Veterans, servicemembers rehab World War II vet’s dilapidated property

Mar 05, 2018
https://www.legion.org/membership/241388/veterans-servicemembers-rehab-world-war-ii-vet-s-dilapidated-property

More than two dozen volunteers, ranging from active-duty servicemembers in their 20s to veterans in their 70s, rallied to rehabilitate the property of a World War II veteran March 3 in Chula Vista, Calif.

“I don’t even have words to describe what’s going on here, it’s so appreciated,” said Michelle Miranda, daughter of Navy veteran Ernie Miranda, who is 94. “I am so happy that it is being done. My father — his mind is blown. He’s skeptical in general. But to see this happening is amazing. He’s from that old school where you don’t ask for anything. You don’t ask for handouts.”

Volunteers removed debris from the yard, pulled large overgrowth of weeds that had decimated the lawn and performed general cleanup during the daylong project spearheaded by The American Legion and U.S. 4 Warriors. Afterward, a large dumpster along the curb was completely full.

“It’s a hoarding situation,” said Chuck Camarato, Department of California sergeant-at-arms and a member of American Legion Post 731 in Linda Vista. “He just got too old to do things. His support network is limited. If it weren’t for veteran organizations, this is how he would have lived his final days. “It’s great to see our young military members out here, giving up their Saturday, to help a veteran. It says a lot about them.”

The project began when Victor Graff noticed a leak along the wall he shares with Miranda, his neighbor of more than 50 years.

“I didn’t realize how bad it had become because I had worked on cleaning up our shared side,” said Graff, a member of American Legion Post 492. “I got sick and was in Balboa Hospital on and off for a while. After that, I noticed water was leaking through my wall. When I told Ernie about it, he said the sewer line in his bathroom was broken.”

That’s what prompted Graff to reach out to nonprofits. After several unsuccessful attempts with other organizations, he called Tony Stewart about three months ago. “That’s when things started popping,” Graff said. Stewart, who lives in Chula Vista, is an American Legion member and a founder of Us4Warriors.

“Living here you hear about people who need help,” Stewart said. “That’s when we contacted me about a distressed property of a World War II vet. The moment I heard that my ears perked up. This is taking care of one of our own. We have to make sure that this gets done. We’re out to help people.”

A team began to survey the property, meet with the family, solicit volunteers, acquire the proper permits and other preliminary legwork that led to the transformation’s first phase. Once the outside is cleaned up, volunteers will assess the inside of the home and work with vendors on repairs.

“Most organizations are taxed to the maximum. So, when you work together, you actually enhance your resources and your ability to do larger projects that you might not be able to do.”

Angel Castillo, commander of American Legion Post 434, saw the property for the first time when he arrived to work in the yard.

“We’re here to help and anything we can do, we will do our best to help out,” Castillo said. “It’s a surprise that it has gotten to this stage. But we have to understand that sometimes conditions — physical or mental —
MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR

Harry Woods

Congratulations on making that 85% target during February. That was great, but we still have a lot of work to do. We can’t rest yet, we’re going into the fourth quarter and it’s a close game. This time of the year has been traditionally the time that membership slows down, so extra effort must be applied to get to our goal. Let’s remember that we’re Team California, not just a bunch of individual posts. In order to accomplish our goals, we need each post to make that happen. Completes great things without help and mentors along the way. We have knowledgeable people in all geographical areas of California that can assist posts that need some support. Please don’t sit on the side line and watch your team mates flounder. Give them a helping hand! If you need help ask until you get it!

Why is membership so important? It’s important because it’s the most visible measure of how good a department is. It’s important because all departments and NATIONAL know how challenging it is to accomplish our membership goal, so they respect those that get the job done. Remember we’re in a competition with 54 other departments and I’m sure you, just like me, want to earn the respect of our peers throughout this great organization.

That’s why it’s so important. If we’re not going to strive for excellence why are we in the American Legion at all. One does an organization and says,” Hey let’s Just be mediocre”.

That being said, let’s discuss how we can get better and ultimately reach our goal of 100% membership in the department of California. In order to do that, we have to drill down into how we’re doing business, specifically in three areas. Those are growth, having a Ninja renewal mindset, and specialty posts.

