

**POST 44**  
**American Legion *NEWSLETTER* – AUGUST 2012**  
**PO Box 1073 – 1005 Hwy. 195 - Elephant Butte, NM 87935**  
**575-744-4144**  
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**COMMANDER – Roy Lucero – Commander & Newsletter Editor**

I am honored and grateful that you placed your trust in me to be commander of this post. Our post is well known among Legionnaires throughout New Mexico and is considered to be one of the best American Legion Posts in the state. I, and all the officers you have elected, will work together and with all our legion family members (Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons of the American Legion and Riders) to make sure our post will always be a friendly and active place to gather. We will continue our charitable efforts and be a valued part of our community.

Please post your calendar which is attached to the end of this newsletter (where you can see it daily) to keep yourself abreast of the upcoming activities/events and meetings. You can obtain your newsletter via a copy at the post newsletter box or download and print from our website: [americanlegionelephantbutte.com](http://americanlegionelephantbutte.com)

**Vice Commander – Tom Cleveland**

I will be out of town for a week and I don't have much to report at this time. Remember that the post needs everyone's support to be successful so please come out and partake of as many activities as you possibly can. Any ideas that will help generate income would be greatly appreciated. **See you at the Post.**

**Finance Officer – Dr. G. Vincent Barrett**

The Post continues to do reasonably well financially. Although we did sustain an overall small loss for the month of June due in large part to the remaining wall and sewer line repair cost that came in June. Overall for the month of June revenues have been stable with gaming holding its own. Our reserve position is holding steady and the bar and kitchen continues to do well although revenues are down some from this period last year. The bar, kitchen, gaming and pull tabs as well as special events are performing as we expected for this time of year. The Post should be able to remain on a sound footing throughout the next fiscal year.

**Adjutant – Bob Nellis**

We have received over 150 renewals for 2013. If you have renewed and have not received your new card through the mail, your card can be picked-up from the Legion bartender on duty.

The drawing for the early bird will be held at the September meeting (the third Saturday of the month). If you have not renewed your membership, you still have until September 15<sup>th</sup> to be eligible to have your name drawn for a free membership and have your dues returned.

## Activities Committee – Kathy Nolan (By Linda Amdal)

Holy Mollie!! Where has the summer gone?? Gee, only 5 months until Christmas!! (Someone should take me out back & shoot me for that one!)

We are having our "Hot August Nights" bash, Sunday, August 19th with finger foods and Gene Armijo providing entertainment. Break out your Aloha shirts and hula skirts and dress up for the fun & games!! There will be a prize for the most creative outfit!! That same day, we will also celebrate August Birthdays! Mark your calendars on Saturday, October 6th for our "First-in-A-Long-Time" American Legion Family Golf Scramble. Watch for flyers and more information at the Post. FYI: We had to order new letters for our outdoor sign & they just came in. Sorry for the inconvenience.

### Schedule of Events:

Wed. Aug. 1st	5:30	Chicken Cordon Bleu Dinner, Music by Sue Barr
Fri. Aug. 3rd	5:30	Pamburgers and Karaoke by Bob Acre
Wed. Aug. 8th	5:30	Steak Fajitas, Music by Sue Barr
Fri. Aug. 10 <sup>th</sup>	5:30	Pamburgers and Karaoke by Cindy Bellini
Sat. Aug. 11th	9-11	All you can eat Breakfast
Tue. Aug. 14th	10am	Golf Planning Meeting
Wed. Aug. 15th	5:30	Shrimp Dinner, Music by Sue Barr
Fri. Aug. 17 <sup>th</sup>	5:30	Pamburgers and Karaoke by Cindy Bellini
Sun Aug. 19th	5:30	Hot August Nights, Finger Foods, August Birthday Celebration Entertainment by Gene Armijo
Wed. Aug. 22nd	5:30	Chicken Fried Steak Dinner, Music by Cactus Flats
Fri. Aug. 24 th	5:30	Pamburgers and Karaoke by Gene Armijo
Wed. Aug. 29th	5:30	Pork Chop Dinner, Music by Cactus Flats
Fri. Aug. 31 <sup>st</sup>	5:30	Pamburgers and Karaoke by Bob Acre

Don't forget Pam's Kitchen is open on Tuesdays & Thursdays from 4 - 7 with some real good eats!

