

**Alfonso Aranda**  
*Commander*

**Manny Lugo**  
*Senior Vice-Cmdr*

**Oscar Herrera**  
*Junior Vice-Cmdr*

**Robert P. Hernandez**  
*Past Commander*

**Richard Lucero**  
*Post Adjutant*

**Henry Daley**  
*Post Finance Office*

**Gregorio Aguirre**  
*Post Service Officer*

**Angel Juarez**  
*Post Chaplin*

**Richard Pompa**  
**Roy Vega**

**Edmund Lovett**  
**Jose Saucedo**

**Louie Garcia**  
*Executive Officers*

**Kern Overstreet**  
*Post Judge Advocate*

**Andy Vidales**  
**Dan Straight**  
*Trustee*

**Anita Velasquez**  
*Ladies Auxiliary President*

**Eddie Farinas**  
*S.A.L. Commander*

**Robert Velasquez**  
*AmLegion Riders Commander*

**James Ormsby**  
*Club Steward*

**George Quihuis**  
*Sgt. At Arms*

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP  
MEETING**

*1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at 7:00PM*

**Executive Board Meetings**

*Tues. before the General Meeting, then two weeks later*

715 S 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
Phoenix, AZ 85003

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

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Website: [www.legionpost41.org](http://www.legionpost41.org)



*Tony F. Soza- Ray Martinez American Legion  
Thunderbird Post 41 Newsletter September 2011*



**FROM THE DESK OF  
COMMANDER ALFONSO ARANDA**

**Commander's Greetings ...**

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the membership for your votes. I will continue the outstanding efforts made by our Past Commanders. My thanks go out to Past Commander Charles "Danny" Bugh and Past Commander Robert P. Hernandez for staying involved and following through on the roof project. Thanks to all of you that helped in the painting, electrical work, tile setting and cleaning.

This year, our Sons of the American Legion have stepped forward again by taking on the "Christmas Basket Drive", as we all know we must work together to be successful. We will be holding two fundraising efforts for this event, October 16 and November 13, 2011. So mark your calendars and help support this program. I look forward to seeing you there.

The American Legion Riders have also been there to help when the need arises, as well as the Auxiliary Unit 41. Please try to support as many of your Post 41 events or just come by and have a cold beer, coke or water.

Membership to date is at 57%, meeting our target goal of 55% by October 17, 2011. Our next target date is November 14, 2011 when we are to be at 65%. So let's not break the momentum and pay our 2012 dues, if you have not already, talk to your fellow members that may not have yet taken that step. Also don't forget November 11, 2011 is the end date for the Early Bird stamp and being eligible to attend the great dinner we are planning for November 25<sup>th</sup>.

Since I mentioned Veterans Day, don't forget about our VA parade entry, we'll need everyone's support by lending a hand and giving a yell as we pass by.

Thank you.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY

COMMANDER ALFONSO A. ARANDA

### **From Adjutant...**

Hello Fellow Legionnaires,

First of all, I want to thank Past Commander Robert Hernandez for stepping up and getting the newsletter going again, we are also going to update our website due to efforts of Robert Hernandez, Oscar Santa Cruz and Charlie Cano.

There has been much effort to improve the structure of our post, just want to thank all the members for their support; we look forward to many functions at our post.

Continue to support the post and its programs. The funds that are collected are put right back into the community and also helps our fellow servicemen and women.

We want reach out to the servicemen and women just getting out of the service, we are here to help or provide as much service as we are able.

We encourage you to step forward with your comments and suggestions. Remember this is your post!

