



DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA OFFICIALS 2006-2007

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS

Department Commander Charlie M Eskridge (694-28)	401 Van Ness Ave, Ste 117, San Francisco CA 94102
Department Adjutant William Siler III (132-29)	401 Van Ness Ave, Ste 117, San Francisco CA 94102
Department National Executive Committeeman James W Hackney (253-24)	3796 Stewart Ave, Los Angeles CA 90066-3646
Department Alternate National Executive Committeeman Wesley R Wharton (83-12)	21850 Bellview Rd Spc 32, Sonora CA 95370-9649
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Department Historian Henry Hosea (694-28)	7 Velerton Ct, Seaside CA 93955-4504
Department Sergeant-at-Arms Walter S Waite III (217-13)	4916 Elester Dr, San Jose CA 95124-5311
Department Parliamentarian John O'Leary (340-9)	7308 Plank Ct, El Cerrito 94530-9733
Department Service Officer Terry N Tracy (283-24)	11000 Wilshre Blvd Ste 5201, Los Angeles CA 90024
Department Representative to the California Legislature Alfred E Menshew (74-12)	2560 Carmichael Way, Turlock CA 95382-9137
Junior Past Department Commander S W Parrish (177-23)	2800 Neilson Way Apt 301, Santa Monica CA 90405-4028

VICE COMMANDERS

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Department Vice Commander Representing Area 2 Michael L Bloom (512-28)	PO Box 3613, Carmel CA 93921-3613
Department Vice Commander Representing Area 3 Roger W Baldwin (11-14)	2190 N Schnoor Ave Apt 147, Madera CA 93637-4954
Department Vice Commander Representing Area 4 Woodrow L Baca (381-17)	37530 Royal Ct, Palmdale CA 93552-4508
Department Vice Commander Representing Area 5 Edward M Alvarez (277-29)	929 Cypress Ave # A, Placentia CA 92870-7149
Department Vice Commander Representing Area 6 Lawrence Van Kuran (826-20)	6378 Jamieson Ave, Encino CA 91316-6414
Department Vice Commander Representing Women Kathleen A Heeren (165-5)	545 Trinity Dr, Vacaville CA 95687



DISTRICT COMMANDERS

District 1 Commander Kim D Conrad	(415)	PO Box 1236, Hoopa CA 95546
District 2 Commander George W Dixon Jr	(197)	PO Box 491827, Redding CA 96049-1827
District 3 Commander Dennis J Sutton	(204)	685 Elm St, Susanville CA 96130-4806
District 4 Commander Augustin G “Mo” Molina	(789)	PO Box 264, Wheatland CA 95692-0264
District 5 Commander William E Stiles	(111)	812 Limerick Ln, Healdsburg CA 95448-9509
District 6 Commander George W Lee	(696)	4670 Joaquin Way, Sacramento CA 95822
District 8 Commander Vincent Rios	(1)	625 Larch Ave, So San Francisco CA 94080
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District 11 Commander Darek Selman	(108)	PO Box 63, Martell CA 95654-0063
District 12 Commander John G Taylor	(872)	PO Box 916, Denair CA 95316-0916
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District 14 Commander Anthony N Guerrero	(23)	1704 De Witt Ave, Sanger CA 93657-3711
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District 16 Commander Wilbert E Wilson	(432)	13027 Autumnwood Dr, Victorville CA 92395-8604
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District 18 Commander Larry Johnson	(280)	1046 W Huntigton Dr # 6, Arcadia CA 91007
District 19 Commander Frank W Duddleston	(287)	145 E Louise St # A, Long Beach CA 90805-5319
District 20 Commander Robert L Schol Sr	(826)	18012 Hiawatha St # 164, Northridge CA 91326
District 21 Commander Rees Lloyd	(79)	1949 W Williams St, Banning CA 92220
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District 26 Commander Jerry D Wilcox	(105)	3015 E Bayshore Rd Spc 440, Redwood City CA 94063
District 27 Commander Ray A White	(118)	3154 S Tumbleweed Dr, Bishop CA 93514
District 28 Commander Mark J Collins	(512)	3057 Frederick Cir, Marina CA 93933
District 29 Commander Thomas Valenzuela	(679)	5753 E Santa Ana Canyon Rd, Anaheim Hills CA 92807
District 30 Commander Gerald L Brown	(802)	PO Box 25171, Yuma AZ 85367-5171
District 31 Commander Delphie Mazankowski	(192)	21400 Snooks Rd, Colfax CA 95713-9744



THE AMERICAN LEGION • DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

YEAR-END
SUMMARY REPORTS

Department Officers and
Commission/Committee Chairmen
2006-2007

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DEPARTMENT COMMANDER

Charlie M Eskridge

I wish to welcome you all to the 89th Convention of The American Legion of the Great State of California. My year as your Commander has gone by so quickly and yet much has been accomplished.

I want to thank my wife Rosie and our family for their complete support in both my decision to seek this high office, and once elected for the many days and months away from home and family. Without my First Lady by my side I am sure I would not have been the Commander.

We had a great Team. Working with NECman James Hackney and his wife Ruth, I learned much of what to expect and how to get things done; especially on our trips back to National and Washington D.C. Randy Wharton, our Alternate NECman was always there when needed. Walter Waite, III, the Department Sergeant-At-Arms, not only kept me well advised as we traveled from post to post, district to district, as well as the 6 areas but he was that extra uplifting spirit when the road got long. My Aide and former campaign manager, Michael Bloom, was there as well and tried to keep me on track; all and all he did a good job. I thank you one and all for the sacrifices you have made so as to allow me to be the Department Commander for this great state of California.

Along with the great team I enjoyed the support of my six Area Vice Commanders. As we traveled the State

they had planned well my visits and made me welcome where ever I went. I visited all the areas more than once as well as attending their area and district meetings. I would like to recognize Robert Canclini, Area 1; Michael Bloom, Area 2; Roger Baldwin, Area 3; Woodrow Baca, Area 4; Edward Alvarez, Area 5; and Lawrence Van Kuran, Area 6; for their service to The American Legion during my command.

We made several major changes in 2006-2007 and with changes comes a break from the usual way of doing business. First we had to appoint a new Adjutant, Bill Siler, III. I have known Bill for many years prior to his appointment and I knew he could and would do the job. Bill picked up the position from day one and with little disruption fit right in. He has been of great assistance to me and I know he will be for my successors.

Membership was another area we made some changes and again the selection of Floyd Martin seems to have been an excellent choice. Membership experienced several changes from a rise in per capita to the handling of our DMS's and Post 1000's. Floyd Martin has met the challenges and our Membership Year has reflected his many efforts. Floyd created a strong Membership Team and a big "Thanks" go to them as well.

We had a successful 88th Dept. Convention in Fresno where I was



Charlie M Eskridge, Department Commander

elected and I wish to give a special thanks for all of you who had the faith and confidence in me to make me your Commander. I do not need to tell you again we made history! Your continued support showed itself at our two D.E.C.'s at Visalia and San Maria.

The business of the Legion moved smoothly and that is due in a large part to the tremendous Staff at HQ! Without their tireless hours of not only the day to day office work but the taking it on the road three times a year we would not be the Great State in the American Legion organization. When the National Commander, Paul Morin, visited our State he was most impressed with our facilities as well as our Staff's efficiency and professionalism. To you all a job "Well Done!"

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Cmdr. Eskridge continued

The formal recognition of The American Legion Riders (ALR) of California has to be one of our best efforts this year. Much work went into the setting up of this new program and I know it will benefit not only the Legion but those who have become known as "The Riders". And, the fact that the first Department ALR President, Terry Baughman, came from my own District 28 during my term is of special pride to me, as well as I hope it is to him.

S.A.L. worked hand and hand with me and when needed appeared with me around the state for support and to promote their very important

programs. Detachment Commander Mark Severance did an outstanding job as well as Paul Rodriguez, Junior Past Detachment Commander, of being at those special events; especially when the National Commanders of both our organizations visited the state at the same time. Gentlemen all, "Thank You!"

As the 89th convention opens I wish us all a successful event and a fun time. It is great to see you all and I hope to personally meet you as the convention unfolds. For all that you have done for me in the last year I "Thank You" and wish you all the best. For God and Country!



Cmdr. Charlie & Rose Eskridge

DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT WILLIAM SILER III

The past year has been a real experience and learning process for me as your Department Adjutant. I have had a lot of help and understanding from all members of The American Legion.

This year we have been using e-mail more than in the past and we are converting forms into electronic forms. Hopefully this will help bring us into the electronic world that we live in today. The National Organization is also changing all there forms to electronic and are e-mailing forms instead of using regular mail. We are trying to do the same with our department Forms and other forms of communication.

In my articles that I write for “The Legionnaire” newspaper I have tried to answer questions that were asked by members as well as post and district officers. Some of these questions were questions that I have been asked just prior to writing an article.

We had our Commission Call-Ins in the month of October 2006. John Sampson and his crew of Charles P. Rowe Post #30 in Pomona did an outstanding job. Thank you.

Our Department Executive Committee Meetings were hosted this FIScal year by General Chairman Dan Hetherington (August 2006) at the Visalia Holiday Inn and General Chairman John Fazzone (Spring 2007) and his crew at Corporal Marshall N. Braden Post #56 in Santa Maria. We thank them all for a job well done.

We have helped veterans and their families this past year. I want to thank all legionnaires who have helped the Department by being TFA Investigators for these families. This has been accomplished by our “Temporary Financial Assistance Program” through the Children and Youth Program. We have also helped families of troops coming back through the Heros to Hometowns Program through the Department of Defense (DoD). For the year 2006 - 2007 we have been able to help eleven families by giving them a total of \$12,858.76.

Past Department Adjutant Bill Mayer has helped us when called upon to do so. Thank you Bill for all your help this year.

Let’s not forget our Department Headquarters Staff. Our staff is very



WILLIAM SILER III, Department Adjutant

professional and knowledgeable when it comes to The American Legion. Remember how dedicated the entire staff is and remember that none of us could do our jobs if they weren’t there to assist us. Next time you see any of the staff, say thank you for what you do to make our jobs easier.

Our Headquarters Staff: Joan Matsukuma, Jim Matsukuma, Mary Long, Tammy Manini, Nenita LaCap, Sheila Fitzgerald, Gil Manalo, and Gloria Alioto.

DEPARTMENT HQ STAFF

Joan Matsukuma
Executive Secretary



Jim Matsukuma
Systems Administrator



Mary Long
Accounting Manager



Sheila J Fitzgerald
Membership Coordinator



Nenita LaCap
DMS/Fund
Raising Coordinator



Tamara Manini
Membership &
Special Programs
Coordinator



Gildo O Manalo
Mail/Stock/
Archives Coordinator



Gloria Alioto
Reception/
Assistant to
Membership &
Special Programs



DEPARTMENT NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN (NEC)

JAMES W HACKNEY

Let me begin by giving all my comrades in California a great big "THANK YOU" for electing me as your National Executive Committeeman. I knew I had a lot of work ahead of me, but until I actually started to do it, I really didn't know how much work it would take. I have spent a lot of time waiting in airports, flying on airplanes, and meeting with folks from all walks of life, here in California, Indianapolis, and Washington DC. But no matter where I am, I never forget who I represent, the veterans, and Legionnaires of California. And, I do my best to represent you all to the best of my ability.

I certainly hope all you Post Adjutants have gotten your Consolidated Post Reports (CPR) in. You know, there are

a lot of folks in the Legion who don't think much of California. Don't know why. But if we do something as simple as getting a 100% CPR report into National, maybe we can change some minds about us.

I hope you've been following my reports in the "California Legionnaire" this year. You know, there's a lot going on in this country involving veterans, and those currently serving in the Armed Forces. We know what we were promised, then saw what we actually got. We know that this war has a lot different wounded than in previous wars. So, we must be ever vigilant that the promises made to our brothers and sisters now serving are kept, and that those who need it receive the very best medical care possible.

As we come together for our Department Convention here in Palm Springs, I want to ask you to remember those men and women who are out there in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other places we might even know about, fighting to protect America. And also, I want you to remember those who have suffered the physical and the mental wounds of war. Most importantly, please pray for our comrades who have paid the highest price in the defense of our country.

We've got a lot of work to do at this year's convention, but let's remember to have fun doin' it.

DEPARTMENT ALTERNATE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN (NEC)

WESTLEY R WHARTON

It is hard to believe it has been 1 year since I was elected as your Alt-NECman at the convention in Fresno.

Thanks to all of you for allowing me to serve you. It has been a busy year so far.

First it was the DEC at Visalia and then to the National Convention in Salt lake City.(my third one there) Next it was to Indianapolis for the Fall NEC.(rained all the time we were there) Next it was National Commander Paul Morin's visit to

California. I was with him at 2 of his post visits. Attended 5th area meeting at Brawley. (always fun)

March found me in Washington, D.C. for the National conference. We,(past National Commander Bruce Thiesen, NECman James Hackney, Department Commander Charlie Eskridge, past National Vice Commander Leo Burke, Membership Director Floyd Martin, Finance Chairman Al Lennox and myself) had a very nice visit with Senator Dianne Feinstein. I had the honor of presenting Senator Feinstein a crystal

eagle for her work on the Citizen Flag Alliance and other veteran's issues.

It was then on to the Spring DEC at Santa Maria. I also attended the Legislative Day in Sacramento in April.

I plan on being at the Past Commander's Club (PCC) state board meeting in late April and anywhere else I can find a meeting.

That's all for now and hope to see you in Palm Springs.

DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE

JACK L CLIMER

Another year has gone already. Where has the time gone? I want to thank Commander Eskridge and the Department Executive Committee for the privilege of continuing to serve the Legionnaires of California as your Judge Advocate. During my term in office I have tried to make the Judge Advocate more accessible to the Legionnaires of California in an effort to be more proactive in preventing problems rather than just reacting to problems that arise.

I am very proud of the Posts in California in that while issues regarding ABC laws remain the problem, numbers of negative incidents have dropped. We are becoming more educated and comfortable with the alcohol laws in California and we are taking to heart how these laws impact our Posts.

Thank you and please continue to be careful and to work within the law.

Several issues are rearing their heads that place the Legionnaires of The Department of California in conflict with the National Organization. There is a stated opinion at the National Level that the Departments exist solely to support the National Organization. I believe that to be incorrect and that the opposite is the case. Sadly, I doubt that an amicable resolution will be accomplished and that litigation is inevitable. You will receive more information on these issues over the coming months.

There have been a few issues with which I have had to deal with this year that have been disheartening. These dealt primarily with conflicts of interest, illegal activities and personal maligning of others. I remind myself,

however, that for every person involved in such distasteful situations there are literally thousands of Legionnaires who are quietly working the programs and making a difference. Thank you for your hard work, good character and patriotism.

The highlight of the year has been the activities involved in the creation of The American Legion Riders program in California. What a wonderful and classy group of people and what an asset they are to The American Legion Department of California. Their first convention was held recently in Fresno and they all worked together to formally complete the creative processes. It was a joy to be a part of it. You will have the opportunity to complete the work here in Palm Springs by ratifying their recent actions and by modifying our Bylaws to allow for the inclusion of The American

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Climer continued...

Legion Riders as a Department program. I know you will unanimously do so.

Our new Adjutant, Bill Siler III, is a class act and a wonderful person with whom to work. He has big shoes to fill after Bill Mayer and he is doing a wonderful job. Even if he is an Orange County guy (sorry Howard). Only kidding, of course.

My thanks also to Commander Charlie, who is one of the most traveled and hardest working Commanders in

memory. He's always been there when I needed him, as I've tried to be there when he's needed me. Everett Maguire, Assistant Judge Advocate, is one of the smartest and most helpful people that I know. Everett is always there to back me up, provide his counsel and wisdom, and help however possible. Everett is a critical member of the Department Team. Rees Lloyd has provided great input and assistance in several matters as a trusted advisor. Likewise, I couldn't have been productive without the help of the Department staff, of John Borders, Leo

Burke, Al Lennox and Floyd Martin. Our Department is in very capable hands. Thanks to you all.

Thank you for your support, kindness, challenges and good humor over the past year. I know that I haven't pleased everyone nor do I think that's even possible. I have tried to respect all and listen to everyone's points of view. It has been a privilege and an honor to serve as your Department Judge Advocate. God bless you

DEPARTMENT CHAPLIN RICHARD T LEE, JR

This has been an awesome year. A year in which our chaplains have continued to provide spiritual leadership to our posts, districts and areas. There have been many highlights this year that bear mention in this annual report. There was the National Day of Prayer, the dedication of the World War II Memorial in Washington, DC and the annual 4 Chaplains service at St Mary's cathedral in San Francisco. I was privileged to attend these activities and I must say that each presented me the opportunity to represent the Department in a dignified and professional manner.

