

POST 44
American Legion *NEWSLETTER* – DECEMBER 2012
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COMMANDER – Roy Lucero – Commander & Newsletter Editor

Another year is rapidly coming to an end. We've lost some old friends and we've added some new faces.

It isn't over, yet; but I'd like to thank everyone for the great year we've had. Our Bar and Kitchen staff go all out to make Post 44 a truly friendly place to gather; and our Gaming Managers make sure that the "naughty room" is there for everyone to enjoy. Thanks to our core of volunteers, the post is looking great, and we've been able to make a few improvements.

We still have a few things going on this month. The Post will be serving something warm and tasty at the Luminaria Walk on Dec 8th. Come join the community as we get into the holiday spirit. The employee Christmas party is on the 15th. Stop in and say "Hi" and let them know how much they are appreciated.

Just a reminder; there are no meetings scheduled this month. Our next general meeting will be Saturday, January 19, 2013.

Merry Christmas!! Stay Happy – Stay Safe.

Vice Commander – Tom Cleveland

Wishing all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!
 Hope to see you at the post.

Finance Officer – Dr. G. Vincent Barrett

The Post continues to do well financially. A small profit was generated for the month of October with overall revenues stable and gaming holding its own. Our reserve position is holding steady and the bar and kitchen continues to do well. The bar, kitchen, gaming and pull tabs as well as special events are performing as we expected for this time of year. In the absence of unforeseen financial expenses I expect that we shall continue to stay on a reasonable financial footing through the remainder of the calendar year. Both the bar and kitchen turned a small profit in the month of October

Adjutant – Bob Nellis

Last reminder that membership dues are due by December 31, 2012. On January 1, 2013 you'll need a new key-card for entry into the post and gaming with your paid-up dues.

Activities Committee – Kathy Norton and Linda Amdal)

Thanksgiving Day has come and gone, but we all have lots and lots to be thankful for on a daily basis! Remember a simple thank you or even a smile goes along ways! I would like to start out with a big thanks to Donnie and Dion for the wonderful Enchilada Dinner in support of the SAL! Happy Holidays to all!

You may have noticed some changes in the Kitchen, we have new menu, new helpers, new cash register and new Friday order forms. Elaine's grill doing fabulous; thank you for all your support. We have an action packed month planned to bring on the holiday cheer and hope to see all our Legion family throughout the month!.

December Events

Dec. 2	3:00	Deck the Halls, bring finger food and decorate our post
Dec. 5	5:30	Fried Chicken Dinner, music provided by: Sue Barr
Dec. 7	5:30	Elaine's Grill, Karaoke by: Gene
Dec. 8	9:00 5:00	Post All you can eat Breakfast Luminary Walk @ Elephant Butte Lake
Dec. 12	5:30	Spaghetti Dinner, music provided by: Sue Barr
Dec. 13		Tumbleweeds Christmas Party
Dec. 14	5:30	Elaine's Grill, Karaoke by: Cindy
Dec. 15	5:30	Employee Christmas Party, bring finger foods
Dec. 19	5:30	Post Christmas Celebration w/Shrimp Dinner, music provided by: Sue Barr
Dec. 24	5:30	Christmas Eve pot luck
Dec. 25		Christmas Day-Post Closed
Dec. 26	5:30	Taco Dinner, music by: Cactus Flats
Dec. 28	5:30	Elaine's Grill, Karaoke by: Cindy
Dec. 31	5:30	New Years Eve Party music provided by: Jim Corrons

Hope to see you at the Post! Happy Holidays-- Activities Committee!



Sons of the American Legion – Bill Nenno

Membership: We are currently asking that all members pay their 2013 membership dues. Renewals continue to come in but time is running short. Don't be caught left out in the cold come January 1, when your current 2012 membership card will expire. Just FYI, last year on November 17 we had 43 members renew. We currently have 49 members that have renewed so this is in line with historical precedence. Actually, for those of you who are sticklers for accounting, we are 7% better than last year. That said, 49/86 or 57% still leaves us with 43% of the current members needing to pay their 2013 dues.

I know the times are hard and most of us have too much month at the end of the money, but hard times are never sufficient justification for turning our backs on moral obligations; we still need to remember to support veterans and veterans' organizations. Paying your dues, and keeping our numbers strong, is the best way to keep the needs of veterans on the forefront of political policy. Besides that, the Post is a neat place to socialize; good people, good food, good entertainment. You kill two birds with one stone!

