

POST 44

American Legion NEWSLETTER –JUNE 2013

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COMMANDER – Roy Lucero – Commander & Newsletter Editor

Another month has come and gone. Among the events that highlighted May; our Legion Family had a great showing at the T or C's Fiesta celebration, our National Commander paid us a visit, our Post awarded scholarships to five deserving high school graduates, and we participated in Memorial Day services to honor our fallen comrades.

June 14th is Flag Day. We usually have a flag burning ceremony in our parking lot on that day. Unfortunately, this year, just as last year, we are under fire restriction here at the Butte. We will schedule a ceremony to include a bonfire on the beach at a later date. The American Legion Department of New Mexico Annual Convention is June 27 – 30 in Albuquerque. Everyone is invited, for information contact the Post at the above number.

Don't forget to come to the General Membership meeting on Saturday, June 16 at 10:30 a.m. We need your support every month. Your participation in post activities enables us to assist, not only our fellow veterans, but also local charities, students, and youth activities in our community. Keep up the good work. Thank you for all you do, and see you at the Post

Vice Commander – Tom Cleveland

Well summer is about to get here so hope you all have a safe and fun time but please don't forget about the Post. It is traditionally our toughest time of year to make ends meet. I will be heading out on the road for an extended time for some needed R&R but I will return, " Good Lord willing and the creek doesn't rise". I want to personally thank Carmen for her hard work and dedication to her many duties at the Post and the Ladies Aux. See you at the Post!

Finance Officer – Dr. G. Vincent Barrett

Last month's net financial position resulted in a profit for the month of approximately \$2,300 and by the end of April 2013 the year to date loss was down to + -\$2,500. Although we are still registering a small loss thus far, for this fiscal year, I believe that within the next month that situation will be turned around. My optimism is based on a significant pick up in bar/kitchen/gaming activities. The month of May is looking pretty good. Hopefully by the end of this fiscal year June 30 we will be back to a positive position.

Adjutant – Bob Nellie

Reminder, the new membership 2013-2014 year begins July 1, 2013 and we should have the new membership cards ready after the annual convention in June 2012.

Activities Committee – Kathy Norton and Linda Amdal

First and foremost, many, many thanks to Craig Pierson, Roy Lucero and Vince Hadley for demonstrating their culinary skills in preparing and serving the Mother's Day Dinner!! Great job!! Congrats to Carmen McCleery for winning the Kindle Fire!! Thanks to all who supported the raffle & to Elaine Garlow, who sold over \$100 worth of tickets! The proceeds allowed us to purchase new t-shirts for the Post, which should arrive around June 10th.

The Activities Committee strives really hard to provide the Post with a variety of events. Some things we do well, but we've noticed we are lacking a little in our promotions and communications. Therefore, we are seeking 1-3 people to serve as our media specialists, to coordinate efforts on Post Happenings. There are several media outlets & web sites we could utilize & take advantage of that we are currently missing out on. It should not encompass much more than 1-2 hours per month. We have a lot of fun on the Activities Committee and the reward is ten-fold, when a plan comes together. If you have skills and/or ideas to share, please contact one of the Linda's (Amdal, Nenno or Ross) or Craig or Sharon Pierson. More will be discussed at the next Activities Committee Meeting on Tuesday, June 25th, 1:00 p.m.

The Friday Fun Pool has been a huge success!! Thanks to Bob & Fran, Al & Kathy & Kandy for running the tournaments!! Mark your calendars for the 9-Ball Fundraiser on Sunday, June 2 @ 3:00 p.m. If you lose a game, you can buy yourself back in as often as you like. The rules are on flyers on the tables. Proceeds will go to a Post function. Some prizes will be coming in the near future for tourney winners. There will be Sloppy Joes & please bring finger foods. Volunteer of the Quarter goes to Al Norton!! When the floors need waxing or something goes haywire, Al is the "go-to" guy. Thanks, Al, for all you do & congrats!

Friday, June 14th is Flag Day & traditionally the Post has a flag burning ceremony. Due to high winds and burning restrictions, it will be postponed until a later date.

A while back, we started collecting member's birthdays, to acknowledge in the newsletter. We currently have 108 birthdays listed & we are pretty sure we have missed some. We apologize if we missed you, but please let us know!

For Father's Day, Sun, June 16, the gals will treat the guys to a brisket dinner, Sue Barr with music & a "guys only" free raffle. We will also celebrate June Birthdays.

(Sneak peak to July: Be thinking of your favorite "40" tunes, get a group together or go solo, to participate in our "USO SHOW". More info to follow.)

