



For God & Country

# THE ARIZONA LEGIONNAIRE



Volume 2018

Official Publication of The American Legion, Department of Arizona

Issue 2

## Soaring High Takes All of Us Together

We're about to close a Year with all my Comrades in the American Legion Family! We are entering the last few months of my year and I am most proud and very humble as I continue the job as your State Commander. I am doing my best to represent you and our American Legion. I will try to run through a few words on this column and try to be as brief as possible. I would like to extend to you what I feel would be represented by some of the programs for this year that I hope will be accomplished and those programs that I see that need to be continued, including those established under previous leaderships. My roots in the American Legion run deep. I have worked at every level in this organization. I believe that holding this office carries a deep responsibility. I work to be your representative, and I take this office seriously, hoping to be the Legionnaire's Legionnaire. Without the "Blue cap" working as diligently in his or her hometown, within their Post, there is no way I could succeed. I ask each of you to continue to



motivate all the Legionnaires within your reach and to continue our effort for membership. As our National Commander Denise H. Rohan states, "we need to work together as a family." Even if your membership count is up to goal this does not mean that we stop recruiting.

Continue on the recruitment road. Continue the retention road. I ask you as a Commander while I wear this "White" cover and represent you and the Department Vice Commanders that you have elected for your Areas. We continue to assist each and every one of you as Officers to help you with our programs. Conducting programs will build up membership.

We are working hard, traveling and speaking about our beautiful Eagle Trophy, "Soaring High for Membership." All that we ask is that you try to host one event, away from your Post Home. Educate the community about what we do in the American Legion. Tell them about our programs and how a program can benefit their community. Then finally ask the question, would you like to join? So please ask your *Soaring High Continued on page 4*

### From the Chaplain

**We would like to use this opportunity for a special prayerful effort.**

Raise up your prayers for the Centennial Committee and New Chairman Ken King. We are all enjoying the fruit of great labor as we see in his report of activity so far. With appreciation for all Post Commanders, Auxiliary Presidents and all honored Arizona veterans. Ken's report includes our entire

American Legion family- The Sons of the American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and our American Legion Riders.

Your Arizona 100 Year Centennial Committee needs all of your support to ensure that we in Arizona have the greatest centennial parties anywhere.

We have designed the Arizona 100 Centennial Coin for all of our members to collect.

Each coin is being offered for 10 dollars. The coin could be presented to those members of your post that continually go above and beyond in support of the post and our veteran brothers and sisters.

Your post could honor the Mayor of your town or other community leaders who have lent their support to your programs.

*(Chaplain Continued, Page 4)*

**Celebrating Our Legion Family Homecoming  
 Department Commander Domingo Bonilla  
 Department President Yolanda Bonilla  
 SAL Commander Matt Griffis**



**May 19, 2018  
 Mathew B. Juan Post 35  
 2240 W. Chandler Blvd,  
 No-Host Cocktails: 4:00 pm  
 Dinner: 5:00 pm  
 Dress Code: Business Casual**

**Cost: \$15.00  
 Roast Beef  
 Chicken Alfredo  
 Salad/Veggies  
 Smashed Potatoes  
 Dessert**

\*\*\*\*\*

Please send bottom along with your check to:  
 American Legion Post 35  
 Attn: Leigh Dillman  
 2240 W. Chandler Blvd.  
 Chandler, AZ 85225  
 480-820-0000

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 Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ Dinners for the Celebrating Legion Family Dinner. Cut off date for dinner tickets is May 12, 2018

Enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Names for dinner tickets: \_\_\_\_\_

**Local Hotels:**

**Hampton Inn      855-238-1591  
 Quality Inn      855-239-9223**

**Fairfield Inn      855-239-9483  
 Comfort Inn      855-239-9246**



# Michael T. Thelen Memorial American Legion Post 26 Golf Tournament 4 PERSON SCRAMBLE

*18 Holes - Practice Balls - Awards Dinner - Raffles  
Prizes for: Closest to Pin - Long Drive - Hole-in-One*

**Date:** Thursday June 21, 2018  
**Time:** 7:30 am (Shotgun Start)  
**Place:** Cattail Course at Wild Horse Pass  
 5592 W Wild Horse Pass Blvd,  
 Chandler, AZ 85270  
**Cost:** \$90 per person - Golf & Lunch  
 \$15 Spouse/Partner Lunch Only  
**Contact:** Sid Hagel—480-964-8792 or 480-276-0259  
 sidh55@cox.net  
 Carol Groeger—480-207-9476



**American Legion Post 26 Golf Tournament Sign-Up - Marl/Deliver to:  
 Pablo J Cortez American Legion Post 26: 505 W. 2nd Ave., Mesa, AZ 85210**

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Phone</u>	<u>Email</u>		<u>Amount</u>
1.	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Golf & Dinner <input type="checkbox"/> Partner Dinner	<b>\$90.00</b> <b>\$15.00</b>
2.	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Golf & Dinner <input type="checkbox"/> Partner Dinner	<b>\$90.00</b> <b>\$15.00</b>
3.	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Golf & Dinner <input type="checkbox"/> Partner Dinner	<b>\$90.00</b> <b>\$15.00</b>
4.	_____	_____	_____	<input type="checkbox"/> Golf & Dinner <input type="checkbox"/> Partner Dinner	<b>\$90.00</b> <b>\$15.00</b>

**Paying By:**  
 Cash (In Person Only)  
 Check—make payable to: American Legion Post 26

Total \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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Publisher Angel Juarez

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

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Free online at [www.AZLegion.org](http://www.AZLegion.org) and e-mail subscriptions are free. Call or e-mail The Arizona Legion Office to sign up or for more information.

#### DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Commander  
**Domingo Bonilla**  
(602) 418-0605

#### Vice Commanders

- (A) **Ben Headen (520) 678-2804**  
(B) **Ken Queen (480) 358-6923**  
(C) **Ken Johnson (805) 714-9369**

#### NEC

**Richard "Dick" Perry (520) 559-0058**

#### Alternate NEC

**Judi Beischel (480) 229-1581**

#### Dist 1 Commander

**Terry Greene (928) 246-6670**

#### Dist 2 Commander

**George Molina (520) 829-7153**

#### Dist 3 Commander

**Gary Hammelstrom (520) 457-2446**

#### District 4 Commander

**Robert Krumwiede (480) 229-8336**

#### District 5 Commander

**Michael Aranda (928) 651-0473**

#### District 6 Commander

**Timothy Gillman (928) 245-6227**

#### District 7 Commander

**John Timmons (928) 864-9774**

#### District 8 Commander

**Ralph Nowakowski (928) 458-0600**

#### District 11 Commander

**Don Bergeron (602) 520-4509**

#### District 12 Commander

**Ben Carrillo (480) 722-9230**



#### *(Chaplain Continued from page 1)*

We all have those businesses that support our programs. Some give discounts or provide space for our poppy and membership drive programs.

We believe this could be a great way to honor them for their support of veterans.

Please think about using any of these ideas as a photo opportunity for your post centennial scrap book and post history book.

Please ask your post families to decide the number of coins your post needs to get their coin collection started.

*Sherie Mercier, Chaplain, American Legion, Department of Arizona 2017-2018*



*Chaplain Sherie with Elaine Mansoor, of The Salvation Army-presenting Department donations check for \$2450 for their assistance in the Goodwin Fire.*

#### *Soaring High Continued from page 1)*

District Commanders to partner with your Post to host an event, in the community that you love. For the good of the Legion, continue to use our door hanger invitations to boost membership.

Simply call our Adjutant, Angel and furnish him with the particulars of your Post. With the help of everyone in the entire Legion family, all of our organizations can thrive. But do remember, that it takes you to make it happen.

It's up to you to take action. See an example of some fun on the facing page >>>> So let's work on membership for your Post, your Sons of The American Legion Squadron, and your Auxiliary Unit. Remember to think outside the box! I do encourage that!

For God and Country,  
Domingo Bonilla  
Department Commander



#### ADVERTISING NOTICE

Current and Back Issues of The Arizona Legionnaire are available to the public when they visit our Arizona website [www.azlegion.org](http://www.azlegion.org). Our website is also visited by anyone who reaches The American Legion in Arizona when they search from the National website, [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) or social media sources. Any coupon or other time-sensitive offer should be clearly visible in the ad copy. The American Legion is not responsible for errors or omissions contained in the ad copy of the advertisement.

Payment for advertising is due in advance and should accompany copy. Please submit your camera-ready art work with your check made payable to The American Legion Department of Arizona at: 4701 N. 19th Avenue, Suite 200, Phoenix, AZ 85015.