First growth is an issue, because there is a perception that DON’T WANT TO GROW this is ridiculous and not in the best interest of the organization. I’m asking our smallest post to add new members and not stop just because you’re at goal. Some post “save members until July 1st, this is also ridiculous and here’s why. The post, department and National lose needed revenue, but also the potential member may lose interest and/or wonder what’s going on since we’re waiting to sign them up later. Don’t forget membership is a big part of what everyone signed up for. It is imperative that we all adopt the attitude that membership is every legionaires business, not just the membership teams. Let’s not forget the new membership processing technology that I know has made life a lot easier and it should save the post membership teams a lot of time.

There is a big misconception that we should wait to sign up new members for the following membership year. It is much better to realize that a new member signed up in January would have 12 months of membership if they utilized the delinquent period the next year. If they renewed in February they would still have 11 months if they renewed during the January delinquent period next year and so on. This is a reason to stop depending on people for 2018 if you tell them to ignore the renewal notices until the end of the year. Also, be aware there are a few members that will try to “slip” by if you don’t ask to see their membership cards for the new year. In addition, it must be noted that any member that has not paid their dues by February 1 is suspended from all activities with the post.

Second, we need a Ninja mindset when it comes to all members, and by that, I mean, we treat them like they’re important to us, like family. Ninja renewal mindset also means that the leadership, should protect the newest members, those that would be treated unfairly for any reason. In my travels people share things that are going on in posts that discourage our new and/or younger veterans. I’m going to share two examples with you. In one post the bar tender told them that they had invited the veterans from the local junior college to come down to the post. The post gave them a night that they could call their own. Then the bar tender said that an older couple, came in on that night and complained about the music being too loud. They also would make comments about the choice of music. The veterans stopped coming to the post after a few months and have never come back.

The next example revolves around the younger veterans wanting to have a DJ instead of a band on one of the Friday night dinners. The older veterans would not budge on the idea so they put it on the agenda to be voted on at the post meeting. The older veterans had all their friends, that don’t frequent the club, come in and voted the idea down. The younger veterans keep our younger veterans away, it’s not because they don’t want to be a part of the Legion. I know these aren’t isolated incidents because I’ve witnessed these same scenarios myself at other posts. We have to work on a couple of these issues. Marketing experts will tell you that most people will tell 2 people if something good happens and 10 people if something negative happens. We need all the positive publicity we can get.

The last area that should be looked at, – MEMBERSHIP, see page 5
2018 Washington, D.C. Conference

National Commander, Denise Rohan, gave testimony before the joint sessions of the Senate and House Veteran Affairs Committees on February 28. Some of the topics covered were:

1. Limiting outsourcing and unifying the VA can meet the challenges of delivering benefits and health care. We do not support privatization. Resolution 372
2. Creating lifetime electronic health records that will work in concert with D.O.D. and will transfer seamlessly with the V.A. Resolution 83
3. Institute gender-specific health care for women veterans. Resolution 147
4. Support for the caregivers of our wounded veterans. Resolution 146
5. Provide mandatory end-of-service exams for reservists. Resolution 85
6. Support VA's suicide prevention efforts and we strongly advocate for complementary and alternative therapy. It is imperative to combat VA's staffing shortage by increasing recruitment and retention budgets, while also expanding the direct hiring authority to medical center directors to expedite the hiring process of mental health professionals. Resolution 28 & 165

California had 20 representatives for National Security, Veterans Affairs and Rehab, Veterans Employment, and Legislative called in to this meeting in Washington. All but 4 attended, and they had health issues and could not attend. When the National organization sends out a “call in” to certain members of certain committees, it means they pay the member going, airfare and a per diem. When those members come back to California, they should share the information back to the Post, Districts or Area in a form of report. It is their duty as the representative for the Department of California.

We also had Legionnaires/guests from California go to Washington at their own expense. Thank you, and please share any information from these meetings with your posts and or districts.

Any Legionnaire may attend any meeting in Washington or Indianapolis. All upcoming meetings are listed on the National web site, www.legion.org

If you have a good connection with your elected officials in Washington, by all means let us know. We know how important good communications can improve support for issues of our servicemen and women, veterans.

