means so much to the American people, why can't the Senate let the people decide? Do they feel they know more than the voters they represent? Perhaps they don't care. We as voters need to get more veterans back in both houses of Congress.

do the same. Let the people decide!

CFA continued on next page

June 2009



Membership Is Our Lifeline Keep It Going

It seems like yesterday was the 2007 - 2008 Department Convention and now we're just around the corner from the 2008 – 2009 convention....its been a quick, fun, learning year with my humble thanks to all the Posts, Districts, and Areas for making this year so memorable!

You've all heard me saying or read that "membership never takes a break" and with nearly half of our posts at 100% I'm in awe that even without the assistance of the Direct Mail Solicitation membership, the Department of Arizona is standing tall!

Not only can we be proud of the final tally in membership, but we've proven our state as a leader in the fact that we've started seven new posts this year! Establishing these new posts is NOT a credit to me as the membership director, but to several very hard working district commanders and their members within that district. Starting a new post is not a "one task event"! It took a great deal of time and dedication by these commanders to work with their fledgling posts to lay

CFA continued from previous page

I've learned many things about our flag, most recentlywhy don't we walk between the flags when approaching the speakers table? Thanks to American Legion Post 42, this has been explained. The area between flags represents hallowed ground, so we walk around the flags, visualizing the grave of a fallen warrior, our soldier. The Legion and S.A.L. stop to salute the flag; the Auxiliary does not need to salute. They also have a poem that is both explaining and touching. It reads:

> Between these flags that proudly fly, Let no man dare to stand; For here our fallen comrades lie. A symbol yes, but mark it well; Here let us pause in memory of the lads Who fell in fighting for our sacred cause. On sea and land these buddies died; Some lie beneath a foreign sod

The Arizona Legionnaire

the ground work to ensure they (the new posts) got off to a good start. The District Commander's are: District 2, Ken Dowse, District 4, Jerry Boales; District 7, Ann Seney; District 8, Joe Duggan, III; and Bob Hicks, District 11 – great job and thank you!

I'm sure many District Commanders learned that keeping the old posts viable and working the programs was also a lot of work. Unfortunately, the excitement of starting a new post is rarely found in the posts that are struggling with reduced membership renewals, aging post homes and rising costs. As demonstrated in the fact that we have not "pulled a post charter" this year, it is a tribute to those commanders who have worked equally hard, if not harder, to keep those posts motivated and going, I truly thank you as well.

In closing, we know that District 4 is our first 100% District and that Post 53 took small 100% Post award, while Posts 46 and 73 tied for medium and whichever post turns in their CPR first, will be the winner; large post went to Post 36. Along with attaining their 100% each post **must** submit a CPR on-time, if they fail to, then the prize will be awarded to the next post in that category with a 100%. The awards will be presented at Department Convention during one of the general sessions, please join us for the presentations.

My "Just Ask" membership incentive pins will be given to recipients at the Membership Training meeting during Convention (please check the agenda for date and time). Remember the criteria to receive the pin is to recruit or reinstate five (5) or more members, validated with a list of names provided to me NLT 31 May by either your Adjutant or 1st Vice. Likewise, with the incentive gift card for transferring the largest number of members out of Post 100 (during this membership year and not part of the automatic transfers made by HQ) into a local

> In graves caressed by wind and tide, In spots unknown to all but God. And so this place is hallowed ground, And it shall be forever be blessed As tho' it were a grassy mound Beneath which gallant heroes rest. Be ever watchful, Legionnaire, Of those two flags which signify That we should guard this spot with care Where our departed comrades lie. And if a man should dare to tread this spot Where lies our gallant brave, He desecrated that noble died As tho' he walked upon their graves.

> > Author unknown

Fly your Flag, Maria F. Currie, C.F.A. Chairman post will also be given at the meeting. This award also requires the Adjutant or 1st Vice to send me a list NLT 31 May of the members names that were transferred. That's it for now...hope to see you at Convention!

