

POST 44
American Legion NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2013
PO Box 1073 – 1005 Hwy. 195 - Elephant Butte, NM 87935
575-744-4144
WEBSITE – americanlegionelephantbutte.com



COMMANDER – Roy Lucero – Commander & Newsletter Editor

We have a new Assistant Gaming Manager. Gene Hill stepped into that position last month when Lonny Adler retired and began his travels across this great country of ours. Gene brings a lot of experience and will be a tremendous asset to the team of Nellis, Amdal and Hill. Welcome aboard.

February was an action-packed month. We had a great dinner/dance to celebrate Valentine's Day. Not only was it a fun evening, but we added a few new members to the Post; and Saturday, Feb 16th, was a truly memorable day. It marked ten years in this facility. Several past Post Commanders stopped in, and joining in on the celebration were some of the folks from Department in Albuquerque, including Commander Robert Jaramillo, Vice Commanders, Paul Espinosa and Chris Lozano, membership chairman, Bruce Jorgensen and Department Auxiliary Secretary, Lorene Jorgensen. They all had nothing but praise for our Post. We are undoubtedly among the friendliest and strongest Posts in New Mexico.

Bob and Liz Nellis, who spearheaded the event, the volunteers who did the decorating and brought in the goodies, and everyone doing the cooking, made the day a day to remember. A special thanks to Tom Pestak for the heartwarming video he put together for all to enjoy.

Let's keep the momentum going. See you at the Post

Once Again --I have been informed by our American Legion Newsletter co-coordinator, Carmen McCleery that she will no longer be our Newsletter Co-coordinator as of the end of May 2013 after the June Newsletter is published. She says that 4 ½ years of wearing the news lettering hat is long enough and she is ready to pass the hat on to a new head. If anyone (male or female) is interested in taking over effective in June to start the July Newsletter, you may contact Carmen at 505-250-7260 and she will be more than willing to instruct you on what she does to accomplish the job.

Vice Commander – Tom Cleveland

Time is fleeting; it is once again time to nominate candidates for the upcoming year Post 44 officer slate. If you are interested in running for any of the elected positions, please contact me or any of the Post Officers to let your wishes be known.

February has flown by and it was a very fun filled month of activities. Super Bowl Party, Prime Rib Dinner, Saturday Breakfast, Mardi Gras Party, and Oscar Sunday were very successful events and if you missed the Post's Tenth Anniversary Party you really missed a fun filled event. There were photos of the early post activities and people that helped form Post 44, Video history, Games and prizes, all day music, and a great free Fried Fish Dinner prepared for all members. Thanks to everyone who contributed their time and effort to make these events happen. There are just too many names to mention but those of you that pitched in know who you are. THANKS!!

Come by the Post this month, there are some very exciting changes that take effect in March. Remember that the success of our organization depends on you. **HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON!!**

Finance Officer – Dr. G. Vincent Barrett

Last month it was reported that the Post has seen continuing monthly average losses for the last six months that total slightly in excess of \$20,000 by the end of December 2012. This figure was in error, the actual loss was approximately \$9,500. This is much better news but still a loss. The loss is attributable primarily to the decline in gaming revenues and to a lesser extent declines in bar revenues as well as rising cost of operations. The Executive Committee met in special session on February 11, 2013 to discuss this issue and has developed a set of actions that will hopefully reverse the average losses. We have several good weeks during March.

Adjutant – Bob Nellis

Keep your membership dues coming in and help bring in new members.

Activities Committee – Kathy Norton and Linda Amdal)

Last month was a great success; here are some of the highlights and recognition to some of the many people that make it so successful! Super Bowl Sunday, we really enjoyed the trivia and hollering at the TVs until the bitter end of the game! Breakfast was a big turnout including the volunteers that make it all happen. The Mardi Gras party, thank you D.R. for your Gumbo and Sharon for the Red Beans and Rice!

Valentine's Day Dinner - Thank you Sue for preparing the Prime Rib & Gene Hill for slicing and dicing. The 10th Anniversary party was wonderful thanks to Bob & Liz coordinating this function and closing out the month with an Academy Awards night at the post! Linda Amdal did a great job making this event really fun! Another group that really needs mention is the Decoration committee; we changed the post out 4 times last month, yes 4! Thank you LIZ!