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY  
RICHARD LUCERO  
ADJUTANT

### **From the Post Chaplain...**

God is faithful. We should be as well. Our loyalty fails too often as we forget God's promises to be true to us. We let ourselves trip and stumble over worries and anger about what how life is unfolding for us. We say, "time and again another trouble; when does it end!" We too late remember to say, "Praise God for pulling me through that one!" This is easy for us to do when we forget to lean on His Word. That happens easiest when we go and fellowship at church. Some of you are probably tired of hearing me say, "Go to church." But I wanted to take time to call your attention to something I noticed not long ago. I skipped church to come by the post for the Sunday menudo one morning. I want to tell you that I may as well have been at church for all the sameness I found there. A great meal was shared among post brothers and sisters. They some had visitors with them and visitors came from far places to gather in our circle. People shared life updates, both happy and sad. There was comfort and prayer. Some even remembered to say Grace as they began their meal. Now, some may argue that breakfast together isn't

church, and that's okay. I left that day feeling I hadn't missed church at all. But in an age when people shy away from church because it's too religious; and new groups form up and would rather group up in bars and "church" up; (I read about that the other day). I wonder how long it will be before people eventually do forget how faithfully God calls to us. As I continue in my own spiritual training, prompted by God, I am reminded not to forget those whom He has inspired me to pray with. Please join me in these constant prayers for each other. And get into your bible regularly, especially if life is dragging you away from fellowship regularly. Remember John 15:5; my version reads; "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing." Pick up your bible please, and meditate on that fact alone, and watch for the fruit you bring forth.

GOD BLESS YOU AND YOURS AND GOD BLESS THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

CHAPLAIN ANGEL JUAREZ

### **From the Service Officer**

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself and send greetings to all my fellow Legionnaires. I have been a member of Post 41 for five years; I served as Sergeant at Arms in 2009 and 2010. I recently had occasion to visit the Carl T. Hayden Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Clinics and was very impressed with the level of care and service provided. During these visits I became aware of a few of the issues and difficulties being experienced by veterans. And realized the help and resource a Post Service Officer could provide members, their spouses and dependents. When Commander Aranda asked for volunteers to fill vacant positions in the 2011 administration, I indicated my interest in being the Service Officer. Now, I do not claim to possess the competency or minimum level of knowledge to adequately perform the duties or responsibilities of the position, BUT, I am committed to learn all I can to become the Service Officer the Post deserves. I have already been approached by members asking for information and help in obtaining certain benefits. To those who have questions about veterans' benefits or related topics please contact me via the post website or you can see

me at the monthly General Meeting. Look for important information on veterans' benefits, changes to existing benefits and related topics in upcoming issues of the Post Newsletter and Post Website.

GREGORIO "GREG" AGUIRRE  
POST 41 SERVICE OFFICER 2011

### **ALR Chapter 41 on the road!**

We are on the move for our veterans and our community, even though it was a nice and hot summer we still rode for some good causes. Supporting veterans, community and our Post are what we do. With that we sometimes get recognized for what we do. On 9/10/11 we were honored to receive a plaque from the Veterans Stand Down project which helps Homeless Veterans. The plaque was presented to the ALR Chapter 41 Commander Robert Velasquez and Post 41 Past Commander Robert Hernandez who proudly accepted the plaque. As some of you remember last year at the ALR dance we had the privilege to fly the Patriot Flag. The Patriot Flag was flown all over the United States but Post 41 on 11/12/10 was the only American Legion Post to have the flag flown at in the state of "Arizona". Post 41 was 1 of only 21 American Legion Posts to fly the flag. The flag is now flying proudly and permanently in New York. You can see the travels of the flag from town and state to state by going to The Patriot Flag.com web site and you can see the adventure that the flag took while touring our great United States. There is even a picture of the flag in front of our Post. Post 41 is in my book the best American Legion Post anywhere. The Legion Riders go to support many Posts all over the state and being selfish I believe that we are the best hands down! So be proud to be a member of Post 41 and help where you can. We are all here to support our Veterans and our Community.

ALR recently made a ride to Hatch, New Mexico. It was a great weekend. Great friends, family, roads, people, beautiful country, great weather so many things good to say about the trip that I don't have enough time or space to write it all. This is an annual trip we do so if you are interested we do it every Labor Day weekend. Motor cycles and trucks is how we traveled and had a BLAST! Join us next year. You don't have to be an ALR member because we

are all family members of Post 41. You can see some pictures from our trip on the Post web site.

