

California Returns to Family Traditions

Honesty and Integrity



Ken A. Kramlich, Department Commander

It is a great honor to have been chosen to serve as your Department Commander for the year, 2012-2013. Thank you for entrusting me with the important task

of leading the Department of California American Legion. I want to extend special thanks to the A-Team for all their support throughout the campaign. I look forward to working with NEC, Alan Lennox, Alternate NEC, Robert Brown and Department Sgt.-at-Arms, Anthony Guerrero this year. I will continue to lead the Department on the same platform as we campaigned, with "Honesty and Integrity."

To Junior Past Department Commander Hugh E. Crooks, thank you for passing the torch to me in such excellent shape and I wish you all the best in future endeavors. It is my intent to enforce what is in place and implement needed changes as we forge ahead. There will be some challenges to face during this continued soft economy, huge state deficit, and California troops still in harm's way today, but we will face those challenges together and rise to the occasion.

I commend you on your selections for Area Vice and District Commanders and I look forward to working with each of them to achieve Department's goals

while maintaining high standards. I am also looking forward to working with Membership Director, Janet Wilson, and her team. Janet did a great job this past year and I know this year will be even better. I ask that you remember to focus on one of the most important missions of The American Legion, the needs of the Veterans. The American Legion has some of the best programs for our veterans, and we, as seasoned Veterans, must get the word out. Let's do our part to support the VA & R Foundation and Department Service Officer, Scott McKee and his staff.

My wife, Darlene, and I are looking forward to the busy months ahead. Without Darlene's unequivocal support and love, I would not be where I am today. Please assist me in formulating my travel schedule by forwarding your Area and District meeting schedule to my Aide, Marilyn Rideaux at [lizbeth53@att.net](mailto:lizabeth53@att.net) or 1346 W. 163rd Street, Unit A, Gardena 90247 for calendaring and to the Editor

— **KRAMLICH**, continued on page 2

Attention 40&8 Legionnaires Voyageurs Complete Successful 92nd Grande Promenade

Joe Donovan, Grand Correspondant

The Voyageurs of California held their 92nd Grande Promenade again in conjunction with the American Legion Department of California, to the mutual benefit and success of both organizations. The facilities of the Red Lion were superb in all aspects, capped with one of the finest banquets in anyone's memory. Elected Delegate from Sunkist Voiture and Department Commander Hugh Crooks participated in the proceedings.

Elected leaders for 2013 year of the Grande Voiture are Grand Chef Larry Turley from Santa Clara, Chef de Train Howard Darter from Escondido, Grand Conducteur Gary Leach from Sacramento, and Grand Garde de la Porte Doug MacDonald from Sacramento. Our elected

— **40&8**, continued on page 2

California VA & R Report

Scott McKee, Department Service Officer

The Convention is over and I would like to congratulate the new officers for the 2012-2013 year. From the New Commander, Ken Kramlich to the Post Commanders, I would like to congratulate all of you as we strive together to carry out the mission of The American Legion by our "devotion to mutual helpfulness" to all of our veterans. It was great to see so many of our Legionnaires and Auxiliary members converge together to carry out the business of the State of California for the up and coming 2012-2013 Legion year.

I would like to thank the ENTIRE Department of California for their support of the VA & R Division. Commander Crooks, Auxiliary President Linda Fercho and, of course, the Finance and Personnel Committee must be especially thanked for their support of the work we are chartered to carry out. As a Division we are overjoyed for the additional support from our members to keep the VA & R Division funded. For the 2011-2012 year, we finished honoring those posts who donated above and beyond the call of duty: Mission City Post 564, \$20,000 (Eagle Award); Newport Harbor Post 291, \$10,000 (Eagle Award); and the Walter "Ski" Gamulski Post 482, \$6,000 (Special VA & R Division Plaque Award). By the close of this convention, we were honored to receive a total of \$40,000 in donations. At this Convention we received from the Amador "Ambulance" Post 108, \$20,000; The American Legion Riders for the Department of California, \$10,000; Newport Harbor Post 291, \$5,000; James Niles Creacy of the Hollywood Post 43, \$5,000; and finally, we thank those for individual donations we received, which ranged from as little as \$5 to \$1,000.

As the leadership of the Department of

— **VA & R**, continued on page 2

Legionnaire of the Year

Janet M. Wilson



Janet proudly holds the two SAL awards and wears the 2012 Legionnaire of the Year lapel pin.

Janet Wilson – 2012 Legionnaire of the Year for the Department of California awarded by the Leadership Commission. Janet was additionally awarded from the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of California: the Manual S. Cordero, Jr. plaque – 2012 Legionnaire of the Year and the Dottie Sherrard plaque – 2012 Auxiliary Member of the Year.

Both plaques read: In Recognition of

your Outstanding Leadership, Service and Dedication to the principles of the Sons of The American Legion and for your efforts on behalf of the programs of The American Legion Family.

Janet adds, "I would like to thank My Post, Auxiliary and Sons for without them, this would not be possible and a special thank you to Jack O'Leary, my mentor."

VA & R Challenge Coins

Ways and Means Commission

Bill Clapp – Area 4 Commissioner

As some of you might be aware, I've designed a challenge coin to raise funds for VA & R. This coin has been specifically designed to commemorate the Department of California's 94 years of service to our veterans.

I'm sure that each of you would appreciate having one of these coins. These coins will be a LIMITED EDITION; I hope only 1,000 will be minted. These coins can also be used to recognize those Legionnaires in your Post or District who have, and continue to support, The American Legion.

I am asking a \$15 donation per coin –

both sides of the coin are shown at right.

My hope is that by the Spring DEC (March 2013) that I can present approximately \$10,000 to the Department VA & R. This is a large undertaking, but with your help and donations, we can achieve this goal. As you are aware, the Department VA&R donations are down by 11%. Your donation will help reduce this deficit.

I currently have coins available, and will have them at the upcoming August DEC. If you would like to receive a coin, please let me know and I will reserve a coin (more if you desire) for you at the DEC. Just email me your confirmation at clappbill@yahoo.com

If you desire, you can also send me

your donation in advance: Bill Clapp, 4422 Canehill Avenue, Lakewood, CA 90713. Please make checks payable to me or you can pay when you pick up your coin(s) at the DEC.

Thanks in advance for your consideration and support.



Get your VA & R Challenge Coin TODAY!

OPT OUT!

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

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California changes, the work of the VA & R Division continues to serve American Veterans and their dependents, whether they are Legionnaires or not. Just a few weeks ago in early June, The American Legion National Staff from Washington, D.C. descended on California to prepare their annual report on the "System Worth Saving". This report reviews the various VA Medical Centers in the United States, and this time the California VA Medical Centers were reviewed. National, as well as representatives of the Department of California VA & R Division, escorted the staff as they interviewed the management, employees and the recipients of these services (the veterans). The process would go as follows: Townhall meeting the night before inviting veterans and their dependents to discuss their treatment at the facilities; then the following day, the interviews at the VA medical facilities. The sites which were visited were San Diego VAMC in La Jolla, Long Beach VAMC, San Francisco VAMC and the Sacramento VAMC. Additionally to this, our National VA & R Staff reviewed the Oakland VA Regional Office and how they handle the Veteran Benefits Administration Claims for veterans. The reports will be forthcoming at the National Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana this late August. After I receive the report, I will share highlights of this in future articles.

I was able to escort the National Staff, Warren Goldstein and William "Bob" Wallace to the San Diego and Long Beach Site visits. The Townhall was very revealing as we interviewed veterans about their care. The universal theme was that the care was great, but parking is a concern, acute care is absent and appointment wait times are too lengthy. The area the veterans would like to see resolved is the Veterans Benefits Administration side of the claims process, and the concern is not really with the Veterans Health Care treatment by the medical staff. VA Healthcare have medical staff from some of the most outstanding medical universities in the United States, especially in California.

We have Physicians who are on Fellowships from UCLA, Stanford, UC Davis, UC San Diego, UC Irvine and USC, to name a few.

