

In this issue

- Commanders greeting...pg 1*
- From the SVC..... pg 2*
- From the Auxiliary.....pg 3*
- Volunteerism.....pg 3*
- Exec. Ofc Frank Diaz..pg 3,4*
- Hispanic Retired Sheet Metal Workers.....pg 4*
- In Memorium.....pg 5*
- Weekly Events.....pg 5*
- Canyon Lake Campout..pg 6*
- Finance Info.....pg 7*
- Events Calendar.....outside cover pg*



**Tony F. Soza- Ray Martinez American Legion
Thunderbird Post 41 Newsletter February 2015**



Important Notice: This will be the last newsletter to be mailed to your home by USPS mail. Future newsletters will be available in print at the Post Home. All newsletters are always available online on the Legion Post website: LegionPost41.org

FROM COMMANDER RICHARD LUCERO -

Wishing everyone a Happy New Year, it has been a great year at Post 41. Many wonderful events occurred during 2014. As always our Post is committed in helping our veterans and the community. Our Christmas event was amazing as so many members from our post came forward and donated bikes and toys for the children in our community "Thank You".

This coming year will bring challenges, but we are moving forward. We do listen when suggestion are given, please continue to voice your opinions and suggestion. As always, you are welcome to the General Membership Meetings on the 1st Thursday of the Month at 7 pm. We have a new kitchen. Stop by and check it out, Dr. Loui Olivas and his corporate colleagues made that possible. The Sheet Metal Workers club members made it look beautiful, led by Past Commander Ernie Garcia.

We have a beautiful Hall that is available for rent for any occasion that you may have. As we welcome our young veterans to our Post to become members, we must remember it is a whole new generation, we must learn to bridge the gap; their music is different and they have different ideas. Let us older veterans welcome them so we can share our thoughts with them.

Again it is an honor and privilege to be your Commander.

For God and Country,
Richard Lucero

Executive Board Officers

Richard Lucero
Commander

Louie Garcia
Senior Vice-Cmdr

Oscar Herrera
Junior Vice-Cmdr

Robert Velasquez
Post Adjutant

Henry Daley
Finance Officer

Julian Natividad
Judge Advocate

Oscar R. Santa-Cruz
Chaplain

Frank Barriga
Frank Diaz

Robert Martinez
Joe Reyes

Jose Saucedo
Executive Officers

Allen Gills
Al Quintana
Trustees

Maria Perkins
Ladies Auxiliary President

Louie Barragan
SAL Commander

Robert Velasquez
Am Legion Riders Captain

Delila Olaguez
Club Steward

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

1st Thursday of the month at 7:00PM

Executive Board Meetings
Tues. before the General Meeting, then two weeks later at 6:30PM

715 S 2nd Avenue
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Phone (602) 262-9243
Office (602) 253-8131

website: LegionPost41.org
e-mail: Legionpost41@gmail.com

From the Senior Vice Commander –

Legionnaires, another year has ended and another new year begins. The mission and challenges of the American Legion continue. The 2014 membership year was successful in terms of membership renewals and recruitment of new members. I expect Post 41 to have another successful year. This success will depend on your membership renewals and member recruitment. By now most of you have received your 2015 membership renewal notice and have renewed. Keep in mind in order to have access to the club you must have a 2015 membership card for privileges in the clubroom. Remember a delinquent member cannot come in as a guest. All members must present their 2015 membership card upon request. Be proud to show your card. We all belong to an elite organization. Remember your membership dues play an important role in the preserving and strengthening of the programs the American Legion has fought diligently through its organizational history. Your membership dues have greatly helped our country's veterans in the past, the present, and will continue in the future.

The American Legion has led the charge for veteran benefits since the first day it was organized in 1919. A group of twenty officers who served in the American Expeditionary Forces in France during World War I is credited with planning the legion. A.E.F. Headquarters wanted to improve morale. An organization of veterans was proposed. Today this organization is known as the American Legion. The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic wartime veterans organization. It is a community-service organization which now numbers 3 million members men and women with nearly 15,000 American Legion posts worldwide. Over the years, the legion has won hundreds of benefits for veterans and produced many important programs for children and youth. As you consider your decision to renew, stop and think of what the American Legion has done for veterans. Heard of the VA? The VA is a direct result of our World War I founders. There was none in 1919. Been in the Boy Scouts? The legions first support for a charity was formed in 1919 and is the Boy Scouts. Have you ever used your G.I. BILL? The American Legion drafted this bill. How about a VA loan? This was included in the G.I. Bill. Legionnaires as veterans who answered our country's call, I urge you to renew your membership. Through your membership the American Legion will be able to continue its mission to serve veterans, their families and the community.