"Get To Know Your Post" is upon us again. This is a ride that everyone can participate in. The ride tickets/maps are available thru the ALR members. This is a yearlong ride that you travel to all the American Legions all over the state. Every time you go to one of the Post on the list you get a stamp. At the end of the year you are entered into a drawing for 4 money prizes from \$1000.00 to \$300.00 cash prizes. And you get to meet some great people along the way. We have made friends all over the state. Congratulations to Kern Overstreet, Sofie Overstreet and Greg Perkins they completed the entire list of Post in the State. Great job! You don't have to be an ALR member or have a motorcycle; it was opened to all Legion families this year. (You must be a current card carrying member of a Post to participate) ask any Legion Rider for info or call Robert Velasquez 602-403-7401 or Robert Martinez 480-216-1801.

Upcoming ALR events;

Toy drive for the Mercy House to be held on September 24, 2011 starts and ends at Post 41.

ALR fall dance November 12, 2011 come and have a great time with us.

ALR Mercy House toy run December 17, 2011

ALR Carnitas and Green Chili lunch during the football season. ALR will be making Carnitas, Hatch roasted green chili and fresh roasted ears of corn with corn tortillas. Every Sunday from 12:00 to 4:00 pm.

\*Anyone can come to any of the bike runs or events that the ALR does. The events are posted on the ALR board in the Ronda Room. If not ask any ALR member.\*

Remember that all families' membership dues are due now. Please help the families make their goal by renewing your membership. If you know someone that has not renewed tell them to get down and do so.

ALR is here to help all families as many of you already know. We are members of all the families so we help all families. The ALR would like to thank the Woman's Auxiliary for their Memorial to the families of the victims of the tragedy 10 years ago on "9-11". The Memorial is something worth seeing and reflecting on. It is located on the patio at the Post. Please take the time to see it.

To all my ALR Brothers and Sisters thank you for always stepping up and showing our true pride and dedication to Post 41 the ALR and the families of

Post 41. Those members that have walked away please reconsider joining us. We do a lot of rides on the weekends for business and LOTS of FUN.

FOR GOD, COUNTRY AND COMMUNITY WE SERVE,  
COMMANDER ROBERT A. VELASQUEZ "SKULL"

### **Facilities Manager**

Hello fellow legionnaires,

This is the first newsletter with the new Commander Alfonzo Aranda; may he have a good year. It started out not being so good, what with the roof failure to contend with. Thanks to the efforts by Mary Rose and Earl Wilcox, we were able to get \$50,000 donated by the Diamond Backs. Sundt construction and Tier 1 came through and we are now 100% safer than a few months ago.

I wish to thank all the firms that donated time and energy to the effort and to all the volunteers that helped to get the hall ready for the big all star game event we had. The list is long but you all know who you/they are.

Now we are in the midst of having some air conditioners replaced and the roof repaired from the hail damage done in October of last year. Work should start in mid September and be all done before the winter rains. Last but not least, I wish to thank the volunteers that show up when I ask for their help at general meetings. Those that show up are the biggest supporters of the post in my opinion, without them the place would really look in sad shape. Thanks to Robert Moreno who does the lawn pretty regularly and Frank Barriga on keeping the trees and all healthy. We should all be proud of our post and keep it presentable.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY  
CHARLES "DANNY" BUGH  
PAST COMMANDER

### **From the Past Commander...**

I would like to make you all aware of my intentions to remain active in the support our post in a number of ways. I have agreed to continue to publish this newsletter and welcome any comments and suggestions. We will be providing the newsletter on a quarterly basis, or four issues per year, cost is a determining factor. Our next will be in January 2012.

I have also volunteered to administer and maintain a new post website that is now active. It is a developed website and is the only one scanted and approved by the National Office for use by The American Legion Posts. I would like to extend my gratitude to Oscar Santa Cruz for all the hard work he put into our first website for the past six years. He had the foresite to recognize the value of such a tool. The website is intended to reach those young veterans that are underrepresented in The American Legion as well as the computer savy members in our post. I welcome any and all comments and suggestions. Our new site address is [www.legionpost41.org](http://www.legionpost41.org) - Make a note and take a visit, please understand it will be under construction. Hope to have it complete with the help of Oscar Santa Cruz and Charlie Cano, by the end of this year.

