



For God & Country

THE ARIZONA LEGIONNAIRE



VOLUME 2013 • OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA • ISSUE 6

Membership Goals On Target

Greetings fellow Legionnaires and thanks for meeting our most recent Membership Target of 65%!

Juarez. He is ready to assume the title and I know John will only be a phone call away!

Our Fall Conference in Tucson went well despite coinciding with all of the Veterans' Day activities at our Posts. We had four National Staff Members present LEAD (Leadership, Education and Development) Training and the courses were very well attended; averaging 100 per class!



Bill Parker, a member of Post 44 in Scottsdale, is working on a Veterans History Project. He is looking for Veterans who are willing to share their experiences. The interviews can be done at the VA, the Veteran's Home or at a convenient location for the Veteran. The Veteran will receive a copy of the tape, and one copy will go to the

This was John Aldecoa's final conference as Department Adjutant and I want to thank him for his many years of dedicated service to our Department. I welcome Angel

Library of Congress to preserve our hero's history. Of course, we would love to reach our WWII Veterans but any Vet is

Commander continued page 4

It's Been A Great Run John Passes the Torch

Thanks for the memories, it has been a wild ride the past 15 1/2 years as your Department Adjutant; if it were not for the onset of "CRS", I would have stayed at least another five years. I served with 16 Department Commanders since coming on board with Mac Maklary in 1998. All became

good friends and unfortunately, six of them are no longer with us today but they will always be in my heart and memory.

I am not saying good bye because I'm sure I will see many of you again as I will still be very active in The American Legion for many more years to come.



How Young We Were National Convention August 1998

Department is in good hands with Angel Juarez as your new Department Adjutant; if you have any questions or concerns, he is only an email or phone call away.

Thanks again, it has truly been an honor and a privilege to serve you all.

-John

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Vets Job Fair



PDC Henry Branch and Past Area B Vice Commander, Andy Jaime at the Vets Job Fair held on October 17th. They provided brochures, handed out information and applications; and answered questions concerning Veterans benefits. Great job guys!

Fall Conference



Commander Judi; Robert Hernandez, Legionnaire of the Year; and PDC Ken Dowse



Department Commander Judi, Department Chaplain, Carol Stensby; Department Membership Chairman, Beth Nehring; and Department Historian, Jerilyn Strande. Our Lady Veterans shine!

National Convention



LtoR: Neal Sundeen, Representative Trent Franks and George Cushing



LtoR: Neal Sundeen, George Cushing, Senator Jeff Flake, Bobby Reyes and Cesar Parada



LtoR: Cesar Parada, George Cushing, Bobby Reyes, Representative Ann Kirkpatrick and Neal Sundeen



LtoR: Neal Sundeen, Senator John McCain and George Cushing

National Commander Dellinger Testifies to Senate

Don't Hang Budget Cuts On Veterans

National Commander Daniel Dellinger testified before the Senate and House Committees on Veterans Affairs in September, 2013. Commander Dellinger initiated his testimony to the House and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee by stating that The American Legion did not want the Congress to balance the budget on the backs of America's Veterans. Commander Dellinger quoted from resolution number 34 which states, "American Legion urged Congress and the Administration to cease all efforts to reduce the defense budget from its current level, and to fully fund the Department of Defense in order that our military is unquestionably capable of carrying out its essential mission." Commander Dellinger also discussed Tricare by stating that The American Legion opposes any further increases in Tricare fees including prescription drug fees. He stated that the first priority of the military health system is to provide health care benefits to active duty personnel, however, less than half of Tricare beneficiaries are active duty military personnel and their dependents. The remaining 58% of Tricare beneficiaries are retirees and their dependents, with working-age retirees and their families making up more than a third of the total.

The American Legion also requested that the VA be properly funded and that protecting VA sequestration does not protect VA from ordinary, run of the mill budget cuts, and several programs have recently been in jeopardy. A solution must be found to VA's Capital Lease Program that will allow the VA to continue to deliver critical care and services through community-based outpatient clinics (CBOC). Even though the medical budgets of the VA are protected by advanced appropriations, The American Legion would like to extend the entire VA budget to include IT research, construction and the Veterans Benefit Administration (VBA) responsible for

ending the backlog would enjoy the same protections of the medical accounts. This would stabilize and protect Veterans funding in the midst of turbulent fiscal wars on Capitol Hill and the cost would be "zero".



*Daniel M. Dellinger
National Commander*

Commander Dellinger also discussed the post 9/11 G.I. Bill by stating that The American Legion wants to protect our Veterans with oversight that includes provisions to evaluate post-secondary education institutions on quality factors and State approving agency's should be returned their original power to protect the G.I. Bill along with adequate funding to execute their mandate. Student Veterans should be allowed in-state tuition rates when they cannot reasonably satisfy residency requirements.

The American Legion also is concerned about Veteran's homelessness and strongly supports the Administration's goal of eliminating Veterans homelessness by 2015 and requests that Congress provide the resources that are necessary to accomplish this goal to include medical, rehabilitative and employment assistance

to homeless Veterans and their families.

The American Legion also strongly supports the administration's goal of eliminating the backlog of VA claims by 2015 and requests that Congress support this goal.

When Congressman Stump from Arizona was Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs Committee, disabled Veterans tax/widows tax was eliminated for Veterans with more than 50% disability. The American Legion would now like to eliminate this tax completely for disabled Veterans and their widows. It simply is not fair for a Veteran to have to pay a tax on his disability that other federal employees are exempt from.

The American Legion remains committed to protecting the American flag and supports legislation that would safeguard the nation's flag from physical desecration. This requires a Constitutional Amendment that is supported by all 50 states, however, it has failed to pass in the Senate, even though it has passed the house several times.