This year has seen us lose many hands who have made major contributions to The American Legion, specifically to the Department of California. Past Department Commander George Sinopoli, Dick and Angie Dunbar and Past Department Chaplain Charlie Berlingeri are friends whose memory

I will always cherish. Also I must make special mention of the passing of Past Department Chaplain The Reverend Dave Romies. Dave chaired the Four Chaplains Service for 46 consecutive years. During his tenure the program was soulful and gained in stature and elegance. This gentleman of the cloth will be sorely missed by us all.

I mention these names at the risk of not naming all. Never the less, there are far too many to list here. I must say, though, that the many chaplain reports I have received indicate that Post Everlasting services are and continue to be conducted to honor our deceased brethren.

In reviewing chaplain activity reports I noted that far too many of our chaplains do not plan to attend the Department Convention. Post Commanders and their Executive Committees should provide their

chaplains the opportunity to attend the convention and the Department Chaplain's meeting. This would give them the opportunity to note how other posts are handling their chaplain duties and give them different approaches to these duties.

This Memorial Day will see this Chaplain, emcing the program at the local Conejo Mountain Memorial Park. I will continue to do this as long as my health and strength permit.

God bless the USA, The American Legion and the Department of California.

DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN

JOHN O'LEARY

It has been an honor to serve as Department Parliamentarian under the watch of Department Commander Charlie Ekskridge. It has been both educational and a learning experience to serve with Judge Advocate Jack Climer, he made my job easy. Thanks Jack.

I have read and totally agree, organizations are democratic to the extent that they conform in the following ways. The member's rule through a decision making process that

they have established by a vote. This process is embodied in the organizations governing documents, its constitution, by-laws, rules of order, standing rules and parliamentary authority, such as Robert's Rules Of Order.

This is government by the consent of the governed. Simply stated, it's an organized system that allows a group of people to come together and make a decision. The system is made up of basic principles and rules that

determine how the group will proceed through my decision-making process.

Parliamentary procedure is about helping a group come to a decision; it is not about helping any one individual get their own way, and it is certainly not intended to prevent any members from participating in the process.

See you in Palm Springs, let's have a great Convention. God Bless America and The American Legion.

DEPARTMENT SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

WALTER S WAITE III

I would like to dedicate this year to deceased Legionnaire, Joe Hughes (94) and our youngest, Bob (34).

After getting off on a bad note with William Goss not being able to get to the podium to nominate me, Jim Higuera and Floyd Martin got my name on the floor (thanks). While new members of the DEC were being sworn in, I was passing out papers, etc. for them to sign. When Wilbert Wilson took my White Cap and put it on my head making me "official" (thanks Whip), everything from then on *came up roses*. I would like to thank the office staff for all their work in keeping me on the straight and narrow.

A great time was had taking the National Commander around the state with our Commander, their aides, Jim Hackney, Henry Hosea, and their wives. The hospitality shown to us was out of this world! (The King could not ask for better.) I would like to thank all the posts for their generosity and hospitality and making us all feel welcome.

Not to be forgotten are all the Past Department Sergeant-at-Arms, that have given guidance and advice. Thank you for your support.

I would like to wish all the Color Guard Units who are going to compete this year GOOD LUCK!

It is a sad time of year for me as my term comes to an end and I could still mess up, but no matter what happens, I want to leave things in good shape for Dennis, and for those of you to follow. I would urge anyone who is looking for a fun job in the Legion to think about becoming Sergeant-At-Arms, you can't lose!

Again, I would like to thank everyone for allowing me the honor of serving as your Sergeant-at-Arms. I truly enjoyed meeting new friends and spending time with old friends throughout our state who share in our commitment to our fellow veterans.

DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER

TERRY N TRACY

Once again we find another Legion Year has come to an end. This year saw many changes in our VA&R staff. Monte Webb retired after 15 years of service. Cynthia Mann was promoted from Secretary/Receptionist (five years of service) to Claims Representative/Secretary. We have hired Emelita Crisostomos to replace her as the Secretary Receptionist in our Los Angeles Office. We also promoted Terry Murray from Secretary/Receptionist to Service Officer in our San Diego office. Josephine Grafilo has been hired as a Claims Representative/Secretary/Receptionist assisting Terry in her duties there. We also lost our valuable Secretary/Stenographer James Ewell from our Oakland office to a position within the Veterans Administration. Connie Togia was hired as his replacement. We were fortunate to hire a cast of very talented people, who are helping us to provide better service in keeping with the reputation that your VA&R Division in the Department of California enjoys. Although there were many staff changes, the work of the VA&R and our service to those veterans we serve proceeded uninterrupted.

This year has been a very busy one. The Department of California operates a Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA& R) division, consisting of 3 offices co-located with the 3 VA regional offices in Oakland, Los Angeles and San Diego. Services range from assistance with VA medical care, claims, appeals, VA insurance programs, burial benefits and veterans' employment – to involvement in volunteer programs, by continuing liaisons with the administrators of

California State Veterans Affairs programs. Other efforts are geared toward maintaining and improving VA benefits through work with congressional committees and executive branches of government, the VA and other federal agencies.

Additionally we would like to thank a veteran grateful for the services of our Los Angeles office for his donation of \$1,000; a veteran thankful for the services of our Oakland office for a donation of \$5,000 and the Walter Ski Gamulski Post 482 for three donations of \$2,000 each, just to mention a few. Thanks to donations like these, we in Rehab. continue to provide an important, high quality service to California veterans and their dependants or survivors.

Beginning Feb 1, 2003, using our VIMS computer program, VA&R began inputting all VA awards granted

to California veterans or dependents holding American Legion Power of Attorney in VA matters. Current fiscal year to date (1 Jul 06 – 31 Mar 07) these awards total **\$142,949,639** (an increase of nearly 11% over last year), and we still have three months to go before the Legion year ends 30 Jun 2007.

This summary (below) of VA& R division's workload doesn't illustrate many other day-to-day activities, ranging from discharge upgrades to assisting veterans in obtaining their military medals or records. VA & R's mission is to serve as an informed source available to California's veterans and their families on all veterans' programs

On behalf of myself, and the staff of the VA&R Division, it has been a privilege to serve you during this past Legion Year.

Regional Offices & VA Medical Centers	
Personal interviews:	5,704
Telephone in/out:	14430
VA files reviewed (non rating board):	7,618
VA files reviewed (rating actions):	7,564
New or Reopened claims filed:	15144
Power of Attorney gained:	4,025
Correspondence in/out:	110,705
Appeals	
Allowed:	45%
Remanded:	26%
Denied:	29%

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER REPRESENTING AREA ONE

ROBERT CANCLINI

This has been a year of accomplishment and disappointment, which is what is expected when serving as an officer in The American Legion, Department of California. We must remember that we are an organization of volunteers, dedicated to be "Veterans Helping Veterans".

The most active period during the year was in December, when I attended five different events in five days. It began with a meeting of District 6 on Sunday; joining the Humboldt County Council on Tuesday morning at the Yountville Veterans Home Hospital distributing cookies, oranges, and other items to the patients at the hospital; Tuesday evening, attending the dinner honoring the National Commander at Amador Post 108 in Sutter Creek; Wednesday, attending a memorial service at Paradise Post 259 in Paradise for Dean Sybrent who had received 15 Gold Brigade awards; and Thursday morning, attending a Wreaths Across America ceremony at a cemetery in the City of Sonoma, hosted by Jack London Post 489, Sonoma. One of the highlights of the year was in October when I participated in a Commission fall meeting of the National Executive Committee in Indianapolis, Indiana, which included a visit to National Headquarters.

At the Area 1 meeting in February, I distributed the results of a survey which asked members of Area 1 if they desired to make changes to the number of meetings and if the content of the meetings should be changed. A total of 23 surveys were returned, with a variety of comments to the questions. Discussion occurred on Saturday and

at the meeting on Sunday, and at that time the members voted not to make any changes. I was somewhat disappointed in the vote, because sometimes we must change in how we conduct Legion business in Area 1 in order to have participation from all parts of Area 1 at the area meetings, especially when costs of travel have escalated dramatically.

A very large thank you to the officers of Area 1 for their help this past year: Adjutant/Finance Officer, Jackson Pressey; Judge Advocate, Earl Chinnock; Chaplain, Joseph Handy; Historian, Mike Chinnock; Sergeant-at-Arms, Bud Simmons; Critic, Jerry Greer; Ways & Means, Janet Hooper; Membership, Mike Hooper; Distinguished Guest Chairman, Kenneth Krueger; and Robert Richard and others who helped at the meetings when officers were not in attendance. Also, a thank you to all the District Commanders and District 1st Vice Commanders for their contribution to the activities of The American Legion, especially for their efforts in membership.

One of the problems that occurs in many posts and districts is that many of the officers of the posts or districts

are not appraised of what their job is for the next year. This was apparent when one of the districts in Area 1 had a personality conflict between the Commander and others, be they officers or members. As I have stated previously in this report, we are volunteers and our emphasis must be on our service as "Veterans Helping Veterans", not our own personal goals. Unfortunately we continue to see the inactivity and merger of many of the Posts in Area 1, especially in the remote rural parts of the Area. This is a very difficult problem to resolve, but sometimes positive things do occur to resurrect a Post. A prime example is Samuel Bunney Post 441, Bunney. Sometime back, this post was having difficulty in finding officers and not having enough members to have a quorum at a meeting. Fortunately, two Legion members stepped forward to provide the necessary leadership, and with the help of others in the community Post 441 is now actively conducting American Legion programs and is a vital part of the community.

Thank you for allowing me to serve you, and to have the honor of being a part of the largest and greatest Veterans organization, The American Legion.

Soldiers send a 105 mm howitzer round downrange during a fire mission Kalsu, Iraq.



DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER REPRESENTING AREA TWO

MICHAEL BLOOM

It has been the highest honor I have had since joining the American Legion to have served you as your Area Vice Commander.

I wish to thank my District Commanders Vince Rios, District 8, First Vice Commander Janet Wilson, District 9, who stood in most of the year for Commander Myron Menefee, Dennis Matarrese, District 10, Larry Leonardo, District 13, Jerry Wilcox, District 26, and Mark Collins, District 28 for all their support and for making Area 2 the most notable Area within the State. You, and your other commanders made my tenure a real pleasure and I shall miss the day-to-day involvement.

There were others who help make this year special. Having the State Commander coming from my 28th District allowed me very close association with him and his command. We traveled extensively together and appeared along side one another as Commander and Vice Commander; this too added to the special level of involvement that I was able to bring to Area 2.

Our S.A.L. Detachment Area Commander, Paul Martin, traveled as

time would permit with me to most events and helped with the coordination for our two Area meetings and both D.E.C.'s.

I had the support of my Adjutant and Jr. Past Detachment Commander, Paul Rodriguez. Without his constant presence I would have not been as active with all the requirements of our travels.

Both the Fall and Spring Area meetings were well attended and both host Posts, San Leandro Post 117 and Marina Post 694 received our members in the best of the Legion tradition. Not only were the meetings constructive they were enjoyable.

Membership was on everyone's mind this year, a little more so than in years past. With the increase in per capita the push was on to get as many members signed up before the increase took effect. I was especially thankful for Ralph Jacob once again, stepping up and handling our Area's membership so well. Ron Galvan took the newly created position of Membership Chairman North with his appointment; Area 2 had two forces at work on membership and both did an outstanding job. Membership across

the state was very active and we all benefited by the high percentages.

There have been a few less than favorable issues to attend to during my term but on the whole it has been a positive year. I feel I am leaving the Area in a strong position to continue to move ahead with the needs and expectations of Department.

Having the Department Headquarters in our Area has benefited me and my predecessors by being able to have close contact with their workings. However, I have noticed during my time at HQ they work well with all the Areas. Without them we all would be in trouble, so, a very, very heartfelt "Thank You!" goes out to Bill (iii), Joan, Sheila, Mary, Tammy, Gloria, Nett, and the guys, Gil and Jim! What a team.

Again, let me thank you one and all for allowing me to represent you at the Department level; I hope I have lived up to your expectations; you certainly were a pleasure to serve. Thank you and I will see you on the Convention floor.

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER REPRESENTING AREA THREE

ROGER BALDWIN

I would like to thank Districts 11,12,14,15, and 27 for allowing me to serve as Area 3 Vice Commander. This has been a very good year in Area 3 and a great learning experience for me. Membership is up for most of the Districts even with the increase in dues

because of the increase in per-capita increase by National. Area 3 has been going from first to third in area membership and there is less than one percent difference between those three positions. A special thanks to Districts 11 for being over 100%.

I want to thank Lodi Post 22, Bakersfield Post 83, and Clovis Post 147 for hosting the Area Three Meeting we had this year. They were well attended and the hospitality was first rate as always.

continue on next page

Baldwin continued...

National Commander Paul Morin during his visit to California made three stops in Area 3 and the posts he visited went all out to see that he enjoyed himself. Thank you Amador Post 108, Merced Post 83, and Bakersfield Post 26. I know Cmdr.

Morin appreciated the effort put forth by these posts.

Thanks to the Districts and Posts I visited this year I appreciate the courtesy and hospitality that was given to me.

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER REPRESENTING AREA FOUR WOODROW "WOODY" BACA

I would like to thank all my comrades in the 17th, 19th, 23rd Districts and the Department for giving me the opportunity to serve as Area Vice Commander. But more than that, I thank you for giving me the chance to grow and learn many aspects and programs of the Legion of which I had not previously participated in.

To begin with, for the first time I became involved with the Legion baseball program. I attended the Area playoffs in Long Beach. It was a heart-warming experience to see the competition and know that these boys and young men were engaged in a safe and meaningful activity and not on the streets causing trouble. This was followed up with my attending the Department playoffs in Yountville. This was my first trip to Yountville. I had heard a great deal about The Legion's activities with the veterans at Yountville yet to actively take part was a rewarding personal experience. I now plan on attending on a yearly basis. If you have never attended this event, I strongly encourage you to do so.

For the first time, I attended the annual 5th Area caucus in Brawley. I was told

that it was like a Mini Department convention. It certainly was. This will be another event I will try not to miss. More importantly, I had the opportunity to see Vice Com-mander Alvarez conduct his Area meeting. I later had the opportunity to attend the 6th Area meeting conducted by Vice Commander Van Kuran. I take my hat off to both these comrades for outstanding meetings. I wish I had previously attended another Area's meeting. I learned a lot and I will pass it on to my predecessors.

This year I conducted three area caucuses. The first being possibly the last official legion function held at Bob Hope Patriotic Hall, my thanks go to the 17th District and Post 8 for thier assistance; the second caucus was held at Norwalk Post 359, my thanks go to the 19th District for it's assistence and the third and final caucus was held at Community Post 46 in Culver City, where my thanks go to the 23rd District for thier assistence. The attendance at all caucuses was excellent and included the attendance of many candidates for Department Offices as well as the current Department Commander, Charlie Eskridge, Department Service

Officer, Terry Tracy, Department Membership Director, Floyd Martin, Area Five Vice Commander, Ed Alvarez, and numerous other Department dignitaries.

This year was also filled with moments of heartache and sorrow. My stepfather, Rudy Parong passed away in October. He was a proud member of Los Angeles Police Post 381. In December I attended the funeral of our dear comrade George Sinopoli. The sorrow at the loss of both will remain with me always.

I would like to give special thanks to our 4th Area Membership Chairman, Robert C. Brown for his dedicated work on area membership. With his leadership, we far exceeded last year's membership. We may be in 6th place again but not by that much.

In conclusion, I would like to say, this has been a memorable and outstanding year in my service to the American Legion. I would like to thank the Department of California and my fellow Legionnaires for their trust in affording me this wonderful opportunity.

For God and Country.

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER REPRESENTING AREA FIVE

Edward M. Alvarez

5th Area has enjoyed a very exciting and educational year. We have, as a team, tackled collecting Consolidated Report Forms from over 95% of all our Posts this last year. We have worked all our programs within the American Legion proudly.

We enjoyed some major events, such as the going away party for the reserves on their way to Iraq. We held numerous Law and Order dinners throughout the Area. At these dinners, we honored not only police officers; but, this year, District 21 honored five fallen firefighters. We presented plaques to family members of those fallen firefighters. We were honored to host the Department Oratorical contest finals after having a very successful Area contest. We were also honored to host National Commander Paul Morin with two stops in our Area, one at Norco Post 328 and one at Newport Harbor Post 291.

We will, this year, reach an average of over 98% of membership goal for the whole Area with a couple of Districts reaching 100%, which is a very big accomplishment when there are approximately 35,000 members in our Area. With having 4 out of the 5 largest Districts in the Department of California, we always take pride in working membership.