Out of the interview with the VAMC in San Diego we were informed that they expect to serve 100,000 veterans out of that facility this year. Unfortunately, they may not be able to effectively meet those needs as they are "landlocked" and cannot physically expand outward, but only upward. This limitation on their expansion will need to be addressed by the City of San Diego Council in the foreseeable future. At the Long Beach VAMC they are finishing up construction, which has turned that facility into a beautiful campus with a state-of-the-art prosthetics area and blind/vision care. Yes, the VA has issues and the drawdown in our military forces of our military service members will not diminish the healthcare needs our veterans will seek.

We of The American Legion will have to work as partners with the government and the VA to ensure our veterans – elderly, middle-aged and young – receive the proper care they fought for. We need to make sure these young men and women returning home must get the best possible individual care possible. More women are in the armed forces or will join the armed forces and be placed in harm's way and therefore, the culture of the VA will have to (not need to) change to meet those requirements that are needed for women. In deference to the VA Medical Centers, they are making those changes happen, and are aware they will have to expedite those cultural changes as quickly as possible.

Your VA & R Division will continue to work diligently in utilizing all our resources to make sure care for veterans is the best this nation can provide. However we can't do it alone; we need ALL of The American Legion to be on board from the Posts, Districts, County Councils, Areas, Departments, all the way to National, must act as one voice to "care for him/her who hath borne the battle, and for his/her widow, and for his/her orphan." See you up and down the "Great State of California".

Legion Thanks Those Who Saved Mojave Cross

By Rees Lloyd, Director, Dept. of California Defense of Veterans Memorials Project

Delegates to the 94th Convention of The American Legion Department of California, in an attitude of gratitude, adopted a resolution saluting and thanking all those who worked so hard to preserve the Mojave Desert WWI Veterans Memorial CROSS from the 10-year-long legal attack by the ACLU to destroy it.

The ACLU finally surrendered in April 2012, after being defeated by the Supreme Court two years earlier in its fanatical secular-cleansing, cross-destroying attack on the veterans memorial. The ACLU surrendered in proceedings in the U.S. District Court in Riverside on remand ordered by the Supreme Court.

While thanking generally all who worked to achieve this victory over the secular-extremists of the ACLU, the California Convention resolution cited in particular:

Henry and Wanda Sandoz, who cared for the cross for over 30 years until the U.S. District Court and 9th Circuit Court of Appeal ordered it destroyed starting in 2002. The Sandoz' donated five acres of their land to the federal government in exchange for one acre on which the veterans memorial is located, to save the memorial "as it was, where it was," with cross intact.

Congressman Jerry Lewis (R-CA, 41st Dis.), who achieved Congressional adoption of legislation he authored which saved the memorial cross by a transfer of the memorial to private parties in the land exchange with the Sandoz'.

Pro bono attorneys of The Alliance Defense Fund, Liberty Institute, the Thomas More Law Center and the Dept. of California Defense of Veterans Memorials Project.

All of those attorneys are continuing to work together, pro bono, in fighting the ACLU's continuing attempt to destroy the cross honoring veterans at the Mt. Soledad National Veterans Memorial, now in the 23rd year of fanatical litigation by the ACLU, which has become the Taliban of American Liberal Secularism.

The California resolution will now be considered at The American Legion National Convention in Indianapolis, August 24-31, 2012.

KRAMLICH, continued from page 1

of the *California Legionnaire*, David Eby, for publishing.

It is with a deep sense of responsibility that I assume the position of Department Commander. I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Fall Department Executive Committee (DEC) meeting, August 11-12, 2012 in Visalia.

For God, Country and The American Legion, let us move forward with Honesty and Integrity.

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National Cheminot is Peter Duncan from Moorpark and Alternate is Paul Terry from San Mateo. These leaders can only function with the assistance of all Voyageurs for the benefit of our organization.

New program pins and information will be presented by Grand Directeurs at the October Grandes Cheminots Meeting as updated at our National Promenade in Fort Mitchell, Kentucky. Of special note was the unanimous endorsement of Grand Avocat/Past Grand Chef Robert S. Mattson for the high office of Sous Chef de Chemin de Fer.



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Mail completed form and dues to:
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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)

MY ANNUAL DUES OF \$35.00 ARE PAID BY:
 PERSONAL CHECK MONEY ORDER CASHIERS CHECK
 VISA MASTERCARD
(COMPLETE BELOW IF PAYING BY CREDIT CARD)

(CREDIT CARD NUMBER) _____ (EXPIRATION DATE)

(NAME ON CARD) _____ (CARDHOLDER SIGNATURE)



DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER



Scott McKee
Department
Service Officer
VA & R
Division

The 94th California Convention is done and now is the time to gear up for the ensuing year. We are awaiting the Area Vice Commanders to publish their calendar for 2012-2013 so we can plan out our travels to the different areas. Just as in past years, we are again asking the Areas to put aside time during the area meeting so we can continue to train/become familiar with VA systems. We had a VA & R Seminar in Redding at the Convention, which led to more requests to continue this valuable service throughout the state. So stay tuned, when we find out the dates we'll make sure they are listed on the Department Website for all to see.

It would be nice to be given some liberal time in order to make sure all questions about VA & R are addressed and answered. One of the prevailing questions we get asked is whether, as a Legionnaire, we can be accredited or certified. Let's clarify this by explaining the duties of a Post Service Officer.

"Veterans needing assistance with benefits and programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), and other military-related matters, often turn to The American Legion for help. For most veterans, the post in their community is "The American Legion." This means veterans needing help are going to look for it at the local post. This is especially true today with the thousands of troops deploying and returning from the War on Terrorism. If a veteran goes to a post for help and is turned away or treated with indifference, The American Legion, not the post, is seen as not caring about veterans. Regardless of what the Legion has done or is currently doing for veterans at the state and national levels The American Legion has turned away a veteran and potential new member. This is why it is important that every post have a Post Service Officer (PSO) truly interested in helping fellow veterans.

The PSO is often the initial contact between The American Legion and the veteran. The PSO, in most instances, is not a professional service officer, nor is he/she and an "accredited" representative of The American Legion (the exception would be when a professional service officer, county, state or Legion, also serves as the PSO for his/her post). It isn't necessary for the PSO to be an expert in veterans' law or benefits. What is important is for the PSO to have a strong desire to assist veterans. The purpose of the PSO is to be an initial point of contact regarding veteran issues by providing veterans in the community where the post is located with the basic information and assistance, including referral as directed by the Department Service Officer (DSO). Given the complexity and broad range of rules that govern VA benefits, it is critically important for the PSO to work with the professional American Legion DSO and ensure any paperwork submitted by the veteran is forwarded to the DSO in a timely manner.

The PSO should be familiar with the laws and regulations pertaining to the filing of claims, as well as the policies and guidelines established by the

National Commission as outlined in the "Code of Procedure." However it cannot be stressed enough, that given both the volume of regulations and the technical nature of the benefits process, the PSO should coordinate his/her efforts to assist a veteran or dependent with an accredited American Legion Service Officer." (2011 The American Legion Post Service Officer Guide)

Each Post receives this useful guide yearly and it should be made available to the Post Service Officer as his/her manual in assisting veterans in their communities.

To answer the question on how to become actually accredited with The American Legion from the VA Inspector General in accordance with CFR Title 38 § 14.629 (a), (1), (2), (i), (ii), (3) you must be a paid employee of The American Legion and work a minimum of 1,000 hours per year, as well as undergo annual training to maintain your accreditation. What you learn from myself as the DSO is a general class on the basics for filing a claim, filling out the paperwork and submitting that paperwork to one of our three offices located in the Regional Offices in Oakland, Los Angeles and San Diego, depending upon the veteran's/dependent's home of residence. You are not accredited or certified (and cannot be, either) through this veteran service organization or any of the others approved by the VA.

Remember your position is very important to the success of The American Legion and no one should feel less important. What is very useful to any veteran/dependent is to become as familiar as you can at understanding the VA claims process to make sure your own claim is complete and ready for submittal. Once this is accomplished, more than likely you could receive a grant instead of a denial because you know what to do. This is not just for the Legionnaires but should include all of our Auxiliary families, as you too can assist a veteran/dependent in need and carry out the first pillar of The American Legion, "by our devotion to mutual helpfulness."