For God and Country,

Jeri Strande Membership Director, Dept. of Arizona

Assisting Veterans with VA Disability Claims - Appeals Only*

Theodore C. Jarvi, Attorney at Law Retired JAG - Legion member 1050 E. Southern Avenue, Suite G-3 Tempe, Arizona 85282 Tel 480-838-6566; Fax 480-838-8810 E-Mail: Theodore.Jarvi@azbar.org

* 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.



CERTIFIED SPECIALIST INJURY & WRONGFUL DEATH LITIGATION STATE BAR OF ARIZONA

NEAL S. SUNDEEN, P.C. Telephone (602) 265-1200

1221 E. Osborn Rd. Ste. 105 Phoenix, AZ 85014, USA









Post **Everlasting**

Lawrence Bailey William R Benning William T Birmingham Wilburn S Burrier Maurice R Demmon Leroy Dunn John L Fair Rex E Farr Loren K Fetter Clarence P Foss Earl E Gilbert Robert F Hazelett Harvey N Lorenz August R Malatia Aldrich F Mc Colm James P McEvoy John H Nusbaum Jack K Owens William W Rogers Fred E Warren Frederick E Williams Thomas J Dutson Oliver C Rische Warren G Torgerson 3 Charles J Collins Leo G Elkins Earl P Hopper Stella M Lipinski Joseph Pill Thomas Tissaw 4 Vicente Campos Ray L Gonzales Lester D Schmidt 5 Victor I Gordon Thomas Hart 6 Helmut J Deike William Ducharme Thomas J Hanahan Clayton N Learv Richard S McCord Robert E Quinlan Leonard A Ross Donald A Shay Guy Spiller William E Weir Johnnie W Dunston Jackson W Edwards Clinton O Jacobs Larry W Louderback William F Oelklaus Donald L Scholler Earl E Weller 8 Barney R White

9 Fredric G White

11 John L Gomez 12 Ron Curtis John H Hudson Manual Macias Arthur G White

14 Marden B Chlarson Leonard Coker John S Husser Clyde A McCune William M Schroeder Louis E Tewell Lloyd W VanWormer 15 Lenwood E Benham 16 Lester Carlisle 18 Robert L Finerd 19 John j Arcuri Fred G Brown Bobby G Cook David L Greenwalt Alberto Jimenez Merle S Kelley John McClary Thomas E Miller Curtis E Probst 2.2 Daniel H Frasier Barbara Noren-Homsey James F Swan 23 Ingmar K Moe 24 Ernest Fortney Richard F Hazzard 25 James D Biddle Ascencion E Enriquez Richard A Letcher Schuyler T Lucas Mitri E Migdalene Salvador C Munoz Stanley Rothber James W Scott Fred C Shaw Thom Stapleton John H Sturgis Donald C Thompson 26 Harry S Conwell Donald J Crowder Charles H Idle Richard L Johnson Alonzo C Moreland Clifford J Omarro Larry M Orton Patrick E Painter Eugene C Robertson Roy A Stachwick Frederick W Stone George J Zrust 27 Leo J Andreasen Valentine P Barnas Dale Beatty Marvin H Bonta Robert L Brown Armando M Cordova James Jerdee Paul Maltaverne

George S Paul George E Phillips Earl P Poage Frank J Ragusa Lloyd Schek Harry Z Smith 28 Louis Esparza Joseph T Galusky Gonzalo E Luna Ruben L Nunez Leonard W Romero 29 Raymond H Baker Howard L Barnard Samuel J Boudreau Robert Canik Merrill R Davison Carl M Gershman Herbert R Grady Gene W Green Paul L Jones Sieger Kwiatkowski John R Miller Esther M Olson Anthony J Pacelli William L Perkins William F Sudac Harold Van Gorp 31 Donald V Jordan 32 Lester L Harper Mary A Jackson 34 Joseph M Forni 35 James J Clark Joseph S Gully Johnny F Oxner Richard S Swenson Jerel D Walker 36 Gerald A Bradley Hugh H Connolly Edward G DeVoe James W Driscoll Fred L Jacobs Richard O Kiser Reid R Olszak Eleanor H Price Rafael P Sena Arthur Simons Martin G Smith George H Starbuck John E Walker 37 John S Benson Ronald E Davis Dale L Horsley 39 Charles W Elledge Ernest D Harfst Robert Z Maldonado Lewis O Pardew Rudy Ramirez Dennis Salley