Our Legislative Chairman for National is Eric Measles, haydenfalls@aol.com
Our State Legislative Chairman is Don Harper, govia@comcast.net

Gung Ho Post 696-supporting the 100th Department Convention

Submitted by Henry Sanchez
On February 25th, 2018, during the Area 1 meeting which was held at North Sacramento Post 447, WWII Veteran and Post Commander Herbert Yee of Gung Ho Post 696, presented a check in the amount of $5,000 to 6th District Commander, William Boles. The check was to support the 6th District preparations for the upcoming 2018 Department of California Convention in Sacramento. Commander Yee, a Charter Member of his Post, believes firmly in supporting the American Legion and “Sensational” 6th District. His donation is most certainly appreciated and will be put to good use!

-VETERANS, from page 1

I would like to thank all those Posts in Area 3 for their efforts bringing in new members. Membership is not the responsibility of one individual. We all share that responsibility.

See the following text:

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER
REPRESENTING AREA 3

HONOR FLIGHT

Comrades,

On November 2nd, I had the honor of attending the 2nd Annual Honor Flight in honor of the veterans of World War II. The flight included 16 veterans from various parts of California. The flight was organized by the American Legion Post 696 in collaboration with the Department of California. It was a moving experience to see these veterans being honored and recognized for their service.

The flight departed from the Sacramento International Airport and flew over the city, with the flight crew displaying American flags and playing patriotic music. The veterans were then taken to the Veterans Memorial Cemetery in North Sacramento for a ceremony honoring their service. They were also given a tour of the cemetery, which is dedicated to those who served in the military.

This experience has further reaffirmed my commitment to supporting our veterans and their families. I encourage all members of the American Legion to participate in similar events and show their support for our veterans.

Sincerely,

[Your Name]

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER
REPRESENTING AREA 4

WE ARE IN A RUSH

Comrades,

We have turned the corner and are heading towards home. There are four months left in this American Legion year. This does not mean that we can let up on membership, in fact it should make you want to work harder to get out and recruit those new members.

National Commander, Denise Rohan’s, visit in December 2017 was a success thanks to Battleship Iowa Post 61 and Korean Bunker Post 829, the two newest posts in the 19th and 17th Districts, respectively, for hosting a luncheon on the USS Iowa. Commander Rohan was greatly

~AREA 4, see page 5

BOOK OF REPORTS
2017-2018

Attention: Department Vice Commanders, NEC, Department Adjutant, Department Sgt-at-Arm, Department Chaplain, Department Judge Advocate, Department Parliamentarian, Department Historian, Women Veterans’ Outreach Coordinator, Legislative Advocate, Membership Director, and ALL Commission Chairmen

Deadline for reports, April 30, 2018
Forward report to Marilyn Rideaux, aide_deptcmdr@att.net

ON THE WEB AT WWW.CALEGION.ORG
“A Lifetime Of Love and Loss”

By James A. Nelson


What a joy to realize how sharp and clear her mind has remained during the seven years we have known the lady. Louise is now living in a Lynden Christian Nursing facility after a fall at home. Soon, she will be relocating to Northern California to be closer to family.

I first met Mrs. Pruitt when she helped obtain her FHA HECM (A Reverse Mortgage) on her Lynden home. She wanted to live there without overwhelming financial pressure as long as physically and mentally possible. If we ever met a very intelligent and independent woman, it is Louise Pruitt.

Thoughtful and extremely kind to others, she is a remarkable friend.

On our first trip to visit Ms. Pruitt, Louise told us that she had been raised in Hays, Kansas. As a young girl in 1939, she attended Fort Hays State College when she met her future husband, Mr. William Varner.

Louise said, “Bill was from Nortonville, Kansas, north of Topeka. We met at a college dance. While I attended College to get a higher education, more importantly I wanted to find and eventually marry “The Best Looking, Best Leader of men and knew what was needed a mental and physical challenge to help overcome the heartache of the loss of a Loved One in Combat.”

Unfortunately, I had not counted on the regulations of the War Department. When I attempted to sign up for the WASPS, I was informed: “Sorry young Lady, “War Widows” are not allowed to be WASPS!”

“I began to think that to do after the war would never be worthwhile to the US Military on behalf of Bill and also wrote my husband practically every day. His letters to me always seemed slow in coming and were never ever long enough. Once the US Military defeated the German Army in North Africa, Patton’s 3rd US Army Division was next sent to drive the Germans from Sicily. Bill wrote that his Company was helping lead the way -- not to worry though because General Patton, Jr. continued to think that my life had been cut short. Just two weeks after our wedding, Bill’s Company was shipped overseas to North Africa. In letters I received from Bill, I learned that they never had human contact in the US 3rd Arm Division and his Company was under the overall Command of General George S. Patton, Jr. Anxiety for the welfare of loved ones was high for all who had relatives or friends away at war.