Finances: Because of vacations, work schedules, and I would be remiss if I did not add, apathy, the S.A.L. has missed a couple meetings in the last few months. One of the good things about this (there is a silver lining behind every dark cloud) is that we have not met to give away money and so our finances are in very good shape. This is fortunate because this is the time of year that the S.A.L. donates to a number of worthwhile charities and organizations. I know you're waiting with bated breath and so I will list those organizations and charities posthaste!

New Mexico State Veteran's Home - First up on our list, and first in our hearts and minds, are the veterans. The S.A.L. donated \$200 to the residence fund. This means that the monies go directly to the residents to be used in the canteen as they see fit.

Sierra County Cancer Assistance--Another group high on our list is the Sierra County Cancer Assistance program. The S.A.L. donated \$200 to this worthwhile organization. All of this money stays in Sierra County. This hits close to home because as small as Sierra County is you know almost everyone. Unfortunately, there are often Legion members in need of this organization's services. There are a couple of Legion members who are currently eligible for this assistance and while I will not mention names, our best wishes go out to you. Hang in there and stay strong.

American Legion Child Welfare Foundation--is high on the list for S.A.L. members. the Child Welfare Foundation is the special charity supported by the national S.A.L. organization. There are often articles on the CWF in the National Update, which is the official publication of the Sons of the American Legion. The national average for donations is \$1.15 per member. Unfortunately, in the last issue of National Update there was a table showing CWF donations by Detachment of New Mexico did not look so good having pledged only \$0.36 per member. Squadron 44 has always done more than its share and we are more than happy to be able to give \$200. Now, if the rest of the S.A.L. Squadrons would follow suit we could join in with the 18 states that gave over \$2.00 per member. I'm not sure we will ever catch Arizona with \$13.06 per member!!Way to go Arizona

Children and Youth--Another big push for the Sons of the American Legion is Children and Youth. This organization provides services for children of veterans. We are happy to give \$200 to support this organization. We often forget the affect an absent parent can have on a child. This organization attempts to alleviate the hardships.

Sierra Santa--As the name implies, all about Sierra County and Christmas As a member of the Lions organization last year I helped with this endeavor. We spent a couple of days receiving, sorting out, and then distributing food and toys to the children of Sierra County. I will never forget the look of joy on the kids' faces. I especially remember the three or four of them that got bicycles. They rode them around inside the building for at least an hour. In the beginning I was worried

about them riding inside the building because there were so many people. The kids were amazingly careful and courteous for such young kids. The grins plastered on their faces never left .We are more than joyous to give \$200 to this local and timely organization.

Christmas Walk--Whether you call it the Christmas walk or the Luminaria Tour, this is always a fun night. You can go a-wassailing right here on the sandy beaches of Elephant Butte. The lights on the parade of boats, the welcoming campfires, the myriad of organizations giving out free food and drink, the tractor pulled hay rides. This year the S.A.L. voted to give \$200 to this endeavor. The donation is to be split with \$100 going to help defray costs for the food and drink offered at the American Legion Post 44 site and \$100 for the Make a Wish Foundation which is what all of this is about to begin with.

Enchilada Dinner November 18th--Donnie Polstin and Deone Harty put on a great enchilada dinner on Sunday, November 18. They served 48 meals which were more than they expected. They ran out of green enchiladas but the red enchiladas were almost as good... I happen to be a green fan... just saying. In all seriousness, the guys, and their helpers, did a great job and I don't think anyone went away This was a fundraiser for the S.A.L. and it brought in almost \$250.It is events like these, and guys like those, that allow us to make the donations listed above. A pat on the back and a hearty well done.

They must be gluttons for punishment because even in the middle of their meal madness they were talking about trying this again sometime after the first of the year. think this time they were talking about sweet and sour.

Happy Holidays--Last, but not least, SAL Squadron #44 wishes all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!

Next Meeting--There will be no meeting for December. Our next meeting will be held Tuesday, January 16 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 33 members and 2 prospective members.

Calendar: Next meeting will be Tuesday, December 4th. That will be an important meeting for Chapter 5 since officers for 2013 will be elected during the meeting. Remember, all of the officers are elected yearly.

A December Ride may be held on the morning of the 8th But that Saturday could be a very busy day since it is breakfast at the Post and the Luminaria walk is scheduled for that evening. The Riders plan to participate in that event by serving hot chocolate around a bonfire - so come visit campsite 25 starting around dusk.