### Post 145 Family Fun in the Community



Photos Courtesy of Dr. Jan Meyer



Katelyn Lanese 13, volunteer because she loves to help others.



Gabriel Rivas serving food from WVA's Links Restaurant.



Boy Scouts, Joey Trigg, Cody Osborn and Zachary Stroh did a lot of toting and hauling.

## Commander Rohan pledges to work with new VA Secretary



The American Legion  
APR 26, 2018

American Legion National Commander Denise H. Rohan issued the following statement regarding the selection and confirmation process for secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs:

"The American Legion is very concerned about the current lack of permanent leadership at the Department of Veterans Affairs. Nearly 100 years ago, The American Legion fought to create the VA, and our two million wartime veteran members view the department as a symbol of the American people's commitment to our nation's veterans. The VA is a physical reminder of our nation's promises to care for those who return from war injured or ill, to care for the families of the fallen, and to help veterans transition successfully to the civilian economy following their service.

"While the VA is the nation's second largest bureaucracy with a budget of \$200 billion and more than 350,000 employees, we believe it is entirely manageable and effective when staffed with motivated, experienced and competent people. Our veterans deserve a properly led, efficient and transparent VA that delivers on the American people's promises.

"The VA has made significant improvements in modernizing and realigning the department since 2014, and was headed in the right

direction under the past two incumbents. Our nation's veterans deserve a strong, competent and experienced secretary to lead this vitally important department.

"As a congressionally-chartered veteran service organization, The American Legion does not advocate for or against individuals seeking elected or appointed positions. We expect that whomever is confirmed by the U.S. Senate will be a person of character who takes care of our nation's veterans.

"We have faith in the U.S. Senate's due diligence and will work with whomever they confirm to be the 10th Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs."

**Soaring to New Heights in Membership Trophy  
Rules of Award Process**

**General:**

Recruiting events submitted by the Post must reflect an all time high of acquired members for any one event in the community. The event **MUST** be held away from the Post home. If a Post shows interest in this contest - Thinking outside of the Box, means that the Post must work the program in their community and not in their Post home. The goal is to promote our Posts in our communities; membership will come.

The 2018 National Commander Denise Rohan stated, "We need to work as a Family." The easiest successes come by relying upon all of the Post Family Entities. If a Rider Chapter member is not present, please remember to notify the Post's Rider Officers of new prospects for their program.

**Eligibility:**

Eligibility is open to all American Legion Family Entities to achieve the award for the Post Family.

A member of the Department Membership Committee should be in attendance at the event to verify the number of members gained were joined at the event. These officers are listed in the Department Directory; i.e., District Commander or others.

The latest event eligible is not later than 30 days prior to Department to allow time for reports to arrive to Department for New Member enrollment and event confirmations.

**Deadline:**

Event closing is Not later than 30 days prior to Department Convention Opening day. The Post which has recruited the highest quantity of members in ONE event by even one member higher than all other Posts is awarded the Soaring to New Heights Trophy for one full year. A Post may conduct as many events as desired to achieve the highest submission.

**Process:**

1. Plan the event. Request the presence of Department Membership Committee. Conduct the event.  
*Suggestion: Assign one team to manage all the actual new member sign-ups and dues collection. This way, the other event volunteers can focus on making the event a great experience and if a visitor decides to inquire about membership, they can be directed to the sign-up team for closing the deal.*
2. Complete the Entry Form below. Make a copy of the entry form for future Post use. Submit the fully completed form to Department Headquarters through regular channels, confirming receipt as a practice.
3. When filling out the Entry Form have Department Membership Committee verify the event on the form. Invite him/her to participate at the event. Let him/her note the exact date of the event and which members of the Legion Family gave support.
4. Remember to use information on your Consolidated Post Report. (CPR)
5. This trophy will migrate to the next year's awarded Post. Any Post that wins the trophy for three consecutive years is invited to keep the Trophy. A new similar trophy will enter into its place, purchased by the "three-peat" awarded Post.

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**Soaring to New Heights in Membership Trophy  
Entry Form**

*MUST WORK event OUTSIDE the Post Home. For best effect WORK with the Post's entire Legion family.*

*Notify your District Commander/President BEFORE hosting event:*

Verification of event name, location, date and time (Required). NLT 30 Prior to Department Convention

---

Name of Commander/President \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_  
Total Funds spent on Event \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Hours working Event \_\_\_\_\_

Miles Traveled to Community Event \_\_\_\_\_ Total in attendance \_\_\_\_\_  
*(approximate)*

Total signed up THIS DATE: Legion \_\_\_\_\_ Auxiliary \_\_\_\_\_ Sons \_\_\_\_\_

*Dead line to submit: NOT LATER THAN 25 DAYS PRIOR TO DEPARTMENT CONVENTION  
NO LATE ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.*



AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA  
CONVENTION  
JUNE 21-24, 2018

**AMERICAN LEGION REGISTRATION - \$10.00**  
**(AT CONFERENCE - \$12.00)**

PLEASE RETURN FORM WITH CHECK MADE OUT TO:

American Legion Department of Arizona  
4701 N. 19<sup>th</sup> Ave. Suite 200, Phoenix, Az. 85015

POST NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (PRINT)

POSITION/TITLE (PRINT)

If also ALR Rider  
then place an X

1	_____	_____	_____
2	_____	_____	_____
3	_____	_____	_____
4	_____	_____	_____
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**PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE JUNE 8, 2018**

DO NOT MIX LEGION WITH SAL  
NO REFUNDS OR SUBSTITUTIONS

**OVER for SAL**



AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA  
CONVENTION  
JUNE 21-24, 2018

**S.A.L. PRE-REGISTRATION - \$10.00**

**(AT CONVENTION - \$12.00)**

PLEASE RETURN FORM WITH CHECK MADE OUT TO:

Department of Arizona

4701 N. 19th Ave, #200, Phoenix, AZ 85015

SQDN NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (PRINT)

POSITION/TITLE (PRINT)

If also ALR Rider  
then place an X

1	_____	_____	_____
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15	_____	_____	_____

**PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE JUNE 8, 2018**

**PLEASE DO NOT MIX LEGION WITH SAL**

**NO REFUNDS OR SUBSTITUTIONS**



## Local vet continues serving through Team Rubicon volunteerism

Feature Story by Jeri Strande

Some folks are born with a commitment to service – and that’s an apparent trait displayed in one Cornville Legionnaire. A proud Vietnam veteran, Jan Allbright, understands the term “boots on the ground” and continues that “fever” by being a member of Team Rubicon (TR).

### Team Rubicon Background

Not familiar with TR, it’s an organization that came into existence in Jan. 2010 - just eight short years ago and has grown to international strength! It was founded after the 7.8 magnitude earth-quake shook Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

In the days following that earthquake, many traditional aid organizations were slow to establish relief efforts, citing dangerous and unstable working conditions; troubled by the scenes in Port-au-Prince and the lack of proper aid, two Marines, Jake Wood and William McNulty, decided to act. Gathering supplies and volunteers, the small group of veterans, first responders, and medical professionals deployed to Haiti in the days following the earthquake.

Still not sure about the name Team Rubicon” – you’ll need to travel back to when Julius Caesar crossed the Rubicon River and marched on Rome, it marked a point of no return. The phrase “crossing the Rubicon” has since survived in reference to any group committing itself to a risky course of action.

As that little band of x-military warriors crossed over the Artibonite River, the natural border between the Dominican Republic and Haiti, the small team of eight volunteers called themselves “Team Rubicon” in reference to the Rubicon River in Rome – by crossing their Rubicon, the team acknowledged they were irrevocably committed to their task of helping those in need; thus, Team Rubicon was born!

### Team Rubicon takes life

Team Rubicon is structured along the same regional breakdown as the Federal Emergency Management Agency with 10 regions within the United States. In the past eight years natural disasters have occurred in every developed (and undeveloped) country, big and small. The TR volunteers who make up these committed groups are roughly 70% military veterans. Many of the skills gained in the military – things like emergency medicine, small-unit leadership, logistics, experience in austere environments – translate well to disaster response. Military service does not define a TR member, nor is it required. Many volunteers are pulled from the civil service sector, firefighters, medical professionals, law enforcement officers, teachers, and mental health providers are among the diverse careers.

According to Allbright who is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander at the American Legion Cornville Post 135, says he first became aware of the organization in 2015 through his wife, Nancy. The next two years, he spent his free time completing required classes.