Prior to the Commander's testimony, The Arizona Legislative Committee consisting of George Cushing from Surprise; Bobby Reyes from Flagstaff; Cesar Parada from Nogales; and Neal Sundeen from Scottsdale, discussed all of these legislative priorities with Senator John McCain, Senator Jeff Flake, Representative Trent Franks and Representative Ann Kirkpatrick. We also visited with the office of Representative Gosar and spoke to his aide with regards to these point papers. All of the Representatives and our two Senators were supportive of The American Legion and its goals to maintain a strong national defense and support Veterans.

Neal S. Sundeen
National Legislative Committee
Member, The American Legion,
Department of AZ

THE ARIZONA LEGIONNAIRE

Published bimonthly 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.

Subscription Information

Mailed subscriptions are \$5.00 per year for members. \$10 per year for nonmembers.

Free online at www.AZLegion.org and e-mail subscriptions are free. Call or e-mail The Arizona Legion Office to sign up or for more information.

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Commander continued from page 1

invited to share their story. Bill can be reached at 480 261-725 or wparker@aol.com.

It has been a whirlwind two months beginning with National Commander Dan Dellinger's visit with us, even with the two-day interruption where he had to fly back to Washington, D.C. to speak at the WWII Memorial about the government shutdown. We still managed to visit 14 Posts and I wish we could've visited everyone! Thanks to all of you for your great hospitality!

I attended several funerals and memorial services including Tom Sloan, Past Post 53 Commander; Joneen Chatfield (wife of Wayne Chatfield); and most recently, Ken Kavis who passed on November 10th. Please keep their families in your prayers.

In October, we went back to Indianapolis for Commander and Adjutant Training and hear Commander Dan give a press conference on the government shutdown from the steps of the War Memorial. The Commander's project this year is the National Emergency Fund (NEF). He hopes to raise one million dollars to replenish the fund after Hurricane Sandy, the Yarnell Fires and other disasters. Over \$750,000 was paid out to Veterans in need.

I attended the District 4, District 6 and District 8 picnics and had fun. I also attended the Early Bird Dinner at Post 32 in Safford and the District 5 meeting. Thanks to all of you for your hospitality!

I attended the reception and luncheon for the Arizona Veterans' Hall of Fame where PDC Joe Aguilar was inducted.

The Missing in America Project inurned the remains of 36 more Veterans whose ashes were left behind at local mortuaries and they were given the honorable military funeral they deserved. It was a very moving ceremony.

I joined Post 58-Fountain Hills and Post 105-Phoenix Legion Riders as they served a great

luncheon at the Phoenix VA Home. Angel and I recently met with their recreation director about starting a Legion Post in the VA Home. If residents can't afford the dues, we will have an opportunity to "Adopt a Vet".

My Post (58) collected a 16 foot trailer load of furniture and bedding that we delivered to the United Way Warehouse in Prescott for the victims of the Yarnell Fire.

I spoke at a Veterans' Seminar in Coolidge on the need for a Vet Center in Pinal County and attended Chandler's first Yellow Ribbon Event to welcome home four recently returned Veterans. I'd love to see that done in all of our communities!

On November 3rd, I attended a Veterans Mass at All Saints Parish in Mesa. Carol Stensby, our Department Chaplain, joined us all the way from Vail. Thanks to Post 41 Past Commander Al for being my Honor Guard; our Department of Arizona Flag stood proud among the service flags.

In February, Districts 11 and 12 will have staff from National Headquarters in town for our Membership Drive. We can utilize any and all volunteers to call potential members in their areas. Earn a National Commander's Pin for five new members or a challenge coin for fifteen! We also need Service Officers to be available to field questions from prospective members. Save the dates, February 6, 7, and 8th and watch the All Post Mailing for more information.

We will miss Anne Cline who is leaving our staff at the end of November. As you read this, we may have a new face at Department Headquarters. John Aldecoa will be having a Retirement Party at Post 41 on December 14th. Hope to see many of you there!

For God & Country,
Judi Beischel, Department Commander

Arizona American Legion Riders**Get To Know Your Post Ride**

I'd like to thank the Department of Veterans' organizations, and donated Arizona for asking the American Legion Riders to have a column in the Legionnaire in order to let our fellow Legionnaires know what the ALR is doing in Arizona.

One of the most exciting programs we do on a statewide basis is the "Get to Know Your Post Ride", which is being run by ALR 117 in Phoenix. For every five Posts you visit which are participating Posts, you get a chance to win cash prizes (\$1,000, \$400, \$300, \$200 and \$100). Profits from this program this year will go to Justa Center, Veterans First Ltd., and MANA House. Run sheets (and entry forms) can be purchased from your local ALR Chapter for \$15.00. If they don't have any available, you can contact myself, Vicky at vicky.mad4vets@gmail.com or W.L. at egbdfib@gmail.com. Run sheets should be available after the Department Conference, and the actual run goes from January 1, 2014 until September 30, 2014. This is a great way to get to know other Posts and to raise money for worthwhile causes.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE AN ALR MEMBER TO PARTICIPATE – ALL LEGION FAMILY MEMBERS ARE WELCOME TO PARTICIPATE.

As of our Department Convention in June, there were 52 ALR Chapters in Arizona with a total membership of over 2,063. In the preceding year, ALR Chapters in Arizona donated 178,742 hours to charitable, community and



\$232,760 to charitable causes. A total of 110,984 hours of time was donated to their sponsoring Post, and \$79,911 was donated to their sponsoring Posts. The American Legion Riders continues to be one of the fastest growing and most exciting new programs of The American Legion. Any Post interested in forming an ALR Chapter can contact me at: prescottbikers@hotmail.com for more information.