We again will be an Area with the most Boys' Staters selected to attend Boys State. We feel this is one of the major programs of the American Legion, for a couple of reasons. We feel we see the brightest students and it's one of the best public relations tools we have in the Legion. We constantly meet people who have gone through the program and now are very successful. We have met individuals who have hired people to work for a Congressman because the applicant was a former Boys' Stater. We have a former Los Angeles Ram quarterback, Vince Ferragamo and present St. Louis Rams linebacker Chris Draft who both went to Boys State in California.

Needless to say we have a lot of Posts in the Area who support American Legion baseball also. Many Posts have stepped up and have supported the high schools in their city in playing in the tournament. This also is a very good public relations opportunity for all of us to be proud of.

One event that really stands out for me is the going away party for reserves called back to Iraq. A Post in District 29 arranged to have buses bring soldiers to their Post where they were given some food and drinks and entertainment. We made a presentation letting them know how much we

appreciate them taking time out in their lives to make ours free. One thing that was educational that night was that we, as Legion members, needed to explain to these new vets what our great organization is really all about. These young people need some insight as to what we can (and will) help with, such as benefits, care packages, letter writing. Back in our day, everyone remembers how important this meant to us to get mail call. These vets are no different, just younger.

Another thing this year that has been a real eye opener was the many visits to the VA hospital and meeting some of these vets who have given their time and efforts to protect us and who now need us. We learned that we do make a difference to these patients in helping them with a positive outlook that they can still look forward to living life to the fullest. It's been especially heartwarming to see patients who were given no hope and have overcome and have done things no one could imagine them doing; and a lot of that is because members of our Legion family cared.

We have all worked very hard this year trying to **C-P-R**, which means in the 5th Area, **COMMUNICATE**, **PUBLICIZE** and **REVITALIZE** our Posts, Programs and especially our image.

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER REPRESENTING AREA SIX

LARRY VAN KURAN

The 6th Area established two key objectives for the 2006-'07 Legion year:

1. Identifying key information that any Legion member should have, and delivering that information in a hands-on, workable format that can actually be used and applied with good results.
2. Begin the process of establishing effective communication links between Posts, Districts, the Area and Department of California operations, so that information can be passed and can be applied in a timely manner.

Objective 1 (effectively delivering key information) was very successfully addressed at the 6th Area's Fall 2006 Caucus, held Oct. 14-15 at E. Pasadena Post 280. Members attending received a multi-tabbed carry-home notebook containing a hands-on package of key information on Legion operations and programs and legal/tax information that could actually be used and applied by posts and districts. Copies of a very hard-to-get IRS publication 3386 - *Tax Guide for Vet Organizations* were also distributed.

Areas and items covered and hand-out information included legal issues (ABC, FTSB/Tax, State Board of Equalization, Articles of Incorporation, Constitution/By-Laws, Trial Boards, Post leadership, writing effective agendas and leading productive meetings, etc. Cameo presentations were also made by Legionnaires chairing some of the most effective Boys' State, Baseball and Law & Order programs in the 6th Area. This two-day effort was very well received by all in attendance. Reflections of this success were that attendance for day two of the Caucus was very high, about the same as was attendance at day one, and that a very significant majority of all 6th Area Commissioners were present to deliver their reports on day two.

Objective 2 (establishing effective communication links) was successfully addressed at the 6th Area's Spring 2007 Caucus, held Mar. 10-11 at Oxnard Post 48. Focus here was on the effectiveness of two-way communication at all levels between posts, districts, area and the Dept. of California, and how to make those

communication links more effective in content and timeliness, either by improving existing links or establishing entirely new links. At Caucus close, members attending voiced strong consensus that this communications process continue to be addressed and worked on under successive 6th Area leadership for 2007-'08 and beyond. Members present charged the current 6th Area Vice Commander with appointing a communications leader for the Area to carry on this effort.

Members present also participated in an exercise aimed at the demonstrating the difference in how Posts with or within an active club facility (i.e., bar) both view and address Legion programs. Results of this exercise showed that a club facility can often pose distractions and problems for a Post, and can also be an asset to Post operations but only if viewed for what it is and actively and aggressively managed to good effect.

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER REPRESENTING WOMEN LEGIONNAIRES

KATHLEEN HEEREN

I wish to take this opportunity to thank each and every one of you that has helped me along the way in my year as Vice Commander Representing Women Legionnaires.

My goal this year was to raise \$2000 for the Women Legionnaire Scholarship Fund did not become a reality. I only raised about \$1000. So there will be only two scholarships given out this year. I have only received one applicant so far. Her name will be announced at this year's convention. I wish to say thank you to all of you that contributed to the raffles or help sell raffle tickets. You were a very large help when it was needed the most.

A quick synopsis of the year started with installations at different Posts and Districts, then it was on to the Yountville Picnic and Baseball Tournaments, Fall DEC in Clovis, Northern California All Women Veterans Luncheon in Berkeley, Area 3 (in Lodi) & 1 (Vallejo) Meetings, Planning & Participating in Veterans Day Ceremony & Parade honoring Women Veterans in Fairfield, National Wreath Laying Ceremony in Sonoma, National Commander' Dinner at Amador Post 108, Area 5 Meeting in Brawley, visit to San Diego VA Medical Center - La Jolla, Spring DEC in Santa Maria, CA Department of Veterans Affairs Meeting in Sacramento, Department Commander Homecoming in Marina, Dedication Ceremony for Sacramento Valley VA National Cemetery, Legislative Day in Sacramento, Area 4 Meeting in Culver City, District 5 Boys State Luncheon in Santa Rosa, Department Auxiliary President Homecoming in Santa Clara,

Memorial Day Events, East Bay Veterans Fair at Concord Vet Center, then onto convention in Palm Springs.

During my year I was honored with a luncheon by the San Diego Women Post 451 and received a check for the Scholarship Fund and had a beautiful time talking and visiting with other women veterans. I also was honored at Hollywood Post 43 Spring Fling with a dinner, received a beautiful large antique brooch and had a tour of their beautiful facility by their Sgt.-of-Arms who was able to answer any question asked. These visits and their hospitality will stay in my memory forever. Thank you to all of you from the bottom of my heart.

In my own area I have been attending the Solano County Military & Veterans Affairs Quarterly Meetings. After making the suggestion of organizing a Veterans Honor Guard Team for the Sacramento Valley VA National Cemetery I was given the go ahead and served as the coordinator for six months. During that time I held several training sessions, put together an SOP with several other counties represented, then organized and participated in services held at the national cemetery and other cemeteries as needed. In addition to the above, I organized and conducted a 5th anniversary for 9-11 with the City of Vacaville, Police and Fire Depts. and Travis Air Force Base liaisons, and was part of Vacaville's National POW/MIA Recognition Ceremony.

After my year is done I will continue to find ways of contacting women who have served in the military and

informed them of their benefits available to them. I have been asked to be a member of Women Veterans Health Advisory Committee thru the Northern CA VA Healthcare System.

I wish to take this time to thank the past Vice Commanders Representing Women Legionnaires, especially Joanne Evans. Without their help and advice this year I could not have done this job.

I also would like to thank Hattie Stone, Post 21, District 5, for being my traveling partner to Southern California (San Diego, Brawley, and La Jolla). Without her with me I probably would not stay awake or would have found the driving very boring going alone. I also would like to thank Sheryl Schmidt, Deputy Secretary, Women Veteran Affairs, for traveling with me and participating with me in several events.

In closing I wish to say thank all of you for allowing me to be your Vice Commander Representing Women Legionnaires for 2006-2007. Please open your arms and give your support to Diane Drake, Candidate for Vice Commander Representing Women Legionnaires. I know she will do a great job. See you on the road.



COMMISSION REPORTS

AEROSPACE COMMISSION

RICHARD I MOWREY, CHAIRMAN

During The Department of California's State Convention, the Aerospace Commission attempts to locate and visit a nearby aerospace museum or a military aviation unit. These field trips are not only educational; they build camaraderie within the ranks of The American Legion, but also stimulates the interest and participation of the members of the American Legion in the field of aerospace. A number of American Legion posts do much the same thing, with an added benefit going to the host institutions.

Area Activities

Area 1: Jack Wallace, Vice Chairman, in Area One has acted as a docent in local air shows and continues to provide useful information on aviation and aerospace events to the commissioners and advisors, for distribution and reference material for our program, projects and reports.

Area 2: Posts in Area 2 have taken the lead in museum support, creating a special room at a local museum. The Western Aerospace Museum is located at North Field, Oakland Airport. The American Legion room chronicles the achievements of members of the American Legion in military and civilian aviation and aerospace. The commission's funds are limited for this endeavor; member support is greatly needed for continuation of this room. District 10 Aerospace Advisor, Dennis Matarrese has provided the liaison and

dedicated work with the Western Aerospace Museum on our behalf. One of the projects Dennis has undertaken has been trying to find funding sources for transportation of school children to the museum. Currently Dennis is also working with the museum planning staff as they prepare to remodel the museum and the American Legion Room. On the direct aerospace education approach, Dennis has been working with the San Leandro School District to investigate the possibility of creating an Aerospace Education Program in the district's middle schools and plans are being made to extend this program to the district's High Schools as well. Many thanks are due Dennis and his members in the 10th District.

Area 3: Commissioner, Bob Cozad, has been researching books and videos on the aviation and aerospace field for possible acceptance by the school districts in his Area. With this information regarding what materials the school district will accept, Commissioners Cozad will forward this information on so posts within Area 3 can provide book and video donations to the local schools. Bob also reported upon the opening of the new California Aerospace Museum in Sacramento. I encourage Bob to provide further information on this museum on our Aerospace Commission Website.

Area 4: Aerospace Commissioner, Jack Craigie and last years Commission Chairman deserves a great deal of thanks for his fantastic work in the Los Angeles area museums and local schools. His idea of providing educational reading material to our school children is slowly taking off. All Areas and Districts are encouraged to concentrate on this endeavor, as the benefits to our children and future leaders, can only be great.

Area 5: Richard Mowrey, Commission Chairman and Area Five Aerospace Commissioner has reported that he has been working closely with the San Diego Aerospace Museum at Balboa Park, visiting the local schools and providing aerospace material and literature to students. His previous effort with the San Diego Aerospace Museum allows children free admission.

Area 6: Commissioner, Thomas Christner, attended a rocket propulsion exhibition and competition sponsored by the Boy Scouts. Thomas employer, Integrated Defense Solutions contributed to the transportation needs so the local school kids could come out and watch Mr. Yeager (Scaled Composites) make his attempt at the "X" prize (which he won) by putting a civilian into space and then repeating the feat within a 2 week window. First hand experiences last a lifetime and

continue on next page

Aerospace continued...

make a lasting impression on the minds of our children.

Aerospace Programs

Teachers Aerospace Education Workshops

Area Two has sponsored Teacher/Administrator workshops at NASA/Ames and San Jose State University, Aviation Dept. The commission provides one to two \$500.00 scholarship for this program. Local posts are encouraged to help defray the costs borne by the Teacher/Administrator team that is chosen from within California's School System. Workshops have been co-sponsored by the Aerospace Commission and the NASA Ames Aerospace Education Services Program, to enhance grade school instructors' teaching techniques in the math and science fields using aviation and aerospace teaching materials and student project materials. Emphasis has been placed on local math and science teachers who can reach 20 to 30 students per year. This type of program could be available throughout California with help from the local post and area commissioners.

NASA/Ames Aerospace Encounter

Although not an official project of the Dept. of California Aerospace Commission Program, the NASA/Ames Aerospace Encounter Program at NASA/Ames Research, Moffitt Federal Airfield is a unique educational program designed to inspire positive attitudes about science, math and technology for students in the 4th through 6th grade. Since this is a free program for the public school system, transportation funds were needed to help the underrepresented schools get the students on site. To date Mission City Post 564 has donated over

\$4,000.00 to this worthwhile program for student transportation to this Program.

Flight Training Scholarship

In the late 1990s, the Aerospace Commission, with the financial assistance of Mission Post 564 made available a one-time Flight Training scholarship of \$500.00 for a high school or college student who has shown the desire to enter the Armed Forces and becoming a military aviator. Through the continuing support of Mission City Post 564, this scholarship was increased in 2006 to \$2000, to meet the rising costs of pre-flight training.

Books and Authors

In this age of videos and computers, books still have a place with our younger citizens. Past Chairman, Jack Craigie started a pilot program within the neighborhood. He acquired an aerospace library of over 90 excellent books on flying and aerospace. Venice Post 177 offers them - and/or others of the schools' choosing - to local schools in the name of The American Legion. A worthwhile program that the Aerospace Commission must put more effort into, insuring our future leaders have had the gratifying experience of books and the written word.

Space Camp Scholarships

Scholarship available through the Aerospace Commission for any child in the California education system, grades 4 thru 6. Scholarship selection was initiated by submitting a three hundred-word essay on "Why I would benefit from my Space Camp experience." To foster and encourage the excitement of space and the space field. Please contact your Area Aerospace Commission for instruct-

ions, selection process procedures and application forms for this exciting and educational experience.

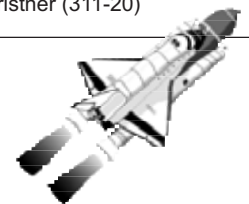
In conclusion, I would like to thank the Aerospace Commissioners and the District Advisors for their support of our children, our commission and our future. Without the help of these people, whose efforts largely go unnoticed by the general membership and the public at large, our children would be lacking of an important and vital resource in their development and future educational and employment plans. Aerospace Education is but a catalyst to spawn a deep lifelong interest in the fields of science, mathematics, chemistry, physic and biology, for our students. Few educational and occupational pursuits offer a large array of fields, all interesting, where the human spirit for exploration, knowledge and discovery are met and challenged.

I thank the Department of California Leadership and Staff, for their support of the Aerospace Commissions programs and I also offer thanks to the many members of The American Legion who through their own personal interest have contributed to our programs.

AEROSPACE COMMISSION: To promote Aerospace research and to keep the American Legion advised of all activities in the field of Aerospace.

Area

- 1 John W Wallace (28-5)Vice Chairman
- 2 William P Carney (564-13)
- 3 Robert E Cozad (108-11)
- 4 John H Craigie (177-23)
- 5 Richard I Mowrey (820-22)Chairman
- 6 Thomas R Christner (311-20)



AGRICULTURE, NATURAL RESOURCES & ENERGY COMMISSION

RICHARD A. "DICK" HISER , CHAIRMAN

The Commission has had to be aware of and make notice of many events affecting our State; the State has suffered from fires in the National Forests. Our natural resources in those areas were greatly damaged. The National Forest Service has made great strides with reforestation of the effected areas. Nature has aided by sprouting new growth in the burned over areas. The Commission is asking that all Areas, Districts and Posts be alert. We should all keep abreast of any legislation that will aid in these areas.

Agriculture has and the farmers who grow our foods have been greatly devastated from the winter freezes including the avocado, strawberry and citrus crops. The farmers were also affected by outbreaks of E-Coli carried on their crops and the various areas of problems that affected the pork and poultry industry. The loses in all areas running in the millions of dollars. Again we must keep alert of any legislation that pertains to these fields.

We are also seeing problems with the many levees and dikes throughout the State. Many are very old and in need of repairs and/or replacing so that cities along the larger rivers do not have fates similar to New Orleans. Again we need to support any legislature to help rebuild or replace.

Water is a commodity we must continue to protect.

Another concern is the conservation of energy, mainly gas, water and electricity. We must conserve in anyway we can, from repairing leaking faucets to replacing the old antiquated

incandescent light fixtures with the new fluorescent type. Whenever possible older refrigerators and appliances should be replaced with newer energy efficient ones. We should try to do our part in keeping our home thermostats set at a comfortable setting, and turned off when we are not at home for extended periods of time. We should do our part and ask our neighbors to do the same. The Commission needs to be kept aware of any pending legislation so that it can take appropriate steps.

The American Legion Department of California Premier Youth program is the Youth Environmental Conference (Y.E.C.). The conference is held annually in May in the El Dorado National Forest at Camp Sly near Pollock Pines. The conference is counseled by professionals from the Federal and State Forestry Agencies and private industry to acquaint the

interested students with all the phases Forestry, Conservation and Environmental activities; to observe Land Management activities; to give career guidance in these and allied fields, including degree requirements and employment opportunities available in the related careers students have chosen. The Department of California is the only Department offering the conference. The Federal and State Forestry Agencies call this A Youth Environmental Leadership Conference. This year we had 64 students in attendance. As usual the event coordinator Barbara Ross has done an outstanding job. And my personal thanks and that of the Commission go out to her.

I wish to thank my Vice Chairman Phillip Gibson and Commission members William Davis, Charles Bachman, John Stamatiades and Ricky De Vries for their assistance.

