



**THE AMERICAN LEGION  
MESA POST, UNIT, SQUADRON AND CHAPTER 26**

# " CHATTER "

**FEBRUARY TO APRIL 2010**

VISIT OUR WEB SITE AT: [www.mesapost26.com](http://www.mesapost26.com)

**OFFICE/NOTARY HOURS**

Monday-Friday . . . . . 8 AM to Noon  
 Closed Sat, Sun. . . . . All Major Holiday  
 Dept Web site . . . . . [www.azlegion.org](http://www.azlegion.org)  
 National Web site . . . . . [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)  
 E-mail . . . . . [mesapost26@qwestoffice.net](mailto:mesapost26@qwestoffice.net)

**KITCHEN HOURS**

Tuesday – Saturday . . . 9 AM – 8 PM  
 Dinner Tues – Sun. . . . 5 PM – 8 PM  
 Breakfast Sat. . . . . 9 AM – Noon  
 Breakfast Sun. . . . . 9:30 AM – Noon  
 Monday Kitchen Closed

**505 W. 2ND AVE., MESA, AZ 85210      OFFICE: (480) 964-8792      LOUNGE: (480) 834-9769**

**COMMANDER’S REPORT**

By Michael Thelen

Well a new year has begun. I hope everyone had a happy holiday and received everything they wanted. Let’s start off the new year right by helping our fellow veterans and community. There are a lot of good programs that we have in The American Legion; Children and Youth, ALLECA, Oratorical, Boys and Girls State, Veterans Nursing Home, Madison Street Veterans Association (homeless veterans), Mesa Veterans Parade Association, Poppy Program and many more. If you are interested in helping out, let me or any of the Post officers know.

We have done a lot of good for the community and veterans this last year. The Auxiliary Unit has donated 12 baskets of food, both Thanksgiving and Christmas, to veterans and the community. This helped out some of our returning veterans from Iraq and Afghanistan.

On the 16<sup>th</sup> of January District 12 held a BBQ for the homeless veterans at Madison Street. We had about 50 volunteers there; 10 from the Post and Riders, with another 6 helping at the Post to load three trucks with water, Focus and food. Thanks to Don Joy and Ron Heraty for their donation of \$50.00 each for the food. The water and Focus were donated by the MPVA, which was left over from the parade, which were donated by O-Premium and Quaker.

The New Years Dinner and Early Bird dinners were really very good. We had a lot of compliments about both; however, there were some screw-ups but we are working on making these events better next year.

We have new stools in the lounge now; thanks to the effort of Bill Chitwood and the SAL by promoting raffles, along with the horse races and donations from the SAL, individual members and the Auxiliary.

The MVPA Awards Banquet was a huge success. We raised over \$2500.00 for the Veterans Parade. Larry, from the Riders, and his band provided the music, and donated their time.

For God and Country.

**SENIOR VICE COMMANDER’S REPORT**

By Don Joy

For 2009-2010 our membership quota is 1126 and to date we have 957 paid members, or 84.99% of our goal for 2010 and only need 169 to reach 100%.

For God and Country.

**JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER’S REPORT**

By Steve LaFreniere

Upcoming events for the Post are:

- |                   |                |
|-------------------|----------------|
| Super Bowl Party  | Valentines Day |
| St. Patrick’s Day | Easter         |
| Mother’s Day      | Memorial Day   |

Watch for the flyers, as they will be posted around the Post with the pertinent information.

For God and Country.

## TAPS

We have lost the following members, who will be missed from our ranks:

Bryant B. Barron	Charles C. Sanders
Curtis Edmund	Quin Jones

## ODE TO A COMRADE

When the call to arms was sounded  
You went and gave your best  
And now our heavenly Father's called you  
For peace and eternal rest.

Goodbye dear friend and comrade  
Your passing makes us sad  
But, knowing God has called you  
Somehow that makes us glad.

Dear God, receive our comrade  
Whom we give to you today  
Bestow your blessings on his soul  
And guide him on his way.

Written by Pablo Cortez, Past Commander of Post 26

## NEW MEMBERS

The Post extends a hearty welcome to the following new members:

Chad Spicer	Abel Aungst
Samuel "Doug" Smith	Samuel Lee
Arnulfo Magdaleno, Jr.	Douglas Rowe
Gayle Edward Hagel	Kenneth Mendoza
Carlos Dominguez	Tyler Schleis

## TRANSFERS

The Post extends a hearty welcome to our new transfers, as well.