His first operation with Team Rubicon was "Hard Hustle" in Houston helping people recover from the hurricane. The second operation was "Old Breed 2" in Southern California helping people cleanup after the Lilac fire. “On both of these occasions,” he said, “I was assigned to the “Strike Team” – that’s were you do the actual hands on.”

“And, on both deployments, I was greeted as a long lost brother by the guys and gals of Team Rubicon. I worked like a dog, fell into bed exhausted and loved every minute of it.” He went on to say, “it was great to work along-side a group of highly motivated individuals with a solid “mental” mission; something I really miss from the years in the Army”.

Allbright responded to “Hard Hustle” during this past Thanksgiving week, while Old Breed 2 was over the holiday season. Like in the military, disasters don’t take holidays and the call to respond come at any time!

Allbright is absolutely convinced that if Team Rubicon had been around 50 years ago when he first returned from Vietnam, he would not have experienced as many re-adjustment issues.

### Future goals

Future plans for Allbright? Team Rubicon stands ready and able to respond to all disasters – he assumes that once the mud-slides have been stabilized in Santa Barbara there will be a deployment call up and he says he’ll be there! In the meantime, he’s furthering his studies and hopes to move into the Incident Management Team.

The only prerequisite required for volunteering with Team Rubicon is a commitment to service. As a “Greyshirt”, Team Rubicon members are responsible for providing immediate and impactful aid to communities affected by disaster. Experience is not required. Allbright explained that disaster relief requires a breadth of skillsets and experience, but for the “unskilled” there are various training tracks – from chainsaw operation to heavy equipment to disaster technology.

International organizations take a lot of funding – surprisingly, Team Rubicon’s funding comes from individual donors, corporations, foundations, trusts, and businesses - 49% - foundation/nonprofit; 17% individual; and 34% business/corp. They don’t accept any public grants or government funding. So, in order to continue their mission of engaging veterans in disaster relief, they truly rely on individual donors. When you join the TR Nation, you’re making a big impact - an international organization that publicly touts a money back guarantee!

*Local Vet Continued from Page 7*

For more information concerning Team Rubicon and their operations or to join go to:  
<https://teamrubiconusa.org/contact>. American Legion information may be obtained by contacting the Cmdr. Jeri Strande at 928-649-3374.



**Disaster assistance...** Team Rubicon and American Legion Cornville Post 135 member, Jan Allbright, prepares a 60ft long I-Beam to be chopped into 8 ft. segments for hauling away. The beam was part of the devastation from mobile homes that burned in the Lilac Fire in Southern California. Allbright served as a "Strike Team" his recent deployment. (Photo courtesy of Faith Clements and Team Rubicon)

**American Legion Post 135**  
**CONTACT: Jeri Strande – 928-649-3374**  
**Email: [sicily84@cableone.net](mailto:sicily84@cableone.net)**

Encourage all your fellow Legionnaires to take BASIC TRAINING.

Just send them to [www.legion.org/alej](http://www.legion.org/alej), log in to the website, and earn their certificate!

*Applications for National American Legion College are now being accepted!*

Visit [www.legion.org/college](http://www.legion.org/college) to download an application, complete and submit to your department before July 31<sup>st</sup>!

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# Arizona American Legion Riders

The winter season hasn't kept the American Legion Riders from riding and helping our Posts and communities.

In February, ALR Riders from throughout the State attended the 73rd Anniversary Iwo Jima flag raising parade in Sacaton. And **ALR 138 (Tempe)** held a poker run to benefit a local Down Syndrome Child.

In March, Riders from **ALR 97 (San Tan Valley)** attended the 5th annual "Cruise-In For Vets Car & Bike Show, which was sponsored by the entire Post 97 American Legion Family. ALR members sold brats and hot dogs for their fund-raiser. The event was a great success on multiple levels, and grossed over \$700. ALR 97 also signed up new members for the Post and for the Riders. And there were numerous poker runs sponsored by ALR Chapters to raise money for worthy causes: **ALR 96 (Surprise)** held their 3<sup>rd</sup> annual Brian Mancini Honor Rider to raise money for the Honor House; **ALR 91 (Chandler)** raised money for the Military Honor Park in Coolidge; **ALR 23 (Nogales)**, our newest ALR Chapters, held their inaugural Poker Run; **ALR 9 (Florence)** raised money for HOHP 4 Heroes; **ALR 46 (Bouse)** co-sponsored the 5<sup>th</sup> annual Colorado River Blues Festival and Poker Run to raise money for Veterans Helping Veterans; **ALR 61 (Avondale)** held a Poker Run to raise money for the American Legion Legacy Foundation; **ALR 105 (Phoenix)** raised money for Soldier's Best Friend; and **ALR 93 (Camp Verde)** co-sponsored the annual Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Celebration in Camp Verde.

**ALR 36 (Tucson)** hosted our statewide AZALR quarterly meeting

But it's not just about raising money; Riders from **ALR 131 (Green Valley)** continue to cook a free breakfast each month for the Blind Veterans from the Tucson VA Blind rehab unit. And **ALR 105 (Phoenix)** put together a short ride of ALR Riders to go

and visit a WWII veteran on his 104<sup>th</sup> birthday!

**UPCOMING: (Also see our calendar  
[www.azalr.yolasite.com](http://www.azalr.yolasite.com)**

**Plenty of regular meetings and  
other SPECIAL events by our Chapters.)**

## Highlights;

- May 5 ALR 32 (Safford) CINCO DE MAYO POKER RUN
- May 6 ALR 27 & ALR 41 SPECIAL EVENT at The VA Home Phoenix
- May 12 ALR 13 (WILLIAMS) SWAP MEET.
- May 12 ALR 66 (SAHUARITA) - SMILES FOR VETERANS POKER RUN
- May 31 – June 3 Annual Western ALR ROMP Bellingham, WA
- June 9 ALR 91 (Chandler) 25 "Jacksons" Poker Run
- June 16 ALR16 (Bisbee) POW/MIA Table Presentation and Empty Chair Ceremony
- June 23 AZALR Annual Meeting Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort. (Bike parking that afternoon will be cordoned for access. Near the area of Resort where Conference hall is set.)

ALR Riders are continuing to raise money and donate thousands of hours for their Posts and communities. If you are 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](http://www.azalr.yolasite.com). If you want to start an ALR Chapter in your Post, please contact me at the e-mail address below for information on how to get started.

For God and Country,

John Moffitt  
Chairman, American Legion Riders,  
Department of Arizona (AZALR)  
[prescottbikers@hotmail.com](mailto:prescottbikers@hotmail.com)

## 2018 Annual Department of Arizona Convention

The 2018 Annual Department of Arizona Convention runs from Thursday, June 21, 2018 6PM to Conclusion of business Sunday, June 24, 2018; approximately Noon. at the Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass (not the casino)

### Resort rooms may already be sold out.

We are excited to announce American Legion Department of Arizona Annual Convention to be held at the Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass. 5594 W. Wild Horse Pass Blvd, Phoenix, AZ 85226.

The Room Rate is \$113.00 per night, tax and room gratuity inclusive.

Includes

- Unlimited internet access
- Two complimentary bottled waters in room
- Local, long distance (domestic) and 1-800 guest room calls
- Daily shuttles service to Phoenix Premium Outlet Mall and dining and sports venues
- Complimentary self-parking

Reservation Cut-Off Date

The final date to secure accommodations at the contracted rate is May 30, 2018. On that date, any additional reservations will be made based on availability of the resort. The resort will no longer be able to guarantee the contracted group rate after the cut-off date.

A phone number contact; 866.837.4156 if you do not wish to use the link below to book online.

If rooms are still available, you may try to use this link to obtain a reservation:

Click here: <https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/events/start.action?id=1801085228&key=37434FE3>

Unique Restaurants at the Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort

A true destination, the Sheraton Grand Resort at Wild Horse Pass in Chandler offers several unique Phoenix restaurants for any occasion, and to please any palate. From casual all day dining at Ko'Sin, to one-of-a-kind cultural fare at our signature AAA Five-Diamond/Forbes Five-Star Restaurant, Kai. Explore all eight of our resort dining options below.

#### Kai Restaurant

Kai, the Pima word for "seed", is the only AAA Five-Diamond/Forbes Five-Star dining experience in Arizona. Our style of cuisine is Native American with Global Accents. Chef de Cuisine, Ryan Swanson, incorporates the essence of the Pima and Maricopa tribes and locally farmed ingredients from the Gila River Indian Community to create unforgettable masterpieces. [Learn More >>](#)

Outdoor dining patio overlooking golf course at Kai Restaurant - Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass Phoenix

Indoor casual dining at the Ko'Sin Restaurant - Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass Phoenix

#### Ko'Sin Restaurant

Ko'sin, meaning "kitchen" in the Pima language, features a fusion of Native American and Arizona comfort food. Offering locally driven breakfast, lunch and dinner we know that every meal is important. Enjoy chef-crafted dishes amid stunning views of the Sierra Estrella Mountain Range in a casual setting.