Well here we are into March! March brings daylight savings on the 10th, St. Patty's day on the 17th, 1st day of spring on the 20th, Good Friday on the 29th and Easter on the 31st!!! Now let's talk about our Post calendar. Mark your calendars for these upcoming special events! Sat. Mar. 2nd @ 5:00 pm, Sweet & Sour Pork Dinner, made by: Donnie and Dione to support the S.A.L. St. Patrick's Day party with Baked Potato Bar by the Auxiliary and the Lucero Wedding Celebration on the 23rd. Watch for the flyers and announcements for details on all these great events!! Don't forget FUN POOL on Fridays @ 4:00 this is really a great time!

Well here is how our calendar is going to look in March!

Mar. 1	5:30	Elaine's Grill, Karaoke by: Gene
Mar. 2	5:00	S.A.L. Fundraiser by Donnie & Deone
Mar. 3	1:00	Bob's Special Fundraiser Pool Tournament
Mar. 5	1:00	Activities Committee Meeting
Mar. 6	5:30	Roast Beef Dinner, music by: Jim Corrons
Mar. 8	5:30	Elaine's Grill, Karaoke by: Cindy
Mar. 9	9:00	All you Can Eat Breakfast
Mar. 13	5:30	Corned Beef Dinner, music by: Jim Corrons
Mar. 15	5:30	Elaine's Grill, Karaoke by: Bob Acre
Mar. 17	TBA	St Patrick's Day Party-Baked Potato Bar by the Auxiliary
Mar. 20	5:30	Baked Fish Dinner, music by: Cactus Flats Volunteer of Quarter for Brian Nikiforow
Mar. 22	5:30	Elaine's Grill, Karaoke by: Cindy
Mar. 23	3:00	Lucero Wedding celebration, Music by Bob Acre
Mar. 27	5:30	Ham Dinner, Music by Sue Barr
Mar. 29	5:30	Elaine's Grill, Karaoke by: Bob Acre

As you can see we have another action packed month for March, we look forward to seeing you at the Post and wear your red on Fridays!

Birthdays: Elaine Garlow 11th, Johanna Roberts and Bill Laswell 14th
Lynn Bott 23rd, Kathy Norton & Dick Alexander 26th, Becky Nazarene 31st

Bar Manager – Maida Sanders

SURPRISE EVERYONE!!! I haven't placed an article in the Newsletter in a very long time. I come to you this month with hopefully some good news. **Beginning March 1** we will be **lowering our prices at the bar**. Yup, that's right **LOWERING!!!!!!** Most all liquor will go down .25 to .50 cents. Beer, wine and all well drinks will also go down .25 cents.

With this being done, we will no longer be having customer appreciation hour. I really think that it will work out very well for all of us.

Please understand that it's going to be a huge change for all of us bartenders. When one of us makes a mistake, please be patient and just bring it to our attention, I promise we will correct any mistakes. To my entire bar employee's—THANK YOU so much for your hard work, I don't show it near like I should, but I do appreciate each and every one of you.

To all our American Legion family (members & guests) THANK YOU for all your support and your kindness that you bring into our Post.



Sons of the American Legion – Bill Nenno

The Sons of the American Legion Post 44 held its regular meeting on Tuesday, Feb 19, 2013. In attendance were Gene Hill, Bob Nellis, Donnie Polstin, Deone Harty and Bill Nenno. I would like to thank those in attendance and to make a personal plea for more S.A.L. members to get involved in the administration of our Squadron.

Membership: Membership continues on at an appropriate pace. As of our February transmittal we now have 76 paid members for 2013.

Finances: Gene Hill gave a financial report and I am pleased to announce that our finances are in good shape. If anyone ever wants to know exact numbers all you have to do is come to one of the meetings!! This information is public record at all of our meetings. For convenience sake, it was decided that we will move our account from Compass Bank to the Bank of the Southwest which has a branch in Elephant Butte.

Sierra County Cancer Society: The S.A.L. is honored that Loreen Jorgensen, Auxiliary Department Secretary Treasurer has chosen to make a contribution to Sierra County Cancer Society in memory of her late stepfather, Buck Breen, through the Post 44 S.A.L.

S.A.L. Dinner: Donnie Polstin and Deone Harty are putting on another dinner as a S.A.L. fundraiser. This will be an Oriental sweet and sour pork dinner with rice, a salad and dessert all for the normal, and nominal, fee of \$8.00. This is scheduled for Saturday March 2 starting at 5:30 PM so come out and help us make this fundraiser a big success. It is events like this that keep our post alive, fun and vibrant.

Flagpoles: The S.A.L. now has a supply of flagpoles, complete with flag, for sale. These go for the bargain price of \$52.00. If you are not aware of our ongoing saga, lend me your ear. Or in this case, I guess it is your eyes. For some months now we had lost contact with our supplier and during that time I looked for another supplier for flags and flagpoles. The cheapest price I found for an aluminum flagpole, with flag, was \$120 and so I am glad that we were able to

reestablish contact with our original supplier and with no increase in price. To make a short story long, they are now in and for sale.