Finally, 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

John Moffitt
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Assistant State Captain,
PGR (Patriot Guard Riders)
Judge Advocate, District 8,
American Legion, Department of
Arizona,
prescottbikers@hotmail.com

**The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary
and Sons of The American Legion**

**Annual Open House
JANUARY 4, 2014
12:00 noon - 5:00 PM**

**We would like to see ALL of you for relaxing company, excellent food
and some "after holidays" fun.**

Bring your favorite dish and join us at

**Department Headquarters
4701 N. 19th Avenue, Phoenix**

See you then!!



Americanism and Scouting Report

Eagle Scout of the Year Receives Scholarship

During The American Legion's Fall Meetings held in Indianapolis, the Samsung American Legion National Selection Committee announced the 2013 Samsung American Legion Scholarship recipients. One of the nine students receiving a \$20,000 scholarship was Aidan Schneider. He attended Boys State in Flagstaff this past summer where he was awarded the \$1,000 scholarship on the Department level. Aidan attends Northland Preparatory High School in Flagstaff and also was named The American Legion Department of Arizona Eagle Scout of the Year in March. He is to be congratulated for receiving this esteemed honor, well done Aidan.

The Samsung Scholarships are restricted to high school juniors who complete either a Boys State or Girls State program and are a direct descendant - i.e. child, grandchild, great grandchild, etc. - or a legally adopted child of a wartime veteran who served on active duty during at least one of the periods of war officially designated as eligibility dates for American Legion membership.

Again, this is an example of using the programs of the Americanism Pillar. Anyone of the programs can be combined Scouting, Junior Shooting Sports; Oratorical and Boys State. As stated previously, we need to become more involved in the Americanism Program. These are the

programs that strengthen our youth. They are the future of this country.

I am working on a program that will help disabled Veterans. The program - U.S. Veterans Service Corps - would be run through the Order of the Arrow Boy Scouts of America. It will be administered on a chapter level. There are 22 chapters in the Grand Canyon Council and I have assigned each chapter to a particular American Legion Post. There are four BSA Councils in Arizona and I've started with the Grand Canyon Council.

The program will facilitate service projects for members of the Order of the Arrow. They will help disabled Veterans do various jobs around their property. This will include mowing lawns, minor outside repairs and general clean-up projects. The program can also be used as an Eagle Scout Project if done on a larger scale.

I would like to thank my Legion Family for their support in my wife's passing. We were married for 47 years. I would like to thank all who attended her services at National; it meant a great deal to me.

As always, let us not forget our brothers and sisters in harms way.

Wayne Chatfield

Vice Chairman, Americanism Committee, Chairman,
Scouting Committee
whiskeycharlie2503@yahoo.com

Membership Report

Membership LEAD Training Well Attended

I hope that everyone had a delightful Veterans Day as it is the day of celebration to give respect and tribute to our fellow comrades.

With the holidays coming, I also hope that you enjoyed your Thanksgiving with friends and family. I want to wish everyone a joyful Christmas and a prosperous New Year in 2014.

The Fall Conference held in Tucson and the Membership portion of the LEAD Training was well attended with a full room. National Staff did presentations on membership, online renewals, membership recruitment



and retention. They also did a presentation on the National DMS (Direct Mail Solicitation) Program. A history of DMS was given to clarify many of the questions regarding its procedures. I know it helped me understand how the program works. Thanks to National Staff for their assistance and to all who attended. For anyone still having questions regarding membership, feel free to contact me at 602-363-8546 or email me at 70wave@gmail.com

Now for the good news, the National objective of 65% was set for November 15th. As of November 7th, we were at 66.01%, ahead of objective. GREAT JOB! Also, congratulations to each of the Areas for reaching 65%. Let's keep up the good work.

Continued on next page...

Alternate N.E.C. Report

Who We Are As Legionnaires

Legionnaires, I've been to National Convention and the Fall Meetings of the National Executive Committee since my last article. Let me state who we are as Legionnaires.

Still Serving; it's who we are! The American Legion is the voice of 2.3 million American Veterans and service members. As a resolution based organization, The American Legion's positions represent the views of its members and are based on our Four Pillars; Veteran's Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism and Children & Youth. We need to keep the Four Pillars in front of us. The following are the Legislative Priorities:

Protect Veterans: Prevent the Department of Defense from the harmful cuts imposed through sequestration. The American Legion recognizes and supports the need for a fiscally responsible government. However, do not degrade the Nation's ability to defend itself. H.R. 55

Oppose further increases in Tricare fees, including prescription drugs fees. The American Legion stands strong against those who would dilute the promises made in the contract with those who serve in our Nation's defense.

Properly fund the V.A. to ensure quality health care and benefits for Veterans. The American Legion is deeply concerned about access to quality health care for Veterans. In an era of budget restraint V.A. cannot fall victim to underfunding. H.R. 813/S. 932.

Provide quality education through the Post 9/11 GI Bill.

As an organization that drafted the original G.I. Bill, The American Legion wants to protect our Veterans education rights. H.R. 357/S. 257.

Focus on programs that assist Veterans with jobs. The VETS Program should be kept in its rightful place within the Department of Labor. It should be solely focused on getting Veterans jobs.

Support Veterans – entrepreneurs. Businesses owned by Veterans have earned the right to compete fairly through federal procurement.

End Veteran homelessness. The American Legion strongly supports the V.A.'s goal of eliminating Veterans homelessness by 2015.

Repeal taxes that penalize disabled Veterans and widows. V.A. disability compensation should not be off-set from military retirement pay.

Protect the American Flag. The American Legion remains committed to protecting Old Glory. We want the flag of our country to be protected.

The reason I'm listing all of The American Legion Legislative Priorities is that it's easy to get distracted by all of the bickering that our Congress is doing. We all know how dysfunctional our leaders can be, so please keep The American Legion's goals a priority for you. Communicate with our elected leaders about The American Legion's goals.

