



THE DEPARTMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES

October 2012



NEWSLETTER



THE AMERICAN LEGION Department of the Philippines

Department Commander
Joseph Carsley

Department Adjutant
Christopher Schrauben

National Executive Committeeman
Herbert J. Scholten

National Executive Committeeman Alternate
John Hunt

Department Service Officer
William T. Brown

1st Vice Commander
Rhett Webber

2nd Vice Commander
Ignacio F. Palad

Chaplain
Lawrence Wade

Judge Advocate
Charles Cathey

Finance Officer
Thomas Burnett

Editor / Publisher
Martin V. McGee

Mail:

**The American Legion
Department of the Philippines**
370 Batangas St.
Mt. View Subdivision,
Balibago, Angeles City,
Philippines 2009

Department Commander



Commanders Corner:

Fellow Legionnaires:

October has come and gone and I am remiss in not getting this done until now. We continue to move along in membership. We met the October date and kudos's to all of you who have helped. Our Adjutant has returned and is back to work taking care of all those mundane duties of our great Department. The American Legion National has just passed a resolution to reach 3.5 million in membership by 2019 as a 100-year objective. Well maybe we won't get all those members but we are doing our part. With all your hard work, a little bit of luck and the good Lord willing and the creek don't rise, we will continue to make our Department membership grow a little every year. What a fine job you folks do.

A quick review of the month of October shows our Service Officers in both the Posts and the Department has had an increase in the number of claims being processed. These individuals do a great job on behalf of our Veterans and deserve our applause and respect. I know they all work hard and for free, so the only thing I can do is thank them profusely and triple their salaries. What great Legionnaires' we have among us. Thank you all.

The Department of the Philippines is an approved private organization.

Any Department Officer, Committee Chair, Program Director, or Post Commander can input material to this newsletter. **Input is due the Last week of the month for next month's newsletter. Send input to: macmcgee3790@yahoo.com**



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October 18-21 found me in Leyte where I visited Post 63 attended the Leyte Landing ceremonies and had some great camaraderie with members of American Legion Post 63 and a number of other Veterans from Cebu and around the world.. It was a very informative and fruitful visit. Post 63 sent in 20 members, which of course boosts our ratings. Thank you Commander Tom Stephens, Frank Sass who hosted an after ceremony fellowship at his house and members of the Post. 63.

Our Youth programs are all doing well, and again the Posts and chairperson are exemplifying the need for offering our children, Scouts, Sports and other community activities.

Ambassador Thomas invited our Department to attend a reception aboard the USS Gorge Washington that occurred on the 25th of October there was a typhoon that day and the reception was from 6 until 8 PM. Too make a long story short I left my house at 2PM and got home at 2AM, I said to myself what in the world am I doing going out on the Ocean in the middle of a typhoon. I think your commander might need his head examined. The next day we had our Home Town Hero tribute to Maurice Fortune with the Ambassador attending. An excellent ceremony very well coordinated by Post 10 and in particular Mr. Edward Craft. Thank you Ed, Commander Johnson and all participants.

We are already deep into November and have participated in three Veterans Day ceremonies. One at the American Cemetery in Manila, One at the Clark Veterans Cemetery, hosted by VFW 2485 and One in La Union at the site of Medal of Honor Recipient Corporal Jose B. Nisperos hosted by VFW Post 9892. Wreaths were provided for all three. Additionally, we were invited by the Ambassador to attend Democracy in Action celebration at the US Embassy from 10Am to 2Pm on Election Day.

The SAL had their meeting and all went well, Commander Mercado will provide information on that.

Once again, I thank each and every one of you for your time, effort and dedication, without you we would not exist and I would not have a job.

It is a pleasure serving as Commander of this Department for each of you turns the tasks at hand into a labor of love. Thank you for your continued support and dedication to the American Legion.

Yours in Service

Joseph Carsley
Department Commander
amlegionpi_dc@yahoo.com

Department NECman's Comments

Department NECman
Herbert J. Scholten
amlegionpi_necman@yahoo.com
hjscholten@yahoo.com

Department Adjutant

MEMORANDUM

Date: October 25, 2012
 To: Daniel S. Wheeler
 From: P. B. Onderdonk, Jr.
 Re: Partisan Politics

You requested a review of the limitations on The American Legion becoming involved in partisan political activities. It may not.

This is made crystal clear by 36 US Code §21706 (part of The American Legion Corporate Charter), which states:

“The corporation shall be nonpolitical and may not promote the candidacy of an individual seeking public office.”

