

Southern California National Commander Visit



Dan Dellinger of Vienna, VA

1245 Tour Facility, Kearney Mesa H.S. JROTC
 1530 Mt. Soledad
 1800 Dinner at Larry E. Holmberg P-731
 7245 Linda Vista Road, San Diego 92111

12/11/13 (Wednesday)
 1000 Newport Harbor P-291
 215 E. 155th Street, Newport Beach 92663

12/9/13 (Monday)
 1130 Lunch & Harbor Cruise – Jess Lawson, Commander
 1900 Dinner at E. Pasadena P-280
 22495 Van Buren Boulevard,
 Riverside 92518
 1200 Lunch at Perris P-595
 600 South “D” Street, Perris
 92570
 1800 Dinner at Riverside P-79
 2979 Dexter Drive, Riverside
 92501

12/10/13 (Tuesday)
 0930 Meet at the Camp Pendleton
 Main Gate
 0945 New Naval Hospital, Camp
 Pendleton
 1130 Lunch at Larry E. Bennett
 P-255
 35 E. 18th Street, National City 91950

12/12/13 (Thursday)
 1100 Lunch & Golf at Riviera Country Club – will be with
 other golfers.
 1900 Dinner at Hollywood P-43
 2035 N. Highland Avenue, Hollywood 90068

12/13/13 (Friday)
 0800 West L.A. VA Medical Center.
 11301 Wilshire Boulevard, Building 500
 Los Angeles 90073
 West of 405 Freeway. Meet with Donna Beiter and
 staff (310-478-3700)

1100 Lunch
 VA Regional Office, Los Angeles
 11000 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 5201
 Los Angeles 90024
 East of the 405 Freeway. Meet with Scott McKee,
 DSO to escort
 Assistant Director Shelia Jackson and Staff
 (310-473-6534)

1800 Pacific Palisades P-28
 15247 La Cruz Drive
 Pacific Palisades 90272

Oratorical Contest Commission

By Allan Hale, Chairman

The 2014 Department of California Oratorical Contest finals will be held February 23, 2014 at the Jefferson Union High School, 699 Serramonte Boulevard, Daly City, CA 94015.

The contest will commence promptly at 1:00 pm.

Please mark your calendar and try to be there as this is a fantastic part of our youth program.

Post 807 Children's Halloween Party

Linda Post 807 takes The American Legion four pillars very seriously. One of the pillars is Children and Youth. It is our responsibility to organize and participate in Halloween Safety Programs. On 27 October, Post 807 held its Children's Halloween Party, which helps to get safety information out to members and their families.

It was a great turnout with many costumed children partaking in the many activities such as “Simon Says,” face painting, maze, cake walk and other games offered. A hot dog lunch was served to them and their parents, and the children were all given a bag of treats as they left. A fun time was had by all participants and volunteers.

Guidelines for an IRS Field Audit 2013

By T. Robert Carolan
 Department Judge Advocate

The American Legion, through the National Office, is tax-exempt under IRS Code Section 501(c)(19). Not only are we tax-exempt, but any contributions made to our organization are tax-deductible. But we have to maintain the conditions required to keep our tax-exempt and tax-deductible status. The Internal Revenue Service is directed by Congress to periodically check our status, usually by a Field Audit or sometimes by a Correspondence Audit. We will address a Field Audit.

The IRS auditor, who comes to our Post, will first be looking at three major tests: 1. Proof of a military veteran. 2. Proof of a member of The American Legion. 3. The “Coverage Test.”

Here are some Guidelines to assist Posts in the event of an IRS Field Audit:

Proof of a military veteran

- Discharge papers
- Department of Veterans Affairs Photo ID card
- DD-214
- American Legion Membership Card
- American Legion Membership Register (from National)
- Active Duty Card
- Military Retirement Card
- Military Record from www.archives.gov
- All others showing proof of military service.

Proof of a member of The American Legion

- American Legion Membership Card

- American Legion Membership Register
- American Legion Membership Application as approved
- Post minutes showing membership approval
- Any other means of proof.

Coverage Test

There are two parts to the Coverage Test; the first is the Exemption Test and the second is the Membership Test. BOTH must qualify for the tax exemption.

Exemption Test: at least 75% of the members must be past or present members of the US Armed Forces. Substantially all other members must be cadets, spouses, widows, widowers, ancestors or lineal descendants of past or present members of the US Armed Forces (basically Auxiliary members).

Membership Test: at least 75% of the members must be past or present members of the US Armed Forces and 97.5% must be cadets, spouses, widows, widowers, ancestors or lineal descendants of past or present members of the US Armed Forces (basically leaving only 2.5% that can be non-members).

There are still other areas that you will need to show the composition of membership. You will need the following:

- Articles of Incorporation (all Posts should be incorporated)
 - Charter
 - Bylaws
 - Minutes of the General Meetings
- All of the above discussion was primarily

for the definition and substantiation of membership. This was to dispel the current rumors of DD-214s and massive dollar penalties levied against Posts, as well as the “attack on veterans’ organizations”. However, you must have close access to substantiating your members. Copies of the DD-214 can help. Copies of the approved Membership Application can help. If you have not done so already, start keeping copies of these documents. If I were the IRS auditor, I would rely heavily on the MEMBERSHIP REGISTER, which we receive through Department from National. It has 16 columns and ALL of the information necessary. A good auditor would certainly use it.

Under audit – you will also need financial advice, especially concerning Unrelated Business Income, taxes associated with gaming and all of the other taxes that a Post has to pay.

Keep in mind that the auditor has peripheral questions especially from employees, especially bartenders. Advise your bartenders to “button it.”

I have covered the IRS audit procedures very briefly here. Get a copy of the TAX GUIDE FOR VETERANS’ ORGANIZATIONS from the IRS website at www.irs.gov and study it carefully. It is the best source that I have seen.

I hope this helps all of our Posts. Remember to consult your financial advisor if you are audited. But DO NOT PANIC! It is not that bad.

Help Wanted for Websites

We have (5) individual domain websites for the department web presence this year. We are seeking volunteers that are interested in the development and maintenance of our new web appearance.

The ongoing projects are the development of the Membership site; VA&R donations; local news blog; district and area informational sites; email boxes for all posts, districts and areas – to name a few.

All too much for one individual to do and maintain. Please spread the word that we are seeking a few good volunteers with the time, talent and desire to help create and maintain our web presence.

If interested – please contact David Eby at calegion@pacific.net or Bill Siler iii at bill@calegion.org

Inside This Issue:

Forty and Eight Gathered in Clovis	2
\$300,000 Challenge	2
Department Convention 2014	2
Commander/Adjutant.....	3
Parl/NEC/Membership/Judge Adv.....	4
Patriotic Hall - Welcome Back.....	5
Four Chaplains Dedication.....	6
Veterans Day Forum	6
Auxiliary.....	7-8
SONS Detachment of California	9
Leadership Commission.....	9
Riders/YEC 2014 Conference.....	10
Patriot Outreach, CA Legion, VA&R	11
Los Angeles County Council.....	11

Ritual Commission Update

Dennis R. Burke, Chairman

This year I hope to have more than two teams competing at The American Legion, Dept. of California, 2014 Convention in Santa Clara. If you have a team, please let me know. My home phone number is 650-359-6096. Leave me a message or you can

also email me at Burkedennisr@aol.com
 Districts Commanders, do you have Posts with a Ritual Team? Have them email me with a list and contact (name, email and phone number). I would be happy to get them information on how to

form a team and give them support.

I would like to have a meeting of the Ritual Commission at the next DEC to exchange information and plan for the Convention. If you are interested in being part of the committee, please contact me.

Attention Legionnaire Members Forty and Eight Gathered in Clovis

By Joe Donovan, Grand Correspondant

Members of the Honor Group of U.S. Veterans gathered recently at the beautiful and functional Clovis Veterans Memorial District Building in Clovis, California. In addition to the normal update of reports from the various Directeurs and Grand Officers, there were several important issues that were discussed.

The National 40 & 8 publishes a monthly newsletter entitled "Voyageur Briefs." Distribution is limited to those with email addresses. Local Correspondants were requested to provide updated email addresses to Correspondant Joe Donovan. So far, only 12 have sent updates to Joe. NOTE: It is anticipated that printing of the "Forty and Eight Magazine" will cease in the near future; all information will be distributed electronically.

The Grand Child Welfare Fund donated \$3,500.00 to the James J. Coyne School of Music in Claremont, California that teaches bagpipe skills to children of service members and veterans.

The Grand Special Awards Fund

committed \$2,500.00 for a five-year donation to the National Hero of the Year Program that funds attendance at our National Promenade.

CA DMV has questioned our Loco Insurance in that complete VINs are not printed on the Insurance Verification cards. Voitures with Loco's have been requested to send a copy of their Loco Registration to Joe for updating the insurance file. Remember, the policy expires November 6.

Each Voiture with a Loco was requested to send \$200.00 in insurance money to our Commissaire Intendant Dan Dumas, so that fees would not be so high next year. (This year, the complete insurance fee was covered by a grant.) New Loco pins depicting San Thomas Voiture 365 will be available soon as a fundraiser toward 2015 Insurance.

Under the VAVS Program, VA Clinics at Livermore, Fairfield and the Nursing Facility at Menlo Park received grants from the "Keep the Wheelchairs

Rolling" program of the VA. Our VA Representatives and Deputies need to write up a brief paragraph requesting personal items for the patients, and then they normally will be approved.

For those who haven't seen the Clovis Veterans Memorial District Building, it is awesome. Numerous statues and plaques surround the facility. There are many large rooms that can be subdivided. A reflecting pool is in the center with granite walls listing service members from Clovis. A new addition since our last visit was the construction of solar panels over the parking lot to supplement those already installed on the roof. The completion of the project is expected to fully fund the \$18,000.00 monthly power bill!

Complete minutes from the Clovis meeting will be available soon on the Grand Website at www.cafortyandeight.org. DO NOT USE THE OLD WEB SITE WITH NUMBERS; it is not up to date! We no longer have access to that site.



Published monthly by:

THE AMERICAN LEGION DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

205 13th Street, Ste. 3300
San Francisco, CA 94103-2461
TEL: (415) 431-2400
FAX: (415) 255-1571
Email: sfhq@calegion.org

DEPARTMENT COMMANDER Joseph A. Garcia (262-25)

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT Bill Siler iii (132-29)

EDITOR

David L. Eby (529-1)
Department Commander 1998-99
(707) 275-2771 Home
editor@pacific.net

AUXILIARY EDITOR

Estella Avina
(928) 649-3027 Home
(928) 649-3027 Fax - call first
Avinahotgram@aol.com

PUBLISHING COMMISSION

Chairman:

E. Paul Terry (410-26) - Area 2

Vice-Chairman:

David Eby (529-1) - Area 1

Members:

Brian Adams (20-15) - Area 3
Keith Morris (252-23) - Area 4
Curtis Witherspoon (201-22) - Area 5
Larry Johnson (280-18) - Area 6

The American Legion Department of California
Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Foundation

\$300,000 Challenge

Make Your Donation TODAY

Veterans returning home from the current wars will live perhaps seventy more years with their wounds and injuries, and will need continuing care from the nation whose freedom they served to protect. The Department of California VA&R Foundation is seeking to raise funds to meet the critical need of effectively serving the needs of our veterans.

The Department of California Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Foundation, is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt foundation, donations to which are tax deductible. The American Legion VA&R Division receives no government funding or subsidy.

Visit: <http://www.calegion.org/html/donate-var.htm>
To make a donation to the TAL CA VA&R Foundation

OR Mail your check payable to:
TAL CA VA&R Foundation
205 13th Street, Suite 3300, San Francisco, CA 94103-2461

Thank You for your Continuing Support of our Veterans!

Fun for the Whole Family! Department Convention 2014

Are you wondering what to do during your free time in Santa Clara next June? Our 2014 Convention Entertainment Chairman Dave Jackson is putting together a list of activities for you and your family. During your stay in Santa Clara, you will be close to many attractions.