June B-Days: 4th, Marge Roady, 15th Kevin Smith, 21st Sheila Barton, 22 Jerry Gustin & Ron Greaves, 25 Frank Garza, 27 Doug Madsen & 28th Lisa Fasso & Bob Nellis



Sons of the American Legion – Bill Nenno

The Sons of the American Legion held its normal meeting May 21, third Tuesday of the month. A quorum was not in attendance.

Special Session: The election of officers for the S.A.L. has been put off for three months because of a lack of quorum (three members) at our last three meetings. The S.A.L. slate of officers has to be set this month and so a special session was held. This meeting was attended by Gene Hill, Bob Nellis and Bill Nenno. At that special session the following slate of S.A.L. officers were set for the coming year.

Commander: Bill Nenno
 Finance Officer: Gene Hill
 Sergeant At Arms: Deone Harty

Vice Commander: Donnie Polstin
 Adjutant: Bob Nelli

Membership: Membership continues on at an appropriate pace. As of our May transmittal we now have 85 paid members for 2013. Our 2012 membership was 85 so we have reached 100%!!!!.

Newsletter: A special thanks to Carmen for all of her work on this newsletter. She has done a great job for over four years and deserves a round of applause. Welcome aboard Kathy Graber.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be held Tuesday June 18 at 6:30 PM at the Post. 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 Post, our Community and most of all ---the Veteran



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

(Written by Craig Pierson, Secretary) Elephant Butte, NM 87935

Membership: We currently have 24 members.

Calendar: Next Riders meeting will be on the first Tuesday of the month: June 4th at the Post at 6:30pm. The Next scheduled ride is on June 8th.

Rider Activities Held May, 2013

Scheduled Ride: The scheduled ride this month was largely ignored. However, after breakfast at the Post, three riders did take a short ride to show the colors around the area.

Activities and Events: Due to the absolutely horrible weather, the Riders declined to host a table during the fourth week of the "Cosmic Talent World Expo of T or C". This event which is scheduled to last one more month is being held at the Lee Belle Johnson Senior Center in the early evening of the second Saturday of the month in conjunction with the regular Art Hop in downtown T or C.

As part of the T or C Fiesta events the Riders President Jim "Snoopy" Coslin rode in the parade with other representatives from the Legion family at Post 44. As part of our ongoing public relations effort, the Riders also hosted a table in Ralph Edwards Park all day Saturday and Sunday morning alongside the Auxiliary and SCCA. There were a number of activities there at the park including live music.

Finally, the Riders participated in the Memorial Day activities again this year. Several members helped place flags on the graves at the two cemeteries. Our Treasurer, Vince Barrett "Doc" with the aid of other Riders and the Auxiliary conducted the ceremony at Vista Memory Gardens, the new cemetery. A small group of Riders also performed escort duties as the procession moved from place to place.

Our monthly meetings are held at Post 44 on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. – See you on June 4, 2013.

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 APRIL EVENTS – Sharon Pierson

- **Blue Star Banners:** We presented a Blue Star banner to Josie and Gilbert Zamora in honor of their son Robert Lee Zamora who is currently serving in the Coast Guard. Congratulations to the Zamora family.
- **New Member Initiations:** A sincere apology to Janice Moon for having inadvertently left her name off the list of initiates last month. We are very happy to have you as a member of our Auxiliary and hope you will join us in our many activities.
- **2013-2014 Officers Elected:** By unanimous vote the following officers were elected for the 2013-2014 year:
 President – Sharon Pierson Vice President – Johanna Roberts Secretary – Ginny Lucero
 Treasurer – Sandy Squier Chaplain – Linda Ross Historian – Linda Nenzo
 Sgt. at Arms – Arlea Hadley Parliamentarian – Linda Ross
- **Poppy Proclamation:** On May 1st the Mayor of Elephant Butte, Eunice Kent issued a Proclamation proclaiming the month of May 2013 as “American Legion Poppy Month” and made the first donation to our Poppy Drive! THANK YOU Mayor Kent, we are so grateful for your support.
- **Fiesta Parade:** The “Golf Cart Float” the Legion family decorated and entered in the Fiesta parade this year was a big hit. All 4 branches of the Legion family were represented in the 5 patriotically decorated golf carts but the “Poppy Cart” with Veteran Clarence Himes aboard - our #1 Poppy maker and resident of NMSVH stole the show!
- **Fiesta Booth:** This year Unit 44 set up a booth for Fiesta at Ralph Edwards Park and distributed Poppies, brochures and literature on Auxiliary programs and flag etiquette, and gave patriotically wrapped candy and gum to the children. The wind drove us away early Sunday but a big thank you to all those who helped with setting up, manning and tearing down the booth.
- **Poppy Posters Around Town:** We had over 400 Poppy posters entered in the contest this year and after the winners were chosen and forwarded for further competition the rest were put up in store front windows all over TorC, Elephant Butte and Williamsburg by three very hardworking Unit members. Joyce Hudgens and Sandi Harrison worked all of one day and were joined by Mary Seeley the next day to get this massive job accomplished. WOW!!! Great job ladies.



