

Legion: Listen to USMC warnings about lifting DADT

INDIANAPOLIS (November 8, 2010) – The American Legion has called on Congress, the president and the Pentagon to carefully consider the concerns voiced by the Commandant of the U.S. Marine Corps regarding the lifting of the military’s “Don’t ask, don’t tell” policy on homosexuals.

“The motto of the Marine Corps is ‘Semper Fidelis,’ which means ‘always

faithful,’ ” said National Commander Jimmie L. Foster, a Marine Corps veteran. “General James F. Amos, who was appointed by President Obama to oversee the operations of that military service, is concerned that allowing homosexuals to serve openly will hurt combat effectiveness. Just as the Marines are ‘always faithful’ to protecting our country, we

must be always faithful to protecting them. The American Legion opposes any action or social policy that undermines combat effectiveness.”

Gen. Amos pointed out that the Marine Corps often houses its troops two per room. “There is nothing more intimate than young men and young women and when

— *DADT, continued on page 2*

Veterans’ Benefits Act of 2010 Signed Into Law

New law will enhance, expand and modernize benefits for veterans

Washington, D.C. – House Veterans’ Affairs Committee Chairman Bob Filner (D-CA) announced that President Obama signed H.R. 3219 into law. The Veterans’ Benefits Act of 2010 improves and modernizes certain benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) for veterans and their families.

Chairman Filner said, “This new law is the result of numerous productive hear-

— *BENEFITS, continued on page 5*

112th Congress must continue in “right direction” for veterans

WASHINGTON (Nov. 8, 2010) – The American Legion is pressing the prospective leadership of a politically re-oriented 112th Congress to address several long-standing veterans issues. “The dramatic mid-term election just concluded was a referendum on ideals and policies,” said Jimmie Foster, the Legion’s National Commander. “But not on issues related to

the care of America’s veterans. The 111th Congress was moving in the right direction, and the 112th should continue on this course.”

Foster recently praised the current session’s Capitol Hill lawmakers for passage of the Veterans Health Care Budget Reform and Transparency Act of 2009 (guaranteeing appropriations for VA

health care one full year in advance) as well as the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2010 that included substantially increased fiscal 2010 funding for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

“As laudable as these measures were – and others such as broadening eligibility for relief from certain service-connected

— *112 CONGRESS, continued on page 2*

Gov. Schwarzenegger Responds to Senate’s Failure to Confirm Roger Brautigan

State Capitol, Sacramento, CA – Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger today responded to the Senate’s failure to confirm Roger Brautigan as secretary for the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) within one year, as specified by law, by withdrawing Brautigan’s nomination and immediately appointing him senior undersecretary and acting secretary of CDVA.

“Roger Brautigan is a dedicated public

servant and California veteran who defended America’s freedoms for 33 years as a member of the U.S. Army,” said Governor Schwarzenegger. “He has demonstrated his commitment to serving the interests of our veterans as secretary for the CDVA, and I’m proud to have him as a member of my Administration. It is extremely disappointing that the Senate has failed to confirm such an immensely qualified and dedicated veteran. In

response to the Senate’s failure to act, I have appointed Roger Brautigan senior undersecretary and acting secretary of CDVA, so that he can continue to provide California’s veterans with the highest level of service possible.”

Brautigan will continue to receive his salary of \$175,000. The position does not require Senate confirmation.

Media Contact: Aaron McLearn or Matt Connelly 916-445-4571

National Commander’s California Visit



Jimmie Foster

We hope that you can attend one or more of these stops, as National Commander Jimmie L. Foster really likes to meet with the Blue Caps and The American Legion Family.

December 10

Arrive: San Francisco Dept HQ – 9:00 a.m.
Tour: San Francisco Dept HQ
Lunch: San Francisco Dept HQ
Tour: Fort Miley
Dinner: SF – Cathay Post 384

December 11

Depart 8:00 a.m.: Arrive Yountville Veterans Home
Tour: YVH – meet CDVA & Administrator
Lunch: Yountville Veterans Home
Tour: Visit Pathway Home
Dinner: St. Helena Post 199

December 12

Depart: 8:00 a.m.
Visit: Palo Alto VAMC
Lunch: Santa Clara – Mission City Post 564
Tour: Local Military
Dinner: Monterey – Monterey Peninsula Post 41

December 13

Depart 11:35 a.m. – Arrive LAX 12:40
Tour: LAX USO – Lunch
Dinner: Newport Beach – Newport Harbor Post 291

December 14

Arrive: West Los Angeles Hospital (GLAHS)
Tour: Veteran Hospital – Fisher House – Veterans Campus
Tour: West Los Angeles Veteran Home
Return: Post 283 for Luncheon at Modo Mio
Dinner: Pacific Palisades – Palisades Post 283

WWII Veteran Visits Battle of the Bulge Family



Charles Mersereau and Hugette (Franchimont) Loxhay, now of Neupre, Belgium, who was a beautiful eighteen-year-old Belgian nurse during those dreadful Battle of the Bulge Days.

What a happy day it was for Charles Mersereau from Scotts Valley, California, a member of The American Legion Golden Gate Post 40 of San Francisco for 66 years. He returned to Esneux, Belgium this past September as a member of the Rupiper Travel WWII Tour Group.

As Charles tells the story, “Our troops were slogging their way through Belgium with wet socks, boots and clothes with little to eat. The Belgium population was notified to care for any of the troops who came knocking on their doors, and were

asked to take them in and feed them.”

Charles happened upon the home of the Franchimont family, where a grandmother, mother, cousins and Hugette lived. They invited him in and fed him, dried his clothes and boots by the fire and gave him a warm bed in the attic. Charles says “it was my first encounter with a feather-tick.” That visit didn’t last more than two nights, when Charles had to return to battle and go back to sleeping in the mud, he remembers.

— *WWII FAMILY, continued on page 7*

Legionnaires Graduate from the 2010 National American Legion College

INDIANAPOLIS (October 29, 2010) – A new generation of leaders came to Indianapolis from 32 departments (states) of The American Legion. The 54 students of the National American Legion College honed their leadership, team building, communications and mentoring skills to pass the intensive course. They received diplomas from National Commander Jimmie L. Foster during a ceremony held here this morning.

Members of the class completed the six-day crash course of the nation’s

largest veterans organization that saw them lay a solid foundation for Legion Post revitalization in a variety of geographical settings to include a rural area, the inner city, suburban communities, a metropolitan area and a cyber Post. They were also provided the instruction and tools to construct resolutions for American Legion activities at their respective Posts for presentation at a mock District meeting.

Commencement took place at The American Legion national headquarters.

Members of the graduating class from California included: **John G. Forrett, Jr.**, Post 448 and **Ralph W. Jacob**, Post 419.

The National American Legion College is designed to reinforce a volunteer’s leadership, management and communication skills. This helps prepare young members of The American Legion to lead the nation’s largest wartime veterans organization on the local and state level. The importance of mentorship for both other members and special groups in the

— *GRADUATE, continued on page 2*

WIN \$5,000 Your 2011 Winter Sweepstakes Will Arrive Soon!

California American Legion will spend over \$1 million

on programs and services benefiting veterans, military families and youth throughout California during 2011.

We cannot do it without your help!

Grand Prize \$5,000 • Second Prize \$2,000
Third Prize \$1,000 • 24 – \$500 Winners

Winners will be drawn on March 31st at the S.F. Department Headquarters. (Winners need not be present to win.)

So watch your mail and be sure to enter for your chance to win!

To learn more about the programs your donation supports, please visit www.calegion.org

California Legionnaire Article Submission Deadlines

The contents of *California Legionnaire* will reflect the policies and activities of The American Legion. All materials submitted for publication in *California Legionnaire* are subject to approval by the Editor and/or the Department Commander, and may be published or rejected without notice to the author.

Unsolicited submissions become the sole property of *California Legionnaire* and will be edited for length, grammar and style considerations. Materials will not be returned unless a self-addressed return envelope with sufficient postage is provided. We are not responsible for lost or misplaced materials.

The suggested issue deadlines:

1. December 26 to January 2 for February 2011
2. February 26 to March 2 for April 2011
3. April 26 to May 2 for June 2011
4. June 26 to July 5 for August 2011
5. August 26 to September 5 for October 2011

Notice: Articles received after these dates without permission of the Editor will not go in the current issue, but will be held possibly for a future issue. Please be prompt; it is very important to the production of your paper.

How to submit your news articles for *California Legionnaire* and Department Web site:

The easiest way to submit news items is by e-mail! Just send your copy and pictures to: calegion@pacific.net

Please try to keep the entire size of your email under 5MB, including all attachments. Many mail servers place a limit on the size of files moving through the Internet. Keeping the size down also helps those of us on a dial-up from waiting hours for one e-mail to download.

Faxing is another option to get your article without pictures to us. You do not need a cover sheet if you use Fax 1-360-838-5321 or Department HQ Fax with cover letter to 1-415-255-1571.

The USPS is another option for those without e-mail and have pictures (in the caption, identify everyone in the picture) with article. Just mail your copy directly to me: 9804 Diane Lane, Upper Lake, CA 95485. If you have any problems concerning how articles are submitted, always feel free to call me at home 707-275-2771.

Looking forward to hearing from many of you...

David L. Eby
Editor of *California Legionnaire*

GRADUATE, continued from page 1 —

community was a central point to several of the activities for the class.

"You had a hectic schedule and a plethora of data to absorb but you all assimilated it like champions," American Legion National Commander Jimmie L. Foster told the graduating class. "When you get home to your communities, share what you learned and make a difference

for our great organization."

Mentors for the 2010 National American Legion College included David A. Kurtz of Post 23 in Portage, Wisconsin; David A. Meaney, Sr. of Post 34 in Concord, New Hampshire; Fletcher Williams, Jr. of Post 75 in Crestview, Florida; CL H. Johnson, Sr. of Post 48 in Beloit, Wisconsin; Jill K. Druskis, National Staff in Indianapolis, Indiana of Post 331 in Nebraska.

DADT, continued from page 1 —

you talk of infantry, we're talking of young men — laying out, sleeping alongside of one another and sharing death, fear and loss of brothers. I don't know what the effect of that will be on cohesion. I mean, that's what we're looking at. It's unit cohesion. It's combat effectiveness."

Foster added that the timing of such a change, while the United States is engaged in two wars, is ill-conceived. "We agree with General Amos that 'this is not a social thing. It is combat effectiveness.' I have no doubt that homosexuals have and continue to serve this country honorably. This is not about fairness, it's about military readiness," said Foster.

With a current membership of 2.4-million wartime veterans, The American Legion was founded in 1919 on the four pillars of a strong national security, veterans affairs, Americanism and youth programs. Legionnaires work for the betterment of their communities through more than 14,000 Posts across the nation.

112 CONGRESS, continued from page 1 —

health problems, more must be done to provide our nation's heroes with the benefits they deserve," Foster said. "About 20 new representatives are veterans, and 14 of those belong to The American Legion, so we're hoping they will lend their strong support to our legislative priorities."

Of special concern to Legion leadership is the so-called "disabled veteran tax" or "concurrent receipt" practice, by which the retirement pay of veterans is offset according to the amount of disability pay they are receiving. "Both retirement pay and disability benefits are well and truly earned, and both should be awarded fully. To do otherwise is shameful," Foster said.

While acknowledging the recent, unprecedented increase in VA funding (\$125 billion), The American Legion is requesting additional monies for the agency, mostly to support improved medical care, research and facilities. But the Legion is also offering Congress a suggestion that, if enacted, would help to offset any VA budget increase.

Legion leaders point to the fact that more than half the veteran population served by VA is eligible for Medicare benefits. Yet VA is not authorized to collect third-party reimbursement from Medicare (or Medicaid) for health services provided to veterans that have no connection to their military service.