Thank you for supporting our Post and activities!!

August Birthdays: 1st, Stan Majewski, 10th Wayne Gilbert, 12th Steve Ross, 17th Arlea Hadley, 20th Melanie Millsap, and 22nd Shirley Bucher



## Sons of the Legion (S.A.L.) Corner - Bill Nenzo, Commander Squadron 44

The Sons of the American Legion, Post 44, scheduled its regular meeting July 17, 2012. Due to conflicting summer schedules a quorum was not met.

**Membership:** In spite of the lack of regular meetings the business of the S.A.L. continues as normal. We received our 2013 membership cards in July and we are now accepting payment for 2013 membership renewal. So far we have had 12 members renew.

We ask that you renew as soon as possible - ASAP in medical talk. Department sets various percentage renewal guidelines and these are always nice to meet. Additionally, early renewals are eligible for the drawing for a free membership for 2013. The deadline for this drawing is September 1. Paying your membership early also gets it out of the way so you don't have to worry about coming up with the money around Christmas time when your money is flowing out of your pockets about as fast as the water is currently flowing out of the lake!!

**Finance:** The S.A.L., like all of the secondary organizations, are (Notice I use the European convention here. I did not say "the S.A.L. is", which would refer to the entire S.A.L. as one individual. I said "the S.A.L. are" which indicates the group nature of the S.A.L.- just saying - OK, where else can you get information and an English lesson all at once - besides this is a test to see if anyone is paying attention) in the enviable position of controlling expenses. We have no normally fixed overhead and so we are masters of our own cash outflow destiny. This allows us to tailor our cash outflow with our cash input. It is my own personal policy to maintain a balanced budget and I have been fortunate enough during my stewardship to have a quorum of members agree with this approach. All of this is a long winded way of saying S.A.L. finances remain in good shape.

**New Internet Site:** The Post, along with the various family organizations, are currently reviewing and renewing our Internet site. As a result of this, I have been approached for input specifically for the S.A.L. site. If you have any input now would be the time to voice it. My ideas are too numerous to elucidate here (actually, in truth they are just too unfocused at this time). I am tentatively looking at sections for:

1. Officers
2. Membership requirements (possibly with links to DD 214 sites)
3. History of the S.A.L.
4. American legion program sponsored. (Flag sales, CNY, veteran's home etc)
5. Community program sponsored (Sierra cancer program, Christmas programs; e.g. Sierra Santa] etc)
6. Other links, for example to the national store site which sells shirts, ribbons, emblems, etc. etc.
7. S.A.L. calendar of events.

Anyway, these are a few of my ideas. If you can think up any others please let me know.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, August 23, at 6:30 PM at the Post. Hopefully, by then summer schedules will be resolved and we will have a quorum. The S.A.L. meetings are always held on the third Tuesday of the month and all are invited to attend.

As always remember that organizations are not really organizations, they are just people. Help out when you can and when you see them, thank those that do help out and let's all work together for the common good.

**Thanks for supporting our club, our community and most of all ---the veteran**



**Legion Riders- American Legion Riders Chapter NMLR 5: Jim Coslin, President**

(written by Craig Pierson, Secretary):

**Membership:** We currently have 30 members.

**Calendar:** Next meeting will be Tuesday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. August Ride scheduled for Saturday, the 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Fund Raiser(s):** Our Vice President, Jerry "Turbo" Garlow, secured a donation of \$1,000.00 from Wal-Mart for the Operation Wounded Warrior program.

Foxworth-Galbraith is planning to host a "Pre Hatch Chile Festival" at their store on Friday and Saturday August 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. They will be selling a 30 pound box of roasted Hatch Green Chiles for \$21.99 per box while supplies last. On Saturday from 11:30 until 1:00 Hatch Green Chili burgers will be free with any donation to Operation Wounded Warrior and during the month of September any item donated to OWW will earn a 10% discount on certain purchases over \$25.00.