James Walters	Thomas Schoemig
Robert Barraza	Ruth Colton
Gerald Philpott	Daniel Regan

## AUXILIARY REPORT

By Marylou Donatella, President

The Auxiliary has had a busy year.

Thanks to everyone who has helped with the pie sale (bakers and all that supported this endeavor), donations and assisting with assembling the food baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas, bingo at the VA Home in Phoenix, recruiting new members, paying your dues, supporting your Auxiliary officers, giving of your change to fill 35 yellow piggy banks

for Child Welfare and supporting the meat raffle every Saturday.

The District 12 President, Patsy Lugo, will honor our Unit for the initiation of our newest members on February 18<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. Mark your calendar and plan to attend this meeting.

An arts and craft show and bake sale is scheduled on February 27<sup>th</sup> from 9 AM to 3 PM. Donations of baked goods will be greatly appreciated. Table rental is \$10.00 each. For more information contact Marylou at 480-282-0813.

The District 12 Rehab Dinner will be held on February 6<sup>th</sup> at Post 26. The dinner starts at 6 PM with an auction to follow. If you have any items you wish to donate to the auction, please contact an officer. Come and enjoy a delicious dinner and have fun. All proceeds go to the Arizona State Veterans Home and the VAMC.

A poppy contest is being held. The project is making a poppy corsage. For more details contact Marylou at 480-282-0813.

We need volunteers to help with our projects. So come down and volunteer your assistance.

Nomination of officers for the Auxiliary (Unit 26) for 2010-2011 will begin on March 18<sup>th</sup> at the General Meeting. Anyone interested in holding an office, please contact an Auxiliary officer.

Hope to see you at the General Business Meetings on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. Hope to see you there!!

For God and Country.

## SAL COMMANDER'S REPORT

By Bill Chitwood

The new bar stools are now in place at the Post. I would like to take this time to thank all of the people that made this possible. First of all, I would like to thank Bob Johns, our Club Manager, he kick started the fundraiser when he put on the Horse Race in our club and announced that all of his proceeds would go to the new bar stools. The SAL matched Bobby and the women's Auxiliary matched the SAL. Myself and Steve LaFreniere took it upon ourselves to ask members in our Post for donations. We would like to thank the donators, starting again with Bob Johns, myself and Steve who all donated \$60.00 each out of pocket, along with that we started asking other members to donate \$60.00. It seems that just about all the members that were asked donated:

Reyne Westphal – 1 stool
Andy Christen – 1 stool
Ray Shook & Lyle Schaal – 3 stools (from proceeds from the pancake breakfast fundraiser)
Don Joy – 2 stools
Jerry Jones – 1 stool
Rick Wilson – 1 stool
Clark Ames – 1 stool
Denny Birkliid – 2 stools

Our Commander, Michael Thelen, donated \$200.00 from the Post.

We have a great club and I am proud to see it is possible to unite and work together as a big family, brothers and sisters, which we are.

<p style="text-align:center"><b>SAL MOTHER'S DAY RAFFLE</b></p> <p style="text-align:center"><b>\$200 Wal-Mart Gift Card</b></p> <p style="text-align:center"><b>Drawing 05/08/10</b></p> <p style="text-align:center"><b>Tickets:</b></p> <p style="text-align:center"><b>1 for \$2.00</b> <b>3 for \$5.00</b></p> <p style="text-align:center">Tickets will be available at the bar soon</p>
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For God and Country.

### **LEGION RIDERS**

By Paul Deschamps, President

Now that the hustle and bustle of the holiday season is behind us, it is time to go riding. We have set up a schedule of fun rides to visit other Posts (breakfast rides on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the month). We are kicking that off with a ride to Fountain Hills, Post 58, on the 17<sup>th</sup>. We also plan on participating in a benefit ride monthly. Our next scheduled ride of that nature is the Iwo Jima Flag Raising Parade in Sacaton on February 20<sup>th</sup>. Along with the parade, there is a flag raising ceremony and a luncheon. Sacaton, Post 84, is named after Ira Hayes who was one of the servicemen who raised the flag on Iwo Jima during WWII. If you have never been to this event, it is highly recommended.