For God and Country,
Dick Perry, Alt. N.E.C.
www.azlegion.org/about-us/committee-reports/nec-report/

Membership article..... continued

I know that National has sent out an extra renewal notice, so I am sure that you will be seeing membership renewals coming in. Make sure that you turn your memberships into Shelia in a timely manner so that we get credit for all of those renewals and new members. January 1st is not that far away, so let's put an extra effort in reminding members to renew before December 31st. For those who have not renewed yet, please help our American Legion out and get your renewal in. For our Post 100 members out there, visit your local Post or any Post of your choice and transfer into the one you like.

I want to thank Safford Post 32 for the fine reception I received at their Membership Dinner and at the District 5 meeting. I also attended District 4's picnic and look forward to visiting District 1, 3, and 6 meetings during the next couple of months. If you would like me to visit your Post or you have any questions, please contact me. I am here to assist you.

Remember that all it takes is to JUST ASK!

Beth Nehring,
Membership Director



Post Everlasting

1
Forest E Brown
Howard L Ham
Jack Kehm
Carl H Nyman
Gerald B Rademacher
Wayne Weber
2
Charles J. Craycraft
Peter A Gillespie
Joseph P Joyce
3
Barry P Meader
Bartholomew B Woods
4
John Alvarez
Frank Walls
6
Paul C Landy
John L Lawson
Rosemary Miller
Edward Perimutter
9
Howard McCullough
10
Bart Lozano
11
Richard E Depweg
12
Glen W Ackley
Cecil M Browner
George C Charles
John Pinzon
Robert R Roether
14
James S Piper
15
Michael M Moyers
Thomas L O'Connell
Robert L Sanchez
16
Marion B Stults
17
Frank M Osterman
19
Maria F Currie
Philip Gerszewski
Joshua M Griffin
Albert D Ramirez
Reducindo P Renteria
Garland V Smith
Frank E Wilcox
Richard F Wilder
20
Rudolph Ramirez
23
Robert B Bloss
24
William J Cole
Ralph Holder
25
Roland K Demond

Wayne Haddock
Ron Hodges
Albert G Odell
Richard W Rossall
26
Gene Hardgrove
Don P Haws
Warren G Hoover
27
Robert B Brooks
Robert F Cooney
Leonard DiGrado
Lester C Fetty
Russell H Hand
Steven J Knievel
Robert Knutson
Aloysius M Malee
Dick Rowland
Clarence R Sutton
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Gene A Arthurs
James Branch
Robert Chambers
James L Dunson
Gilbert L Taylor
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George Babbitt
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Earl G Burke
Douglas C Long
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Kenneth Kavis
Barry A Lustig
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Frank J Anderson
Jerome E Arnoldi
Robert L Burns
Dwight W Graves
Jack D Holsinger
William C Jones
James A Marr
Charles F Noe
Albert W Scott
Ernest R Tate
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John A Moore
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Wayne A Glass
Lewis Moon
William E Peters
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Luciano Calderon
Gilbert R Jacques
Gabriel G Juarez
Manuel P Moreno
Robert R Ramirez
Nicolas S Urena
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Leonard J Houser
Roger C Murphy
Theodore C Oman
45
Orval E Cragle
Richard E Roubos
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William Deitz
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Irvin W Becraft
Loren G Pederson
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R S Dixon
Warren L Eyer

Thomas A Hawkins
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Bernard T Freitag
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Wayne E Coleman
John F Dugan
Herman Laufer
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Theodore D Lopez
Roque R Ruiz
Malcolm Taylor
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Matthew L Dennison
Rodney R Ripke
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Charles E Bombardier
Richard C Doyle
George W Fowl
Dennis D Morris
W C Owens
Max O Roberts
Richard H Schiefelbein
Howard D Shriver
Delbert O Thomas
Leonard A Williams
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Joseph W Stewart
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William K Byrd
Ira W Hopper
Willie Johnson
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Joseph P Clark
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Ed Eshe
Norman D Neipris
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Filomeno B Roybal
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Daniel A Packard
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Arthur S Chavez
Willie D Rayford
Theodore E Silva
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Clint C Bangs
Ray Callaway
John C Sheets
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Frank P Fehn
Richard L Giffin
Gene W Schiller
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Charles E Decker
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Frank DeMarinis
Gustave C Johnson
Edward D Komes
Sy Robins
Bob G Yoder
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Frank A Smith
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Johnnie L O'Daniel
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Mark S Palmer

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Gary E Doran
Richard Hesseldahl
Landis B Hoerig
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Roland Bell
Charles P Bristol
Joseph Liebling
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Kenneth K Murray
Donald R Olney
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Albert Bachelier
Richard L Benson
James Bond
Ivan Bull
Richard L Correa
Ronald Crum
Armando C Elias
Robert Estes
Michael J Fragnito
William Grasmoen
Charles J Greco
Ernest Green
George M Greene
Miles Hughes
Eldon S Johnson
Ellis C Kent
E Milt King
Arnold L Maldonado
Pete L Martinez
Fabian L Miranda
Mark N Munger
Melvin A Ney
John Ply
Roland Spencer

Charles Treat
Jack Young
Paul Young
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Joseph Gullotta
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Paul D Costello
William H Thwaites
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Larry Bird
William N Hanahan
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Wayne M Finch
James H Lannan
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Virgil K Leach
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Solomon T Casaus
Calder W Chapman
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George York
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Charles H Walker
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Wayne E Wiant
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R J King
Robert L Rowe
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Jerry W Cook

Pearl Harbor Day Events

Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day and World War II Memorial "Salute the Fallen" Dedication Ceremony

Wesley Bolin Memorial Plaza, Phoenix

Saturday, December 7, 2013 at 9:15 A.M.