"In a society that's trying to improve health care, reduce deficits and serve veterans, allowing VA to bill Medicare for its non-service connected care is a win-win," said Tim Tetz, legislative director for The American Legion. "Veterans pay into the Medicare system, so why shouldn't they be allowed to take advantage of it?"

Among other items of concern to The American Legion are deficiencies in the Post-9/11 G.I. Bill that provides educational benefits to veterans attending four-year colleges and universities. Improvements can be made, says the Legion, by broadening eligibility for benefits to members of reserve units and the National Guard, as well as expanding the list of VA-approved institutions to include vocational schools and those offering online and distance learning curricula.

Peter Gaytan, executive director of The American Legion in Washington, sums up the organization's view. "Realistically, the new Congress may be hard-pressed to find a non-partisan agenda that all its members can agree on. But why not try to bridge that chasm by agreeing to honor our nation's veterans, not only by maintaining their current benefits but improving them as well?" he said.



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PUBLICATION POLICY

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NOTICE: Submissions to the *California Legionnaire* must be submitted no later than 26th of each prior month to be included in the upcoming bimonthly issue.

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Don't forget, women are Veterans too!!!

THE AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

_____ (NAME)	_____ (PHONE)
_____ (MAILING ADDRESS)	_____ (DATE)
_____ (CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE)	\$35.00 (DUES)

(PLEASE CHECK ONE) LOCAL MEMBERSHIP POST# _____
 POST 1000 MEMBERSHIP (HEADQUARTERS)

PLEASE CHECK APPROPRIATE ELIGIBILITY DATES AND BRANCH OF SERVICE BELOW

<input type="checkbox"/> August 2, 1990 - cessation of hostilities as determined by U.S. Government	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Army
<input type="checkbox"/> December 20, 1989 - January 31, 1990	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Navy
<input type="checkbox"/> August 24, 1982 - July 31, 1984	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Air Force
<input type="checkbox"/> February 28, 1961 - May 7, 1975	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Marines
<input type="checkbox"/> June 25, 1950 - January 31, 1955	<input type="checkbox"/> U.S. Coast Guard
<input type="checkbox"/> December 7, 1941 - December 31, 1946	<input type="checkbox"/> Merchant Marines (12/7/41-8/15/45 only)
<input type="checkbox"/> April 6, 1917 - November 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)	_____ (RECRUITER)
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MY ANNUAL DUES OF \$35.00 ARE PAID BY:

<input type="checkbox"/> PERSONAL CHECK	<input type="checkbox"/> MONEY ORDER	<input type="checkbox"/> CASHIERS CHECK
<input type="checkbox"/> VISA	<input type="checkbox"/> MASTERCARD	

(COMPLETE BELOW IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD)

_____ (CREDIT CARD NUMBER)	_____ (EXPIRATION DATE)
_____ (NAME ON CARD)	_____ (CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE)



FROM THE COMMANDER'S DESK



Mark Foxworthy
State Commander

Greetings Fellow Legionnaires and members of The American Legion Family. I am extremely proud to represent the Department of California. We continue to strengthen the Four Pillars – Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, Children & Youth – maintaining a powerful foundation to promote and support our goals and programs. As we travel throughout the state, we continue to witness fine examples of the Four Pillars.

Department Service Officer Scott McKee is providing training to help promote a grass-roots effort “getting back to basics” by empowering our Post Service Officers with information and knowledge to provide assistance to our Veterans in need of care. Many Posts and Districts are supporting Stand Downs and other events to aid the homeless. We continue to partner with CDVA and other state agencies with great success. The number of volunteers and hours served are very impressive. You might consider spending a little of your time at a USO, Veterans Home or VA hospital during the upcoming holiday season.

The Department has taken action to communicate our support of a Strong National Defense. We possess the knowledge and information to educate our fellow citizens and elected officials on the importance of Homeland Security, positive foreign relations and the need to improve the military quality of life. Our

collective voice is vital to achieve our goals. Communicate with your representatives in Washington, D.C. and reinforce our message to them. For more points on the key issues, visit www.legion.org

Communities across the state benefit from our Americanism programs. Many Posts like Ceres Post 491 performed “Get Out The Vote” campaigns and served as hosts for polling places during the recent elections – all the while maintaining a neutral and non-partisan position in dealing with candidates – always questioning and expressing concern over our elected officials views on Veterans and their families. Please continue the good work and promote a “100% AMERICANISM.”

The stories and events that make up our Children & Youth programs are truly inspiring. The creative methods employed by our Blue Cap members are incredible. From toy drives to scholarship opportunities, to helping families cope with challenges many of us can't imagine, The American Legion leads the way. Stay in touch with the families of deployed service members and see if you might be able to brighten their day, especially with the holidays approaching.

How do we accomplish these amazing feats? Membership. Spread the good word. Invite a Veteran to join us and enjoy the rewards of making a difference in the lives of our Veterans, their families and the communities they live in. For every Veteran in need, every family looking to enhance the quality of their lives, we have the ability to offer the help and assistance. We must increase our numbers to keep up the good fight. Join me, join us and let's take this “ALL THE WAY.” AIRBORNE!



DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER



Scott McKee
Department
Service Officer
VA & R
Division

What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; there is nothing new under the sun.
—Ecclesiastes 1:9

This quote comes to mind as I reflect on the past, present and future of veteran's claims for benefits. Recently my son and I have been looking into joining an organization called “Sons of Union Veterans.” In order to join, you must research your ancestry and show you are directly related to a Civil War Veteran. A good friend of mine did the research and dropped off the archival papers he received from the National Archives. When I read these fascinating papers and looked into the past of 148 years ago, I was surprised to see the same requirements for a Civil War Veteran as a Veteran filing a VA Claim today. Affidavits, buddy statements, physicians' examination, the NEXUS (Link) between war service disability and injury and/or disease affecting veteran after service, claim for dependency, request for burial benefits, all required to obtain a grant of benefits. Remember, Civil War Veterans were filing claims 68 years before there ever was a Veterans Administration, which was established July 30, 1930.

Let's look at where the VA is today and where our California Legion Offices are and what the future holds as it relates to the “Strategic Plan for the VA 2010-2014.” Be aware this is a short article and will only highlight much of the discussion. The VA uses a statistical tool called the Monday Morning Report, which indicates the number of pending claims, those pending claims over 125 days, and the percentage of those over 125 days. It is broken down by Com-

pensation and Pension Entitlements, Award Adjustments, Program Reviews, Other (Pre-decision hearings Correspondence, etc.), Pension Entitlement, Burial, Accrued, Appeals and Education. The Monday Morning Report as of November 1, 2010 indicates the for pending claims for Compensation and Pension Entitlement Nationwide is 753,563; Compensation and Pension Rating Bundles 709,772; Compensation Entitlement 673,314; Award Adjustments 103,153; Program Reviews 19,464; Other (misc. such as Pre-decision, Correspondence, Congressional, Freedom of Information Act, Quality Assurance, Correction of errors, Combination of Workload) 49,577; Pension Entitlement 62,249; Award Adjustments 73,936; Program reviews 9,573; Other (Correspondence, Congressional, Quality Assurance, Combination of Workload (veterans, survivors) 3,890; Additional Compensation and Education Workload: Burial 25,206; Accrued 3,541; Appeals 213,919; Education 129,860. Total out these numbers and you have a grand total of 2,813,017 claims. These are staggering numbers for which the VA has to contend with. Remember, like all resources, the VA is limited in the amount of funding for which employees are hired to handle this great mountain of work.

That VA work is the reason The American Legion has Veteran Service Officers, as do other Veteran Service Organizations. Our origins are this kind of work and the reason we continue to care for our veterans throughout the world. Believe it or not, the earliest assistance came from the “Grand Army of the Republic” out of the Civil War. It began to assist veterans too disabled to work in order for them to receive some sort of compensation, due to their disabilities. As time went by and the “GAR” aged, their organization began to fade away. However,

—SERVICE, continued on page 4



ADJUTANT'S CORNER



Bill Siler III
Adjutant

To All Legion Members:

IRS contact for local Posts to discuss issues relating to EINs. Posts should call the BUSINESS & SPECIALTY TAX LINE at 800-829-4933 with EIN-specific questions or concerns. The Tax Line's hours of operations are 7:00 a.m.-10:00 p.m. local time (Pacific Time), Monday through Friday.

I think that this is very important information for all to read with Income Taxes just around the corner. The article is about individual Posts and filing their income taxes. This article is worth repeating so you don't get in trouble with the IRS.

The Internal Revenue Service is pressuring some American Legion Posts across the country to justify their nonprofit, tax-exempt status. Among recent developments:

- American Legion Posts in a growing number of states have recently been audited and penalized – some into the tens of thousands of dollars – over veteran to non-veteran ratios on their membership rolls. American Legion Posts must be composed of no less than 75% veterans in order to maintain tax-exempt status. As a separate organization, The American Legion Auxiliary remains unaffected for now.
- A new law, effective with 2007 tax-year

filings, requires small American Legion Posts – those with annual gross receipts of \$25,000.00 or less – to electronically file form 990-N (e-Postcard) with the Internal Revenue Service each year. If those Posts do not file the form, known as an e-Postcard, or a regular form 990, they face losing their tax-exempt status. The IRS began mailing educational letters in July 2007 to notify small tax-exempt organizations that they may be required to file the e-Postcard. Churches are exempt from the requirement. So for American Legion Posts, the words “may be required to file” can be exchanged for “MUST file.”

- The same law means that all American Legion Posts must have their own unique Employer Identification Numbers, even if they have never filed one in years. **A Post cannot use the EIN of its department or national headquarters. If it does, it risks losing its tax-exempt status.**

The law states that nonprofit veterans organizations must consist of “at least 75% of the members of which are past or present members of the Armed Forces of the United States and substantially all of the other members of which are individuals who are cadets or spouses, widows, widowers, ancestors or lineal descendants of past or present members of the Armed Forces of the United States...”

Many American Legion Posts across the
—ADJUTANT, continued on page 4



MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR



Bill Clapp
Membership
Director

Hello, once again. I can't believe how fast this Legion Year is going; seems we were just at the Department Convention.

I want to first take the opportunity to extend my thanks to all our Department staff.

They do such a terrific job in managing the day-to-day affairs of the Department, especially membership. Kathy Tinitali and Ashmika Singh do an outstanding job, and are responsible for the development of the membership report that is now online at the Department Web site.

We are entering the last half of this Legion Year, and membership is doing very well. Our goal this year, 106,188, is significant, and will require all of us to do our utmost to achieve this goal. The question that keeps coming up is: Will we make it? The answer is that I feel very confident that we will. Every member of the Department Membership Team: North, South and Area Chairmen are doing an excellent job, as are many at the District and Post level. Membership team members are out there meeting with the Districts and Posts, encouraging them, mentoring and providing whatever assistance they can, to ensure that membership renewals are transmitted on time.

The transmitting of membership renewals by Posts can be a problem if not transmitted in a timely manner. It causes National to send out additional renewal notices, which waste time, resources and monies that could be used for other programs, and becomes an annoyance to our members who have already paid and continue to receive the notices.

Both Department and National require that membership renewals be transmitted to Department within 30 days, even if the Post only has one (1) renewal to transmit. There are Posts where this has been, and continues to be, a recurring problem; and one which our

Membership Team is working on. It's important that all Posts understand that the membership renewal process is not complete until the renewal is transmitted, and that the use of the “per capita” tax for any reason, other than paying the members' dues, is inappropriate.

The Department of California as of this writing (October 2010), is 23rd place at National, and 2nd place in the Western Region, at 65.248% membership for 2011. This is significant, and reflects the commitment by everyone working membership. I know that we can keep this trend alive, but it will take the efforts of all of us, at all levels, to make this happen.