In the up and coming articles, I'll continue to expand on the subject of Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. I will be venturing to your Area in the ensuing year, just as I have in the past. Even if you are not a member of that Area, please feel free to attend one of the VA & R Seminars. California is a big state and this has shown to be the most practical way in getting the information out to ALL HANDS. In the not so distant future we may be able to put it online and you can do the basic VA & R Course. During the development time of this please, as I heard in the Navy very often, "Stand-by to Stand-by. See you somewhere up and down the state.

Here are The American Legion VA & R Offices co-located in the Regional Offices:

Los Angeles – Federal Building, Suite 5201, 11000 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90024; (310) 473-6534; Fax (310) 479-4641

Oakland – Federal Building, 1135N, 1301 Clay Street, Oakland, CA 94612; (510) 834-0430; Fax (510) 834-0507.

San Diego – Federal Building, #1173, 8810 Rio San Diego Drive, San Diego, CA 92108; (619) 400-5301; Fax (619) 688-0874.



ADJUTANT'S CORNER



Bill Siler iii
Adjutant

We are back from the Convention and I want to thank all of you who came and participated in the Convention process. We have our Commissions Meeting to determine who is going to be on the different commissions for 2012-13. Yountville will be the 28th and 29th of July this year. Come out and support our American Legion Baseball Teams. It is a lot of fun and a lot of good food.

The Fall D.E.C. hopefully will be at the Holiday Inn, Visalia 93277. At this D.E.C. we will ratify the commission appointments of the Department Commander. Any posts that haven't turned in their Post Certification of Officers for 2012-13 by the opening of the DEC in August 2012 will be put on Probation by their District Commanders (Dept Bylaws Article VI, Section 3).

The 94th National Convention will be in Indianapolis, Indiana, August 28-30, 2012.

Our Headquarters Hotel will be the Fairfield Inn & Suites – 501 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN, Telephone: 317-636-7678. Registration will be Friday 24th, 25th and part of the 26th. Our Delegation Caucus will be Monday morning, the 27th of August. You can walk from the hotel to the convention center.

DEADLINE DATES: Posts MUST have their Certification of Officers Forms into Department prior to the Fall

D.E.C. Post Certification of officers can also be brought to the D.E.C. by your District Commander and he can turn them into the Department Office at the D.E.C. REMEMBER, the reason that we have deadline dates is so that your department staff can get their work completed by the deadline dates that have been dictated to us by the D.E.C.'s, by mandates from our Department Conventions, and by the National Organization of The American Legion.

POST AUDIT: Post audits have to be in to department within 90 days after the post installation of officers. Each post shall certify to the Department Adjutant prior to December First (1st) each year that such an examination has been made and file the original thereof with the Department Adjutant before the said date, with a copy thereof to the District Commander of the district of said post. If the post audit isn't into department by December 1st, then the post won't be seated at the Department Convention.

POST INCORPORATION: All posts should be INCORPORATED. This is to protect you and your members from individually being sued by any lawsuits against the post. This is very important.

WHITE or RED CAPS: All white and red cap orders must be sent to Department, Attn: Bill Siler, Adjutant – These caps cannot be ordered online or by phone at National's Emblem Sales. Please send an e-mail or call me with size and design then we can determine costs, payment and place order.

Convention Finance Committee Report

Al Lennox, Chair

I would first like to thank everyone who contributed to the Department Convention this past week. Without all of your help Convention would not have been so successful, so thank you all. Most Legionnaires might not realize the tremendous amount of work that goes into preparing for Department Convention prior to the actual gathering. When it comes to the Department Finance Committee, the list of tasks to accomplish before Convention can be daunting. This year I was lucky enough to be surrounded by extremely hardworking committee members, allowing us to accomplish all of our tasks.

During the year, the Finance Committee met at three Department Executive Committee Meetings, conducted a mid-year review, held a Budget meeting, reviewed an outside independent audit and conducted two internal audits. With the most important of these tasks being the Budget meeting, the process requires meeting with Finance Committee members, Personnel Committee members and Headquarters staff, the Department Commander and the Service Officer.

When it comes to the Convention Finance Committee, every item is thoroughly examined by the committee. Copies are mailed out to District Commanders and Vice Commanders for review prior to the meeting at Department Convention. Similar handouts of the Finance Committee findings and decisions are also passed out at the Convention Finance Committee Meeting. This year, there were 23 Districts present at the Department Convention Finance Meeting. During this meeting the Proposed Budget for 2012-2013 was unanimously approved. It was also announced that

the Pension Plan Merger was approved by National, the Pension Plan Merger Contract was reviewed by the Finance Commission, and a motion to accept this agreement after review by Legal Council was passed.

What is actually portrayed at the Department Convention are the results of all the meetings and research that the Finance Committee has done. Next year there will be a \$2.00 per capita increase and a DMS return from National. We were also able to build in a 3% COLA for our hardworking Department and VA&R employees. The California Legionnaire was also increased from three issues to six print and twelve electronic issues. Overall the Finance Committee is projecting a \$67,000 surplus for the General Fund.

The VA&R Fund received a \$20,000 donation from Amador Post 108, a \$10,000 donation from the American Legion Riders, and a \$5,000 donation from Newport Harbor Post 291. This gave the VA&R Fund a surplus of \$35,000. There was also a transfer of \$248,678 from the General Fund to the VA&R Division resulting in fully funded Service Officer Division.

In addition to working on the budget, the Finance Committee was hard at work on several Resolutions throughout the year. The Pension Plan Merger resolution was unanimously passed. Due to the Pension Plan Act of 2006 the Department was placed in this situation. If the Pension Plans are not merged then the Pension Plan must be fully funded by 2015, resulting in excessive yearly contributions. This year's contribution would be \$190,000 followed by \$27,000 target normal costs. By merging the Pension Plans, the Department will see an

—FINANCE, continued on page 4



DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN



Rev. Earl Frazier,
OSB
Department
Chaplain

Barely six weeks after the Continental Congress established the Army and the first branch of the Army, the infantry, a second branch was established upon orders by General George Washington, that of the Army Chaplains Corps (July 29, 1775) and for 237 years, chaplains have served Soldiers, Sailors, Marines, Airmen, and family members, living up to the Latin motto, "Pro Deo et Patria," which means, "For God and Country." The chaplains who serve in The American Legion at each post carry on with this work in service to our fellow veterans and their families. But what are the responsibilities of post chaplains today?

From The American Legion 'Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies' we read, "The chaplain need not necessarily be a clergyman, but must be a person capable of moral and intellectual leadership and one who gives dignity and respect to the office." But what does that have to do with a chaplain's duties and responsibilities to veterans? Here are a few that come readily to mind.

Invocations and benedictions at all meetings, keeping records of their post member's sickness and distress to be reported at post meetings and published in post newsletters, visiting the sick whenever possible, accurately recording and participating in ceremonies (funerals, memorials, etc.) honoring those who transfer to Post Everlasting, participating in National Holiday activities (Four Chaplains Memorial Service, Memorial Day, Veterans' Day, Fourth of July, Flag Day, Thanksgiving, etc.), and offering a blessing at meals in any veteran activities (post, home, public).

But more than participating in the above-mentioned activities is being prepared to perform them well. Chaplains have to know and practice their parts so that when they are called upon to do an invocation, a blessing, conduct a funeral or memorial service, they can do so with confidence and dignity. I am available and willing to help anyone who asks. I also intend to visit as many posts as time allows. God bless and watch over our military, veterans, their

families, and our nation.

The following is taken from the Chaplain's "How to..." Manual, stock no. 23-011: The greatest number of questions addressed to me relate to the work of a chaplain. People want to know just what a chaplain is supposed to do. Many either have just been installed or are waiting to be installed for the first time. They know there is a chaplain, but what is he/she to do? I answer that the work can be as large and diverse as one is willing to make it. Generally, our task is to serve and minister where there is a need. The chaplain, being on the staff of the commander, is to serve as spiritual advisor for all members of the post.

