

THE CAN-DO DISPATCH

THE AMERICAN LEGION
JOHN J. MORRIS POST 62
UNIT, SQUADRON AND
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 here we are, going into a brand new year. I hope that everyone of you wonderful American Legion, Auxiliary, Son's and Riders members had a Joyous and Happy Holidays. I know that with the economy being what it is, it probably didn't seem like the best holiday, but let's hope that brighter days are just over the next rise. On another note we here at Post 62 are starting to show signs of recovery. We have worked hard and been able to cut our operating costs on several fronts. This has not been easy, but with the great cadre of officers that I have we have been able to get the job done. On a lighter note we have both Honored our Veterans and been able to entertain them at the same time. We Honored our Veterans on Nov. 11th with a Flag Raising at 11:00 a.m.. This was followed by a lunch and live music for their entertainment. On the 14th of Nov. we held our annual Early Bird Dinner for all the Veterans that had Paid their 2010 Dues by Nov 11th. As a lot of you know we at the Post didn't serve a Thanksgiving Day Meal. The reason is this. Last year myself and several other members and their families and friends spent four days prior to Thanksgiving Day getting all the Turkeys and the fixings ready for the big day. On Thanksgiving Day we were at the Post to serve the meal, and I'm sorry to say we had a miserable turnout. We ended up throwing out over five big serving containers of food, and this was after a week of trying to sell the leftovers at the noon lunches. We also gave twenty five Turkeys to the West Valley Food Bank. For this reason and this reason only I decided that there would be no Thanksgiving Meal this year. On the 29th of the month we had a "Jimmy Buffet" night complete with Margarita 's and Jimmy Buffet style music. In the month of December we started out on Dec. 6th with the Auxiliary Bake and Craft Sale. This was followed the following day with our December 7th observance of Pearl Harbor Day. We had a Flag Raising at 11:00 a.m. in the rain. I want to take this opportunity to thank the Post Color Guard for their unwavering professionalism under the foul weather conditions. On the 13th of Dec. the Auxiliary and Post held the Luke Children of Deployed

FROM THE COMMANDER(cont.)

Parents. The Party including a visit from Santa was a great success, with 88 children and 35 families represented. I want to take this opportunity to thank The Auxiliary, Post, Sal. And the Riders volunteers for the great job that they did. This is to be followed by the Post Christmas Party for the Members on the 19th of Dec. and the Post New Years Eve Party on the 31st of December. These two functions haven't happened yet as I am writing this edition of the Newsletter before the date of the functions. But if we get the professionalism from the Volunteers that they have showed Time after Time I'm sure these events will be Big Hits as well as the others through out the year. You as Members are the Heart and Soul of this organization and the only way your going to keep up on the events at the Post is to read this Publication that is printed for your information. If you don't take time to read it then you have only yourself to blame when something happens and you miss out on it. **READ IT!**

FROM THE 1ST VICE COMMANDER AL SAN SOUCI:

Comrades we enter a New Year and with Gods help and the help that I have enjoyed from the people that work in the kitchen to the great Volunteers that I have the privilege of interacting with on a weekly basis, we will keep this Post the Post that you all expect. We have started music on Friday evenings in the hall during the Fish Fry. It will run from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m.. We hope that this will work out but it all depends on you the members and how you receive it. You have to enjoy the music and dance to it and use the bar for your libations, that is why it's there, for your use. If you don't use and enjoy these things that we are trying to provide for you then the chances are that they will disappear. We can't afford to pay for musical entertainment if your not going to take advantage of them.

FROM THE 2ND VICE COMMANDER JOE CATONE:

Comrades since my taking over the reigns of the 2nd vice job I've been able to get up to speed on the bar operations and have gotten my liquor handler license. We have had some mechanical problems throughout the building, but we have handled them as quickly as we could depending on the availability of funds. I hope that you have patience with us as we are working as quickly as possible. And remember the bartenders are there to serve you, not to be abused by you. Have patience when waiting to be served, they are only human and they as you can only work as fast as you let them. Watch around the Social Quarters and read your Newsletter for upcoming events. As I write this article plans are under way for a Hawaiian Luau for March 20th complete with Pig Roast, Lei's and all the Hawaiian fun.