I have also volunteered to hold the position of Public Affairs. This position has been stagnant for a number of years and I hope to define the position as it relates to our post. I have already begun working on continuing our partnership with the Diamond Backs, The Victoria Foundation, Chicanos Por La Causa, the Veteran Affairs Medical Center, Latino Prespective Magazine and the Arizona Department of Veteran Affairs, just to name a few. More to follow on this subject.

Additionally, we are proud to continue our Scholarship program and are in the process of reviewing the Bylaws for possible revision. Lastly, I am proud of our Honor Guard and their service to veterans. And it's a privledge to serve under the guidance of our Captain Henry Villalobos.

I hope you will join me in supporting our post and it's efforts.

ROBERT P. HERNANDEZ  
PAST COMMANDER & PRESIDENT OF PAST  
COMMANDERS CLUB  
[robert@alpost41.phxcoxmail.com](mailto:robert@alpost41.phxcoxmail.com)

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

To all Unit 41 members, welcome to a new year and thank you for a great last year.

I would like to start my article off by telling you if you weren't one of the ones in attendance, how powerful our 9-11 Remembrance Event was. Thank you to all that did attend and I hope you enjoyed your meal and company that very special evening. Thanks

to Esther García and the Interact Club of Agua Fría High School, who helped serve a most enjoyable meal. Our Memorial stands strong and steadfast for years to come. If you haven't seen it, if you haven't experienced it, if you were unable to make it that evening I invite you to stop by and experience it firsthand.

I would like to give you some heads up here on some upcoming Events. September 24, 2011 from 10 AM to 2 PM in our Auxiliary Room we will hold our first Initiation.

Please wear your white blouse with your blue pants/skirt. There will be a meal served to those in attendance.

October 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> is Junior Fall Conference in Douglas AZ, any Junior interested in attending please contact Anita Velasquez 602-577-2406. I have the permission slips and information for this trip.

Our Next General Membership Meeting is October 6, 2011 at 7:00 PM with Department President Sharon Doran in attendance so please try to attend.

On October 9<sup>th</sup> is the Post's annual BBQ, we as the Auxiliary are responsible for the sodas, turn over's, tostadas, and the white elephant sale. Oh and don't forget we need pastries of any kind.

So here is what I am asking of the Members of Unit 41. Please bring a 12 pack of soda to our next meeting and an item for the White Elephant sale and then on the day of the event please bring a cake or cookies some kind of pastry. Please and thank you so much.

October 22<sup>nd</sup> is our first event. Our theme is "Fall Rhythm" with La Familia playing and DJ Angel playing in between. Tickets will be \$10.00 and food will be sold: red and green burros and cheese crisps. We need help ladies in selling tickets and planning. All or any help is appreciated.

October 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> is the Fall Conference in Carefree Arizona if you plan on attending please contact Alice Castellanos.

November General Membership meeting day is the 3rd at 7:00 PM.

In closing I would like to welcome your new Executive Committee...1st Vice, Erma Lopez, 2nd Vice, Margie Romero, Secretary, Vivian Hernandez, Finance Officer, Alice Castellanos, Chaplain, Mary Cordova, Parliamentarian, Sylvia Aldecoa, Historian Marisela Salazar, and the Sgt at Arms Sophia

Overstreet. Our new Executive Committee is; Stella Mimms, Mary Aguilar and Esther Garcia.

We have two members who are holding very important titles outside of our Unit and that is Department Chaplain Josie Herrera who also holds the position of District Secretary and the Junior Department President is Lexie Escudero.

Congratulations to all and I hope you have a good year.

Thank you,

ANITA VELASQUEZ

UNIT 41 PRESIDENT

### **From the desk of the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 41.....**

Once again we have survived the triple digit heat and it is almost over. We hope that all of our friends had at least a pleasant summer. They say you never get used to the heat; you just learn to live with it and do your best.