Great America Amusement Park is only 2 minutes from the Convention Center! And, you will be right in the middle of Silicon Valley and can find out who really invented the Internet and many of the other gadgets we now use daily. The Computer History Museum is only 13 minutes away. There will be discount ticket offers for both of these venues in the bag you receive when registering for the Convention.

What else? The Winchester Mystery House is just 15 minutes away. Are you a Naval Aviation history buff? Eleven minutes of travel and you're at the Moffett History Museum at the former Moffett Naval Air Station. How about the history of helicopters and planes? The Hiller Aviation Museum has a great collection, just 24 minutes up the road from the Convention Center. This is just a taste of what's in store for you in Santa Clara. Stay tuned! More will be revealed.

Visit www.calc2014.org and www.facebook.com/calc2014. The Area 2 Convention Corporation looks forward to serving you in Santa Clara!



PUBLICATION POLICY

California Legionnaire is the official publication of The American Legion Department of California. Published monthly online with the 6 printed issues months are August, October, December, February, April and June.

NOTICE: Submissions to the *California Legionnaire* must be submitted no later than 10th of each prior month to be included in the upcoming monthly issue.

To submit articles and/or photos: Please e-mail article and any photos attached at a minimum 200 DPI (1600 x 1200) to editor@pacific.net

All submissions become the property of The American Legion Department of California. All submitted material is subject to edit, rework and omission. We are not responsible for lost items or misplaced material.

Please send "Change of Address" and "Deceased Notifications" to: email: kathy@calegion.org or mail to: The American Legion, Department of California, 205 13th Street, Ste. 3300, San Francisco, CA 94103-2461

Do not direct them to the Editor

All Advertising:

Please contact Mary Long at Department HQ for pricing.

PUBLISHING OFFICE:



American Publishing LLC
4721 S. 81st Street
Greenfield, WI 53220
414-323-9370

The American Legion Membership Application

Sign-up on-line TODAY at: www.calegion.org - OR -
Mail application below and \$35 to: TAL DoC Post 1000 Application
205 13th Street, Suite 3300, San Francisco, CA 94103-2461
Please make your check payable to TAL DoC Post 1000

The American Legion Membership Application			
(Name)		(Phone)	
(Mailing Address)			(Date)
(City)	(State)	(Zip)	(Post #)
(Membership ID# former member)	(Email Address)		(Dues)
Please check appropriate eligibility dates and branch of service below			
<input type="checkbox"/> Aug 2, 1990 - cessation of hostilities as determined by U.S. Government	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army		
<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 20, 1989 - Jan. 31, 1990	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy		
<input type="checkbox"/> Aug. 24, 1982 - July 31, 1984	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force		
<input type="checkbox"/> Feb. 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines		
<input type="checkbox"/> June 25, 1950 - Jan. 31, 1955	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard		
<input type="checkbox"/> Dec. 7, 1941 - Dec. 31, 1946	<input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines 12/7/41 - 12/31/46 (only eligibility)		
<input type="checkbox"/> April 6, 1917 - Nov 11, 1918			
I certify that I served at least one day of active military duty during the dates marked above and was honorably discharged or am still serving honorably.			
Signature of applicant		Name of recruiter	
30-009 (2009)			

OPT OUT!

e-Edition

Same format as our print edition online!



Opt-out of the home mailing of the *California Legionnaire*. If you received this USPS delivery of the paper, your previous request was lost in the transition to our on-site database. Just visit www.calegion.us/opt-out.html Complete the simple online form, click submit, and then your next issue of the paper will be available online!



FROM THE COMMANDER'S DESK



Joseph A. Garcia
Commander

I remember one of our members, Tom, who went on to Post Everlasting. He said something bluntly once at a meeting that I will not repeat. He was not getting any response from Legion members who were supposed to do their jobs. I am just passing on this friendly reminder to those who still have not sent in their Certification of Officers and their Audit Reports. Please get these forms in.

Communication, communication, communication!

I was at Indianapolis at a Commanders meeting and it was great to see the other State Commanders that I met at National Convention. Sharing stories and telling tall tales was fun. There were four of us who hung around together. The Commanders from Alabama, Utah, Nevada and I all exchanged experiences and talked about Legion programs. One of the biggest issues that was shared (not just with us four, but with all the other State Commanders) was the problem with Communication.

Naturally, we discussed Membership and Post and District revitalization. The topic of public relations was brought up and the problem of not communicating with our community and letting them know the great programs The American Legion has and does.

It sure was interesting listening to all the speakers talk about the Legion programs. It was also very educational. Everything all came down to one very

important factor. I know that you already know what I am going to say. You are right...Communication.

One of the exciting new items that The American Legion is going to do is the 100 Year Legion Centennial Legacy. This is a compilation of history throughout the entire American Legion. This will let everyone know how your Post started and bring everyone up to date on what you are doing now.

I love a parade. I was in the Redlands Parade that was held on Veterans Day. The public support, the family support and the Legion support was unbelievable. This is what I call "Working Together Side by Side". The bands were fantastic, the participation was unbelievable and Post 106 and 650 worked together with the city of Redlands to hold the event. It was like watching a movie. I know many of you were involved with Veterans Day ceremonies. This day is for us! I was so proud to be a Veteran and I know each and every one of you were just a proud as me. Seeing other Veteran Organizations and public clubs proud to be there made everyone come closer as United States citizens and the patriotism was strong as ever.

I am asking each and every one of you to help our organization the best way that you can. We can do this either by leading by support or by participation. We can still make this year one of the greatest ever in our history, but it is up to you.

Do not forget to tell your fellow comrades thanks when they do something extra to help your Post, District or Area. As I said before, I am depending on you!



DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER



Scott McKee
Department
Historian

Greetings and what a whirlwind of a fall VA&R has had this year. From the ongoing Middle East Conflict, troops still deploying and returning home, reduction in military forces, more and more veterans entering

the VA system, the government partial shutdown, and all the other issues facing the VA today, means the workload of the VA&R division of The American Legion has not subsided. Since I mentioned the government partial shutdown let me inform you that yes, all 56 VA Regional Offices did shut down only to public contact. However, not one of the American Legion VA&R offices were shut down and we were not locked out of any of our offices co-located in the VA Regional Offices or in the hospitals. The VA itself continued to work, behind the scenes on initial pending claims but, unfortunately not on appeals, dependant claims and additional claims. This was the same procedure that was used for the previous partial government shutdown in the autumn of 2012.

Since it is the end of the government fiscal year, this is a good time to report on the VA as well as the VA&R American Legion Department of California workload. Currently in California we have 1.8 million veterans with the greatest concentration located in the southern California area. Added to this number are the many additional dependants, who also are receiving benefits from the VA, which are not included in this

number. Each and every Monday the Veterans Benefits Administration issues the workload report of the VA known as the "Monday Morning Report." For explanation purposes I will discuss the Los Angeles VA Regional Office's (RO) workload. The Jurisdiction of the VARO in Los Angeles covers the counties of Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Kern, Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo. This covers approximately 400,000 veterans, as well as their dependants, and covers 21% of the veterans who reside in the state of California.

According to the "Monday Morning Report" of October 28, 2013 the LA VARO has 16,097 service-connected compensation claims pending. Of that amount 9,845 claims are pending over 125 days, which make up 61% of the LA VARO inventory. Non-service Pension, Dependent Benefits is centrally handled in St. Paul, Minnesota and Education (Post 911GI Bill, Vocrehab) are handled in Muskogee, Oklahoma. These claims enter the system through the local VARO of jurisdiction, like Los Angeles, but are not processed there and are not considered part of the calculation of the VA in Los Angeles. However in our offices collocated in the three VAROs, The American Legion does handle those claims, and therefore in Los Angeles, Oakland and San Diego we consider more than Service-Connected Compensation. Our workload is much greater overall, due to the fact we cover more categories than the VAROs.

Nationwide, The American Legion is second in the amount of claims filed with the VA. All of this translates to Federal — *SERV. OFC., continued on page 10*



ADJUTANT'S CORNER



Bill Siler III
Adjutant

We had our Boys State Commission and Boys State Foundation Call-In at Yolo P-77 in Woodland on November 2, 2013. The commission meeting was in the morning and the foundation meeting was in the afternoon.

We finished the Department Roster and had it to the printer on November 1, 2013. This year we have a "Name Index" in the roster! We thank Jr. Past Department Commander Ken Kramlich for his hard work and dedication for doing the Index! THANK YOU, KEN! GOOD JOB! As individual members, everyone can go to the National Database and fill in and/or change their personal information. We would appreciate it very much if you could do this so we will have the correct information at Department Headquarters. If you don't go to the website, give your information to your Post Adjutant who has forms that can be filled out and then the Adjutant can send the information to Department.

National Commander Dan Dellinger will be in California from December 9 through December 13, 2013. His visit to California has been cut short by National. Therefore he will be visiting southern California only. I have requested that he make a second trip to

California to visit the northern part of the state.

The following are items that keep coming up these past couple of months:

1. We are getting telephone calls about Post audits and when they should be done. In the Department Bylaws it states that the audit of the Post books, from the Post's previous physical year has to be done 90 days after the installation of the new Post Officers, (Art V Sec 9).
2. The Post Certification of Officers must be into Department prior to the opening of the Fall Department Executive Committee Meeting (DEC). The DEC may place any Post on probation who doesn't submit their Certification of Officers. (Art VI Sec 3).
3. REMINDER that Membership Reports for the Department are put on the Department Website once a week.
4. The Department Office has moved to the "Citi Center" Building, 205 13th Street, Suite 3300, San Francisco, CA 94103. We are still receiving mail late, especially Post membership because some Posts and legion members are still using our old address.

From the entire staff and their families, we wish all of you the best over the holidays and may your New Year be the best that you have ever had.



DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN



Hugh E. Crooks, Jr.
Department
Chaplain

Hello, Department of California! I was fortunate to be invited to attend the Annual Department Chaplains Conference which was held in Indianapolis, Indiana at the end of September. I was amazed that not all of the Departments were represented, but we combined with the Auxiliary Department chaplains. It was wonderful to meet our new National Chaplain, Dr. Daniel McClure from Iowa, a Baptist minister and 42 year Army veteran. In addition, we were honored to have Shelly Riggs the National Chaplain for the Auxiliary, and three Past National Chaplains. It was good to be able to find someone where we could ask specific questions on subjects where there was no written policy.

The first question that was raised was if the American Legion had a policy expressly forbidding praying in the name of Jesus Christ? I have had numerous Post and District Chaplains ask me this and some have stated that their Commanders have said that they could not ever close a prayer using his name, as a result of this I have been told that some Chaplains would resign their position. Each individual's freedom of religion is a constitutional right and no one can forbid them from exercising this, but it was suggested that a Chaplain performing in an interfaith setting should be mindful of the requirement for inclusiveness insofar as faith dictates allow. Translated, this means that any Chaplain performing a service should know their audience, and they need to be "religious sensitive" if it is required, as no one wants another to feel uncomfortable in any service. If any Chaplain feels obligated by the dictates

of their faith to pray in the name of Jesus Christ in an interfaith setting, then those faith dictates must be followed. These guidelines follow those dictated by DoD and the Air Force.

Remember that there is a difference between different meetings: In a mandatory formation or meeting where all members, whatever their faith are required to attend, it is wise that the Chaplain be sensitive of other faith traditions that may be present. This is different where you have a voluntary gathering or a meeting one-on-one and the Chaplain has more latitude to express the language and tradition of his or her faith group. I hope that the above has answered most of the questions that I have received concerning this topic.

After the greetings and specific questions we had breakout sessions where we were tasked with reviewing and making suggestions for the new Chaplain's Manual and new Prayer Book. I must admit I was impressed with some of the new suggested prayers and overall professionalism presented. If you are a long time District or Area Chaplain I would like to suggest that you inquire on trying to attend this training in the future. I found that it is especially helpful for those Chaplains that are not ordained.

Many of you will be reading this article after the Thanksgiving holidays. I hope you allow some time to give a simple silent prayer for our troops, and first responders who will not be at home to celebrate with their families, but will be in "harm's way" during their duty to protect this country. If you are able, contribute to things that your Post or District will be doing to help those less fortunate than you as this is truly being a Legionnaire.