#### Lobby Bar

Light bites and signature cocktails are found in this perfect retreat set beneath a cascading waterfall and featuring unparalleled views.

#### Link @ Sheraton Café

The Starbucks branded coffee bar located in the lower lobby offers a variety of delicious grab & go food offerings, as well as your favorite coffee, tea and specialty drinks.

#### Aji Café

Our Aji Café offers a menu with healthy lunch options prepared on site by the Aji Café Chef. Lunch is available Sunday - Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and Friday - Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. [View Menu >>](#)

#### Hanyo Grill (Poolside)

Truly an oasis in the desert, Hanyo, meaning 'oasis' in the Maricopa language, is set among the spectacular swimming pools and the recreated Gila River.

#### Sivlik Grill

Located at the Whirlwind Golf Club, the new clubhouse restaurant offers a unique dining experience including creative cuisine, picturesque desert views and mountain vistas.

#### In Room Dining

Add that personal touch by sending an in-room amenity to a guest during their stay.



# WILD HORSE PASS



To Ahwatukee



Pecos Rd.

S. 40th St.

Willis Rd.

Devil's Claw Golf Course

Phoenix Premium Outlets

Premium Outlets Way

Shula's Steak House

Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino

Wild Horse Pass Blvd.

Chevron Wild Horse Pass

Wild Horse Pass Corporate Center

Anthony B. Shelde Building

S. 48th St.

West North Loop Rd.

Rawhide Western Town Rodeo Arena

Rawhide Steakhouse

Sivlik Grill

Aji Spa & Salon

Whirlwind Golf Club

Koli Equestrian Center

Sheraton Wild Horse Pass Resort

Kai

East Loop Rd.

Wild Horse Pass Motorsports Park

Bondurant Driving School

South Loop Rd.

Cattail Golf Course

S. 48th St.

Koli Rd.

Maricopa Wells

Shuttle Bus Stops



**THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA  
ANNUAL CONVENTION, June 21-24, 2018 PHOENIX, ARIZONA**

ADJUSTMENTS POSSIBLE

General Information:

\*\*\*\*NOTICE\*\*\*\*

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

All meetings are held at the **Sheraton Grand at Wild Horse Pass, 5594 W. Wild Horse Pass Blvd, Phoenix, AZ 85226**

Registration hours: AKIMEL o'Otham Foyer Thursday, June 21st 11:30AM until 6:00PM Friday,

June 22nd 7:00AM until 5:00PM Saturday, June 23rd 7:00AM until 4:00PM Sunday, June 24th 7:00AM until 9:00AM

**SPECIAL EVENT REMINDERS TO WATCH FOR** during the entire Convention:

**Golf Tournament**, Thursday, Check In At 6:30AM, Shotgun Start 7:00AM

Cattail Course at Wild Horse Pass, 5592 W. Wild Horse Pass Blvd, Phoenix, AZ 85226

**Membership Breakfast**, Friday, 7:00AM, Post 35; Breakfast available starting at 6:AM

**100% Post, District & Area Vice Commanders**,

**GNUTS Luncheon**, Saturday, 11:30AM, Post 35

**PDC Luncheon**, Sunday, 1:00PM, Post 35

**VA&R + SERVICE OFFICERS SEMINAR** – Friday...1:00PM to 3:00PM...

**Post Service Officer Training** - Saturday 9:30AM to 4:00PM.. Bird/Roadrunner

**ALR SESSION** – Saturday... 1:30PM to 4:00PM...

**Membership and Post Activities** Saturday 1:00P - 4:30P is for **Commanders & Adjutants Training**

*(2 Continuing Education Credits for AZ Legion College Alumni)*

**THURSDAY, JUNE 21, 2018**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>SPEAKER/CHAIRMAN</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
2:30PM	Finance Committee	Larry Bahill, Chairman	<b>QUAIL</b>
3:00PM	Centennial Committee	Sherie Mercier	<b>JACKRABBIT</b>
4:00PM	Rules Committee	Richard Perry, NEC	<b>ANT</b>

**6:00PM Joint Opening Session** **AKIMEL 3&4**

Call to Order Domingo Bonilla, Department Commander  
 Advancement of Colors Glenn White, Sgt-At-Arms  
 ColorGuard  
 Invocation Sherie Mercier, Chaplain  
 Pledge of Allegiance All  
 Preamble to Constitution All  
 Opening Remarks Domingo Bonilla, Commander  
 Call to Convention Angel Juarez, Adjutant  
 Report of Rules Committee Richard Perry, NEC  
 Welcome, Department Host  
 Domingo Bonilla, Commander  
 Greetings:  
 Mayor, City of Phoenix  
 Maricopa County Sheriff's  
 Sons of The American Legion  
 Matt Griffis, Detachment Commander  
 The American Legion Auxiliary  
 Yolanda Bonilla, Department President  
 The American Legion Auxiliary National Executive  
 Jan Cushing, NEC  
 The American Legion Auxiliary  
 Emily Quigg Auxiliary Junior President  
 The American Legion Riders  
 John Moffitt, Department ALR Director  
 Disabled American Veterans  
 Veterans of Foreign Wars  
 Vietnam Veterans of America  
 Korean War  
 MOPH  
 Marine Corps League  
 40 et 8  
 20 et 4  
 8 & 40

**JOINT OPENING SESSION** *Continued*

Arizona Dept of Veterans Services  
 Carl Hayden VA Medical Center  
 Legislator of The Year  
 Candidate for National Commander  
 Brett P. Reistad, Virginia

**MEMBERSHIP CHALLENGE**

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING TO FOLLOW**

*Department Vice Commanders and District Commanders*

**FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 2018**

<b>TIME</b>	<b>EVENT</b>	<b>SPEAKER/CHAIRMAN</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
7:00AM	Membership Breakfast		<b>Post 35</b>
	100% Post, District, Area Vice Commanders		
8:30AM	Historians Seminar	Robert Hernandez	<b>JACKRABBIT</b>
	Trophies & Awards	Jeri Strande	<b>EAGLE</b>
	Membership Committee	Manny Beltran	<b>AKIMEL 1&amp;2</b>
	Constitution & By-Laws	John Moffitt	<b>SCORPION</b>
	Resolutions	Rodger Ely	
	Convention & Conference Committee	Larry Cox	<b>BIRD/ROADRUNNER</b>
	Children & Youth Commission		<b>DEER</b>
	Children & Youth	Bob Nixon	
	Education	Ken Queen	
	ALLECA	Dave Hornung	
	Jr Shooting Sports	Bobbie Kimelton	
	National Security Commission		<b>COYOTE/ BUZZARD</b>
	National Security	Al Dunaway	
	POW/MIA	Jim Sylvester	
	Law & Order	Scott Miller	
10:00AM	Club & BINGO Committees		<b>BIRD/ROADRUNNER</b>
	Ken Dowse/Mike Stout		
	Junior Shooting Sports		<b>RATTLESNAKE</b>
	Bobbie Kimelton		

**FRIDAY, JUNE 22, 2018** *Continued*

TIME	EVENT	SPEAKER/CHAIRMAN	LOCATION
10:00AM	Americanism Commission		<b>AKIMEL 3&amp;4</b>
	Americanism	Wayne Chatfield	
	Baseball	Robert Krumwiede	
	Scouting	Wayne Chatfield	
	Boys State	Charles Vawter	
	Citizens Flag Alliance	Joe Duggan III	
	Judge Advocates Seminar		<b>EAGLE</b>
	Rodney Glassman		
	Oratorical Chairman Meeting		<b>JACKRABBIT</b>
	Roger Munchbach		
	Legislative Committee		<b>GILA MONSTER</b>
	Larry Bahill		
	Legislative Council - Immediately Following		
	Neal Sundeen		<b>GILA MONSTER</b>
	Public Relations Commission		<b>DEER</b>
	Public Relations Ben Carrillo		
	Press Association Ron Murphy		

11:30 Lunch

TIME	EVENT	SPEAKER/CHAIRMAN	LOCATION
1:00 - 3:00	VA&R Commission		<b>AKIMEL 1</b>
	Art Brest, Dept. Service Officer		
	Rehabilitation Employment	Mike Espinoza	
	Service Officers Seminar	Mike Espinoza	
	Cemetery	George Cushing	