In November we had 15 bikes participate in the Mesa Veterans Day Parade. In December several of us went to the VA Home to provide a barbeque lunch for the vets. The 24 cases of O'Douls non-alcoholic beer, gift bags with treats and lap robes (which were hand made by several ladies of Post 26, ALR and Aux) were a definite hit. It is always great to do something for them and see their smiling faces in return. We also welcomed Jonathan Pugh back home from Iraq. Jon is one of our riders. We are all glad he is back home safe.

ALR 26 AND 62 (Peoria) are actively planning the summer American Legion Riders campout. This is going to be the weekend of June 12<sup>th</sup> in Tombstone. We expect to have about 300 ALR members from across the state participate.

We are going through our membership renewal process. Right now we are at 75% renewal with 30 paid members. If you have not renewed, come to our next meeting and do so, but you must have your 2010 membership for the Legion, Auxiliary or SAL.

Our meetings are the 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the month at 6:30 PM. Everyone is welcomed to attend.

For God and Country.

### **ADJUTANT'S REPORT**

By Kristine Marler

Just a friendly reminder that everyone should have their 2010 membership cards in their possession by February 1<sup>st</sup>.

Dues are as follows:

Legion -- \$30.00	Auxiliary -- \$25.00
SAL -- \$25.00	ALR -- \$20.00

<p style="text-align:center"><b>Flag disposal please take to Meldrum's Mortuary at 52 N. MacDonald in Mesa (corner of 1<sup>st</sup> Street and MacDonald, across from the Police Department).</b></p>
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First nominations will start at the March 2010 meeting, with the last set of nominations in April 2010 for the 2010-2011 year.

### **NOTICE**

<p style="text-align:center"><b>There is a "Zero Tolerance" for drug use on The American Legion property, either inside or outside the building. If you are caught with drugs, you will be suspended for an undetermined period of time, depending on the number of offenses the individual has or suspected of being involved in. Further information will follow, as this needs to be further discussed.</b></p>
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The kitchen is under new management. The following is the menu for daily specials that run from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

<p><b>DAILY SPECIALS</b> <b>12 PM to 8 PM</b></p> <p><b>Tues -- Spaghetti/Meatballs or Lasagna</b> <b>Wed -- Tacos (beef or chicken), Tamales (beef or chicken) or Enchiladas (beef, chicken or cheese)</b> <b>Thurs -- Yankee Pot Roast or Liver and Onions</b> <b>Fri -- Battered Cod Fish or Breaded Shrimp</b> <b>Sat -- Rib Eye Steak or BBQ Ribs</b> <b>Sun -- Chef's Choice</b></p>
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The prices vary and they all come with the appropriate fixings. They have a regular menu that is being finalized.

**ARTS AND CRAFTS SHOW  
AND  
BAKE SALE**

**WHERE: The American Legion, Mesa Post 26  
505 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave., Mesa**

**DATE: February 27, 2010**

**TIME: 9:00 AM until 3:00 PM**

**TABLES WILL BE RENTED FOR \$10.00 EACH**

**RSVP BY FEBRUARY 19, 2010**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**

**MARYLOU – 480-282-0813**

**DORIS – 480-962-5476**

**SPONSORED BY:**

**THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 26**

# 4th Annual Mesa Veteran's Day Parade Golf Tournament

**Apache Wells Country Club  
5601 E. Hermosa Vista Drive**

**27<sup>th</sup> February 2010  
8:00 AM**

## **4 Man Scramble**

Come join the fun. Cost is \$75.00 per person this includes Green fees, carts, great prizes and dinner at the Apache Wells Golf Course. For Dinner only \$10.00 (non golfers)

The City of Mesa does not sponsor the Veterans Day Parade. Therefore local Veteran organizations have joined together to form the Mesa Veterans Parade Association to sponsor and organize the parade each year. To do this we need your support by participating in this Tournament. All monies raised will be used to pay for the cost of the Veteran's Day Parade and programs. Please respond by 28 March 2009..

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

Key Contact Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Key E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (\_\_\_\_)\_\_\_\_\_

Make Checks out to: Mesa Veterans Parade Association, (Note: Golf Tournament)

Mail entries to: Michael Thelen  
(Veterans Day Parade Tournament)  
131 N. Higley Rd. #128  
Mesa, Az. 85205

Contacts: Michael Thelen Phone 480-282-0815  
Email: michaelth01@msn.com

