

Executive Committee  
2012—2013

*Commander*  
Alfonso Aranda

*Senior Vice Commander*  
Manny Lugo

*Junior Vice Commander*  
Oscar Herrera

*Past Commander*  
Robert P. Hernandez

*Post Adjutant*  
Richard Lucero

*Finance Officer*  
Henry Daley

*Post Service Officer*  
Andy Vidales

*Post Chaplain*  
Angel Juarez

*Executive Officers*  
Richard Pompa  
George Quihuis  
Edmund Lovett  
Jose Saucedo  
Louie Garcia

*Judge Advocate*  
Rita Brock Perini

*Trustee*  
Andy Vidales  
Dan Straight

*Sgt. At Arms*  
Henry Villalobos

*Ladies Auxiliary 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, November 2012 Newsletter



FROM THE DESK OF  
COMMANDER ALFONSO A. ARANDA

### Commander's Greetings...

The Holiday Season is nearing and I would like to extend Holiday Greetings to all members and their families.

As we come to the mid-point of this Administration I would like to thank those who have made a difference these past six months. The successes we have accomplished is the result of team planning and hard work of the Executive Board and of our membership, as well as the Son's of the American Legion, American Legion Riders, Ladies Auxiliary, Past Commander Club, Honor Guard and the Marine Corps League Detachment 002.

Since our last newsletter the American Legion has hosted many events, the Annual Bar-B-Que, Honor Guard Dance, Halloween Party for the Community Children, Lowell School Carnival. The Halloween Party for the community children was a huge success. There was a haunted house, games, snow cones, popcorn, cotton candy provided, along with 435 hotdogs/chili dogs. Support for the Honor Guard Dance was very poor. We need to remember that when we need the Honor Guard they are there, when the Honor Guard needs us we should be there for them.

Membership is at 73 percent as of this newsletter. We need to work together to sign up new members and to remember to ask our fellow members to pay up their dues. If every member would bring in one new member every year, our membership would double. Membership is a duty placed upon all members, not just the chosen few.

This is something no one likes to talk about, but we as Legionaries need to inform our families on the procedure for our funerals at our time of passing. We must advise our families when contacting a funeral home that the family would like to have Post 41 to perform the honors. This has come up continuously when families do not know what to do. Providing instructions to family members now would make it easier for them later.

(continued next page)

**Commander's Greetings...** (Continued from page One)

General Meetings are for all Legion members. Please try to attend to receive the information that is provided at that time. Information includes but is not limited to the operation of the Post, the maintenance of the building, at times we have guest speakers which deal with Medicare, VA benefits, education, etc. Remember it is your Post and you have a say on how it operates. Our General Meeting in December will be the first Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM, our guest speaker will be Jim Burke, candidate for Department Commander 2013-2014. As always I will be looking forward to seeing you as a member at our General Meeting.

For God and Country  
ALFONSO A. ARANDA  
POST COMMANDER

**From the Executive Committee**

Veterans Day is a day our veterans are honored for their military service. On [November 11th](#) of each year we ensure veterans know that we deeply appreciate the sacrifices they have made in their lives to keep our country free. Their loyal and dedicated service to our country must never be forgotten. As veterans we share a common bond. We answered our country's call. This bond will never be broken. Many of us can relate to our experiences we shared. As we celebrate Veterans Day, let us remember the brave servicemen and women who are no longer with us for they made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Let us not forget our prisoners of war and those missing in action.

We take our freedom for granted. We very seldom think of the thousands of men and women who gave or put their life at risk to preserve our freedom. Let us take time out in our daily lives to remember our veterans. Freedom is not free. Someone paid a price for us to be free. Our World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and Iraq veterans fought for these freedoms. Our men and women in uniform are now fighting in Afghanistan to ensure these freedoms continue.

We must be vigilante in helping and assisting our veterans. They deserve and have earned the benefits that they greatly need. As members of the American Legion we must ensure their benefits remain a top priority. Let us approach our military men and women in uniform and thank them for their ser-

vice to our country. When we speak to a veteran tell them about the American Legion and ask if they would like to join our organization. Invite them and their families to the post. Most important let them know the American Legion is the largest veteran's organization who is dedicated and committed to serving veterans and their families. We must ensure their service to our nation is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

LOUIE GARCIA  
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**From the Ladies Auxiliary...**

I extend Greetings to all. The start of my term as President of the American Legion Auxiliary has been very busy to say the least. We have committed to helping the Homeless Veterans in any area we are able to. We have collected furniture and clothing to help out the Homeless Veterans who recently moved into empty apartments at the Victory Place III on 8<sup>th</sup> Street and Jones. Women's clothing collected was delivered to Mary Ellen's Place that houses our homeless female veterans. Our ultimate goal is to eliminate Veterans on the streets. They made the ultimate decision to protect us, so it is our time to reach out and help them in everyway possible.

