

Executive Committee  
2013—2014

*Commander*  
Richard Lucero

*Senior Vice Commander*  
Louie Garcia

*Junior Vice Commander*  
Oscar Herrera

*Past Commander*  
Alfonso Aranda

*Post Adjutant*  
George Quihuis

*Finance Officer*  
Henry Daley

*Post Service Officer*  
Nathaniel Eguez

*Post Chaplain*  
Oscar Santa Cruz

*Executive Officers*  
Jose Saucedo

John Vargas  
Frank Diaz

Robert (Fat Man) Martinez  
Joe Reyes

*Judge Advocate*  
Robert P. Hernandez

*Trustee*  
Allen Gills

*Sgt. At Arms*  
Tony Watlington

*Auxiliary Unit 41 President*  
Erma Lopez

*Legion Riders Commander*  
Robert Velasquez

*S.A.L. Commander*  
Louie Barragan

*Club Manager*  
James Ormsby

Ronda Room (602) 262-9243  
Office (602) 253-8131

**Post Website:**  
[WWW.legionpost41.org](http://WWW.legionpost41.org)

## Tony F. Soza - Ray Martinez American Legion Thunderbird Post 41



FROM THE DESK OF  
COMMANDER RICHARD LUCERO

### Commander's Greetings...

It is an Honor and a Privilege to be your Commander, I look forward to a great year, we have many programs here at Post 41 and I will continue to support those programs. I look forward to working together with all The American Families.

I ask that each of you make every effort to attend the membership meeting, this is the perfect time to offer your advice or comments, and I look forward to hearing from any of our members.

Your attendance at Post functions help to support our Veterans, the community and finance enhancements to our Post.

If you have any items from the past, be sure to contact our Historian, Robert Hernandez, so that it can be duplicated, if possible, and I would love to put those in our Room Of Honor.

Once again don't be a stranger come on in to the Post for any of our events or just into the Ronda Room and say Hello and offer me some advice, I look forward to talking to each and everyone willing to spend some time with me.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY,

COMMANDER POST 41 RICHARD LUCERO

### From the Senior Vice Commander

Legionnaires, we just completed a successful membership year. Thanks to all of you our post membership we exceeded 100 percent. This was achieved through member renewals and new member recruitment. Let us repeat this accomplishment. Keep in mind that membership is each member's responsibility. It is the lifeline of the American Legion. Our strength is in our membership base. Without members we would have no voice on capitol hill nor could we achieve the entitlements and support to our veterans.

**Senior Vice Commander...** (Continued from page One)

In the years following World War II, membership in the American Legion hit an all-time high. Legion membership has since declined over the years.

Times have changed since World War II. There were more people in the military and the economics of the country were different. Our servicemen came home and found a job and raised their families. Many veterans became members of The American Legion. It was the thing to do at the time. This is not what is happening today. When they get out of the service, there aren't many opportunities for them to come back to. There are few jobs. Many veterans become homeless. Our WW II veterans are passing away. American Legion Posts, in general, are losing their WW II, Korea, and Vietnam veterans. It is imperative that we recruit our Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan veterans and service members. For those that are not aware, there are posts that are facing closure because of declining membership. We cannot allow this to happen to Post 41. Our post has a proud history and all of us should be proud to be Post 41 members.

We must accept the fact that if the American Legion is to continue to operate as the largest veterans organization and for Post 41 to exist, all legion members must concentrate their efforts to recruit with emphasis on informing veterans of who we are and what we do. There are many active duty servicemen and women who do not know about the American Legion. I know this from first hand experience in speaking with them. We need to get the word out about all the good work that the American Legion does for veterans and their families, service members, children and youth, and the community. When people understand who we are and what we do they are more likely to support and donate to our causes. Many will join the American Legion to help us continue our work. Let them know that the post provides opportunities for veterans to socialize and support one another. Many posts are involved in numerous charitable projects such as donating food boxes around the holidays, holding job fairs, and helping veterans shelters.

When it comes to recruiting new members, it can be as simple as to ask if they are a member of the American Legion or have they ever been a member. This is the opportunity to talk about The American Legion and Post 41. Invite them to your post. All members should have membership applications. Keep them in your wallet. Lets continue to strengthen our membership base and never lose sight of the fact we are veterans serving veterans, their families and the community. Again, I thank all members for their continued membership and support.