40

Lester R Auge

Alfred E May

41

Ernest F Bernal

Louis G Carrizosa

Antonio A Cota

Reinaldo S Diaz

The Arizona Legionnaire

Robert A Duarte Henry M Garcia Ignacio V Gastelo William T Gonzales Manuel E Salazar Victor G Tapia Joe M Valdez Marcelino C Vega Thomas C Caldwell Albert J Fedder Laurent O Gaudreau Scott G Mayben Joe S Silva Bennie L Vann Merle Wackerbarth Jack E Watson Virginia J Shannon Frank Alaimo Sid Billings Joseph Brai Robert C Burtnett Glenn Doering James J Fitzpatrick Herbert M hanson Arlie L Hunt Herbert A Mendelson Percy E Pedrick Joseph Ratkiewicz John L Russo George Steinhilber Max E Theobald Charles W Wade Charles S Williams Richard H Williamson Kermit C McOmie Charles Beck Roy C Taylor Emile H Brunelle Robert A Crownhart Mary E Knox Louis G Mathern Vincent A Siebenrock John G Kendrick Ervin T Steege William J Bell James W Carter John A Laschinger Philip C Hammond Vernon Simmons William W Stratton Robert P Sullivan Frank P Bujanda Francis J Abram W S Goldman Robert M Hanko John C Summers Virgil B Bachim Billy R Boydstun Leonard De Graff Maynard J Engler Robert Harrold William G Hartlev

June 2009

Allan D Watson

John F McCauley

Roy McCormick

James C Morgareidge

Robert H Peterson

Michael J Roche

Grant A Sattem

Lawrence D Saunders

Dennis R Schilhab

Richard J Slepski

Wesley E Weidman

Wayne D Williams

Byron S Wooley

64

Eugene B Wilson

66

Robert D Berry

Lousi P Black

Virgil Compton

James D Hathaway

Julian A Lawrence

Donn R McDermott

Robert E Shireman

Walter Wagner

68

Wallace R Buckley

Robert C Galas

Marcelo Garcia

Wiley Morris

Thomas D Raymond

69

Anthony J Brazas

Robert H Rhoades

72

Jack H Blevins

Richard Newcomer

73

David E Brouse

75

John C Goodridge

Glenn T Hazelrigg

George L Lindsay

Robert L Love

76

Bonnie J Mayer

78

Arthur J Kaz

Michael P Keefe

81

Ronald Gessner

Keith E Johnson

Arnold H Kimble

James E Richardson

Charles L Scheible

James S Stafford

Henry W Truhis

82

Alfred J Williams

83

Joe Ebeling

Frank W Robinson

84

William G Gerlaugh

86

Robert R Bernham

Roland N Blair

Charles S Rilev

Herschel F Sowers

87

John J Fleischer

Herbert J Haenel

Patrick McCarron

89

Robert D Westervelt 93

Wilson Lee

94 George E Armbruster Charles Cutrell Franklin J Farrow Charles R Keene Robert P Novak 96 Allen B Scouler 100 Donald W Auvil Charles C Bacon Clifford L Beatty Robert E Bump Gus Carboun George D Clark Harold L Coulson Glen Dreeszen Jack Eurich John H Fenner Robert L Finberg Robert T Frier Richard C Hewson James W Johnston Joseph O Kawulok Gilbert B Lee Russell H Mackey Archie Millsaps Albert G Mitchell James F O'Hare Michael J Parot Roger A Pederson Winten M Porter Joseph J Prologo Chester W Reynolds Enoch C Silva Ross A Singer Walter L Stevens John P Surak Robert C Swenson Paul I Wells Earl W Wick John A Williams Reme Wirth Charles D Yoder 101 John E Moore George T Tastsides 102 Stanley Bielas Verle Cottrell 105 Raymond E Nevins Frank N Rutter Owen D Williams 107 Joe B Gotcher Donald L Jones Earl K Pursley 108 Vincent Faiola Lloyd G Gerstad Robert L Lunsford Carl E McClain 109 Albert L Blankenship Larry D Bowles Richard P Kessler Richard G Schneider Orrin R Smith 122 John A Lewallen 129 Dale McGinn