Remember The American Legion Preamble begins with: "For God and Country," with God always being first.



DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN



Gary Leach
Department
Parliamentarian

Most of us have a place in our regular order of business for committee reports and these reports should be submitted in writing. Committee reports should neither be addressed nor dated. It is assumed they are addressed to the parent body and the date is that on which the report is presented in a meeting and recorded in the minutes. The report should always be written in the third person and should begin with an identification of the committee submitting it.

For example, it should never be worded, "I report that..." or, "We report that..." but should instead read, "The Committee on Americanism wishes to report that..." or "Report of the Membership Committee..." As a general rule, committee reports should be signed by all members, but the

committee can authorize the chairman to sign the report alone. If all members sign the report, it is customary for the chairman to sign first. In any case, the chairman should place Chairman after his name only when he signs alone on behalf of the committee.

If a report contains information only, with no recommendations, there is no need for the reporting member to make any motion, and no action is required by the membership. The report is simply kept on file. When a report contains recommendations, the reporting member usually makes the necessary motion to implement the recommendations at the conclusion of his report. No second is required in these cases, since the motion is made on behalf of the committee. This practice is justified by the fact that more than one committee member must have voted for the recommendations and must therefore wish it to come before the assembly.



MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR



Mike Hooper
Membership
Director

Hello, California Membership Team! I was just reviewing our membership report and am very concerned on the direction we are going, as you know at the last Department Convention we voted to raise our department per capita by a whopping \$5. This decision was made due to the reduction in our membership over the past few years, and the Post 1000s not renewing. We have a great membership team this year; we were handpicked by Commander Joe Garcia based on our knowledge and accomplishments in membership through the years we have been members. I am proud to have such a team in the Department working together and working membership.

I am going to give you some figures that you probably already know, but just want to show you why I am concerned. At this time last year we had 58,542 members who renewed, this year we have 53,509 members who have renewed, that is 5,033 members less. Now if you figure the loss of per capita of these members, that would total a loss of \$50,330.00 in revenue.

Last year we had a total of 487 Post 1000s paid and transferred to local Posts; this year it is at 191, a difference of 296 members for a total loss of \$10,360.00 in revenue for the Department, and that is not including the loss of revenue for each Post if we would have transferred them into a

local Post.

Our standings in the Department of California nationally is 32 out of 55, so that puts us in the lower half of the state standings nationally.

Communication to the Areas, Districts and Posts need to be one of our main objectives; let them know where they stand, whether it is good or whether they are falling behind, and let's see what we can do to assist those who need it.

My objective this year was: 1) Hold training at District Level on membership and **mylegion.org**. 2) Hold a District-wide revitalization and put this training to use. I have seen some Districts do this; it has been proven that it is a success, not only in getting members into local Posts, but motivating our members at the local Posts to promote membership. I feel this has been a slow process, but progress is being made and that is all I can ask for. I am hoping that this will continue and show progress in the coming years.

So to sum this up: Are you satisfied in the direction we are going? Can we do something to increase membership? Do you have some ideas that might help increase membership? Is there something that I can do to assist you in increasing membership? Let's see what we can do to make this year a year to remember.

Remember "just ask" and they will join. Please visit the web site at **www.calegion.org** and click on membership and see some of the newly added features that our Webmaster has added. You will be impressed.

Meet Your 2013-2014 Membership Team

Membership Director

Steven "Mike" Hooper (807-4)
530.743.6974 H
530.844.1206 C
530.634.3016 W
legionitems@gmail.com

Chairman North

Henry Sanchez (233-6)
916.205.9296
Hanksanchez56@hotmail.com

Chairman South

Art Castro (51-19)
562.652.5923 C
catamount1956@verizon.net

Area 1 Chairman

Robert Taylor (111-5)
707.894.0857
chiefhfd@aol.com

Area 2 Chairman

Ron Galvan (117-10)
510.483.1605
ragalvan@att.net

Area 3 Chairman

John R. Bart (23-14)
559.875.5008
doc@post23.org

Area 4 Chairman

William V. Miller (496-19)
562.704.9629
mildew56@yahoo.com

Area 5 Chairman

James E. Bieger (595-21)
909-731-0787
Jimbieger@yahoo.com

Area 6 Chairman

Frank Campo (56-16)
805.588.1006
fpcampo@juno.com



DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE



Robert Carolan
Department
Judge Advocate

The rumor mill has been flying fast and furious this year as is expected in The American Legion. It is perhaps part of our legacy from our days in the military. But this time it was different. This vicious rumor threatened the very existence of our Posts. It claimed, among other things, that unless every Post keep "on hand" copies of a member's DD-214, under IRS audit, the Post would be fined \$1,000 per day in fines. Another part of the rumor stated that the IRS demanded that all Posts must keep copies of the DD-214 on hand as per their field audit direction. Panic set in across the nation. Posts were quoted as having just been audited and thousands of dollars in fines had been assessed. None of this was true. But where did this vicious rumor originate? It was extremely hard to find.

As you can see in my column of the October California Legionnaire, I wrote about the EP/EO Division of the IRS. I do not wish to repeat that section again so if you are interested, read that column. The head of that Division of the IRS is appointed, as are many other positions in our National Government. The appointees are people who have contributed in some way to the

administration in power. The EP/EO is no exception. Appointed to that position was Lois G. Lerner. She is the wife of Michael R. Miles, Esq. Attorney Miles is a partner in the law firm of Sunderland, Asbil & Brennan of Washington, D.C. and Atlanta, Georgia. That firm employs more than 400 attorneys. Mr. Miles had done voter registration organizing events for President Obama's presidential campaign. Therefore, his wife, Lois Lerner would always be a target for any sense of favoritism.

As predicted, the attention was drawn to her this year by her Division's handling of the 501(c)(4) applications. As you may know, 501(c)(4) is very similar to our own 501(c)(19), except that they do not have to disclose the names of their donors. A national news organization reported that her Division favored one class of exempt applicant over another. With that, Congress got involved and it became a political issue. This led to her resignation by way of retirement and the resignation of two other key people who were career IRS employees. But now that Congress has gotten involved, they began to dig deeper for anything they could find associated with the EP/EO Division. They found changes in the field audit manual, audit procedures for EOs and a national news service again reported about a \$1,000 per day fine for not keeping service records and laid

— JUDGE ADV., continued on page 9



DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN



Edward M. Alvarez
Department
Historian

We all just enjoyed "our day" recently Veterans Day. I spent mine with Commander Garcia in the 125th annual celebration in the City of Redlands parade and event at the park. We were very impressed at the number of entries of veterans' groups in the parade. Commander Garcia walked the line up and introduced himself and told them about The American Legion (he is very good at public relations). The parade started marching off at 9:00 a.m.

I was in my own city's Heritage Day parade in October and saw how important these parades are for the image that we, in The American Legion, love to see. We both got choked up when we saw veterans standing up to salute as we went by, some holding onto a walker or remaining seated in a wheelchair. We even saw veterans that snapped to attention to show their respect. This is the time that the public forgets the old image of the veteran sitting at the club getting drunk and telling old war stories. I personally have an old 1961 T-Bird that I use for parades and it is set up with a speaker on the grille and hooked up to a CD player. When we drive down the parade route we play "God Bless

the U.S.A." and we see people singing along AND people standing to salute thinking it's the national anthem. I even think Commander Garcia experienced the same feelings in Redlands. It really gives you pride and lifts your spirits for the rest of the day. We certainly wish every Legionnaire could experience a ride in a parade and be recognized for the efforts they deserve and earned. The Redlands parade route was close to two miles to the park.

At the park there was a ceremony which included a flyover by the Air Force. Our Commander was the keynote speaker of the event and he definitely made us proud. Turns out the event was hosted by the two Posts from Redlands, Post 106 and Post 750. Congratulations on a great event. I hope the city allows them to hold the parade for the next 125 years, since very few cities have Veterans Day parades anymore due to the costs involved.

Now on to the next event with Commander Garcia – a trip to a Post in Long Beach.

Happy Holidays! Until next time, keep those cameras snapping those pictures recording history. Don't forget to send some of your better ones to me to include in the Commander's history book. Be sure to include the date the picture was taken and names and offices held of the people in the pictures.



LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE



Pete Conaty
Legislative Advocate
to the California
Legislature

This year began with over 100 veterans and military-related bills being introduced.

By the end of this year's legislative session, 45 bills had reached the Governor's office. Of these 45 bills, he

signed 41 of them into law. At **www.calegion.org** there is a list of key veterans' bills that were Chaptered (signed into law). Please visit the legislative commission's webpage on the Department of California's website.

There are still many bills that did not reach the Governor and are still considered alive. They can be moved forward next year after the Legislature reconvenes January 6, 2014.

Pacific Meso Center Lays Foundation at West LA VA's Comprehensive Mesothelioma Center to Launch New Center of Mesothelioma Excellence



Malignant pleural mesothelioma (MPM) is a rare and devastating cancer that affects the lining of the chest. Nearly 3,000 new cases of this "orphan disease" are diagnosed annually in the United States. The disease is usually caused by exposure to asbestos in the workplace, home or areas with natural asbestos deposits. It often manifests 15 to 60 years after asbestos exposure.

Nearly one-third of all patients with MPM develop the disease through inhaling asbestos fibers during their military service and many times following their service while continuing to work in the same trades learned while serving. This risk also extends to Veterans families since the dangerous fibers often were brought home on clothing, exposing spouses and children to the same deadly problem. Despite this significant Veteran health problem, which has existed since World War II, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Department of Defense (DOD) have yet to provide specific treatment or research resources for Veterans who have, are suspected of having, or are at risk of having mesothelioma.

The Pacific Mesothelioma Center (PMC) at The Pacific Heart, Lung & Blood Institute (PHLBI), a 501(c)(3) non-profit research organization, was established in 2010 and remains the only public charity to promote organized mesothelioma research into novel therapies and methods of cancer prevention for asbestos-exposed individuals. The Organization's website at <http://www.phlbi.org/divisions/lung-disease/pacific-meso-center/> features disease information, patient testimonials, patient/family resources, community events highlights, and research updates. In 2011, PMC launched the first free-standing national mesothelioma research laboratory with the expressed mission to discover novel treatments and ultimately a cure for mesothelioma. The PMC is associated with world renowned mesothelioma programs, such as UCLA's Comprehensive Mesothelioma Program, which is led by Dr. Robert B. Cameron, an internationally recognized surgeon and research scientist, who is widely recognized for his groundbreaking lung-sparing surgical technique to extend patients' lifespans without sacrificing vital lung tissue.

Since its inception, PMC has tirelessly worked to join forces with the Veterans

Health Administration to create a Comprehensive Mesothelioma Center of Excellence at the Greater Los Angeles (GLA) VA. The GLA VA Meso Center, to be named after Adm. Elmo Zumwalt, who was an inspirational leader to many naval service men and women and who lost his life to mesothelioma, will be established to provide specialized care for Veterans who have, are suspected of having, or are at risk of having mesothelioma. The new Elmo Zumwalt (EZ) Comprehensive Mesothelioma Center will offer the latest innovations in diagnostics, pharmaceuticals, radiology oncology, surgery, and other medical specializations for Veterans nationwide and will work with the UCLA Comprehensive Mesothelioma Program, the Pacific Meso Center, and the Cancer Research and Biostatistics (CRAB) non-profit foundation to establish a Mesothelioma Research Consortium to actively conduct both clinical and basic science research in this disease. The EZ Mesothelioma Center will utilize TeleHealth/TeleMedicine initiatives for remote computerized medical consultations already active within the VHA system to ensure that all Veterans, not just those in Southern California will have access to state-of-the-art mesothelioma medical care as well as social/financial support services. PMC is proud to lead the effort to secure urgent specific programmatic support for Veterans who contracted mesothelioma because of their military service. PMC is joined in this effort by Veterans, themselves, and their families, including many whose care could have benefited from such a specialized national center. Some have volunteered to help and some have even made donations to help this effort go forward. PMC now is seeking to work with Veterans service organization, like the American Legion, to educate Veterans as to the services already available and to work together with Veterans and the VHA to make the EZ Comprehensive Mesothelioma Center a reality for current and future Veterans who so faithfully served their country only to develop this dangerous disease. Donations to PMC are tax deductible and help to support continued biomedical research and education for patients with mesothelioma.