SINCERELY,

LOUIE GARCIA

SENIOR VICE COMMANDER

**From the Past Commander...**

It was a honor and a privilege serving as Commander at Tony F Soza / Ray Martinez American Legion Thunderbird Post 41 for the past two terms (2011-2012 and 2012-2013). I hope my last two years were as enjoyable to you as it was for me. I look forward to putting all the experience of the last two years as Commander toward helping our Commander Richard Lucero and future Commanders.

As you may not see me at the Post as often, I am still very much involved in the Post programs/committees. Presently, I am serving as President of the Past Commanders Club and a proud member of the Honor Guard for Post 41. My involvement in District 12 is through the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) Program serving as the Program Co-Chair and Chairperson for the Veterans Helping Veterans (VHV) Committee.

As I have asked before, we are still looking for those special people that would like to join American Legion Post 41 Color Guard and Honor Guard. Your participation would be greatly appreciated by those left behind, of those who gave all.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

PAST COMMANDER ALFONSO ANTHONY ARANDA, JR.

**From the Sons of American Legion...**

This year has been very busy for Squadron 41 and at the same time very enjoyable helping and working with all our posts programs. Summer is upon us which means vacation time for many. If you can find a little time in your schedule to help with the fish fry on Fridays or any other family upcoming events it would be greatly appreciated.

Congratulations to our S A L and Legionnaire member from our Post 41, "Angel Juarez" who will assume the responsibilities of another Post 41 member John Aldecoa upon his retirement at American Legion Department of Arizona. Our friend John will be enjoying his well deserved time addressing his "honey do list" I' m sure, good luck my friend. Mr. Aldecoa our very own Post 41 member has served as Commander and S.A.L. officer during his 42 years.

Our Friday's Fish Fry' s has been doing well but the heat has send many of our customers to the hills to cool off, which we can't blame them, but some of us have to stay and serve our die hard friends. Thank God, we only have about 88 days of 100 degree plus days, and the rest is a piece of cake, right.

Just a few announcements to make, Our Fiesta de Carnival or Mardi Gras will be held on March 3, 2014. And taking advantage of Cinco De Mayo weekend our following event will be May 3. So mark your calendars either to attend, volunteer or both. We need your help and your support.

In closing let us not forget our men and women of our armed forces who serve and protect our great nation, and also let us remember the fallen 19 firefighters (and their families) who gave their lives protecting and serving their community.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY.

You're S.A.L COMMANDER LOUIS BARRAGAN

### **From the Ladies Auxiliary...**

I'd like to extend my greetings to all. Joint installation of new officers was held June 6, 2013. Unit 41 new officers for 2013 through 2014 are; President, Erma Lopez; Vice President, Mary Torres; 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, Margie Gutierrez; Treasurer, Alice Castellanos; Secretary, Anita Ritter; Chaplain, Mary Cordova; Historian, Donna Baca; Sergeant at Arms, Esther Garcia; Parliamentarian, Lorraine Vasquez; Executive Committee, Cecelia Reyes, Maria Perkins and Belen Rojas. This is a great line-up of hard working ladies who continue to contribute to reach our goals year after year.

Our members have been doing a magnificent job of volunteering. Unit 41 received runner-up award for community services during the Department of Arizona Convention in June, 2013. I thank each and every one of you for your time and dedication in helping the Auxiliary Unit 41 accomplish their goals. Through your efforts we were able to donate a good sum to the Wounded Warriors Project. Many volunteer hours continue to be accumulated making and serving menudo and burritos on Sundays to our veterans, their families and the community.

Our Sunday breakfast crowd has been growing. They are coming in with their families and staying awhile to visit with friends. We thought maybe the people would not want to come in for menudo during summer so we asked if we should skip July and August. It was unanimous that they did not want us to close for the two months.

On July 4, 2013 the Auxiliary Unit 41 participated in celebrating Independence Day with Post 41. Also on that day, a solemn moment was observed in honor of the 19 firefighters that perished fighting the Yarnell Hill fire on June 30<sup>th</sup>.



Auxiliary Unit 41 is planning their next fund-raising dance on November 23, 2013 (Saturday).