Agriculture, Natural Resources & Energy Commission: To promote the development, supply and environmental conservation, applicable to food, agriculture and natural resources, through study of conditions and problems, and by working with State agencies and leaders in their respective fields; to implement an active forestry and environmental youth orientation program. To monitor the energy policies applicable to the state, promote energy

conservation and circulate to the Districts and/or Post energy policies as a program of The American Legion.

Area

- 1 William Davis(789-4)
- 2 Charles A Bachman(292-10)
- 3 Phillip Gibson (74-12)Vice Chairman
- 4 John L Stamatiades(285-17)
- 5 Ricky L De Vries(255-22)
- 6 Richard A Hiser (482-16)Chairman



AMERICAN LEGION 2007 YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE

BARBARA ROSS - (D31 Aux.), COORDINATOR

On Friday, May 18 2007, 55 students, 6 Legion Family counselors and 5 members of the US Forest Service cadre gathered at Post 521 in Rio Linda for breakfast, and began the 4 day conference.

Frank Mosbacher, USFS and Barbara Ross, Conference Coordinator, gave the students an overview of the program and activities. Students were issued a binder with the program agenda, which included copies of articles from various publications, relating to the issues that would be presented and discussed during the conference.

After boarding buses for Sly Park, the Forest Service personnel began pointing out the changes taking place in the foliage along the highway. As we moved up the highway, Amy, Jessica, Kristi and Brian (USFS) pointed out the noticeable changes.

After arriving at the Sacramento County Office of Education Environmental Education Center (Sly

Park) students discussed what activities they want to participate in to help the environment.

Finding their terminal values – Students discussed their value in life as related to the environment and develop a “crest” incorporating the thoughts of each student. Crests were displayed and each group reported on the meaning of the designs and words relating to their “values”.

During the conference students learned about Lake Tahoe and its immediate region including American River canyon, Lovers Leap climbing rock, Bridal Veil and Horsetail Falls and Tallac Lake. Also a trip took them to an elevation of 8,000 feet above lake Tahoe. As the students looked down into Tahoe valley the lake looked rather small from that height.

Some of the highlights of the study at the conference were “Wildlife Round Up”, role playing and learning about habitats of various species of bugs and animals, identifying trees for thinning

and marketing and test burn of the park area.

Meal time – Students were selected to helped serve and cleanup after each meal. KP duties seem to be somewhat unfamiliar to many of the students, but they did it with a smile.

After the Sunday dinner (last evening at the YEC), everyone gathered at the Sly Park Amphitheatre for a great evening activity. Forest Service cadre and counselors were individually presented and thanked. The students each came to the microphone, to make a short statement about the conference - their “awesome” weekend, a great program and received their conference T-shirt. New adult participants also received a T-shirt and participation pin. Pins for most students will be sent to their Post to be given to them after they make their presentation at a Post meeting.

Legionnaires told the students about the YEC scholarship and encouraged

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Ross continued...

them to apply if they met the requirements. Also a short history of The American Legion and the American Legion Family was given.

Monday morning brought everyone together for the last time. Students discussed and identified projects they could do to help the environment.

Interest groups discussed how they could implement those projects – who to involve, how to fund it, what they expected to accomplish. Their decisions were presented to the whole group and the conference came to an end with the presentation of certificates and other mementos from the Forest Service.

“Thank you American Legion; thank you Forest Service”

Counselors:

- Julie Potter – D18 – Legion and Aux.
- Gene Fanucchi – D13 Legionnaire
- Ken Newman – D13 Legionnaire
- Cindy Newman – D13
- Rick Bernard – D18 SAL

AMATEUR RADIO COMMISSION

LAWRENCE R DOUTHERD SR. (KD6SWL), CHAIRMAN

The Amateur Radio Commission was established in the Department of California as a backup communication in times of disasters. Our Mission Statement:

”To assist in the development of amateur radio, and to that end, establish an amateur radio chain among volunteer radio enthusiasts”. This chain is called California American Legion Amateur Radio Service (CALARS).

Net Control Operators call roll on his/her High Frequency radio, every Sunday at 1 PM Pacific Time on the dialed frequency of 7.278 Megahertz (Mhz). Every year since I assumed the position of Chairman of the Amateur Radio Commission, I have stated to our department commanders that the Area commissioners who were appointed but fail to function cause a break in the chain. Again this year we only had 2 of the six commissioners actively participating in CALARS and reporting the activities from their area.

This year I received a presentation package from Bill Branch Area 6, District 24, Post 283. It was to give to our National Commander Paul A. Morin during his visit to the Los Angeles area. This was very well put together and it also proved my point. However there was no mention of CALARS. Area 6 has not had an active Radio Commissioner representing the districts and posts for years. I know our Department Commander Charlie Estridge had some understanding of the presentation, as he has heard my reports at the area 2 meetings.

This year we are losing another faithful CALARS member. Richard K. Gird K6PZE, who has been the CALARS net manager for over 10 years. He has provided quarterly list for each Net Control operator, at the present time we have 5 operators. He also puts a

Member list out once a year. Dick will be moving out of California to be close to his family. Dick, we will miss you and hope you will be able to set your radio up and raise an antenna in our direction.

Just as the Legion our members are getting older and some have become what we call silent keys (SK) that have gone to post everlasting, but we are always looking for new members to fill our ranks. Last February 23, 2007 the FCC removed Morse code as a licensing requirement. This code requirement has kept many amateur operators from accessing the HF frequencies where CALARS operates. They are seeing an increase in license upgrades. So encourage those hams in your post to take the next step and help your post to get on the CALARS net.

AMATEUR RADIO

To assist in the development of amateur radio, and to that end, establish an amateur radio chain among volunteer radio enthusiasts.
Area
1 Kenneth W Vogele (W6KVV)(119-31)

- 2 Lawrence R Doutherd Sr (KD6SWL) (380-13) Chairman
- 3 Mark T Keller (KE6SRX) (265-27) Vice Chairman
- 4 Andrew G Romanisky (WA6WXD)(309-17)
- 5 James M Kent (KF6TYZ)(800-21)
- 6 Emery S Starkweather (W6ZKC)(482-16)

AMERICANISM COMMISSION

STEVE WEBER , CHAIRMAN

I wish to thank Commander Eskridge for his continued support of the Americanism Commission and the appointment again to the commission. I also wish to thank Bill Siler III for his assistance with the commission, especially helping with resolutions.

Once again we are receiving the Fiske Reports very slowly. This tends to mean that we will have the same results as the last few years.

The American Legion Posts of California need to pat themselves on the back for all the work they do. First off, thank you so much to the posts that do file the reports and “shame” on the posts that do not. The members of your post that work so hard doing the many

different Americanism projects throughout the year deserve their a-dos’.

I ask all incoming district commanders to please go back to their districts this year and make sure that every post has an Americanism Chairman and that the report form be given to that person to be filled out.

The area commissioners, Area 1 Charles H Anderson (28-5), Area 2 Robert E Lando (40-8), Area 3 Cynthia A Nolen (83-12), Area 4 Bert O. Ladre (314-19), Area 5 Edward D Barton (777-25), and Area 6 Steve Weber (48-16) have done a fantastic job this year assisting in any way asked. If you need assistance in the future please don’t hesitate to call on any one of them.

The Flag Amendment failed to be passed again this year. In many discussions on this subject the biggest draw back with the amendment seems to be what the penalties would be for desecrating the flag. They can not put the penalties into the amendment and most younger people that I have talked to, although believing the flag should be protected because of what it stands for, do not believe that anyone should go to jail for burning the flag. It is quite interesting to talk to our youth about this subject.

I hope you have a great convention and are on the floor during the presentation of the Fiske Awards.

AMERICANISM

To develop and maintain the spirit of 100 percent Americanism among the Legion and residents of the State of California. To put into effect programs of The American Legion; to coordinate any overlapping of plans dealing with Americanism; and to establish an overall policy of Americanism.

To act as liaison between the organization known as Boys Club of America and assist in sponsoring the activity throughout the state. To coordinate the programs of the Posts and districts of the Department with the public schools.
Area
1 Charles H Anderson(28-5)Vice Chairman

- 2 Robert E Lando(40-8)
- 3 Cynthia A Nolen(83-12)
- 4 Bert O Ladre(314-19)
- 5 Edward D Barton (777-25)
- 6 Steven C Weber (48-16)Chairman



War Memorial Building, 401 Van Ness, San Francisco

AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL COMMISSION

HAROLD HALL, CHAIRMAN



Our baseball program in California was another excellent year. The department reported 240 teams participation in American Legion Baseball, an increase of ten teams. Our state champion was Auburn out of Post 84, they went to region 8 at Albuquerque, New Mexico but lost to the regional winner Las Vegas, Nevada.

The junior division winner was San Juan Capistrano from Post 71 who has been undefeated, one of our better teams in Yountville.

We again will play our 2007 state tournaments at the Veterans Home in Yountville, which is the same weekend as the Legion held Legion Day. We will be honored by the attendance of both the Department Commander and Director of Veterans Affairs who will throw out the first pitch and one catch

for the start of the event. We thank both the department and Secretary's staff for the many hours of hard work to make this program possible.

We ask legion members to support the games and welcome their visitation of the Yountville Veterans Home.

Dates for the 2007 Area, State, Regional and World Series Tournaments	
State "A" Tournament	August 4-7
State "B" Tournament	August 11-14
Regional Tournaments	August 16-20
location - Salt Lake City, Utah	
World Series	August 24-29
location - Bartlesville, Oklahoma	

BASEBALL COMMISSION

To foster the program of The American Legion in regard to baseball; it shall prepare an annual budget of all its operations and shall include all funds received and expended to be presented to the Finance Commission which will be presented with the Department budget to the Convention.

Area

- 1 Clarence Meyer (119-31)
 - 1 Charles E Buttz (306-5)
 - 2 A C Ralston (82-26)
 - 2 Michael D Underwood (246-9) Vice Chairman
 - 3 Welby A Cramer (26-15)
 - 3 Richard T Edgecomb (74-12)
 - 4 Fernando Soto (833-19)
 - 4 Robert W Mitchell (352-19)
 - 5 Harold Hall (72-29) Chairman
 - 5 Robert N Escarcega (112-25)
 - 6 Robert K Ryan (283-24)
 - 6 Dennis L Fercho (741-16)
- T/A Odell Shelton Jr (205-1)
T/A James Shepard (197-2)
T/A Julio Yniquez (123-24)
T/A Andy Ellicock (108-11)



2006 Champions - Merced CA Team

CALIFORNIA GOLDEN BOYS STATE COMMISSION

BARNEY LA RUE, CHAIRMAN

The planning for the 2007 Boys' State Session began with our usual call-in, held at American Legion Department Headquarters, on the 4th of November 2006. The purpose of this meeting was to lay out the groundwork for our 70th session of The Boys' State Program to be held once again at Sacramento State University. We are very proud to be able to reach the milestone of 70 years in California and our 36th year at Sacramento State University. We certainly expect this session to be special and will live up to our expectations as one of our BEST EVER!

Along with our regular staff being present at the call-in, we were honored to have Department Commander Charlie Eskridge and his wife Rosie, Department Adjutant Bill Siler, and many other dignitaries including a number of district advisors. And last, but certainly not least, we had our very own Tammy Manini present. Tammy is our Boys' State Coordinator at Department and she keeps us informed at all times of any problems that may arise! The rest of the Department Staff has also been very helpful and willing to help us in any way that they can.

Seems like we spend an awful lot of time thanking people, but I feel that it is my duty to do so. The program could not succeed without the dedication and

support of these people. Director Dick Shick does a fantastic job of planning all year long for the upcoming years. It is also a pleasure and a privilege to work with such people as Chief Counselor Alcom, Assistant Chief Counselor Aboudara, Administrator "Chic" De Vault and Assistant Administrator Ed Denson. We also have about 60 dedicated Counselors that return year after year to serve. Some of these people come from out of state! NOW, THAT IS TRUE DEDICATION!!

Thank you on behalf of the Boys' State Commission.

The dates for the 2007, 70th session, will be June 16th - 23rd on the Campus of Sacramento State University, Sacramento. The fee per boy is \$265.00 again this year. We can make no promises that this fee will be the same next year. All services at the college are increasing each year but we will do our best to keep the cost per delegate within reach for the sponsors. The quota system is a must as we have a limited number of beds available to us. Request for additional quotas will be filled as they become available.

You can look for the newly elected GOVERNOR OF BOYS' STATE to be presented on the floor at Conven-

BOYS' STATE

To operate Boys' State for the development of good citizenship in the communities. The Boy's State commission shall prepare an annual budget of all its operations and shall include all funds received and expended to be presented to the Finance Commission which, in turn, will be presented with the Department budget to the Convention.

Area

1 David D DeVault (521-6) Vice Chairman

2 Laurence Kahn (517-9)

3 Bernard La Rue (632-11) Chairman

4 Gil Soto (51-19)

5 Lee R Lloyd (555-29)

6 Eric W Measles (283-24)

T/A: Gene E Miller (11-14)

T/A: Mario Diaz (20-15)

Boys State Staff

Director: Richard L Shick

Chief Counselor Emeritus: Joseph M Cenzo

Chief Counselor: James Alcom

Asst. Chief Counselor: Tim Aboudara Sr.

Administrator: Barbara L "Chic" DeVault

tion Saturday morning in Palm Springs. At that time, I will make my report on the 70th session and let you know all of the particulars.

In keeping within the thanking mode, I would personally like to extend MY THANKS to EVERY LEGIONNAIRE for your support of the Boys' State Program! The Commission will continue to make this program the best at all cost.

It has been an honor and pleasure to serve you as commission chairman for another year. I look forward to continuing my service and support for years to come in this great program!

CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMISSION

THOMAS W WALSH, CHAIRMAN

(Educate • Orientate • Participate)

E • O • P

A reminder to all that there is a purpose for American Legion Committees and Commissions.

The American Legion exists only with the approval of our society and each Post is judged by their communities. Posts are responsible to carry out the objectives and programs of the Legion and to fully comply with the obligations under the post, department and National constitutions.

American Legion Committees and Commissions are resources to attract nonmember eligible candidates. We sometimes get our priorities turned around. Membership is the lifeblood of the organization, but an American Legion program gives the member purpose.

The blueprint for The American Legion is “Service” to our veterans, their “families” and their “communities”. Recruiting new members does

not fulfill our “Service” to the veteran if we ignore their families.

Secondary to Veterans Administration and to Veteran Services are the Children and Youth Activities of The American Legion, our future. Just as it is important to report how many veterans belong to each post (Consolidated Post Report), it is important to report how each post is serving the veteran and their family (Children and Youth Report).

A new Children and Youth Orientation and Guide has been developed. The question to the Commission was: “Is this a good educational tool about the many children and youth programs and as a tool to teach others?” The answer appears to be a positive, but this is the

first year for the Orientation and Guide Booklet.

In addition, a Post Children and Youth Activity Summary Form have been included to help the posts record their activities and use the information to complete their annual report.

Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) forms have been confusing. The Children & Youth Commission matched the step-by-step form requirements with explanatory guidelines to ensure that the forms are completed effectively to aid veterans and their families.

I thank the members of the Children and Youth Commission for their dedication to their responsibilities.

CHILDREN AND YOUTH

To carry on the child welfare program of The American Legion. To promote the program of the education of war orphans. Area

- 1: Janet R. Hooper (807 0 4)
- 2: Charles N. Schweitzer (593 - 28)

- 3: Augustin M. Cano (355 - 14)
- 4: Thomas W. Walsh (8-17) Chairman
- 5: Ann M. Pina-Brown (6 - 22) Vice Chairman
- 6: Michael Stadnick, Jr. (56 - 16)

COMMUNITY SERVICE COMMISSION

Gil Sattler, Jr., CHAIRMAN

I am happy to report that there was a lot of progress in revising the Community Service program and it's funding this year.

• We had a call-in on the 28/29th 2006 at Post 30, with the following members present: Chairman, 6th Area Gil Sattler Jr.; Commissioner, 2nd Area Garry McLeod; Commissioner, 4th Area Hugh E. Crooks Jr. This was the first call-in in three years.

• We increased the number of awards to five and got an increase in funding for the 2007-2008 Legion year.

The Awards are, as follows:

1. The most money donated by a Post.
2. The most man/hours expended by a Post.
3. The most money donated divided by the number of Post members.
4. The most man/hours divided by the number of Post members.

continued on next page...

