

THE CAN-DO DISPATCH

THE AMERICAN LEGION
JOHN J. MORRIS POST 62
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LEGION RIDERS
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For God and Country



NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
YOUNGTOWN, AZ
PERMIT #1

FROM THE COMMANDER JAMES R. McCRADY

Well Comrades here we are heading into the beginning of Spring, which as we know is on March 20th, 2010. We had a Great New Years Eve celebration at the Post, and I hope that those of you whom couldn't make it to celebrate with us had a Great evening where ever you may have been. On Sunday January 17th, 2010 Post 62 was privileged to host the District 11 Meeting which was very well attended. On the 31st of the month the Auxiliary held a Blood Drive where 49 people donated Blood, along with the Blood Drive they also held a Bake sale which went over very well. We came into the month of February by celebrating Super Bowl Sunday on February 7th with specials on drinks and Hamburger and Ribs being served out of the Kitchen. Thanks to those members who brought pot luck items to the festivities. The Auxiliary kept the ball rolling with the Senior Prom on the 13th of the month. It was well attended, and the members and their guest's enjoyed the meal and the dancing throughout the evening. On the 14th I along with Department Vice President Doris Theiss were privileged to be invited to a Boy Scout Eagle Ceremony. The young man that was Honored is a member of the Troop sponsored by the Post. His Name is Andrew Margason and he is truly an impressive young man. We were fortunate to have the Boy Scouts serve the meal at the Senior Prom, and they did a Great job. We here at Post 62 are so fortunate to have these young members from several groups such as the ROTC members from Peoria High School and Trevor Browne High School along with the Boy Scouts that come into help on different functions that we have at the Post. As I put this edition together we will still be coming up on the Gold Stash for Cash on February 21st, 2010, and I'm hoping that the Auxiliary has a good turn out for this worthwhile event. As we enter into March we have the "Annual Post Golf Tournament" on March 7th, 2010, followed by the Auxiliary Community Service Fair on the 14th of the month. This will coincide with the Police and Fire Departments Safety Stand Down. On March 17th, the Auxiliary will serve Corned Beef & Cabbage for the

FROM THE COMMANDER (cont.)

Past Presidents Parley program. On March 28th we will celebrate our “Volunteer Appreciation Dinner” from 1-3 p.m. when we get the chance to thank all of our Great Volunteers that give so much of their time and soul to help around the Post, followed on the 30th with the Auxiliary Emergency Fund Fashion Show Lunch. April starts with the popular Easter Brunch on the 4th of April from 10-12. On the 10th Post 62 is Honored to have the Homecoming Evening for Department President Debbie Collins from 5 til ??? On the 24th of the month we will host the District 11 Rehab Dinner and Auction. So as you can see we have some good things coming up at the Post. Make sure that you stop in and check for upcoming events and the details on each one. As those of you that come in on Friday Nights for the Fish Fry already know we have started the music up back in the Dining hall. Let's all try to keep it going by staying and dancing and drinking.

FROM THE 1ST VICE COMMANDER AL SAN SOUCI:

Comrades as we come into the 2nd edition of the Newsletter for 2010, I can report that we are doing much better, both from the operations end and the cost for product end of the spectrum. We are always going to have small bumps from time to time, but that is to be expected. I for one am very satisfied with the progress that we have made in the past six months. I want to thank all of the Volunteers and members that have made this possible, without them it would have been a rough road to hoe.

FROM THE 2ND VICE COMMANDER JOE CATONE:

Comrades I want to report that we have had real good participation in the events we have had in the Social Quarters. This goes from the NFL playoffs through the Super Bowl Party, which turned out very well, to the Saturday and Sunday Pool Tournaments. I want to Thank everyone whom has helped out in making these functions work. We have had a change in personnel behind the bar including seeing Russ Parsley and myself behind the bar. I would also like you to help make Tina our newest Bartender welcome. She comes to us from Post 105 where she is a Bartender also. Unfortunately we have had to make a change in our events calendar. I reported in the January/February edition that we were slated to have a Hawaiian luau on March 20th, but due to unforeseen circumstances we are going to have to postpone it indefinitely. We are planning to replace the luau with something else, but as of this Newsletter we haven't decided with just what it will be. Be sure when you come into the Social Quarters that you check the moving sign-board and any posters put up for details of what is going on for your entertainment.

FROM THE AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN JACK SHOEMAKER:

I would like to share some experiences a group of us had on a recent trip to Balboa Naval Medical Center in San Diego, specifically the part that has to do with the Freedom Foundation. First Vice Commander Al San Souci, Auxiliary President Maryann San Souci, Unit Secretary Jane Shoemaker and myself visited and had lunch with approximately 50 active duty service personnel who are in various stages of recovery from wounds suffered prosecuting the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The majority of them had suffered the loss of a limb or worse limb's. We were treated to a full tour of the department that deals specifically with these types of injuries. We saw some absolutely incredible advances in medical treatment which most of it we had no idea even existed. We spoke to an Army Vet who lost a part of his leg. He explained

FROM THE AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN (Cont.)

That from the time he stepped on the mine until he was in the hospital receiving treatment was approximately 15 minutes. That's right...15 minutes. And 20 minutes later he was in the operating room undergoing surgery. **Unbelievable!** Most of the troops we spoke to are Marines, with some Army and Navy. Many of which stated that all they wanted to do was recover and rejoin their respective units. Their spirits are quite high. Just know that your efforts to assist these young troops is very much appreciated. Also know that those wars are being prosecuted by patriotic and freedom loving citizens who are doing all they can to insure we can enjoy the freedoms this country affords us all. Keep them in your prayers.