TIME	EVENT	SPEAKER/CHAIRMAN	LOCATION
<b>1:30 PM</b>	<b>Convention Reconvenes</b>		<b>AKIMEL 3&amp;4</b>
	Domingo Bonilla, Commander		
	Credentials Report	Marge Ahrens	
	Arizona American Legion College	AJ Gulley	
	Constitution & By-Laws Report	John Moffitt	
	Resolutions Report	Rodger Ely	
	Legislative Report	Larry Bahill	
	Children & Youth Report	Bob Nixon	
	National Security Report	Al Dunaway	
	POW/MIA Report	Jim Sylvester	
	Law and Order	Scott Miller	

3:30 PM	Honor Guard Captains Meeting		<b>SCORPION</b>
	Francisco Barraza		

4:00 PM	40 et 8		<b>BIRD/RDRNNER</b>
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**SATURDAY, JUNE 23, 2018**

TIME	EVENT	SPEAKER/CHAIRMAN	LOCATION
8:30AM	Sons of The American Legion Convention		<b>AKIMEL 1&amp;2</b>
	Matt Griffis, Commander		
<b>8:00AM</b>	<b>Convention Reconvenes</b>		<b>AKIMEL 3&amp;4</b>
	Domingo Bonilla, Commander		
	Credentials Report	Marge Ahrens	
	Membership Report & Awards	Manny Beltran	
	Trophies & Awards Report	Jeri Strande	
	Convention & Conference Report	Larry Cox	
	Club Committee Report	Ken Dowse	
	Americanism Report	Wayne Chatfield	
	VA&R Committee Report	Mike Espinoza	

9:30am- 4:00pm	Post Service Officer Training		
	Ernie Lane		<b>BIRD/ROADRUNNER</b>

10:00 AM	Area A Caucus		<b>COYTE/BUZZRD</b>
	Ben Headen, Vice Commander		
	Area B Caucus		<b>AKIMEL 3&amp;4</b>
	Ken Queen, Vice Commander		
	Area C Caucus		<b>SCORPION</b>
	Ken Johnson, Vice Commander		

11:30 AM	Lunch	GNUTS Luncheon	Post 35
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1:00 - 4:30	Membership & Post Activities		<b>AKIMEL 1&amp;2</b>
	Manny Beltran/Angel Juarez		

1:30 - 4:00	Legion Riders		<b>KOMATKE ABC</b>
	John Moffitt		

4:30 PM	20 et 4		<b>BIRD/RDRNNER</b>
	Beth Nehring, Director VIP		

5:00 PM	Color Guard Competition		<b>KOMATKE D</b>
	Francisco Barraza, Chairman		

**SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 2018**

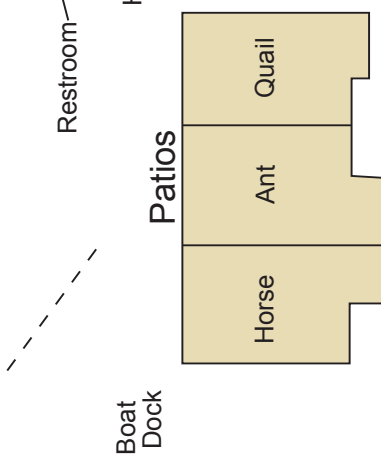
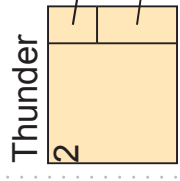
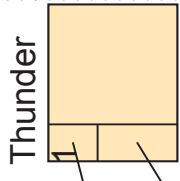
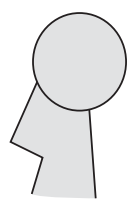
TIME	EVENT	SPEAKER/CHAIRMAN	LOCATION
8:00AM	Joint Memorial Service		<b>AKIMEL 3&amp;4</b>
	Sherie Mercier, Chaplain		
	Barbara White, Auxiliary Chaplain		

9:00AM	Convention Reconvenes		<b>AKIMEL 3&amp;4</b>
	Domingo Bonilla, Commander		
	Credentials Report	Marge Ahrens	
	SAL Report	SAL Liaison, Dan Ashley	
	Legion Riders	John Moffitt	
	Final Convention Report	Larry Cox	
	Election of Department Officers: Commander, & 3 Vice Commanders, NEC & Alternate NEC		
	Farewell Speech	Domingo Bonilla	
	Installation of Officers		
	Acceptance Speech	Newly Elected Commander	

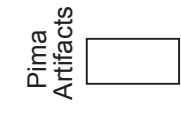
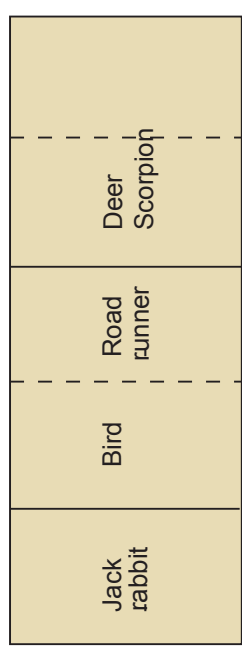
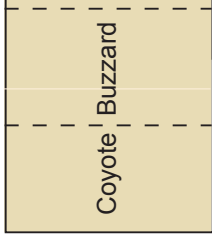
Announcements	Angel Juarez, Adjutant
Benediction	Sherie Mercier, Chaplain
Retirement of Colors	Glenn White, Sgt-At-Arms

Executive Committee Meeting	
Newly Elected Commander	

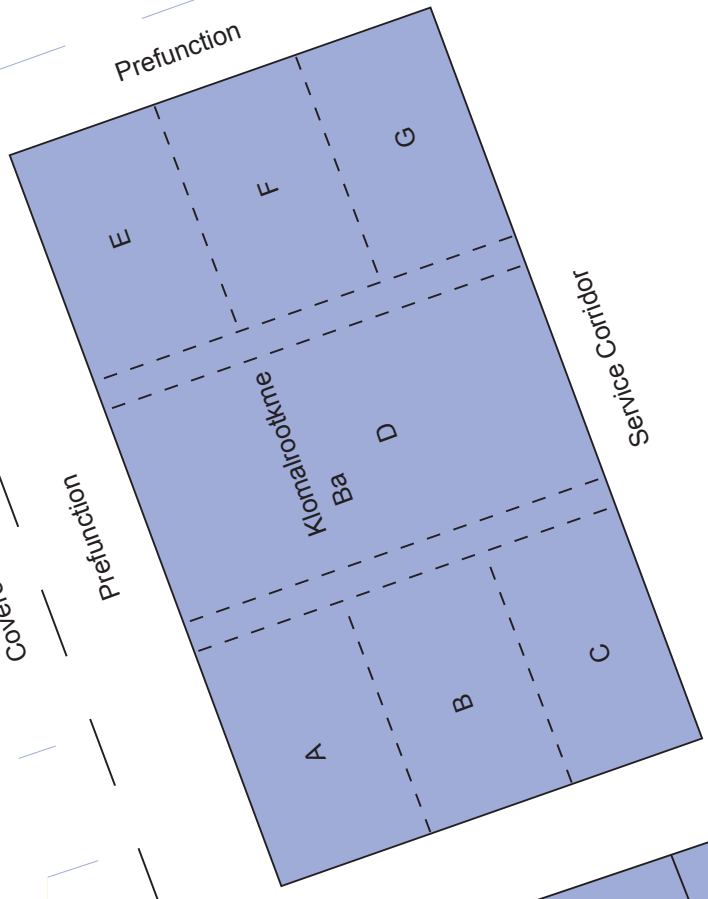
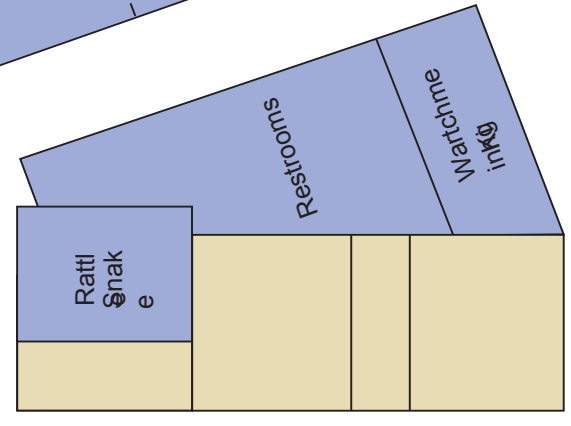
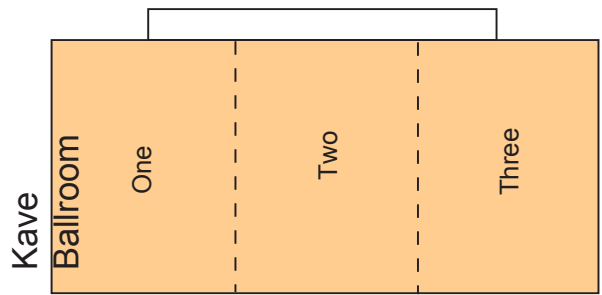
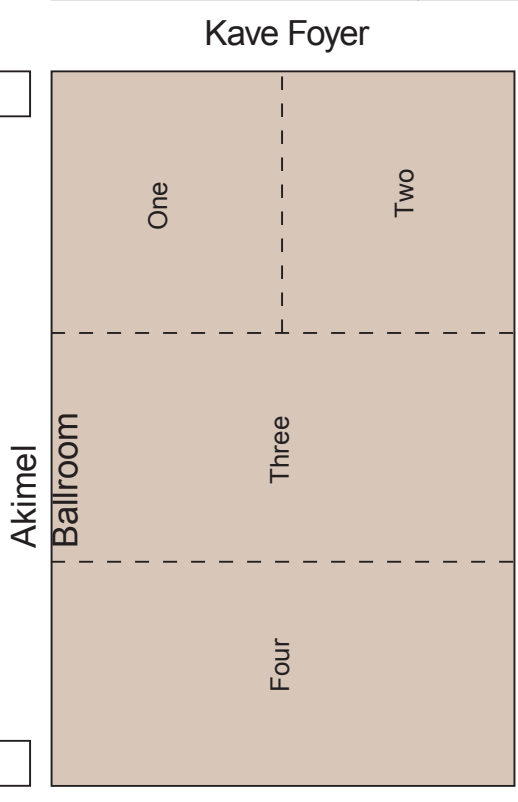
1:00PM	PDC Luncheon	Domingo Bonilla, Host	<b>Post 35</b>
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Mesquite Terrace