Unit 41 is planning on having a super year in helping our

veterans, their families and community. In the spirit of "**SERVICE, NOT SELF**", where we promote harmony and welcome all members, accept/adapt to change and engage new/current members.

ERMA LOPEZ  
UNIT 41 PRESIDENT  
2013 thru 2014

### **Scout Troop and Pack 119....**

Post 41 continues to support the Scout Program, we still need the support of our membership.

Christina and her husband Louie Padilla have been instrumental building the Scouting program within our community here at the American Legion Post 41 and have completed the processes of establishing the charter of a Boy Scout Troop, for boys in grades 6 through 12, Outdoor activities and outings will be starting soon.

If you or you know of someone, that is interested in joining an active pack (Grades 1 through 5) or Troop (Grades 6 through 12) please contact **Christina Padilla at (602) 231-9679**.

### **Marine Corp League Detachment # 2....**

As many of you veterans visiting the Legion Post 41, you may have noticed a group of former Marines who meet monthly at the Post. The former Marines have established a detachment unit of the National Marine Corps League to serve the central Phoenix valley. The detachment was established in October of 2010; reactivating a dormant chartered detachment known as 'Ira Hayes' Detachment #002. This detachment of the Department of AZ, Marine Corps League (MCL) is based at Am Legion Post 41, and meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month at noon.

The mission of the 'renewed' Marine Corps League 'Ira Hayes' Detachment #002 is to serve the active, and former Marines and Fleet Marine Force (FMF) Navy corpsmen and their families in the central Phoenix area. The overall mission of the Marine Corps League is to provide fellowship and preserve the traditions while promoting the interest of the U.S. Marine Corps. The MCL allows us to band together to promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy, voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marines.

If you are an active or former Marine or an FMF Navy Corpsman, honorably discharged and wish to continue with the rich traditions of your Marine Corps service

While still serving the Corps, plan to come to one of our monthly meetings or contact our Detachment Commandant Jose Saucedo at 480-820-6241. We have many missions in the planning for the to band together to promote the ideals of American freedom and democracy, voluntarily aiding and rendering assistance to all Marines.

If you are an active or former Marine or an Fleet Marine Force (FMF) Navy Corpsman, honorably discharged and wish to continue with the rich traditions of your Marine Corps service while still serving the Corps, plan to come to one of our monthly meetings or contact our Detachment Commandant Jose Saucedo at 480-820-6241. We have many missions in the planning for the coming year but we need your help and support. Step up and be counted as one of our Brothers – *“Semper Fi Marine”*

OSCAR SANTA



**March**

Russell S. Whitman III      11 year member

**April**

Ruben Navarro              18 year member

Raymond J. Flores          28 year member

**May**

Joe M. Rivera                49 year member

Inez “Spuds” Hernandez    26 year member

**For the Good of the Legion and Post 41..**

It seems we are always asked to increase our membership and no matter what programs you begin discussing, you always come back to membership.

The reason for this is obvious -- “membership is the lifeblood of The American Legion and our Post.” Without members, there would be no Legion programs. Without members, we would have no voice on Capitol Hill. Without members, there would be no accomplishment in assistance and support to veterans, their families, the community, state and nation. But, The American Legion has recorded consistent accomplishments for veterans and their families since 1919.

It is often emphasized, “It is not the price you pay to belong, but the price you paid to be eligible to belong.”

Often times our members are hesitant to ask veterans to join The American Legion because we are asking the veteran for his money and his time. Do you not feel, as a Legionnaire, that time and money will be well spent in advancing the many and various programs of The American Legion.

Don’t be hesitant or be apologetic, ask them to join, ask them to renew.

How important is retention of our members;

An average of 200,000 Legionnaires do not renew their membership each year. That’s how important it is. Not for the sake of numbers but for our impact on our elected officials and the impact on our many programs at local, state and national level – “That’s why it’s important.”

**“Retention: The key to membership growth”**

**Post 41 History...**

We continue to build the proud history of our Post 41, I welcome any pictures and documents that relate to the post’s early history. These can be scanned and returned if need be. I am also attempting to locate some members whose mailing addresses have been identified as undeliverable. If anyone knows how to make contact with: 1) Frank Alvarez, 2) Robert V. Espinoza, 3) Samuel L. Gonzales, 4) Estevan Quinones, 5) Johnny C. Reza Jr., and 6) Edward O. Saavedra. Please let me, Robert Hernandez, know at (602) 330-8274.



