

POST 44
American Legion *NEWSLETTER* – SEPTEMBER 2012
PO Box 1073 – 1005 Hwy. 195 - Elephant Butte, NM 87935
575-744-4144
WEBSITE – americanlegionelephantbutte.com



COMMANDER – Roy Lucero – Commander & Newsletter Editor

Another month has come and gone. We had some great times at the Post last month and enjoyed the company of many of our legion families. I urge each of you to get the word out to folks you know who are interested in joining our American Legion Post. Contact any of the officers or the bartender for an application. And any of you members that haven't been in for a while; we'd love to see you.

We said adios to Pam and her great meals late last month. She has retired and is going to be catching up on projects put on hold and doing things that are more fun than working. We'll all miss her in the kitchen; but, she promises to stop by from time to time, especially on Karaoke Fridays (we hope) – we all enjoy listening to your strong and beautiful voice.

Have no fear! Elaine Garlow (an Auxiliary and Rider member), with years of experience in food service, is stepping in to manage our kitchen. Be sure to say hello and welcome her to our Post 44 staff.

Volunteer(s) needed to keep the outside marquee updated at lease for Wednesday dinners and Friday night karaoke and possibly special events. Leave your name and phone number with the bar staff if interested. Perquisite: must know the alphabet and your numbers from 1-10 (just joking) – your willingness to want to do the deed is most important and most welcomed.

The American Legion would like to express their condolences to the family of Ray Cramer, a long-time member of Post 44.

Vice Commander – Tom Cleveland

Wow, August is over already. The Post has enjoyed a great summer. Won't be long before our winter visitors will be returning to EB. Hope we will be ready to greet them with some new and exciting fun fill events and activities.

We are losing a very good Kitchen Manager. Pam has decided to retire after devoting many hours of hard work to provide the members and guest of the Post with great meals and service. She will be missed. I would like to personally thank her for her service. If you see her at the Post, please take the time to say thanks also.

Remember the Post relies on you and your guests to survive and thrive. Come out and support it with your attendance at events and activities.

See you at the Post

Finance Officer – Dr. G. Vincent Barrett

The Post continues to stay above water financially although for the last four months we have sustained monthly net losses. Overall for the month of July we also had a net loss. Our reserve position is down as the bar and kitchen continues to struggle to stay even. The biggest problem is that gaming revenues have been declining which is not surprising given the age of the 15 games in the gaming room. The executive committee is looking into the possibility of acquiring some new games. Also a second pool table is scheduled to be set up in the Post and we hope to spur bar/kitchen business by having pool tournaments. A new TV has been authorized by the Executive Committee with the same hope in mind. With these hopes for improvement, the Post should be able to remain on a sound financial footing throughout this coming fiscal year.

Adjutant – Bob Nellis

Membership dues are still flowing in; remember that you can still qualify for early bird “free membership” if you submit your dues in by the end of September 2012.

Again, for those who have already paid their membership dues and have not received your card in the mail, please check with your friendly bartender and she or he may have your card ready for you to pick-up.

Activities Committee – Kathy Norton (By Linda Amdal)

Have any of you noticed, in the mornings, a coolness, reminiscent of fall?? Feels pretty good!! Any-hoo, lots going on this month!!

Saturday, Sept. 1st, join us for the Flea Market, Bake Sale, Burgers & Dogs and Chili Roast, starting at 8 a.m., in front of the Post.

Tues, Sept. 4th, the Activities Committee will meet at 1:00, followed by the golf planning meeting at 2:00.

ANNOUNCEMENTS!! ANNOUNCEMENTS!! Pam has retired from the kitchen. We thank you, Pam, for all you have done for us & we wish you the best!! You will be missed & please, don't be a stranger!! Elaine Garlow has stepped up to the kitchen plate & brings with her vast experience and enthusiasm!! Welcome Elaine!! Many of you are familiar with her fresh baked goodies - Now just wait for her home-made soups!! That's right!! Wednesday dinners will now offer a choice of soup or salad with dinner and soup or salad, a la cart for \$3.00 or both for \$5.00. Other things are in the works, so stand-by for updates!