Chaplain's Corner To Love One Another is Complicated

"For this is the message you have heard from the beginning; we should love one another." 1 John 3:11

These are simple words to live life by yet we do not follow them

Yes, we love our mates, families, children and friends. But, we do not follow that up with those that we differ from in race, religion, nor nation or origin. This is the test of true Christianity, or whatever form of worship we follow. We often ask those we have just met where they are from. If they meet our sub-conscious criteria for friendship, thereby establishing some additional bond such as state of birth. We might endeavor to find additional points of joint interest. If that other person matches our ideas of mutual interest; color foremost, nationality next, and then lastly religious inclinations, we find comfort.

If we meet someone new in familiar surroundings, such as church, we immediately feel more comfort. We know that veterans will fall into conversation at the drop of a hat, especially if that other person was in the same branch of service. We compartmentalize our comfort zones never realizing the opportunities we miss for a true friendship.

It just seems that we have forgotten things from our youth that formed those friendships. The school experiences, the service connections (to a large extent), even people we have met on visits or vacations. One of my closest friends was a bishop in the Episcopal Church from Namibia. He was a fascinating, intelligent, loving soul, who never had a bad word for any one. God rest his soul. Another friend I called my brother, was from East Orange, New Jersey. I visited several times at his home, as he did at my redneck, prejudiced area of middle Tennessee. We never hesitated when the other needed something.

How do we achieve this harmony in everyday life? Follow1 John 3:11; by practicing the teachings of all the prophets – "Love one another as you love yourself".

This has been a year I will always treasure for the new friends, the new experiences, and the chance to serve our American Legion. Thank you all, and especially Commander Branch.