American Legion Riders will be there accepting donations to OWW as well as selling Oryx hunt raffle tickets for \$10.00 each. Contact Jerry Garlow.

**State Picnic:** The State ALR Picnic is August 10 & 11, 2012 at the Dirt Dam Rally Site at Marina Del Sur. There will be hamburgers at the Post on Friday night for \$7.00. Then Saturday morning is an all you can eat breakfast at the post for \$7.00. We will have a fish fry at the picnic area Saturday afternoon and that evening a local band will provide entertainment. Joel "Polar Bear" will be cooking breakfast Sunday morning.

Water will be provided but as far as libation is concerned, it will be "bring your own bottle". We plan to have a car available to make a runs for groceries and ice if needed. Activities are planned to include horse shoes, volleyball, boating and fishing for those who are interested. For others, we will have sun to burn you, sand to bury you in and water to soak you in. So there is something for everyone. Hope to see you there!

If you want more info contact: Jerry "Turbo" Garlow [jerrygarlow@hotmail.com](mailto:jerrygarlow@hotmail.com) 505-290-7056.

**July Rider Activities 2012**

**July Ride:** The weather was fair and dry for the eight Riders that participated in this month's scheduled ride to Chloride. There were many comments that it was a great ride and several people enjoyed some time in the museum.

**School Of Instruction:** Several members and officers attended the annual American Legion School of Instruction held the 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> of July in Albuquerque.

**Unscheduled Rides:** This month it was decided that it was time to "seize the day" and go capture the "traveling trophy" from Post 69 (Albuq.) which had recently retrieved it from Los Alamos saving us quite a few hours travel time. It was KSU at 8:00 at the Post for the six bikes and seven members who went on the ride to Post 69 to claim the Eagle trophy. Riders of Chapter 10 were gracious hosts opening their Post early for us and feeding us pizza and beer. They admirably exemplified the spirit of camaraderie the Eagle is intended to promote. It is our intention to offer the Eagle up to the first qualifying Chapter to arrive at the state picnic, so our possession of this highly coveted trophy is going to be disappointingly abbreviated.



These rides occur during the work week. Any member wishing to participate in mid-week rides please advise Snoopy.

The NM American Legion Riders will take gift cards, phone cards and comfort items donated throughout the year to Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio Texas in September 2012. Part of the monies raised by the American Legion Riders

*Our monthly meetings are held at Post 44 on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. – See you in August.*

*See our facebook page at @ <http://www.facebook.com> then go to Search (type) American Legion Riders NM5, then click on the Logo - all our pictures/comments are posted there for the last and previous rides or see Chuck, he has them on his computer. If you are computer-savvy, you can download them for yourself*

*If you are interested in being in the ALR but don't have a bike – we have a place for you. Ask any ALR Officer or Member for details – membership is \$15 plus vest and patches.*



## **Auxiliary President - Sharon Pierson**

### **AUXILIARY JULY EVENTS**

**Poppy drive:** Our Poppy drive on July 4<sup>th</sup> was a huge success raising over \$800, thanks to all the members who helped man the tables in Elephant Butte and Truth or Consequences. Congratulations to Emma West, Poppy Co-Chair, for successfully taking on the logistics (and headaches) of coordinating the drive.

**School of Instruction:** was held in Albuquerque, July 21<sup>st</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>, and Unit 44 had 8 members attending. A lot of information was distributed regarding our various programs and we all learned a great deal. There was a recurring emphasis placed on "unity" amongst the 4 members of the American Legion family – Legionnaires, Sons, Riders and Auxiliary.



**General Membership Meeting:** Due to School of Instruction falling on the same weekend as our regular monthly meeting, the meeting was moved to July 28<sup>th</sup>. We draped the charter this month in remembrance of Vivian Earles and Patti Lester. Both ladies will be greatly missed.