The golf tournament is progressing nicely. All 18 holes have been sponsored & to-date, we have 20 raffle prizes (total value of \$500), with many more to come. We will soon begin selling tickets for the raffle, \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00. Please come to the Activities/Golf planning meeting on the 4th to see how you can help.

Sunday, Sept. 16th, break out your 10 gallon Stetson's, boots & spurs & chaps (better leave the 6 shooters at home) and let's "COWBOY-UP" for the September Birthday's & Last Salad Potluck for the season. Bob Acre will get us "rootin' & tootin'" with karaoke!

Sat. Sept. 1st Flea Market, Bake Sale, Chili Roast, Burgers & Dogs

Wed. Sept. 5th Baked Chicken Breast, Soup du Jour, Music by Jim Corrons

Fri. Sept. 7th Burgers & Soup du Jour, Karaoke by Gene Armijo

Sat. Sept. 8th Elephant Days & All You Can Eat Breakfast (Now including French Toast)

Wed. Sept. 12th Tacos, Beans & Rice, Soup du Jour, Music by Jim Corrons

Fri. Sept. 14th Burgers & Soup du Jour, Karaoke by Cindy Bellini
Sun. Sept. 16th "Cowboy-Up" Birthday Celebration & Last Salad Potluck, Karaoke with Bob Acre
Wed. Sept. 19th Alfredo Linguini with Shrimp & Soup du Jour, Music by Sue Barr
Fri. Sept. 21st Burgers & Soup du Jour, Karaoke with Bob Acre
Wed. Sept. 26th Port Roast, Soup du Jour, Music by CactusFlats

Volunteer of the Quarter - Linda Ross

September Birthdays: 5th Al Norton & Oscar Shook, 9th Don Webster & Nadine Trujillo, 12th Linda Davis, 23rd Patty Gilbert, 24th Gene Barton, 25th Bob Acre



Sons of the Legion (S.A.L.) Corner - Bill Nenno, Commander Squadron 44

The Sons of the American Legion, Post 44, held its regular meeting Aug 21, 2012. In attendance were Ron Greaves, Bob Nellis, Donnie Polstin, Deone Harty, Gene Hill and Bill Nenno.

Membership: We are currently soliciting payment for 2013 membership dues. So far we have had 21/85 or 25% of our members renew. We ask that you renew as soon as possible - ASAP in medical talk. Department sets various percentage renewal guidelines and these are always nice to meet. Additionally, early renewals are eligible for the drawing for a free membership for 2013. The deadline for this drawing is our next meeting, September 18. Paying your membership early also gets it out of the way so you don't have to worry about coming up with the money around Christmas time when your money is flowing out of your pockets about as fast as the water is currently flowing out of the lake!!

Finances: Gene Hill gave a financial report. S.A.L. finances remain in good shape.

American Legion Golf Tournament: Bob Nellis made a motion that we donate \$300 to the upcoming American Legion Golf Tournament. Motion carried. The tournament will be held on October 6 at the Truth or Consequences Municipal Golf Course. The format will be a scramble consisting of four person teams. Teams will receive 20% of total handicap and will be divided into two flights based on total handicap. For this you get to play golf with some great people, receive a polo shirt with the Legion Tournament emblem, a meal and even a free raffle ticket for some of the wonderful prizes that will be available. All of this can be had for a measly, paltry, giveaway price of \$60.00 per person. It should be the most fun you can have with your clothes on...the fun is guaranteed... we can only hope that you'll keep your clothes on!!!

We are asking that you pay your entry fee at the golf course to make keeping track easier. If this is a problem hunt down Linda Amdal who is the chief cook, bottle washer and ramrod for the event. For more information please see the flyers at the post.

Dinner: Donnie Polstin and Deone Harty volunteered to cook an enchilada dinner. This offer will be forwarded to the activities committee for their approval and scheduling.