Louie Garcia,
Senior Vice Commander/Membership

REMINDER NOTICE: General Membership meeting is on the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Please try to attend. Your participation is very important. The Post operations cannot completely function without your input and interest. The Executive Board meets on the Tuesday before the General meeting, then meets again two weeks later. You must call the Adjutant, or Commander if you have need to come before the Exec. Board.

From the Ladies Auxiliary Unit 41-

Happy New Year to all our veterans and their families. Another year has gone by. We hope that this year will be a blessed one for you with Peace to all.

Don't forget to come join us every Sunday morning for menudo, coffee and pastry. Also, don't forget every Thursday evening is 'Ladies Night'. So come on down and have some fun.

I would like to thank all the ladies and men that help in the kitchen on menudo Sundays. Also I would like to say a big "Thank you" to our new Retired Hispanic Sheet Metal Workers club and Dr. Loui Olivas for our new kitchen and cookware. Thank you and God bless you all.

Maria Perkins
Auxiliary Unit 41 President

VOLUNTEERISM

The word volunteer is a very meaningful word. The dictionary says it is to offer or bestow voluntarily one's service. How many of us volunteered for the military? Did we expect to be thanked for doing so or was it to satisfy our own selves?

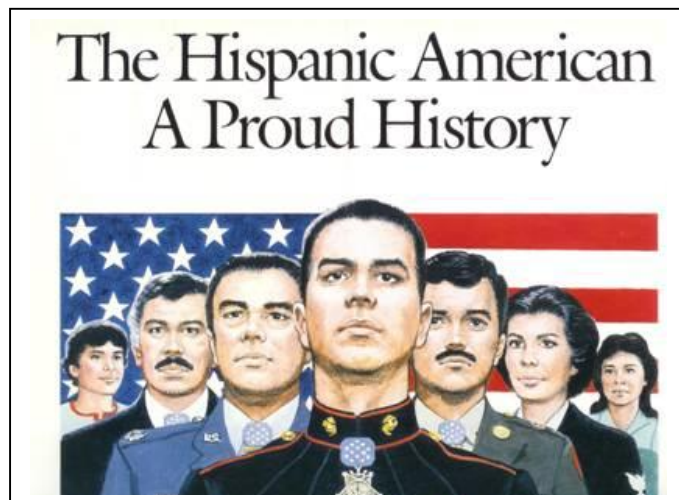
These days it seems like there are very few people that take on the meaning. The Legion consists of many military volunteers. Why is it that we can only have a few that volunteer on their own? Comrades, we need to take a proactive stance in our organization, not a reactive one. We need to step forward and volunteer, not wait to be asked. The Legion needs all our help, not just a few, that's for the Marines. Next time you see or hear of a function going on, let's say, "What can I do to help". You and I will gain from this as Legionnaires. There are lots of ways to help, just ask. We want to have a post club that we can be proud of and show it off.

This is the letter I wrote in 2006 or so when I was on the Executive Board. It still holds true today. If we don't find the time to step up and help the Post we will be in a downward spiral and continue to lose members. I would hope we don't go that route. Let's keep the Post looking like a place to come and enjoy. Help in keeping the outside looking good, don't

forget perception is an important key for the public to see.

In closing, I would like to thank all those that supported me in my campaign for Department Vice Commander, special thanks to Commander Richard Lucero.

Danny Bugh
Area "B" Vice Commander



.....*from Executive Officer Frank Diaz –*

How effective is the Reading/Bicycle Program at Lowell School?

The following is an interview with Mr. Kelly, Principal at Lowell School:

The American Legion Post 41 and the Sons of the American Legion have helped the schools climate, culture, and reading scores with the implementation of Reading, Bicycle program at Lowell, students that were showing significant improvement in reading in grades second through six were awarded a bicycle for their efforts. Those bikes were awarded to students at all school assemblies to celebrate their hard work and success.

When looking at the multiple measure (Galileo Assessments, AIMS web Assessments and classroom formative assessments) Lowell make achievements when moving students up from the Falls Far Below category to approaches on higher. This resulted in the school receiving three additional points on the letter grade matrix used by the Arizona Department of Education. The bicycle program helped to improve the lower the students to strive to

be better readers as the program did not focus on the high students, but the most improved. Post 41's and the Sons of the American Legion continued support of this program continues to give all students, on extra incentives to work harder in their studies.