As you read this article, ask yourself: Have I paid my 2011 dues? If not, please take the opportunity to do so now. This year, more than ever, we need everyone to renew their membership. Consider asking a neighbor or friend that is a veteran, to join The American Legion. Invite them to your Post, make them welcome. With everyone's help this year, I know that we can achieve our membership goal.

In October and November, I visited Areas 1, 2, 3, 4 and Hollywood Post 43. I had a great time and was able to meet with many of the members of these Areas, and to learn of the membership initiatives that are ongoing.

On November 20-21, 2010, I attended the Department of Defense program “Yellow Ribbon” in Anaheim, California. This is a program designed to welcome home returning veterans, and to help them re-integrate back into our communities. Art Castro, Area 4 Membership Chair, was key to the success of this program and putting together The American Legion Membership Team, which included several members of the 19th District Auxiliary.

As we continue into this Legion Year, I ask everyone to take care of yourselves, and your families during the holiday season. Renew your membership in The American Legion. If there is anything that I can do to personally assist you, your Post or District, please let me know.

Youth Environmental Conference

Barbara Ross, Coordinator

Contracts are signed and we're ready to start contacting the schools to set up interviews for the 2011 Youth Environmental Leadership Conference. Dates are May 13-16. All forms are on the Legion Web site. PLEASE discard any old forms.

The experience we had last year of having several students not show up seems to stem from a common problem – Posts not maintaining contact with the student and family. Some families advised they didn't hear anything from their Post until two days before they were expected to put their student on a bus for four days, with people they never heard from!!!

We really need timely submission of reservations and student paperwork. March 1 for reservations and March 31 for all other paperwork. By March 15 we have to make a commitment to Sly Park and that's the minimum number of students we have

to pay for – whether they attend or not.

Have alternates ready to go. Have them submit paperwork and mark it ALTERNATE. You will not be charged additional fees to change to an alternate.

One problem we have every year is the bus schedule. We can't submit an itinerary until we know all the locations where we have to pick up students. This is often held up by paperwork not being submitted on a timely basis.

Please send the paperwork directly to P.O. Box 601464, Sacramento, CA 95860. Don't send it to your District Chairman, because they don't always forward it on a timely basis and it's your student that might get left out. I can be reached at 916-798-3317 or by e-mail at ross4834@comcast.net with any questions or concerns you have.

Thanks to everyone who supports California's premier youth program.

ADJUTANT, continued from page 3 —

country have a growing number of Sons of The American Legion (SAL) members. Among the recently audited and penalized Posts, the percentage of SAL members had been interpreted by the IRS to have exceeded the 25% limit. However, that interpretation may not always be accurate. For instance:

- The IRS does not always subtract SAL members who also happen to be veterans. Many SAL members served in the armed forces between American Legion eligibility periods. The law requires that 75% or more be veterans, not necessarily veterans eligible for American Legion membership.
- Dual Legion-SAL members should be counted only once, as veterans, and their memberships in the other organizations should not be applied against the total.
- The percentages must be accurately calculated, where the percentage of non-veteran SAL members is based on the total membership – American Legion and SAL combined – rather than just the Legion total.
- The percentage must be accurately calculated, where the percentage of non-veteran SAL members is based on the total membership – American Legion and SAL combined – rather than just the Legion total.

National Headquarters is also working with Departments, Districts and Posts to make the case to the IRS that the ratio of veteran to non-veteran members should be considered across an entire state or even the nation. The simple solution is to recruit more American Legion members. It also pays to transfer Legion members out of the National Headquarters Post and into local community Posts. The American Legion and other veteran organizations have succeeded in getting the percentage changed in the past. At one time, a Post had to maintain 90% veteran membership.

Any American Legion Post facing an IRS audit is encouraged to hire a qualified tax lawyer and certified public accountant. Quality, professional advice can often reduce penalties and fees, and even prevent a negative decision that could adversely affect a Post's nonprofit status.

FIRE, continued from little back —

low veteran, and I said he lost everything, and that's all it took," Collier said. "The Post said, 'we're going to do this.'"

John Parcher was in the Army, serving in Vietnam in 1969 and 1970 as a crew chief Huey door gunner, but he didn't want to talk about the details of his service.

The fire, which investigators say started in a clothing dryer, began around 12:30

501 Exemption from Tax on Corporations, Certain Trusts, Etc.

(a) Exemption from taxation – An organization described in subsection (c) or (d) or section 401 (a) shall be exempt from taxation under this subtitle unless such exemption is denied under section 502 or 503.

(b) List of exempt organizations – The following organizations are referred to in subsection (a): (1) A Post or organization of past or present members of the Armed Forces of the United States or an Auxiliary unit or society of, or a trust or foundation for, any such Post or organization:

(A) organized in the United States or any of its possessions,

(B) at least 75% of the members of which are past or present members of the Armed Forces of the United States and substantially all of the other members of which are individuals who are cadets or are spouses, widows, (3) widowers, ancestors or lineal descendants of past or present members of the Armed Forces of the United States or of cadets, and

(C) No part of the net earnings of which inures to the benefit of the private shareholder or individual.

If you have a computer and are using the Internet, you can go online to: www.irs.gov then click on Charities and Non-Profits to get the 990 forms or the 990 N (e-Postcard) forms and the instructions.

If you don't use a computer or just have questions, you can telephone the IRS: 1-877-829-5500. Hours are Monday-Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. CENTRAL TIME. You may have to wait to get a representative, so be patient. You can also contact your local IRS Office to have questions answered.

The 990 and 990 N Forms were brought up last year at the National Adjutant's Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana. It is very important that Posts fill out one of the forms. If you don't make much money or have no employees, you still have to fill out a form for the IRS.

I, and the Staff at your Department Headquarters, want to wish all of you a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays.

p.m. on Tuesday and tore through the couple's garage and roof. It took firefighters until dusk to control the blaze, which raged through the explosion of propane tanks that were stored in the garage.

"The home is uninhabitable," said Cyndi Foreman, fire prevention officer for the Rincon Valley Fire Department, who participated in the fire investigation. "They will not be living in this house for quite a long time."

SERVICE, continued from page 3 —

as the United States stepped out on the world stage, wars and conflicts became global and the needs of the new veterans were just as great. With the advent of WWI the American Legion was formed in 1919. According to a US Veterans Administration press release dated April 4, 2007, "4.7 million men and women served in the U.S. armed forces during World War I. They came home with injuries, illnesses and disabilities. The American Legion went to work to lobby Congress for just deserved benefits of these service veterans. Just as the Civil War Veterans received a war pension, they too felt the same." The famous controversial "Bonus March" of the 1930's was a demand on the U.S. Government to come and compensate for disabilities caused by military service. During that same decade we saw the birth of the Veteran's Administration, which was chartered to handle the health care and needs of these veterans.

Today, The American Legion provides advocacy for veterans and their dependents in all 50 states, territories and countries throughout the world. In California, the most populated state, we have three of our American Legion VA & R Offices, which employ a staff of 13. We have accredited staff in 9 VA Hospitals and receive a tremendous help from the 58 County Veteran Offices. With the California staff and help of the County Veteran Service Offices, we handle approximately 3,188 in-person interviews, file 5,525 powers of attorney, 25,392 initial claims, which include processing and reviewing 7,796 pieces of medical evidence, and information reviewing 18,249 rating decisions. Therefore, if we equate this to the VA Monday Morning Report, our offices would have a grand total workload of 60,150 assorted claims, correspondence interviews, receiving of evidence and rating decisions, giving an average of 5,013 claims worked per month. Considering a veteran population in California of approximately 3 million veterans spanning 163,696 square miles, it is an ardent task to assist in the work of a Veteran Service Officer.

Yes, as I wrote earlier, "the numbers are staggering." Now, let's look at the dollar amounts. Our VA & R offices just this past fiscal year (2009-2010) has assisted in returning federal dollars into the Golden State of California. Our veterans received \$421,794,845 in VA Awards, with an average return on Department of California investment of \$513.84. Just the first quarter of fiscal year 2010-2011, we have assisted veterans in receiving \$167,376,898 in VA awards, with a projected return on Department of California investment of \$755.26. You can see the need is great and the numbers are not going down.

You would seem to think with the WWII and Korean War veterans leaving our midst, the numbers would plateau or decline. However, this is not the case, as the conflicts in the Middle East have been going on for over 10 years. Even though we have an all-volunteer military force, as time lengthens with these conflicts, we have and will have more veterans entering into the VA system. This short information is from the VA's Strategic Plan for 2010-2014 on the challenges facing the VA, which translates to those of us who serve in the VA & R Division of The American Legion and the workload we will confront:

"VA faces an increasingly challenging operating environment. Demand for services, in terms of claims and services per client, is growing in volume and complexity, while the economic, legislative and national security contexts all present significant uncertainties. Understanding these changes – and their implications for VA – is critical to ensuring that our strategic plan will be effective and endure over the next five years.

The population of Veterans and their families whom we serve is changing. Overall, Veterans and their families are developing new, more complex needs and new expectations for the care VA should provide them. The aging of America's citizens will affect VA. Vietnam Veterans, a significant percentage of the total Veteran population, are beginning to face changing health risks as they age (e.g., prostate cancer and diabetes), thereby increasing their needs for benefits and health care services. Overall, the number of aging Veterans who may need extended care is growing rapidly: the number of enrolled Veterans, 85 or older, is projected to increase 32 percent from 601,202 to 792,498 between 2009 and 2018. This group accounts for the highest usage of long-term care services. Though not all aging Veterans will require our care, the growth in this population is highly likely to increase the demand for the extended and specialized services the elderly require.

Though the overall population of Veterans has been shrinking, there continues to be a significant increase in the number of women Veterans. Women Veterans comprise 7.5 percent of the total Veteran population and nearly 5.5 percent of all Veterans who use VA health care services. By 2020, women Veterans will constitute at least 10 percent of the Veteran population and 9.5 percent of VA patients. Disability compensation has changed in recent years as the nature of combat related wounds and service-connected injuries has changed. Many of the disabilities that are increasing most rapidly in the Veteran population are those that are difficult to rate, such as PTSD. For example, new linkages to Agent Orange – specifically, prostate cancer discovered in 1996 and Type II diabetes discovered in 2001 – have contributed to the upward trend of disability ratings. As a result, the average Veteran disability rating rose from approximately 30 percent in 1995 to 41 percent in 2009, with the percentages of Veterans in the two highest disability levels growing at the fastest rates. In March 2010, Secretary Shinseki announced that the VA Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses Task Force had completed the final draft of a comprehensive report that will redefine how VA addressed the concerns of Veterans who deployed during the Gulf War in 1990 and 1991. VA has also published a proposed rule that will enable VA to grant service connection on a presumptive basis for nine specific infectious diseases associated with military service in Southwest Asia after August 2, 1990 or in Afghanistan on or after September 19, 2001. Even advances in care for Service members have implications for VA. Tremendous strides in military medicine have led to reduced mortality rates among injured U.S. Service members in Iraq and Afghanistan, compared with prior military conflicts. At the same time, and in large part due to these higher survival rates, OEF/OIF health needs tend to be different from past conflicts. Blast injuries are increasing, adding a new dimension to battlefield casualties and their care when the battle is over. These wounds often result in multiple severe injuries and disabilities requiring extended and highly specialized care, both mental and physical. These conditions often pose challenges in anticipating and responding to the demand for health care services."

As you can see, the challenges we face as we advocate for those who have served our nation require the "All Hands on Deck" approach. The message is quite clear and with organizations like ours, if we don't crusade our advocacy for veterans, "If not now, when? If not us, then who?" Who will bend the ear of our government and insure our veterans receive their fought-for benefits? Like The American Legion, we earned the right by our service to be Legionnaires and the same goes for our VA Benefits.



LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE TO THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE PETE CONATY & DANA NICHOL

WE WERE SUCCESSFUL!