It seemed like every family in Hays knew someone serving in the US Military somewhere in the world. There was sure a lot of praying to God that everyone was coming home. I realized that I could never again experience the love that Bill and I shared. “A few months later while still sick at heart, my Mother and I went to Fort Riley, Kansas where my beloved husband — “Corporal William R. Varner, HQ Company, 2ND Battalion, 3RD US Army Division” — was posthumously awarded The US Army Distinguished Service Cross for his “Exceptional Heroism in Combat” and the Purple Heart.

“My heartache of the loss of a Loved One during the seven years we have known the lady, Louise Pruitt of Lynden, Washington who my wife, Marylil, and I visited on her 96th Birthday on November 10, 2017. She wanted to live there without overwhelming financial pressure as long as physically and mentally possible. If we ever met a very intelligent and independent woman, it is Louise Pruitt.

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“Trying to put my life back together, I eventually returned to Hays and worked as a Receptionist in an Orthopedic Surgeon's Office. One day out of the US Navy Blue, I heard from an old Classmate who in high school had been "Crazy" about me. He was known to the rest of us as “The Class Brain.” I, however, was never interested in him as a boyfriend because “The Class Brain” could NOT dance a step! His name was Floyd Pruitt and I was currently serving as an Enlisted Chief in the US Navy at the Naval Air Station in Olahale, Kansas. After a number of
calls, Floyd finally persuaded me to go out with him. My parents, too, thought dating Floyd would help me get on with my life. Much to my surprise, I found Floyd Pratt to be a wonderful man. I actually begin to look forward to being with him on weekends.

"After about a year of dating, Floyd asked me to marry him. At the urging of my Parents, Floyd and I were married on July 22, 1945 in Hays at the Presbyterian Church. We moved to U.S. Naval Air Stations in Chicago, Illinois, Corpus Christi, Texas and Memphis, Tennessee where Floyd was discharged after World War II ended. We then moved to California as my husband had applied to Stanford University for admission. We drove out to California not knowing whether Floyd would be accepted. Fortunately, he was. To do my part while Floyd studied, I worked as an Assistant at the Pal Alto City Manager’s Office to help put Floyd through five years of College at Stanford University. After his Graduation, Floyd Pruitt eventually accepted a position with The Hewlett-Packard Company where he worked for 25 years. During our almost 39 years of a happy marriage, we had one Daughter--Penny.

"Once Floyd retired in January 1984, we planned to "Travel the World". Sadly, the Second Love of my Life --Floyd Pruitt “The Class Brain and a World War II US Navy Veteran”, passed away in January of that year after his retirement. We certainly thought "What if?". However, I must say that I have often thought "What if Bill had returned home alive and healthy at the end of World War II?" I truly wonder how different my life would have been had we been able to spend our lives together? I think about the children we might have had! I wonder about things we might have experienced together!

"But, like many other American Boys and Girls during World War II, Bill did NOT return alive. For the sacrifice of his life and the lives of other Members of the World War II US Military, our Country will always owe those brave men and women and their families, a never-ending debt of thanks for the Freedoms we Americans enjoy today."

After learning the Ms. Louise Pruitt Life and Love Story, Marylil and I now have a greater appreciation for what "The Loss of a Loved One in Combat" means over a lifetime to a Wife or a Husband, a Mom or a Dad, Siblings or Just Friends. This is surely true of all the deaths of loved ones that American Families have suffered during two World Wars, Korea and Vietnam. Unfortunately, we are also true today as well: American Families left behind will forever suffer pain and anguish as a result of the combat deaths of brave Sons and Daughters (Husbands and Wives) serving today in the all-volunteer US Military which valiantly fights The War Against Terror all over the world! As US Military Veterans know, such is the price of Freedom in the United States of America.

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Ways and Means Commission Chair
By Janice Somers, Chair 2017-2018

WHY all the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&RR) Campaign mailings??? This question has been asked by many Legionnaires in the last several years. The Department of California needs your support to provide for The American Legion Veteran Service Officers program.