FROM THE FINANCE OFFICER JACK SHOEMAKER:

As we enter a New Year, What a year we've just went through. Finances have been pretty rough this year, but thanks to our Legion Family the Post survived. An article in the paper recently stated that Phoenix was on a list of the three largest cities that have the slowest recovery rate in the U.S. in this shaky economy. Like it or not that directly impacts our Post and its operations. Finances have been looking a little brighter lately. All bills to date have been paid and the bank account is in the **BLACK**. Many of your Post Officers have been working very hard to reduce expenses and have had a big impact on our monthly expenditures. Thanks goes out to all who have helped resolve our financial problems. I truly appreciate you assistance. I'll see you around the Post in the coming year, and Thanks again for all your help and understanding.

FROM THE GOLF TOURNAMENT CHAIRMAN JULIAN LUSCO:

American Legion Post 62's 4th annual Golf Tournament will be held on Sunday March 7th, 2010 at the Sun City Golf Country Club located at 9433 N. 107th Ave. A.M.&P.M. tee times will be available. The Game is a 4 person scramble (pick your team). It will be a shotgun start. The cost is \$40.00 per person which includes green fees, Dinner, beer and Prizes. Carts will be available. The Dinner will be at the Post along with the Prize Awards presentation after the tournament ends. Sign-up sheets will be available at the Post after Feb. 1st, 2010. You can reach me with questions by calling 623-972-7385.

FROM THE RIDERS PRESIDENT AL SAN SOUCI:

We of the riders want to thank all the Volunteers who help us both on Monday night spaghetti and on our 4th Wednesday steak night. We have decided to change the meal on that night from steak to a Roast Beef with all the fixings. This is due to the lack of participation at the steak night. The price of the Dinner will be \$8.00.

FROM THE LADIES AUXILIARY PRESIDENT MARY ANN SAN SOUCI:

Happy New Year to everyone, and as we start this fun filled year I want to thank each and every Volunteer that so generously gave their time to help make our events a success and a good time for all. The Auxiliary is having a Chicken n Dumplings Dinner January 20th and on January 31st there will be an Auxiliary Bake Sale. Saturday February 13th we will have our Senior Prom again. Please come and join the fun of your yesteryears!!! **GOD BLESS OUR TROOPS AND OUR COUNTRY**

FROM THE 2ND VICE PRESIDENT SHERRIE BOWER:

The holidays are over and I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Speaking of the new year, we need everyone to renew their membership. If you like to come to the club and meet with all of your friends, you will need a 2010 membership card. The money we collect goes to support our Veterans young and old. We help with supporting their children and their families. A reminder that the dues for the Auxiliary are now \$30.00, the state has increased our dues to them, and in turn we must raise ours. This raise was voted on in our September meeting, and went into effect on November 11, 2009. So for those of you who paid after November 11, we need the extra \$5.00. I understand that we are all having financial problems but we have to follow what the state organization does. You can mail your dues to P.O. box 2535 Peoria, AZ. 85380 or you can drop them off in the Lounge. You can call me at 623-486-8650. It is that time of the year when we start asking for donations for our Girls State program. This year we will be sending 23 girls. It costs \$250.00 for each one to go to the session. We ask that the girls pay \$100.00 for their share of the costs. Sometimes the girls can't afford that, so in turn we pay the entire \$250.00. This program is a very prestigious one that is recognized by the colleges. We teach our young girls and boys in the importance of government in modern society. During these turbulent times it is important they know how and why we vote. So keep the kids in your mind and please help send them to this year's sessions.

FROM THE AUXILIARY AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN JANE SHOEMAKER:

SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY: GOLD STASH FOR CASH The Auxiliary is offering all members

FROM THE AUXILIARY AMERICANISM CHAIRMAN (Cont.)

An opportunity to bring your Gold, Silver, Platinum or coins to the Post for cash to you. We have made arrangements with Gold Stash for Cash to be at the Post on February 21st from 1til 5p.m.. They buy all your good bad and ugly jewelry. You will be shocked to see what your unused, broken. Or one piece earring can bring to you in cash. At the Gold Cash event your Auxiliary is hosting you can turn your broken or unused items into cash! In addition, your Auxiliary will help our Children & youth & Americanism programs with a donation from Gold Stash for Cash. Come out and support this worthy program that helps you too! What a way to celebrate Americanism Month! Refreshments to be served! This will be a fun and cash worthy event! **SUNDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2010 1PM. TIL 5PM. AT THE POST.** For more information contact Jane shoemaker (623) 466-8895

FROM THE NATIONAL SECURITY CHAIRMAN MARY RUEHS:

The Auxiliary Blood Drive & Bake Sale will be held in the Post Dining Hall/Bingo Hall on Sunday January 31st, 2010 from 9:00 am. To 1:00 pm.. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the Social Quarters. In addition to the Baked Goodies, Breakfast Burritos will be available for everyone.