For further information, please contact: Clare Cameron at 310-478-4678 or www.pacificmesocenter.org

One Year Free Membership California Rifle and Pistol Association

Rick Travis, Field Representative
California Rifle and Pistol Association
271 Imperial Highway, Suite 620
Fullerton, CA 92835
rtravis@crpa.org
Office: 714-992-2772
Fax: 714-992-2996

We are preparing for our 140th anniversary in 2015 and the final year of the 150th remembrance of the Civil War. We have declared 2015 to be the Year of the Veteran. We will be featuring Medal

of Honor recipients from California that are still living in a series of articles and we are granting \$15,000 to the Veteran's Administration Golden Games Program to be divided by the ten VA hospitals in California.

We are also offering a free year of membership to any veteran in California that is not a member as a way of saying thank you for your service. We would like make the offer known to the California veterans. Any assistance is greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your service.

Patriotic Hall - Welcome Back

By Jeff Stoffer

It stood as the tallest building in Los Angeles for seven years. American Legion Post 8 has called it home since original construction was finished in 1926. Parts of the building have appeared in such films as "Patton," "Vertigo," "Flashdance" and "1941." A number of ghosts, they say, float across its hardwood floors and haunt its conference rooms.

In 2004, it was renamed to honor the Hollywood entertainer best known for performing for U.S. troops in war zones. It was nearly torn down and replaced with a parking structure in the 1980s. Seven years ago, when work began to replace nearly all of its infrastructure, The American Legion and other veterans organizations were told they had to move out, or later, take a place in the basement.

The 10-story Bob Hope Patriotic Hall was rededicated Friday in a ceremony attended by nearly 500, including dozens of Legionnaires and members of other veterans' service organizations who see the unique structure as theirs. The rebuilt facility, owned by Los Angeles County, is now poised for another era of service to veterans as troops serving in Afghanistan begin discharging and entering civilian lives. Seven years of work and over \$45 million has gone into the facility's resurrection.

"The fact that this building is being rededicated back to the veterans is a wonderful thing," American Legion Post 8 member and past California Department Commander Hugh Crooks, Jr. explained. "This is not just for past veterans. It is also for future vets. All future vets will know that this building in Los Angeles County is their building. That's what it's here for. That's what it will always be for."

Post 8 can now unpack boxes of historic photos, letters and artifacts and put them back on display on the eighth floor of the towering structure, which also houses the Los Angeles County Department of Military and Veterans Affairs. Among the artifacts is a collection of more than 300 signed photographs and personal letters from military leaders from around the world, spanning back to the late 1920s, owned by American Legion Post 8. The collection is scheduled to return to full display by Memorial Day 2014.

On Friday, veterans of all eras filled the auditorium where, in the 1970 hit movie, George C. Scott famously played the part of Gen. George Patton in front of a massive U.S. flag that eventually disappeared from the hall. They came to hear from city and county officials, including Los Angeles

Mayor Eric Garcetti. As the ceremony was beginning, however, the crowd's attention was turned to one aisle seat in the front row where 103-year-old World War II veteran Bea Cohen sat. "I have been coming to Patriotic Hall for over 50 years," said the Romania-born WAC (Women Army Corps) veteran who says when asked what she did in the war: "I was Rosie the Riveter."

Today, she still serves, collecting socks, underwear and blankets for homeless veterans served by the Department of Veterans Affairs in Los Angeles. "America is the greatest country in the world," she says, adding that "it's not right" that any veteran should go without socks, underwear or a blanket in the winter.

When introduced in the auditorium, Cohen – described as the oldest living female veteran in California – received a standing ovation.

Post 8 Adjutant Jesse "Jay" Morales, a three-tour Vietnam War Marine Corps chopper pilot who famously flew Bob Hope into theater for his first performance for troops there, has been coming to Patriotic Hall since he was a young boy. When he joined The American Legion in 1972, he began attending meetings there. Over the next four decades, the hall and its continued role as a place for veterans and The American Legion, charter tenant of the facility. "This is a veterans' memorial building, one of very few like it in the United States," Morales said. "It belongs to the county under an agreement that it remains in use for veterans who provided the land upon which it was built."

"It's now back to what it was intended to be," adds John L. Stamatiades of American Legion Post 285 who was one of many who embraced Bea Cohen at the rededication event Friday, a place in time where the vision of those who served nearly 80 years ago rounded a corner in history as a new generation of veterans begin to call Bob Hope Patriotic Hall their own.



Jesse Morales and Hugh E. Crooks outside Patriotic Hall.

Area 3 Happenings

By Walt Butler, VC Area 3

As I write this article it is Election Day in some parts of this great nation. How can Legionnaires have an impact on the elections simply put getting involved, not this time but next time, we can do voter registration, we can also run a polling place. Which just what members of Post 872, District 12 Area 3 have done for the past 4 elections, all you need to do is contact your local county elections office, they usually need help especially in presidential elections. It also a way for a post or Squadron to make some money for themselves as it is a compensated job, just another way to help out in the community and earn a few bucks. I sent out to the District Commanders a copy of the bills that Governor Brown signed this last session that applied to Veterans, there were over 100 submitted of which 45 bills made it to his desk, and 41 were signed.

On another note I'm still looking for people

who will attend a 1-day training with Scott McKee on Service Officer. My contact info is iswaltbutler.64@gmail.com (209)538-3432 we need at least 50 members who will spend the time or it is not worth the effort, it will be either Clovis or Fresno, and it won't be super bowl week end!



Members from Post and Squadron 872 that have run the poll for the last four elections. Pictured, L-R: Roy Simmons, Dual Member; John Saenz, Dual Member; Ray Highness, Legionnaire; and Roy Santiago, Dual Member.

California's Department Vice Commanders



Ericie "Paul" Ball
Area 1



Janet Wilson
Area 2



Walt Butler
Area 3



Marilyn E.
Area 4



Lee A. Quarcelino
Area 5



Scott Sinclair
Area 6

Your Department Vice Commanders Representing the six areas have graciously given up their usual column space in the paper so that the various commissions and other news items could be included in this issue. Each of the Vice Commanders articles for this month can be found on the department homepage www.calegion.org. Thanks to everyone for their help and contributions to the paper.

Four Chaplains Dedication at Mt. Soledad Set

By Rees Lloyd

On February 3, 2014, the Four Chaplains will be honored with the dedication of plaques in their honor at the Mt. Soledad National Veterans Memorial in a project initiated by California American Legionnaires. February 3 is the anniversary of the date when the troop ship Dorchester was torpedoed in WWII in 1943, and the Four Chaplains took off their life jackets and put them on troops without them. The Four Chaplains, of different faiths, then went to their deaths in the sea, arm-in-arm, praying together and singing hymns.

Ironically, the Four Chaplains will be honored by veterans at the Mt. Soledad Memorial at the same time the ACLU continues its 24th litigation to destroy the Cross honoring veterans at Mt. Soledad.

The costs of honoring the Four Chaplains are being paid by donations of Legionnaires, and other veterans and

patriots.

Tax-deductible donations may be made to the Department of California VA&R Foundation, earmarked "Four Chaplains," at 205 13th Street, Suite 3300, San Francisco, CA 94103-2461, a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) corporation. Any funds in excess of the costs will go to the work of the VA&R Foundation to provide services to veterans.



Veterans Day Forum

By Marilyn E. Rideaux

Jackie Robinson Post 252 held its fourth annual Veterans Day Forum in collaboration with the Military and Veterans Affairs Committee of the Beverly Hills/Hollywood NAACP and the Los Angeles Chapter of The National Association of Black Military Women. The Colors were posted by the Garfield High School JROTC.



The panel consisted of community advocates who support veterans, as well as Department Chaplain Hugh E. Crooks, Jr.

Also attending were Alternate National Executive Committeeman Robert C. Brown, Department Auxiliary President Anita Biggs and Department Vice Commander-Area 4, Marilyn Rideaux. Scholarships were awarded to two JROTC students from Garfield High, based upon their scholastic achievements. As in past years, all Veterans were invited to participate in a group photo. Without a doubt, this was the best Veterans Day celebration ever at Post 252!

Thank you, Patricia Jackson Kelley, for coordinating this event.



The Last Bugle Call

Reporting Period: November 1, 2013 to November 30, 2013.

O Lord, You have showed us that death is but the gateway to a more glorious life and that we must not fear its coming; and we know, also, that neither life nor death can separate us from Your love. Assure us, yet again, that our departed comrades are not lost to us, but sharing new life with You in the kingdom of our Father, where we shall in your good time be reunited. We know them to be with You forever ... Amen.

During the Reporting Period there have been 167 transfers to Post Everlasting. The names of all our departed comrades may be seen on the department Web site. Just click on the highlighted "Post Everlasting" button on our homepage www.calegion-news.org/html/post-everlasting.html

Department of California Executive Committee (DEC) Meeting

March 14-16, 2014

Lakewood Post 496
5938 Parkcrest Street, Long Beach, CA 90808
(562) 420-1014
Chairman Bill Miller
562-704-9629

HOTEL:

Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center (Long Beach Airport)
2640 Lakewood Boulevard, Long Beach, CA 90815

When telephoning for Reservations tell the hotel you're with
"The American Legion Group"

RESERVATIONS: 562-597-4401

Room Rate: \$102.00/Night Plus Tax

"Ask for Bess Cruz if There Are Any Problems/Concerns!"
Cut Off Is January 31st, 2014 (No Exceptions)

Reservations Can Be Made for Thursday-Sunday Nights

PARKING: On site - Free Parking

Hotel Restaurant On Site

Meetings Start at 9 a.m. at Lakewood Post Each Day

FRIDAY NIGHT, MARCH 14th DINNER/KARAOKE - 5:30 p.m.

Prime Rib Dinner with baked potato, veggies, roll, and salad.
Cost is \$13.00. Karaoke follows dinner.

If you plan on dining, please let Bill Miller know in advance.
Leave message at Post, email him at mildew56@yahoo.com, or call him at 562-704-9629.

SATURDAY, MARCH 15th

Auxiliary Breakfast at the Post 7:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. (Menu and Cost TBD)

Lunch at the Post 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (Cost \$8.00/Menu TBD)

Dinner at the Post 5:30 p.m. (Menu and Cost TBD)

SUNDAY, MARCH 16th

Coffee and Donuts at the Post 7:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. (Donations only)

Lunch at the Post 11:30 AM to 1:00 P.M. (Menu and Cost TBD)

DIRECTIONS TO THE HOTEL:

From the North: I-5 South to either the 110 or 710 South.
Ultimately, you need to get to the I-405 South. On the 405S, exit north onto
Lakewood Blvd. (CA-19). The hotel will be on your right as you exit.

From the South: I-5 North to I-405 North.

Exit onto Lakewood Blvd (CA-19) south via Exit 27.

Make a "U" turn at East Willow Street onto North Lakewood Blvd (CA-19N).
Hotel is on the right.

DIRECTIONS FROM HOTEL TO POST:

Start out going NORTH on Lakewood Blvd (CA-19); turn RIGHT onto E.
Wardlow Road (in front of airport, near golf course); approximately 1 mile down
Wardlow, turn left onto Woodruff Avenue; approximately 1 mile down Woodruff,
turn right onto Parkcrest Street (at church!).

NOTE: If you get to Carson Blvd. - "YOU'VE GONE TOO FAR!"



ELEGANT 18TH DISTRICT COMMANDER



Augustine
"Auggie" Galaviz
Elegant 18th
District Commander

Welcome Home Returning Heroes

Yes, the Elegant 18th District represented The American Legion in its prominence with a bit of elegance. District Officers: 2nd Vice Manny Vital; Executive Board Officer J.R. Duarte; D.O.D. Army Liaison & Member of Post 508 Joe Leal and, of course, District Commander Auggie Galaviz to include Auxiliary Unit 280 President Lupe Galaviz at the Welcome

from a year in Afghanistan at the S. El Monte Army Reserve Center Sunday Morning at 9:00 a.m. Televised by ABC Channel 7 News.