Akimel Foyer



Banquet Kitchens

Outdoor Service Area / Loading Docks

Pothet

Covered Walkway

Refinction



**WELCOME TO THE 2018  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
DEPARTMENT CONVENTION  
PHOENIX, AZ**

**“HIGH HEELS & SPURS IN SERVICE TO VETERANS”**

**The Department Officers and Staff  
Wish All Members A Successful  
Department Convention.**

**Yolanda Bonilla – President  
Cindy Queen – Vice President  
Patricia Lugo – 2nd Vice President  
Jennie Molina – Historian  
Barbara White – Chaplain  
Jan Cushing – National Executive Committeeman**

**District Presidents**

**Nita Kimball-District 1  
Yolanda Martinez-District 2  
Alissa Montijo-District 3  
Kathleen Roche-District 4  
LaDonna Nieman-District 5  
Lesa Ward-District 6  
Janice Williamson-District 7  
Patty Eames-District 8  
Dotty French-District 11  
Stacey Mayberry-District 12**

**Barbara Matteson – Dept Sec/Treasurer  
Pat Stanaski – Dept Membership Processor**



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA  
DEPARTMENT CONVENTION  
SHERATON GRAND AT WILD HORSE PASS - PHOENIX, AZ

*This Schedule is subject to change.  
Chairmen will sit up front prior to speaking.*



**THURSDAY, June 21, 2018**

“High Heels and Spurs in Service to Veterans”

**11:00 – 6:15pm** Registration Akimel Lobby  
**11:00pm** Strategic Planning Horse Room  
**12:00pm** Finance Committee Meeting Horse Room  
**1:00pm** Executive Committee Meeting Horse Room  
 All Department Officers, including District Presidents, and Past Department Presidents  
**2:00pm** Girls State Directors Meeting Horse Room  
**3:30pm** Credential Committee Meeting Horse Room  
 Rules Committee Meeting  
 Resolutions Committee Meeting  
 Courtesy Resolutions Committee Meeting  
**6:00pm JOINT OPENING Akimel Ballroom**

**FRIDAY, June 22, 2018**

“The strength of a family, like the strength of an army, is in its loyalty to each other.”

Mario Puzo  
**7:00 – 5:00pm** Registration Akimel Lobby  
**7:00am** Sgt @ Arms, Pages, District & Department Kave Ballroom  
 Color Guard meet with Americanism Chairman Michele Root & Chairman of Pages for instruction.  
**7:45am** Processional Lineup – All Department Officers, District Presidents and Past Department Presidents...Don’t forget sashes.  
**8:15 A.M.** Opening Ceremony Kave Ballroom  
 Processional Michele Root  
 Call to Order Yolanda Bonilla – Dept President  
 Opening Prayer Barbara White - Chaplain  
 Pledge of Allegiance Michele Root  
 National Anthem Monica Rae Stein  
 Preamble Debra Munchbach  
 POW/MIA Chair Yolanda Bonilla – Dept President  
 Cindy Queen & Patricia Lugo  
 Welcome and Purpose Yolanda Bonilla - Dept President  
 Response Cindy Queen Dept VP  
 Introductions and Greetings  
 Emly Quigg – Honorary Junior Department President  
 Jan Cushing – ALA National Executive Committeeman  
 Introduction of Convention Appointees  
 Yolanda Bonilla – Dept President  
 Registration –  
 Chairman of Pages – Carmen Goswick  
 Personal Pages –Jazmin Bonilla, Michaela Gatti  
 Sgt-at-Arms – Carmen Goswick  
 Color Bearers – Carmen Goswick, Sally Fine  
 Credentials Committee – Helen Griffin, Sandy Conklin

**FRIDAY, June 22, 2018 Continued**

Resolution Committee – Debra Munchbach  
 Rules Committee – Debra Munchbach  
 Courtesy Resolutions Committee – Juanita Moffitt, Rebecca Faris  
 Roll Call of Units Barbara Matteson - Dept SecTre  
 Rules of Convention Debra Munchbach  
 Partial Credentials Report Helen Griffin  
 Constitution & Bylaws 1st Reading Debra Munchbach  
 “Without action, you aren’t going anywhere.” Mahatma Gandhi  
 Nominations of Officers & National Convention Delegates  
 SAMPLE BALLOTS  
 Instructions for Elections of Department Officers, Delegates and Alternates to National Convention Debra Munchbach  
 Sample Ballots distributed by Roll Call of Units with number of votes announced Barbara Matteson  
 Nominations for Department Officers 2018-2019  
 Nominations for Delegates and Alternates for National Convention August 2018  
 Break  
 “Since the Revolution, eight generations of America’s Veterans have established an unbroken commitment to freedom.” Steve Buyer  
**9:00 A.M.** Chairman  
 Legislative Patricia Thomas  
 National Security Jan Cushing  
 Poppy Julie Ross Creative Arts Margaret Ellis  
 Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Patricia Lugo  
 Service to Veterans Collen Heck  
 Prescott VAMC Carmen Goswick  
 Phoenix VAMC Dottie French  
 Tucson VAMC Kathy Szakonyi  
 State Veterans Home Phoenix Linda Hubbs  
 State Veterans Home Tucson Anna Marie Arenas  
 Phoenix Gift Shop Joyce Livingston  
 Whipple Gift Shop Carmen Goswick  
 Tucson Gift Shop Karen Alf  
 Tucson Poppy Making  
 Whipple Poppy Making Na Rains  
 BREAK  
**11:30am Lunch** “Nothing brings people together like good food.” Julia Child  
**1:00pm Reconvene**  
 Call to Order Yolanda Bonilla – Dept Pres  
 Roll Call of Units Barbara Matteson – Dept SecTre  
 Credential Report  
 “Action is the foundational key to all success.” Pablo Picasso

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA  
DEPARTMENT CONVENTION  
SHERATON GRAND AT WILD HORSE PASS - PHOENIX, AZ  
*This Schedule is subject to change.*

**FRIDAY, June 22, 2018** *Continued*

Outreach	
Americanism	Michele Root
Education	Kat Sticklin
Cavalcade of Memories	Paula Burgess
Community Service	Dolores Chavez
Auxiliary Emergency Fund	Linda Ruyle
Children & Youth	Debbie Aguirre
Junior Activities	Karon Quigg
Girls State	Penny Maklary
Presidents Special Project – Girls State	Rose Ficklin
“An introduction is the gateway to your thoughts.” Anonymous	
Introduction of 2018-2019 District and Unit Presidents by	
2017-2018 District Presidents	

**Recess**

**SATURDAY, June 23, 2018**

“If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more. You are a leader.” John Quincy Adams