The following, while serving as an outline, is helpful, but should not be considered definitive. The chaplain should: Be present at all post events. By simply being there, he/she is saying this is a significant occasion and it is recognized that one has a responsibility to be present, regardless of whether or not there is a particular role to fill. In other words, a chaplain's presence is essential.

Prayers: every Legionnaire knows that the chaplain gives the invocation and benediction at meetings. I regret that many think that is the total work of the chaplain. Also, the chaplain gives the memorial prayers at Post Everlasting services. What prayers should be given? Should they be limited to the written ones found in our manuals? No, those are always appropriate, but one need not limit himself/herself to those provided in the resource tools. It is always acceptable and fitting to use your own prayers, provided they are in good taste. The chaplain should always be aware of the ecumenical nature of our constituency.

The chaplain should participate in the following: Four Chaplains Days and Religious Emphasis Weeks; Independence Day events; Veterans Day Memorials; Installations; Initiations; Funerals and memorials when requested; Visit the ill, bereaved, shut-ins, disabled and prospective members; Send cards and make telephone calls as needed; Take part in all rituals and ceremonies of The American Legion; Communicate with officers, members and community organizations; Provide spiritual leadership through the Legion's "Service to God and Country" program.



DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN



Gary Leach
Department
Parliamentarian

As your newly appointed Parliamentarian for the Department of California, my plan is to use this column to provide basic information on matters of parliamentary procedure, and to address common errors which I have observed over the years at American Legion meetings.

One argument I have heard many times relates to the reading of minutes and the belief that a motion is required in order for them to be approved. According to Robert's Rules of Order, once the minutes have been read, the chair asks, "Are there any corrections to the minutes?" and pauses. If no corrections are proposed by the member-

ship, the chair may simply say, "If there are no corrections, the minutes stand approved as read." Although a formal motion to approve them is not out of order, such a motion is generally unnecessary unless there has been a dispute over the accuracy or propriety of something in the minutes. If a correction to the minutes should be required, whether or not a motion for approval has been offered, the chair may simply say, "If there are no further corrections, the minutes stand approved as corrected." The actual correction is made in the text of the minutes being approved, and the minutes of the meeting making the correction merely state that a correction was made to the minutes of the prior meeting, without specifying what the correction was.

In summary, although a formal motion to approve minutes may not be out of order, it is not a requirement.



MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR



Janet M. Wilson
Membership
Director

I want to get this year started on a very positive note; we did almost get that brass ring, almost made that 100%. With a little more effort, we can do it this year! Our Goals have not been set yet!

We will be attending the National Membership workshop in Indianapolis Aug. 2-4. At that time, we will meet with the National Commander leading candidate and will discuss their goals for California. We know they won't give us the same goals as last year, but one can only ask. Start urging your Adjutants to send in the transmittals, and let's beat last year's totals. Let us go onward and upward.

Gold Brigadiers: Ed Castillo, 78 new members from Post 68, District 10; Floyd Martin, 71 new members from Post 108, District 11; Don Harvey, 50 new members from Post 564, District 13.

National Recruiter of the Year: Freddie Sisario, Post 365, District 22 and Gold Brigadier, with 81 new paid members.

Silver Brigade: James Easley, Post 434, District 22; Gene Vinlove, Post 328, District 21; Robert Hamm, Post 149, District 22; Rodney Mederios, Post 746, District 2.

New Post Achievement from

National: Mario Benfield Dist.8; Robert Miller Dist. 24

National Achievement most improved over last year: District 2, David Cockrill; District 6, Henry Sanchez; District 7, Dusty Deryck; District 9, Drew Hansen; District 10, Ron Parshall and 1st Place in Department; District 11, Bonafacio Arong, Jr.; District 29, Bill Sandlin.

For the highest percentage in Dept. by cutoff date: Post 628, Los Angeles Chinatown Post, District 17 with 182.35%.

National has an award for membership called the "Race to the Top": We are very pleased to announce that District 10 and Commander Ron Parshall have again taken 1st Place in their category. Ron has been awarded a trip to the National Convention to receive this award. District 7 and Commander John "Dusty" Deryck placed 2nd in the same category and won \$500. This was their first, but hopefully not last, and maybe can keep 10th District on their toes. We can all push for the "Race to the Top" next year.

The Area meeting dates will be posted on the Web calendar; be sure to attend. Each Area will have membership tables and will bring back all the newest handouts and help from National.

Retain and Recruit...remember we love the legion...share, and let's get these newly-minted veterans to join.



LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATE TO THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE PETE CONATY & ASSOCIATES

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California Veterans Victorious in Fresno and Redding Veterans' Homes Struggle



Pete Conaty
Legislative Advocate
to the California
Legislature

California veterans scored a major victory with the adoption of the state budget for FY2012/13 on June 27th. The budget contained start up funding of \$4.2 million for opening the newly constructed Redding and Fresno veterans' homes. At the same time this funding was approved, the Governor vetoed \$195 million in funding requested by the Legislature for other programs

By leaving this funding intact in the budget, the Governor and his Administra-

tion acknowledge the work on behalf of all veterans' service organizations beginning earlier this year to restore this funding to the budget.

In January, the state budget faced an overall budget deficit for the FY2012/13 of \$11 to \$16 billion. Many programs such as education, prisons and health care were proposed to be slashed by \$500 million to several billion from the previous year. There was no funding in the Governor's budget for opening the two new veterans' homes, which were due to be completed by June of this year.

Faced with this issue, all veterans' service organizations (VSOs) began campaigns to convince the Legislature and — **LEGISLATIVE, continued on page 5**

FINANCE, continued from page 3 —

immediate relief of the \$190,000 2012 target contribution. The merger is also an immediate relief of an \$800,000 total debt that the Department is facing without merger of the plans. In addition, the merger is also a remedy to the possibility of the Federal Government seizing LACC assets. Overall, the Pension Plan Merger will allow the Plan to be fully funded for perpetuity. The Pension Plan Merger and Pension Plan Contract were both passed unanimously.

The Remote Caller Bingo resolution was unanimously passed with review of the Legal Council. Remote Caller Bingo has the potential to be a major source of

revenue for the Posts and Department. With the resolution the Department can negotiate better terms for the potential funds received by the players, Posts and Department. It is important to note that there will be no loss of revenue to Posts or bingo players.

Overall, the Finance Committee was able to accomplish great achievements this year. Most noteworthy of these accomplishments is the \$102,000 total budget surplus. Along With the Proposed Budget and the Resolutions that the Finance Committee worked diligently on throughout the year, we are proud of the results of the Department Convention. Thank you all for your help and support.

As always, for God and Country.

the governor to fund these new homes. Also, the VSO support groups located in Redding and Fresno areas were instrumental in organizing petitions, letters and emails to legislators and the Governor to restore the funding.

Beginning in February with American Veterans (AMVETS) annual capitol lobbying day, legislators began hearing from each VSO's during their capitol lobbying days that these homes should be funded. The Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA) repeated the message at its March capitol lobby day in conjunction with Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.

The crowning event was on April 18th when both The American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), held legislative days and visited every legislative office in support of the veterans homes. Also, over 200 veterans came from Fresno and Redding in busses and vans. There were over 400 veterans roaming the Capitol on April 18th. The commanders of both the Legion and the VFW testified in support of funding the homes before the Assembly Budget Subcommittee that day which then voted to place \$10.6 million in the budget to begin to open the two homes in FY2012/13. The California Association of County Veterans Service Officers (CACVSO) also lobbied the Legislature in support of funding at their annual legislative day in May. Other members of the California State Commanders Veterans Council (CSCVC) such as the Military Order of the Purple Heart, Military Officers Association of America, Reserve Officers Association of America, Jewish War Veterans of the USA, and the Legion of Valor also mobilized their members to write and contact their legislators and the Governor on the issue.

As the budget progressed, the Assembly, under the leadership of **Speaker John A. Pérez**, kept this funding in the budget and continued to resist efforts to remove it from the budget from a variety of quarters. With the state budget still in deficit to the tune of \$8 billion in June, during final budget negotiations,

the funding was reduced to \$4.2 million but was kept in the budget.