Commander Galaviz gave a welcome home speech to our returning troops. After the ceremony, the 18th District officers handed out membership applications and discussed the benefits of membership in one of America's Largest Veterans Service Organizations to include their family members in the Auxiliary and Sons.

Indeed it was an honor to be asked to speak to our returning troops and their families by the General and Colonel to welcome home our returning Heroes.



Returning Heroes with District 18 Officers



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of California

See us on the Web at www.calegionaux.org

Empowering Women - Inspiring Communities



Anita Biggs
Auxiliary
President

DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT

California Dream Team! First of all, I want to congratulate the Homecoming Chairman Linda Fercho and committee for the outstanding events held to host our National President Nancy Brown Park. In attendance were the National American Legion Commander Dan, National Sons of the Legion Commander Joe, our Department Commander Joe, many national representatives, along with a host of members and guests. From the tours of the Reagan Library, Hollywood and Disneyland to the dinners at Lakewood Post 496, Newport Harbor Post 291 and to the wonderful Hawaiian banquet, there was truly a great time had by all. We thank National President Nancy for representing our state of California with such grace and class. We love Nancy and look forward to her official visit to our state at the Department Convention in Santa Clara. Make sure you save the date, June 19-22, 2014!

We are almost at the Half Time of our H.O.O.P.S. Season. The Midyear Committee is making plans to host our Department Officers, Chairmen, members and distinguished guests at our Department Executive Meeting that will be held at the Long Beach Marriot in Long Beach, California. The Half Time Show begins January 10, 2014 and the meeting will be held January 11-12, 2014. Please make your plans early to attend the meeting and our Saturday night banquet. Our most distinguished guest, Western Division National Vice President Ginger Cox will attend and provide a keynote address.

At this time, we still have openings for all positions in our Department office. We have received applications for the positions and

we are in the process of interviewing. Our goal is to be fully staffed by the end of this year or early 2014. We can still use more volunteers to assist if you have the time; just contact Ruby Kapsalis, Acting Secretary at the Department office at 415-861-5092. What else can you do as Team Players, you ask? I will continue to promote becoming a LIVE Unit. It really is the best thing since sliced bread! If your Unit is LIVE, you can input new members in the database, print the batch receipt; mail it along with the transmittals and payment. It is that easy! Don't forget to write your District number on all checks sent to the Department office. We will have special training on becoming a Live Unit at our Midyear Halftime Show. Trust me; you will love this new tool, which allows you to know, in real time, how your Unit is doing with membership and making changes of member information without sending in a Member Data Form.

You may have seen our National Public Relations campaign commercial that was recently aired. If you did or did not, I know you are proud to be a member of this organization. We are receiving national attention and women are contacting us to join as members. If you receive a PR lead, make sure you welcome and invite these new prospects to your meeting or an event so they can see what we do. Hopefully these leads will turn into new members to help our cause!

I wish for you all a wonderful and safe Holiday Season. Never forget the value of family, friends, those who are less fortunate than most and those who are struggling through natural disasters. Always keep our mission in mind, service to our Veterans, their families and community; especially those who are homeless and in need.

Let's continue to Shoot H.O.O.P.S – Honoring Our Opportunity to Provide Services to Our Veterans

WESTERN DIVISION NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT



Ginger L. Cox
Western Division
National
Vice President

Ginger Cox of Phoenix, Arizona was elected 2013-2014 National Vice President of the Western Division, American Legion Auxiliary, at the 93rd National Convention in Houston, Texas on August 24, 2013.

She joined The American Legion Auxiliary under the eligibility of her husband, Larry Cox, a Vietnam Air Force Veteran, her son, Steve Allen, a Desert Storm Marine Veteran and her father, Harold Brimm, a WWII Army Veteran. Ginger is a 22-year member of The American Legion Auxiliary. She has served our great organization with a long history of accomplishments during her career with The American Legion Auxiliary.

Ginger has held most all offices and chairmanships in her Unit, District and

Department. While chairing programs like Children & Youth, Community Service and Membership, she has motivated members with success and many awards.

Nationally, Ginger has served as NEC for Arizona, Western Division Membership Chairman and Western Division Public Relations Chairman.

Prior to her retirement, Ginger worked for Aetna Insurance Company for many years. She held the position as a training consultant for several years training personnel throughout the western states. She was not happy being retired and decided to become a project accountant for two different commercial construction companies in the Phoenix area, but now has decided to retire from the work force and, as we can see, is devoting even more of her time to the Auxiliary.

Ginger and her husband, Larry have eight children among them, twenty grandchildren and twenty great-grandchildren and have just learned number 21 great-grand is on its way.

PAST PRESIDENT'S PARLEY 2013-14



Pilar S. Reyes
Chairman

Have your units started yet the search for: Unit Member of the Year, a student qualified for Nursing Scholarship, an active-duty service-woman representing any of the branch of service? If not, the time to start is 'NOW' as I have said in my last bulletin. Be sure that your units are doing everything possible to promote each category. Rules are posted in our website.

There is no doubt that in every unit there is at least one very hard working member with no aspirations to seek office above that of a Unit President. She may not be present in every meeting but always working hard behind the scenes with sincere dedication, doing all kinds of volunteer service for the improvement of the lives of our veterans and their families, youth, and active-duty military men and women. This is the kind of member that deserves this kind of recognition as **Unit Member of the Year**. Locate this member in your unit and nominate her for the honor and the deserved recognition.

The **PPP Nursing Scholarship** is another area of emphasis in this program and every unit should be aware by now of the increased scholarship award from \$2,000 last year to \$4,000 this year. Units must endeavor to create fundraising activities to increase donations to this project to replenish funds for next year's project. It is important to attract students for nursing to produce more nurses and alleviate the shortage problem. Check with your schools and colleges for qualified applicants. Rules are posted in the website and applicants should adhere strictly to these rules.

We have many women in the military who are still in active-duty. There are some helpful tips that your units can utilize to locate **Active-duty Service-Women**.

1. Publicize in your local newspaper the search for active-duty service-women who would qualify under the given rules and criteria, to be honored and given recognition at our

Department Convention, and on to National Convention Luncheon.

2. Request contact information of active-duty service personnel from Post Membership Chairman.
3. Send out application forms and rules to military bases close to your area.
4. Check your local newspaper for news of active-duty service-women.

I hope that all districts and units have Parleys to help in the promotion of this very important and worthy program by the Past Presidents. For those who do not have Parleys yet, I encourage you to form one to support the Past Presidents Parley Program. However, even if you don't have a Parley, your unit can still participate in the program by recruiting applicants in each category and submit the application to me before Department Convention for judging.

IMPORTANT NOTES:

1. **Mid-year reports** – Please send me your Mid-year report on any activities that you have started in the promotion of the PPP program in search of applicants for the projects. You don't need a form for this, it can be in short narrative; I will need it for my Mid-Year report at the January DEC. Please send it no later than the middle of December.
2. Although it's still very early part of the administrative year, I would like every one to be aware that the Past Presidents Parley Luncheon at our Department Convention in June 2014 honoring our chosen applicants for recognition and awards, **will be open to every member of the Auxiliary whether she has been a president or not**. You may see this notice again in future bulletins.
3. Remember our veterans on November 11, 2013. Plan any activities honoring them.

For any questions, you may contact me either by phone or email. Please let me know if you need application forms and Rules.

Pilar S. Reyes, Chairman
Phone: 510-522-1801
Email: pilrey@yahoo.com

HONORARY JUNIOR PRESIDENT Deja Nae Trimble

Hello, Juniors! This year our theme is H.O.O.P.S. and our dream name this year is DRIBBLERS, and I will be promoting this year's challenge. The challenge is to recruit a new junior and bring them to Junior Conference and those who do will get a prize. In addition, to promote the Junior Conference I would like for you to sell as many Junior Conference tickets as you can; this will definitely help to support the Junior Conference Program. And remember: Junior Conference will be held on April 25-27. SAVE THE DATE!!!!

At National Convention in Houston,

Texas I was elected as Honorary National Junior Western Division Vice President. I am from District 23 Unit 578 and Jolina Freeman from District 22 Unit 282 was elected as Honorary National Junior Chaplain.

So please, let's stand up and support our team and other programs and projects we take part in – one project is The Blue Pinky Promise, a project dedicated to stomp out bullying; more information will be provided.

One last thing, I encourage all Juniors to take the Junior Correspondence Course. This is available online.



SHOOTING HOOPS FOR OUR VETERANS

Honoring Our Opportunity to Provide Services



Call-In for Department Executive Committee (DEC)

Call-In for Department Executive Committee (DEC)

The Department Executive Committee will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2014 through Sunday, January 12, 2014 at the Long Beach Marriott Hotel, Long Beach, CA. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. each morning. The Western Division National Vice President Ginger Cox will be our most distinguished guest and keynote speaker.

Those who are called to this meeting are the following: Department President, Department Vice President, Department Secretary/Treasurer, Department Junior Past President, Department Past National President, District Presidents and Department Chairmen of all standing committees, Members of the Department Finance Committee, Department Parliamentarian and the Girl State Director, (Article VII).

The members who are called at the request of the Department President are: Department Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal, Department Historian, Department Musician, Department Chaplain, Department Advisory Committee, Department Distinguished Guest Chairman, Pages, Department Resolution Chairman, Junior Conference Director, Members of the Personnel Committee, Members of the Tax Team and Members of the Membership Support Team. These members are eligible to a voice but no vote at this meeting.

Members called to this meeting will be allowed travel expenses as authorized in the Department Bylaws, Article V. The enclosed expense sheet must be completed and mailed to reach the department Office no later than December 13, 2013, to ensure that your expense check will be ready at the close of business on Sunday, January 12, 2014. The Department will calculate the mileage.

Everyone is asked to please check-in at the registration desk that will be available in the foyer at the meeting rooms of the Long Beach Marriott on Thursday, 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.; Friday from 8:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m., 1:00 p.m.-3 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m.; and Saturday, 7:00 a.m.-8:00 a.m.

All other members are invited and strongly encouraged to attend. This is a great time to hear from all of the Department Head Coaches; all of the great accomplishments of our team players and all the new game strategies that are yet to come for the remainder of the year.

The Past Department Presidents, Our Dream Girls are most welcome to attend and offer their expertise and knowledge to the members.

Department Officers and Chairmen: It is requested that you prepare 15 typewritten copies of your oral report that you will give at the Executive Meeting. Keep your report brief but informative. You will be given three (3) minutes only. Please check in with the Department Secretary/Treasurer and with me upon your arrival. There will be a sign indicating where our rooms are located.

We are having an informational ALL

STAR BREAK featuring a SHOWCASE by our Head Officers and Head Coaches. You may make your presentation as fun as you want; it can be a SKIT, GAME, POEM or any other entertaining presentation. The time limit is about 5 minutes, depending on your presentation. Please contact Diane Delashmit at 714-772-4242 or delashmitdiane@att.net to give her what type of performance you will do. Diane will schedule the line-up of "ACTS" for our SHOWCASE. The Head Coaches and Head Officers may provide materials for handouts. The addresses of resource materials for each respective program are given in the Plan of Action on the National website: www.alaforveterans.org. Check with the Department Office first to see if they have any of the brochures that you may need. Please bring your codes, National Plan of Action and information pertaining to Department and National awards that are available. If you have any questions, please give me a call at 323-547-3729.

District Presidents: You are expected to attend this very important meeting. If you cannot attend, your District First Vice President may serve in your absence. You must also notify the Department office / acting Secretary/Treasurer that you will not be attending and give the name of the person that will be assuming your responsibilities. Please prepare a very short report on your District's accomplishments, goals and status of your units. All District Presidents or her representative must check in with the Department President.