We have a Scholarship Dance coming up on October 1<sup>st</sup>, and would like all our members and friends to come and give us your support. These fund raisers are very important for us to generate funds for programs where we give back to our community; especially for the students going into high school where they need all the help possible to continue their education.

The S.A.L. was asked to do the "Christmas Basket Drive" for 2011, as in the past, and as always we will. It has been a pleasure to do so. Our biggest concern is that there is so much needed for the program and the funding is getting harder to obtain. The need grows greater each year. We have members themselves that are having financial hard time and so the gift from them is minimal. We only ask for you to give what you can. Thank you.

We have a few announcements that we want to share with you, only because our post was in great need of repairs, and these fellow S.A.L. members have done so much for this post that I feel they need to be acknowledged and thanked for their support: Mr. Richard Salazar of Sunrise Electric, for all the electrical work. He has saved us a good sum of money, thank you Richard.

Another S.A.L. member is Earl Wilcox. When Earl heard of the problem we had with our roof, he and Mary Rose went to work and found people and organizations, like the Diamond Backs, that were

willing to support our post. Thank you, Mr. & Mrs. Earl Wilcox for your interest and generosity to our post.

Other members that helped were Joe Amavisca, John Chavez, Al Aranda, Roy Vega, Richard Pompa and I, Joe Perez. These are members who helped finish the tile work in the Fuentes Hall. I do apologize if I missed someone.

The need to help will always be there. All you have to do is step forward and say "where do you need my help". This year was a very sad year for some, the loss of a love one, job, friend, home or marriage; but one thing that we must all do, is to keep the faith and never stop believing.

In closing, we want to wish all the luck in the world to our new Commander Mr. Alfonso Aranda, for his work ahead will be plenty, and we will be here to help him and our post as always.

JOE PEREZ,  
S.A.L. FINANCE OFFICER

Dear Post 41,

I would like to introduce myself; I am the CEO of MariSol Credit Union. Our credit union is a community development financial institution and south Phoenix area is a part of the community that we serve. In the same neighborhood that Post 41 proudly is located. MariSol has been collaborating with the Post for the last year on several projects to include the upcoming Veteran's Day Bike Ride.

So who is MariSol? Well we are a credit union aka a financial cooperative that was founded in 1954. We first started out as Maricopa County Employees Federal Credit but over the years, we have added many other groups and even a few credit unions such as Chicanos Por La Causa Federal Credit Union. In that merger we acquired a wonderful employee named Ric Lucero and a great board member named Jim Vigil.

MariSol has always served members of modest means, which is why community development is not passing fad or a requirement of the government; it is what we do.

Yes – we would love all Post members to consider moving their accounts to MariSol or get a car loan, but to start – the Executive Committee has given us permission to start teaching financial classes – our first one is "Credit How to Get It and How to Fix It".

We will answer your questions about credit scores, loans and finances. In these classes, we will give you a free credit report and no, you do not have to open an account. We will do this for the Post as well as for the neighborhood.

Come check us out at [www.marisolcu.org](http://www.marisolcu.org) – we have great homemade commercials (we have a very tight marketing budget). Or just ask Ric or Jim about us.

I look forward to a great partnership

ROBIN ROMA  
CEO



### *Christmas Baskets 2011*

From the Christmas Baskets Committee:

The "Christmas Donation Board" will be going up in the Ronda Room shortly, and we hope that our donating members and friends will step up and give early to this very important cause. We have to prepare early, make the necessary purchases and take the names from each needy family from our community so that we know how many boxes will be needed. In the past, we have always been able to take care of these families. However, this year we would like all the boxes to be picked up by a member of that family, if all possible, but some will have to be delivered. Every year we pack about 125 to 160 boxes, and each box has the most necessary items. The amount that goes in the box is the only thing that changes. The average cost is about \$20.00 to \$25.00 a box, if we meet the target amount. We are looking to organize a "Tardeada" type of fundraiser, so please watch for this day sometime in October. Please come and give us your support. This year has been a very difficult year for all of us. Our club also has had its problems and the costs to correct these problems are still there. We need to raise as much money for the baskets as we can, so we don't burden our post with an extra cost, they have always made up the difference needed to complete the baskets, and we thank our post.