Why this action is important to California's veterans:

- For the first time in recent memory, all veterans' service organizations united behind a common goal and worked together for the good of all California veterans. While this action will affect mostly veterans living near the Redding and Fresno areas, veterans from the entire state supported this effort.
- This budget action commits the state to a timetable to open these two homes from which there is no turning back. While many legislators helped and assisted in securing this funding in the budget, several are worthy of special note. In the Senate, **Senator Doug La Malfa (R)**, **Senator Michael Rubio (D)**, and **Senator Lou Correa (D)** were the two most visible supporters. In the Assembly, besides **Speaker John A. Pérez**, **Assemblymembers Jim Nielsen (R)**, **Henry Perea (D)**, **Linda Halderman (R)**, **Paul Cook (R)**, **Richard Pan (D)** and **Joan Buchanan (D)**, were the most active in support of the homes, sometimes working quietly behind the scene.
- **Governor Jerry Brown** is to be complemented for listening to the outpouring of support from California's two million veterans and not removing this funding from the budget while he was having to cut other programs.
- Moreover, with a firm start date, local veterans groups as well as other interested parties in the Redding and Fresno areas can now begin to "adopt" these homes and can get organized to assist the new homes by supplying comfort items and providing volunteer services that the state is not authorized to provide to the veterans home residents. This effort will go a long way to ensure that the state stays on schedule to open these homes and will prove to the Governor and the Legislature that California's veterans support the **eight California Veterans Homes**.

5th Annual Assembly Veterans Recognition Luncheon

The American Legion was well represented at the California Assembly's 5th Annual Veterans Recognition Luncheon, which was held on June 27th at the Sacramento Convention Center. This event enjoyed another great turnout, filling the room to capacity with over 300 attendees.

The Veterans Recognition Day event is hosted by the California State Assembly. Each Assemblymember is encouraged to honor a veteran or current service member from their district to be recognized for their contribution. **Assembly Speaker John A. Perez** tasked **Assemblymembers Paul Cook and Richard Pan**, Chair and Vice Chair of the Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee, to coordinate efforts within the Capitol. The luncheon at the Convention Center was coordinated again by Pete Conaty and Dana Nichol in my office.

This year's keynote speaker was Assemblyman Jeff Gorell (R-Camarillo). Lieutenant Commander Gorell (USN-Reserve) recently returned from active duty in Afghanistan. A third generation navy man, Gorell currently serves as an intelligence officer in the Naval Reserve. He has completed two one-year

tours to the Middle East and Afghanistan and was decorated for his leadership in a combat zone.

This event was made possible by veterans service organization (VSO) and corporate sponsorships. The VSO sponsors were: AMVETS, Department of California; Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), Department of California; and the Vietnam Veterans of America, California State Council.

The Legion's Department Legislative Commission Chairman Gary Ross of Post 861 was the honoree chosen by Assemblyman Richard Pan of Sacramento. The following Legionnaires were also chosen to be honored by their Assemblymembers:

Lorraine Plass, Post 111; William "Bill" Goodreau, Post 18; Thomas McCrady, Post 397; Michael Baldwin, Post 288; Robert Otto, Post 26; Daniel Payne, Post 147; Jesus Zungia, Jr., Post 120; Julianne Sohn, Post 381; Robert "Buck" Rogers, Post 131; James Bogan, Post 591; Richard Edgecomb, Post 74; Cheryl Stewart, Post 12; Daniel Cervantez Castro, Post 739; Justin Bond, Post 3; Pete Beatty, Post 227; Ted Puntillo, Post 77.

★ ★ ★ DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER REPRESENTING AREA 1



Cindy Verrill
Department Vice
Commander
Representing Area 1

I would like to thank everyone in Area 1 for their support during the elections just held at the Department of CA Convention in Redding. A BIG thank you to everyone working membership for the Area's 1st place finish in the department. I hope to

see us do as well or better this next year. My first Area 1 meeting will be held at District 3, Thomas Tucker Post 204 on Sept. 29-30, 2012. I will be trying something a little different. I am looking to hold commission training during the Saturday portion of the meeting with four 'half-hour' sessions in the hopes of getting more worthwhile information out to both the district and post advisors.

Look for the meeting agendas to find out which first four will be held during the upcoming meeting.

★ ★ ★ DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER REPRESENTING AREA 2



Greg Corrales
Department Vice
Commander
Representing Area 2

I am very humbled and honored to have been elected Department Vice Commander for Area 2. James Barrett Scotty Reston said, "An election is a bet on the future, not a popularity test of the past." I intend to work very hard on our American

Legion's future, which we all know starts and ends with membership. On July 12, 2012 I had the honor of installing District 8's officers in a nice ceremony at the Veteran's War Memorial Building. I am looking forward to attending the San Francisco Police-Fire Post Officer of the Year Dinner on July 19. I will be going to Yountville July 29, and of course, the DEC August 11 and 12.

Redwood City Post 105 has graciously agreed to host our Area 2 meeting on August 18, 2012. I will be reporting on my activities in the next issue. God Bless America!

★ ★ ★ DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER REPRESENTING AREA 5



Frank H. Granado
Department Vice
Commander
Representing Area 5

My name is Frank Granado and I am the new Department Vice Commander representing the 5th Area. I joined the American Legion in the year 2000. I served in the US Army from 1966 to 1968, during the Vietnam Era. Since

joining The American Legion I have served as 2nd Vice 2 years, Commander 2 years, and as Judge Advocate 1 year at Post 155 in Colton. I went through the chairs in the district and became 25th District Commander. In the Past Commanders Club I served as 2nd Vice, 1st Vice and President of Outpost 25. I also belong to the 40/8, the Catholic War Veterans. I now am a member of American Legion Post 106 in Redlands. It is an honor to be Vice Commander for the 5th Area. The year 2012-2013 is going to be long and hard for everybody, especially in membership with the raise in the per capita. Membership is going to be a big goal for us. Our mission – like all Areas – will be to retain our present members and to bring younger members into The American Legion Family. We want to educate them, inform them of the benefits they and their families have available to them. Show them the different programs for their children and the Ladies Auxiliary that their wives can join. Inform them of our Boys and Girls State programs available through the Ladies Auxiliary, and, of course, let us not forget Homeland Security, Children and Youth, Americanism, Veterans Rehab and Wounded Warriors programs.

The 5th Area's biggest challenge will be our membership. We will work hard together to meet that challenge. With the Ladies Auxiliary, the Sons of The American Legion and the Legion Riders support, The American Legion Family will survive.

Remembering for God and Country until next we meet.

My wife, Teresa and I have been married for 48-1/2 years. We have a son and a daughter. Our son Marco is a homicide detective for the San Bernardino Police Dept. My daughter Brenda is in real estate. I also have four grandsons.

"Jim Hackney's Night Out"

Marilyn Rideaux, Event Coordinator

For those of you who will be attending the National convention, I am sorry to inform you that there will not be a California Party in Indianapolis this year. This decision was based upon the fact that we were unable to identify (plan) an activity that would be accessible for everyone and most importantly, affordable. We considered a large dinner party and while Indianapolis has some of the finest

restaurants in the country, there were risky monetary requirements involved that we could not guarantee.

Nevertheless, Monday evening, August 27, 2012, will still be California Party Night – "The 4th Annual Jim Hackney's Night Out". So remember, whatever you do that evening, keep in mind what Jim would say, "Are we having fun yet?"

Let's start planning for Houston in 2013. If you have any activity ideas for a celebration, please let me know.

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California Wins with Honesty and Integrity



Kenneth & Darlene Kramlich



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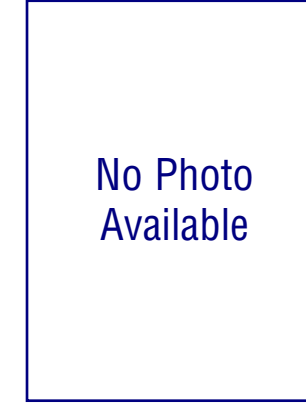
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THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



Linda Fercho
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Welcome to a new American Legion Auxiliary Year. Thank you for electing me to be your president for the coming year. Our theme is a magical, mystical fantasy with "Veterans Our Biggest Treasure". We are going to be working with our Legion family to provide service to our Veterans. I look forward to working with Commander Ken and his great team.