Fund Raiser(s): The Riders actively supported the effort of the Unit 44 Auxiliary to put on a golf tournament on October 6th. The tournament was very successful and raised more than \$3000 for the Post 44 Legion Family.

Rider Activities 2012

Unscheduled Ride: The picture at the right was taken Wednesday the 7th when several members of Chapter 5 rode to Hatch to sample the food at B & E Burritos. As expected the green chili was pretty hot. Oh, and yes, that is the Chapter 5 Global Ambassador Toby McGarry on the far right.



Incredibly, the group was also able to substantiate the rather farfetched report turned in by our President and the Sergeant - At-Arms of a camel lurking around the highway south of Arrey. We now know the camel is actually real and of the Dromedary (one hump) variety.

November Ride: The normal day for the November scheduled ride coincided with the Veterans Day events held at the New Mexico Veterans Center. It was a cool and breezy day but that didn't stop people from wandering amongst the beautifully restored cars or getting a bite to eat at one of the food stands. A short motorcycle parade originated at the Memorial Wall.

Civic Activities: On the Monday following Veterans day Riders President, Jim Coslin joined with post Commander Roy Lucero, Squadron Commander Bell Nenno, and Auxiliary President Sharon Pierson, along with several other members of Post 44 leadership to visit Sierra Elementary and T or C Elementary schools as part of the "Education Week" program. They spoke to students in classes that ranged from second through sixth grades about what it means to be a veteran and why we celebrate Veterans Day as a national holiday.

Our monthly meetings are held at Post 44 on the first Tuesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. – See you on December 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 NOVEMBER EVENTS

General Membership Meeting:

- **Care Packages Plaque:** During the joint opening this month a plaque was presented to our unit to honor the many care packages we have sent to troops overseas. Barbara & Chester Anderson presented the plaque for their grandson, Paul D. Ellis - 1Lt USAF, a care package recipient stationed in Afghanistan. We are still in the process of determining just the right spot to display (show off) this beautiful handmade tribute but plan to have it hanging at the Post very soon.
- **New Members:** We happily welcomed two new Auxiliary members,



Martha Straba & Terri Copsin, to our meeting this month and hope to continue to see these ladies at our monthly meetings.

- **Veteran's Day Car Show "Bake Sale":** Ginny Ashley reported that in spite of inclement weather, this jointly sponsored (VFW Auxiliary & ALA Auxiliary) event still made \$400 which will be given to the NMSVC. Many thanks to all the ladies who donated their baked goods and to those who toughed out a cold, windy day at the Car Show to sell them.



- **Veteran's Day Car Show "Poppie Distribution":** Joyce Hudgens & Linda Nenno (Poppy Co-chairmen) were so impressed with the results of their helpers/volunteers at this event that they've sworn never to distribute Poppies without them again! Not only did we have ladies from the JROTC (one reportedly the great-granddaughter of a Navajo Code Talker) but also from the Sierra County Fair Royalty as well as the local Girl Scout Troop. These gals, with Joyce & Linda, really went to work and collected \$200 in donations which will be given to the Canteen fund for the residents of the NMSVC.

- **Elementary School Visits:** On Monday, November 12th, representatives of each branch of the American Legion Family (Legion, Sons, Riders and Auxiliary) joined together to visit classes at Sierra Elementary and Truth or Consequences Elementary for the schools Education Week. The children learned what a Veteran is and why we celebrate Veteran's Day each year. Fun was had by everyone – the students received American flags and Patriotic stickers, comic books or wrist bands and the adults received a few chuckles over the facial expressions of their comrades at some of the questions asked by the children.



- **Going Digital ? :** In an effort to archive and safe guard our unit's wonderful history and to assist in the preparation of future reports and year end books, we have ordered software we believe will help us achieve these goals. On the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month at 10am at the Post, members will be meeting to work on this year's books for convention (i.e. Cavalcade of Memories, History Book, Prayer Book, Girls State Book, Public Relations Book, etc.). These books represent the accomplishments of our entire unit so please join us and help prepare them.
- **Facebook / Web Site:** Meetings will be held at the post immediately following the above meetings (2nd & 4th Tuesdays) to discuss content, procedure and layout for our Facebook page and Web Site – please come and give us your input!
- **Awards:** Liz Foster issued Leadership certificates and pins to those completing the Leadership course in January (Johanna Roberts, Ginny Ashley, Elaine Garlow and Linda Nenno). Marty Novak gave service pins and bars to Jackie Stockmar and Steph Ross for 300 hours service. Jackie Stockmar was informed it was she who received the Marlys Exon award for Community Service at convention (our snowbird had already returned to Michigan before convention). And Liz Foster was presented with a National award for "Best Department Program of the Western Division" for year 2010-2011 when she was the Americanism Department Chairman.

