



## POST COMMANDER'S REPORT

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires,

I would like to thank Jim Burke, Les Miller, Joe Byassee Jr, Joe Byassee Sr., Rick Jackson, Al Ashburn, Dan Moulton, and Rick Dollahan for their hard work and dedication while serving the Post. I also wish Jim Burke congratulations and success in his new position as Dept. Vice Commander serving Area B.

During the upcoming year, I will work hard to support the Legion Family. We need to remember the Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and ALR are our family. United we stand, divided we fail.

Please also remember the power of numbers. We all need to bring in at least one new member to our Post this year. July 1st is the start of our new year, so let's get started! We currently have a raffle in progress for a 12Ga Shotgun. The drawing will be held on Labor Day. We're also going to have a Golf Outing on Nov. 6th with proceeds going to Wounded Warrior Project.

Our new Jr. Vice Commander, Mike Todd is already hard at work. Keep your eyes open for upcoming events! Be sure to try out our new Sunday Breakfast beginning July 11th.

In closing, I would like to thank each and every one of you in advance for your support in the upcoming year. I will work diligently on your behalf, and any help you can give our Post will always be appreciated.

For God and Country  
Bill Creel,  
Commander Post 61



## AUXILIARY PRESIDENTS REPORT

Hello Ladies,  
Summer is here. Hope you all can stay nice and cool. Well June was state convention and we had a good time. Let me tell you ladies "we kicked butt" thanks to all of your help our chairmen were able to do their reports. The plaques were: Dispatch Sherry hall Chair, Child Welfare Awanda Chair, Scrapbook Amy Chair, Field Service Mary Chair, Communication Sherry Chair, Americanism Sherry and Awanda Chair, Publicity Sherry Chair, Home Service Mary Chair, Certificate for runner-up: Community Service Mary Chair, V A & R Mary Chair, National Security Sherry Chair, Prayer Book Marty Chair. These Ladies worked very hard, but it took the Unit to make it possible. My hat is off to all of you I couldn't be more proud to be a part of Unit 61.

As you know we don't stop there. A lot of events are already planned for the next three months and we're talking about what takes place through to the end of this year. Please check the calendar or ask an officer or member what's going on and what you could do to help.

We also have a new Commander this year Bill Creel and I hope you all are as eager to work with him as I am.

For Service Not Self  
Beth Burke,  
Unit 61 President

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## **INSIDE THIS ISSUE**

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## **SENIOR VICE COMMANDER'S REPORT**

I want to thank the Membership for doing a great job this year. I am happy to say we have met our goal in Membership, we have achieved 100%. Keep up the good work. Membership is a vital part of our organization, retention is Just as important. If every member can recruit one new member and we can retain them for years to come our membership will continue to grow for our future.

For God and Country  
Jim Swartz  
Sr. Vice Commander

## **AUXILIARY VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Attention Ladies Auxiliary Members:

“Keep our Auxiliary strong through Membership”. The year 2009-2010 was a successful period for our Unit. Membership renewal for this period exceeds 89%. Thank you to all members who helped in achieving this positive result. Our goal is 100% and we continue to encourage each member to send their dues if not yet paid for this year. Our next membership drive will begin in August 2010 and once again each of us can help our Unit reach 100% for the year 2010-2011.

**IMPORTANT NOTICE TO ALL MEMBERS: THE NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF THE AMERICAN LEGION LADIES AUXILIARY HAS INFORMED US THAT THE DUES FOR RENEWAL WILL BE INCREASED. THEREFORE, YOUR 2011 DUES WILL BE INCREASED FROM \$22.00 TO \$26.00. NEW MEMBERS DUES BEGINNING THIS YEAR WILL BE \$26.00. THE LAST INCREASE IN OUR UNIT DUES WAS NEARLY SEVEN YEARS AGO AND WHILE WE UNDERSTAND THESE MAY BE CHALLENGING TIMES FOR ALL OF US, WE ARE LEFT WITH NO CHOICE BUT TO INCREASE THE DUES NEXT YEAR.**

It is very important you let us know if you have moved or are planning to move so we can update our records. Without a good address all communication including the “Avondale Legionnaire” cannot be sent to you.

Questions or concerns regarding membership should be directed to Mary Hays, Membership Chairman.