**Historical Banners:** Sandy Squier filled us in on the history of 2 large Blue/Gold star banners recently discovered and donated to Unit 44 by Sherry Fletcher. These banners were handmade in the early 1940's by ladies of the then "Hot Springs American Legion Auxiliary Unit 44" – now of course known as the Gaines T. Evans Unit 44 of Elephant Butte. The banners are a wonderful piece of our Unit's history and we are currently working on the best method for storing and/or displaying them. Our Unit is considering reinstating the practice of presenting Blue and Gold Star

Banners to families with active military personnel. Elaine Garlow is researching the rules, regulations and costs for us.

**Marty Novak presented Home Service Award pins/bars to:**

- ❖ 50 Hours Home Service: Charlotte Denton, Melanie Millsap
- ❖ 100 Hours Home Service: Sharon Pierson
- ❖ 300 Hours Home Service: Jackie Stockmar, Steph Ross, and Elaine Garlow
- ❖ 500 Hours Home Service: Linda Nenno



We also had a little celebration after our meeting was adjourned where Linda Nenno acted as Emcee and

"presented" the awards our Unit received at Convention in June. We can all be very proud of our Unit – we earned 18 awards, including the Holman Grand Trophy for the Unit who won the most trophies and awards. These awards represent the **volunteer hours, hard work and efforts of ALL of our members** and so CONGRATULATIONS Unit 44!!!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Leadership Course:** Liz Foster (our NM Department Leadership Chairman) will be holding a leadership course at the Post on Wednesday mornings at 10:00am beginning August 22<sup>nd</sup>. We learned at School of Instruction the course has been updated this year and whether you've taken the course before or not, Liz encourages you take it again because of the update. If you've taken the course in the last 2 years you can skip the portions of the course that lead up to the year 2000. If it's been more than 2 years she recommends you re-complete the entire course. National announced that there will be an award given to the Department with the most completions of the course. This is a new award for the 2012-2013 year and wouldn't it be wonderful if New Mexico were the first state to win it?

**Clothing Sale:** We are having a clothing sale on August 25<sup>th</sup> to be held at Johanna Roberts house (garage). There will be new and nearly new clothing, shoes, socks and various other items for sale for children sizes toddler to high school as well as men's and women's clothing. We can always use more clothing for the sale (men's, women's or children's but gently used please) so if you have anything you'd like to donate please drop it off at 403 Cactus, located at the corner of Yucca and Cactus in Elephant Butte, between the hours of 8-10am on Tuesday the 21<sup>st</sup> or Thursday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of August. All donations are very much appreciated.

**Flea Market / Bake Sale:** This annual event is to be held on **September 1<sup>st</sup>** this year and we desperately need items to be contributed to the Flea Market as well as individuals to bake for the bake sale. If you'd like to help with the bake sale please drop your baked goods off at the Post on Friday August 31<sup>st</sup> so they can be priced. If you have items you'd like to contribute to the Flea Market please contact me at (575) 740-3639 or [skpierson@live.com](mailto:skpierson@live.com) to make arrangements to drop off the items you are donating.

**Fall District Meeting:** We have received the call for our Fall District meeting which is to be held on September 22<sup>nd</sup> in Silver City at Post 18. The cost is a registration fee of \$1.00 and \$7.00 for lunch which will be a Mexican Combination Plate. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. Please notify Ginny Ashley, Carmen McCleery or myself if you plan to be there

**Golf Scramble:** Plans are in the works for a Golf Scramble, to be sponsored by the American Legion "Family" (Legion, Sons, Riders and Auxiliary). It will be held at the municipal golf course on **October 6** followed by lunch at the Post. All plans are tentative – more information will be coming soon.

**School Supplies:** School will be starting up again soon and it is time to start gathering supplies to be donated to our Sierra County schools. As I am sure you are all aware every single school in Sierra County is a Title 1 school and the children need all the help we can give them so, please, gather a few school supplies the next time you see some on sale and drop them by the Post at your convenience.