Governor Schwarzenegger and State Legislature Approve Budget Increase for Operation Welcome Home

On October 8, Governor Schwarzenegger signed the State Budget, Senate Bill 870, an \$87.5 billion general fund spending plan for 2010-11. This budget was California's latest budget in 30 years; 100 days had passed since a spending plan should have been in place. The state faced an estimated \$19.1 billion deficit. Legislative leaders from both parties and the Governor were deadlocked as budget negotiations dragged on. The state was preparing to issue IOUs to state contractors and the economy was showing no signs of rebounding. The final budget deal included no new taxes or fees. As a result many programs were cut or even eliminated. The one bright spot in an otherwise bleak budget compromise was that a \$5 million increase was approved for the Operation Welcome Home initiative's subvention augmentation for the County Veterans Service Officers (CVSO's). This brings the total money allocated (subvention) to the CVSO's via the state budget up to \$7.6 million.

8955-101-0001 – For local assistance, Department of Veterans Affairs, for contribution to counties toward compensation and expenses of county veterans services offices, to be expended in accordance with Section 972 and following of the Military and Veterans Code...\$7,600,000

California's veterans had been advocating for an increase in the subvention to CVSO's for many years. This money allows California counties to maintain a County Veterans Service Office to assist local veterans file for and obtain their veterans benefits. For 13 years the veterans community and the CVSO's association have advocated for full funding, but were not able to obtain more than \$2.6 million.

In February, the Governor announced his Operation Welcome Home (OWH) initiative which sought to help the 30,000 veterans discharged each year in this state. OWH seeks to connect these young veterans with benefits, education assistance, and employment help. The CVSO's are at the forefront of connecting veterans and their families with these benefits.

However, in addition to only receiving half of what the CVSO's were authorized in 1997, the counties were making cutbacks due to the economy. CVSO offices were losing positions and county funding. The governor realized that the already impacted CVSO's would be overwhelmed by the flood of new veterans steered to them by OWH. Therefore, in the Governor's May Budget Revision, he increased the subvention to the

CVSO's to the full \$11 million authorized by SB 419. The Assembly accepted this proposal in its budget and the Senate did not. It went to a conference committee to work out the difference and they decided to cut the \$8.4 million increase to about \$1 million. My office, in conjunction with The American Legion and other statewide veterans groups, went on an all out offensive to gather popular support from veterans organizations, County Boards of Supervisors, individual veterans, and individual legislators. Nineteen County Boards of Supervisors sent letters of support. Seventy-five legislators signed onto a letter requesting the full amount be put back in the budget. We followed the lead of the Governor's office and the Department of Veterans Affairs who were in strong support of the full funding all the way. Further support was built via a Capitol press conference with all major veterans organizations participating and the enlistment of four Republican members on the Joint Budget Conference Committee who requested that the committee re-open the issue.

As a result, with the help and support of so many, funding was increased for the CVSO's from \$2.6 million to \$7.6 million. In this fund is \$600,000 which is available to VSO's and others to apply for competitive grants to help veterans. The CDVA will be notifying everyone when the application process starts.

Since the CVSO's subvention is subject to yearly approval in the state budget process it is important to constantly educate the Administration and the Legislature on the importance of what CVSO's do for veterans. In 2011, Jerry Brown will become governor and 28 new state legislators will assume office. One of the Legion's legislative goals in 2011 and beyond will be to convince the Administration and the Legislature to maintain the current subvention level and if possible get it increased to the full \$11 million authorized in the Military and Veterans Code. Also, the possibility of having the subvention cut is very real as it has happened twice in the last 4 years. The Legislature sought to reduce subvention by 10% as part of an across the board cut on government services.

The Department is currently developing a legislative platform for 2011. The platform will lay out which issues the Department will actively pursue via sponsored legislation and also which issues the Department would support should a legislator want to run with it. The platform also serves as a way to inform and educate policy makers and the public about what things are important to California's veterans and their families.



Edward C. Landis
National Executive
Committeeman

Greetings to all from your NEC,
I attended the National Executive Committee Meeting in Indianapolis from October 10-14, 2010. I had four meetings: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. At the Monday meeting, all our Commission appointments were approved. Tuesday's meeting was called New NEC Indoctrination, which was chaired by three long time members of the NEC. There are 14 new NECs. This meeting was very interesting and I learned plenty.

Overall, it was a very informative experience and Commander Foster kept the meetings moving. The weather was sunny and warm, Sunday through Tuesday. Wednesday, as we were coming out of the meeting, it was pouring rain – they had a 1/2 inch in 30 minutes; Thursday was cold. Naturally, I came home with a cold.

Wednesday and Thursday the NEC reconvened. There were 30 resolutions that were read and approved. All are available on National's Web site www.legion.org

Resolution #3 Title: Need a Lift? Agreement Origin: Americanism/Finance; WHEREAS, McGlenn and Associates, Nokesville, Virginia updated the Scholarship information in The American Legion's financial aid guide NEED A LIFT? For the 60th Edition and, **Resolved**, that the National commander be and is hereby authorized to negotiate the terms and conditions of said agreement with McGlenn & Associates to include its resources for NEED A LIFT? and further refinements as deemed necessary to keep The American Legion Education assistance program the quality product it has become.

Resolution #6 Title: The American Legion Conducts a Needs and Issues Survey of Women Veterans Origin: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission; WHEREAS, currently there are over 1.8 million women veterans, of which 453,250 are enrolled in the Department of Veteran Affairs Health Care System, and WHEREAS, at this time women veterans do not feel they are properly represented by Veteran Service Organizations. **Resolved**, that The American Legion contract with

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN

Stratyls Research and Consulting to conduct a survey of Women Veterans for the purpose of identifying Women Veteran needs and issues in order to enhance The American Legion Assistance to Women Veterans, and be it finally resolved that the cost of the survey shall not exceed \$40,000.

Resolution #10 Title: Rescind Resolution #10 SPINOZA's "Buddy Bear Project" Origin: Children and Youth; WHEREAS, The American Legion adopted Resolution #10 of the NEC, May 1997, establishing for participation in SPINOZA Buddy Bear Project; and WHEREAS, it has come to the attention of The American Legion that the SPINOZA Company is no longer responding to customer inquiries and The American Legion will not lend it's support to an organization that does not hold customer service as a priority: Now, therefore, be it **resolved** that The American Legion rescind Resolution #10, NEC, 1997.

Resolution #24 was rejected. Title: Establish a Cold War Victory Medal.

Resolution #25 Title: Extend Selective Service Program to Women, Ages 18-25; Origin: Resolution #257 "IL" 2010 National Convention; WHEREAS, The American Legion confirmed their support by passing #112 at its Annual Convention in Phoenix, Arizona in 2008, and **Resolved**, that The American Legion shall sponsor and support legislation to change the SELECTIVE SERVICE REGISTRATION PROGRAM to include registration of females between the ages of 18-25 years old.

Resolution #29 Title Flag Code Amendment. Please pay special attention to this resolution and please visit the National Web Site and copy these resolutions so you will know how you should vote at the Convention.

I visited Area 3 in Bakersfield on November 5th, and will visit Area 5 November 14 in Palm Springs. I have a list of the approved Commission Appointments. Give me a call at 760-941-3157 if you want to know if you are on it. You will receive a letter from the National Commander informing you of your appointment.

The National Commander will be visiting California from December 9-15th. His tentative schedule is in this paper and on the Department Web Site and will be updated as soon as it is finalized.

God Bless Our Troops, God Bless The American Legion and God Bless America.

BENEFITS, continued from page 1

ings and markups, meaningful oversight and bi-partisan compromise – all to ensure that those who were willing to lay down their lives for our country and their families and survivors, receive meaningful, world-class, 21st-century benefits. These improvements will make a big difference in the lives of many of America's brave veterans."

Specifically, the new law addresses the needs of veterans by enhancing employment opportunities, preventing and caring for homeless veterans, ensuring the welfare of veterans and their families by increasing insurance limits, protecting service members called to combat, honoring fallen service members and their families, strengthening education benefits, addressing housing needs of disabled veterans, and investing in research for Gulf War veterans.

Chairman Filner concluded: *"This Congress has been extraordinarily productive for America's veterans. Speaker Pelosi's strong leadership has been critical as this Congress passed caregiver legislation, approved advance appropria-*

tions for veterans' health care, raised the VA budget to adequately care for veterans during wartime, and passed a G.I. Bill for the 21st Century. I am privileged to work with the Members of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee who set an aggressive agenda and stood together to ensure that the cost of the war includes the cost of the warrior. They have truly shown love and compassion to America's veterans evidenced by their hard work to keep the promises made to our nation's heroes of the past, present and future."

American Legion National Commander Jimmie Foster offered the following assessment of progress made for veterans: *"The 111th Congress may be remembered for banner legislation such as health care reform, financial regulation and the recovery act. But in our view, the real successes were the passage of bills that affected nearly every veteran in America."* Reflecting upon his visit to Washington last month, Foster said, *"I came to town to deliver my testimony on the needs of our nation's veterans. Before I left, Congress had passed half of our legislative agenda."*



Gary Ross
Legislative
Commission
Chairman

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

Now that the new legislators are known and will be in office in January, our work is just beginning. The most important is contacting YOUR elected official by phone, fax, e-mail or personal visit when issues are brought up that affect the Veterans.

As Department Legislative Chair, I will be sending the Area and District Commanders, by e-mail, bulletins regarding bills on which the Legion has taken a position. Please

double check the information on the Legion Web site and let me know if there are any changes. Hopefully this information highway will keep the name of The American Legion in front of every legislator in California.

Please be sure to send me copies of contacts so we can report on our progress to the Commander and Legislative Advocate.

Maps for each Legislative District will be provided to each District Commander. If you would prefer, it can be sent directly to your District Chairman, if you provide the name and complete contact information.

Let's set a goal of every legislator receiving contact from a Legionnaire at least five times during this legislative session.

What a Great Convention!

Story and photos by
Jim Leyser, 2010 NALPA President

What a Great Convention! Nice weather, uneventful flights both ways; I mean, what else could you ask for except more time and money. Commander Foxworthy held the Caucus on Monday morning and the Commissions were ready with their reports. Some of us had to leave early to attend luncheons, or in my case, set up a luncheon presentation.

California was well represented in the National contest for newsletters. Our *California Legionnaire* remains in the top three for Departments and the *Sea Breeze* will be

hard to beat for a long time. Impressive newsletters by all. They are all winners because they communicate well and get the word out to everyone! Department and Post Web sites, MySpace, Twitter and Face Book are growing for those of us that are computer inclined, but please don't read or text message while you're driving.

The Convention had opening commentary by Ben Stein – what a gentleman Ben is. I had the pleasure to meet him and get my picture taken with him. It should also be known that Mr. Stein is one of our newest SAL members, signed up by our candidate for Department Commander Hugh Crooks,

working membership in Milwaukee! Way to go, Hugh! We were also addressed by Speaker of the House, Senator Nancy Pelosi, delivering a well-prepared speech endorsing Veterans for what we do, but stayed well clear of the political issues of today.

In October, the U.S. Postal service went into meetings to discuss the next price increase due to a loss of 170 billion pieces of mail. A good deal of that is from other mail services like UPS, FedEx and, of course, the Internet. The pick increase is to be between \$.05 to .08 cents sometime in January of 2011.

In closing, I don't think there was a com-

mission that "Membership" did not touch and I know it has been felt by every Post in California and all the Departments in The American Legion. We need for each and every one of you in The American Legion Department of California Family to make every effort to sign up one member for the Legion, Auxiliary, SAL and Riders. If we do that, we will be 100% including the 10% increase, and continue to replace our beloved members that have reported to Post Everlasting.

Hope to see more of you at National Convention next year...until then, travel safely and we'll see you on down the road all over California.