American Legion Auxiliary Flea Market: The annual Labor Day Auxiliary Flea Market will be held on Saturday, September 1. As always the S.A.L. has volunteered to cook hamburgers and hot dogs in conjunction with the flea market. We could use at least four volunteers. We will meet at 9:00 Saturday morning to start cutting up tomatoes, onions and lettuce etc. Food sales will start at 11:00

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be held on Tuesday, Sept 18 at 6:30 PM at the Post. The S.A.L. meetings are always held on the third Tuesday of the month and all are invited to attend.

As always remember that organizations are not really organizations, they are just people. Help out when you can and when you see them, thank those that do help out and let's all work together for the common good.

Thanks for supporting our club, our community and most of all ---the veteran



Legion Riders- American Legion Riders Chapter NMALR 5: Jim Coslin, President

(Written by Craig Pierson, Secretary):

Membership: We currently have 30 members and 2 prospective members.

Calendar: Next meeting will be Tuesday, September 4th. September Ride scheduled for Saturday, the 8th.

Fund Raiser(s): On Saturday August 25th the Riders roasted green chilies in the Foxworth-Galbraith parking lot and accepted donations to raise money for OWW.

The Riders are also actively supporting the effort of the Unit 44 Auxiliary to put on a golf tournament on October 6th.

State Picnic: The State ALR Picnic, held August 10 & 11, 2012 at the Dirt Dam Rally Site at Marina Del Sur, was well attended by chapters from all over the state and attendees included the Legion New Mexico Department Commander. There was a good turnout for Friday night hamburgers at the Post and then again on Saturday morning for the all you can eat breakfast at the Post. Billy Jack put on a fish fry at the picnic area Saturday afternoon and that evening Cactus Flats provided entertainment with Carolyn Mayfield sitting in. Wally Armijo cooked breakfast burritos Sunday morning. All in all the picnic was a great success.

Rider Activities 2012

August Ride: The scheduled ride coincided with the State Picnic as well as a memorial event being held in Winston for one of our fallen warriors. The weather was great and the road to Winston provides a very entertaining ride.

Approximately 16 riders on 11 bikes from 5 different chapters made the ride. The riders were greeted by the parents and siblings of the soldier and many of the local ranchers and families that had gathered to have a "ranch style" rodeo. The bad news was we were too early to sample any of the food being prepared for a "Dutch Oven" cook-off later in the day.



The good news was the fish fry at the picnic was terrific.

The NM American Legion Riders will take gift cards, phone cards and comfort items donated throughout the year to Ft. Sam Houston in San Antonio Texas in September 2012. Part of the monies raised by the American Legion Riders

Our monthly meetings are held at Post 44 on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. – See you on September 4, 2012.

See our facebook page at @ <http://www.facebook.com> then go to Search (type) American Legion Riders NM5, then click on the Logo - all our pictures/comments are posted there for the last and previous rides or see Chuck, he has them on his computer. If you are computer-savvy, you can download them for yourself

If you are interested in being in the ALR but don't have a bike – we have a place for you. Ask any ALR Officer or Member for details – membership is \$15 plus vest and patches.



Auxiliary President - Sharon Pierson

AUXILIARY AUGUST EVENTS

Hot August Nights: Our Parliamentarian, Linda Ross and the entertainment committee, outdid themselves in preparations for this event. The decorations were great, the finger food excellent and Linda Amdal's karaoke rendition of "Hey Bobby" . . . in diving mask, snorkel and hot bikini T-shirt . . . was outstanding!

General Membership Meeting:

- **Drape the Charter:** Unit 44, unfortunately, had to drape the charter again this month. We lost our Chaplain and Poppy Chairman Emma West as well as members Pat Speers and Fran Shuey. These ladies have contributed so much and will be greatly missed.
- **Get Out The Vote:** We welcomed Connie Greer as our guest speaker this month. Ms. Greer is our County Clerk and spoke to us about "Get Out the Vote", the duties of the County Clerk's office and the rules governing the issuance of copies of DD214's.
- **Budget:** Our 2012-2013 budget was discussed, amended and approved by the membership.