Be with God,

Richard Kepler, Department Chaplain

American Legion - Department of Arizona

Area A	a Louie Romero	Goal 9,013	2009 8,928	% of Goal 99.06	
В	Ariel Rodriguez	19,423	19,165	98.67	
	Jim Strande Henry Branch	8,834 11,730	8,506 6,948	98.48 59.23	
Gra	nd Totals:	49,000	43,547	88.87	
		High Area High Distric High Post – 53 –	et – 2		
Dist	rict 1 - Commander:D	0			
Post 19	Name H.H. Donkersley	City Yuma	Goal 1,086	2009 1,027	% of Goal 94.57
46	Chic Chisom	Bouse	120	132	112.50
47 56	Somerton Floyd G. Jefferson	Somerton Yuma	15 164	9 171	60.00 104.27
67 70	Frank Mick Freman Sharp	Roll Parker	32 36	33 36	103.13 100.00
Dist	rict Totals		1,453	1,411	97.11
	rict 2 - Commander:K Name	en Dowse City	Goal	2009	% of Goal
7 23	Morgan McDermott Ridge-Igo	Tucson Nogales	514 85	470 85	91.44 100.00
36 59	John P. Burns Cocio-Estrada	Tucson Tucson	1,246 321	1,296 324	104.01 100.93
66	Green Valley	Sahuarita	1,515	1,525	100.66
68 73	Sahuaro Casas Adobes	Tucson Tucson	342 169	342 181	100.00 107.10
74 102	Calabasas Tucson Mountains	Rio Rico Tucson	15 147	2 142	13.33 96.60
	McCulloch-Wagner Patagonia	Vail Patagonia	617 16	631 14	102.27 87.50
113	Burton E. Buck Yoem	Sonoita	33 34	33 32	100.00
131	Madera	Tucson Green Valley	15	51	94.12 340.00
	Oro Valley rict Totals	Oro Valley	17 5,086	32 5,160	188.24 101.45
	rict 3 - Commander:D		~ .		
Post 11	Name Fred A. Hilburn	City Douglas	Goal 343	2009 289	% of Goal 84.26
16 20	L. A. Engle Jr. Tenely - Lopez	Bisbee Willcox	108 50	97 34	89.81 68.00
24 45	Roy Fourr Vicente Manzo	Tombstone Benson	659 80	629 80	95.45 100.00
52	Bill Carmichael	Sierra Vista	901	904	100.33
	rict Totals	D I	2,141	2,033	94.96
Post	rict 4 - Commander:Jo Name	City	Goal		% of Goal
8 9	Fred A. Humphreys McClellan-Parsons	Casa Grande Florence	216 194	216 202	100.00 104.12
17 18	William P. Kern P.A.L.	Superior Kearny	32 34	33 45	103.13 132.35
48 51	Francis M. Bunch Haskel Osife Antone	San Manuel Blackwater	71 30	72 28	101.41 93.33
54	William David Hood	Coolidge	126	128	101.59
	Duane Ellsworth	San Tan Foothi Queen Creek	99	15 93	100.00 93.94
133 Dist	rict Totals	Maricopa	15 832	21 853	140.00 102.52
	rict 5 - Commander:G		Gerl	2000	% of Goal
4	Name Henry Berry	City Globe	Goal 202	208	102.97
28 32	Lloyd C. Hill Swift-Murphy	Clifton Safford	145 476	121 431	83.45 90.55
49 95	McCulloch-McNair Lopez-Hernandez	Duncan Solomon	33 98	28 94	84.85 95.92
Dist	rict Totals		954	882	92.45
	rict 6 - Commander:T Name	om Alstatt City	Goal	2009	% of Goal
15 30	Frank Perkins John H. Slaughter	Winslow Springerville	97 185	91 179	93.81 96.97
31 37	Greer-Dewitt Navajo	Saint Johns Holbrook	34 93	32 78	94.12 83.87
60	Whiteriver	Whiteriver	42	45	107.14
69 76	Tonto Rim WilliamHouse	Payson Show Low	534 232	488 233	91.39 100.43
80 82	Hopi Warren L. Dempsey	Kykotsmovi Ganado	39 15	1 4	2.56 26.67
86 126	John D. Wibby Snowflake - Taylor	Overgaard Snowflake	427 45	431 31	10.94 68.89
130	Joseph McCarthy rict Totals	Saint Johns	22 1,765	20 1,633	90.91 92.52
	rict 7 - Commander:A	nn Senev	1,705	1,000	,2.32
	Name Mark A. Moore	City Flagstaff	Goal 630	2009 586	% of Goal 93.02
13	Cordova	Williams	100	107	107.00
14 22	Swaskegame Golden Valley	Kingman Golden Valley	323 236	327 244	101.24 103.39
33 42	Jerry & Daw John Ivens	Tonalea Grand Canyon	19 192	14 192	73.68 100.00
57 81	Robert Fulton Robert A. Eckert	Ash Fork Havasu City	115 1,341	105 1,285	91.30 95.82
87 88	Mohave Valley	Bullhead City	568 139	528 132	92.96 94.96
103	Dolan Springs Meadview	Dolan Springs Meadview	47	53	112.77
112 123	Curtis Huskon Forrest C. Longwell	Leupp Seligman	27 37	19 35	70.37 94.59
127 136	Mohave Valley Yucca	Mohave Valley Yucca	56 15	56 15	100.00 100.00
Dist	rict Totals		3,845	3,698	96.18
	rict 8 - Commander:Jo Name	oe Duggan City	Goal	2009	% of Goal
6 25	Ernest A. Love Verde Valley	Prescott Cottonwood	812 894	789 894	97.17 100.00
40 78	Bobby Bisjak Humboldt	Chino Valley Humboldt	447 246	435 243	97.32 98.78
79	Taylor-Keehner	Yarnell	245	245	100.00
90 93	Black Canyon City David C. Johnson	Black Cyn Cty Camp Verde	43 330	45 333	104.65 100.91
104 108	Dennis S. Pike Gary Streeter	Bagdad Prescott Vly	34 111	24 102	70.59 91.89
122 135	Cordes Lakes Mem.	Cordes Lakes Cornville	42 20	42 23	100.00 115.00
	rict Totals	-	3,224	3,175	98.48