COMMUNITY SERVICE

To structure, produce and carry on the Community Service Commission betterment program for The American Legion local community in which a post is situated and represents; to identify, promote, support and encourage those program, activities and events undertaken by the posts throughout the Department, not covered by other commissions or committees. Area

- 1 Janice L Price(720-2)
- 2 Garry D McLeod(318-13)
- 3 Edward L Ryan (711-15)
- 4 Hugh E Crooks Jr(8-17)
- 5 Thomas K Russell(256-25) Vice Chairman
- 6 Gil Sattler Jr(125-16) Chairman

Sattler continued...

5. The most unique Community project or the best report. (Note: A Post will not receive more than one award.)

• We revised the form, to include Post membership size and a positive cut-off date of 31 May 2007.

Thanks to all the post who have submitted their reports and to those who will submit reports.

The Budget for 2007-2008 was increased to \$500.00. (Note: It was not approved for this 2006-2007 Legion year.)

Reports are coming in very good this year. To date I have received 64 reports, compared to 23 reports last year.

Good-Bless our Troops and the American Legion and see you in Palm Springs.

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS COMMISSION

JOHN K BORDERS, CHAIRMAN

WOW! What a year 2006-2007 has been.

The year started out at the Fresno Convention where the delegates passed the five resolutions that were presented. Four of the resolutions made major changes to the By-Laws. Post probation was finally put in the By-Laws. A post now can be put on probation for not turning in its Consolidated Post Report and its Certification of Post Officers in a timely manner. The length of the State Convention was changed to 3 days and Committee meetings were changed to meet within 48 hours of the start of Convention.

Last August I visited every state delegation at the National convention at Salt Lake City, Utah. I asked the delegations a couple of questions. One was: do you have a Parliamentarian and is it a State Office? The other question was: what is your state's convention quorum and are you meeting it?

All but a few of the small States have a Parliamentarian. The Parliamentarian is a state officer in all these states. That is why the Constitution and By-Laws

Commission will be presenting a resolution to make California's Parliamentarian a State Officer at the Palm Springs Convention.

California uses a majority of the Posts, 259 registered Posts, as a Convention Quorum,

There were over 7000 delegates at the 1976 Convention in Stockton. There were only 677 registered delegates in 2006 at the Fresno Convention. It is usually Saturday afternoon before a convention quorum is reached.

All the states, except for a few of the northeast states that have not already addressed the issue of a convention quorum, are having difficulty meeting a convention quorum. Most states are still using a majority of posts as a convention quorum. All these states said they would have to address the issue.

Some States have already made convention quorum changes. Washington and Oklahoma have 50% of the registered delegates as a quorum. Several of the mid-west states have gone to 33 1/3 of the posts. A couple of States are using 3/4 of the districts as their quorum.

The goal is to start convention with a quorum in order to conduct business legally. The Constitution and By-Laws Commission is recommending California adopt 3/4 of the districts as a convention quorum. A convention quorum then can be obtained at the start of convention with a roll call of the districts.

Judge Advocate Jack Climer has ruled that the districts are a legal representation of The American Legion and may be used as the basis for a convention quorum.

I wish to thank all the Constitution and By-Laws Commissioners for their work in their respective Areas presenting these resolutions. Their suggestions and comments have been greatly appreciated.

CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS COMMISSION

To recommend to the Department changes necessary or advisable for the better operation of the Department and such other duties as are delegated to it by the By-Laws of the Department.

Area

- 1 Terry N Crouson (84-31)
- 2 Ralph W Jacob Jr (419-13)
- 3 John K Borders (249-11) Chairman
- 4 Bill S Clapp (496-19)
- 5 John W Bohmfalk (422-25) Vice Chairman
- 6 William J Reed (790-18)

CONVENTION CITY COMMISSION

JACK KIDD, CHAIRMAN

The commission has had some changes since last year. We have two new Technical Advisors: Jacklyn Reed and Charles Waters. The commission members have been in close communication with each other via telephone and e-mail. They have proposed, scrutinized and resolved issues and their resolutions were presented at the Santa Maria DEC in March of 2007.

Unfortunately, last year's Fresno convention did not bring any new future convention venues. As of this time 2009 convention venue is still open for bid (originally planned for Huntington Beach).

There have been many proposed future convention venues. The following are where we stand at this time:

- 2008 Bakersfield
- 2009 Open for Bid
- 2010 Fresno
- 2011 Open for Bid

Our job is to propose/inspect future sites. However, the past few commission chairmen have mention the difficulties of soliciting a host city for convention venues.

To seek possible convention host cities we have planned to advertise in the California Legionnaire and the Department Web site for convention host cities.

A questionnaire was circulated at a 6th area caucus and followed up at the Santa Maria DEC. The questionnaires were collected from district and area commanders and our leadership, to identify possible future convention host cities.

Response Summary

- Venue affects convention attendance
- Suggested venues; Santa Clara, Oxnard/Ventura, Monterey, Sacramento, Pasadena, Tahoe, Anaheim/LA
- Convention commission requires strong leadership
- Recruit willing candidate to work as commission rep and TA
- Reward performance, awards? (Legionnaire of the Year)
- Convention venue will help local posts, district, city's economy
- Community pride, recognition and future visits by Legionnaires

CONVENTION CITY

To investigate the facilities and financial ability of cities placing a bid for a Department Convention; To recommend to the

Department Convention the city best qualified to hold a Department Convention; and upon the Convention being awarded to a city by the Department Convention, the Department Commission may become the Commander's official representative, with the duties of coordinating all phases of Convention activities with the convention city or corporation.

Area

1. Glen A Mayer (745-2)
 2. Ronald A Galvan (117-10)
 3. Richard C Nelson (147-14) Vice-Chairman
 4. Frank M Ortiz (381-17)
 5. Franklin C Manthei (6-22)
 6. Jack F Kidd (283-24) Chairman
- T/A: Charles A Waters (4-14)
T/A: Jacklyn M Reed (16-11)



2007 Veteran's Day Parade

FINANCE COMMISSION
ALAN C LENNOX, CHAIRMAN

The Department Finance Commission is completing another busy and productive year.

I would be remiss if I didn't (up front) recognize the outstanding legionnaires and staff that share in managing the Department's finances.

- Area 1 David Kauderer
- Area 2 Jack O'Leary
- Area 4 Gail Tam Jr.
- Area 5 Jesse James
- Area 6 Michael Gombar

Commander's Rep. S.Wayne Parrish, Commander Charlie Eskridge, NEC Jim Hackney, Department Contoller Mary Long and Department Adjutant Bill Siler III, and Membership Director Floyd Martin. The aforementioned individuals deserve our utmost respect and gratitude.

For the second year in the recent history of Department of California, we received from our independent auditor an unqualified audited financial report (a clean bill of finance) and management letter in a timely fashion for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2006.

During 2005-2006, under Past Department Commander S. Wayne Parrish's leadership, the Department still maintained a very strong financial position despite a deficit of \$105,378.

The Department's General Fund Total net Assets now stand at \$1,052,118, consisting of a "Reserve Fund" of \$659,530 established by the Department Finance Commission, a reserved "Building Fund" of \$200,000 and an "Unreserved Fund balance" of \$192,588.

Department of California Total Net Assets				
	June 30 <u>2004</u>	June 30 <u>2005</u>	June 30 <u>2006</u>	Incr/Decr <u>2005-2006</u>
<u>Operating Funds</u>				
• General Fund	1,002,616	1,157,496	1,052,118	(105,378)
• Baseball	30,274	31,913	37,972	6,059
• Boys State	23,528	39,017	42,585	3,568
• SAL	<u>18,429</u>	<u>18,662</u>	<u>17,599</u>	<u>(1,063)</u>
<u>Subtotal Operating Funds</u>	1,074,847	1,247,088	1,150,274	(96,814)
Restricted Funds	<u>255,539</u>	<u>284,534</u>	<u>312,825</u>	<u>28,291</u>
Total Department	1,330,440	1,531,622	1,463,099	(68,523)

The \$105,378 reduction in General fund balance was caused almost entirely by three (3) factors, one was expected and the other two were unanticipated:

- 1) Planned and Convention approved expenditures of available fund balance to support required payment to National for the DMS+ Program (\$48,471). This was an intentional "Investment" in the DMS+ program, which is expected to more than repay our draw on fund balance in future years.
- 2) Unexpected end-of year assessment for National retirement program \$53,628 in excess of amount budgeted for 2005-2006. This unanticipated National's Actuarial periodic retirement pension cost for California has grown by about 300% over a 5 year period, which will require research into National's actuarial practices? This last-minutes increase in the retirement assessment was impossible to budget for and was impossible to accommodate by budget reductions elsewhere. This large increase caused both HQ Admin. Division and the VA&R Division to exceed their budgets.

3) An unexpected shortfall of \$70,022 in membership dues because of decline in membership revenues. If not for the tight financial control and sound management as well as the intensive oversight by the Finance Commission, the deficit could have been greater.

Listed below are the Action Minutes of all commission meetings throughout the year. The purpose of including the action minutes is just another mechanism to ensure transparency of the Department finances. They reflect the business of Finance Commission for the year. Notable duties of the Finance Commission are: reviewing external and internal audits, continuous monitoring of budgetary controls, investment strategies and strategic planning. The Commission firmly believes that the Department finances and decision-making process should be scrutinized by all and be made accessible to all members.

This year we conducted Finance Commission business during three internal audits and four meetings:

Our internal audit team, Vice Chairman Jesse James, Commissioner Jack O'Leary have conducted three internal

continue on next page

audits this year on the following dates: July 28, 2006, Jan. 5, 2007, and April 13, 2007

By interviewing at least two staff members and reviewing all bank reconciliations, pre-signed checks, petty cash, payroll registers and accounts payables during each audit, our internal audit team was assured that Department by-laws and policies were followed. No significant issue was found.

Action Minutes of four Finance meetings throughout the year

August 11, 2006: Finance Commission Meeting- Visalia

- Reviewed 2006-2007 budget approved by Department 88th Convention at Fresno.
- Received and discussed "Internal Audit Report" from Internal Audit Team regarding their July 28, 2006 audit of department records.
- Reviewed and discussed Department's Multiple Year Fundraising Status Report dated 7/28/06.
- Received and reviewed Department Investment Program report from Morgan Stanley and directed department staff to leave the \$11,000.00 interest income from matured CDs in the money market account.
- Confirmed the decision made in 2005 regarding reduction of Fidelity Fee assessment from \$32.50 to \$10.00 since the Fidelity accounts balance has exceeded \$100,000.00.
- Set Feb 2, 2007 for Midyear Finance Commission and Audit Committee Joint meeting and established an

AD HOC Committee to look into Department's temporarily restricted funds.

Feb. 2, 2007: Midyear Finance Commission & Audit Committee Joint meeting- San Francisco Department Headquarters (Hq)

- Received and approved the Action Minutes of Aug.12, 2006 Finance Meeting at Visalia DEC meeting.
- Received briefing from outside Auditor Olen Creech (Dudley R. Syler, CPA's) on the Audited Financial Statements and management Letter for FY 2005-2006 and executed Auditor's proposed Agreement for Audit of Current year (FY 2006-2007).
- Reviewed "Fiscal year-to date" (Dec. 31, 2006) Income Statement and Balance Sheet.
- Received Status report on DMS + Program and report on the estimated expense for not meeting 75% goal for Post 1000 member transfers.
- Reviewed the Department's investment status report dated Dec. 31, 2006
- Received and discussed report of internal audit conducted on Jan 5, 2007 by Finance Commissioners Jesse James and Jack O'Leary.
- Received oral report from Accounting Manager Mary Long on the high retirement pension cost, which is a combination of factors: number of new employees, expected number of years of service, change of assumptions by the actuary, change of government regulations and National Headquarters' lack of transparency for the retirement fund administration.

• Received a report on our Pilot Program: Result of LACC Calendar Program, a win-win situation for both The American Legion and LACC.

- Received a report from Olen Creech and Mary Long on the Rehab income and expense from year 2002 through 2006. The issue: Are we able to continue to subsidize our Rehab Division from membership revenue? If not, what measures should be considered?
- Received a report from Jim Matsukuma on the estimated cost of upgrading computer equipment at Department Headquarters and directed Jim Matsukuma to obtain the competitive bids and present the final cost and report at March 2007 Santa Maria DEC meeting.
- Established dates for next finance meeting.

March 16, 2007: Finance Commission meeting at Santa Maria

- Approved the action minutes of Feb 2, 2007 Finance Commission & Audit Committee meeting.
- Reviewed "Fiscal Year-to-date (Feb 28, 2007) Income Statement and Balance Sheet
- Reviewed Fundraising Status Report.
- Reviewed Department's Investment report and directed Department Staff to move interest revenue from matured CDs to a more accessible account.
- Received and reviewed the Admin & Rehab expense report over the last 5 years. Finance Commission Chairman Al Lennox assigned himself and Commissioner Michael Gombar to work with Department Service Officer

continue on next page

Terry Tracy and Department Judge Advocate Jack Climer in regard to a possible establishment of 501c (3) Corporation as a second corporation. The purpose being access to charitable grants or endowment funds.

- Reviewed last two years California Legionnaire expense report that shows approximately \$40,000 annual savings in production and mailing cost with AG& D.

- Reviewed and adopted the recommended disposition and the combining of certain line items of our temporarily restricted funds into manageable accounts as recommended by the AD HOC committee.

April 27, 2007: Finance Commission Budget Meeting-San Francisco Dept. Hq.

- Reviewed Year-to-date (March 31, 2007) Income Statement and Balance Sheet

- Developed a proposed budget for FY 2007-2008 for review and approval in 2007 Palm Spring by the 89th Annual Department Convention. The proposed balanced budget includes revenues and expenses projected at \$2,326,000, an increase of 3.1% above the current year budget.

FINANCE COMMISSION

To perform such duties as are delegated to it by the Department By-Laws; generally care for the finances of the Department Convention and report to the Department Executive Committee concerning the finances of the Department. The Finance Commission shall prepare a proposed budget for each Commission and Committee before each Department Convention and shall submit the same to the Convention Finance Committee, using the Annual Report of the Personnel Committee to establish salaries and benefits for all Department employees. Said

annual report of the Personnel Committee is advisory only and not in any way binding on the Finance Commission.

Area

- 1 David J Kauderer (77-6)
- 2 John A O'Leary (340-9)
- 3 Alan C Lennox (108-11)Chairman
- 4 Gail E Tam Jr (381-17)
- 5 R Doyle "Jesse" James (112-25)
Vice Chairman
- 6 Michael A Gombar (150-20)
Cmdr's Rep Fred J Walton(21-5)

In conclusion, the overall financial picture reflects strong cash reserves, sound strategic planning and management with several future challenges. The chief challenges are increasing business costs, the challenging membership quotas, and Legionnaire generosity to continuously support our Ways and Means programs. Each year it becomes necessary for California Legionnaires to contribute more of their time and money. No organization could ask more of their members. I am proud to be a member of the Department of California.

At the risk of being redundant, I feel it is necessary to reiterate the importance of Department Membership; about

90% of all general fund revenues are derived from two sources: membership dues (53%) and 36% of revenue from Ways & Means programs, which is entirely used to support our VA& R programs. A shortfall in either will directly impact the net assets and quality of operation at American Legion Department of California.

With cautious optimism, the Finance Commission recommends a balanced budget for Fiscal year 2007-2008. Without a doubt there will be challenges. The Finance Commission will continue the relentless pursuit of financial stability for the Department of California.

Yours in comradeship, Al Lennox

LAW AND ORDER COMMISSION

ROBERT CAROLAN, CHAIRMAN

The Department Law & Order Commission has completed the work on selecting the candidates for the awards this year.

The Award of Merit for the Police Officer of the Year was awarded to Officer Mariana Martinez of the Seal Beach Police Department, sponsored by the 29th District.

The Award of Valor for the Police Officer of the Year was awarded to Officer Fabian Fowler of the San Francisco Police Department sponsored by the 8th District, Post 456.

The Award of Merit for the Firefighter of the Year was awarded to Michael Oliveri sponsored by the 11th District, Post 172.

The Special Award for Police Officer of the Year was awarded to Corporal Craig Schmelter of the Orange Police Department, sponsored by 29th District.

These recipients of the Law & Order Awards have been invited to the Department Convention. A synopsis of their achievements will be read at the Convention.

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The commission recognized that this program needs to expand and reach out to all posts. In order to do this, an educational post guide is necessary and Commissioner William Evans provided one. The commission is in review of this guide and recommendations will be made at a later date. Since Firefighters have been included this past year, such a guide would prove both useful and necessary.

The commission will present a resolution to the convention, which will be more specific in the definitions of Merit and Valor. This was a subject of discussion because only the name of the recipient of the Award of Merit is eligible to be a candidate for the National Award of Merit. The name of the recipient of the Award of Valor is not submitted.