This is further emphasized by the provisions of Article II, Section 2 of the National Constitution which provides:

“The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preferment.”

The American Legion takes positions on issues and lobbies for veteran's benefits and a strong America. This is clearly permitted. What is not permitted is the endorsement of any candidate or the donation of funds by The American Legion to a candidate. The American Legion takes positions on issues and its members being citizens need to be informed on the issues. Hence, American Legion programs such as candidate nights are fully authorized as long as all candidates are invited on the same terms and conditions. It would be illegal to invite the one you support with advance notice, but the one you oppose with no notice at all. When Legionnaires wear their pins



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and hats to political rallies, the media often try to reach the wrong conclusions. This can be very embarrassing to the Legionnaire. Hence, we normally recommend that Legionnaires do not wear their caps to partisan political rallies. There is no rule against doing this so long as the Legionnaire makes it clear there is no endorsement.

Likewise, we recommend that Legion publications not accept paid political ads. However, if they do, the paid political advertisements must be made on the same terms and conditions for all candidates and should be labeled "Paid Political Advertisement" at both the top and bottom.

As noted above, those who violate the partisan political activities prohibition put the Legion charter of their post at risk as well as its tax-exempt status.

Daniel S. Wheeler
National Adjutant

Yours in Service,

Department Adjutant
Chris Schrauben
amlegionpi_da@yahoo.com

Department Service Officer

To contact

Department Service Officer
William T. Brown

**Mail: The American Legion
Department of the Philippines
370 Batangas Street.
Mt. View Subdivision,
Balibago, Angeles City
Philippines 2009
(Mark Attn: DSO)**

All VA claims initiated or assisted by The American Legion in the *Philippines* will be forwarded to the Department Service Officer or an Assistant Department Service Officer for review *PRIOR* to being submitted to the Department of Veteran Affairs.

This review will ensure that the claims are complete and ready for submission to Veterans Affairs.

What are your responsibilities?

If you receive benefits from the VA:

You are responsible to report the following to the VA:

Your income or the income of your dependents changes (earnings, Social Security Benefits, lottery, and gambling winnings).

Your net worth increases (bank accounts, investments, real estate)

Your continuing medical expenses are reduced

You gain or lose a dependant

Your address or phone number changes.

What YOU can do: If you are not satisfied with the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) decision about your claim, you have a number of options to avail for relief:

Motion for Reconsideration. You may file a "motion" asking the BVA to reconsider its decision by writing a letter to the BVA showing why you believe that the BVA committed an obvious error of fact or law in its decision in your appeal. If the BVA decided more than one issue, be sure to tell us which issues you want reconsidered. Address your letter to: Director, Administrative Service (014), Board of Veterans' Appeals, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20420. There is no time limit on filing a motion for reconsideration.

Motion to Revise the Board's Decision based on Clear and Unmistakable Error. You may file a motion asking that the Board revise its final decision if you believe the decision is based on "clear and unmistakable error" (CUE). Care should be used in preparing such a motion because it must meet very specific requirements and the Board will not review a final decision on this basis more than once. The Board encourages you to carefully review its rules on CUE and *seek help from a qualified representative before filing such a motion*. There is no time limit on filing a CUE review motion.

Appeal to the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. You have the right to appeal a BVA decision to the United States court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (the Court). A Notice of Appeal must be filed with the Court within 120 days from the date of the mailing of the notice of the BVA's decision. The date of mailing is the date that appears on the face of the BVA decision. The Court's address: United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, 625 Indiana Avenue, NW, Suite 900, Washington, DC 20004.

Respectfully yours,

Department Service Officer
William T. Brown
sweet_bill@yahoo.com

We have included hyperlink(s):

TRICARE: TRICARE Area Office - Pacific, (81)6117-43-2036,
TPAO.CSC@med.navy.mil

The Veterans Affairs:

<http://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel>

RAO Bulletins:

<http://sjcvets.zymichost.com/index.html> .

for PDF Format and/or

<http://415vva.homestead.com/Home.html>



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(Word format)

<http://www.veteransresources.org/rao-bulletin/>.