S.A.L. Officers: It's not too early to start thinking about running for a S.A.L office. We have nominations in March with the election being in April so it is only two more meetings for this slate of officers. The job of being an officer for the S.A.L. is not particularly hard, nor time consuming, but is absolutely necessary for our squadron to continue. Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country -- or at least the S.A.L. So do your part to guarantee our successful continuance by running for an office.

Next Meeting: Our next meeting will be held Tuesday, March 19 at 6:30 PM at the Post. The S.A.L. the 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 Post, our Community and most of all --the Veteran

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



(Written by Craig Pierson, Secretary) Elephant Butte, NM 87935

Membership: We currently have 23 members and 4 prospective members.

Calendar: Next Riders meeting will be on the first Tuesday of the month: March 5th at the Post at 6:30pm.

Rider Activities 2013

Scheduled Ride: The ride scheduled on February 9th to San Antonio was cancelled due to inclement weather. Hats off to John "Husker" Bush who was the only member to actually ride his bike to the post that day.

The next regularly scheduled ride would be for March 9th.

Events: The Riders hosted a table at the kick-off of the "Cosmic Talent World Expo of T or C". This monthly event will be held at the Lee Belle Johnson Senior Center in the early evening of the second Saturday of the month directly after the regular Art Hop in downtown T or C.

The inaugural event was not particularly well attended, primarily for the same reason the scheduled ride was cancelled; the weather was awful. We're hopeful that the next installment will benefit from fine weather and positive word of mouth advertising.

Although we did not get any new member applications, Joyce Hudgins the Auxiliary Poppy chairman did manage to collect \$18 in donations. Below is a photo of our table setup. Everybody was very complimentary and, as you can see, even the "Cowboy Poet" herself seems to be smiling down on us.



As planned we were able to display our United States, New Mexico and NMALR flags as well as the Post 44 banner. The POW/MIA table complete with an explanation of the ceremony got quite a bit of attention. The OWW tri-fold and the Poppy boards were helpful as we continue to try to educate our neighbors about the various programs supported by the Legion.

Finally, during preparation for the Post 44 10th anniversary celebration Bob Nellis provided us with some photos from the early days of Chapter 5. So, in recognition of those who came before, below is a group photo from September of 2006. Chapter 5 will present a drink token to whoever can correctly identify the most people in the photo.



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 FEBRUARY EVENTS

- **Blue Star Banners:** This month we were pleased to present Ben and Eva Baca (Post 44 Legionnaire and Unit 44 Auxiliary member) with a Blue Star Banner in honor of their son Glenn C. Baca.
- **Draping the Charter:** Sadly, we once again found ourselves draping the charter. This month we mourn the loss of Brianna Caudill, a member of our unit and the granddaughter of Nancy Palladino.

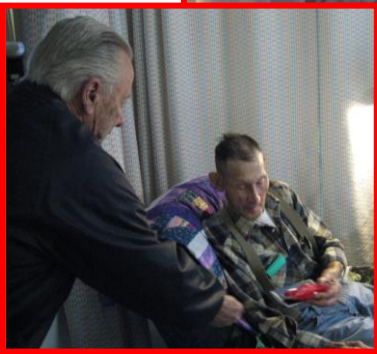


- **Mid-Winter Conference:** Several members attended the mid-year conference in February in Albuquerque. One exciting occurrence was the distribution of award pins from National for those Unit members who had recruited new members by December 1st. Our Unit 44 received 22 pins – the most, by far, of any Unit in New Mexico! Congratulations to every member who received a pin.

- **Valentine's Day Activities:** Several Unit 44 ladies gathered at the Post to make handmade cards for the Care Packages we send to overseas deployed troops as well as the residents at the State Veteran's Home in TorC.



Home baked cookies were also prepared and packaged in decorative Valentine's Day bags and placed in each of the 70 Care Packages sent out on February 13th. Another group, including Legionnaire and former Navy Seal Steve Ross, distributed these goody bags and handmade cards on February 14th to all the 135 residents at NMSVH. What a big undertaking and so successful – thank you, thank you, thank you to all of you who helped make Valentine's Day a little more special for these troops and Veterans.