The Bicycle/Reading program is truly making a difference in children's lives.

Respectfully,
Frank Diaz
E. Board

A Big Thank You to David Bernstein and all the realtors who have generously donated to the Post, the following items: SUV for the Honor Guard, a very nice barbeque grill, a 58" inch plasma T.V., financial support for Christmas toys, clothing, and house hold items that have been delivered to our vets at Victory Place. Also, four pool tables have been donated. Engaging business and partnerships with the American Legion Post 41 greatly assist in meeting the overall goals in the community, schools, and the betterment of the post.

Respectfully,
Frank Diaz
E-Board

The Hispanic Retired Sheet Metal Workers

Who would have thought that three friends meeting at a pizza joint in southwest Phoenix in 2013 would spark an idea that would build a camaraderie of thirty men? Thirty men who shared feelings of friendship, honor and gratitude. The Hispanic Retired Sheet Metal Workers evolved into a service group of brothers of the same trade and patriotism, as 95% of those brothers are veterans. Our group consists of contractors, superintendents, foremen and organizers. Along with our many years of sheet metal and other construction trade experience, we discovered that we all shared the same passion of wanting to organize and continue to meet. American Legion Post 41 welcomed us, and our meetings finally had a home we could be proud of.

Though the facility was still standing and running, the wear and tear through the years had left its mark on the building. Am Legion Past Commander Ernie Garcia, with the assistance of Mr. Allen Gills



Tony Soza 1919-1970

Our Post was named for this war hero back in 1971. Until then the Post home was known as the

“Thunderbird” post. Tony was our first Post 41 Service Officer. During conflict in WWII, fighting in the Philippines, Tony distinguished himself by continuing to hold a machine gun position for 17 hours. For his wounds, he was awarded the Purple Heart and the Bronze Star. Most recently, the Post is now named Tony Soza-Ray Martinez Post 41, as re-chartered at the Dept. Convention, 2003.

spearheaded the following projects for the club to carry out.

- Fixing the leaks above the Ronda Room bar.
- Replacing and plastering damaged sections of the ceiling.
- Repairing the inoperable ice machine by installing a new motor and switch, which was donated by member Sonny Gonzalez.
- Several members remodeled the kitchen to include a stainless steel exhaust hood and a backsplash kitchen sink, which Post 41 member Dr. Loui Olivas was instrumental in acquiring the funds necessary for this project from the AZ Diamondback organization.

All of the above projects have saved Post 41 thousands of dollars. The labor was donated by the club members and the Post was responsible for the cost of materials only.

The retired members also sponsored the 2nd Annual Pearl Harbor Memorial ceremony at the Post, which was a huge success. Member Sonny Gonzalez donated a beautifully large banner of the USS Arizona as well. The club was also responsible for donating funds to purchase bicycles for students at Lowell Elementary School. In addition, several bicycles were purchased by individual members out of their own pockets. Those members include Arnold Moreno and Charlie Soto. Vice President Frank Camarena organized a drive to provide warm clothing to our disabled veterans and member Bobby Mesa got the club to provide breakfast food for the homeless children in the neighborhood.

We are honored to contribute our assistance and sheet metal skills for the betterment of the Am Legion Post 41 and surrounding community.

Respectfully submitted,

Louie Gonzalez, President
Ernie Garcia, Am Legion Past Commander

In Memoriam



From the Chaplain -

As I accompany the Post Honor Guard and the Post Commander at funerals for our military heroes who have gone onto their new journey, I can't help but feel the gratitude to know it is the right thing to do as we salute them farewell. To lead our membership in prayer at meetings and social gatherings is also a great honor for me – I thank you for the privilege. Let us remember to give thanks to the Almighty, our Supreme Commander for all the blessings we have all received in our lives.

While it may feel at times that we are alone and no one cares, or things coming our way seems overwhelming, it is my duty to reassure you God is near. Please call on me if you feel overwhelmed, let's talk: 602-539-1731.