I will be available Thursday from 5:00-8:00 p.m. and Friday from 8:30-11:00 a.m. and 4:00-5:00 p.m. Please be prepared to report on any Units that you have on probation or those that are having issues. If you are placing a Unit on probation, please be prepared to offer an explanation. Hopefully there will be no requests to surrender any charters. All District Presidents are requested to turn in monies from the sale of the president's pins. Please continue to sell the remaining pins until convention. All District Presidents are invited to attend a continental breakfast on Sunday, January 12, 2014 at 7:30 a.m. in my suite.

Hospital Representatives: You will be expected to attend the meeting with the Department Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman, Susie Tozier, on Friday, January 10, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. Susie will send details to you regarding this meeting. Although you are only called for this one-day meeting, you are invited to stay for the entire session at your expense. Deputies (who are not representing their absent Hospital Representative) are also welcome to attend all of the meetings at their own expense. You will all be the guests of the Department for a luncheon on Friday. Please be sure that you make your reservations for lunch in advance with the VA & R Chairman, Susie Tozier, by December 13, 2013. A limited number of rooms have been blocked for Thursday arrivals. Please make your hotel

reservations directly to the Long Beach Marriott at 1-800-228-9290 or go to the link on our website at: www.calegionaux.org no later than December 19, 2013.

Candidates for Department Office will be presented at this meeting. Each candidate should have someone simply announce her candidacy. There will be no speeches.

The Finance Committee will be available to meet with you on Friday, January 10, 2013. Please contact Chairman Kathie Martinez in advance so that she can schedule an appointment for you.

To the Entire Membership: We are having an ALL STAR BREAK featuring a SHOWCASE by our Head Officers and Head Coaches. Everyone is invited to attend this informative and fun afternoon. This will be a fun filled experience with a variety of performances about our different programs. You don't want to miss this show Friday, January 10, 2014 from 2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m. This will be a great opportunity for members to meet with the Head Coaches (Department Chairmen) and Head Officers (Department Officers) who

will have information on their programs and will be available to answer questions you may have after the SHOWCASE.

Membership Payoff Party: Our Head Coach Membership Chairman Gloria Williams will be hosting this party Friday from 8:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m. in a designated meeting room at the Long Beach Marriott.

The Membership Support Team will be in attendance and ready to pass the ball in true spirit of this occasion. Gloria and her Team Scouts will bring the SLAM DUNK to you; with fun, CASH PRIZE drawings for all Units that are GOAL by December 31, 2013, refreshments and did I say...FUN!

Banquet: A Banquet will be held on Saturday, January 11, 2014. The flyer has been included with menu options. Please complete and return as instructed. Please adhere to all deadlines! I am looking forward to seeing all of you and re-connecting at our Mid Year Meeting.

Anita Biggs, Department President
323-547-3729
acjbiggs@aol.com

American Legion Auxiliary Department of California Executive Committee Meeting

Half-Time Game Banquet – January 11, 2014

Deadline is 12/19/13

Your Choice (\$35):

Choose #1 or #2

(Please circle one)

#1 Seared Chicken Breast with Garlic Mashed Potatoes and Sundried Grape Cabernet Sauce, Market Vegetables, House Salad and Bread.

#2 Filet of Sole with Garlic Mashed Potatoes and Creamy Roasted Red Pepper Sauce, Market Vegetables, House Salad and Bread

Both meals come with Chocolate Mousse in a Champagne Glass topped with a dollop of whipped cream for Dessert and Water, Iced Tea and Coffee.

Please cut out this part of the paper and return in mail with check attached for \$35 per meal.

Name: _____

Unit #: _____

Number of Meals for #1 _____

Number of Meals for #2 _____

Mail completed form to: Tammy Sollazzo, 3521 Carfax Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90808

Interested in a job...

American Legion Auxiliary SFHQ is Hiring

Full job descriptions are available on the department website:

<http://www.calegionaux.org/>

Resumes are being accepted ...

Mail to: 205 13th St., Ste 3300, San Francisco, CA 94102-2461

Email applications to: calegionaux@calegionaux.org

Phone: 415-861-5092

Secretary/Treasurer

American Legion Auxiliary

Dept of CA San Francisco, CA

Salary: 30K - 49K

Experience: Manager

Education: High School

Job Type: Full Time

Primary Industry: Management (Executive)
Status: Pending

Membership Clerk

American Legion Auxiliary, Dept of CA

San Francisco, CA

Salary: Below 30K

Experience: Entry Level

Education: High School

Job Type: Part Time

Bookkeeper/Accountant

American Legion Auxiliary,

Dept of CA San Francisco, CA

Salary: Below 30K

Experience: Senior Level

Education: High School

Job Type: Part Time



SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION DETACHMENT OF CALIFORNIA

Your Son, Adopted Son, Grandson, Great Grandson, Stepson and/or Great Stepson's Membership in The Sons of The American Legion Will Help Raise Thousands of Dollars for Our California Veterans That Need Your Help



DETACHMENT COMMANDER



Christopher W. Affolter
Detachment Commander

Greetings Legion Family,

I hope that your Veterans Day and Thanksgiving were merry. I hope that all of those affected by this seasons' colds and flu get threw it as well as my first bout.

Well, October going into November was very busy for me. On October 17th-19th Nancy Brown-Parks, our National Auxiliary President from California had a big party. I was only able to attend the 18th and the 19th. At the Anaheim Hilton, I sat with Commander Joe and Esther Garcia. We had a great time. The Hawaiian theme was great. There was a Hawaiian Dancing Troop that came for our entertainment. Commander Joe and I participated in the Coconut Game. The Video will be posted on YouTube under "The Commanders and Coconuts". Make sure you make a comment.

Where the heck is Big River, California? Or at least that is the question I asked to Jim Fischer, the Sons 25th District Commander. He said about four hours away and a lot of fun! Well, it is across from Parker, Arizona on the Colorado River. The Post is very delightful and filled with a bunch of very hospitable folks. The 25th District held an informal

meeting and training on 26th October. Their BBQ Ribs were pretty darn good... next to mine. Thank you, Big River Post.

On the weekend of November 2, I was privileged to participate in the Celebration of the Sons of The American Legion Hall of Fame. There were eight inductees: John P. "Jake" Comer PNC, Bert Bertran, Past Det. Chaplain, Mike Antonovich, L.A. County Supervisor, the first five Sons National Commanders in order: Mike Seaton, PNC (CA), Robert McBride PNC (OH), JR Stillwell PNC (IL), John Smolinsky, PNC (MA), Robert Faust, PNC (CA). The pageantry was very impressive with the queen and her court from the Rose Parade. There were bagpipers that escorted the court and the inductees to the platform. The room was filled with many people, Legion Family Members and friends to commemorate the Hall of Fame.

Membership! Membership! Membership! Remember we are trying to make that 14,000 this year. I need your help! Legionnaires: work with your Commanders and Adjutants to get their membership in as soon as possible. Please work with your recruiters to get the membership in.

The VA&R Foundation is my Special Project. I hope we can work together to increase the funds for our American Legion VA Reps in the different facilities. Anything you can do will be great. Please, send the checks to Department HQ in the name of the Commander's Special Project.

Sons of The American Legion Commission

Sons of The American Legion Commission
David Ritter, Chairman

Hello from the new kid on the street. I was a bit shocked to hear at the Fall DEC that I was your new Chairman of the SAL commission with Dan Crow as the VC. Rest assured the old guard is looking over my shoulder, keeping me on the straight and narrow.

I joined the USNR 9 July 1961 as RM3 and changed to the Naval Security Group as a CT3 in 63. After A School in Pensacola, my first duty station was the USS Liberty AGTR-5 in 65, then NSGA Kamaseya JA in 66. I then took a sea

cruise on the USS Pueblo AGER-2 in 1968 with various duty stations after that until retirement in February 1992. I'm a Network Administrator for Tulare County. I plan on retiring sometime before I expire!

I was the guest speaker at the Navy Ball (AM-EXPOW) in Legion blues and cap at NAS Lemoore. I shared a back seat of a 2012 Mustang ragtop with the 14th District Commander for the 1st Annual Veterans Day Parade, hosted by NAS Lemoore and the City of Lemoore. A great time it was!

The SAL Membership teams are working hard, like everyone else, to make their membership targets and goals. I'm sure they will get there.

I want to raise money for VA&R

Turlock, California Raymond Stuart, Sons of The American Legion member of Turlock Squadron 88 in the 12th District raised \$142.00. He started in September of 2013 collecting cans and donations from his Post family and friends.

Being the ripe old age of six, he presented the check to the Sons Detachment Commander Chris Affolter while visiting the area. Raymond wanted to help kids and he did so by having the check made out to The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation.

Last year alone the Sons of The American Legion, through donations like this, earned almost \$500,000. Raymond will be in the next edition of the Turlock Journal. This inspiring young man said, "Next, I want to raise money for Chris'



Raymond Stuart

(Det. commander) project VA&R."

In the Sons, we are expecting great things from Raymond.



AREA 3 VICE COMMANDER

Philip Stuart, Squadron 88
209-404-5496
tinysautomotive@yahoo.com

Comrades,

I bring greetings from Chris Affolter, Detachment Commander. We take this opportunity to thank you for your service for our country and for the sacrifices you and your families have made.

The American Legion is one of the greatest organizations that serve our Veterans. I like to think that the Sons of The American Legion is another one of the greatest organizations that serve our Veterans, for that matter I would like to think that American Legion family (Legionnaires, Auxiliary, Sons and the Riders) are the #1 organizations because we have a common goal and that is helping our veterans, our local communities and the welfare of our children.

We at Detachment of California Sons of The American Legion have a high goal to accomplish; we want to grow to 14,000 members this year, and we are asking the

Legionnaires to help us accomplish our goals. It is through our service people that our eligibility comes from and if we are to grow, we have to ask the ones that can help us the most, which are our fathers, grandfathers, stepfathers and even some of our mothers and grandmothers that have served our country.

The United States has come a long way over the last 94 years of The American Legion and times have changed in that we now have women overseas fighting for our country and freedom.

We are asking not for only our fathers, but our mothers that have served to help us make those 14,000 members in the Sons of The American Legion, so we can continue our efforts in honoring them as I am with my own father.

In closing, we also want to point out your daughters, so that the Auxiliary may meet their new membership goal.

Proud processor of a priceless heritage we male descendants of veterans of the Great Wars associate ourselves together as the Sons of The American Legion.

Leadership Commission

Ken Newman, Chairman

Most people, especially volunteers, appreciate being recognized for the work they do, or the goals they have achieved. Recognition for a 'job well done' often motivates us. One key trait of an effective leader is the promotion of that recognition, whether in private or in public. Sometimes a simple 'Thank You' is enough; other times a certificate or a plaque is appropriate. The Leadership Commission offers two programs each year for honoring the significant accomplishments and contributions of Legionnaires: The Lifetime Achievement and Legionnaire of the Year Awards.

Here are a few sample statements from nomination letters received by the Commission in the past: "Ten

years military service." "Awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart." "Has been a Legion member for over 30 years." "A mentor of many at Post, District and Department levels." "Has kept the Post running, sometimes almost single-handedly." "Raised \$5,000 for VA&R." "Has served as Post Commander and has proceeded through the chairs at the District level." "Instrumental in the construction of our City's Veterans Memorial." "Is President of the Rotary Club."

There are members of your Post with similar attributes. Give credit where credit is due and participate in these award programs. Nomination guidelines can be found on the Department website.

JUDGE ADV. continued from page 4 — the blame on Lois Lerner in association with the 501(c)(4) applications.

The audit procedures were made in 2011 and were minor. They did not target any veterans' organization or make any threat of fines. But the rumors had spread and our National organization passed three Resolutions at the National Convention in Houston in August to express our concern. They are: Resolution-62 is to remove the minimum % of veterans in the coverage test or make the coverage test based on National, and not the individual Posts. Resolution-63 is to have Congress rectify Chapter 4.76.26.1 of the IRS EO Exam Guidelines defining "wartime service periods". (Note: Granada is not included in the IRS guideline of service time as is in The American Legion). Resolution-64 is to make it clear that the S.A.L. is to be part of the exemption under The American Legion and remove the % Test.

I would have added another

Resolution to allow the Membership Register, received from National, to be the source of our member's eligibility and for the coverage test. The DD-214 does not prove that you are a member of The American Legion. The Register has 16 columns with all the information necessary, but does not reveal any Social Security numbers.