- **Poppy Distribution:** The VFW ladies may have gotten the jump on us this year at getting the Wal-Mart spot for Memorial Day Poppy distribution but that didn't stop us from having a great distribution. Tables were set up in various locations in TorC and Elephant Butte and we collected \$670 in donations for our veterans.
- **Memorial Day Services:** Unit members participated in the annual Memorial Day ceremonies at all 4 locations, the new cemetery, the old cemetery, the Veteran's Wall and riverside at Ralph Edwards Park. By singing Taps, placing wreaths and bearing flags. All the ceremonies were heartfelt and beautiful.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Bake Sales continue:** We are continuing to hold bake sales each month on second Saturdays in conjunction with the breakfasts at the Post. Now that we have funded this year's Girls State the funds will be used for various other Auxiliary programs.
- **BUNCO PARTY** – The BUNCO party has been such a success we have decided to make it a monthly event on the second Thursday of each month from 1-5pm. So please come join in the fun this month on June 13th.
- **National Marina Day Carnival:** Our Unit has been invited to host a booth on June 8th at this Carnival event at the lake celebrating National Marina Day. Anyone interested in helping with the booth should contact Joyce Hudgens.
- **Father's Day Dinner:** On June 16th it is the ladies turn to prepare a meal for the men. Linda Nenno has agreed to prepare the brisket and we need volunteers to prepare side dishes suitable for brisket and desserts. Please contact Ginny Lucero or Linda Nenno if you would like to help out.
- **2013 NM Department Convention:** Convention this year is from June 27 – June 30. We have received the call so anyone wishing to attend should contact Sharon Pierson or Linda Nenno for the registration forms or you can find the necessary forms in this month's Blue Star. Everyone is invited and encouraged to attend.
- **Deucin' For The Cure:** This event is June 14-16 at the lake and is a fundraiser for a very worth group - Sierra County Cancer Assistance. While not an Auxiliary event, many of our members are involved with the SCCA. Please plan to attend this fun packed event. Watch for the pink posters and flyers around town or contact Steph Ross for more information.

Auxiliary Membership Report - Linda Nenno

Thank you to all who have renewed or joined in the last month. Since April 25, we have signed up four new members, Lorraine Kelley, Darsie Erhart, Trudie Browning, and Kelly Drake. We had two reinstatements. As of May 26, we only need 16 more members to join or renew to reach 100%. If you know of anyone who is eligible to join the Auxiliary, contact me (575-642-6164) or give them an application. If you have not renewed for 2013, please do it now.

The Chaplain's Corner – Marty Novak

PRAYER FOR THE MILITARY: Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Amen.

GET WELL WISHES: Papa Vince, Sofio Trujillo, Butch Walters, Bob Shuey, Jerry Light, Warren Roberts, Sharon Pierson's sister and Shirley Bucher

OUR CONDOLENCES: Our condolences to Eva and Ben Baca on the loss of her sister.

Creator God, who has given us such a great country
with beauty and wealth and opportunities,
continue to inspire our hearts as we work in our jobs,
our churches, and in our homes.

We pause to ask You to give comfort and healing
to our comrades in homes and in hospitals
and to guide and strengthen the doctors and nurses who serve them.

May we be good examples for others in all we do.

Help us lift America
And the American Legion
And American Legion Auxiliary
And the entire American Legion Family
To its true ideals.
Amen

CARE PACKAGES AND CELL PHONES: We sent 67 Care Packages in May. Thanks to all who helped. And of course, thank you to all the generous people and to the Post and the community for their monetary help with this project. If you haven't helped pack Care Packages before and would like to join us in this worthy project, we meet at the Post about 11 AM on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. It takes about 1 to 1 ½ hours.

It's getting that time of the year that our Troops need neck coolers to help them handle the heat. If anyone is interested in making them, let me know and I will get the instructions to you. Any help in this is appreciated.

We are an official collection site for cell phones that are no longer being used. These are sent for recycling and provide calling cards for the soldiers. We send the calling cards in our Care Packages. A collection container is located just outside the door of the Post.

As a reminder...the desserts that are donated by our members for the Wednesday night dinners help fund our Care Package project. We ask that you give a minimum of \$1.00 for each dessert. Your generosity is appreciated.

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