There are three regional offices, as well as offices located in VA hospitals and clinics throughout the State. Helping veterans is one of the reasons The American Legion exist. Our Veteran Service Officers provide service to all California veterans to help them with their VA claims and have a better quality of life.

If you would like to opt out of all the campaign mailings for this year please send in a check for $50.00. Write in the memo section: "VA&RR OPT-OUT". This must be done every year starting on July 1.

If you need help on your VA Claim, contact our regional office on Wilshire Blvd. The phone number is 310.235.7127. They will be able to assist you.

The Commission is working on a 100th Anniversary challenge coin. Look for more information and availability at our Department Convention in June. The information will also be on the Department website as soon as the details are approved.

If you purchase items on Amazon, please consider using the smile.amazon.com charity donation website. As of April 2018, The American Legion CA Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Foundation has received $221,58. Amazon donates a ½ cent for every dollar spent. Our Legionnaires have done a fabulous job so far using the smile program. Donations are always welcomed and very much encouraged. Please mail your donation to Department at: 1601 7th Street, Sanger CA, 93657-2801. In the memo section, be sure to write: Line 51 VA&RR.

Thank you to everyone who supported or will support the campaigns to make a difference in a California veteran’s life. The Department could not do this program without you.

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MEMBERSHIP, from page 2
is our “specialty posts”. When these posts were formed this was probably a good idea because you had 50 postal workers that were veterans. Times have changed and many of these posts can’t find enough people that qualify to join their post. Therefore, I believe the “speciality post” should consider changing their bylaws to eliminate the need to work at a certain place or war era or whatever. The exception of course would be fire and/or police. We should also ensure all veterans are welcome at all of our posts considering the changing and litigious environment we now live in. The only thing that’s constant is change. Remember when we didn’t have the internet or cell phones, now most of us can’t live without them.

Well, there it is, Ninja mindset, specialty posts, and growing membership. We can accomplish our mission, of helping veterans and their families by focusing on our membership goals and working together.

Keep Looking for the GOLD and BELIEVE!!

Napoleon Hill, author of the famous book called Think and Grow Rich says "What the mind of man can conceive and bring himself to believe, he can achieve". Let’s get our membership football across the goal line! God Bless America and God bless the American Legion.

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AREA 4, from page 3
impressed with the new post in the 19th District. The District held a meeting on board the battleship in January. I held my second area caucus in February at Community Post 46 in Culver City, thanks to all the area commissioners that submitted reports. We had a good turnout. Thanks to the candidates that are running for Department offices for coming out and attending the caucus. Our High School Oratorical Contest was just completed with two districts participating in the area contest held on February 25 at Montebello Post 272. The contestants were Andrew Charroux from John Marshall High School in Los Angeles, sponsored by Allied Post 302, 17th District and Katelynn Stinson from California High School Whittier, sponsored by Whittier Post 51, 19th District. Andrew was selected as the winner and advanced to the Department level on March 4 in Clovis. Andrew was a runner up in the contest. The Boys’ State program is off and running. District chairpersons had their call-in and phone conference. Post are or should be interviewing their candidates for delegates to this year’s program. Remember that we need everyone’s support in the VA&RR program. Like membership we need everyone to work this program.

Deadline for the next issue of the California Legionnaire is May 1, 2018

Pre-convention issue
Deadline for the next issue of the California Legionnaire is May 1, 2018
Pre-convention issue
John H. Aldridge

Blessings everyone,

The Chaplaincy is essential to the work of The American Legion. Losing programs would not be complete without the Chaplaincy.

Becoming a Chaplain in our organization is a great, yet an opportunity to perform a much needed service to our veterans and their families. Know that addressing the spiritual needs of the sick and dying can be a challenging, yet rewarding and a life changing experience for you. While clergy seem to be better qualified to perform Chaplain Duties, an appointment to the position of Chaplain (Layman) at any level doesn’t disqualify anyone. Chaplains in the American Legion need not be ordained and are needed at every Commanders level (Post, District, Area and Department). Anyone willing to serve can, but should exhibit a sense of spiritual maturity and commitment to the Chaplaincy. We exist to serve others. If you need more information on the duties and responsibilities of the American Legion Chaplain, please visit the National website for downloadable publications. You may also contact the Department Headquarters for any hard copy publications they may have.