Our National Judge Advocate called me after receiving my letter concerning these rumors. I told him that I was proposing to go directly to the IRS to solve this problem, but I felt that it should come from National. He informed me that National is going the legislative route through Congress because of the National Resolutions, especially Resolution 64 concerning the S.A.L. I concurred with him.

I have drawn up a GUIDELINES FOR AN IRS FIELD AUDIT 2013 for our Posts to follow in case of an IRS audit. It is included in this issue.

Lt. Col. Patricia Jackson-Kelley Named to Veteran's Advisory Commission



Lt. Col. Patricia Jackson-Kelley

As a Veteran of the U.S. Air Force and Air Force, Army and Navy Reserves, Lt. Col. Patricia Jackson-Kelley knows how tough life in the military can be for women. Women make up about 17 percent of the veteran population in the U.S. and are growing in the ranks of the homeless. After they serve, they face many of the challenges faced by male counterparts, including low wages, banks that are unwilling to lend them money for a home, lack of affordable housing and childcare and inadequate mental health services. However, women in

the military are disproportionately affected by trauma caused by sexual assault.

A recent study estimates that a slightly more than half of homeless women veterans were victims of sexual assault. And so Jackson-Kelley, who was recently appointed to the Los Angeles County Veteran's Advisory Commission by Supervisor Mark Ridley-Thomas, has dedicated her career to serving female veterans by helping them get access to services, assistance and moral support. Jackson-Kelley, who served 26 years of combined active duty and reserve service, was the program manager for a substance abuse ward and was also the Women Veteran Program Manager with the Department of Veterans Affairs – West Los Angeles.

Now retired from the military, she intends to use her position on the Advisory Commission to publicize the resources and assistance that are available to women who have served. She is on the board of the nonprofit, Military Women in Need, one of Southern California's oldest organizations solely dedicated to serve female veterans and their survivors with assistance ranging from preventing homelessness by helping to pay for rent or buying a refrigerator for a family led by a single-mother who is a veteran.

Dynamic Women of Service Panel

American Legion, District 13, Post 881 Commander, Carolann Wunderlin was selected as a panelist on the "Dynamic Women of Service", 2013 CalVet Women Veterans Leadership Conference in September. On this panel, each branch of service and component were represented, but only one strutted the stage with her Veteran Service cap.

Legionnaire Carolann Wunderlin, District 13, Post 881 Commander of the Adm Wm A Moffett Post 881 Moffett Field, spoke of her experiences and challenges in the Air Force and in service to community today. Wunderlin is a full-time employee with the California Air National Guard at Moffett Field, managing the Airman & Family Readiness Program. In addition to her participation on the panel, she also hosted an American Legion booth, alongside Patricia Jackson-Kelley,

a prominent woman Legionnaire of Post 252-Los Angeles.

Both Wunderlin and Jackson will be hosting a Women Veterans Booth at the 2014 Department Convention in Santa Clara.



Pictured in center of photo is Carolann Wunderlin on the Dynamic Women of Service Panel. She is the only capped veteran on the panel.

American Legion Riders Department of California



Albert 'Poncho' Villa, State President
poncho@volcano.net
State Web Site: <http://www.alrdoc.com>

Who Are The American Legion Riders? We, as the American Legion Riders, abide by the American Legion Constitution and Bylaws as well as the respective American Legion Departments and Posts and their established directives.

As American Legion Riders, at all times we strive to maintain the image of The American Legion and uphold The American Legion name and emblem which symbolizes the integrity and

principles of this great organization.

Each American Legion Rider Chapter is a program sanctioned by an American Legion Post and under the jurisdiction of the Department of The American Legion; we uphold the declared principles of The American Legion.

We are commissioned by the Department of California for members of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the American Legion throughout the State who enjoy motorcycle riding...an ideal way for the Riders to support The American Legion programs.

In California alone, we have over 2,000 American Legion Riders. Imagine the positive visibility and the expansive advertising these American Legion Riders convey as they ride proudly wearing their American Legion Rider vests to and from Legacy runs, memorial services, honor escorts and/or charity events. Our American Legion Riders are creating a win/win situation for The American Legion Family, as well as attracting new members along the way.

YEC 2014 Conference - May 16-19, 2014

Hopefully every Post in the Department has received information from their District Ag Chairman about this unique program sponsored by The American Legion Dept. of California and conducted by the U.S. Forest Service – Eldorado National Forest.

If your Post hasn't received the information, you can either find the forms on the Department website or contact the Coordinator to receive the forms for making reservations, and for the student, school and family to complete.

Although it's been an ongoing annual program for nearly 40 years, it seems to be a well kept secret among the Legion members. When considering sponsoring a student, don't only look at your Post's ability to fund the program, talk to your Auxiliary, Squadron, 40/8 and Riders and, if you aren't fortunate enough to have these supporting Legion family groups, ask a local civic club if they would consider helping out. Many local clubs are looking for youth-oriented programs to support. Basic fee is \$350 and transportation ranges from \$50 to \$65, depending on where your student travels from.

Another possible source of support

would be another Legion Post to partner with and then alternate which Post selects the school to sponsor.

This is a co-ed program for high school sophomores or juniors who are interested in environmental sciences – any discipline – any school. The students who do go into this field in college are eligible for a small scholarship from the program when they enter their second year.

Although it does take the students out of school for two instructional days, we have never had a school charge the student for absences against perfect attendance records. So, if you haven't already presented the program to the counseling center or science department, now is the time to start. If necessary, the students can take assignments with them and they will be given time to complete them in a quiet location.

If you would like to get in contact with Posts who sponsor students to learn what their impressions of the program are, please contact me and I can put you in touch with them.

Barbara Ross, Coordinator
916-798-3317
ross4834@comcast.net

— SERV. OFC., continued from page 3

Tax Dollars returned to the Veterans of the State of California and improving their lives as well as their dependants, members of The American Legion and non-members for this period: Oakland: \$94.3 million; Los Angeles: \$48.1 million; San Diego: \$79.6 million; Total: \$222.0 million; Forecast: \$333.1 million.

This is an average intake in Federal Dollars returned to the State of California Veterans of \$73.8 million per month. This is a great deal of money and we're only into three months of The American Legion fiscal year.

This is a reflection of your VA&R staff's work in meeting the needs of our California Veterans and their dependants. Many of you know, but some may not, that not one dollar of Federal, State, County, City or local taxes pay for the services we provide to our veterans and their dependants. It is your support through your membership and donations, which make this mission of The American Legion able to do the work we are Congressionally Chartered to do. We are presenting these numbers not to brag about our accomplishments, but to make known to you our members, what your support and investment provides sanctifying through our devotion to mutual helpfulness. We

could not (and cannot) do what we do without you and the Family of the American Legion we are a part of.

During this up and coming holiday season remember your VA&R Division and consider donating through The American Legion VA&R Foundation; a donation which would be 501(c)(3) tax-deductible. You donation may mean the difference in a veteran's life of sleeping in their own dwelling or living on the streets.

On behalf of the VA&R Division may we wish you Happy Holidays and a most Healthy, Happy, Prosperous New Year!

Recently our Hospital Representative Bill Trayer tendered his resignation at the San Diego VA Medical Center. We wish him "fair winds and following seas" in his new ventures. We want to thank him for his services in assisting our veterans at the VA Medical Center in San Diego. This means at this time we are looking for someone to take on the rewarding call of assisting out veterans in filing a claim. It is a part-time position of 3 days per week from 8:00 am to 2:30 pm. For more information please contact my office, and submit your resume' to The American Legion, Attn: Scott McKee, DSO, Federal Building, Suite 5201, 11000 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90024, Phone: (310) 473-6534, Fax: (310) 479-4641, email scott.mckee1@va.gov

TV Coverage Vets Dental Event

By Don Harper, Post 861 Commander

We had a successful free dental services event for our vets this past month. A total of 85 vets showed up. The Sacramento Dentistry Group did a wonderful job giving free dental services to our veterans. I cannot thank them enough!! This was their way to say thank you to all veterans for their service celebrating Veterans Day!

God Bless all the veterans who came from Sacramento and other areas to receive free dental services. They were so thankful and appreciative to get the needed dental services.

Two print media reporters covered the event along with TV Ch 31 live this morning. CH 13 TV will air the event tonight at 5:00 and 10:00 p.m. during

their news program. I want to thank the Legionnaires in my Post that also assisted us in managing this event. Job well done, folks. I will give you more details in our after action report for all to read.

Post 861 Legionnaire, Bud Lee and I had the pleasure of pre-planning and coordinating this event and we both want to thank all involved that helped make this event happen.

It is our hope and desire that other dentist offices in other counties view this event and will replicate this program throughout California. It is sorely needed for our deserving veterans in California and elsewhere.

Happy Holidays to All.

Los Angeles County Council

By Patricia Jackson-Kelley, Commander

After several years of temporarily displacement, Los Angeles County Council (LACC) held its first general session at Bob Hope Patriotic Hall in Los Angeles on Friday, November 2, 2013. Although the official rededication of Patriotic Hall was held the following week, November 2 was the official "homecoming" for LACC.

It was a long time coming and we are grateful to be back. There was strong attendance at the meeting and a feeling of euphoria in the air. Many were fascinated by the upgrades to the General Jimmy Doolittle Room and the full service kitchen area. La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux, 40&8, highlighted their programs and provided scholarships to nursing students. Working "side-by-side," as we do best, Honor Society of Women Legionnaires, 20&4, served a scrumptious dinner consisting of Cornish hen, ham, string beans, yams, (George Kelley's extraordinaire) red beans and rice, and cornbread/rolls topped off with coffee and various desserts.

You may recall that veteran service organizations (VSOs) that called Patriotic Hall their headquarters or home were directed by Los Angeles County to vacate the 10-story landmark back in 2006 to allow for a \$45 million renovation. As completion of renovations neared, the County explored the option of consolidating VSOs in cubicles located in the basement and utilizing a large portion of the building for other functions.

This sparked an outcry by veterans and VSOs. Thanks to SB 725 introduced by Sen. Joel Anderson, R-LaMesa, and signed by Gov. Jerry Brown, this guarantees veteran groups the right to retain use of their memorial halls. The official open house of Bob Hope Patriotic Hall was held on November 8. With more than 500 attendees at the rededication, among the many dignitaries were Past National Commander, Robert W. Spanogle, Ronald Jeffrey Stoffer, Editor, The American Legion Magazine, Alternate NEC Robert C. Brown, Department Chaplain, Hugh E. Crooks, L.A. City Mayor, Eric Garcetti, L.A. County Supervisor Gloria Molina, First District, L.A. County Supervisor Don Knabe, Fourth District, and Bea Cohen, a 103 year old World War II veteran.

Please bear with us as we adjust to the return to Patriotic Hall. Participation of Officers and Committee Chairs has been less than desirable so far this year. If you are an officer or committee chair for LACC, you are responsible for attending all meetings or you should call or send Email: geekell@aol.com if you are unable to attend. To ensure awareness of those involved, names and assignments of all Los Angeles County Council officers and chairmanships will be published in the next issue of the California Legionnaire. In conclusion, Los Angeles County Council is striving to take care of our Veterans. **We Need Your Support.**

Disaster & Emergency Services Commission

By Michael L. (Mike) Brimer, Chairman

When will disaster strike? We know it will be soon. The clock is ticking. Are we ready? No.

It is not widely known, but The American Legion adopted Resolutions 97, 98, and 134 encouraging all Departments, Areas, Districts, Posts and individual Legionnaires to get involved in preparing ourselves and our communities for future disasters. Posts are encouraged to help create and distribute individual emergency kits for both children and adults, and to help develop community/organizational/church disaster response plans. Individual members are encouraged to both prepare themselves, and assist their Posts in helping other families, schools, workplaces and their communities in getting prepared.

The Legion also entered into a cooperative agreement with the American Red Cross (Disaster Relief Understanding ARC 1581) to cooperate to the fullest extent possible in providing its Posts to the Red Cross for emergency sheltering, feeding and disaster service centers.