For God and Country,  
Mary Hays, Sr. Vice President, Ladies Auxiliary Unit 61  
Membership Chairman

## **JUNIOR VICE COMMANDER REPORT**

**Hello from the Jr. Vice Commander**

**Bill Creel, Our new commander, and myself thank the outgoing officers for a job well done. We hope to bring renewed attention to our members and our community. We are a family. All that we associate with families are present among us. As good family members, brothers and sisters, we hope to recognize the good in all of us and emphasize the cooperative efforts that make us shine as a family.**

**Among the new officers, I am the newest to the Post and the Newest to the Legion. I have no history, no axe to grind, no preconceived notions, and the only expectations I have for this position so new to me is the opportunity to learn a great deal about our members, the great things we can do together, and the ways we can work together to the benefit of us all. One of the things I have done for this new assignment is that I took the Food Safety Manager course. I have talked with Maricopa County Health Dept. about the possibility of providing free training for our own food handlers. All of those who participate as a volunteer in the kitchen will have the opportunity to obtain a Food Handlers card. If we can get 50 people to attend the training they will do the class for free. I have considered inviting other nearby organizations that have people needing the food safety certification.**

**The fact is we have been handed a clean slate and it is time to do some introspection and see what we may make better by working together better. By the way, please support our fund raising activities for the Post 61 Color Guard. We expect them to bring back a 1st place award from National.**

**For God and Country;  
Mike Todd  
Jr. Vice Commander**



## **FINANCE OFFICER'S REPORT**



**This is start of our new business year. We have a new slate of Post Officers this year. All Post members can help Commander Creel and the other Officers make this a successful year for Post #61 and all Post members. The 2011 Post membership card is still \$ 30.00 and will be available in July 2010. We still need help in various areas such as Children and Youth Programs. Anyone who would like to help by volunteering their time or by making cash donations would be greatly appreciated. Everyone needs to be aware of and help enforce our Smoking Rules at the Post. All members need to help with the conservation of Post utilities as all of the Post utility fees have and will be increasing in the future. The Hall can be leased out on a Saturday night for a reception, wedding or a birthday to any member or nonmember. See the Club Steward. Member donations would be appreciated in support of all American Legion Programs like Boys State, A.L.L.E.C.A., and American Legion Baseball. The Post as well as every member is continuing to have tough times with the economy but your support at the Legion Family social events is needed. Check our calendar.**

**For God and Country;  
Rick Dollahan  
Post 61 Finance Officer**



## **BINGO CHAIRMAN REPORT**

Anyone age 18 or over can play Bingo on any Tuesday. The games start at 6:45 PM so stop over around 6:00 PM and enjoy some of the refreshments and snacks supplied by the Auxiliary. Drop by any Tuesday and see Rick from 6:00 PM to 9:15 PM, see how our Bingo program is run and meet the Post #61 Family members currently working. Volunteer workers can be anyone who has current Post #61 membership in the Legion, Auxiliary or S.A.L. and is at least 18 years old. All that you need to do is work one Tuesday a month of your choice from 6:00 PM to 9:15 PM. The Bingo games are open to the public. Minimum amount to play Bingo is \$ 10.00 and for \$ 17.00 you can play all night (17 games) plus the Power Ball. The \$ 1,000.00 coverall game, two quickies and the Power Ball are offered every Tuesday night. We have increased several game prizes. The Bingo program supports many of the Post #61 activities and pays for several of the Post's expenses throughout the year.

**VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED ANY TUESDAY TO WORK - SEE RICK**

For God and Country;  
Rick Dollahan  
Post 61 Bingo Committee Chairman

## **SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION**

We nominated and elected new officers at the May meeting and most all of the current Officers will stay on for a second year. The S.A.L. membership cards are still \$ 20.00 for the 2011 year and will be available in July of 2010. The S.A.L. membership needs your help in making this a good year. We still need help from the S.A.L. members in Squadron #61 to assist in putting on our monthly dinner(s) which in turn will benefit our local Children and Youth Programs. The S.A.L. has a monthly meeting on the third Monday of every month, at 6:30 PM at Post #61. S.A.L. Commander, Steve Witting, invites all current Squadron #61 members to attend the meeting. We will have a varied menu for the following months so check with the Post for the current meals scheduled. On the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of every month we will have a Steak Fry and on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month we have a Fish Fry in which we are doing a Meat Draw at the Post. We will have raffles later in the year. If you have a friend or know someone that may be eligible for membership have them fill out an S.A.L. application. If you have any questions, be sure to ask the Commander or myself at the Post.