2011 CALPA
President
Sherry Steward
and 2010
President Jim
Leyser share
Woodland Post
77's plaque at
the NALPA
awards
luncheon.



California's Publishing Chairman Paul Terry (NALPA Area 4 Executive Board member) and other NALPA Officers take the oath of office.



Pictured, L-R: National Historian Jim Higuera, Commander Mark Foxworthy, PDC Howard Darter and NALPA President Jim Leyser.



Alternate NEC man Dave Eby and wife, Cari, enjoy the food and good company at the CA Party.



PDC Dennis Fercho and wife, Linda, enjoy the good times at the CA Party.



Rosie Eskridge and Ruth Hackney having a good time outside at the Apple Holler Farm.



PDC Alan Lennox joins the actors as "lover boy" in the musical play at the CA Party.



PDC Floyd Martin gets into the "Sandman" character after being escorted from the audience to the stage.

KIA Ceremony at Moss Landing, CA



Bill Roller "Bunker" American Legion Riders, District 13 President

District 13 American Legion Riders staged at Post 564 early in the morning on September 4th. They all departed on a nice ride to Moss Landing for the annual KIA Ceremony event held at J&S Supply to honor all of our heroes who paid the ultimate price for America's freedom!

There were chapters there from a few

other American Legion Riders, including District 28, who are locally from Prunedale; also several other Patriot Riders from other Motorcycle Clubs, as well. There were American Legion Post members from several Posts, including Commanders, who made a good representation of their Posts.

Outside of The American Legion and Riders, there were several other Patriots in attendance as well,

including Blue Star Moms, Gold Star Moms, Military Moms (and Dads), supporters and even patriotic passer-bys.

J&S is a supply store that has a wide variety of goods, including Military Surplus, and has now opened a second building that is full of Rider equipment. This is a good sign that our riders are getting out there and leaving a good impression! We all acted as great representatives of our Post.

Veterans Home on Knighton Road in Redding

Bob Dunlap, CMSgt, USAF (ret.)
Shasta County Veterans Service Officer

Today was a momentous day for our Veterans Home. The photo doesn't quite do it justice, but imagine a cool morning with a slight breeze and a beautiful blue sky with fading contrails overhead. On the ground, were a hundred or so craftsmen busily forming, pouring, finishing and double-checking every detail. It was a thing of beauty!! Frank Williams noted that the Home is on target for completion in January 2012.



The first of the concrete flowed into the "E" wing, where rooms for our Veterans will soon take shape.

WWII FAMILY, continued from page 1 —

The Rupiper tour group rolled into Esneux on September 14th about 5:00 p.m., as the townspeople lined up awaiting the bus, having been made aware that a group of WWII veterans would be visiting their community that day. Charles got off the bus and scooped Hugette into his arms, while his son Paul and the tour members gathered around. The group first visited a memorial in Esneux where a dozen of our boys had died that Christmas, 1944.

Next the tour group was invited to the City Hall, where the mayor and other dignitaries waited. The group was ushered into a large meeting room and various city dignitaries welcomed the USA visitors. Champagne and finger foods were served to the group and more photos taken. The mayor expressed her thanks for our visit and invited Rupiper Travel to bring more groups. She told her story of being a small child when the tanks rolled into Esneux and how the happy townspeople kissed the soldiers.

After the visit in Esneux, the tour group spent the evening at a Liege hotel. Hugette, her daughter and granddaughter joined the group for dinner. "What a happy time it was!" stated Vi Ranney, tour escort for Rupiper Travel in Yankton, South

Dakota. "We always have happy things like this happen on our WWII tours...because we take our veterans back to the places they want to visit," stated the energetic tour hostess. "These people haven't forgotten what our veterans did for them," she concluded.

Mersereau was drafted June 26, 1942 and became a medic. He was sent to Africa when Patton's Army invaded in November. Charles served in Africa and Sicily and then was sent to England to prepare for the D-Day Invasion. He served with the 2nd Armored Tank Division, known as 'Hell on Wheels.' After going through France, he entered Belgium and was near Berlin when it fell.

For more information on the Rupiper Travel WWII tours, call tour escort Vi Ranney at 605-665-3596, as three tours are planned for 2011.



Group visits the Luxembourg American Cemetery and Memorial in Hamm, Luxembourg where General Patton is buried.

The American Legion – Calendar of Events

See the Department of California Web site: www.calegion.org for event details

Department of California

Leadership – Adjutants Informational Workshops

TBA – see department Web site for dates and times

Membership Training Workshops

TBA – see department Web site for dates and times

Limited Commission Call-In

Not being scheduled

National Commander's California Visit

December 10-14, 2010 – see page 1 for details

Four Chaplains Service

Saturday, February 12, 2011 – Time: 2:00 p.m.

The San Francisco-Bay Area observance will mark its 45th anniversary
Main Post Chapel, Presidio of San Francisco, CA

Department Oratorical Contest

February 27, 2011 – Ontario Post 112 at 1:00 p.m.

Spring Department Executive Committee Meeting

March 11-13, 2011 – Lakewood Post 496

5938 Parkcrest Street, Long Beach, CA Phone: 562-420-1014

PCC State Convention

June 21-22, 2011 – Ontario Post 112

Department Annual Convention

June 23-26, 2011 – Ontario, CA

American Legion National Convention

August 26-September 1, 2011 – Minneapolis, MN

Area Meetings – Date and Place

AREA 1

February 26-27, 2011 Sotoyome Post 111 in Healdsburg
May 21-22, 2011 Yolo Post 77 in Woodland

AREA 2

March 19, 2011 Post 589 in Salinas – TENTATIVE – Meeting Starts 9:00 a.m.

AREA 3

Saturday, January 29, 2011 Fresno Post 509; 3509 North First Street, Fresno, CA 93726
Phone: 559-224-0522; Meeting: 10:00 a.m.; Lunch
Saturday, April 9, 2011 Harry V. Bailey, Sr. Post 476; 8108 Bay Avenue,
California City, CA 93505-2656
Phone: 760-373-8334; Meeting: 10:00 a.m.; Lunch: Cost unknown

AREA 4

February 5, 2011 Jackie Robinson Post No. 252,
3828 W. Slauson Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90043
Phone: 323-298-0308
May 14, 2011 Bert S. Crossland Post No. 170,
1109 Van Ness Avenue, Torrance, CA 90501
Phone: 310 320-8060

AREA 5

January 28-30, 2011 Area 5 Meeting Post 802, Fort Yuma
April 8-10, 2011 Area 5 Meeting Post 112, Ontario
June 10-12, 2011 Area 5 Meeting Post 112, Ontario

AREA 6

April 2, 2011 Corporal Marshall S. Braden Post 56 Santa Maria

American Legion Department of California 5th Area Meeting January 28-30, 2011

Hosted by Fort Yuma, Post 802 at the Newly-Built Quechan Casino & Resort
525 Algodones Road, Winterhaven, CA 92283
877-783-2426 or Fax: 760-572-2004

Schedule of Events

Saturday, January 29

0700	Buffet Breakfast	
0800 – 1200	5th Area Chili Cook-off	
1400 – 1500	40 & 8 Fitz Brown Room	
1500 – 1600	Past Commander Club	Fitz Brown Room
1600 – 1700	Hospitality Hour by the Lazy River	
1600	Buffet Dinner	
1700	Dinner at the Ironwood Steak House	

Sunday, January 30

0900 – 1200	5th Area Meeting	Pipa Event Center
1200 – 1300	SAL 5th Area Meeting	Pipa Event Center

Hotel rooms are available at the Quechan Casino & Resort for \$89.95+ Tax
Call 877-783-2426 for Reservations

We hope you enjoy the Hospitality of Post 802,
the Quechan Tribal Council and the Staff of the Quechan Casino & Resort.
Please drive careful on your way home and come back soon!!!



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of California

See us on the Web at www.calegionaux.org

Empowering Women – Inspiring Communities



DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Pilar S. Reyes
Auxiliary
President

Working Together in Concert

Thanks to the enthusiastic participation of our official family and Past Department Presidents, we are off to an amazing start for the year 2010-2011. In September, we completed our Department Training and Workshops and all of our CA VAMC facilities and Veterans Homes have been visited, including the new Veterans Homes: **Lancaster, Ventura and West LA.** It is very comforting to know that our veterans are given the best care they deserve for the betterment of their lives and health conditions.

The Training at Clovis and Northern and Southern Workshops were all well attended. We had almost a total of 300 in attendance at the training and two workshops. Our Training Instructors, PDPs Diane, Ruby, Margaret and Sue and Secretary/Treasurer Doris, all did outstanding performances in disseminating vital information on every facet of our Auxiliary programs and policies and the new ALA MIS Membership Database that we need to know. I am very hopeful that every attendee was loaded with information that they brought back to their units and shared with their fellow members.

The ALA Department of California was honored with the visitation of our National President Carlene Ashworth. At the Southern California visit, she was very impressed with the new West LA Vet Home after a guided tour of the whole facility. At the Reagan UCLA Medical Center, with representatives from the Legion Family, she witnessed the presentation of the check to the medical staff of UCLA Health System by PDP Norma Duvall for her Special Project 'Operation Mend.' Present was the founder, Ron Katz, and his staff and the surgeons for the facial reconstructions for the Wounded Warriors.

In the evening, President Carlene was given a warm welcome at a dinner in her honor with an attendance of almost 200, including some members of The American Legion and SAL, who had the opportunity to meet her and exchange warm greetings. Anita and Linda did an outstanding job in

such a short time of preparation for the event. PDP Diane, as Honorary Distinguished Guest Chairman, emceed the program with expertise. She treated President Carlene and I with genuine courtesies and took care of us the whole time we were in Los Angeles until our departure for San Francisco the following day.

President Carlene's northern visit was equally successful, as she spent most of her time with the R2R riders. R2R is one of her projects and one of the reasons why she wanted to visit California at the early schedule was to coincide with the R2R Kickoff. Ruby, together with members of District 28 and host VFW, did more than was expected. A good number of our Auxiliary ladies were able to meet and talk with the National President who gave every one present her president's pin.

- **October is Education Month and November 14-20, 2010 is American Education Week.**
- **November 11, 2010 is Veterans Day! Do something in honor of our veterans**
- **Mid-Year meeting: information flyer is posted on Web site. WDVP Darlene McLaughlin will be our special guest. Detailed info was in the October mailing.**
- **Info on vital issues and programs covered at Presidents/Secretaries Conference will be available on the National Web site in the middle of November. A brief summary of new information for each program was included in the October mailing.**
- **SPECIAL PROJECT: TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (TBI)**

I have chosen Traumatic Brain Injury as my Special Project. I am ardently seeking the support from all the members of our Legion Family to achieve success in this rehabilitation project for our Wounded Warriors who have sustained serious injuries from blasts – PF improvised explosive devices, hand grenades, landmines and other causes which account for 65% of combat injuries. Excerpts from Palo Alto VA Web site and donation form can be downloaded from the Auxiliary Website.

- **Auxiliary members, Legionnaires, Sons – Please support my project for our Wounded Warriors!**



MEMBERSHIP



Alzora Carter
Membership

November is Membership Month and Early Bird. Early Bird will be held for all units in each District. Hopefully every unit will participate in getting members out to renew their membership early enough to make **Milestone #2** before January 15, 2011.

It is up to each Unit to remind the members that they have received the one and only renewal notice from the National Headquarters. It is solely the responsibility of the Membership Chairman of each unit to send out their own renewal notices to your members. A little postcard with a friendly message to remind them of the importance of sending in their dues will be a great start in connecting with your members. Remember to send a thank you note to that member who renewed their dues and let them know what activities you are planning in your unit.