RADM Scott Sanders (ret.) featured speaker.

Guns from USS Arizona and USS Missouri will also be dedicated as part of the new Memorial. Sea Cadets from Arizona and Missouri will be in attendance.

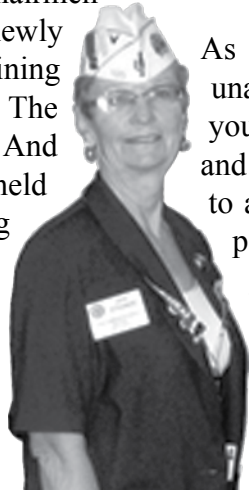
Secretary of State Ken Bennett's "Run to the Guns" December 7, 2013

Salute the Fallen of WWII - Ride with us and join us for the dedication of the WWII Memorial at the State Capitol. For more information or to sign up, contact Jim "Boomer" Bourassa at RunToTheGuns@cox.net.

Department Directory A Valuable Resource

The annual Fall Conference traditionally provides the first opportunity for Department appointees and chairmen to “share” some knowledge with the “old” or newly appointed post officers. However, this year, training was OBE – that is, Overcome By Events. The event was the National Leadership, Education, And Development (LEAD) training classes that were held during the conference. The eight hour training was good; but regrettably the four seminars consumed time that would have been otherwise used for local training. Never fear, there are other ways to get your questions answered!

The best way to get the information is by contacting the Department subject matter representative; do that by locating him or her in the Department and Post Directory. Never heard of the



directory??? Well then, talk with either your Commander or Adjutant; they both received a copy earlier this year and it contains the names and contact information for each of the Department Chairman (and much more). Most of the chairmen have been around for some time and are willing and able to answer any questions you may ask.

As far as Post Historians, I’m truly sorry that I was unable to meet with you and offer guidance in creating your Post History/Yearbook. I have developed a “down and dirty handout” that offers helpful tips and pit-falls to avoid. If you’re interested in obtaining the handout, please either email me at: sicily84@cablone.net or give me call at 928-649-3374; I will be glad to send it to you. Remember, Department Convention is just around the corner and hopefully we’ll meet there!

Until next edition...

Jeri Strande
Department Historian 2013-2014

Chaplain's Corner

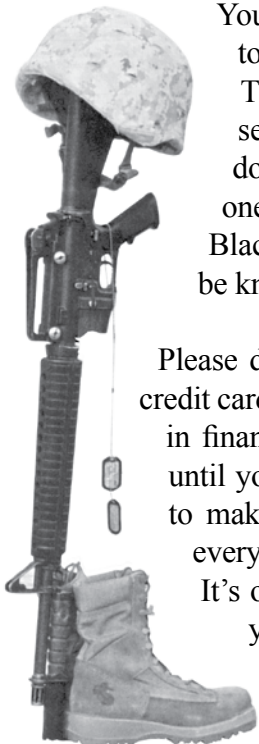
Life In the Fast Lane

By the time you read this you should have had your fill of turkey, pumpkin pie and football. Or not! But most likely, your skates will be laced up and you’ll be going full speed ahead into the upcoming holiday season.

You can hardly be blamed for rushing out to join the hordes of shoppers before Thanksgiving is even over. Basic decency seems to take a back seat as people will do almost anything to take advantage of one another in order to reach their quest for Black Friday fulfillment. Perhaps it should be known as Black and Blue Friday!

Please don’t think a thing about running your credit card balance to the max which will put you in financial jeopardy for the next ten months until you do it all over again. Do your utmost to make sure that everyone around you gets every little thing they could want this year.

It’s okay to run yourself into the ground as you cook and bake while sending the kids to their rooms or outside to play because “YOU’RE BUSY”!



Okay, time to take tongue-out-of-cheek and remind you that this is NOT what this holiest of all seasons is about. This season is about love and sharing and glorifying God. It’s the season to spend special moments with friends and family. Most families have traditions surrounding the season and while traditions are a wonderful thing, the world will not come to an end if something goes wrong or doesn’t turn out exactly as planned. Instead of running around like that proverbial headless chicken, this is a time to be still and fully appreciate the good things in life; your family, your friends and most important your God.

So, hop out of that fast lane, pull over and slow down. The scenery can truly be enjoyed this way.

I wish you all a blessed holiday and a Happy New Year.

Please remember in your prayers the family of PDC Maria Currie and Gary Doran, husband of Sharon Doran, National Auxiliary Historian.

For God and Country,

Carol Stensby,
Department Chaplain

American Legion • Department of Arizona

Membership Report

November 15, 2013

| | | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|--------|--------|-------|
| A | Gene Chewning | 9,456 | 6,862 | 72.57 |
| B | Domingo Bonilla | 17,826 | 11,949 | 67.03 |
| C | Scott Miller | 7,807 | 5,237 | 67.08 |
| HQ | Judi Beischel | 5,911 | 3,884 | 65.71 |
| Grand Totals | | 41,000 | 27,932 | 68.13 |

High: Area A – 72.57% • District 5 – 75.13% • Post 140 – 191.67%

District 1 - Commander: Terry Greene

| Post | Name | City | Goal | 2014 | % Goal |
|-----------------|--------------------|----------|-------|------|--------|
| 19 | H.H. Donkersley | Yuma | 905 | 642 | 70.94 |
| 46 | Chic Chisom | Bouse | 106 | 58 | 54.72 |
| 47 | Somerton | Somerton | 15 | 0 | 0.00 |
| 56 | Floyd G. Jefferson | Yuma | 157 | 110 | 70.06 |
| 67 | Frank Mick | Roll | 17 | 7 | 41.18 |
| 70 | Freman Sharp | Parker | 35 | 7 | 20.00 |
| District Totals | | | 1,235 | 824 | 66.72 |