The commission has also considered adding canine awards. Many times

these officers, with their canine companions, are overlooked when awards are presented. They too represent valor and merit. There will be more review on this issue.

The commission is also considering adding a Fall Meeting Call-in to critique the prior year and to be prepared to add early changes to the following year. This would have the advantage of not being under time constraints leading up to the convention.

This program is one of the major programs of The American Legion. It is one of the best programs in establishing strong community relations. Now that Firefighters have been added, the program is even more encompassing. Some Posts have even expanded the program locally. My own, Post 291, has included Marine Safety Officer of the Year, Lifeguard

of the Year and the U.S. Coast Guard Law Enforcement Person of the Year. Each Post can tailor the program to its own community needs. It is a method of posts recognizing the achievements of the "civilians" in the community.

The commission, on behalf of The American Legion, wishes to thank all of the posts and districts who contributed to the program this year. You too are eligible for awards of merit and they will be presented during the convention. It is also the time of the presentation of the Walter Knott Award. This Award is awesome just by its size. It is this effort, made by volunteers, that upholds the purpose of the charter that each Post has received from The American Legion. Enjoy the convention.

LAW AND ORDER

To foster within the scope of The American Legion principles and policies an affirmative program of respect for and support of law and order in general and law enforcement agencies and officers and duties, and further that a sub-committee be

appointed to formulate American Legion policies concerning the use of narcotics and dangerous drugs.

Area

- 1 Steven "Mike" Hooper (807-4)
- 2 Robert W Belt (456-8)

- 3 Charles L Parnell (159-14)
- 4 Frank R Flores (381-17) Vice Chairman
- 5 T R Carolan (291-29) Chairman
- 6 William Evans (791-13)

**LEADERSHIP COMMISSION
BENJAMIN KEPAA, CHAIRMAN**

Hello again California Legionnaires and fellow comrades. It's convention time here in beautiful, balmy Palm Springs, CA. And that means, it's time to submit our annual (2006-2007) report on the Department's Leadership Commission.

However, before I begin, I would like to express my sincerest gratitude to our Department Commander, Charlie M.

Eskridge, Department Adjutant William Siler, III and especially the office staff of our Headquarters, Joan and Jim Matsukuma, Mary Long, Sheila Fitzgerald, Nenita LaCap, Tamara Manini, Gil Manalo and Gloria Alioto for their outstanding support throughout this past year (2006-2007). Their professional assistance is especially noteworthy.

Special thanks also to every Area and District Leadership Commissioner and their advisors/assistants; Gene Fanucchi (Area 2), Ray Alli (Area 3), Werner Wolfe (Area 4), Ralph Huskey (Area 5), and Edward Ordunez (Area 6, Commission Vice Chairman, "welcome back Eddie!"). Their dedicational efforts and involvements can be measured by their posts, districts and area statistics regarding our

continued on next page...

Kapaa Continued...

American Legion programs (Americanism, Children/Youth, Public Relations, Legionnaire of the Year, etc.) LEADERSHIP at large!

And now for a brief report. Hopefully, every Post have submitted their Consolidated Post Report (CPR) through their district to the department in a timely manner prior the printing of this publication. It is vital to all of us that this task has been accomplished prior the deadline date. It is important to mention the fact, your CPR is your voice transmitted by our National Commander, Paul A. Morin, to members of the U.S. Congress. I cannot over emphasize enough the importance of the Consolidated Post Report.

Therefore, I continually implore every California legionnaire (regardless of

status, position or experience) to give their Post Commander and Adjutant every support they can muster. Also, assist and mentor the less experienced and share your knowledge with each other. Remember your role as a LEADER, always work together and communicate, coordinate, cooperate and delegate. Always lead by example. Commanders and Adjutants cannot do it all, if he or she is doing it all, that's not LEADERSHIP.

Be ever mindful of our mission; we, as LEADERS are "to encourage members to utilize everyone's innate potentials and develop within those

potentials the enthusiasm to function for the best interest of The American Legion at all levels!"

In conclusion, be aware of the importance of your Consolidated Post Reports. Know your deadline dates. Remember your role as a LEADER and share your knowledge and experience with your fellow comrades. Mentor the less experienced, be proud, enthusiastic, motivate, and continue to stimulate interests towards tomorrow's LEADERS today. LEAD by example, and they will come!

GOD BLESS AMERICA, AND GOD BLESS THE AMERICAN LEGION!

Mahalo!

LEADERSHIP

To encourage members to utilize their innate potentials, and develop within the potentials the enthusiasm to function for the best interest of The American Legion at all levels.

Area

- 1 Benjamin A Kepaa (807-4)Chairman

- 2 Gene B Fanucchi (318-13)
- 3 Ray Alli (74-12)
- 4 Werner E Wolf (496-19)
- 5 Ralph E Huskey (867-22)
- 6 Edward E Ordunez (520-20)Vice Chairman
- Rep. to the CA Leg. Alfred E Menshew (74-12)

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

CHARLES P WENDT, CHAIRMAN

The purpose of the Commission is to develop grassroots organizations of the Legion Commission/Council to establish contact and liaison with our elected State Legislators at the Post or District levels and to voice our concerns.

Fewer and fewer of our elected politicians have served in time of war in the Armed Services. It is necessary, that we on this Commission, communicate to them the promises and

earned benefits made to Veterans in the military service.

During the past year I attended DEC, area and district meetings along with other members of this Commission. Also spent time on planning for the Annual Legislative Day on April 24th 2007, hosted by Al Menshew, Department Legislative Representative, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, CDVA Secretary Johnson, Senator Jeff

Denham and others who gave inspiring speeches.

Thanks to all Legionnaires who turned out for this day.

Only by maintaining a positive posture of support for our Veterans will we effectively remind our Legislators and fellow citizens that the American Legion Posts and Legionnaires must not be forgotten during this perilous time.

LEGISLATIVE

To consider legislative matters, making recommendations to the Department Convention and the Executive Committee, and generally supervise the legislative program of the Department during the session of the State Legislature.

Area

- 1 Gary E. Ross Sr (861-6)
- 2 Kenneth W Newman (558-13)
- 3 Charles P Wendt (74-12) Chairman

- 4 S Wayne Parrish (177-23)
- 5 Raymond C Baxter (679-29)ViceChairman
- 6 James N Creacy (43-24)
- Dept,Rep. to CA Legislature:Al Menshew (74-12)

DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE

ALFRED E MENSHEW

This past year, working closely with the Department Legislative Commission, Headquarters Staff and other department personnel, we were able to accomplish much. We traveled to the State Capitol, a number of times, to work with our legislators, and their staffs, to influence, and testify for bills of interest to the veterans' community. We also sent many emails, fax's and made many phone calls. I feel that we have a good line of communication with the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Consulting Staff and the Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee Consulting Staff. These are the people whom the Legislators rely heavily upon in their decision making progress.

We also attended district, area and DEC meetings and the department convention to inform our comrades of pending veterans' legislation and about Legislative Day. One honour was bestowed upon me, personally. The Executive Committee decided that my job, as Legislative Representative, would function better if I wore a white Legionnaire's cap. Thank you.

Our Legislative Day, on 24 April, went smoothly. We started out with a hosted continental breakfast, in the Eureka Room of the Capitol Building. After an hour of socializing and having our morning coffee, we then went into the formal part of the morning. Our speakers included Commander Eskridge, Governor Schwarzenegger,

CDVA Secretary Tom Johnson, Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Member Senator Jeff Denham, Assembly Veterans Affairs Committee Chair Assembly Member Mary Salas, and three other members of the Assembly. Afterward, many of our comrades visited their Legislators and got acquainted with them and their staffs. Some of us attended the Senate Veterans Affairs Committee that afternoon. Unfortunately, the Assembly Committee meets at 4:00 p.m. and by then, most of us had gone home.

There are too many people, who helped this year, to single out for "thanks", so to all of you, thank you for making my job more meaningful.

NATIONAL SECURITY & FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMISSION

MARIAN LANDIS, CHAIRMAN

This was an interesting year with a lot of interest from the commission members.

With the security factions going on in this country today, ideas for boosting relations with other countries and our own security are of topmost importance.

Our resolution accepted at last years convention was forwarded to National. It was laid aside to be considered later.

The second resolution sent to Department from the call-in in Pomona

was corrected and forwarded to National.

Contact with each of our commission members was done periodically by mail and E-mail. Informative speeches were shared and members were asked to pass these on at District and Area meetings to keep everyone informed

of the latest aspects of our military's security upgrades.

Thank you Commander for letting me chair this commission again. It was a pleasure to work with my members and I hope we have a good meeting at convention.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Acting as a forum since 1924 for members of the nation's largest veteran's organization, the Foreign Relations Commission has worked to implement U.S. policies that will maintain peace and security for America and our friends and allies.

Area

- 1 Henry A. Mazzotte (392-6)
- 2 Arthur G Kapsalis (694-28)
- 3 Bill L. Dacus (83-12)
- 4 George A. Newell III (170-19) Vice Chairman
- 5 Marian Landis (853-22) Chairman
- 6 Mike H. Baldwin (288-20)

ORATORICAL COMMISSION

PHIL HELLER, CHAIRMAN

This was my third time attending the National High School Oratorical Contest in Indianapolis, twice as Vice Chairman and this time as Chairman of the Department Oratorical Commission. As always, it was run like a well oiled machine, everything working just right.

Although we had fewer students than some past years, we had a quality group of students from each of the six areas of the state. (See the finalists from each area.)

During the call-in on February 24, items of discussion included the reduction of students participating, although 83 young people took part in all of California, the possibility of changing the contest name next year and how we can get materials from National to Department and to the Commissions in a timely manner.

On Sunday, February 25, the Department Contest finals were held at American Legion Post 112 in Ontario. We were honored by the presence of Department Commander Charlie Eskridge and his lovely wife Rosie, 2nd Area Vice Commander

Michael Bloom, Area 5 Vice Commander Ed Alvarez, Area 6 Vice Commander Lawrence Van Kuran, Past Department Commander and Past NECman Willy Wilkin, Past Department Sgt-at-Arms Ben Wright, Past Department Historian Jim Higuera, Marian Landis, LA County Council Commander Julio Jimenez, Past SAL Detachment Commander Paul Rodriguez, SAL Vice Commander West Bob Bedell, several Past Area Vice Commanders and Past Vice Commander Representing Women and Current Public Relations Commission Chairman Joanne Evans.

The winner of the State Contest was Zakary Dychtwald, a junior from Orinda, sponsored by Lafayette Post 517, 9th District and Area 2. He received a check for \$1200. First runner up was Russell York, a junior who is home schooled from National City. He was sponsored by Larry Bennett Post 255, 22nd District, Area 5. His check was for \$1000. The other runners up were Douglas MacDonald, a senior from Willits, sponsored by Willits Post 174, District 1, Area 1, Marc Etcheparre from Turlock, sponsored by Modesto Post 74, District

12, Area 3, Jeffrey Lee, a junior from Cerritos, sponsored by Norwalk Post 359, District 19, area 4, and Kimberly Solomon, a senior from Encino, sponsored by Burbank Post 150, District 20, Area 6.

At the National Contest, held April 13-15 in Indianapolis, the winner was Co'Relous Bryant, a senior from Jacksonville, Florida and the recipient of an \$18,000 scholarship. The second place winner was Ashley Butman of Cumming, Georgia who is home schooled and she received a \$16,000 scholarship. Third place was Jared Canfield, a junior who is also home schooled from Naperville, Illinois. He won a \$14,000 scholarship. Each of the winners also received a beautiful

ORATORICAL CONTEST COMMISSION

To promote Department Oratorical contests at Post, District and Department levels and to conduct the Department finals of such contests.

Area

- 1 Robert R Safreno (338-5)
- 2 Allan D Hale (238-26) **Vice Chairman**
- 3 Anthony S Dias (74-12)
- 4 Joe Gonzales (51-19)
- 5 Phillip H Heller (106-25) **Chairman**
- 6 Miliza Milo (43-24)



Oratorical Contest Area Winners

Seated L to R: Kimberly Solomon- Area 6, Russell York- Area 5, Jeffrey Lee- Area 4, Zakary Dychtwald Area 2, Mark Etchepare- Area 3, Douglas MacDonald- Area 1.

Standing L to R - Area 5 VC Edward Alvare, Dept. Cmdr. Charles Eskridge, Chairman Phil Heller, and Area 2 VC Michael Bloom.

Contest Final Results

Z.Dychtwald was 1st Place with R.York taking 2nd place.

Heller Continued...

plaque. A total of 53 students from each of the 50 states, plus Puerto Rico, France and the District of Columbia took part in the two-day competition.

I want to thank all of my commissioners, the staff at Department Headquarters, my mentor Willie

Wilkin and others who helped and guided me. I also wish to thank Department Commander Charlie Eskridge for my appointment as Chairman of the Department Oratorical Commission. It has been my pleasure to serve in this position.

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMISSION

JOANNE EVANS, CHAIRMAN

The Public Relations Commission did not participate in the call-in last October as the commissioners had been in contact during the year and the only real change that needed to be made was on the report form and this was done via e-mail and telephone.

Public Relations was covered up and down the state and from what was sent to me from the different areas it appears that members of The American Legion have been doing a great job welcoming back our troops, promoting PERA the "Public Expression of Religion Act", the Flag Amendment and taking a stance against the ACLU and protecting our monuments; taking care of the families of the troops overseas and also we have participated in many burial honor ceremonies for those lost in the cause of freedom.

We are hoping that many posts will submit the Public Relations reports this year. I know there have been a lot of

programs worked and I hope that every post will find that the Public Relations Report this year is very basic and simple to understand. We hope we will get a great input this year from all of you.

Since you will not see this until you receive your "Book of Reports" I and the commissioners thank you in advance for your dedication in promoting The American Legion and for working the Public Relations Program.

Remember you are the Public Relations roots and we are just six commissioners appointed to guide you and lead you. Remember The American Legion has always had a tough road to follow to improve their public relations and it is up to you to improve it. We have the "Blue Star Banner" program and this is a critical program as is the Family Support program. The war in the Gulf area is a

tough road to Democracy and our troops need our support and we need to get the public to support them. Also, we need to let the public know about how we support the troops and get them to assist us. Remember the public has lots of Moms, Dads, sisters and brothers with sons, daughters, husbands and wives over in the Gulf area.

Let's reach out and let the public know just how great The American Legion is and show that it is the largest veteran's organization in the world.

I thank Commander Charlie Eskridge for this opportunity to serve and I sincerely thank the members of the commission for their expertise and support, and last of all I thank each and every one of you who worked the public relations program in your post, district or area.

See you in Palm Springs.

Semper Fi!

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMISSION

Through the medium of newspaper, radio and other means of dissemination of news, to spread the programs of The American Legion; to foster and maintain an adequate speakers' bureau.

Area

- 1 Mark A Foxworthy (199-5)
- 2 J "Ralph" Otte (558-13)
- 3 Lon Chaney (124-15) Vice Chairman
- 4 Roy C Allen (252-23)

- 5 Joanne H Evans (595-21) Chairman
 - 6 Walter "Sonny" Quinn (817-20)
- T/A: Robert W Moore (222-29)
T/A: Jack Nolen (83-12)
Cmdr's Rep: William E Wilkin (422-25)

PUBLISHING COMMISSION

MARILYN E RIDEAUX, CHAIRMAN

This has been an accomplished year for the Publishing Commission. With a “thumbs-up” from Department Commander Eskridge and the Finance Commission, we were able to assemble twice this year, once in October 2006 at Pomona call-in, and again in March 2007 in Santa Maria during the Spring DEC. Both meetings were fruitful and productive and (in the least) “eye opening” for me.

I could not have asked for a better team to work with this year:

- Area 1 Carleton Enloe (604/6)
- Area 2 E Paul Terry, VC (410/26)
- Area 3 Berton McColl (16/11)
- Area 5 Lanny Peterson (149/22)
- Area 6 Margaret McIntosh(442-18)

Advisors:

- Charlie Eskridge, Dept. Cmdr.
- William “Bill” Mayer, Dept. Cmdr.’s Advisor on Publishing
- William “Wild Bill” Siler, III, Dept. Adjutant
- Mary Long, Dept. Controller
- Jim Matsukuma, Dept. Syst. Admin.
- Alan Lenox, Finance Commission Chair
- Jack Climer, Dept. Judge Advocate

With a team like this, how could we miss! With plenty of cooperation and coordination by the Commission via call-ins, phone calls, meetings at Headquarters and a whole lot of email, we got the job done. Look what we were able to accomplish:

- Endorsed the Department’s three year contract with American Graphics & Design
- Endorsed the appointment of David Eby as the new Editor of the California Legionnaire
- Met with and fostered an open relation/line of communication with the new publishing vendor, American Graphics & Design, a.k.a. AG&D
- Established new standards for future layout of the California Legionnaire
- Approved an attractive new banner for the cover page of the California Legionnaire
- Adopted rates and established guidelines for publishing in the California Legionnaire by affiliated organizations
- Established procedures for future advertising in the California Legionnaire
- Established an agreement with the Department Controller and the Finance Commission for receiving reports on statements and invoices related to the California Legionnaire

The remaining task of the Publishing Commission for this year will be to present dollar recommendations to the Finance Commission on publishing six (6) issues of the California Legionnaire and Commission operating expenses for the 2007-2008 budget year.