This means every Post must be ready to respond if asked. Your Calegion's Disaster & Emergency Services Commission is moving quickly to help every level of the California Legion get prepared to respond when the next disaster strikes. We have provided each Area Commander and each District Commander with draft Disaster Preparedness Plans. We hope to get them adopted by the end of March. A major upgrade in the Calegion Disaster Plan is in the works. After that, we start focusing on getting all 488 posts in California equipped with a Disaster

Plan and being prepared.

In the meantime, you will soon see significant improvements in the Commission's web page, providing preparation resources, links to free computer-based disaster response training, preparation checklists, a downloadable sample church disaster preparedness plan, a downloadable sample Post disaster preparedness plan, and a number of other informational items for you, and your community.

The clock is ticking, and we are moving to help get you ready. We all know that in California, natural disasters such as flood, fire, earthquake, storms, sun flares, wind and snow affect thousands of us every year. We all need to know what our own risks are, and how to prepare to protect ourselves and our community. Recognizing the types of hazards that are possible in your area will help you take effective steps to prepare beforehand, and aid in your recovery afterward.

Here's what you can do to prepare yourself, your family and your Post:

- Make a family emergency plan.
- Assemble a "Go Bag" – an emergency evacuation kit.
- Gather emergency food, water and other supplies in your home to allow you to "shelter in place" for up to 7 days.
- Be informed on what to do before, during and after a disaster.

Your Disaster & Emergency Services Commission is encouraging you to take action **now**...don't wait until disaster strikes to go find food and water, candles or an emergency stove.

Patriot Outreach Teams with CA Legion VA&R Foundation

By Rees Lloyd

"Working together-side by side!" is the motto of American Legion Department of California Commander Joseph A. Garcia for Legion Year 2013-2014.

"We are a team!" responds Col. Antonio Monaco, founder and CEO of Patriot Outreach, a non-profit, tax-exempt 501(c)(3) organization which recently achieved certification as an approved charity by the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). This allows federal employees to make charitable donations by payroll deduction to Patriot Outreach.

With that spirit of "working side-by-side as a team," Col. Monaco and Patriot Outreach have offered to join forces with the Department of California to meet the "\$300,000 Challenge" announced by the Department Service Officer Scott McKee to ensure funding for VA&R work through the Department of California VA&R Foundation, also a 501(c)(3) tax exempt non-profit corporation.

"We are gratified that we have been approved as a 'national and international charity' after an audit by the CFC found that Patriot Outreach provides 96.6% of donations to programs for veterans with only 3.4% for administration," Col. Monaco said.

"We are asking all our military and civilian friends and supporters who are federal employees to designate Patriot Outreach, CFC #33784, for their charitable donations; and asking all those who are not federal employees to urge their family members, friends or acquaintances who are federal employees to designate Patriot Outreach," Col. Monaco explained.

"Because of the Department of California's Patriot Outreach Pilot Project, I know of the excellent work of The American Legion Department of California to assist veterans to deal with claims and services through the VA, which is one aspect of our Patriot Outreach efforts. I have also had the opportunity to work with and consult with members of the Department's VA&R Foundation, which helps to fund that work," Col. Monaco said.

"We are a team!" Col. Monaco declared. "So, all CFC donations to Patriot Outreach from California will go to the Department of California VA&R Foundation to help support its critical mission to serve our veterans."

That means that donors from California who check Patriot Outreach, CFC #33784, and check the box allowing their identity to be revealed to the designated charity (which will show they are from California), will effectively be donating to our Department of California VA&R Foundation.

Scott F. McKee, Department of California Service Officer and ex officio Foundation board member, was quick to support Col. Monaco's offer: "I feel this is a 'win-win' working relationship with Patriot Outreach to go forth with the plan from Col. Monaco. This will not only assist us in funding but may lead to better service for our American Legion Members as well as the other veterans, military service members, and their dependents," he said.

"My vote is to go forward with this program," DSO Scott McKee concluded. "This has my full support."

Terry Tracy, Interim Chairman of VA&R Foundation said: "As the predecessor of Scott McKee as Department Service Officer for almost twenty years, and as one involved in the

genesis of the VA&R Foundation and now Interim Chairman, I know the great need of veterans for the kind of quality service we are providing to our veterans in dealing with the VA. Col. Monaco's offer can greatly assist us in meeting that need. I fully support the idea of urging our members who are federal employees, and all federal employees, to designate Patriot Outreach, #33784, in the CFC charitable giving campaign."

Department Commander Joseph A. Garcia, also an ex officio Foundation Director, said: "We Must Work Together – Side-by-Side!" I am grateful for Col. Monaco's offer to assist our Department in fulfilling the mission to serve our veterans. I encourage everyone who can to designate Patriot Outreach for their Combined Federal Campaign charitable donations."

Jack O'Leary, a Marine who served in the Korean War, and has continued to serve the nation as a 59-year member of The American Legion, is an at-large member of the VA&R Foundation board who brings a wealth of experience, and integrity, to that task. He said: "I am in full support of this generous, comradely offer of Col. Monaco. Patriot Outreach is a good organization which deserves to be supported."

Leroy Boca, Chairman of the Finance Commission and ex officio Foundation Director, said: "Since the 2013 Convention, when the crucial need was known and after many cuts had to be made, due primarily to so many members transferring to Post Everlasting, the Department of California came together united as "We Are Family" – "Working Together" – "Side By Side". Thanks to all we realized the need for both inside change and outside help.

"Patriot Outreach offers outside help for VA&R that makes us stronger, creating a "win-win" situation. As there will be a greater need for VA&R as time goes on, we must go forward and plan ahead. We should give our full support to Patriot Outreach."

The Department has benefitted greatly from the Department of California Patriot Outreach Pilot Project, which was established as a result of a District 21 Resolution adopted at the Department Convention 2012. (See, www.PatriotOutreach.org and archived issues of California Legionnaire at www.CaLegion.org for the varied projects helping vets in which we have been involved in conjunction with Patriot Outreach.)

On the horizon is the hoped for groundbreaking before next year's Convention of the first of nine Assisted Living Facilities For Veterans planned to be built in California by Patriot Outreach to provide "places where veterans can go to live, not to die," as Col. Monaco says. The first will be near the VA Hospital in Loma Linda, California. It will be "named in honor of The American Legion," Col. Monaco has pledged.

Now, Col. Monaco has made an offer to aid our VA&R Foundation. All we need to do is go to work urging federal employees to make their CFC charitable donations to Patriot Outreach, CFC #33784, and check the box allowing their identity to be revealed to Patriot Outreach so "California" donors can be identified. That way, working together with Patriot Outreach, their donations can come to our VA&R Foundation.

\$10,000 Donation to Veterans

Robert Gasparri went to his employer Golden Boy Boxing and asked for a donation for his Post, South Bay Post 184. He requested the donation for the veterans. Expecting a donation of \$1 or \$2 thousand, he was shocked and pleasantly surprised when they gave him a check for \$10,000. It seems that over half of the committee were Veterans.



The picture shows Robert presenting the \$10,000 check to Post Commander Ken Scruggs.

Los Angeles Veterans Survey

www.LAvetsurvey.org

A first-ever assessment of the opportunities and challenges facing the LA military community.

Have you served or are you currently serving in the military? Want to win a gift card, tickets to a sporting event or other prizes? Want your voice heard? Take the LA Veterans Survey.

Are you a military spouse or partner? Want to win a gift card, tickets to a sporting event or other prizes? Want your voice heard? Take the LA Veterans Survey.

Go to www.LAvetsurvey.org and take the survey!

Ways and Means Calendar Program

Hello, California Legionnaires!

We are trying something new this year. Now is a perfect opportunity to add pictures of our own liking to the Annual California Legion Calendar. We will be using the top five membership award District Commander's pictures. The calendar will feature the past year's winners, as we publish the calendar one year ahead.

We also need more photos to fill out the balance of the calendar. If you have a great photo that you would like to see in the calendar, please send me via email the jpeg picture file. I am not sure what we can use, but we'll try to see if we can use older pictures of events in our California Legion history, as well.

Please be sure to tell what the picture is. Give the photo a name, give names of people pictured in photo, date of when it was taken, name of the Post pictured, etc.

If you have any questions, you can call or email me. Thanks,

Janet Wilson
Area 2 Vice Commander
925-754-9070
post161@aol.com

The Youth are our Future!

Boys' and Girls' State Delegates and Youth Environmental Conference attendees were recently recognized at Los Altos Post 558. The Girl Staters were sponsored by Santa Clara Auxiliary Unit 419. The students were all presented with Certificates of Commendation from Santa Clara County Supervisor S. Joseph Simitian.



Pictured left to right Auxiliary District 13 Girls' State Chair Cindy Newman, Joseph Simitian's Chief of Staff Roy Mueller, Post 558 Commander Warren Petree, Post 558 Youth Program Chair Ken Newman.

By Susan Johnson

Americanism is alive and well in the 4th District. For the last 10 years on the 11th month of the 11th day at the 11th hour, the Marysville Veterans Day Parade has kicked off. This year was no different. Veterans Day is the day for all Americans to honor the contributions of service men and women throughout our Nation's history. Veterans Day also commemorates the time and day at which the major hostilities of World War I were formally ended – the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918.

Parade Co-Founders Cindy Verrill and Chuck Carver, members of Post 807, set out to make sure that the local area continues to celebrate this event. They did not care if the parade was to consist of just the two of them and the American flag...there would be a Veterans Day Parade.

The Parade is sponsored by the Yuba-Sutter Veterans Day Parade Committee – made up of Post 807 and District 4 members and the City of Marysville. The parade took place on Monday, November 11, 2013 in Marysville, starting at 11 a.m.. The theme for this year's parade was "Show Your Pride for Our GIs".

There were 135 entrants. There were local school bands, representatives from Yuba City and Marysville City Councils, Yuba and Sutter Counties, Boards of Supervisors, Veteran Organizations, civic groups and Team Beale entries. American Legion Posts 42, 705, 789 and 807 members marched in the parade. Decked out in their Honor Guard uniform and service uniforms they were a sight to behold.

The Parade began at 11:00 with the performance of the

Americanism - 11th Annual Veterans Day Parade



Chuck Carver

Star Spangled Banner and Taps played by Chuck on his bugle.

Thousands of spectators came out to show their patriotism. It was a wonderful sight to see all of the children and adults alike waving the American flags as the parade went past them.

There was a pulled pork BBQ lunch served by the Post 807 Auxiliary for a nominal donation after the parade. Many came to enjoy the tasty meal.

It makes me very proud to be a member of The American Legion 4th District-Post 807 and Parade Committee ensuring that our local community is able to give thanks to our local veterans. You could see many veterans with tears in their eyes. They loved the parade. It was a positive experience for all.



"Team Beale" from Beale Air Force Base

Transfer to Post Everlasting



Marvin E. Jones - age 91 of Knoxville, Tennessee passed away on October 31, 2013. He was born on May 15, 1922 in Anaheim, California and resided in Redondo Beach, California until he retired and moved to Tennessee.

He was a WWII United States Navy Veteran; a lifetime Methodist member of Concord United Methodist Church; & member of American Legion South Bay Post 184 in Redondo Beach, California for 76 years; CA Department Commander 1973-74.

In Tennessee, he became a 32nd Degree Mason and

a Scottish Rite of Free Masonry member. He is preceded in death by his parents: Perry Edwin Jones and Emily Louise Wolliscroft; and sister, Frances Louise Dowdy.

He is survived by spouse, Daphne Fawnee Dinsmore; children, Kathy Ginty (Clyde Goddard), Richard Jones (Lupe), Wendy Atkinson (Terry), and Karen Campbell, step-children, John P. Dinsmore and Susan J. Sharp (Ron); several grandchildren and great-grandchildren; brother, Perry Eugene Jones (Maxine); nieces and nephews, Heide Lynn Jones and Barbara Dowdy, Robert Dowdy, Mark Jones and Michael Jones.

Graveside services were Saturday, November 9, 2013 at 11:00 a.m. at Highland Memorial Cemetery in Tennessee.