District 2 - Commander: George Molina

| Post | Name | City | Goal | 2014 | % Goal |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------|-------|-------|--------|
| 7 | Morgan McDermott | Tucson | 339 | 250 | 73.75 |
| 10 | Organ Pipe Cactus | Ajo | 66 | 45 | 68.18 |
| 23 | Ridge-Igo | Nogales | 63 | 46 | 73.02 |
| 36 | John P. Burns | Tucson | 1,286 | 983 | 76.44 |
| 59 | Cocio-Estrada | Tucson | 339 | 213 | 62.83 |
| 66 | Green Valley | Sahuarita | 1,383 | 1,053 | 76.14 |
| 68 | Sahuaro | Tucson | 341 | 233 | 68.33 |
| 73 | Casas Adobes | Tucson | 146 | 106 | 72.60 |
| 102 | Tucson Mountians | Tucson | 102 | 77 | 75.49 |
| 109 | McCulloch-Wagner | Vail | 807 | 546 | 67.66 |
| 111 | Patagonia | Patagonia | 16 | 15 | 93.75 |
| 113 | Burton E. Buck | Sonoita | 21 | 2 | 9.52 |
| 125 | Yoem | Tucson | 48 | 28 | 58.33 |
| 131 | Madera | Green Valley | 729 | 595 | 81.62 |
| 132 | Oro Valley | Oro Valley | 218 | 208 | 95.41 |
| District Totals | | | 5,904 | 4,400 | 74.53 |

District 3 - Commander: Mike Stout

| Post | Name | City | Goal | 2014 | % Goal |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|-------|-------|--------|
| 11 | Fred A. Hilburn | Douglas | 298 | 178 | 59.73 |
| 16 | L. A. Engle Jr. | Bisbee | 84 | 59 | 70.24 |
| 20 | Tenely - Lopez | Willcox | 43 | 33 | 76.74 |
| 24 | Roy Fourr | Tombstone | 643 | 467 | 72.63 |
| 45 | Vicente Manzo | Benson | 98 | 77 | 78.57 |
| 52 | Bill Carmichael | Sierra Vista | 739 | 458 | 61.98 |
| District Totals | | | 1,905 | 1,272 | 66.77 |

District 4 - Commander: Roy White

| Post | Name | City | Goal | 2014 | % Goal |
|-----------------|---------------------|-------------------|------|------|--------|
| 8 | Fred A. Humphreys | Casa Grande | 236 | 191 | 80.93 |
| 9 | McClellan-Parsons | Florence | 168 | 117 | 69.64 |
| 17 | William P. Kern | Superior | 22 | 18 | 81.82 |
| 18 | P.A.L. | Kearny | 38 | 27 | 71.05 |
| 48 | Francis M. Bunch | San Manuel | 42 | 19 | 45.24 |
| 51 | Haskel Osife Antone | Blackwater | 37 | 10 | 27.03 |
| 54 | William David Hood | Coolidge | 126 | 82 | 65.08 |
| 97 | San Tan | San Tan Foothills | 55 | 35 | 63.64 |
| 129 | Duane Ellsworth | Queen Creek | 54 | 40 | 74.07 |
| 133 | Bernie G Crouse | Maricopa | 77 | 56 | 72.73 |
| District Totals | | | 855 | 595 | 69.59 |

District 5 - Commander: George Sticklin

| Post | Name | City | Goal | 2014 | % Goal |
|-----------------|------------------|---------|------|------|--------|
| 4 | Henry Berry | Globe | 195 | 153 | 78.46 |
| 28 | Lloyd C. Hill | Clifton | 136 | 85 | 62.50 |
| 32 | Swift-Murphy | Safford | 333 | 257 | 77.18 |
| 49 | McCulloch-McNair | Duncan | 46 | 30 | 65.22 |
| 95 | Lopez-Hernandez | Solomon | 82 | 70 | 85.37 |
| District Totals | | | 792 | 595 | 75.13 |

District 6 - Commander: Don Coffman

| Post | Name | City | Goal | 2014 | % Goal |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|-------|------|--------|
| 15 | Frank Perkins | Winslow | 80 | 68 | 85.00 |
| 30 | John H. Slaughter | Springerville | 154 | 128 | 83.12 |
| 31 | Greer-Dewitt | Saint Johns | 23 | 18 | 78.26 |
| 37 | Navajo | Holbrook | 55 | 24 | 43.64 |
| 60 | Whiteriver | Whiteriver | 43 | 33 | 76.74 |
| 69 | Tonto Rim | Payson | 439 | 260 | 59.23 |
| 76 | WilliamHouse | Show Low | 171 | 125 | 73.10 |
| 80 | Lori Piestewa | Kykotsmovi | 38 | 2 | 5.26 |
| 82 | Warren L. Dempsey | Ganado | 15 | 1 | 6.67 |
| 86 | John D. Wibby | Overgaard | 433 | 277 | 63.97 |
| 126 | Snowflake - Taylor | Snowflake | 18 | 17 | 94.44 |
| 130 | Joseph McCarthy | Concho | 35 | 19 | 54.29 |
| District Totals | | | 1,504 | 972 | 64.63 |