Send a personal invitation to your seasonal members that you have not seen or heard from. Make sure the President signs the note or letter that you will be sending out. It is with big hopes that you will be notifying your members regarding your Early Bird. Remind them again why they join The

American Legion Auxiliary. Let them know about the many benefits that come with being a member. Let them know that we are here for our Veterans and their children.

Each District and Unit should hold a New Members orientation to let them know how important they are to our organization. Explain the great programs of The American Legion Auxiliary. Keep in touch with them so they will continue to attend your General Membership meetings. Remember to let every member know about the **"Power of One"** – what it is and what it stands for. We are **One Auxiliary, One Unit, One District, One Department and One Organization.** Without you as a member, we cannot – and will not – survive. Keep sending in those renewals to the Department Office.

Don't forget our **MEMBERSHIP PAYOFF** at our Department Executive Committee in Santa Clara. Challenges, Early Bird Citation and 1st Milestone will be awarded great prizes and Citations. The first five (5) District and Units to make **GOAL** will receive a special award. REMEMBER, **"Membership is Everyone's Responsibility!"**

Reminder – Please send in your Mid-Year Report no later than December 15, 2010.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL!!

AMERICANISM

Kat Conrad-Fiddler, Chairman

Greetings once again to all you lovely Auxiliary Members! I have just returned from National Convention in Milwaukee, Wisconsin and got so many ideas – I can't wait to share them with all of you!

I want you to put on your thinking caps for essay titles for the following year! I thought of a couple while listening to speeches and want your input! They are:

"The Meaning of Asking What You can do for your Country?"; "Terrorism – How it has Impacted America"; "What Service, not Self, Means to Me"; "America – an Expanding Realm of Possibility"; "Taking Pride in our Country"; "Governance verses Sovereignty"; and "How to Comprise and Build a Nation." As many of my mentors before me have done prior to Mid-Year I want to have a contest to develop titles for next year and to get mid-year narratives to share what our Auxiliaries have been up to with this expansive program.

Tips on when to fly the flag: January: New Year's Day, Inauguration Day-20th; February: Lincoln's Birthday-12th, Washington's Birthday-third Monday; March: Easter Sunday, April-??; May: Mother's Day 2nd Sunday, Armed Forces Day 3rd Saturday, Memorial Day (half-staff until noon), last Monday of May; June: Flag Day-14th; July: Independence Day-4th; August ??; September: Labor Day-1st

Monday, Patriot Day-11th, Constitution Day-17th; October: Columbus Day-2nd Monday, Navy Day-27th; November: Veterans Day-11th, Thanksgiving Day-4th Thursday; December: Christmas Day-25th; Birthday's of the States; Date of Admission; and State Holidays, just to name a few! Emblem sales also offer education materials for purchase, as well as many Web sites listed on Bulletin #1, and on our California and National Web sites, as well. Feel free to contact this chairman for any hard copies, and I will be glad to try and get them to Districts, Units and others. Thank you, Madam President, for this appointment.

Let me know either by phone, by e-mail or snail mail how I can best serve you, the Dept. of CA, and how together we can make this a Banner Year for all of our Districts, Units and members. Let's have California shine once again at our National Convention and get those Juniors!!

Kat Conrad-Fiddler for America the Great, Land that I love and Home of the Free and Land of the Brave!
katskak@hotmail.com or tishtangkat@hotmail.com
P.O. Box 1406
Hoopa, CA 95546
707-496-3401 or 530-625-9245

American Legion Auxiliary Department of California Department Executive Board Meeting (Mid-Year Meeting)

January 14, 15 and 16, 2011 – Santa Clara, California

Biltmore Hotel and Suites, 2151 Laurelwood Road, Santa Clara, CA 95054
\$85.00 per night – Single/Double/Triple/Quad Occupancy
Garden Room or Tower Suite
(Contact hotel for reservations)

Phone: 800-255-9925 • Fax: 408-988-0225

DEADLINE: DECEMBER 30, 2010

Transportation to hotel provided from Airport or Train Station

Banquet: \$28.00

Reservation forms with menu choices will be available by October 1, 2010

Questions should be directed to:

Sandy Jacob, Chairman at 408-226-3722 or sjinsj6057@yahoo.com



M.U.S.I.C.

“Membership United in Service, Ideals and Commitment”



VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

Terri Mikesell, Chairman

December is Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) month. A time when all of our Hospital Representatives and Deputies are very busy ensuring hospitalized veterans and their facilities are remembered with gifts through the Patient Remembrance/Gift Shop program. Likewise, it is a very busy time for all of our Home Service Volunteers cooking, making afghans, quilts, lap robes, wheelchair bags and ditty bags that will be given to the veterans at these facilities. Field Service volunteers are looking after veterans in their community by taking them to doctor's appointments, cooking for them, doing their yardwork, or just being a friend. Units and Posts are hosting various seasonal events.

Christmas is definitely a time when “giving is in the air” and our volunteers do a wonderful job remembering, giving back to the veterans and their families who have sacrificed and given so much in service to our country. All Units and Districts are asked to dig deep into their pockets and donate generously to the Patient Remembrance/Gift Shop (PR/GS) program, as well as the Department VA&R Welfare program, so that the Auxiliary will be able to fulfill its mission of service, not self, for our veterans and their families. It is very important that all checks for the PR/GS program be earmarked for the VA facility the donation is intended for, i.e., PR/GS – Palo Alto or West LA, etc. When transmitting donations to Department, please use the Donation/Transmittal Payment sheet, which can be found on the Department Web Site under “Finance Forms.”

Department President Pilar and I recently completed the VA&R tours to all VA hospitals in California and several Veterans homes. We were also given the privilege of visiting at three Fisher Houses, a vision that has given so many a needed place to stay during times of

stress while their loved ones receive medical treatment. These tours were beneficial and an eye opening experience as to the needs of these facilities. The “Needs Lists” that I have received are posted on the Department Web Site. Each facility is unique in its location by the types of services offered. But they all have one thing in common – the need for more volunteers.

That area of focus is recruitment of more regularly scheduled and occasional volunteers and volunteers at our VA facilities. Reaching out and helping our Homeless Veterans and supporting the National Creative Arts Program and Ride 2 Recovery. On October 3-9, 2010, Ride 2 Recovery completed their third successful Golden Gate Challenge with approximately 190 wounded warriors participating, with great support from The American Legion Family. What a humbling experience it was, seeing these Veterans riding, bonding and healing in a special way after being given this wonderful opportunity.

The Power of One can make a difference and you are the “one” who can make that difference in the lives of our Veterans. A thank you for all that you do every day for our Veterans. If you have already made your yearly donation to the Department office for the Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Programs, please check and see if you can send in an additional donation as our resources are stretched very thin.

Department President Pilar has chosen wounded warriors with traumatic brain injuries (TBI) as her special project. Military service personnel serving in Iraq and Afghanistan are sustaining multiple severe injuries as a result of explosive blasts. Units and Districts are asked to join with our Department President in making a difference in the lives of these wounded warriors by supporting this project.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 589 Sponsors Music for Young Artists Program



provide scholarships or music equipment for Artists and Music Education programs in Monterey County. Each year, a number of sponsors in our local community donate pieces of music equipment or an item for various raffles. This year, The Ladies Auxiliary, Cecil M. Anderson, Unit 589, Salinas, California was proudly able to donate a hard-earned \$250 to the program.

The Salinas Chamber of Commerce coordinates a program called “Music for Young Artists” in Monterey County. The program is managed by a dedicated committee whose purpose is to invest in our young people, helping them achieve their full potential and therefore, creating a stronger community.

Raffle and event proceeds are used to

The Music for Young Artists was able to provide a Fall Guitar Workshop Series that began on September 25th and ran through October 9, 2010. The classes were absolutely free for ages eight years and up, beginning level. The class took place at the Apothecary in Pacific Grove.

The Ladies Auxiliary at Post 589 is truly working hard with their new lineup of officers this year. This growing sisterhood is one that everyone is pleased to be a part of. The plethora of changes in such a short amount of time makes a big difference that this Post is very proud of.

Western Division National Vice President



Darlene McLaughlin

She is eligible through the service of her husband, Mac McLaughlin. He is a retired Air Force and Vietnam Veteran;

Unit level: She has served as Unit President for three years and held all other offices and most Chairmanships. She is currently serving as Treasurer;

District level: She has served as Chaplain, Vice President, President and Parliamentarian;

Department level: She has served as Education & Scholarship, VA&R, Membership, President, Historian and District Guest Chairman;

National Level: She has served as NEC, Western Division Poppy Chairman for two years and Western Division Americanism for two years, National Vice Chairman Leadership and Western Division AEF.

She is a retired Merchandising Manager for JCPenney's., having worked there for 24 years.

She has been a member of the 8 & 40

Salon 608 for 17 years. She has been a regular volunteer at the Portland VA hospital for eight years and a Girls State volunteer for five years. She has been a member of the Methodist Church since childhood.

She has been married to her high school sweetheart for 54 years. They have four children: two boys and twin daughters, and they have seven grandchildren. All belong to the Auxiliary or the SAL Squadron. Her granddaughter, Caitlin, is currently serving as Department of Oregon Junior President.

New Legislators – 2011/12

Assembly

District #	Legislator	County Location	Occupation
5	Richard Pan (D) ** ***	Sacramento	Pediatrician
7	Michael Allen (D) **	Napa, Sonoma	SEIU Local E.D.
9	Roger Dickinson (D) **	Sacramento	County Supervisor
11	Susan Bonilla (D)	Contra Costa	County Supervisor
20	Bob Wieckowski (D)	Alameda	Lawyer
21	Rich Gordon (D) **	San Mateo, Santa Clara	County Supervisor
23	Nora Campos (D)	Santa Clara	City Council
25	Kristin Olsen (R) **	Mono, Calaveras, Mariposa, Tuolumne, Madera, Stanislaus	City Council
28	Luis Alejo (D)	San Benito, Santa Cruz, Monterey, Santa Clara	Lawyer
29	Linda Halderman (R) **	Madera, Fresno, Tulare	Surgeon
30	David Valadao (R) **	Fresno, Kings, Kern, Tulare	Dairyman
31	Henry Perea (D)	Fresno, Tulare	County Supervisor
32	Shannon Grove (R) **	Kern, San Bernardino	Businesswoman
33	Katcho Achadjian (R) **	San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara	Businessman
35	Das Williams (D) **	Santa Barbara, Ventura	City Council
37	Jeff Gorell (R) **	Ventura, Los Angeles, Kern	Lawyer/USN Reserves
45	Gil Cedillo (D)	Los Angeles	State Senator
47	Holly Mitchell (D) **	Los Angeles	Childcare Advocate
50	Ricardo Lara (D) **	Los Angeles	Legislative Staffer
53	Betsy Butler (D) **	Los Angeles	Lawyer
57	Roger Hernandez (D) **	Los Angeles	City Council/Professor
59	Tim Donnelly (R) **	Los Angeles, San Bernardino	Businessman
63	Mike Morrell (R) **	San Bernardino, Riverside	Mortgage Broker
68	Allan Mansoor (R) **	Orange	Sheriff / Mayor
70	Donald Wagner (R) **	Orange	Lawyer/College Trustee
76	Toni Atkins (D) **	San Diego	City Council (former)
77	Brian Jones (R) **	San Diego	City Council/businessman
79	Ben Hueso (D) **	San Diego	City Council

There was approximately a 35% turnover in Assembly members.