Oscar R. Santa-Cruz, Post Chaplain

Anthony "Tony" Aranda January, 2015
Ralph "Chapito" Chavarria December 24, 2014
Florencio "Lencho" Othon December 13th, 2014
Frank Mota Gomez November 12th, 2014
Alfonso C. Carrasco November 2nd, 2014
Arthur Rivera October 9th, 2014

FUNERALS: Military funerals can be provided to any veteran who has served on active duty and received an honorable discharge from the military. The arranging funeral home normally will handle details and provide a US Flag from the US Government after they are provided with a copy of the veteran's DD-214 document. Another benefit from the US Government is burial at the National Memorial Veterans Cemetery or subsidized funds for a burial headstone at a private cemetery.

The Post 41 Honor Guard renders military honors to all qualified members of our Post as well as to other veterans upon request by a funeral home or family member. The first step is to request the funeral home contact our Honor Guard Captain, Henry "Buster" Villalobos at 602-274-5297 for scheduling. You may also contact the Post Chaplain, Oscar Santa-Cruz at 602-539-1731 for assistance. Another benefit as a member of the Am Legion family is the use of the large Fuentes Hall for a memorial reception. Please call the Club Manager or Henry Daley at 602-253-8131 for reservation for the Fuentes Hall.

Regular Weekly Entertainment

Don't forget we have regular entertainment at our Post from Tuesday through Friday – Happy Hour is 4 to 6 PM and there is a great jukebox with your favorite melodies in the Ronda Rm. We are closed most Mondays (except for Monday Night Football) and open at 11 AM the other days. Maybe, you're a pool player; we have a pool table waiting for your challenge.

Mondays – *football season brings Monday Night Football at 5 PM*

Wednesdays – *karaoke in the Ronda Rm from 7 PM to ?*

Thursdays – *is Ladies Night with DJ and dance from 5 to 9 PM*

Fridays – *we have a Fish Fry by the Sons of The Am Legion from 10 to 1 PM (menu on the website Special Events tab) In the evening is DJ Night or an occasional live band in the Ronda Rm or the Fuentes Hall*

Saturday – is Live Music Night with some great valley bands, just check the Post website or call the Ronda Rm at 602-262-9243.

Sunday – we have menudo breakfast by the Auxiliary Unit 41 from 9 to 12 PM (menu on the Post website Special Events tab). In the afternoons, we have tardeada with DJ music from 6 to 10 PM. Food is available by Marine Corps League Detachment, or the Legion Riders or the Post.

Don't forget, if you are planning a large get together or party to celebrate some special occasion, you *must* arrange your plans with the Club Manager, Delila Olaguez at 602-262-9243. There are some limitations to just how large of a party can be held in the Ronda Rm – remember that the Ronda Rm is a members - only room, first and foremost.

We ask that children be kept at a minimum, parties are for adults and children get bored at adult parties! **All children under the age of 18 are not allowed in the Ronda Rm after 6 PM.**

You're wondering what's going on at the Post for the weekend. Another source of Post functions and events is available to you on the internet. The website is available to you 24/7. Here you can get the latest events information, who just passed on, or perhaps you need to know who is on the Executive Board of Directors and how to reach them! If you have internet

Q. & A.- New Column!

If you are like me, you probably have a question about Am Legion Post operations, organization or the Am Legion. You may submit a question to us and we will do our best to answer you. Perhaps you may see your answer to your question in this new column if it may help all the members as well. Submit your question to: LegionPost41@gmail.com

Q. How is the Am Legion Cap to be worn during certain ceremonies?

A. The Legion cap can be worn at official Legion events only. It is not proper to wear your cap while eating a meal. At church services, the cap is removed going into the church as a group, and during the service. The cap is worn by Honor Guards and commander or while standing guard, uncovering when return to the pews. It can then be worn upon exiting the church. The cap is removed during chaplain prayer or on command by the commander or chaplain. Remember, no

service on your computer, just enter the following web address on your browser:

www.legionpost41.org

Oscar R. Santa-Cruz,
Post 41 newsletter editor/webmaster
Legionpost41@gmail.com

Wanna Campout at Canyon Lake in March?

Howdy campers! For those of you who are interested in going camping for the annual Post 41 Canyon Lake Campout, the dates are March 26th (Thursday) thru Saturday, the 28th. I have blocked out some sites for RV and tent sites for our group, but you must reserve your site yourself by February 5th. Please reserve soon as they can go fast. Let's hope for a big turn out so we can have lots of fun with fishing, and boating or just relaxing by the water.

See all the information you may need by going on-line at info@canyonlakemarina.com Canyon Lake Marina and Campground is located at 16802 N.E. Highway 88 Tortilla Flat, AZ 85219, phone no. 480-288-9233. Easy directions is east Mesa to Idaho Rd., go 14 mi. northeast on the paved Historic Apache Trail (Highway 88, Apache Trail).