Membership Report

May, 15 2009

May, 10 2007						District 12 - Commander. Fom win								
•						Post	Name	City	Goal	2009 %				
						2	William Bloys	Tempe	484	485				
						26	Mesa	Mesa	1,069	1,107				
						27	Apache	Apache Jct	2,454	2,456				
Dist	rict 11 – CommanderF	Bob Hicks				34	Frank W. Wright	Cave Creek	302	303				
Post Name City		City	Goal	2009	% of Goal	35	Mathew B. Juan	Chandler	684	705				
1	Luke-Greenway	Phoenix	1179	1,057	89.65	39	Merrill-Mitchell	Gilbert	573	577				
5	Southern Meadows	Phoenix	81	72	88.89	41	Tony F. Soza	Phoenix	888	829				
10	Organ Pipe Cactus	Ajo	85	89	104.71	44	Sipe-Peterson	Scottsdale	1,195	1,145				
12	Kellis-Draper	Wickenburg	362	364	100.55	55	James O. Shroeder	Sun Lakes	213	216				
29	Earl E. Mitchell	Glendale	1,580	1,520	96.20	58	Fountain Hills	Fountain Hills	421	423				
43	Hazel Morton	Phoenix	19	19	100.00	63	Lena Vaughn Whitney	Mesa	33	35				
50	Thomas Tang	Phoenix	59	52	88.14	64	Ahwatukee	Ahwatukee	140	144				
53	Hazelton-Butler	Buckeye	41	92	224.39	65	Richard H. Hamilton	Phoenix	334	335				
61	Crandall-Palmer	Avondale	654	617	94.34	75	Sunnyslope	Phoenix	409	368				
62	John J. Morris	Peoria	2,283	2,309	101.14	83	East Mesa	Mesa	95	105				
72	Dwight Eisenhower	Phoenix	25	22	88.00	84	Ira H. Hayes	Sacaton	56	59				
94	Sun City West	Sun City West	365	352	96.44	91	Wayne V. McMartin	Chandler	200	185				
96	Surprise	Surprise	144	132	91.67	107	Irving B. Selmer	Phoenix	539	522				
101	John H. Harries	Sun City	178	169	94.94	114	Bushmasters	Scottsdale	34	44				
105	Christopher J. Lapka	Phoenix	573	615	107.33	115	North Scottsdale	Scottsdale	61	50				
128	Daisy Mountain	Anthem	62	61	96.39	117	Pat Tillman	Phoenix	64	71				
134		Laveen	15	15	100.00	124	Guadalupe Veterans	Guadalupe	17	24				
Dist	rict Totals		7,705	7,557	98.08	Dist	rict Totals		10,265	10,197				

S.A.L. Report **Final Push Necessary For Membership Success**

My Fellow Blue Caps,

I would once again like to thank you for electing me as your Detachment Commander for the 2008-2009 year. It has been an honor and pleasure to serve you.