S.A.L. Adjutant - Rick Dollahan





## Golden Legionnaires

Your Color Guard an Honor Guard has been busy these last few months. We have attended some funerals to render them honors, and we have also attended some parades. Anyone wishing to join the Color guard may contact any of the Color Guard members or phone me, Rick at (623) 877-7346. Well that's about it folks, we're getting ready for the National Competition in August, wish us the best.

Rick Ornelas,

Post 61 Golden Legionnaires

## Joke of the Day

### **Bragging about old times**

Two men were boasting to each other about their old army days.

"Why, my outfit was so well drilled," declared one, "that when they presented arms all you could hear was slap, slap, click."

"Very good," conceded the other, "but when my company presented arms you'd just hear slap, slap, jingle."

"What was the jingle?" asked the first. "Oh," replied the other offhand, "just our medals."

## Letter to the Editor

Letter to the Editor and to Fellow Post 61 Members.

As a former Post 61 Service Officer, I became curious about a VA program that I had never heard when it was brought to the attention of those attending March's General Meeting. The VA's "Aid and Attendance" program for those veterans and/or dependant spouses who require some type of "assisted care" either at home or in a recognized facility may be able to draw a monthly amount up to \$1,632 for a veteran or \$1055 for his spouse. If both veteran and his/her spouse require assisted care, the amount could be as much as \$1949 per month.

As I mentioned, being curious about the program I decided to do some research online regarding the program. While doing the research, I ran across the following site, <http://veteranaid.org> that proved quite interesting. In reading through the article, I learned that there are many companies out there that claim to help you file for the benefit for free, but have ulterior motives such attempting to sell you some financial product while helping you with your VA claim. Reading this, I decided to check with The American Legion Service Officer for the State of Arizona. He told me that "yes" he handles "Aid and Attendance" claims through his office. This service is also free with no strings attached. I would assume that the Service Officers employed by the Arizona Department of Veteran Services are also equipped to assist in such an effort, again at no charge to the Veteran or his/her Spouse. Again, I would encourage fellow members to look in to this VA benefit if help is needed.

Frank Whitten,

Past Post 61 Commander, Sr. Vice Commander & Adjutant

# Calendar of Events

## July 2010

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
				1	2	3
					<a href="#">Fish Fry</a> <a href="#">Dinner (Post):</a> 5:30 PM	<a href="#">Steak Fry</a> <a href="#">(Post):</a> 5:30 PM
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
<a href="#">4th of July :</a> 1:00 PM  <a href="#">K of C Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM	<a href="#">Auxiliary Exec. &amp; Regular</a> <a href="#">Meeting:</a> 6:00 PM	<a href="#">Post 61 Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM	<a href="#">VFW Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM	<a href="#">Post Executive</a> <a href="#">Meeting:</a> 6:00 PM	<a href="#">Fish Fry</a> <a href="#">Dinner (Aux):</a> 5:30 PM	<a href="#">Post</a> <a href="#">Hamburgers &amp;</a> <a href="#">Hot Dogs:</a> 5:30 PM
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<a href="#">K of C Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM  <a href="#">Post Breakfast:</a> 10:00 AM	<a href="#">Post General</a> <a href="#">Membership</a> <a href="#">Meeting:</a> 6:00 PM	<a href="#">Post 61 Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM	<a href="#">VFW Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM		<a href="#">Fish Fry</a> <a href="#">Dinner (SAL):</a> 5:30 PM	<a href="#">Dinner (Color</a> <a href="#">Guard):</a> 5:30 PM
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<a href="#">K of C Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM  <a href="#">Post Breakfast:</a> 10:00 AM	<a href="#">S.A.L.</a> <a href="#">Meeting:</a> 7:00 PM	<a href="#">Post 61 Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM	<a href="#">VFW Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM		<a href="#">Fish Fry</a> <a href="#">Dinner (ALR):</a> 5:30 PM	<a href="#">Dinner(ALR):</a> 5:30 PM
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
<a href="#">ALR Meeting:</a> 12:30 PM  <a href="#">K of C Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM  <a href="#">Post Breakfast:</a> 10:00 AM		<a href="#">Post 61 Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM	<a href="#">VFW Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM		<a href="#">Fish Fry</a> <a href="#">Dinner (Post):</a> 5:30 PM	<a href="#">Dinner (Post):</a> 5:30 PM