Clothing Sale: The turnout for this event was disappointing but we still made \$320 for Mary Heiligenthal's homecoming dinner. Many, many thanks to Ginny Ashley (who organized and worked so hard on this event) and to everyone who spent long hours in a hot garage, setting up for and then helping with the sale itself. And a special "Thank You" to Johanna and Warren Roberts for allowing us to invade their garage **yet again**.

Youth Baseball Team: This year our Unit sponsored a youth baseball team for \$200 and the money was indeed well spent. Please read the heartwarming story below from our Chaplain Marty Novak:

The Youth Baseball Team we sponsored this year made 14 or 15 boys and girls, age 7-10 very happy because they got to play baseball but for one boy on the team it was a memorable experience. He has Cerebral Palsy and uses a walker but

he wanted to play baseball. The only concession they made for him was they let him bat off a T. His mother would stand behind him and support him while he held the bat with both hands and hit the ball. He could only hit it about 10-15 feet and the dirt on the infield was soft and almost impossible to push the walker through. So his mother would hold him from behind while he pushed the walker and they "ran" to 1st base. Obviously he never ever made it to first...but still had a big smile on his face. One game, toward the end of the season, I saw the coaches conferring between innings. I think they must have agreed to see that Robert made it at least to 1st base one time. When he hit the ball, the throw to 1st was wild and Robert and his mother made it to 1st base...Big Smile. As it would happen the next few batters up were good hitters or were walked and Robert and mom made it to 2nd, then 3rd, and finally home! REALLY BIG SMILE and both teams and the fans for both teams cheered him all the way around. I think this is something he will never ever forget. And I'm sure many others will find it hard to forget too.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Flea Market and Bake Sale: This event will likely be over by the time you read this newsletter since it is being held over Labor Day weekend, **Saturday-September 1, beginning at 8:00 a.m.** This is a big fund raiser for our Unit so we are hoping for a good turnout and we'll post the results in the next newsletter.

Elephant Butte Days Parade: The parade is on September 8th this year and our Unit is entering a float. Elaine & Jerry Garlow have generously agreed to let us use their pontoon boat, pulled by their truck and Jerry will drive for us! We'll be decorating the "Float" on September 6th at 8am – place to be determined. If you're interested in decorating or riding on the float please contact Sharon Pierson at skpierson@live.com.

"Give 10" Box: Marty Novak has placed a box at the Post for our annual "Give 10" drive for the school children in Sierra County. The idea behind this program is to give 10 of some item – 10 boxes of pencils or 10 packs of crayons, 10 spiral notebooks, etc. but please donate whatever you can. All Sierra county schools are Title 1 schools and every little bit helps.

Fall District Meeting: We have received the call for our Fall District meeting which is to be held on September 22nd in Silver City at Post 18. The cost is a registration fee of \$1.00 and \$7.00 for lunch which will be a Mexican Combination Plate. All members are invited and encouraged to attend. Please notify Sharon Pierson, Ginny Ashley, or Carmen McCleery if you plan to be there.

Golf Scramble: Plans are moving ahead with the Golf Scramble which will be held on October 8th. A BBQ luncheon for the participants will be held at the Post immediately following the Scramble (approx. 1:00-1:30) and we'll be looking for Auxiliary volunteers to help with the side dishes for the luncheon – cole slaw, potato salad, etc. Anyone who would like to may join the golfer's for the luncheon – the cost is \$7.50 – but you must make a reservation by September 29th. If you're willing to help with the side dishes or would like to make a reservation for lunch please contact Linda Nenno at (575) 642-6164.