FROM THE SENIOR PROM CHAIRMAN KARON QUIGG:

The Post Auxiliary's 2nd Annual Senior Prom Dinner/Dance will be held on Saturday February 13th, 2010, starting at 5:00 pm.. Last years prom was a huge success so if you missed it, you will want to make sure you attend this year. This is a semi-formal event sponsored by the Ladies Auxiliary, so dust off those prom outfits and get ready for a night of dancing and fun. The tickets will go on sale after the 1st of the year for \$15.00 per person. The musical entertainment will be provided by Beverly & Gary and we will be crowning our King and Queen and their Court again this year. Make sure you mark your calendars for this great time as you won't want to miss it again this year!!!

FROM THE AUXILIARY COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN JUDY BLAKE:

Happy New Year Post 62 family! Thanks to all of you who've helped Unit 62 make a positive difference in our community during the first half of the 2009/2010 year. With your help we were able to sponsor 3 events for Make-a-Difference Day 2009. We provided an Ice Cream Social for all 63 residents of The Fountains Retirement Center in Youngtown, 49 of which are Veterans. In addition, we gave each resident a "Snuggie" blanket. Unit members hosted the welcome home table at Luke Air Force Base for their "Operation Kids" event October 24th. We also delivered 2 grocery bags of food and a set of bath towels to the Phoenix Ronald McDonald House. Thank you all! Special thanks to "Big Al San Souci and Joe Catone, who cooked for our Brunch in October (as well as the many other Volunteers who helped with this event). The Make-a-Difference Day raffle winners were **Fran Caruso, the quilt, and Ruth Sawusch, the shopping bags. Congratulations to both of you!** You may have noticed 2 large boxes in the Social Quarters and Bingo Hall at the Post. We are collecting nonperishable food items for the Westside Food Bank throughout the winter months. Unit President Mary Ann San Souci has adopted the Westside Food Bank as her President's Special Project. Post family members will be working at the food bank the first Saturday of the month to assist them with their program (except for January when they'll be closed). We'd like to deliver lots of stuff each month when we show up to help out.

FROM THE AUXILIARY COMMUNITY SERVICE CHAIRMAN (Cont)

Unit 62 provided Thanksgiving Dinners for 5 families at Peoria Elementary School, complete with Turkey and Pumpkin Pie! Thanks go out to all those who Contributed items to make this possible. Our next big community service project is a sock drive for the children at Peoria Elementary School. They're in dire need of children's socks in all sizes including adult (for the older kids). Please bring the socks to the January General Membership Meeting so they can be delivered to the school after that.

FROM THE AUXILIARY HISTORIAN JUDY BLAKE:

Greetings from your Unit 62 Historian! I'm starting work on the scrapbook in January, If any of you have pictures from events that you're willing to donate for the scrapbook please get them to me as soon as possible. My new phone number is (623) 271-2716. Many thanks to those who've already given me pictures for President Mary Ann's scrapbook.

FROM POST 62'S BEST AND MOST SENIOR BARTENDER PATTY LAWRENCE:

I wish to thank all the people in the Post for being so good to me in my years of being your Bartender. I enjoyed every day of it. I also want to thank you for my Retirement Party. It was great, and my children and my sister and her daughter had a very good time. Thanks to the Legion, Auxiliary, Sons, and the Riders for their friendship over the years.

FROM ONE OF OUR MEMBERS JERRY BAKKE:

For those interested in Helping Returning Veterans. The First Marine Division Association (FMDA) is a non-profit association where Marines and Sailors who now serve, or have served, can come together as a "Family of Warriors" and share that unexplained quality known as "Esprit de Corps." In the Sprit, the "Older Brothers" of our family stand ready to mentor our younger brothers and sisters and assist their children with our programs. We also stand ready to help returning Veterans relocate after active service, find employment, and receive the benefits of services that have been promised to them. It is within the guise of being "Older Brothers" that the funding opportunities lay. The Scholarship Programs of the First Marine Division Association, 501 © (3) (#260564463), and for our returning Veterans Outreach Programs, 501 © (19) (#540621157) the awards are given to qualified individuals whose parents served.