In summary, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Department Commander Eskridge for entrusting the leadership of such a high-profile Commission to me. I would like to thank David Eby for everything he has taught me this year and for working endless with the Publishing Commission to assist us in achieving our goals. Finally, I want to express my gratitude to Paul Terry, Vice Chair, Carleton Enloe, Berton McColl, Lanny Peterson, and Margaret McIntosh for working beside me and for their dedication and commitment to the Publishing Commission and the Department of California this year.

PUBLISHING

The Publishing Commission shall be totally responsible for setting the criteria of what will be published in The California Legionnaire; its content will reflect the policies and activities of The American Legion. The term of employment of the editor will extend one issue past the Department Convention. All editorials will be signed or approved by the Department Commander. All advertising consistent with The American Legion policy will be accepted. The commission shall be totally responsible for soliciting of competitive bids for the printing of The California Legionnaire, keeping in mind the financial aspects for the benefit of all California Legion members. It shall be responsible for documenting all policy and administrative decisions made by the commission which shall be forwarded in writing to the Department Adjutant as a matter of record. Candidates for statewide Legion office shall be given equal space in the columns of The California Legionnaire. Commissions paid to individuals or companies for advertising in the paper will be made known upon request of any member in good standing of The American Legion.

Area

- 1 Carleton M Enloe (604-6)
- 2 E Paul Terry (410-26) **Vice Chairman**
- 3 Berton G Mc Coll (16-11)
- 4 Marilyn E Rideaux (252-23) **Chairman**
- 5 Lanny D Peterson (149-22)
- 6 Margaret L McIntosh (442-18)

SCOUTING COMMISSION

Lee R Wise, CHAIRMAN

The Scouting program within the Department is very much alive, motivated and on track throughout the great State of California. Legionnaires at every level of our organization deserve credit for their positive effort and support of the Scouting Program. These individuals along with the 1,868 Scouting Adult Leaders are the backbone of our Scouting Mission; "To foster and promote the Scouting program throughout the state, especially among posts of The American Legion..."

As of January 31, 2007, 84 posts within the department are chartering a total of 175 Scouting Units, representing 4,540 Scouts and 1,868 Scouting Adult Leaders. These units consist of: 80 Cub Packs, 66 Troops, 26 Venturing Crews and 3 Ships (Sea Scouts). The department has an increase of 21.5% in chartered Scout Units over last year. This is an increase of 776 Scouts or 21% 3,764 last year vs. 4,540 this year. There is also an increase of 12.6% in Scouting Adult Leaders, 1,659 last year vs. 1,868 this year.

The Department Scouting Commission consists of 6 Area Commissioners, one (1) Technical Advisor and 30 District Scouting Advisors. The commissioners are tasked with the responsibility to plan, develop and establish the programs in support of the Department Scouting Mission Statement. Additional responsibilities includes; attendance and presenting a Scouting Report during Area Caucus's and District Meetings.

Again this past year several Area Scouting Commissioners and District Scouting Advisors have not been active

in attendance and presenting a Scouting Report at these meetings and need some encouragement to realize the full potential of our Scouting Program. There are several individuals that have devoted a special effort, interest and participation, not only at scheduled meetings but also are doing an outstanding job throughout the year and I sincerely thank each of you for your time and effort.

The recognition of "Eagle Scout of The Year" is a very strong part of the Scouting Program both at Department and National level. The Department of California's Eagle Scout of The Year receives a \$500.00 Savings Bond, certificate and a plaque, which is presented during the annual convention. The American Legion Life Insurance Committee provides for a National Scholarship of \$10,000 to be awarded to the Eagle Scout who is selected "The American Legion Eagle Scout of the Year". Also at the National level a \$2,500 scholarship award is presented to each of the 2nd, 3rd and 4th place runners-up for "Eagle Scout of The Year".

Eagle Scout, Daniel Jeffery Nibbs was selected as "Eagle Scout of The Year - 2007" for the Department of California. Daniel is a member of BSA Troop 783 chartered by Sierra Pines United Methodist Church. Daniel resides in Auburn, California. with his parents and attends Jesuit High School in Carmichael, California. Daniel will represent the Department of California and his application has been forwarded to the National Americanism Selection Sub-committee for consideration for the prestigious National award.

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Eagle Scout of the Year

by Lee R. Wise, Chairman

Eagle Scout, Daniel Jeffrey Nibbs, was selected as "Eagle Scout of the Year - 2007" for the Department of California. Daniel is a member of BSA Troop 783 of the Golden Empire Council and chartered by Sierra Pines United Methodist Church. Daniel attends Jesuit High School in Carmichael, CA, and resides with his parents in Auburn, CA. Daniel's father, Dimitri, is a Legionnaire. Daniel's Nomination Application has been submitted to The American Legion National Americanism Commission for consideration of the prestigious honor of "Eagle Scout of the Year - 2007 for National. Congratulations to Daniel and his family, and we wish him the best during the National selection process.



*Daniel Jeffrey Nibbs
California 2007 - Eagle Scout of the Year*

Wise continued...

The Department Annual Scouting reports are encouraged to be submitted by the chartering Posts and are a very important part of the Scouting Program. These reports provide information on how successful the Department Scouting Program is working and also allows the Scouting Commission members the means to determine various awards for Posts as well as the recognition of those individuals doing an exceptional job in Scouting. Based on passed experienced, Post Annual Scouting Reports

need added attention and I encourage all chartering Post Scouting Institutional Representatives and District Advisors to give this subject your utmost attention. It is a must that Scouting Units, individuals and chartering Posts working the program receive the recognition deserved.

Another highlight of the Department's Scouting program is the Annual Camporee conducted during the 2nd weekend of August at a location within the central part of the state. The 26th

SCOUTING COMMISSION

To foster and promote the scouting program throughout the state, especially among the Posts of The American Legion of this Department, including such activities as the Boy Scouts, Sea Scouts, Air Scouts, Cub Packs and Girl Scouts.

Area

- 1 Robert L Taylor (111-5)Vice Chairman
- 2 Franklin N Henderson (695-10)
- 3 Albert Blumer (147-14)
- 4 Robert Miller (252-23)
- 5 Scott C Fuqua (777-25)
- 6 Lee R Wise (125-16)Chairman

Annual Department Camporee is scheduled to take place at BSA Camp Wortman, located

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

JAMES F BLAKE, CHAIRMAN

The Commission continues to participate with the Sons at their Detachment Executive Committee meetings and coordinating activities of the various Sons Commissions and Committees. This has led to unprecedented success in meeting the one year and five year goals established by the Commission.

The Sons are celebrating their 75th Anniversary and have attained unprecedented success in developing their programs. The Sons continue to increase their membership and have nearly doubled their membership in less than ten years. The activation of four more districts has increased the communication from detachment to squadrons and facilitated membership accountability and the participation in many Detachment's programs and activities. They have identified leaders with the potential required to keep the continuity of the detachment as a professional organization for years to come.

The pool of dedicated Sons for appointment to commissions and committees have increased and they have demonstrated their ability by projecting programs and defining responsibilities throughout the organization. Their efforts have identified new sources of revenue that benefit the VA&R, Children and Youth, Americanism, Membership, and internal accountability programs. The individual squadrons have benefited by being more informed and have readily participated in fund raising activities the help support their posts and the programs of The American Legion.

Of concern to the Commission is the need for proactive S.A.L. Advisors at all levels. There are currently 6 commissioners, one for each area. There are 30 district Technical Advisor positions and each of the 150 active squadrons should have an advisor appointed by the Post Commander. Unfortunately, not all positions have been filled and in many cases those



appointed do not participate in a proactive role.

Each position requires a person who can provide leadership, dedication to the Department and National goals for the Sons and The American Legion, and knowledge of the parameters established to meet those goals.

It all starts with the post level advisor. He becomes the major focal point between the post and the squadron. He provides guidance regarding post policy, procedure, programs and By-Laws. He develops a working

continue on next page

Blake continued...

relationship within the post, emphasizing "The American Legion Family." He insures proper procedure and protocol are followed. He supervises the administrative operation of the squadron regarding membership, financial operations and reports. He reports squadron and advisor activities at the post executive and general membership meetings. He seeks assistance from the District S.A.L. Advisor and the Area S.A.L. Commissioner when needed. The district advisor is available to the post

advisor to assist in any way possible. He must report on S.A.L. activities and accomplishments, as well as his own activities at district meetings. The area commissioners are available to provide support at all levels of the department and detachment. The contribution of the many legionnaires who proactively support the Sons Program cannot be understated and is demonstrated by the unqualified success of the detachment.

The overall participation and support of the Sons in The American Legion

Programs continues to be commendable and demonstrates their dedication to The American Legion Family.

SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

To promote the program of The American Legion with the sons of the Legionnaires. Area

- 1 William E Denson(338-5)
 - 2 James W Jackson(41-28)
 - 3 Franklin D Wallace(147-14)
 - 4 William C Murphy(188-23)
 - 5 James F Blake(328-21)Chairman
 - 6 Daniel W Crow(741-16)Vice Chairman
- T/A Steve G Fisher(584-25)

VALLEY FORGE WORKSHOP COMMISSION

JOE HANDY, CHAIRMAN

Valley Forge Workshop I would like to start out by thanking those on the Valley Forge Commission: Vice Chairman Julio J. Jimenez (582-20), Jose L. Delgado (203-8), John D. Treantos Jr. (172-11), Felix W. Jamison (273-17) and William F. Schmitt (299-25). Also, thanks needs to go out to the district and post chairmen that took the information out to schools, as we've seen an increase in applications this year. The hard work from all of you is very much appreciated.

At the time of this report, the Valley Forge Workshop Commission is still finalizing this year's applications. The commission worked hard in getting the word out to schools up and down our state. Our goal is to have at least one teacher from every district attend Valley Forge. We're not there yet, but maybe next year!

As the chairman, and to obtain a better understanding of the program, I will be attending this year's session at

Valley Forge Workshop. Hopefully, this will improve our ability to better explain the program and to increase teacher participation.

VALLEY FORGE WORKSHOP

This program is designed to send qualified California educators to Valley Forge for a one week intensive workshop which enables them to develop a prospectus to insure the "American Way" so that our youth of today may have a better understanding of both the historic origins of their liberty and the responsibilities of good citizenship required of them. Area

- 1 Joseph F Handy (84-31) Chairman
- 2 Jose L Delgado (203-8)
- 3 John D Treantos Jr (172-11)
- 4 Felix W Jamison (273-17)
- 5 William F Schmitt (299-25)
- 6 Julio J Jimenez (582-20) Vice Chairman

VETERAN'S AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION COMMISSION

ARTHUR W. ZUHLKE, CHAIRMAN

Due to the loss of two dearly beloved family members at different times last year, I was unable to attend the department convention in Fresno or the Call-in at Pomona.

The convention committee was chaired by Robert Selby. The committee

reviewed nine resolutions. Seven were recommended for adoption and two were recommended for disapproval by the body. The following resolutions recommended for adoption were approved at the National Convention in Salt Lake City:

- 251 - Community Based Outpatient Clinics (CBOC'S) was consolidated with Michigan Resolution 67
- 252 - Extend the Filing Period for an Appeal Notice to the Court of Veterans for veterans claims

continue on next page

Zuhlke continued...

- 253 - The Department of Veterans role in National Emergency Preparedness
- 254 - Assured funding for Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Care
- 255 - The American Legion Policy on Department of Veterans Affairs Compensation
- 256 - Presumptive Medical Treatment for Gulf War veterans
- 257 - The American Legion Policy on Former Prisoners of War

Commissioners reported on their activities, the Department Service

Officer (DSO) reported on the state of the VA & R division.

Patient welfare fund and the Finance Commission's policy on disbursement of funds were discussed. The Department of California's Patient Welfare and Entertainment Fund Requirements and Restrictions Policy is to be strictly adhered to in disbursing such funds as requested.

Restricted funds were also discussed. The John C. Dunn Fund and others that are sitting dormant, i.e. Northern California Service Fund, William George McKibbon, Arthur E. Van Linden Fund and the Edward Sharkey Fund. Research indicates these funds

apply to VA & R. It is expected that the Finance Commission will assign these to the VA & R Commission.

I again, wish to thank our DSO, Terry Tracy, for his invaluable assistance throughout the year, to myself and members of the commission; also, all of the commissioners, technical advisors and advisory committee members, for their help and input. It is a pleasure and an honor to have served the Department of California as commission chairman for the past year.

Commander Charlie Eskridge, thank you for the opportunity to work with and for you.

VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

The Rehabilitation program of the Department shall be carried on under the supervision of the Veterans' Affairs and Rehabilitation Commission throughout the entire Department. There shall be a Department Service Officer, who shall be responsible for supervision of the Department's Service Program. This officer shall act in advisory capacity to the Commission and shall coordinate the work of the staff in the San Francisco, Los Angeles, and San Diego Offices respectively and such other cities as may be designated by the Commission. The officer or designated members

of the staff shall be official contacts and representatives of The American Legion, Department of California, with the Veterans Administration at Regional offices, and Veterans Administration Hospitals. The duties of the Service Officer and staff shall be generally that of prosecuting claims and protecting the rights and privileges of all veterans, their dependents, and survivors and to handle such other matters as may properly be considered service work. The Service Officer and staff shall cooperate with County Service Officers, the Los Angeles County Service Department and the State of California

Department of Veterans Affairs. It shall be the policy of the Commission to encourage Posts and Districts to select qualified and able members to serve as Post and District Officers and to provide assistance to help them carry out their duties.

Area

- 1 Bud Simmons (21-5) Vice Chairman
- 2 Armando Pereira (117-10)
- 3 Robert D Selby (148-12)
- 4 Arthur W Zuhlke (309-17) Chairman
- 5 Joe La Paglia (497-25)
- 6 Harold F Tattan (283-24)

VETERAN'S EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION

JOEL GREGG, CHAIRMAN

This year as your chairman for the Veteran's Employment Commission I have had the opportunity to attended two of the Recruit-Military Resource Fairs; Oct. 12, 2006 and Jan. 24, 2007. I have given reports at the district meetings and at area five and area three general meeting.

This year the Veteran Employment Committee has joined forces with the United Verteran Council Emloyment Development Department and Workforce San Diego to have a Job-

Fair and a Militaary Resource-Fair. At the time of this publication, the fair was held on Saturday, June 2, 2007 at the Veteran's Museum & Memorial Center, 2115 Park Blvd., San Diego CA. The funding for this event, \$25,000.00, was donated by the state of California.

The state of employment for veterans with an honorable discharge remains super. For god and country ...

VETERANS EMPLOYMENT

To coordinate the program (s) of employment of veterans and to implement and to insure that veterans receive due consideration when applying for jobs for which they have earned preferential consideration through their honorable service to God and Country.

Area

- 1 Gary Murawski (620-31) **Vice Chairman**
- 2 Alvin B Chapin (512-28)
- 3 Norm G Clendenin (741-16)
- 4 Samuel Johnson (252-23)
- 5 Joel Gregg (310-22) **Chairman**
- 6 Martin Alcock (127-20)

Job Fair 2008

Contact Joel Gregg for information for the 2008 Job-Fair

WAYS AND MEANS COMMISSION

WADE T M URDOCH , CHAIRMAN

The Ways and Means Commission is now completing another busy and productive year. And, we are preparing to insure the same level of intense revenue development next year, so that the Department can continue to support the best veterans service program in The American Legion!

The Department of California's overall fund-raising net revenue has been dramatically increased over the past few years, because of the continued generosity of California Legionnaires, and through careful monitoring and good decision-making by Legion officials, as well as effective work by our fund-raising contractors (Barton-Cotton and BBH Graphics).

During each meeting of the Ways & Means Commission, open to all Legionnaires, we review detailed status reports for each of the Department's five (5) fund-raising programs. These reports are now available for the 6-year period from January 1, 2001 through April 30, 2007, allowing Commissioners and Department Staff to evaluate results and make adjustments in programs.

The Department of California's total net revenue was increased from \$457,204 in 2001, to \$825,062 in 2004, an increase in annual net revenue of \$367,858 (+80%) in a 3-year period!