** Have already met on client issues *** Assembly seat switched parties

Senate

District #	Legislator	County Location	Occupation
1	Ted Gaines (R)	Modoc, Lassen, Plumas, Sierra,	Assemblyman
	Ken Cooley (D)	El Dorado, Amador, Alpine,	Mayor/legislative staffer
Special election run off			
2	Noreen Evans (D)	Humboldt, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Sonoma	Assemblywoman
4	Doug LaMalfa (R)	Del Norte, Siskiyou, Trinity, Shasta, Tehama, Glenn, Butte, Colusa, Yuba, Sutter, Placer	Assemblyman (former)/ Rice farmer
12	Anthony Cannella (R)	Merced, San Benito, Stanislaus	Mayor
14	Tom Berryhill (R)	Fresno, Tuolumne, Mariposa, Stanislaus, San Joaquin	Assemblyman/Farmer
18	Jean Fuller (R)	Inyo, Kern, Tulare, San Bernardino	Assemblywoman/Educator
22	Kevin de Leon (D)	Los Angeles	Assemblyman
24	Ed Hernandez (D)	Los Angeles	Assemblyman/Optometrlist
28	Senator Oropez (recently deceased) won – a special election will be called.		
36	Joel Anderson (R)	Riverside, San Diego	Assemblyman/Businessman
40	Juan Vargas (D)	San Diego, Imperial	City Council & Assembly (both former)

There was approximately a 25% turnover in Senate members.

Department Officers

Office	Name (Post # - District #)	E-mail
Commander	Mark A. Foxworthy (199-5)	legionpost199@aol.com
Adjutant	Bill Siler iii (132-29)	bill@calegion.org
National Executive Committeeman	Edward C. Landis (149-22)	edward9906@sbcglobal.net
Alternate National Executive Committeeman	David L. Eby (529-1)	calegion@pacific.net
Judge Advocate	Charles Waters (004-14)	leelwaters@comcast.net
Assistant Judge Advocate	John B. Bartos (812-17)	bartosjb@earthlink.net
Chaplain	John H. Aldridge (182-5)	misterjohnhenry@comcast.net
Historian	Kevin E. Kilkeny (208-5)	kev0648@sbcglobal.net
Sergeant-at-Arms	Joseph F. Handy (084-7)	al775@sbcglobal.net
Parliamentarian	Alan C. Lennox (108-11)	allennox@alpost108.org
Service Officer	Scott F. McKee (131-29)	scott.f.mckee1@va.gov
Vice-Commanders		
Representing Area 1	Gary B. Leach (077-6)	gary_leach@att.net
Representing Area 2	Larry Leonardo (564-13)	Leokf6RLL@aol.com
Representing Area 3	Raymond White (118-3)	none
Representing Area 4	G. Patricia Jackson-Kelley (252-23)	geekell@aol.com
Representing Area 5	Ted Pasnak (537-22)	teddybeare123@att.net
Representing Area 6	Larry Wible (206-20)	larrywible@aol.com
Immediate Past Commander	Dennis L. Fercho (741-16)	dfercho@verizon.net
Office	Name (Post # - District #)	E-mail
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District 2 Commander	Henry Cater (746-2)	hewhoishfc@aol.com
District 3 Commander	Marjorie M. Goosey (568-3)	Marjgoosey@aol.com

Office	Name (Post # - District #)	E-mail
District 4 Commander	Cynthia M. Verrill (807-4)	sierra195@live.com
District 5 Commander	Michael H. McSween (028-5)	none
District 6 Commander	Antonio R. Arca (233-6)	tonyarca@comcast.net
District 7 Commander	Donald Chapman (169-7)	donandbev@surewest.net
District 8 Commander	John G. Forrett, Jr. (448-8)	sfbear2001@yahoo.com
District 9 Commander	Gilbert Klingman (517-9)	klimgang@hotmail.com
District 10 Commander	Bernard L. Remoaldo (649-10)	blsrem@sbcglobal.net
District 11 Commander	Martin J. Jones (22-11)	Lodjpost22@clearwire.net
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District 17 Commander	Peter W. Bernard (381-17)	none
District 18 Commander	Cardoza Gilbert (139-18)	Gilbertcardoza11thacr@gmail.com
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District 23 Commander	Lowell E. Arnold (252-23)	lowellarnold75@yahoo.com
District 24 Commander	Louis J. Cozolino (283-24)	loushacoz@msn.com
District 25 Commander	Frank H. Granado (155-25)	frgranado@gmail.com
District 26 Commander	Dennis R. Burke (238-26)	burkedennisr@aol.com
District 27 Commander	Lois B. Galvan (684-27)	none
District 28 Commander	John W. Tomkinson (512-28)	johnwesley@comcast.net
District 29 Commander	Raymond C. Baxter (679-29)	c-ybaxter@cox.net
District 30 Commander	Carl O. Martin (138-30)	martin435@officer.com

California Boys' State well represented at Boys' Nation

Boys' Nation Senator Jimmy Ramirez talking with National Americanism and Youth Commission Chairman Joseph Caouette at Arlington National Cemetery.



2010 California Boys' Nation Senators Ryan Low and Jimmy Ramirez represented the California Boys' State Program in fine fashion in Washington, D.C. Jimmy Ramirez, the California Boys' State Whig Party Chairman was the Nationalist Party candidate for Boys' Nation Vice President. While he wasn't elected, he conducted an excellent campaign. Jimmy was sponsored to Boys' State by Post 202 in Brentwood.

BOYS' NATION, continued on page 11

Department of California Commissions

AREA MEMBER	E-MAIL	CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR	AREA MEMBER	E-MAIL	CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR	AREA MEMBER	E-MAIL	CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR
AERONAUTICS AND AEROSPACE			CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS			ORATORICAL CONTESTS		
1 Julian Grabski (113-5)			1 Eric D. Ball (550-5)	e.paul@sbcglobal.net		1 William "Smoky" Davis (789-4)	smoky95692@att.net	VICE CHAIR
2 William P. Carney (564-13)	carneywp@gmail.com		2 Ralph W. Jacob, Jr. (419-13)	rjjnsj@yahoo.com		2 Robert Biby (238-26)	pacrobert@hotmail.com	
3 Robert E. Cozad (108-11)	robertcozad@sbcglobal.net	CHAIR	3 John K. Borders (249-11)	jkborder@verizon.net	CHAIR	3 Richard P. Sweeney (509-14)		
4 Vincent Migliazzo (177-23)	vamig@ca.rr.com	VICE CHAIR	4 Johnny T. Brown (314-19)			4 William V. Miller, Jr. (496-19)	mildew56@yahoo.com	
5 Timothy Heck (149-22)			5 Joseph A. Garcia (262-25)	jfg4law@msn.com	VICE CHAIR	5 Phillip H. Heller (106-25)	heller106@verizon.net	CHAIR
6 Fred T. Douglas (826-20)			6 John F. Garcia (508-18)	jfg4law@msn.com		6 Thomas J. Ulrich (43-24)	tomandjudyrmc@sbcglobal.net	
AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENERGY			CONVENTION CITY			PUBLIC RELATIONS		
1 William Stiles (111-5)	orslvr@aol.com	VICE CHAIR	1 Jack Price (720-2)	jan.jack.90@sbcglobal.net		1 Larry Schapiro (77-6)		
2 Ronald W. Parshall (647-10)	nikernsl@juno.com		2 Edward R. Castillo (68-10)			2 Roberto Rulan (591-28)		
3 John Saenz (83-12)			3 James J. Leyser (147-14)	histotec@inreach.com	CHAIR	3 Lon Chaney (124-15)	lonchaney@bak.rr.com	VICE CHAIR
4 Jesse J. Morales (8-17)	JesseJay.Morales@va.gov		4 Woodrow Baca (381-17)	woody45@sbcglobal.net		4 Roy C. Allen (252-23)	roycmar@dslextre.com	
5 R. Mike Thweatt (332-22)			5 Robert L. Tade (303-22)	tader@cox.net	VICE CHAIR	5 Joanne H. Evans (595-21)	cdfpio@verizon.net	CHAIR
6 Richard A. Hiser (482-16)	rhiser33@msn.com	CHAIR	6 Jack F. Kidd (283-24)	nana.kidd@roadrunner.com		6 Cynthia R. Martinez (176-20)	ecalmexs@hotmail.com	
AMATEUR RADIO			COUNTER SUBVERSIVE ACTIVITIES			PUBLISHING		
1 OPEN			1 Jerry R. Greer (205-1)			1 Carleton M. Enloe (604-6)	resigned	
2 Lawrence R. Douthard (380-13)	kds6swl@arrl.net	CHAIR	2 Jack Trad (40-8)			2 Paul Terry (410-26)	mann0806@myastound.net	CHAIR
3 Denver Payne (681-12)	denverpayne@att.net		3 Ralph Bivings (511-14)		VICE CHAIR	3 Kelly Haughton (26-15)	kelgolf@aol.com	
4 Andrew G. Romanisky (309-17)	radioandy@sbcglobal.net		4 James R. Leiphardt (381-17)	rick-leiphardt@hotmail.com		4 Marilyn Rideaux (252-23)	mslizsimon@yahoo.com	
5 WA6WDX			5 Robert H. Juers (853-22)	bobjuers@hotmail.com	CHAIR	5 Roderick P. Van Orden (6-22)		
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7 KF6TYZ			DISASTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICES			RITUAL		
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9 KE6FTB			2 Kenneth W. White (380-13)	ken.white@ix.netcom.com	VICE CHAIR	2 Joseph A. Paynter (105-26)		VICE CHAIR
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1 Patrick P. Geronimi (807-4)	pgeronimi@comcast.net		4 Ozan J. Evans (653-17)	ozanevans@aol.com	CHAIR	4 Charles Leonard (252-23)	chuck252@sbcglobal.net	CHAIR
2 Terry M. Baughman (593-28)	terryb@redshift.com	VICE CHAIR	5 Michael K. Gorsuch (783-29)	post783@yahoo.com		5 Diana Drake (800-21)	jd2ducks@verizon.net	
3 Jose Espericueta, Jr. (26-15)	jespericueta1@bak.rr.com		6 Wilbert E. Wilson (432-16)	whip.wilson@gmail.com		6 Albert Ramirez (125-16)		
4 John J. Leonard (381-17)	jjusmcbcm@aol.com		FINANCE			SCOUTING		
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6 James G. Banakus (534-16)	harley4jim2@aol.com	CHAIR	2 John A. O'Leary (340-9)	skidchains@yahoo.com	VICE CHAIR	2 Dennis L. Matarrese (117-10)	teammatarrese@yahoo.com	
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6 Robert Greaves (48-16)			2 Charlie M. Eskridge (694-28)	CMESK1@aol.com		2 Paul C. Rodriguez (512-28)	PRBANDIT1@aol.com	CHAIR
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			6 Maurice R. Woodrow (150-20)	bobwoodrow@sbcglobal.net	VICE CHAIR	6 Harley T. Santos, Jr. (125-16)	fb111a1@msn.com	CHAIR

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Meet California Boys' State Senior Staff

2010 Boys' State Staff.



Director, Richard Shick (front row seated 3rd from left – Member of San Diego Post 6, District 22)

Dick, having been appointed by the Boys State Commission, is the Director of the California Boys' State program. His duties include preparing the budget, securing all necessary contracts with the venue site, and recommending the appointment of the Chief Counselor and other Administrative Staff. Dick has served on the staff for 41 years, 10 years as a City Counselor, two years as a County Counselor and 28 years as Director. Dick is a member of The American Legion. Dick retired from the County of San Diego in 1991 after 36 years of service as a Registered Civil Engineer.

Assistant Director, Jim Alcorn (front row seated 2nd from left – Member of SAL Squadron 338, District 5)

In 1963, Jim was a California Boys' State delegate representing his high school from San Francisco. In 1974, Jim joined the staff as a City Counselor and served in that position until 1982, when he moved to the position of County Counselor. In 2002, Jim became the Assistant Chief Counselor and after that, he became Chief Counselor. In 2009, he was named Assistant Director. He has a total of 33 years on the staff. Jim is a member of the Sons of The American Legion; and a retired Concord Police Department Lieutenant, having been a police officer for 31 years.