<b>7:00-3:00pm</b> Registration	Akimel Lobby
<b>8:00am Reconvene</b>	<b>Kave Ballroom</b>

Call to Order Josephine Herrera	
Invocation Barbara White	
Roll Call of Units Barbara Matteson	
Credentials Report for Elections Helen Griffin – Sandy Conklin	
Introduction of Tellers Yolanda Bonilla	
Head Teller Debra Munchbach	
Each Candidate is given the opportunity to have a witness present during the ballot counting.	
Distribution of Ballots by Roll Call Barbara Matteson	
Election of 2018-2019 Department Officers	
2017-2018 Delegates & Alternates to National Convention	
Membership Chairman	
Public Relations	Marge Christianson
Membership	Cindy Queen
Support Chairman	
Constitution & Bylaws	Debra Munchbach
Finance Helen Stout	
Past President Parley	Josephine Herrera
Chaplain	Barbara White
Historian	Jennie Molina
Scrapbook	Stephanie McMullen
Recess	

<b>11:30am</b> Past President Parley Luncheon	Komatke D
<b>1:00pm Reconvene</b>	Kave Ballroom
Call to Order	Yolanda Bonilla
Roll Call of Units	Barbara Matteson
Leadership	Ginger Cox
New Units	Vickey Zwall

Final Credentials Report	Helen Griffin
President’s Report	Yolanda Bonilla

**SATURDAY, June 23, 2018** *Continued*

Announcements	Barbara Matteson
Membership Training 101	Barbara Matteson
<b>3:00 P.M. ANNOUNCEMENTS</b>	Barbara Matteson
<b>3:00P.M. Recessed</b> Yolanda Bonilla - Dept. President	
<b>3:15pm</b> Installation Practice	Kave Ballroom
<b>4:15pm</b> CHOIR PRACTICE	Monica Rae Stein Kave Ballroom
<b>4:30pm</b> District Officers Meeting	Kave Ballroom
<b>6:00-8:00pm</b> President Elect Reception To Be Announced	
“Nothing can dim the light which shines from within.” Maya Angelou	

**SUNDAY, June 24, 2018**

“Be at peace with God, whatever you conceive Him to be.”

Max Ehrmann	
<b>8:00 A.M. JOINT MEMORIAL SERVICE</b>	<b>Akimel Ballroom</b>
THE AMERICAN LEGION Sherie Mercier – Dept Chaplain	
AUXILIARY Barbara White – Dept Chaplain	
AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY CHOIR	
<b>9:15 A.M. Reconvene</b>	<b>Kave Ballroom</b>

Installation of 2018-2019 Officers  
Call To Order Yolanda Bonilla  
Membership Challenges for 2018-2019 Patricia Lugo  
Courtesy Resolutions Rebecca Faris, Juanita Moffitt  
Introduction of 2018-2019 Department Commander and presentation of the Beri Award  
Announcements Barbara Matteson - Dept SecTre  
Benediction Barbara White - Chaplain  
Retirement of District and Unit Colors Michele Root  
Retirement of 2017-2018 District Presidents  
Retirement of Department Officers  
Retirement of Department Colors  
**11:00am** Adjournment Yolanda Bonilla - Dept President

**HAVE A SAFE TRIP HOME!**

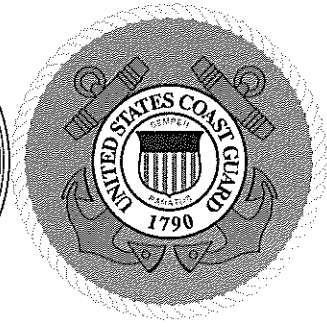
Immediately following adjournment of this convention there will be a meeting of the Department Executive Committee. All Department Officers which includes the new and seated District Presidents and Past Department Presidents are required to attend.

The meeting will be in The Kave Ballroom  
Call to Order Newly Elected Department President  
2018-2019 Department Executive Committee Meeting Kave Ballroom

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”  
Eleanor Roosevelt







# ***FREE*** **Veteran's Art Classes**

**Every First Friday 5PM – 9PM**

**All Materials Provided**

*Free to join in the First Friday Fun, too!*



**734 W. Polk Street, Phoenix, AZ 85022**  
**602.638.1313 *UnexpectedArtGallery.com***

## **Cancer Care Insurance Plan**

Help protect your future from the unexpected cost of cancer.



### **Cancer Care Insurance Plan**

## **Let's Fight Cancer Together**

You can rely on us to help you cover the high cost of cancer.

- Hospital bills
- Operations
- Doctor visits
- Nursing care
- Prescription drugs

If you find yourself battling cancer, we'll be right alongside you. With the Legionnaire Insurance Trust Cancer Care Insurance Plan, you may not have to worry about reaching into your retirement fund to pay for cancer treatment or recovery. This plan offers individual benefits to Legionnaires who have been diagnosed with cancer. Some benefits reach a lifetime maximum of \$300,000. \*We send these benefits directly to you – not to doctors, hospitals or anyone else, unless you direct us otherwise. These benefits can help with many aspects of your treatment that your regular health insurance may not cover such as:

You can even collect benefits if you don't have cancer. \*\*That's right! We'll send you money to cover the cost of diagnostic testing (cancer screenings) because detection is the first step if fighting cancer.

<https://www.thelit.com/cancer-care-insurance-plan>

American Legion  
2018 Convention  
**PROGRAM BOOK**

Outside Back Cover	\$300
Inside Back Cover	\$300
Full Page B&W Only	\$200
Half Page	\$120
Quarter Page	\$80
Business Card Size	\$40
Boosters—Per Name	\$2

**ALL ADS MUST be PRINT READY and  
Emailed to [hdqtrs@azlegion.org](mailto:hdqtrs@azlegion.org)**

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Mail your Ad and/Or Booster along with payment made out to:  
American Legion Dept of AZ  
4701 N. 19th Ave #200  
Phoenix, AZ 85015

**ALL ADS ARE DUE NO LATER THAN  
May 15, 2018  
and will not be printed without payment**



AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA  
CONVENTION  
JUNE 21-24, 2018

**AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY REGISTRATION - \$10.00**  
**(AT CONVENTION - \$12.00)**

PLEASE RETURN FORM WITH CHECK MADE OUT TO:

ALA Department of Arizona

4701 N. 19th Ave, #100, Phoenix, AZ 85015

UNIT NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (PRINT)	POSITION/TITLE (PRINT)	PUFL	HLM	Veteran	ALR
1 _____					
2 _____					
3 _____					
4 _____					
5 _____					
6 _____					
7 _____					
8 _____					
9 _____					
10 _____					
11 _____					
12 _____					

**PRE-REGISTRATION DEADLINE JUNE 14, 2018**  
**NO REFUNDS OR SUBSTITUTIONS**

## Department of Arizona Collaborates with College to Focus on Sustainable Solutions to Student Challenges

On February 16, representatives from the Department of Arizona attended a “Day for Visionaries and Innovators: Constructing a Blueprint for Radical Transformation”. Mesa Community College (MCC) and the League for Innovation in the Community College co-hosted this event which was a forum to build relationships focused on innovative strategies for dramatic change and narrowing the gap in student access and completion, housing, food security, transportation, workforce development and job placement. Assistance for positive student outcomes were forefront in the development of a blueprint based on shared accountability among all 100+ attendees. Those in attendance included educator’s, businesses, social services agencies, state philanthropic organizations, city leaders, Veteran services and student government representatives.

The forum began with opening remarks by Dr. Rufus Glasper President & CEO of the League for Innovation followed by important round table discussions. Sonya Pearson, Ph.D., MCC Vice President of Student Affairs stated that “Our intent is to generate results by identifying innovative solutions and designing a creative approach to key areas impeding students from successfully earning a degree or credential” and concluded “The outcome was a collaborative blueprint on how we will proceed with shared accountability.”

Monica Sharma, author of *Radical Transformational Leadership*, was the keynote speaker. Sharma worked for the United Nations for 22 years and is an international expert on radical transformational leadership. Her presentation laid the groundwork for vibrant roundtable discussions focused

on what students, particularly those who are typically underrepresented, need to pursue and complete a college education.



(above) Panelists were philanthropists that included Dr. Rufus Glasper, President & CEO, League for Innovation, Gene D’Adamo, President & CEO Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, Ms. Suzanne Pfister, President & CEO of Vitalyst Health Foundation, Vince Roig, Founding Chairman of Helios Education Foundation, and Dr. Steven Seleznow, President & CEO of Arizona Community Foundation.

The program was created to serve students and citizens with needs and those who are underrepresented within the community who want to pursue an education. Leaders within Mesa Community College were called upon to organize an outreach campaign to leadership in Arizona.