# August 2010

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
<p>1 <a href="#">K of C Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">Post Breakfast:</a> 10:00 AM</p> <hr/>	<p>2 <a href="#">Auxiliary Exec. &amp; Regular Meeting:</a> 6:00</p> <hr/> <p>PM</p> <hr/>	<p>3 <a href="#">Post 61 Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM</p> <hr/>	<p>4 <a href="#">VFW Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM</p> <hr/>	<p>5 <a href="#">Post Executive Meeting:</a> 6:00 PM</p> <hr/>	<p>6 <a href="#">Fish Fry Dinner (Post):</a> 5:30 PM</p> <hr/>	<p>7 <a href="#">Steak Fry (Post):</a> 5:30 PM</p> <hr/>
<p>8 <a href="#">K of C Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">Post Breakfast:</a> 10:00 AM</p> <hr/>	<p>9 <a href="#">Post General Membership Meeting:</a> 6:00</p> <hr/> <p>PM</p> <hr/>	<p>10 <a href="#">Post 61 Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM</p> <hr/>	<p>11 <a href="#">VFW Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM</p> <hr/>	<p>12</p> <hr/>	<p>13 <a href="#">Fish Fry Dinner (Aux):</a> 5:30 PM</p> <hr/>	<p>14 <a href="#">Post 61 Birthday:</a> 5:30 PM</p> <hr/>
<p>15 <a href="#">Post Breakfast:</a> 10:00 AM</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">K of C Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM</p> <hr/>	<p>16 <a href="#">S.A.L. Meeting:</a> 7:00 PM</p> <hr/>	<p>17 <a href="#">Post 61 Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM</p> <hr/>	<p>18 <a href="#">VFW Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM</p> <hr/>	<p>19</p> <hr/>	<p>20 <a href="#">Fish Fry Dinner (SAL):</a> 5:30 PM</p> <hr/>	<p>21 <a href="#">Dinner (SAL):</a> 5:30 PM</p> <hr/>
<p>22 <a href="#">Post Breakfast:</a> 10:00 AM</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">ALR Meeting:</a> 12:30 PM</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">K of C Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM</p> <hr/>	<p>23 <a href="#">National Convention Starts:</a> 1:00 PM</p> <hr/>	<p>24 <a href="#">Post 61 Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM</p> <hr/>	<p>25 <a href="#">VFW Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM</p> <hr/>	<p>26</p> <hr/>	<p>27 <a href="#">Fish Fry Dinner (ALR):</a> 5:30 PM</p> <hr/>	<p>28 <a href="#">Dinner (ALR):</a> 5:30 PM</p> <hr/>
<p>29 <a href="#">Post Breakfast:</a> 10:00 AM</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">K of C Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM</p> <hr/>	<p>30</p> <hr/>	<p>31 <a href="#">National Convention Ends:</a> 1:00 PM</p> <hr/> <p><a href="#">Post 61 Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM</p> <hr/>				