The next Stand-down is scheduled to take place on March 8 thru the 10<sup>th</sup>. For those that do not know about the Stand-down, it is an organization that will transport the homeless veterans to the Arizona Coliseum for three days and supply them with beds, showers, clothing, medical needs, and any legal issues they may have. The Auxiliary has taken part in this endeavor each year.

We also had a collection of rice and beans for the "Make a Difference" project. We collected 50 lbs worth and delivered it to the St. Mary's Food Bank. We are presently collecting toiletries for the homeless to turn in at the Department Conference being held in Tucson starting on November 16, 2012. I am proud to say the ladies have been doing a great job bringing in their donations. Our Chaplain, Mary Cordova has dedicated her time in collecting and cutting out food and other necessary coupons every month and distributing them to our troops abroad. This month they

totaled \$4,452.00.

Our community service has entailed helping out when needed at Grant Park, painting graffiti in south Phoenix, and attending the retiring of the American Flag at the So. Phoenix Senior Citizen Center,

Menudo Sundays has been the highlight of my term. It's been a joy having our Post's veterans and their families coming in for breakfast and staying to visit with other families. The atmosphere has been enjoyable to all. Join us.

One last note: Our **Black and White Gala** is in the planning. It will be held JANUARY 26, 2013. We will be celebrating the American Legion Auxiliary's 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Please save the date.

ERMA LOPEZ  
UNIT 41 PRESIDENT  
2012 thru 2013

**Cub Scout Pack 119....**



Cub Scout Pack 119 is in full swing and the boys and pack leaders have been busy having fun. The pack would like to first thank the many donors that have contributed to our cause, this includes individuals as well our family groups; The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 41, the Sons of the American Legion Squadron 41 and the American Legion Riders Chapter 41. We can all make a difference in a child's life. Thank you all!

The scouts just finished with their popcorn fundraiser, I'm sure many of you saw them selling popcorn during Menudo. They also represented their pack in front of

Fry's Grocery Store in the months of September & October. Some of the boys' adventures have included attending day camps and learning crafts such as leather work.

Every month we have two den meetings, usually the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month and one pack meeting, the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month. During the den meetings, the boys have activities and learn new skills and during the pack meetings, the boys are recognized for their achievements and receive patches and belt loops. The pack leaders also meet once a month, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month, to plan ahead for cub scout activities. So, just about every Wednesday, you will see a cub scout meeting being held at the post. If you're interested in helping, we definitely welcome any assistance and have a position in the pack leadership committee for you!

Future activities include a nature hike at Rio Salado Habitat on November 18<sup>th</sup>, the Catholic Ten Commandments Hike on November 23<sup>rd</sup>, Cub Scout Service Project helping the S.A.L.s with their Christmas Baskets, December 15, 6pm and Winter Day Camp from December 28<sup>th</sup>-30<sup>th</sup>.

If you have a boy 1<sup>st</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> grade or know of a family that does and are interested in signing them up in Cub Scout Pack 119, please contact our Membership Chair, Patricia Thomas at 623-670-1788. If you want more information on Cub Scout Pack 119, please contact Post 41 Scout Representative, Mark Gustin at 602-268-0995 or Den Leaders, Louis/Christina Padilla at 602-565-7210. You can also go to [www.legionpost41.org](http://www.legionpost41.org) and click *Scouting* for more information.



**From the Public Relations Officer/Historian..**

It has been a busy year, our post has participated in a number of events. Our Honor Guard supports many events at a number of Senior Centers in the Phoenix Valley. We partnered with the Pioneer Cemetery Association with the rededication of the Cementerio Lindo, this was published in the Central City South newsletter/magazine. We were interviewed by Cox Communications "Su Vida" which was broadcasted November 7, 2012. Post 41 members were honored at a student assembly on November 9, 2012,

We have so much to be proud of taking the history of our post and all of what we are currently involved with, we are well know throughout the veteran and local community.