FROM THE GOLF TOURNAMENT CHAIRMAN JULIAN LUSCO:

Just a reminder: American Legion Post 62's 4th Annual Golf Tournament will be held Sunday March 7th, at Sun City Country Club, located at 9433 N. 107th Ave. Sun City. Cut off date is March 1st. You may call after that to see if openings are still available. There will be a meal at Post 62 at about 5:30p.m.. Guests meal available for \$5.00. If you have any questions, you may reach me at 623-972-7385. Thank you in advance for your participation.

FROM THE FROM THE LADIES AUXILIARY PRESIDENT MARY ANN SAN SOUCI:

I would like to start with an **"A BIG THANK YOU"** to all of our Volunteers. Without your help we would not be able to have all the wonderful functions in our Legion! The Auxiliary will finish February with a **"Gold Stash for Cash"** function on February 21st, and the Cub Scouts Blue & Gold Banquet to mark their 100th Birthday. Our "Unit Presidents Project", February 6th at St Mary's Food Bank was a great success with 10 of us volunteers sorting 5,620 lbs of food and essentials from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.. Our work hours will be going to Community Service and VA&R programs. It is on the first Saturday of each month, so please come and join our Project. We Have a Blast!!!

March will be a very busy month for all of the entities. The Auxiliary starts with a Baby Shower at Unit 62 with the gifts going to the Phoenix Women Pregnancy Crisis Center on Thursday March 11th at 7 p.m.. Please join us for some refreshments and bring a baby gift to help the cause. On March 14th the Peoria Police and Fire Departments will observe a Safety Stand Down and we will have another **"Gold Stash for Cash"** in case you missed the one in February! March 17th (the Auxiliary Wednesday Dinner) will be Corned Beef & Cabbage for the Past Presidents Parley Program. March 21st we have a Poppy Stuffing Party going on. We need and would Love your assistance on this worthwhile Project. The Volunteer Appreciation Dinner is on Sunday March 28th from 1 til 3p.m.. March 30th the Auxiliary will have a Fashion Show Luncheon and tickets will be sold with the proceeds going to the Auxiliary Emergency Fund. The 5th Wednesday Dinner on March 31st will be Stuffed Cabbage for \$8.00, 5-7p.m.. April will bring an Easter Brunch on Sunday the 4th, 10a.m. to 12p.m.. The Department President's Homecoming Dinner will be on Saturday April 10th, with tickets for sale for \$15.00 each. On April 11th we will have **"American Legion Idol"** Contest for everyone! Information will be posted. So we have a full two months ahead. Thank you in advance for your VOLUNTEERING and for joining us to help our programs we run to support our Veterans and their families. **GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS AND OUR COUNTRY**

FROM THE NATIONAL SECURITY CHAIRMAN MARY RUEHS:

Thanks to the Legion family we had a very successful Blood Drive and Bake Sale. Thank you all for baking and working and of course buying our goodies. We were able to donate the \$500.00 we earned to the 3 schools we sponsor. We had such a wonderful turn out for the Blood Drive, that we will have another one in July. We look forward to seeing you all at the next one!

FROM THE AUXILIARY COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN JUDY BLAKE:

A **BIG THANK YOU** is due to all of you who generously helped support our sock drive for the Peoria Elementary School! Thanks to you, we delivered 131 pairs of socks to the school in January. We have another big event coming up on March 14th from 1 til 3p.m.. Representatives from the Peoria Fire and Police will be on hand to provide tips on personal and home safety. This event is free and open to the public, so invite your friends and neighbors.

FROM THE SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION COMMANDER JUSTIN SMITCH:

It's a New Year and time for some new attendance & new faces. A reminder, S.A.L. meetings are the first Thursday of every month at 6:00 p.m.. The meetings usually last about one hour and you're needed for fresh ideas and support. We are looking for your input on how and what you would like to see done within the Sons of the Legion.

A reminder to those who have not paid their 2010 dues, please see you're S.A.L. adjutant (Bob Reed) or fill out a membership form and leave it and your dues at the bar. Make sure you tell the bartender that it is for the S.A.L. program. In 2009 we met our membership goal with 180+ members putting us at 102%. With this kind of membership, we would like to see more than the 8 or 10 members that show up for the meetings on a regular basis. It was brought up by a few of the S.A.L. members that we have a very poor attendance record and according to the Squadron handbook of the organization under the Preamble to the National Constitution: **MEMBERSHIP ELIGIBILITY**, "There shall be no form or class of membership except an active membership". So with that being said I am looking forward to seeing more S.A.L. members at our next meeting. The Son's are having a raffle with a 1st Place gift certificate of \$75.00 for a Honey Baked Ham and two 2nd Place gift certificates of \$50.00 each for the Olive Garden Restaurant. Tickets can be purchased from a S.A.L. officer or from the bartenders at the bar. They are \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. The drawing will be held on Friday March 26th at 6:30p.m.. These will be great gifts for Easter, and all proceeds will be for children's chairities/

AFTER THOUGHTS FROM THE COMMANDER:

After the last issue of the "**CAN-DO DISPATCH**" the executive committee met in regular session and discussed the possibility of letting members advertise in the Newsletter. It was voted on and passed that we should allow this. The next step is to decide what to charge for these ads. This is a work in progress and any one that has any ideas on this subject should leave their ideas for the Commander at the bar or send them to the post in care of Commander American Legion John J. Morris Post 62

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