# September 2010

Su	M	T	W	Th	F	Sat
			1	2	3	4
			<a href="#">VFW</a> <a href="#">Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM		<a href="#">Fish Fry</a> <a href="#">Dinner</a> (Post): 5:30 PM	<a href="#">Steak Fry (Post):</a> 5:30 PM
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
<a href="#">Post Breakfast:</a> 10:00 AM <hr/> <a href="#">K of C Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM	<a href="#">Labor Day</a> <a href="#">Celebration</a> <a href="#">Raffle by</a> <a href="#">Post:</a> 1:00 PM	<a href="#">Post 61</a> <a href="#">Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM	<a href="#">VFW</a> <a href="#">Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM	<a href="#">Post</a> <a href="#">Executive</a> <a href="#">Meeting:</a> 6:00 PM	<a href="#">Fish Fry</a> <a href="#">Dinner</a> (Aux): 5:30 PM	<a href="#">9-11</a> <a href="#">Remembrance</a> <a href="#">Ceremony</a> <a href="#">Post</a> <a href="#">Hamburgers &amp;</a> <a href="#">Hot Dogs:</a> 5:30 PM
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
<a href="#">Post Breakfast:</a> 10:00 AM <hr/> <a href="#">K of C Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM <hr/> <a href="#">NFL Sunday Football Brats &amp;</a> <a href="#">Dogs by Post:</a> 12:00 PM <hr/> <a href="#">Planning Meeting:</a> 11:00 AM	<a href="#">Post General</a> <a href="#">Membership</a> <a href="#">Meeting:</a> 6:00 PM	<a href="#">Post 61</a> <a href="#">Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM	<a href="#">VFW</a> <a href="#">Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM		<a href="#">Fish Fry</a> <a href="#">Dinner</a> (SAL): 5:30 PM	<a href="#">Dinner (SAL):</a> 5:30 PM
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
<a href="#">NFL Sunday Football Brats &amp;</a> <a href="#">Dogs by Post:</a> 12:00 PM <hr/> <a href="#">K of C Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM <hr/> <a href="#">Post Breakfast:</a> 10:00 AM	<a href="#">S.A.L.</a> <a href="#">Meeting:</a> 7:00 PM	<a href="#">Post 61</a> <a href="#">Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM	<a href="#">VFW</a> <a href="#">Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM		<a href="#">Fish Fry</a> <a href="#">Dinner</a> (ALR): 5:30 PM	<a href="#">Dinner(ALR):</a> 5:30 PM
26	27	28	29	30		
<a href="#">Post Breakfast:</a> 10:00 AM <hr/> <a href="#">ALR Meeting:</a> 12:30 PM <hr/> <a href="#">NFL Sunday Football Brats &amp;</a> <a href="#">Dogs by Post:</a> 12:00 PM <hr/> <a href="#">K of C Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM		<a href="#">Post 61</a> <a href="#">Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM	<a href="#">VFW</a> <a href="#">Bingo:</a> 6:45 PM			







## Post Officers

**Commander:** Bill Creel

**Sr. Vice - Commander:** Jim Swartz

**Jr. Vice - Commander:** Mike Todd

**Finance Officer:** Rick Dollahan

**Adjutant:** Mike Apodaca

**Service Officer:** Don Fortner

**Chaplain:** Don Fortner

**Sgt. at Arms:** Marvin Courtright

**Executive Committee:**

Joe Byassee Sr.

Dan Moulton

Tony Bruno

Dan Palmer

**Past Commander:** Jim Burke



## Auxiliary Officers

**President:** Elizabeth Burke

**Vice - President:** Mary Hays

**Secretary:** Angel Gnauden

**Treasurer:** Sherry Hall

**Chaplain:** Martha Bork

**Historian:** Awanda Gaines

**Srg. at Arms:** Debbie Witting

**Executive Committee:**

Joanne Creel

Amy Boblet

Sylvia Evans

**Past President:** Gino Gnauden





### S.A.L. Officers

- Commander:** Steve Witting
- Sr. Vice - Commander:** Mike Apodaca
- Jr. Vice - Commander:** Kyle Witting
- Adjutant:** Rick Dollahan
- Finance Officer:** Mike Capuano
- Chaplain:** Jason Bowan
- Sgt. at Arms:** Marvin Courtright
- Past Commander:** Chris Boblet



### Legion Rider Officers

- Director:** Chris Boblet
- Asst. Director:** Mike Apodaca
- Treasurer:** Amy Boblet
- Secretary:** Rita Apodaca
- Chaplain:** Robert Parrish
- Adjutant:** Jim Burke
- Sgt. at Arms:** Kenny Walls

### New Members and Transfers

#### Post (New):

#### Post (Transfers):

#### Auxiliary (New):

Franka Ralph  
Brenda S. Lundmark  
Pat McKinney  
Carol A. Douglas  
Tina M. Lee  
Pauline (Dolly) A. Lyons  
Pamela M. Rigsby  
Danette L. Lemmon

#### Auxiliary (Transfers):

Tammy Gastol  
Linda Koester

#### S.A.L. (New):

John Delliskave  
Thomas Tucker

#### S.A.L. (Transfers):

Todd Crandall