I hope that you were able to attend a workshop and become acquainted with our programs and their focus for the coming year. We have some tremendously talented chairmen who will be providing you with timely and informative information as the year progresses. Retention of membership is still a very important part of our success. Our reports to congress reflect our work in our communities and the more members that we have, the more work we can accomplish.

The "Elves" hospital representative and deputies hosted us on our tours of the VAMC facilities and we were so impressed with the great strides the VA Administration is making to assure quality care to our Veterans and the active duty military personnel. Poppy production has already begun for the year.

Our office staff remains just a phone call away from you for answers and assistance. Our website has virtually all of the answers and it remains very user-friendly. My special project will be for wounded warriors, so please send your donations to the department office with the special form earmarked for that purpose.

I would also like to encourage members to support The American Legion Sweepstakes with donations going to support our Auxiliary. Drawing will be held October 1, 2012. 1st Prize \$5,000; 2nd Prize \$2,000; 3rd Prize \$1,000; and the remaining \$12,000 will be awarded to 24 more people at \$500 each in a joint drawing along with The American Legion members. If you are not receiving these tickets, you may contact the Department Office.



DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/TREASURER



Peggy Vogele
Department
Secretary/
Treasurer

With our new Dept. President Terry Mikesell's theme of "Magical, Mystical & Fantasy", I am the Dragon and The American Legion Auxiliary Department of California Office is the Dragon's Lair. The Office Staff, the Membership Clerk

and the Bookkeeper are the precious gems worth protecting. We are looking forward to having a great year with Terry and her theme. The Dragon's Lair is also excited to work with our New Dept. Vice President, Anita Biggs and the new

Jr. Member of the Finance Committee, Geri Fitzpatrick.

I have just ended my first year as the Department Secretary/Treasurer. I have learned a lot and still have a lot more to go. The staff and I enjoy talking to the members and answering their questions. Even though we have been "members" for a while, we are always learning something new about the Programs to share with members.

Please take a look at our website at calegionaux.org for the latest information happening in the American Legion Auxiliary Dept. of California. Dept. President Terry has three Training Workshops coming up. Please look on the website for the information, so you can attend.



SONS OF TAL – COMMANDER DETACHMENT OF CALIFORNIA



Mark L. Smith,
Commander

Welcome to the Son's Team California!

We are a Team; in fact, the biggest Team in our Western Division. We are going to have a heck of a year with our new All Stars lineup of Senior Vice Commander Chris Affolter and Junior Vice Commander Wes Williams and with our Area Vices and they are:

Representing Area One – out of the Konocti Squadron 437 – Vice Commander Wayne Bean.

Representing Area Two – out of the Mayfair Squadron 791 – Vice Commander James Ruck

Representing Area Three – out of the Rex Ish Squadron 88 – Vice Commander Philip Stewart

Representing Area Four – out of Hawthorne Squadron 314 – Vice Commander Mike Ladre

Representing Area Five – out of the Newport Harbor 291 – Vice Commander Tomidan Jordan

Representing Area Six – out of the Lompoc Squadron 211 – Vice Commander Arthur Carlos

These Officers are supported by me and their Local Squadrons and Districts to help get us to the top of the list of the National Membership Charts throughout this season in Indianapolis and the next in Houston, Texas.

Our 'Newest' Adjutant, keeping our numbers is Ned Fox. Our Chaplain James Fischer is working with the Almighty so that all of our Home Runs are over the fences.

I know we haven't had a theme for the Detachment for a while, but we'll go with it as a motivational incentive to all be working together because as I always have said, "If it's not any fun, why do it?" If we can't come off an incredibly fun Convention and keep the ball rolling, then I didn't do my job here in Redding last weekend.

For those of you who didn't come to Redding, on Friday evening I hosted a little dinner at the Redding Moose Lodge 1006. They served Prime Rib to us that were above and beyond great. We also had a little "Special" Meeting Room at the Red Lion for a few days that some say was the best one of the Convention. Just sayin'...

Next up is The American Legion Baseball Playoffs culminating into the Big Finals Weekend and Bar-B-Que at the California Veterans Home in Yountville. If you have never been there and seen that...GO! You won't be sorry; it's a great weekend event for the whole family and The American Legion Family. I'll see you there!

For God and Country in support of The Sons of the American Legion.



Candidate for National President Nancy Brown Park Fundraiser Event – Area 2 October 27, 2012

Post and Unit 161 Harding-Noia
Antioch, California

Veterans Memorial Building, 403 West 6th Street, Antioch

5:30-6:30 p.m. Social Happy Hour – 7:00 p.m. Dinner
Music and Dancing until close

\$15.00 per person
RSVP Janet Wilson at 925-754-9070
RSVP by **October 20th** for food count

Please join us for Mexican Fusion Buffet • Great Raffle and Fun

Directions:

Use "A" Street Exit, "G" Street is closed;
turn left on A Street, then go to W. 6th Street, left turn.
Extra parking in rear of building.



American Legion Auxiliary

Honorary Junior President

Talia Avina



I would like to thank the Junior Auxiliary members for their support and confidence in me as Honorary Junior President this year. I am looking forward to working with all of you. I would love to communicate with anyone who has questions about events or what Juniors can do for our Veterans and their families.

This year, I would really like us to gather

more than just at the Junior Conference. I think it is important that we stay on track and work together to make this a record year. I will be sending out information via email. If you would like to be on my email list, please send your information to me at juniorauxtal@comcast.net and I will see to it that you receive a monthly report of all events pertaining to all Juniors.

Again, thank you Juniors and a special thank you to all the Senior members who have given me their encouragement. You're the best.

The Power of One – Service Not Self

American Legion Auxiliary IMPORTANT DATES

July 27-29	Yountville Picnic	August 23-30	National Convention
July 30-August 4th	Northern VA Tours	September 14-17	National President's Visit (not confirmed)
August 3-4	Gustine Workshop	October 14-17	President/Secretary Conference
August 5-10	Southern VA Tours		
August 11	San Diego Workshop		

Convention Raffle Results Redding Convention Corporation

The following is a list of the winners in our Convention Raffle:

Leroy Turcotte	San Jose	\$1,000.00	Linda Singletary	Moreno Valley	100.00
Joyce Delgado	El Monte	750.00	Margaret Higgins	Arlata	100.00
Ron Rominger	Palo Cedro	500.00	Auxiliary Unit 117	San Leandro	100.00
Pricilla Parker	Pacifica	250.00	Katie McColum	West Point	100.00
Auxiliary Unit 457	Big Pine	100.00			

All checks have been mailed.

Jan Price, President

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29th District Boys State Instructional Dinner



Boys State delegates at the 29th District Boys State Instructional Dinner held at Newport Harbor Post 291.

*Jess Lawson - Commander,
Newport Harbor Post 291
29th District Boys State Chairman*

The 75th Session of California Boys State was held in Sacramento June 16-22, 2012. For the 29th District, we consider this the beginning of a true lifetime experience. We welcomed 83 delegates representing 20 Posts in Orange County, California. With parents, school counselors, Post Chairmen and other Command personnel, 298 meals were served and many delegates went back for seconds. Without the great interest and support of

the parents, dedication of Post Officers and the monumental effort of the American Legion Boys State staff, none of this would be possible.

Several call-outs and special thanks: Ken Ulrich, Bill Dunn, Bill Bennett, Carmen Williams, Jack Rhines, Ken Widdall, Al Yarrington, Steve Spriggs, Ken George, Richard Dunham, Cindy Widdall, Trish Lawson, Susie Rhines, Peaches Yarrington and others too many to name. My personal thanks to all.

One final thanks: Post 291 Captain Alex, the fabulous wait staff, Chef Javier and the magnificent kitchen staff.

Patriot Outreach Resolution Aids Vets with Stress

By Rees Lloyd

A resolution accepting the offer of *Patriot Outreach* founder, Col. Antonio Monaco, to provide without charge to Legionnaires and other veterans, the organization's "Coping Strategies" CD and related materials to help veterans dealing with stress, was adopted by Delegates to the 94th Convention of the Department of California, June 21-24, 2012, in Redding, California.