FROM A POST MEMBER JERRY BAKKE (Cont)

Sponsors for \$100.00 with a sign with the company name / logo on it. Tax-deductible donations and prizes welcome. You can register by contacting Jerry Bakke 14466 W. Clarendon Ave. Goodyear, AZ. 85395 or by phone at (623)535-0064 or e-mail BDEBONAIR@AOL.COM. You can make your Checks payable to the First Marine Division Association. Payment should be received no later than February 1st, 2010. If you cannot attend we would appreciate a monetary donation that will be used to invite a young man or woman that have served in the Middle East so they can play golf. If there is anyway you can help, we would appreciate it very much. Please mail your donation or application to the name and address listed above Thank you in advance for your consideration.

This is just an observation from your commander but this seems like a worthwhile project being staged by the First Marine Division Association on behalf of our Veterans coming back from our latest war in the Middle East. These Veterans like their counterparts from the wars in the past need all the help they can get from their fellow Americans upon their return. Every Veterans organization whether it be the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American War Veterans or the Jewish War Vets should do every thing in their power to not only welcome these Veterans back to their Country but do everything to help them readjust to civilian life again. And believe me that isn't going to be easy with the economy being the way it is. I'm not saying that the war were fighting now is any easier or harder than the wars that our Veterans have fought in before, but this enemy is dedicated to ending the life style that the Americans enjoy. They will do what ever it takes including killing themselves while they set off explosives to kill our fellow men, women, and children. They even kill their fellow citizens in their own country. That shows that they are fanatical in their beliefs and they will use tactics that you and I will think are unusually cruel, but they are intent on overcoming the Satan's and infidels living in the peace loving nations. Remember these people have been at war amongst themselves for thousands of years, its just been in the last twenty years that their leadership has decided to take on the United States. Their fanaticism shows from their attack on 09/11/2001 when they attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon and the try against the Capitol or White House that probably would have worked except for the Bravery of the people on the flight over Pennsylvania that fought the terrorist and crashed the plane rather than let them fly it into either the Capital or the White House. The only way to keep our great country great is to keep watch over our neighbors and friends that no harm comes to them or yourselves.

FROM THE POST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

For the members that haven't had the chance to visit the Post in awhile, there have been a few changes made around the building. We have changed the flooring in the Lounge. We went from the Dingy smelly carpeting to a light blue gray tile much like the tile in the Dining/Bingo hall. We also added a stage in the Lounge for the Entertainment we have in there. That's right we have live music in the Lounge two nights a week. On Wednesdays and on Saturdays from 5:00 p.m. til 9:00 p.m.. This has worked out very well with the members enjoying the music and dancing to it. We have gotten 20 new stools in the Lounge so that they are all the same

FROM THE POST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE (Cont.)

Size. These were provided courtesy of the Legion Riders, a valuable part of the Legion Family. We have had to do some maintenance around the building from time to time also. Such as the big Reefer in the kitchen, we had to replace the electronic brain in that and that wasn't cheap, we also had to replace 1 air conditioning compressor and 1 air exchanger up on the roof. Then there are the little every day items that need to be replaced as did the front foyer light. It's always something. Many members don't realize what it takes to keep a building this size up and operating. It's a constant drain on the funds, and we as your elected executive committee try our best to keep the physical plant in good working order. We hope that any inconveniences are short and that you will have patience when something goes out or breaks. All we ask is for your cooperation and patience and let the people responsible for taking care of the problems to do their job.