### American Legion Extension Institute, ALEI

It is encouraged that every member to learns as much as possible about the history of The American Legion. This will let you know where we've been, where we currently are and where we are going as an organization, as well as lay the groundwork for developing new current and future leaders.

If you are interested in knowing more about The American Legion and how you can become involved, Go to go to [legion.org/alei](http://legion.org/alei) or visit your [mylegion.org](http://mylegion.org) and for a modest fee of \$4.95 for Legion Family members, and \$9.95 for non-Legion Family members, you can become empowered with the knowledge to become a leader in The American Legion. The American Legion is the nation's largest and most influential network of U.S. wartime veterans, families and communities, and The American Legion Extension Institute helps bring all this together in one simple to use program.

### Future Newsletter Advertisement

It has been suggested by the Executive Committee that we offer business advertisement within the Post 41 newsletter. This newsletter is also available on the Post website; [WWW.legionpost41.org](http://WWW.legionpost41.org), making a wider distribution.

We would like some feedback as to any interest. Full page (\$100.00), Half page (\$50.00), Quarter page (\$25.00) and Business card size (\$10.00) is offered. You can express your interest to email address: [robert@alpost41.phxcoxmail.com](mailto:robert@alpost41.phxcoxmail.com) or call (602) 330-8274. These funds will aid with the cost of printing and mailing.

### Regular Weekly Entertainment

Don't forget that we have regular entertainment at our post; **Tuesday through Friday** - Happy Hour is 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM. There is a great jukebox with all your favorite tunes. We are Closed on Mondays and open at 11:00PM on the other week days.

**Friday** we a DJ following with an occasional live band.

**Friday** we also have Fish Fry sponsored by our Sons of The American Legion, Squadron 41 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM, menu is on the website Special Events tab.

**Saturday** is live music night with some great valley bands, just check the Legion Post 41 website or call the Ronda Room at 602-262-9243 .

**Sunday** morning we have breakfast specializing in Menudo, sponsored by The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 41, 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM, menu is on the website Special Events tab.

**Sunday** we also have a Tardeada with a DJ providing music starts at 6:00 PM and ends at 10:00 PM

Don't forget, if you are planning a large get together or party to celebrate some occasion you must arrange your plans with the Club Manager, James Ormsby 480-580-2053. There are some limitations to just how large of a party can be held in the Ronda Room - Remember that the Ronda Room is a membership room first and foremost.

We ask that the children are kept at a minimum, the parties are for adults, and children get bored when there is nothing for them to do but run around the room. **All children under the age of 18 are not allowed in the Ronda Room after 6:00 PM.**

### REMINDER

General meetings are on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. Please make an effort to attend.

Your participation is very important. The Post operations cannot be successful without the support of the membership.

The American Legion  
Tony F. Soza—Ray Martinez  
Post 41  
715 S. 2nd Avenue  
PHOENIX, AZ 85003-2507

**Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
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PHOENIX, ARIZONA**

***“FOR GOD and COUNTRY”***

**CALENDAR OF SPECIAL EVENTS**

Friday, August 2	Raiders Booster Club Veterans Benefit Dance, 7pm
Saturday, August 17	Pool Tournament, Tucson
Wednesday September 11	Patriot Day Ceremonies, 6pm
Wednesday, September 18	U.S. Air Force Birthday, Ronda Room 4pm
Saturday, September 21	Fall Festival Dance, 7pm
Sunday, October 13	Annual BBQ, 11AM TO 6pm
Saturday, October 12	A.L.R. Benefit Dance, 7pm
Saturday, October 19	Honor Guard Benefit Dance, 7pm
Saturday, October 26	Halloween Dance, 7pm
Thursday, October 31	Children’s Halloween Party, 6 to 8pm
Sunday, November 10	Marine Corp 238th Birthday, Ronda Room 4pm
Monday, November 11	Veteran’s Day
Thursday, November 21	Post 41 Thanksgiving Dinner, 6pm
Saturday, November 23	Auxiliary Benefit Dance, 7pm
Friday, November 29	Early Bird Dinner, 5pm