Patriot Outreach's unique "Coping Strategies" materials have been provided to over 95,000 veterans, and more than 40,000 have downloaded the program from the organization's website, all without charge. (See www.PatriotOutreach.org.) The 101st Airborne has requested and received some 8,000 and the Army ordered some 3,000 copies after the Fort Hood massacre carried out by a jihadist Muslim Army Major who killed 13 and wounded over 50.

The program has been found effective, and is endorsed – especially for vets who are reluctant to reveal they are having stress problems or to seek help from the VA or

other sources – by the head of medicine at Walter Reed Medical Center and the Army Chief of Chaplains, among others.

The Resolution, sponsored by District 21, was approved by the VA&R Commission first, then by vote by delegates on the Convention floor. The resolved clause provides:

"RESOLVED, that American Legion District 21, and the Department of California, should and hereby do, gratefully accept the offer of Col. Antonio Monaco, president of *Patriot Outreach*, to be provided copies, upon our request, without charge as available, of the *Patriot Outreach* "Coping Strategies" CD program and related materials of *Patriot Outreach*, and for our American Legion members and other veterans to download that program without charge from the *Patriot Outreach* website."

It will now be considered for adoption at the National American Legion Convention in Indianapolis, August 24-31, 2012. It may be read in full at www.calegion.org, Resolution 010-2012; or you can find more information at www.patriotoutreach.org

Youth Environmental Conference

*Barbara Ross – Program Coordinator
ross4834@comcast.net
916-798-3317*

We're off to a great start for the 2013 Conference!! We have our Employer Identification Number (EIN) and will be filing for our 501(c)(3) nonprofit so we can begin seeking grants to help with our always-increasing annual costs. We have received two small, but appreciated donations to recoup some of 2012 expenditures and get us going for 2013.

My thanks to Commander Kramlich for the early appointment to serve as Coordinator for 2013 so we can get packets out to all the District and Area Commanders at the August DEC; that, and the website being up and running, will be instrumental in bringing the program back up to its 50+ student participation.

For the biggest school district I deal with, I'm meeting with the district Science Administrator to see if I can get permission to get YEC information printed in the school newsletters. The local Legion Post is going to work with me to see if they can also get Oratorical information included in the school newsletters. That way the

info will get to the families, not just to the students. Hopefully a lot more students will be participating in these programs once the families know they're available – especially the Oratorical scholarship opportunities. We all know how busy our teachers are and understand that they just don't have the time to get the information to the students.

School districts are also the source of information for charter schools and home-schooled students who are often overlooked.

We're making progress with arrangements for a donation of printed brochures that were designed a couple of years ago, but we haven't had the funds to print. These have space for the Post name, number and contact information to be added. If available, these will be included in the DEC packets.

All the forms will be on the website before the DEC. Please adhere to the deadline dates. That's how we determine the best way to sign contracts with all the vendors. Late changes, as we all know, can be costly.

Please contact me if you have any questions or input for the conference, which is sponsored by American Legion posts and conducted by the U.S. Forest Service – a partnership unique to the Department of California.

★ ★ ★ LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION



*Gary Ross
Commission
Chairman*

Gary Ross, Chairman

With convention behind us and new leaders in place at all levels, the Department will be busy appointing new Commissioners and chairmen to keep moving our programs forward.

The one group that cannot relax and wait for these new appointees to be confirmed in August is the Legislative Commissioners, along with District chairmen and Post members.

As long as the Legislature is in session and Veteran-related bills are working their way through committees, we have to be alert and let them know we're watching. Remember – this is an election year, and constituent calls are even more important than usual.

Some two-year bills will drop off with the close of this session, but may reappear with new numbers and new authors in 2013. Our Legion Legislative Rep will continue to keep us informed as bills come up for hearings. As the information goes out over the Internet, we hope our members will keep up the barrage of contacts

they have started over the last few months. Even when the Legislature is on recess, their district offices are staffed and they'll get your message to the elected officials.

It's been my honor to have worked with the Department for the last several years, and I know our elected officials up and down the state have developed a real respect for what our members have to say.

Don Harper and I have been among those chosen to serve on the Interagency Veteran Council authorized by Governor Brown's Executive Order B09-11 on August 23, 2011, which is working diligently to establish "one stops" throughout the State where Veterans can get information on all benefits – both Federal and State. The task is far from complete, so this will be an ongoing program.

Last fall, the Assembly established a training video for their district offices staff, and provided them with the CDVA Benefits Directory to give them the support they need to assist any Veteran who comes in to their office. This is a tremendous step forward in helping our Vets readjust and get a real "Welcome Home", rather than get sent from office to office.

Let's hope by the time you read this the process for staffing the Redding and Fresno Veterans homes will be a reality.

Post 119 Helps a Korean War Veteran



Pictured, L-R: Jim Maxey, Ellen Maxey and Bill Bryant, American Legion Riders from El Dorado Post 119 in Placerville. Not pictured are Jeannette Davino, Tom Krauss and Sean Lemmon of Home Depot Store 1085 in Placerville.

John "Dusty" Deryck, VSO Post 119

El Dorado Post 119, The American Legion and the Home Depot Store 1085 in Placerville, California, team up to help a Korean War Veteran. Mary, an 83-year-old Korean War veteran who resides in El Dorado County, fell in her trailer home and broke her leg. The leg became infected and had to be amputated.

When she was released from the hospital, she was confined to her trailer because she could not climb stairs. She needed a ramp, but was unable financially to afford one. She decided to contact the local American Legion post. Owing to the tsunami of veterans being thrust back into a society deep in recession, the post was initially unable to help.

Recognizing the urgent need, the post veteran service officer approached the Home Depot Store manager, Sean Lemmon, and appealed for help. He immediately agreed to build Mary a

ramp. It turned out, however, that due to restrictions and requirements at the trailer site, the cost far exceeded the limit the local store could accommodate. So, the VSO went into begging mode and collected the \$900 above the store's cost and gave it to Sean. The ramp was built by Home Depot volunteers, Sean and two helpers, Jeannette Davino and Tom Krauss. Then three Legionnaires painted the ramp on site. Jim and Ellen Maxey and Bill Bryant, all Post 119 Legion Riders.

The Home Depot deserves accolades for their community spirit and their willingness to help veterans who have served their country and helped preserve the many blessings we all enjoy. Sean, Tom and Jeannette deserve special recognition and will be receiving certificates of appreciation from The American Legion for their volunteerism. Home Depot deserves the patronage of all veterans for their demonstrated support of needy veterans.

My Thanks and an Observation

*Robert Ireland
District 1
2nd Vice Commander*

As District 1 Registration Secretary, I would like to thank the posts that sent delegates to the convention. Without your support, our District would not have been able to meaningfully contribute to the

success of the convention.

However, District 1 contains 14 posts and only 6 were accounted for at the convention, greatly reducing the amount of delegates our District was entitled to; considering the convention was held in the northern part of California the lack of participation by many of our posts was an embarrassment. This is something we must endeavor to improve.

California American Legion Press Association (CALPA)

2012 Awards – 94th Convention – Redding, California

Newsletters

Category 1A – The Emerson O. Mann Award California Districts – Legion

1st: 24th District: Don Schilling (43-24), Editor
2nd: 22nd District: Ben Hyde (460-22), Editor
No other submissions

Category 1B – The Emerson O. Mann Award California Districts – SAL – Auxiliary – Riders

No Submissions

Category 2A – The Al Weinberg Award Large size Posts with over 700 members

1st: Newport Harbor Post 291: Kendall Madsen, Editor
2nd: Lakewood Post 496: Tammy Sollazzo, Editor
3rd: J. B. Clark Post 149: Lorraine Ulrich, Editor

Category 2B – The Al Weinberg Award Medium size Posts with 300-700 members

1st (Tie): Yolo Post 77: Alberto "Al" Castillo, Editor
1st (Tie): Perris Post 595: Jennifer Bieger, Editor
2nd: Huntington Beach Post 133: Denis K. Bouer, Editor
3rd: San Leandro Post 117: Mike Nettles, Editor

Category 3A – The Jack RC Cann Award Small size Posts under 300 members

1st: Newark-Washington Township Post 837:
Mike Mensinger, Editor
2nd: Sun Valley Post 52: Kandy Trubey, Editor
3rd: Temecula/Murrieta Valley Post 852
Debbie Rodriguez and Frank Correa, Editors

Category 3B – The Jack RC Cann Award Squadrons, Units, Riders, Commissions, Committees, A.L. Affiliate groups, etc.