District 7 - Commander: James Roscoe

| Post | Name | City | Goal | 2014 | % Goal |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|-------|-------|--------|
| 3 | Mark A. Moore | Flagstaff | 537 | 371 | 69.09 |
| 13 | Cordova | Williams | 101 | 70 | 69.31 |
| 14 | Swaskegame | Kingman | 282 | 218 | 77.30 |
| 22 | Golden Valley | Golden Valley | 208 | 115 | 55.29 |
| 33 | Jerry & Daw | Tonalea | 11 | 9 | 81.82 |
| 42 | John Ivens | Grand Canyon | 190 | 93 | 48.95 |
| 57 | Robert Fulton | Ash Fork | 85 | 70 | 82.35 |
| 81 | Robert A. Eckert | L. Havasu City | 1,319 | 865 | 65.58 |
| 87 | Mohave Valley | Bullhead City | 438 | 304 | 69.41 |
| 88 | Dolan Springs | Dolan Springs | 116 | 73 | 62.93 |
| 103 | Meadview | Meadview | 47 | 34 | 72.34 |
| 112 | Curtis Huskon | Leupp | 24 | 16 | 66.67 |
| 123 | Forrest C. Longwell | Seligman | 20 | 21 | 105.00 |
| 127 | Mohave Valley | Mohave Valley | 38 | 24 | 63.16 |
| 136 | Yucca | Yucca | 26 | 17 | 65.38 |
| District Totals | | | 3,442 | 2,300 | 66.82 |

District 8 - Commander: Sherie Mercier

| Post | Name | City | Goal | 2014 | % Goal |
|-----------------|-------------------|---------------|-------|-------|--------|
| 6 | Ernest A. Love | Prescott | 755 | 529 | 70.07 |
| 25 | Verde Valley | Cottonwood | 611 | 416 | 68.09 |
| 40 | Bobby Bisjak | Chino Valley | 367 | 213 | 58.04 |
| 78 | Humboldt | Humboldt | 269 | 194 | 72.12 |
| 79 | Taylor-Keehner | Yarnell | 269 | 186 | 69.14 |
| 90 | Black Canyon City | Black Cyn Cty | 44 | 25 | 56.82 |
| 93 | David C. Johnson | Camp Verde | 297 | 181 | 60.94 |
| 104 | Dennis S. Pike | Bagdad | 22 | 20 | 90.91 |
| 108 | Gary Streeter | Prescott Vly | 77 | 65 | 84.42 |
| 122 | Cordes Lakes Mem. | Cordes Lakes | 45 | 31 | 68.89 |
| 135 | Cornville | Cornville | 60 | 58 | 96.67 |
| 139 | George D. Reiff | Crown King | 21 | 1 | 4.76 |
| 140 | Prescott Valley | Prescott Vly | 24 | 46 | 191.67 |
| District Totals | | | 2,861 | 1,965 | 68.68 |

District 11 - Commander: Frank Myers

| Post | Name | City | Goal | 2014 | % Goal |
|-----------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------|-------|--------|
| 1 | Luke-Greenway | Phoenix | 786 | 535 | 68.07 |
| 5 | Southern Meadows | Phoenix | 99 | 30 | 30.30 |
| 12 | Kellis-Draper | Wickenburg | 373 | 234 | 62.73 |
| 29 | Earl E. Mitchell | Glendale | 1,304 | 931 | 71.40 |
| 43 | Hazel Morton | Phoenix | 10 | 10 | 100.00 |
| 50 | Thomas Tang | Phoenix | 51 | 39 | 76.47 |
| 53 | Hazelton-Butler | Buckeye | 102 | 58 | 56.86 |
| 61 | Crandall-Palmer | Avondale | 572 | 340 | 59.44 |
| 62 | John J. Morris | Peoria | 1,978 | 1,377 | 69.62 |
| 72 | Dwight Eisenhower | Phoenix | 16 | 10 | 62.50 |
| 94 | Sun City West | Sun City West | 323 | 277 | 85.76 |
| 96 | Surprise | Surprise | 201 | 141 | 70.15 |
| 101 | John H. Harries | Sun City | 116 | 76 | 65.52 |
| 105 | Christopher J. Lapka | Phoenix | 553 | 338 | 61.12 |
| 128 | Daisy Mountain | Anthem | 96 | 51 | 53.13 |
| 134 | Laveen | Laveen | 55 | 48 | 87.27 |
| 137 | Isaiah Mays-Bill Mauldin | Tonopah | 51 | 28 | 54.90 |
| District Totals | | | 6,686 | 4,523 | 67.65 |

District 12 - Commander: Michael Thelen

| Post | Name | City | Goal | 2014 | % Goal |
|-----------------|---------------------|----------------|-------|-------|--------|
| 2 | William Bloys | Tempe | 403 | 264 | 65.51 |
| 26 | Mesa | Mesa | 806 | 583 | 72.33 |
| 27 | Apache | Apache Jct | 2,526 | 1,830 | 72.45 |
| 34 | Frank W. Wright | Cave Creek | 356 | 206 | 57.87 |
| 35 | Mathew B. Juan | Chandler | 634 | 400 | 63.09 |
| 39 | Merrill-Mitchell | Gilbert | 553 | 356 | 64.38 |
| 41 | Tony F. Soza | Phoenix | 794 | 554 | 69.77 |
| 44 | Sipe-Peterson | Scottsdale | 971 | 672 | 69.21 |
| 55 | James O. Shroeder | Sun Lakes | 217 | 153 | 70.51 |
| 58 | Fountain Hills | Fountain Hills | 471 | 326 | 69.21 |
| 63 | Lena Vaughn Whitney | Mesa | 34 | 27 | 79.41 |
| 64 | Ahwatukee | Ahwatukee | 140 | 101 | 72.14 |
| 65 | Travis L. Williams | Phoenix | 324 | 130 | 40.12 |
| 75 | Sunnyslope | Phoenix | 237 | 122 | 51.48 |
| 83 | East Mesa | Mesa | 109 | 77 | 70.64 |
| 84 | Ira H. Hayes | Sacaton | 50 | 32 | 64.00 |
| 91 | Wayne V. McMartin | Chandler | 254 | 141 | 55.51 |
| 107 | Irving B. Selmer | Phoenix | 463 | 304 | 65.66 |
| 114 | Bushmasters | Scottsdale | 63 | 5 | 7.94 |
| 115 | North Scottsdale | Scottsdale | 62 | 41 | 66.13 |
| 117 | Pat Tillman | Phoenix | 224 | 153 | 68.30 |
| 124 | Guadalupe Veterans | Guadalupe | 30 | 11 | 36.67 |
| 138 | James Witkowski | Tempe | 184 | 114 | 61.96 |
| District Totals | | | 9,905 | 6,602 | 66.65 |