Chief Counselor Emeritus, Joe Cenoz (front row seated 5th from left – Member of La Puente Post 75, District 18)

The senior member of the staff, Joe has been serving California Boys' State for 56 years. Joe started off as a City Counselor and progressed to the position of County Counselor. In 1974, he became the Assistant Chief Counselor and in 1981, he became the Chief Counselor. Joe held the position of Chief Counselor for 20 years and since 2004, he has served as Chief Counselor Emeritus. In addition to the California Boys' State program, Joe served on the staff of Boys' Nation for several years. Joe is a World War II and Korean War veteran. He has been a member of The American Legion since 1945 and has been a member of the Elks for over 50 years. Joe was an officer on the Pomona Police Department for 28 years and retired at the rank of Lieutenant in 1980. Joe's son is also on staff.

Chief Counselor, Tim Aboudara, Sr. (front row seated 4th from left – Member of SAL Squadron 338, District 5)

A former California Boys' State delegate

in 1972, Tim joined the staff as a City Counselor in 1975. In 1986, Tim moved into the position of County Counselor and in 2004 was named Assistant Chief Counselor. He has held the position of Chief Counselor since 2009. Tim has been a member of the staff for 36 years. He is also a member of The American Legion Boys' Nation Staff. He is a member of the Sons of The American Legion. Tim is currently the Northern California Division Manager in the wireless industry. Tim also served 22 years as a Reserve Police Officer, retiring in 1995. Tim's two sons both serve on the staff.

Assistant Chief Counselor, Bill Denson (front row seated 8th from left – Member of Martin Slobodnik Post 338, District 5)

Bill joined the Boys' State staff in 1988 as a City Counselor. In 1997 he became a County Counselor. Then in 2009, he became Assistant Chief Counselor. Bill is a member of The American Legion and the Sons of The American Legion. He has worked in accounting for 38 years. Both of his sons are members of the Boys' State Staff.

Administrator, Barbara (Chic) DeVault (front row seated 6th from left – Member of Haggin Grant Post 521, District 6)

Barbara (Chic) was appointed to assist Frank Baker, Administrator in 1988 by Director Richard Shick. Working under Frank's direction, Chic served as Administrator until being named Administrator in 2006. She is responsible for overseeing all of the functions of the Administrator's office. She manages a group of five key support people. She has been a member of the staff for 23 years. Chic has been a member of The American Legion for 55 years, and is now retired after managing her local American Legion Post for 23 years.

Assistant Administrator, Ed Denson (front row seated 7th from left – Member of SAL Squadron 338, District 5)

A former California Boys' State delegate in 1994, Ed joined the staff as a City Counselor in 1996. In 2006, Ed moved into the Administration Office to learn from Frank Baker and "Chic" DeVault, and was appointed to his current position by the Boys' State Commission for the 2007 program. Ed has been a member of the staff for 15 years. Ed has been instrumental in bringing new technology to California Boys' State to streamline the support functions of the program. He is a member of the Sons of The American Legion. Ed is a software developer for a large Californian utility company. Ed's father, mother and brother are also members of the Boys' Staff.

served as the Administrative Assistant and worked with the Boys' Nation Senate. Boys' State City Counselors Merik Mulcahy and Evan Larson served as Junior Section Counselors. Merik and Evan were Boys' Nation Senators in 2008. Tim, Evan and Merik are all members of SAL Squadron 338 from Rohnert Park.

Boys' Nation highlights included a visit with President Obama at the White House, the laying of a wreath by two Boys' Nation Senators at The Tomb of the Unknowns and a full day on Capitol Hill.

2010-2011 Post Officer Certification Delinquency List

as of 11/10/10

District	Delinquent Posts That are Missing Officer Certification	Total No. of Posts	No. of Missing Certs.	Percent Missing Certs.
1	76,548	14	2	14.3%
2	CLEARED AS OF 8/25/10	10	0	0.0%
3	CLEARED AS OF 10/27/10	6	0	0.0%
4	45,95,218	14	3	21.4%
5	194,306,850	25	3	12.0%
6	392	15	1	6.7%
7	CLEARED AS OF 6/09/10	10	0	0.0%
8	203,230,333,737	17	4	23.5%
9	CLEARED AS OF 11/05/10	9	0	0.0%
10	292	15	1	6.7%
11	632	16	1	6.3%
12	CLEARED AS OF 10/27/10	16	0	0.0%
13	89,858	17	2	11.8%
14	4,35,159	23	3	13.0%
15	94,745,785	20	3	15.0%
16	CLEARED AS OF 8/31/10	20	0	0.0%
17	302,464	12	2	16.7%
18	239,247,261,431,827,888,	24	6	25.0%
19	323,326,688,804	26	4	15.4%
20	377,735	20	2	10.0%
22	CLEARED AS OF 10/18/10	26	0	0.0%
23	633	12	1	8.3%
24	319,322	12	2	16.7%
25	155	25	1	4.0%
26	409,474	8	2	25.0%
27	298,490,646	11	3	27.3%
28	64,67,635	14	3	21.4%
29	CLEARED AS OF 8/24/10	25	0	0.0%
30	543,802	9	2	22.2%
Department Totals		493	53	10.8%

San Francisco Veterans Memorial Announces Design Team Finalists

Prominent Local Veterans Make Good on a 75-year Promise this Veterans Day

SAN FRANCISCO, November 3, 2010 – On Wednesday, November 10, 2010 at noon, former Secretary George P. Shultz and Secretary William J. Perry, co-chairs of the San Francisco Veterans Memorial Steering Committee, will announce the three design team finalists for the San Francisco Veterans Memorial Project at a press event in Memorial Court, the site of the future memorial. Located between the War Memorial Opera House and Veterans Building, the site was always intended to have a memorial to those who have served our nation in uniform.

"We are asking people to come together to help fulfill a promise to erect a memorial that honors the people that have protected our freedom and security. This memorial will be a symbol of gratitude for their service and for the peace we enjoy as a nation," Secretary Shultz said.

The San Francisco Veterans Memorial Project will fulfill the mission and original 1920s vision for the San Francisco War Memorial Complex, with the design and installation of a Veterans Memorial in the Memorial Court situated between the War Memorial Opera House and Veterans Building. The Memorial Court site contains soils from battlefields around the world where Americans have fought for their country. The San Francisco Veterans Memorial Project will fulfill San Francisco's 75-year

promise to honor the service and sacrifice of our nation's military veterans. Members of the public are invited to attend the event and to share their ideas and hopes for the new memorial with the artists by filling out a comment card located onsite.

The San Francisco Arts Commission is currently overseeing a national design competition for the memorial. The Veterans Memorial will be constructed with private funds and is planned to be formally dedicated in November 2013.

"Hundreds of artists from across the nation answered our call for artists last summer," said Director of Cultural Affairs Luis R. Cancel. "We've narrowed the field to an exceptional group of three world-class artist teams who represent diverse backgrounds and styles and who, more importantly, have experience creating powerful memorials."

The three design team finalists will submit their proposal to the Veterans Memorial Committee in spring of 2011 with the final artist to be announced in May 2011.

For more information or to contribute to the monument, please visit: http://www.sfveteransmemorial.org/OurVeterans_Video.html

Help Keep the Promise! Donations can be made online.

Letter to the Editor

Thanks for Honoring our Country!

Marilyn Hamblton, Everett, Washington

I wanted to let you know that we appreciated your beautiful flag when we were driving on I-5 near Shasta (about Exit 680) last spring. That bright American Legion flag was just gorgeous flying in

the wind, and I like that you truly "KEEP OUR FLAG FLYING!"

We were on a road trip through California, and my husband and I said, "Isn't that flag beautiful?!"

Thanks, Marilyn

BOYS' NATION, continued from page 10

Ryan Low, this year's Boys' State Governor was elected Secretary of the Boys' Nation Senate, Boys' Nation's fourth-highest office. At the graduation ceremonies for Boys' Nation, Ryan was presented with a \$1,000 scholarship from the SAL. Ryan was sponsored to Boys' State by Post 184 in Redondo Beach.

California was also represented on the Boys' Nation staff this year, as well. Boys' State Chief Counselor Tim Aboudara, Sr.,

Veterans step up to help fire victims

By Cathy Bussewitz,
The Press Democrat

All that was left of the two-story home's garage was a charred black frame and a warped metal rack, bent from the heat of a two-alarm fire that raged in a home on Manka Circle. But when homeowners Judy and John Parcher returned to their property, and took in the mounds of torn insulation and blackened debris that were strewn about over the fall leaves on their property, they were smiling, because a group

of concerned veterans had raised nearly \$1,300 to help the couple through their difficult time.

"It's just nice to know that people care," Judy Parcher said, wiping tears from her eyes. The donations came from members of The American Legion Post 111 and Women's Auxiliary, who were eating a spaghetti dinner on Veterans Day when Chief Ron Collier of the Windsor Fire Department made a pitch.

"All I did was, I told The American Legion last night about a fellow



In response to their loss from a house fire on Manka Circle in Larkfield, Judy Parcher is overcome with emotion as her husband, Vietnam veteran John Parcher, middle, gives a heartfelt embrace to Doug Newton of American Legion Post 111 of Healdsburg. Photo by Kent Porter/The Press Democrat

Before Shipping Off, Navy Recruit Seaman Christian De Knikker Joined TAL

By Larry Schapiro, Post 77 Historian



Seaman Christian De Knikker

to make his own decisions as to where to spend his time, Christian continued to help on Post 77 activities.

Thus, it was no surprise to many that one of Seaman De Knikker's first acts after recently enlisting in the Navy was his decision to become an American Legion member. "I am proud to be a part of one of the best organizations in the U. S.

The Legion helped me become a better person as I grew up. Now, even while I am deployed, I know The American Legion will be there for members of the Armed Forces and veterans."

Christian has finished Operations Specialist "A" School in the top 1% of his class of 400, obtaining the rank of Operations Specialist Seaman. Seaman De Knikker is now assigned to the USS Nimitz. He is the fourth generation of his family to serve in the Armed Forces.

We salute you, Seaman Christian De Knikker.

Christian De Knikker at Post 77's 1993 Memorial Day program holding his Dad's hand, Past Commander Cal De Knikker. By the following year, Christian was helping place 18-inch American flags on veterans' gravesites. Over the past seven years, Christian has continued to attend American Legion activities.



California Department of Veterans Affairs

3rd Annual Women Veterans Conference Woman Veteran of the Year



Patricia Jackson-Kelley, recipient of the Woman Veteran of the Year Award (holding certificate) and Barbara Ward, CDVA Deputy Secretary for Women and Minority Veterans.

CalVet held its 3rd Annual Women Veterans Conference at the Clovis Veterans Memorial Building on October 7th and 8th.

The Woman Veteran of the Year Award was presented to Patricia Jackson-Kelley of southern California and Lucy Lori Sammons of northern California.

The conference theme was: "A Legacy and Story: Women Serving with Honor." Over 200 women veterans and service providers attended the conference, which is expected to grow in size each year. The con-

ference organizer, Barbara Ward, Deputy Secretary for Women and Minority Veterans, was extremely pleased with the support provided by the local Clovis community, Fresno VA Medical Center and West Care.

This conference serves to educate women veterans throughout the state about their state and federal benefits and provides an opportunity to network with women veterans from all eras. The speakers were dynamic and ethnically diverse and considered to be experts in their areas.

The Last Bugle Call

Reporting Period: September 1, 2010 to October 31, 2010

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 484 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.cal legion.org

Inside This Issue:

National Commander's California Visit	1
Commander/Adjutant	3
Service Officer	3
Membership Director	3
Legislative Advocate	5
NEC Man	5
What a Great Convention	6
Calendar of Events	7
The American Legion Auxiliary	8-9
Department of California Commissions	10
Meet California Boys State Senior Staff	11