- **Girls State Bake Sales:** Arlea Hadley is continuing with the fundraiser bake sales at each monthly breakfast at the Post for the Girls State program. Signup sheets for those who would like to help bake are available. We have several young ladies wanting to attend this year and we want to be certain we do not disappoint any of them. If you would like to contribute by baking please contact Arlea Hadley, Ginny Lucero or Sharon Pierson.
- **Americanism Essay Contest:** We have received 150 essays from the students of Sierra County this year and are currently in the process of reading / judging them. Many thanks to Arlea Hadly, Linda Nenno and Marty Novak for taking on this project. We believe we have some real contenders in this group and look forward to submitting them for the Western Division competition.

- **Poppies:** Joyce Hudgens is working with the TorC Garden Club to get the Poppy seeds our unit recently ordered distributed and planted (successfully we hope) throughout the TorC / Elephant Butte area. Anyone with a green thumb (or just a gardening interest) who would like to participate in the challenge of getting these beautiful and meaningful wildflowers to grow in our desert climate please contact Joyce Hudgens or Sharon Pierson. Anyone who has suggestions for places to plant our seedlings should also contact us. Believe me, we would LOVE to hear from you.
- **Constitution & Bylaws:** The proposed changes to our Constituion & Bylaws were approved unanimously by the membership during our February 16th meeting. Copies of our ratified Constitution & Bylaws will be available at the March meeting and are currently available for download on our web site.



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Easter Egg Hunt at NMSVH:** Our Unit approved a \$150 donation to this second annual event to be held on Saturday March 30th (the day before Easter Sunday). Unit 44 has also been asked to help supervise the egg hunt for the 1-2 year olds and 2 of the six races to be held for various age groups, including rolling eggs with your nose to the finish line :). They are expecting a big turnout and we really need volunteers to help with this event so, please, if you'd like to come out and supervise a group of young children having a lot of fun please give me a call. Sharon Pierson 740-3639.
- **Baked Potato Bar Fundraiser:** The Post Activities Committee has given us permission to hold a fundraiser for the Auxiliary on St. Patrick's Day, Sunday March 17th. We will be hosting a "Baked Potato Bar", selling a baked potato and all the "fixings" for \$5 each. Linda Nenno has kindly volunteered to take lead on this project so if you can help out by baking a few potatoes or preparing some of the "Fixings" please let her know.
- **Photo Release Forms:** We have recently received a "stock" photo release form from Department and they strongly suggest we have all members sign one. By signing one of these forms you would be giving us permission to post photos, in which you are included, on our face book page, our website, in newspaper articles, our monthly newsletters and any brochures or flyers we might want to generate for Auxiliary activities. We will have these forms available at the Post and at our March monthly membership meeting. Please pick one up and fill it out and sign it or, if you prefer NOT to have **any** photo of yourself posted in any media, PLEASE contact me immediately and let me know so we can be certain not to do so.

Auxiliary Membership Report - Linda Nenno

Thank you to all who have renewed in the last month. As of February 24, we only need 49 more members to join or renew by May 15. We CAN do this!! If you know of anyone who is eligible to join the Auxiliary, contact me or give them an application. If you have not renewed for 2013, please do it now.

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: Papa Vince, Jim Ridens, Sofio Trujillo, Butch Walters, Bob Shuey, Jerry Light, Maida's grandson, Liz Foster

OUR CONDOLENCES: Our condolences to Nancy Paladino and family on the passing of Nancy's grand-daughter, Briana. Briana Caudill is also a member of our Unit. Condolences also go out to Bobby and Maggie Allen on the passing of their grand-daughter and Lisa Greer on the passing of her brother.

TEN THINGS GOD WANTS US TO KNOW

- God wants spiritual fruit...not religious nuts
- There is no key to happiness...the door is always open
- Silence is often misinterpreted but never misquoted

- Do the math...count your blessings
- Faith is the ability to not panic
- If you worry, you didn't pray. If you pray, don't worry
- As a child of God, prayer is kind of like calling home every day
- The most important things in your home are the people
- When we get tangled up in our problems, be still.
God wants us to be still so He can untangle the knot
- A grudge is a heavy thing to carry

Be kinder than necessary...

for everyone you meet is fighting some kind of battle
Live simply, love generously, care deeply, speak kindly...leave the rest
to God

CARE PACKAGES AND CELL PHONES: We sent 73 Care Packages in February. Thanks to all who helped. And of course, thank you to all the generous people and to the Post and the community for their monetary help with this project.

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.

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Bob and Liz Nellis - We want to send out our sincere thanks to everyone that helped with the 10th Anniversary celebration. Without all of you it would not have been possible. What an awesome Legion Family. We would also like to thank everyone that attended and made it so much fun.

See you all again in ten more!

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..