Holiday Greetings

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

Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year!
Wishing everyone a
great new year.
Karl & Evelyn Wilson,
Post #27

Best wishes &
Happy Holidays.
American Legion
Apache Post #27

Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year
to our
American Legion Family.
PDC Bruce & Sandy Conklin

May the blessing of the season
be known to
all of you. May God sustain
our military and
their families.
Happy New Year!
PDC Al & Donna Tercero

Wishing all of you a
Merry Christmas
and a Healthy and
Happy New Year.
NEC Paul &
PDP Helen Griffin

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

Here's wishing all our
members and their
families a most wonderful
Merry Christmas,
Happy Holiday and a great
New Year!
PDC Kenneth Dowse

Merry Christmas to all of our
American Legion Family and
Happy 2014!
Ernie & Rebecca Faris

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

Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year.
Scott Miller, Area C Vice
Commander

To our Legion Family, may the
joys of the Season be many
and 2014 be prosperous.
May God bless our troops!
20&4 Honor Society of
Women Veterans
AZ Echelon 35

Wishing everyone a very
Merry Christmas
And a Happy New Year
Andres "Andy" Jaime, Jr.

We wish our American Legion
Family a Joyous and love filled
holiday season.
In Memory of Bunny Hamilton
from her Family

May this special season bring
you the music
of laughter and the warmth of
friendship.
Alt. NEC Dick & Elaine Perry

Have a safe and Happy
Holiday Season!
Gary Hamelstrom

Happy Holidays!
Mike & Marty Stout

Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year.
Bah Humbug!
Gayle Reed

Have a safe and blessed
Christmas Season.
Nicki Cruz, Unit #62 President

Wishing our Legion Family
a blessed Christmas and a
prosperous New Year.
God Bless our Troops!
Judi Beischel,
Department Commander
Jim Beischel, S.A.L.
Detachment Chaplain

Wishing all a very
Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year!
John J. Morris Post #62 Family
Marge Ahrens, Commander
Nicki Cruz, Unit President
Keith Brown, S.A.L.
Commander
Lin Sines, ALR President

We wish all of you a very
Merry Christmas
and a Happy & Healthy
New Year.

God bless our Troops, their
families and All of You!
Kenny & Sheila

During the holiday season,
our thoughts turn gratefully
to those who have made our
success possible. It is in this
spirit we say Thank You, best
wishes for the holidays
and a Happy New Year.
The Munchbachs, Post #64

Merry Christmas from your
Department Historian
Jeri Strande

Happy Holidays from the
Cornville Post!
Jim Strande and Post #135

Feliz Navidad "y" Prospero
Año Nuevo.
John & Sylvia Aldecoa

Best wishes to our friends in
the American Legion Family.
A blessed New Year to you all.
Ernie & Karen Smith,
Auxiliary Dept. President

HAPPY! HAPPY! HAPPY!
Carl & Tina Armbruster

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

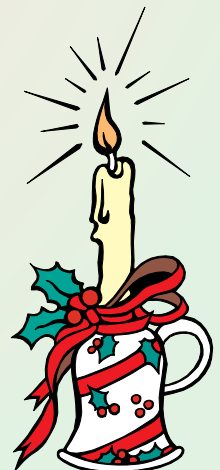
Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year.
Manny Rodriguez

Merry Christmas &
Happy New Year
Sahuaro Post #68

Have a Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year.
Don Coffman, District 6
Commander and Jan

As another year with our
American Legion
Family surrounding us reaches
this holiday time, our loving
Juarez branch prays that all of
you and yours find blessings
and warmth in memories and
newfound faith for a new
prosperous year. We hope to
share them with you.
God Bless and keep you all.
Angel & Tommie Juarez

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



Veterans Creative Arts Festival Show Us What You Have!



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The American Legion Auxiliary sponsors the Veterans Creative Arts Festival each year. This year, the program is getting special emphasis. The Department of Arizona American Legion Auxiliary President, Karen Smith of Douglas, has selected the Creative Arts Program as her special project this year. Her project co-chairmen, Sencie Patchin of Tombstone and Sherrie Tucker of Sierra Vista, say their two main goals are to raise funds for the program and to educate their own members as well as Veterans in their community about the program.



The key purpose of the National Veterans Creative Arts Competition and Festival is to recognize Veterans for their creative accomplishments and to educate and demonstrate to communities throughout the country the therapeutic benefits of the arts.



There are five divisions in the competition 1) Arts
2) Music 3) Dance
4) Drama 5) Creative Writing with a total of 173 categories below these major headings.

Deadlines for entries are in late December. Each of the three Arizona VA Hospitals set their own deadline dates.

The actual art shows are all scheduled in February. Entry forms are available at your VA Hospitals and at most of the area clinics.

Contact your local American Legion Auxiliary Unit regarding their involvement and for more information about the program.

Assisting Veterans with VA Disability Claims - Appeals Only*

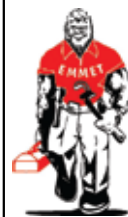
Theodore C. Jarvi, Attorney at Law
Retired JAG - Legion Member
1050 E. Southern Avenue, Suite G3
Tempe, AZ 85282
Tel: (480) 838-6566; Fax: (480) 838-8810
E-Mail: tjarvi@jarvilaw.com

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

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