- **District 7 President's Visit:** Liz Foster visited our unit as District 7 President. She discussed the "challenges" all units in New Mexico received from Department Chairmen. 1) Leadership will award \$50 to the unit with the most officers to complete the leadership course. Unit 44 is in the lead – WooHoo!!! 2) Community Service challenges each District (our district 7 includes Deming, Silver City, Las Cruces and ourselves) to work a community service project together as a district. District 7 has chosen "Victim Assistance Units". Unit 44 has established a relationship with the Sierra County Victim Assistance Unit. If/when they need something (i.e. blankets, pillows, adult or children's clothing, stuffed animals, food, etc) we will give them what aid we can. 3) Membership has challenged each Unit to hold a quarterly Membership drive. So far Unit 44 has had a membership drive at the Sierra County Fair and the Veteran's Car Show with plans in the work for the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2013.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Girls State Bake Sales: Beginning in January we will hold a bake sale at the Post on the 2nd Saturday of each month (in conjunction with the monthly breakfast at the Post) to raise funds for the Girls State program. There have been so many young ladies asking about this program, wishing to attend, that we are hoping to send 4 girls next year.

Luminaria Walk: The Auxiliary has agreed to bake "Pecan Pie Muffins" again this year. If you would like to help for this December 8th event please contact Ginny Ashley or deliver your baked Muffins to the Post by the morning of December 8th. Anyone needing the recipe can get it from Rita Seiler (who has plenty of copies) or Linda Nenno, Ginny Ashley or there are copies available at the Post.

Cookies, cookies, cookies: A plea for help to any and all who are willing to bake for the Holidays this year. Cookies and/or small baked goods are needed to help fill the December Care Packages (Dec 12th) to our troops overseas, to fill the trays we give each year to the teachers at all Sierra County schools (Dec 13th) and to the Veterans at NMSVC (Dec 17th). Please help if you can.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Arts & Crafts Fair - Elephant Butte Community Center 9am-4pm December 8th a great place to finish your Christmas shopping!
- Next Leadership Course will begin in January. See Liz Foster for details.
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Auxiliary Membership Report - Linda Nenno

Thank you to those who have renewed for 2013. 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 November 20, we have 293 paid members, which put us at 71% of our final goal. Remember, door cards change January 1, 2013 and you will not be able to get a new one without a 2013 card. Please keep those renewals and new members coming. We're doing great so far and are leading the units in our District.

National renewal notices list our dues as \$34. This is incorrect! Our dues are still \$30/yr. If you receive your National notice, please pay only \$30 as we have to issue refund checks for those who over pay. Thank you.

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, John (Butch) Walters, Bob Shuey and Jim Millsap.

OUR CONDOLENCES: Our condolences to Linda and Bill Nenno in the loss of her brother in law

LORD, OPEN OUR EYES

Lord, open our eyes that we may see You in our brothers and sisters,
 Lord, open our ears, that we may hear the cries
 Of the hungry,
 The cold,
 The frightened,
 The oppressed.
 Lord, open our hearts, that we may love each other as You love us.
 Renew in us Your spirit
 Lord, free us and make us one.
 Mother Theresa

CARE PACKAGES AND CELL PHONES: We sent 48 Care Packages in November. Thanks to all who helped. Welcome back to our winter people who are such good helpers. Thank you to all who donated supplies, made pocket flags and neck coolers. And of course, thank you to all the generous people and to the Post for their monetary help with this project. It's getting cold and we could use helmet liners. I want to thank who ever left the helmet liners for the Care Packages. There was no name with them so I don't know who to thank. We certainly appreciate them and I'm sure the Troops do also. We will be including homemade cookies and candies in the December Care Packages. If you would like to help, the cookies need to be sturdy cookies that travel well. Next Care Package Day is December 12.

We are an official collection site for cell phones that are no longer being used. These are sent for recycling and provide calling cards for the soldiers. We send the calling cards in our Care Packages. There is a collection container just outside the door of the Post.

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..