As we approach our last month of the year, our membership is still about 300 off for 100%. If some of your members are having hard economic times and been with you for years, you might think about paying their per capita until they get back on their feet. Try and push hard this last month.

raising over \$10,000.00, they had a super year in donations! I hope to see you all in Glendale at our Convention

this month. Please show up to vote and remember to support the individuals you elect this year.

and we exceeded \$30,000.00 in Child Welfare

Foundation. Congratulations to Squadron 26 for

For God and Country,

District 12 - Commander: Tom Will

We have had our best year in Spinoza "buddy bears"

Jim Ashlev Detachment Commander

Arizona Military Women's Conference Knowledge & Empowerment June 26 & 27th

Radisson Phoenix City Center Hotel • 3600 N. 2nd Ave • Phoenix, AZ 85013 (Cross Streets: Osborn and 2nd Ave • North of Holiday Inn on 2nd Ave • Covered Parking)

Friday, June 26th 8:00-5:00 and Saturday, June 27th 7:30-5:30

THE CONFERENCE WILL:

- Assist you in understanding your VA entitlements, benefits, programs and services available.
- Provide information and resources on topics of interest to women.
- Introduce you to and provide assistance from your ADVS Women Veteran Benefit Counselors.
- An opportunity to meet and socialize with your sisters of military service.
- Provide information that can assist you and veterans in locating the correct agency or person that will help with benefits and entitlements. This will empower attendees to help others in need.

CONFERENCE SPECIAL EVENTS Friday 6-10 p.m. Social & Networking Event with Entertainment •Saturday 10:30-2:15 17th Annual Military Women's Luncheon • Saturday Evening 7:00-9:00 **p.m**. Memorial Tribute to our Nations Fallen Military Women of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom

CONTACT INFORMATION:

- Conference Registration, Agenda & Updates visit: <u>www.azdvs.gov</u> or <u>www.veteransfirstltd.org</u>
- ▶ Conference and resource/vendor table information contact Gabe Forsberg 602-234-8431
 - or gforsberg@azdvs.gov Joan Sisco 602-841-7663 or jsisco@veteransfirstltd.org
- ▶ <u>17th Annual Military Women's Luncheon</u> Contact: Sue Wudy 602-277-4168

Join your sisters of military service at the conference and help us accomplish a mission of assisting and empowering our Arizona Military Women.

WE ARE LOOKING FORWARD TO CREATING A SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR OUR ARI-ZONA

MILITARY WOMEN THROUGH THIS EXCELLENT NETWORKING OPPORTUNITY

of Goal 100.21 103.55

100.08 100.03 100.70 93.36

95.82

106.06 102.86

102.80 100.30 89.96 110.53 105.36 92.50

110.94 141 18

CALL TO CONVENTION Call to the 91 st Annial Convention of	The American Legion	The American LegionDepartment of Arizona.By authority of the Department Executive Committee, the 91stAnnual Convention of the American Legion Department of Arizonais hereby called to meet in Glendale, Arizona, June 18 - 21, 2009.		The Convention business sessions will be held in the Solana	Ballroom of the Renaissance Glendale Hotel. The Annual Department Convention is the legislative body of The American Legion, Department of Arizona.		The convention is called for the purpose of setting the programs of The American Legion for the ensuing year, amending the Department Constitution and Bylaws and for the transaction of such other business as may be brought before it.			business as may be brought before it.	At twelve o'clock noon of the final day or at the conclusion of all other business of the Department Convention, which ever occurs first on Sunday, June 21, 2009, officers for the ensuing year will be elected, these being the Department Commander and three Department Vice Commanders, in that sequence.							
		2009 National Convention Louisville, Kentucky August 21 - 28, 2009	The Arizona Delegation has been assigned to the Galt House Hotel & Suites, 140 North Fourth Street (502) 588-4044 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:	ADDRESS: TELEPHONE:	Additional occupants shall include Leg/Aux/SAL Arrive/Depart		Uneck appropriate boxes: Jr. Suite, 1 or 2 persons (only 10 available) \$142.62 * \$	Double, 2 beds, 1 or 2 persons \$125.36 * \$	s25.00 per day	Registration (mandatory for Legion, Auxiliary and guests) \$15.00 per person \$		\$45.00 per person	National Commander's Banquet (limited to first 20) \$45.00 per person \$	*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, 2009 • Occupancy Tax in the amount 15.01% 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 21, 2009