In 2005 our total net revenue surprisingly dropped from \$825,062 to \$756,219. The decrease appears to have occurred because of the combined effect of several dynamic factors, including: the competition for

donations as a result of the Indonesian tsunami and the Louisiana hurricanes; our membership decline; and general economic factors. But the fact is that the Department's overall fund-raising net revenue in 2005 was still 65% higher than in 2001, in spite of a decline in membership.

During 2006, our total net revenue rebounded to \$777,677, which was 70% higher than in 2001, still in spite of a membership decline.

We seriously doubt that any department of The American Legion has achieved greater overall success, and lower fund-raising expenses, than the Department of California!

California has pursued (and our Legionnaires have supported) an aggressive fund-raising program. This approach has been necessary to build and maintain one of the strongest VA&R programs in the Nation. California's Department Service Division provides veterans services from 3 offices throughout the state, with a \$923,560 budget for FY2006-07. To support this strong VA&R program, the Department of California currently provides 5 fund-raising programs each year: Winter Sweepstakes; Spring Rehabilitation Fund Drive; Summer Sweepstakes; Fall Calendar program; and the Fall Holiday Card program. All fund-raising net revenue is used to support our VA&R program; none goes to department administration.

The "down-side" of this success is that California is being increasingly

targeted by some unscrupulous companies, who routinely employ unethical practices to woo supporters. In recent years, as our net revenue has grown dramatically, we have heard a lot of rhetoric from competitors of our primary fund-raising contractor (Barton-Cotton, Inc.), and from certain national officials who support those competitors. But no one so far has provided factual data supporting their "sales puffery." And, the actual data we have seen fully supports our confidence in Barton-Cotton.

The "challenge" is in the data. Our actual data is readily available. It has been reviewed by Barton-Cotton's competitors; and no one has provided actual data to support their claims that they perform more effectively. And I'm not just referring to "total net revenue," but also to more important indicators such as "percentage of gross donations" to fund-raising contractors and to the department, "overall donations per member," etc.

Because of the aggressive, and often unethical, marketing techniques being employed by firms that want California's fund-raising contract, I feel compelled to emphasize a few things about Barton-Cotton (and our association with them):

First, Barton-Cotton virtually always meets and exceeds the performance required in our contracts. We have had only one poor experience in the 18 individual fund-raising programs administered by Barton-Cotton over the past 6 years, including 36 separate

continued next page

Murdoch continued ...

mailings to our membership: initial mailings and follow-up reminders. And, even in that one instance, Barton-Cotton moved swiftly and decisively to solve the problem and improve communications to insure no reoccurrence.

Second, Barton-Cotton does not disparage or otherwise attack their competitors, as is not the case in reverse. They stand on their record of actual achievement, not on rhetoric and innuendo. This says a lot about Barton-Cotton's "corporate character."

Third, and extremely important in light of the "shady" practices we've seen from other fund-raising firms, to our knowledge Barton-Cotton does not offer valuable personal incentives, or gifts, to Legion decision-making officials or their families to develop support.

We hope that all Legionnaires share our concerns about the importance of maintaining contracts with our current fund-raising contractors, at least until another contractor can provide actual data to support any promise of improvement, as opposed to the low-balling and ridiculous and baseless estimates we've seen continually from one major competitor. It is my opinion, shared by the Previous Department Adjutant and other Legion officials, that a mistake in changing contractors could easily cost the Department of California more than \$200,000 in annual net revenue.

The Department's substantial fund-raising achievements have been the direct result of a great deal of plain hard work by department commanders and adjutants (past and present), the department staff, ways & Means commission members and advisors,

**WAYS AND MEANS
COMMISSION**

The duties of this Commission shall be the development of plans, ideas, and promotions to secure additional funds by and for the Department. All plans, ideas and promotions of said Commission must be presented to the Department Commander and the Executive Committee for approval.

Area

- 1 David E Meredith (61-6)
 - 2 Jeremiah Morgan (456-8)
 - 3 Vacant
 - 4 Wade T Murdoch (723-19) Chairman
 - 5 William E. Wilkin (422-25)
 - 6 Harley T Santos, Jr. (125-16)
- Cmdr's Rep William T Mayer (454-27)

and others. Department fund-raising is now run like a responsible high-integrity business, and many of us are committed to keeping it that way.

I am proud to be part of this highly rewarding effort. May God Bless The American Legion. And may God Bless America!



COMMITTEE REPORTS

BLOOD DONOR COMMITTEE

T DAN HETHERINGTON, CHAIRMAN

We want to start out by giving you a big “THANK YOU”!! You donors are the people who save lives day in and day out.

As we compile the information it is sad to see all the posts that do not support this program. Most blood banks have mobile units that will come to your post. Our report is based on just one year, starting March 1 through February 28. You can donate if you are in good health, at least 17 years old with a minimum weight of 110 pounds. There has to be a lapse of 8 weeks between donations. Talk about the blood donor program at your post meeting. It may surprise you of all the members that would donate if you had a blood drive at your post.

Once again, from the committee, we thank you who do “Give” and God bless.

BLOOD DONOR

To emphasize the importance of each Post having a blood bank committee and to assure that there will be an adequate supply of blood in the various blood banks so the same can be utilized by Legionnaires. To develop a strong plan requesting blood donations from our members and other sources.

Thomas D Hetherington (20-15) Chairman
Robert P Alves (594-14)
R V Poston (266-29)

CALIFORNIA 2007 BLOOD DONATIONS BY AREA AND DISTRICT

Area 1	Dist. 2	Samual Burney Post 441		Area 2	Dist. 9	Harding Noia Post 161	
		John Doerner	2 Units			Janet Wilson	2 Units
	Dist. 4	Linda Post 807				Wayne Wilson	1 Unit
		Jerry Barrios	2 Units			Daniel P. Wilson	1 Unit
		Jerry Darnelle	3 Units			Jessica Peterson	2 Units
		Steven Hooper	1 Unit			Michael McCauley	2 Units
		Kristy McFee	1 Unit			Dave Despain	1 Unit
		Tracy Saunier	1 Unit			Charley Wilson	1 Unit
	Dist. 5	Sotoyome Post 111			Dist. 13	Santa Clara Post 419	
		William E Stiles	8 Units			Charley Wilson	1 Unit
		Bettie Crandall	2 Units			Los Atlos Post 558	
		Linda Clary	1 Unit			Anthony Girdley	1 Unit
		Rayo Christopher Post 165				Stevens Creek Post 642	
		Karl Heeren	1 Unit			Wallace D. Johnson	2 Units
		Richard Castillo	4 Units		Dist. 26	Pacifica Post 238	
		Billy Near	1 Unit			Allan Hale	4 Units
		Reams Post 182		Area 3	Dist. 12	Modesto Post 74	
		Jerry R. Barrios	4 Units			Art Alexander	5 Units
	Dist. 6	Haggin Grant Post 521				Raymond Alli	14 Plats.
		Brenda Anderson (AUX)	2 Units			Sue D. Carner	2 Units
		Lerretta Drumheller (AUX)	3 Units			Francis M. Cottle III	6 Units
		Linda Rippenkroeger (AUX)	1 Unit			Everett E. Fox	6 Units
		John English	3 Units			Douglas G. Fruetel	6 Units
		Virgil L. Griffith	2 Units			Valentino Hiralez	5 Units
		Donald Rippenkroeger	1 Unit			Hazel L Johnson	1 Unit
		Phillip Romander	2 Units			Esther Lahr	6 Units
		Leon Scheppmann	2 Units				
	Dist. 31	Rocklin Post 620					
		Lawrence Eichman	3 Units				

CALIFORNIA 2007 BLOOD DONATIONS BY AREA AND DISTRICT

	Joseph W. Lederle	5	Units	Area 4	Dist. 19	Whittier Post 51		
	Frank H. Machado	1	Unit				Clark Miller	1 Unit
	Hubert M. Muyres	2	Units				Tony Obergson	1 Unit
	Gerald A. Orouke	4	Units				Joe Gonzales	2 Units
	Thomas D. Park	4	Units				Joseph Gonzales	1 Unit
	Lois M. Perry	6	Units				Downey Post 270	
	Donald L. Perry	6	Units				Charles Eldridge	4 Unit
	Dianne R. Saso	5	Units				James T. Higuera	4 Unit
	Ann L. Scholl	4	Units				Luis Melendez	4 Unit
	James H. Thompson	2	Units	Area 5	Dist. 21	Perris Post 595		
	George E. Wallace	2	Units				Joe Arzate	4 Units
	Henry L. White	6	Units		Dist. 22	San Diego Post 6		
	Karen Whitehill	3	Units				David Ahlquist	5 Units
	Kenneth Whitehill	5	Units			Oceanside Post 146		
	Ceres Post 491						Frank Zugaj	5 Plats.
	Gary Lee Hall	6	Units				Linda Maria Zugaj	3 Units
	Walt Butler	6	Units				Chuck Atkinson	3 Units
	Tom Vaden	6	Units			J.B.Clark Post 149		
	Ben Tafia	2	Units				Edward Landis	2 Units
	Pat Buttler	3	Units				Irene Gustafson	2 Units
	Twain Harte Post 681					Larry E. Bennett Post 255		
	Robert Nylander	3	Units				James Dorsey	2 Units
	Denver J. Payne	2	Units			El Cajon Post 303		
	Scranton & Qualle Post 872						Robert L. Tade	5 Units
	T. D. Anthony Sr	2	Units			Chula Vista Post 434		
	Sara R. Kinney	3	Units				Harry Chilton	4 Units
	Roy A. Santiago	1	Unit				Sharon Chilton	4 Units
	Albert P. Juanitas	1	Unit				Wayne Holimin	3 Units
Dist. 14	Selma Post 12						Joan King (AUX)	2 Units
	Leroy Starr	6	Units				Lois Cornish	3 Units
	John McGee	3	Units				Gary Farr	1 Unit
	Sarkis Esroa Fiom	1	Unit			City Service Post 537		
	Sherry Stewart	4	Units				James Kearney	3 Units
	Lee E. Doyle Bicentennial Post 159						Paul Atwood	2 Units
	Robert Herndon	2	Units				Sam Wilkins	3 Units
	Lars Oakan	6	Units				Pete Katolic	5 Units
	Patt Saliams	2	Units				Robert Mull (SAL)	3 Units
Dist. 15	Visalia Post 18					Dist. 29	Newport Harbor Post 291	
	Bill Hall	3	Units				Howard Darter Jr	2 Units
	Greg Dais	3	Units			Area 6	Dist. 16	San Luis Obispo Post 66
	John Perry	3	Units					Jim Estrada
	Carolyn Dais	3	Units					Ken Riener
	Porterville Post 20							Roy Parsons
	Phil Flowers	1	Unit					Bill Higgins
	Esther Foucht	1	Unit					Don Mueller
	Dan Hetherington	4	Units					Bill Fieldhouse
	James Nanamura	2	Units					Howard Bentzinger
	Allen Pundt	1	Unit					Fred G. Novy
	Fellows Post 63							Don McLish
	Joe Foley	NR	Units					Garry Holloway
	Adrian Maxwell	NR	Units					
	Buttonwillow Post 674							
	Donald G. Kurtz	5	Units					

CALIFORNIA 2007 BLOOD DONATIONS BY AREA AND DISTRICT

Dist. 18	East Pasadena Post 280		
	Kenny Peralta	1	Unit
	Ben Martinez	4	Units
	Carol Martinez	2	Units
	Larr Johnson	3	Units
	Ed Barlow	5	Units
	Brian Johnston	1	Unit
	Mike Petersen	2	Units
	James Maglio	3	Units
	Cris Peterson	1	Unit
	Brad Schuiz	1	Unit
	San Gabriel Post 442		
	Margaret McIntosh	5	Units
	Charter Cove Post 755		
	Laura Alvarado	6	Units
	Rudy Dominguez	2	Units
	Laura Bradshaw	6	Units
	Jesse Bradshaw	6	Units
	Janice Entyre	3	Units
	Dave Story	3	Units
	Jason Story	6	Units
	Nick Silva	2	Units
	Gloria Silva	1	Unit
	Lorraine Silva	1	Unit
	Bob Poff	6	Units
	Barbara Gaynor	2	Units
	Tammy Norman	1	Unit
	Bart Marshal	6	Units
	Sergio Torres	6	Units

Dist. 20	Van Nuys Post 193		
	Martin T. Light	18	Plats.
Dist. 24	Palisades Post 283		
	Larry McNamee	2	Units
	John Gundershaug	2	Units
	H. Lee Barksdale	1	Unit
	John Swerdosky	2	Units
	Pat Snyder (AUX)	1	Unit
	Morganne McNamee	2	Units
	Melford Cemsdell	1	Unit
	Tom Doran	1	Unit
	Mike Grof (SAL)	1	Unit
	Paul Austin (SAL)	1	Unit

INSURANCE COMMITTEE

JIM SHANK, CHAIRMAN

We have just completed another year in our insurance program. Our participation in Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT) netted us \$127,400 due to those members who participated.

The National American Legion has entered into competition with some

LIT insurance programs. Those members who choose to participate in National programs, without a doubt, lower the dividends our Department could receive through LIT programs. We urge you to choose LIT insurance to maintain and support our programs in California.

INSURANCE COMMITTEE
 To analyze and recommend all matters of insurance pertaining to the Department and individual members.
 James E Shank (199-5) Chairman
 Fred J Walton (21-5)
 Edward C Landis (365-22)

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

FLOYD MARTIN, DIRECTOR

First of all, I would like to thank the California Department Commander, Charlie Eskridge, for allowing me to assist him as the Membership Director. It has been a real challenge, but with the assistance of Ronald Galvin, Carlton LeDrew, Steven Hooper, Ralph Jacob, Kenneth Kramlich, Robert Brown Jr., Bernard Foley, Dennis Fercho, and all of the District Vice Commanders it has been a very successful year and we expect California to be 100% in membership. I would be remiss if I did not recognize the Headquarters staff and Nicole Guzman, who I counted on everyday.

Our challenges were many, but the most important one was to let the membership know how important they are to The American Legion. We accomplished this by sending Christmas cards to all of the Headquarters Post members, and by utilizing the California Legionnaire in a new way and placing bulletins that addressed all members. We also sent out 13,000 postcards to members of the Headquarters Post asking them to renew their membership. Additionally, we sent out 9,000 postcards to our Legionnaires whose membership had lapsed since 2004, 2005, and 2006. We also set up challenges between the

districts with cash incentives, which the districts must be 98%+ to qualify. We seem to be getting a very positive response from these projects, and whether we get one member back, or one thousand, we feel we have been very successful.

We tried to handle the "Requests to Transfer" differently this year. Some districts had great success, while others struggled. We opened up our Headquarters Post members to all districts for possible transfer into local posts, with the requirement that the local posts had to make their request through their districts, and by zip code, in order to keep our members' information confidential. This project was overseen by Jim Matsukuma, who made certain that all information remained confidential. This is something we will work together on, and address again in the future. Another issue that came up at the DEC in Santa Maria was the formation of Membership Teams within each district, which would bring consistency to our membership efforts. This is something that I, along with many others, strongly believe should happen. All one has to do is look at Headquarters and Sheila and Tammy to see the great job they do year after

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

To foster and promote membership in The American Legion, Department of California.

Floyd Martin (108-11) Director
Membership Chairman

Ronald A Galvan (117-10) North
Carlton E LeDrew (862-29) South
Area Chairman

1 Steven M Hooper (807-4)

2 Ralph W Jacob Jr(419-13)

3 Kenneth A Kramlich (22-11)

4 Robert C Brown Jr(252-23)

5 Bernard E Foley (595-21)

6 Dennis L Fercho (741-16)

year. I would like to give you a little information on the new kid on the block. Nicole Guzman is the secretary for American Legion Amador Post #108 Ambulance Service and an Auxiliary member. Her support and dedication has made this a successful team effort. Nicole's commitment to The American Legion is in honor of her mother and father who are both Vietnam Veterans.

I would like to say that it has been a real pleasure working with everyone involved and look forward to seeing the successes that we have accomplished together. I feel that The Department of California will obtain 100% membership and, with all of the support we have had this year, will also gain from these efforts in years to come.

NEW POSTS COMMITTEE

BERNARD FOLEY, CHAIRMAN

I would like to thank everyone involved in the starting the three new posts in our state. They are: Post 214 in the 2nd District, Post 881 in the 13th District, and Post 879 in the 25th District. I wish we could have had more.

We need more work on membership, everyone needs to help their post, work on their membership get a list of people that have not paid and call or better yet talk to them in-person and ask them why they are not renewing their membership.

NEW POSTS

To develop and recommend programs assisting Districts in the creation and operation of various programs.

Bernard E Foley (595-21) **Chairman**

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your New Post chairman.