(above left to right) Bill Clites, MCC Veterans Services Director, Domingo Bonilla, Dept. of AZ Commander, Ken Queen, Arizona Area B Commander, Dr. Thomas Kusek, Mgr. MCC Disability Resources and Services and Vice President of Maricopa Veterans Taskforce.

“When I was called upon to invite Veteran and Disability representatives who are leaders in the community and state, I was compelled to contact Domingo Bonilla, Dept. of AZ Commander and Angel Juarez, Dept. of AZ Adjutant immediately, as I knew they would not hesitate to aid” said Dr. Thomas Kusek, Disability Resources and Services Manager and VP of Maricopa Veterans Education Taskforce.

He added “We are committed to Veteran Services and Disability Resources and Services, not just within the college, but within our lives.” Bill Clites, Director of Veteran Services at MCC, said “When I began employment at MCC, we saw Veterans who didn’t have food, nor did they have a roof over their head and we will put them up for a few days and help them through a mentoring program by another Veteran, for what it takes for them to become independent.” He added “We now process the largest number of Veterans in the MCC system, but we now do it successfully as retention and education has improved, and most importantly, their lives are improved.” Maricopa Community Colleges, is one of the largest community college districts in the United States, serving more than 220,000 students each year in Maricopa County, Az., with an estimated 28,000 Veteran students, Veteran faculty, and Veteran administrators combined.

Current strategic discussions are bringing stakeholders from technology, housing, transportation, food services, city municipalities, Veterans services, American Indian organizations, Disability Service organizations, and public and private developers together to design integrated and intersectional models of the necessary sustainable solutions. Stakeholders, such as the American Legion, who shares common goals, have shown that they are committed to working in uncommon space to achieve greatness—providing more students with basic-need supports necessary to succeed in obtaining a higher education.



(above) Commander Domingo Bonilla engages in discussion with representatives from Apple Corp., local high principals, and leadership from Mesa Community College.



Dr. Kusek added that “As a member of the Sons of the American Legion (Post 35, Chandler, AZ,) I gained great experience over the years and I clearly recognize and understand it is an honor that U.S. Veterans, active reservists, and family members of veterans are among our student body and our employees and their families who seriously need assistance, along with many others within the community.” He concluded “radical transformation is a term we all need to consider.” Both active-duty military personnel and Veterans seek educational support and job training to transition from military service to civilian life, and many begin their educational journey at MCC. Our newly formed relationships have activated a renewed vision and passion for us all to be gallant advocates, essential to transforming higher education strategies through our beneficial participation.



(above) Department of Arizona Adjutant Angel Juarez focuses as philanthropists on the panel share their experiences with assisting citizens in need of their offerings and services.

Additional dialogue has continued with the group on March 21st. Included in the discussions was Yolanda Bonilla, President of Arizona Ladies Auxiliary as she added to the topics presenting how the Auxiliary can also contribute and educate Student Veterans on what the Ladies offer to our Veterans and the community. The dialogue sessions included a tour of the

Veterans Rose Garden, the Blue Star Memorial and the Ernest W. McFarland statue.



(above left to right) Angel Juarez, Department of Arizona Adjutant, Ken Queen, Department of Arizona Area B Commander, Yolanda Bonilla, President – Arizona Ladies Auxiliary, and Domingo Bonilla, Department of Arizona Commander.



(above) Ernest W. McFarland memorial. (front l-r) Dr. Thomas Kusek V.P. MVET/Mgr. Disability Resources and Services at MCC, Bill Clites, MCC Veterans Services Director, (rear) Ken Queen, Dept. of AZ Area B Commander, Yolanda Bonilla, President, AZ Ladies Auxiliary, Domingo Bonilla, Dept. of AZ Commander, and Angel Juarez, Dept. of AZ Adjutant

"The Veterans Rose Garden" plantings began the winter of 2003 and was completed in 2005. The garden was designed to honor "Past, Present and Future" members who have, are and will serve in the five branches of the United States of America military. All roses planted in this garden are varieties with “patriotic” names. There are over 60 varieties with names such as "About

Face, America, Fourth of July, Peace, Purple Heart, Stars and Stripe and Veterans Honor". The garden features our National, State and POW flags along with those of the five Service Branches surrounded by nearly 2,000 roses. The Rose Garden at MCC is an excellent example of the unique and outstanding results that can be achieved through one of the Mesa Community College's community partnerships.

The garden also bears a Blue Star Memorial Marker, a program started after World War II by the National Garden Clubs to remember military veterans along highways nationwide.

In 1996, non-highway sites such as Veterans hospitals and national cemeteries became eligible to carry the marker.

The statue portrays Ernest W. McFarland, father of the GI Bill of Rights, passing a document to a second figure dressed in a military uniform. They each have one foot resting on a step symbolizing the step up offered to returning service men through the Bill of Rights.

Not forgetting his veteran roots, McFarland became interested in legislation to benefit veterans returning from World War II.

He outlined his proposals before The American Legion in a speech in 1943 and worked to create support for his G.I. Bill with veterans' organizations and members of Congress.

By unanimous votes, the United States Senate and the House of Representatives approved the legislation in March and May, respectively and, on June 22, 1944, President Franklin Roosevelt signed the G.I. Bill into law.

## National Commander, Denise Rohan, Visits the Rose Garden at Mesa Community College

On March 28, 2018, Denise Rohan, National Commander also visited Mesa Community College. Representation from Student Veterans Affairs of MCC, Student Veterans Association, Maricopa Veterans Education Taskforce and Disability Resources and Services were on hand to welcome Commander Rohan to Mesa Community College. The Commander was accompanied by the Department of Arizona American Legion. The National Commander addressed a group of student veterans answering inspiring questions and giving advice on education. She spoke of the importance of reaching out to the community and Veterans aiding with assistance whenever possible.



(above) Angel Juarez, with Bill review the Commanders' itinerary



Bobby Jawa, Event Coordinator, with Commander and Kusek



National Commander speaks with Judy Beischel, AZ Alt. NEC



National Commander receiving a gift Clites, Recognizing the National Commander's efforts for student Veterans.



Yolanda Bonilla, Domingo Bonilla, and National Commander



Kusek, Ken Queen, Andy Jaime, and Judy Beischel

The National Commander reviewed the Four Pillars and other educational conversation with those present and had a chance to visit the memorial areas of the campus. The students were amazed that she sat in a relaxed circle to answer questions in a more casual gathering as she requested. The student Veterans had great interest in what the Commander offered and are interested further talks about scholarships, not only for Veterans, but for citizens in general. MCC representatives invited her back for a visit as there are plans to establish an American Legion Post at the college. Bill Clites and Thomas Kusek continue the process of communicating towards chartering a post at MCC as there are hundreds of Veterans who can benefit from having post resources while serving other Veterans on campus.



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## \$50,000 OCW grant supports VA's nationwide baby shower The American Legion

A \$50,000 grant from The American Legion's Operation Comfort Warriors (OCW) program is helping to supply 2,400 new baby welcome kits to women veterans at 58 VA medical centers across the country between May 5-16, 2018

The baby kits are part of the Department of Veterans Affairs first-ever nationwide baby shower events. "The American Legion strongly supports women Veterans, and we also support their families," National Commander Denise H. Rohan said.

"We applaud VA's outreach to these new mothers and we believe this is a worthy use of Operation Comfort Warriors donations. Not only do veterans sacrifice for our nation, but the children of these veterans do so as well. The American Legion Family needs to support these families. And this grant is just another meaningful way for us to show our gratitude."

For more information about the VA's nationwide baby shower event and for locations of where they will be held, visit <https://www.va.gov/womenvet/acwv/babyShower.asp>

## The Wall That Heals Visited Arizona.

The brand new and now the largest (376ft) traveling scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, DC along with a new Mobile Education Center, was displayed at the Riverfront Park in Oro Valley, AZ, March 15 – 18.

The site was open 24 hours a day to allow veterans a chance to visit the Wall during quiet times. The Wall That Heals bears the names of the 58,312 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam. An opening ceremony was held Thursday March 15 and the closing ceremony, with a fly-over by F-16s, was Sunday March 18.



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Story and Photos courtesy of Ed Davis

The American Legion Oro Valley Post 132 was one of the community partners that worked to bring the Wall to Oro Valley, just the 3rd stop of the new Wall.

More than thirty Post and Auxiliary Unit 132 members filled many of the information, guide and security positions needed to ensure an informative and meaningful experience by those visiting the Wall.

During one hour on Saturday, March 17, more than 1,100 people visited the Wall.