As Historian of Post 41 and the Department of Arizona I ask that if anyone should have or knows of who might have photos and/or documents pertinent to the American Legion please put in contact with me. In my research I have found two additional books where our post is mentioned; "Arizona Goes to War" Edited by Brad Melton and Dean Smith and "Arizona, A Celebration of the Grand Canyon State" by Jim Turner.

Thanks to all that have come forward and given me photo's and documents. My long term intention is to document Post 41 and it's proud history and accomplishments.

I have received a set of videos titled; "Battlefield" a Time Life video collection which consist of twenty-three (23) videos from Frank Diaz a fourteen (14) year member of Post 41. Thanks to member Charley Cano for converting them from a VHS format to a DVD. These are available for check out, just contact me.

ROBERT P. HERNANDEZ  
PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER / HISTORIAN  
[robert@alpost41.phxcoxmail.com](mailto:robert@alpost41.phxcoxmail.com)

**From the Honor Guard**

We are in need of volunteers, we currently have six (6) members. We present and post colors for a number of events as well as provide honors at the National Cemetery, this is generally from morning to afternoon which makes it difficult for those that still work or live a distance from the post.

We provide the uniforms which are costly so we need volunteers that can make a commitment to provide the time necessary to meet our obligations. Must be a team player and willing to show up at a moments notice.

There is nothing more gratifying than to see how appreciative the families of our fallen veterans are when services are provided.

Anyone seriously interested, and can make the commitment should contact the Captain of the Guard, Henry "Buster" Villalobos at (602) 740-0428



**July**

Santos "Crunchy" Garcia 23 year member

**August**

Charlie A. Lugo 66 year member

Joseph M. Levario 30 year member

**September**

Robert Ruiz Ramirez 28 year member

Ben B. Abril Sr. 14 year member

**October**

Lencho D. Escalante 37 year member

**American Legion Extension Institute, (ALEI)**

If you are interested in knowing more about The American Legion and how you can become involved, 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.



### A message from District 12 Commander

Hello fellow legionnaires, by now the elections will have ended and we can all return to sanity.

I had the honor to go to a membership work shop in Indianapolis in August and then again for the national convention.

One of the new Commander James Houtz's requests is that we all bring back a pride in our membership and work to increase the overall membership so that we can have a 3.3 million membership roster by the legions 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2019. That is only 7 years away.

With all the returning veterans from what is now the longest war in our history. I know there are thousands out there that are eligible to join. If just one member brought in a new member in a years' time we can achieve this target.

What we all need to remember as veterans is that without our organization we will have nothing. No one will be there to fight for us in Washington. Even those that just come for the party life in the club and don't support us will also lose out if we no longer exist, think about that!

To take a quote from The American Legion Dispatch: "The American legion is only as strong as its membership base. The more devoted members it has, the better the organization can advocate for veterans and serve the military community which has given so much to our country".

In closing I will remind you of the four pillars of our Legion: Americanism; National Security; Veterans Affairs, and Children & Youth. If we use these principles in our daily life we will succeed in growing strong.

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY  
CHARLES "DANNY" BUGH  
District 12 Commander

### 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.

**Friday** we have 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 602-262-8131.

**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  
PAID  
Permit No. 217  
PHOENIX, ARIZONA**

***“FOR GOD and COUNTRY”***

**CALENDAR OF SPECIAL EVENTS**

Thursday, November 15	Post 41 Family Thanksgiving Dinner, 6pm
Saturday, November 17	Reunion of the Barrios Dance , 7pm
Saturday November 24	Multi-Cultural Jamz 9am to 5pm
Saturday November 24	Tejano Jam 7:30pm to 1am
Friday, November 30	Early Bird Dinner, 5pm
Sunday, December 2	Sigma Lamda Beta Pozole 8am
Thursday, December 6	General Membership Meeting 7pm
Friday, December 7	Pearl Harbor Ceremonial, 5pm
Saturday, December 15	Christmas Basket Assembly, 6pm
Thursday, December 20	Post 41 Family Christmas Dinner, 6pm
Sunday, December 23	Children’s Christmas Party, 10am to 2pm
Monday, December 31	New Year’s Eve Dance
Friday, January 2, 2013	Department Commanders Dinner/Dance, 6pm
Tuesday, January 8	Honoring Our Hero’s Job Fair, 10am to 1pm
Saturday, January 26	American Legion Auxiliary Black & White Gala, 6pm
Saturday, February 2	Mardi Gras S.A.L. Scholarship Dance, 7pm
Saturday, February 9	Valentines Dance, 7pm
Sunday, February 24	Cub Scout Blue and Gold Banquet, 5pm