Walk In The Park: Unit 44 will be putting a team together for this annual SCCA (Sierra County Cancer Assistance) event to be held October 20th from 9am-3pm at Ralph Edwards Park. If you're interested in joining the team and participating in the walk please contact Steph Ross srfoxie@gmail.com or Sharon Pierson skpierson@live.com.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The third Friday of September (Sept 21st) is "POW / MIA Recognition Day".
- The women of the Moose are hosting an Enchilada Dinner on September 21st from 5pm-7pm to raise funds for the SCCA. Steph and company will have tickets for sale (\$7 each) so please help the SCCA help our cancer patients in Sierra County and enjoy a great Enchilada dinner for the cause!
- Again on October 20th from 9am to 3pm, Sierra County Cancer Assistance, Inc. (SCCA) is having a fund raising walk to honor survivors, caregivers and those we have lost to Cancer. The cost is a \$5.00 donation to walk in the park and support SCCA. We are a 501 (C) 3 Non-Profit organization, and all funds raised stay within Sierra County. There will be a Raffle, Music and Food (per Steph Ross).

WELCOME HOME JOHANNA & WARREN!

Auxiliary Membership Report - Linda Nenno

Thank you to those who have renewed for 2013, and welcome to our new members. The dues are still \$30/year, and help us continue the programs that serve Veterans and their families. Membership is our most important program, since without members, we cease to exist. Tell your non-member friends about us, what we do and encourage them to join if they are eligible. Carry a membership application in your purse. You, as a member, know we have some really good things going on at the Post, and we always have a lot of fun, so spread the word. As of August 22, we have 126 paid members, which put us at 30% of our final goal. If you wish to be in the early bird drawing, you must be renewed by September 30. Please keep those renewals and new members coming. We're doing great so far.

The Chaplain's Corner – Marty Novak

PRAYER FOR THE MILITARY: Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need. Amen.

GET WELL WISHES: Delbert Smith, Papa Vince, Jim Ridens, Sofio Trujillo, Mary Heiligenthal, Don Armijo, and Sandra Cliborne

OUR CONDOLENCES: The Auxiliary lost 3 members in August, Emma West, Pat Speers and Fran Shuey. Our deepest sympathy to the families of these 3 lovely ladies. Also condolences to the family of Ray Cramer, a legionnaire member .

Thank God for Little Things

Thank You, God for little things that often come our way...

The things we take for granted but don't mention when we pray...

The unexpected courtesy, the thoughtful, kindly deed...

A hand reached out to help us in the time of sudden need...

Oh, make us more aware, dear God, of little daily graces

That comes to us with "sweet surprise" from never-dreamed-of-places.

CARE PACKAGES: We sent 62 Care Packages in August. We always have room on our Care Package list so if you know of anyone who is deployed, please give us their name and address and we will send them monthly Care Packages for as long as they are deployed. Thanks to you wonderful people who give us regular donations of money or goods for the packages, for Memorials and any kind of donation for this project. We couldn't continue to do this without your help. There isn't a lot we can do for our deployed Troops to make their lives easier and let them know we care...but these monthly Care Packages sure help. The next packing date is September 12. **We are changing the time for packing Care packages to 11:00.**

IT'S STILL VERY HOT IN IRAQ AND AFGHANISTAN. We will continue sending Neck Coolers in our Care Packages another couple of months. If you sew and would like to make Neck Coolers please let me know. I have the pattern and crystals to put inside if you need them. I want to thank who ever gave us the helmet liners. I wish I had a name so I could thank you personally. We will start sending them in our Care Packages in about November. We can always use more helmet liners.

CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS: We are an official collection site for CELL PHONES FOR SOLDIERS. There is a container just outside the door at the Post to deposit cell phones that are no longer being used. The cell phones are sent for recycling and the money is used to purchase Phone Cards for the soldiers. So far we have sent approximately 1,800 phone cards in our Care Packages. These Phone Cards can be used for calling from Iraq, Afghanistan, etc to the US or within the US.

What is a Veteran: A Veteran...whether active duty, discharged, retired, or reserve...is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The United States of America" for an amount of "up to, and including his/her life." That is honor, and there are way too many people in this country today, who no longer understand that act..