Veterans Legislation:

<http://thomas.loc.gov>

USAF Afterburner

<http://www.retirees.af.mil/afterburner/>

1st Vice Commander

Yours in Comradship,

1st Vice Commander

Rhett Webber

rhett_webber@yahoo.com



The American Legion Post 4

ADMIRAL ARTHUR F. SPRING

21 Magsaysay Dr., New Asinan, Olongapo City 2200

Telephone: 47-222-2071

Yours in Service,

Commander **Chris Schrauben**

The American Legion Post 4

chrisretusn@yahoo.com

The American Legion Post 10

CLAUDE A. THORP

484 Don Juico Avenue, Clarkview
Angeles City, Pampanga 2009 Philippines
Telephone: (45) 322-1950, (45) 322-6061
FAX: (45) 322-1950

Yours in Service,

Commander **William C. Johnson**

The American Legion Post 10

alpost10pi@gmail.com

wc21john@hotmail.com

The American Legion Post 21

Commander **Jesus Locquiao**

jesslocquiao@yahoo.com

The American Legion Post 28

WAYNE E. MARCHAND

PSC 557, Box 123

FPO AP 96379-0123

October 18th – Conducted the Monthly Executive Meeting

October 25th – Conducted the Monthly Membership Meeting

October 28th – Conducted Maintenance of the International Cemetery adjacent Tomari Port

We are now making all the necessary arrangements for the American Legion National Commander's Visit that will take place from 24-27 November 2012.

Yours in Service,

Commander **Donald B. Allen**

The American Legion Post 28

amlegion@sunny-net.ne.jp



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The American Legion Post 63

NORBERTO B. ROMUALDEZ

PHIL-AM POST

Leyte Park Hotel Resort
Magsaysay Blvd, Tacloban city
Leyte 6500 Philippines
(63)(53) 325

P.O.Box 184
Tacloban City, Leyte
6500 Philippines

Our monthly meeting is the first Friday after the fourth of the month.

Ask for the floating restaurant

The American Legion Post 123

ALLEN "POPS" REEVES

PHIL-AM POST

370 Batangas St., Mt. View Subdivision
Angeles City, Pampanga 2009 Philippines
{63} (045) 625-5584



Yours in Service,

*Commander **Rhett Webber***
The American Legion Post 123
alpost123pi@yahoo.com

The American Legion Post 125

COLONEL "PING" PARAAN

Luna, La Union, meets every 2d Saturday of the month at our American Legion Post Home in Darigayos, Luna, La Union.

*Commander **Thomas Stephens***
The American Legion Post 63
sailore8@gmail.com



The American Legion Post 66

Adjutant, *Andy Siapno*
andy_siapno@yahoo.com

Yours in Service,

*Commander **Cesar Noble***
The American Legion Post 125
cesarnoble_58@hotmail.com

The American Legion Post 94

Commander
The American Legion Post 94

Sons of the American Legion (SAL)

Squadron 21

SAL Elected Officers

Philippine Detachment 2012- 2013

Name/ Post Email-Add.	Position
Ariel B. Mercado/ 0123 arielmercado76@yahoo.com	<i>Detachment Commander</i>
Noli Rosales/ 021 r.noli48@yahoo.com	<i>Vice Commander</i>
Jupakar Arabani/ 021 jupaka_arabani@yahoo.com	<i>Adjutant</i>



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Auxiliary Units

Jose Antonio Diangzon/ 021
j_diangzon@yahoo.com.ph *Finance Officer*

Robert A. Wade/ 0123
robert_wade1982@yahoo.com *Chaplain*

Fernado T. Locquiao/ 021
jesusloquiao@yahoo.com *Historian*

Fernand T. Locquiao/ 021 *Liaison Officer*

Jose Europa Bello Jr./ 021
bellorjose@yahoo.com.ph *Sergeant/ At- Arms*

Rafhael Reyes/ 021
reyesrafael@yahoo.com.ph *Judge Advocate*

John Hunt/ 0123
johngapo@yahoo.com *NECMAN*

Herman J. Scholten/ 021
hjscholten@yahoo.com *ANECMAN*

Herbert J. Scholten/ P/04
hjscholten@yahoo.com *SAL- Adviser*

JosephCarsley/P/0123
joecarsley@yahoo.com *SAL- Adviser*

Commander **Ariel B. Mercado**
arielmercado76@yahoo.com

Unit 1

Unit 4

Unit 10

Unit 21

Unit 28

Unit 62

Unit 79

Unit 123

Cecille Luther
Unit 123 Historian
ccele_luther@yahoo.com
 Adviser

Unit 125

Mercedita Trasmil
Unit 125 Secretary

Unit 155

Unit 190

Unit 229