FROM THE CHAPLAIN VIC WHITNEY:

This is just a few words about what members or spouses are supposed to do when one of their Legion loved ones passes on. The first thing you do is to notify the Post. When the bartender answers the phone tell the bartender who you are and why your calling. They already have a form that they fill out for someone's passing. They will ask for the Legion members full name and the date that he or she passed away. They will also ask which mortuary is handling the arrangements and the tentative time of the funeral. You will need the Veterans DD214 or his Discharge when you go to the mortuary to make the arrangements. If you Don't know where they are talk to the Veteran now before it's to late and get those items in a place where you won't forget where they are. This is very important, because you can't get any kind of services for a Veteran without them. This includes the Flag for the casket, the Military Honors, and even the Burial in the National Cemetery. Even if the member needs to enter a VA Hospital he will need these papers. If you can't find them our Service Officers at the Post can help you get them. But again don't wait until the member passes away. The bartender will take all the information on the member and you will be contacted by myself or the Color Guard Commander on what your wishes for the members funeral and wake might be. If you have any questions of myself or the CG Commander please feel free to ask them when contacted. Remember no question is wrong or stupid! We would much rather you ask the questions you have rather than not ask them and then find out something could have been done for the member or their loved ones. The reason the Post needs to know immediately is that it takes a couple of days for the Color Guard to get in touch with their members so that they can give the Veteran the Honors that they deserve and have earned. Don't depend on the mortuary to do this for you as I've seen in the past this little item sometimes gets lost in the shuffle. Even if the Post that a member can't give the Honors they can contact other Legion Posts that might be able to render the Honors.

“ FROM BARTENDERS CORNER” CLUB STEWARD JOANNIE PODLAS:

Hi! And Happy New Year to all our wonderful members and their guest's. Here we are starting another year here in Paradise. Hopefully you have all made it through the Holidays with not too much wear and tear. As we start this New Year I and the staff of bartenders want to see your smiling faces in the Social Quarters. When two or three days go by and our regulars don't show up, we get worried! This isn't to say that we only want to see the regulars, we want to see everyone's smiling faces. We are always running some kind of special whether it be on Beer or some Brand or Kind of liquor. And of course we serve lunches Monday thru Saturday. So stop in and say Hi, because we need your humor and your shining faces to make our days and nights happier. We also have different raffles going on throughout the year with some pretty good prizes. And for those of you that haven't been in the club for awhile we have put in three electronic raffle machines which the members seem to like playing, Come in and try your luck.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

District 11 Meeting, Sunday January 17th, 2010 2:00pm., National Security Auxiliary Brunch and Blood Drive Sunday January 31st, 2010 10:00 am til 12:00 pm., Super Bowl Sunday February 7th, 2010 Times to be announced, Auxiliary Senior Prom February 13th, 2010 5:00 pm to ???, Auxiliary Gold Stash for Cash February 21st, 2010, Legion Post Golf Tournament March 7th, 2010 7:30 to 1:00 pm., Auxiliary Community Service Fair march 14th, 2010, St Patties Day Corned beef & Cabbage Dinner March 17th, 2010 5:00 to 7:00pm., Volunteer Appreciation Dinner March 28th, 2010 1 to 3 pm., Auxiliary Emergency Fund Fashion Show Lunch March 30th, 2010 Easter Brunch 10 to 12pm., Auxiliary Department Presidents Homecoming "Debbie Collins " Dinner April 10th, 2010 5:00 pm to ???, District Rehab Dinner March 24th, 2010 5:00 to ???, Poppy Mothers Day Brunch April 9th, 2010 10 to 12 pm., Girls State Orientation May 15th, 2010 4:30 to 7:00pm., Memorial Day Flag Raising May 31st, 2010 11:00 am.

POST EVERLASTING: Michael A. Beczkalo, Billy Bryan, Steve M. Corrigan, Thomas E. Davini, James R. Dowd, Eliseo Escarcego, Thomas M. Finnely, Robert D. Harris, Don K. Martin, Joseph M. Medina, Joe Perez, Glenn E. Royston, C.W. Smith, Leslie L. West, Russell C. Berkoben, Harry W. Dettman, Paul H. Garland, Lloyd W. Hiles, Ivan F. Hodges, Frank Jakowich, Richard M. Olesz, Alex Rubilotta, Harold R. Sornig, Andrew R. Sullivan, Neal G. Walton, Gordon J. Ware, Robert G. Wittenburg, Richler L. Wyatt, Bruce C. Brink, Sam Catanzaro, James H. Cox, Casper V. Dosch, David A. Downs, John Fitzpatrick, Arthur E. Gauthier, Donald K. Goonan, Gary D. Gummow, Frank J. Holvoet, Donald R. Linman, Jacque Mills, Thomas W. Shue.