**BEGINNING WITH THE AUGUST, 2012 MEETING WE WILL RETURN TO A TRADITIONAL JOINT OPENING OF THE MEETING WITH THE LEGIONAIRES IN THE SPIRIT OF "UNITY" OF THE LEGION FAMILY. PLEASE JOIN US.**

## **Auxiliary Membership Report - Linda Nenno**

The 2013 membership cards are here and I have started Early Bird renewals. Get your card renewed by September 30, and you will have a chance for a free membership for this year. So far we have 74 members who have renewed. If you know someone who is eligible for membership, give them an application or have them contact me. 575-642-6164. Bring them into the Post as your guest and let them see for themselves what a good time we have. Membership is our most important program, and I need everyone's help to keep it going strong.

## **The Chaplain's Corner – Emma West**

**PRAYER FOR OUR MILITARY:** Thank you, Lord for your blessings on our soldiers, who valiantly fight for our freedom and for peace in our world.

**GET WELL WISHES:** Ray Cramer, Delbert Smith, Papa Vince, John Peterson, Jim Ridens Myra Tepper, Barbara Lewis, Roy Luceros' son, Shawn; Carolina Kriner, and Mary Heiligenthal.

**OUR CONDOLENCES:** For Patti Lester, who passed on July 22, 2012. A Memorial Service will be held August 19th, 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. Refreshments will be served and there will be music. Donations may be left at The Bank of Southwest in the Build for Sierra Co. JOA. Also our condolences to the families Glen Stark and David Spurry – two legionnaires that have passed-on this year.

**PRAYER FOR CIVIL AUTHORITIES:** O God, from who precede all graces and blessings, grant to our country Thy divine aid. Banish from the hearts of men of rancor and ill feeling. Grant to us the serene vision of a new prosperity pleasing to the entire world.

## **Care Package Report – Marty Novak**

We sent 63 Care Packages in July. That brings out total packages sent since beginning this project in September '03 to over 6,000. Our July Care Package day turned out to be very interesting. I did not make a trip to Sam's that month...any

doctor appointments...and we had to get everything from the local Wal-Mart. They didn't have everything we needed but I thought it would be enough because we usually have some donations and extra salsa. It wasn't! I took all the salsa Wal-Mart had and somehow Bullocks forgot to order the 2 cases they always give us so we didn't even have extra salsa to fill the boxes. We made it by the skin of our teeth and the tables were totally bare when we finished. I've got LOTS of shopping to do at Sam's this week. But we want to assure you that we always have room on our Care Package list. So if you know of anyone who is deployed, please give us their name and address and we will begin sending monthly Care Packages for as long as they are deployed. Thanks to you wonderful people who give us regular donations of money or goods for the packages, for Memorials and any kind of donation for this project because we couldn't continue to do this without your help. There isn't a lot we can do for our deployed Troops to make their lives easier and let them know we care...but these monthly Care Packages sure help. Our next packing date is August 8.

IT'S GETTING THAT TIME OF THE YEAR WHEN IT IS GETTING VERY HOT OVER THERE. WE STARTED SENDING NECK COOLERS IN OUR CARE PACKAGES IN APRIL AND WILL CONTINUE UNTIL ABOUT OCTOBER. IF YOU SEW AND WOULD LIKE TO MAKE NECK COOLERS PLEASE LET ME KNOW. I HAVE THE PATTERN IF YOU NEED ONE AND EVEN HAVE SOME OF THE CRYSTALS TO PUT INSIDE IF YOU NEED THEM.

**CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS:** We are an official collection site for CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS and we are continuing to collect cell phones that are no longer being used. There is a container just outside the door at the Post to deposit the cell phones. I have collected about 35 cell phones from the container at the Post and will be sending them off soon. Thanks to all of you who are donating them. The cell phones are sent for recycling and the money is used to purchase Phone Cards for the soldiers. So far we have sent approximately 1,600 phone cards in our Care Packages. These Phone Cards can be used for calling from Iraq, Afghanistan, etc to the US or within the US. So if you have unused cell phones lying around, drop them off in our container and we'll take care of sending them off.

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***What is a Veteran: A Veteran...whether active duty, discharged, retired, or reserve...is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America" for an amount of "up to, and including his/her life." That is honor, and there are way too many people in this country today, who no longer understand that act..***