Jesse G. Fernandez
Camp Coordinator, 623-326-5004

pins, patches can be placed on the left side of your cap where the Am Legion patch and city/state are placed.

Q. When do we salute the US Flag?

A. As veterans, we have the authority (change to Section 9 of the US Flag Code) to salute the flag whether or not we are in uniform or wearing identifying veteran apparel such as an Am Legion cap. The salute is rendered anytime there is a hoisting or lowering of the US Flag, or whenever it passes. All others present should remove any headwear, face the flag and place their right hand over their heart; citizens of foreign countries should stand at attention.

Q. What is the significance of the 21 gun salute?

A. The 21 gun salute stands for the sum of the numbers in the year 1776, the year of our country's Independence.

Thank you for your questions. Oscar Santa Cruz, editor

Partial 4th Quarterly Finance Report - 2014

Account:	Balance			
General	NA			
Membership	NA			
Miscellaneous	NA			
Sports	NA			
Frank Fuentes Scholarship	NA			
Frank Fuentes Endowment	NA			
G.M. Chavez Endowment	NA			
	Nov.	Dec.	Year to date	Monthly Avg.
Income	NA	NA	NA	NA
Expenses	NA	NA	NA	NA
NET INCOME/(LOSS)	NA	NA	NA	NA




 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 41 Presents:
LADIES NIGHT


Every Thursday night – Starting 8/21/14
 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM



Drink Specials

	\$1.00	Jello-O Shots	
	\$1.50	Well Drinks	
	\$2.50	Wines	
	\$1.75	Domestics	

Different shot specials each week.
 Invite your family, friends, neighbors or strangers.
 D.J. will provide music for your dancing and listening pleasure.

Tony F. Soza/Ray Martinez
 American Legion Post 41
 715 South Second Avenue
 Phoenix, AZ 85003

The American Legion
Tony F. Soza –Ray Martinez
Post No. 41
715 S. 2nd Avenue
PHOENIX, AZ 85003-2507

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

“FOR GOD and COUNTRY”

CALENDAR OF SPECIAL EVENTS

<i>Sunday, February 1st</i>	<i>4-Chaplain’s Memorial at 10:30 AM</i>
<i>Thursday, February 5th</i>	<i>General Membership meeting at 7 PM</i>
<i>Saturday, February 7th</i>	<i>District 12 Rehab Dinner at Post 35 at 5 PM</i>
<i>Saturday, February 14th</i>	<i>VALENTINE’S DAY Dance with ‘Breaking Point’ w/ Gumby at 8 PM</i>
<i>Friday, February 27th</i>	<i>Skiff/Wilson School Alumni Reunion at 6 AM</i>
<i>Sunday, March 1st</i>	<i>District 12 Picnic at Post 41 at 12 noon</i>
<i>Thursday, March 5th</i>	<i>General Membership meeting at 7 PM</i>
<i>Saturday, March 7th</i>	<i>Auxiliary Unit 41 fundraiser dance at 7 PM</i>
<i>Sunday, March 22nd</i>	<i>A dinner fundraiser event for Lori Piestiwa Memorial event at 5:30 PM</i>
<i>Sunday, March 29th</i>	<i>Children’s Easter Egg Party at 10 AM to 2PM</i>
<i>Thursday, April 2nd</i>	<i>General Membership meeting at 7 PM</i>
<i>Friday, April 10th</i>	<i>Marine Corps League Ira Hayes Detachment Dance at 7 PM</i>
<i>Friday, April 17th</i>	<i>Past Commanders/ Past Presidents Dinner-Dance at 7 PM</i>
<i>Saturday, April 18th</i>	<i>Sons of the Legion Dance at 7 PM</i>
<i>Saturday, April 25th</i>	<i>Boys Scouts fundraiser dance at 7 PM</i>
<i>Sunday, April 26th</i>	<i>El Grupo tardeada at 2 PM to 6 PM</i>
<i>Thursday, May 7th</i>	<i>General Membership meeting- Nominations Night at 7 PM</i>
<i>Saturday, May 9th</i>	<i>Mother’s Day Dance at 7 PM</i>
<i>Thursday, May 14th</i>	<i>Nominations/ Rally Night at 7 PM</i>
<i>Thursday, May 28th</i>	<i>Elections Day for new officers 11 AM to 6 PM</i>