Thank You again for the giving!

·  
JOE PEREZ, COMMITTEE MEMBER



**February**

Fernando Flores Díaz            41 year member  
 Carlos R. Esquer                    47 year member

**May**

Jesus "Chewy" Aranda            13 year member  
 Fermín Cruz Luna                 64 year member  
 Peter Santos "Pete" López       64 year member

**June**

Danny Soqui Urias                 13 year member  
 Anthony V. Avalos                 45 year member  
 Ralph Gus Rivera                  37 year member

**August**

Arthur R. Angulo                  63 year member  
 Wilfredo A. Hernandez          56 year member

I'd like to advise our membership and extend my gratitude to Mesquite High School in Gilbert Arizona, for their generous donation of Christmas toys to the post. (Post Firing Squad supported their Military Appreciation Night on September 2, 2011)

HENRY VILLALOBOS  
 HONOR GUARD CAPTAIN

***Regular Weekly Entertainment***

*Don't forget we have regular entertainment at our Post; Tuesday through Friday- Happy Hour 4PM to 6PM and regularly scheduled music entertainment. Also, don't forget the great jukebox with all your favorite tunes.*

*Friday is usually a DJ dance night with an occasional live band. Saturday is live music night with some great valley band, just check the Legion Post 41 website to see the current schedule of bands. Sunday we will have a Tardeada with a DJ providing music until 10PM.*

*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, as there are some limitations to how large of a party you can have in the Ronda Room. This is in order to not to infringe or otherwise take control of the Ronda room – the Ronda Room is the membership room first and foremost!*

*We ask that the children are kept at a minimum, the parties are for adults, and kids 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 6PM.*

***REMINDER NOTICE***

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

***Your participation is very important. The Post operations cannot completely function without your support, we are in a point in time that your Post home needs you and that support.***

The American Legion  
Tony F. Soza –Ray Martinez  
Post No. 41  
715 S. 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue  
PHOENIX, AZ 85003

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Permit No. 217  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA

[imprint the address here]

**“FOR GOD and COUNTRY”**

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### CALENDAR OF SPECIAL EVENTS

<i>Saturday, October 1</i>	<i>S.A.L. Fundraiser Dance, 7PM</i>
<i>Sunday, October 9</i>	<i>Annual BBQ, 12 to 6 PM; Followed by a Tardeada Dance</i>
<i>Saturday, October 22</i>	<i>Auxiliary Fall Event, 7 PM</i>
<i>Saturday, October 29</i>	<i>Adult Halloween Dance, 7PM</i>
<i>Monday, October 31</i>	<i>Children’s Halloween Party, 6 to 9PM</i>
<i>Friday, November 11</i>	<i>Veterans Day</i>
<i>Saturday, November 12</i>	<i>A.L.R. Fundraiser Dance, 7PM</i>
<i>Thursday, November 17</i>	<i>Thanksgiving Diner, 6 PM</i>
<i>Saturday, November 19</i>	<i>Honor Guard Fundraising Dance, 7 PM</i>
<i>Friday, November 25</i>	<i>Early Bird Diner, 5 PM</i>
<i>Saturday, November 26</i>	<i>Reunion of the Barrios, 7PM</i>
<i>Wednesday, December 7</i>	<i>Pearl Harbor Commemoration, 5PM</i>
<i>Wednesday, December 14</i>	<i>Christmas Diner, 5 PM</i>
<i>Friday, December 16</i>	<i>Christmas Basket Assembly, 6PM</i>
<i>Saturday, December 17</i>	<i>Christmas Basket Delivery, 6AM</i>
<i>Sunday, December 18</i>	<i>Kids Christmas Party, 10AM to 2PM</i>
<i>Saturday, December 31</i>	<i>New Years Eve Dance, 6PM</i>