No Submissions

Editorials

Category 4A – The William E. Rominger Award Original article authored by the editor

No Submissions

Category 4B – The William E. Rominger Award Original article authored by guest writer

No Submissions

Websites

Category 5A – The Mary B. Howard Award California Districts – Legion

1st: 29th District: John "Durk" Durkin (291-29), Webmaster
2nd: 22nd District: Art Lubben (149-22), Webmaster
3rd: 6th District: William Heilmann (383-6), Webmaster

Category 5B – The Mary B. Howard Award California Districts – SAL – Auxiliary – Riders

No Submissions

Category 6A – The Mary B. Howard Award Large size Posts with over 700 members

1st: Lakewood Post 496: Tammy Sollazzo, Webmaster
2nd: J. B. Clark Post 149
Carl Asher and Art Lubben, Webmasters
3rd: Jackie Robinson Post 252
Keith Morris and Ika Myers, Webmasters

Category 6B – The Mary B. Howard Award Medium size Posts with 300-700 members

1st: Imperial Beach Post 820: Kathy Bourke, Webmaster
2nd: Hollywood Post 43: Steven Elliott, Webmaster
3rd (Tie): Redlands Post 106: Jennifer Corbin, Webmaster
3rd (Tie): Yolo Post 77: Alberto "Al" Castillo, Webmaster

Category 7A – The Mary B. Howard Award Small size Posts with under 300 members

1st: Dixon Post 208: Austin Eaton, Webmaster
2nd: Selma Post 12: Francis Allen, Webmaster

Category 7B – The Mary B. Howard Award Squadrons, Units, Riders, Commissions, Committees, A.L. Affiliate groups, etc.

No Submissions

Graphic Generated Artwork for Promotional/Marketing Materials

Category 8A – The William A. Diggins Award Original computer generated artwork used for promotional or marketing purposes

1st: Newport Harbor Post 291: Kendall Madsen, Artist
Promotional – Movie Night at the Post
No other submissions



Department Executive Meeting August 10-12, 2012

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PLEASE BOOK AS SOON AS POSSIBLE

August 10: Finance – 9 a.m. / Ways & Means – 1 p.m.
Membership Meets at 9 a.m. on Sunday, August 12
after opening

Meeting Schedule

Friday, August 10

9:00 AM: Dept Finance Comm Meeting
1:00 PM: Dept Ways & Means Comm Meeting

Saturday, August 11

9:00 AM: DEC Meeting

Sunday, August 12

9:00 a.m.: DEC Meeting
9:00 a.m. Membership Meeting (1st Vice Commanders)

For SAL DEC information, contact:

Adj. Thomas A. Grimes – (707) 481-9169 or E-mail: coachtom@gmail.com

Thank You "A-Team"

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Department Commander
2012-2013

ANTHONY GUERRERO
Department Sgt.-at-Arms
2012-2013

ALAN C. LENNOX
National Executive Committeeman
2012-2014

ROBERT C. BROWN
Alternate National Executive Committeeman
2012-2014



The A-Team would like to express gratitude to the members of The California American Legion for its support in such an overwhelming manner during the election held on Sunday, June 24 at the Department Convention held in Redding. It is difficult to put into words how humbled we were by the results of the election.

The race this past year was long and often tough, but well worth the hard work and effort of everyone involved. The "A-Team" ran a positive campaign that advocated honesty and integrity, and addressed the important issues facing The California American Legion today. As we go

forward, knowing that we have your strong support will be of great comfort to all the Officers elected this year and will motivate them to continue to provide excellent service to the 1-million plus veterans in the State of California as in the past.

As we enter a new Legion year, remember that there are challenges to face and much work to be done. Let's work together to keep California strong.

Deepest thanks!

The "A-Team"

California's Resolutions to National Convention

Legionnaires at every membership level are afforded the opportunity to suggest changes in their local posts' policies, or even to the manner in which the Legion operates as an organization. Legionnaires interested in initiating such a process must file a resolution - a written description of a problem or situation, followed by a suggestion as to how it may be corrected. A resolution may also be a statement or declaration pertaining to an issue of concern to the Legion. It consists of two parts: the preamble (description of the problem), and the resolve clause (how the local post, department or national organization

should solve the problem or support the issue). The entire resolution should be one continuous sentence, with the preamble clause(s) preceding the resolve clause(s).

The six resolutions that were passed at the state convention Resolutions going to National are Res. 003-2012 Energy Independence; Res. 004-2012 American Legion Cruising Association; Res. 008-2012 Eligibility Dates; Res. 009-2012 Mojave Victory; Res. 010-2012 Coping Strategies; and Res. 021-2012 Zero Tolerance. These resolutions may be read in their entirety on the department website www.calegion.org

3 Generations and 3 levels of Legion Representation



Dept. of California Commander Ken Kramlich; SAL member Tylar Whited (It turns out this cute kid is the grandson of Auxiliary Department Chaplain Marge Rye.) Commander Howard Adkins, Post 852 Temecula; Area 5 Vice Commander Frank Granado.

Frank Correa, Chaplain, American Legion Post 852

Tylar Whited has been a member almost 8 years. That's because he has been a member since he was born. How many members can say they have been a continuous member their whole life? Maybe someday he will be the Department Commander for the SAL!

On July 4th, the District 21 Officer installation ceremony was conducted at the Perris Post 595. Officers for the Auxiliary, SAL and District 21 were sworn in. District 21 had the special honor of having newly elected Department Commander Ken Kramlich participating. It was the first district installation he has attended as Commander. Also in attendance was Area 5 Vice Commander Frank Granado.

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The Last Bugle Call

Reporting Period: May 1, 2012 to June 30, 2012

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 487 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.callegion-news.org/html/post-everlasting.html

California Places at National Competition



Convention honors Maneva Gill, Bronze Medal Winner in The American Legion Junior Air-Rifle National Match. L to R: Mervin G. Gunderson, National Vice Commander; Curtis Lindley, District 1 Commander; Maneva Gill; Dennis Burke, Pacifica Post 238.

Dennis Burke, Post 238, Pacifica

Maneva Gill was honored at the 94th Department of California convention held in Redding, California. Commander Hugh E. Crooks, Jr. presented her with a Certificate of Recognition for taking 3rd place at the National American Legion Junior Air Rifle competition held at the Colorado Springs Olympic Training Center this year.

Maneva first asked her parents for a rifle when she was just 4 years old, but they told her she was too young. She kept pestering them and they bought her first air rifle for her 5th birthday, and she shot whenever she could. In 2008 she joined the Pacifica 4H Air Rifle Project, and here is where she was introduced to the 10 Meter Olympic Style 3 Position Air Rifle.

Maneva qualified to go to The American Legion Jr. National Match – the most prestigious National Match held in Colorado Springs at the Olympic Training Center. The winner of this match earns a \$2,500 scholarship. She made an error during the

match, an illegal discharge of air. Everybody heard it, but nobody knew who did it. Maneva showed her integrity and ethics and raised her hand alerting the range officers that it was her mistake, and was penalized 10 points. That mistake cost her the match, but her honesty led her to do the right thing in admitting it, and having a clear conscience is better than a gold medal clouded with guilt. She did end up taking 3rd place for a bronze, as well as 2nd place silver for kneeling position, and 3rd place bronze for prone position.

District 26, Post 238 Pacifica, became a sponsor as part of its Children and Youth program, with individual members contributing funds for support of the program. Maneva is now 15 years old, has 15 National Records (two of them are for woman) and several gold medals and trophies. She has moved with her family to Fortuna, California where she will continue in the program and be supported by District 1, Post 205 and by District 26, Post 238. Stay tuned, this young lady will be back next year with an update.