The Department’s Four Chaplains Day Inter-Faith service took place Saturday, February 10th in Sanger at St Mary’s Church. A huge thanks goes out to St Mary’s Church for hosting our annual Four Chaplains Day program. Thank God for District 14 and District 14 Auxiliary. Their participation was crucial and greatly appreciated. Our Department Secretary, Cheryl Log, diligently coordinated with program needs and details with St Mary’s Church, City officials and other individuals, and was the integral link between the Legion and the Auxiliary to make it happen. The Sons of The American Legion contributed significantly to the program by undertaking two major roles; leading the Procession of Colors and being Recipients of the life vests jackets. There were many individuals who performed a lot of work behind the scenes in preparation of this event. As always, it’s a team effort in putting this program and reception on and I thank everyone who had a hand in making the service and reception an outstanding and memorable event. Again, thank you all.

Since the raging wildfires, our state continues to encounter other disasters and illnesses (mudsides, worse flu season). Please join me in praying for the people that were affected by these heavy blows. I pray that all of those affected will receive immediate blessings of restoration and prosperity. I pray to God to comfort the families of those killed and or missing, and I pray to God that all who are hurt, and be saved. The medical staff is overwhelmed, not by scattering and improving, not by scattering our existing talents and efforts to the four winds.

Numerous Priorities were selected by The American Legion to be presented before this 2nd Session of the 115th Congress. I shall summarize these issues:

- The endorsement to support legislation for the VA to allow women to receive VA care with participating providers.
- The need for Congress to pass legislation that would allow the VA to allow non-VA healthcare providers.
- Full funding for the VA to fulfill their promise of care.

Annual Legislative Conference Washington, D. C.

Eric W. Measles, Vice Chairman, National Legislative Council

Once again, this past February 27-28, members of the National Legislative Council gathered in Washington, DC to attend the Annual Legislative Conference and experience, California should be proud of the efforts of its comrades who traveled across our great land. Also, attending were members of other Committees relevant to the issues discussed and similar to the above. There were others that chose to be there, in support of their fellow CA Legionnaires. The travel, meetings, study, and Hill walk can be fun but also challenging. Kudos to all.

The purpose of this annual gathering is to attend sessions pertaining to the most current priorities of The American Legion and then visit with our Members in Congress and share this information. Staff members from the National Legislative Division, in conjunction with other Committees and Commissions, compile those priorities that are most pressing and are in need of Congressional support. There is always an ongoing need for Congressional action which will aide us to perform our Four Pillars of The American Legion and other matters of importance to our Nation.

The annual Commander’s Call, is always a highlight of the Conference. As in the past, we were addressed by prominent Members of Congress and other leaders who share enthusiasm with us to boost our energy and confidence as we challenge “The Hill” promoting information we have been tasked to share.

One particular item was repeatedly STRESSED and we were urged to share this with our Members in Congress during our visits to Capitol Hill.

THE AMERICAN LEGION IS VEHEMENTLY OPPOSED TO THE PRIVITIZATION OF THE VA!

We currently have “A System Worth Saving.” The existing brick and mortar locations we have may need repairs but they can and should be saved. The medical staff is tremendous and we can only make the existing system better by saving it and improving, not by scattering our existing talents and efforts to the four winds.

Annual Legislative Conference Washington, D. C.

Eric W. Measles, Vice Chairman, National Legislative Council

Once again, this past February 27-28, members of the National Legislative Council gathered in Washington, DC to attend the Annual Legislative Conference and experience, California should be proud of the efforts of its comrades who traveled across our great land. Also, attending were members of other Committees relevant to the issues discussed and similar to the above. There were others that chose to be there, in support of their fellow CA Legionnaires. The travel, meetings, study, and Hill walk can be fun but also challenging. Kudos to all.

The purpose of this annual gathering is to attend sessions pertaining to the most current priorities of The American Legion and then visit with our Members in Congress and share this information. Staff members from the National Legislative Division, in conjunction with other Committees and Commissions, compile those priorities that are most pressing and are in need of Congressional support. There is always an ongoing need for Congressional action which will aide us to perform our Four Pillars of The American Legion and other matters of importance to our Nation.

The annual Commander’s Call, is always a highlight of the Conference. As in the past, we were addressed by prominent Members of Congress and other leaders who share enthusiasm with us to boost our energy and confidence as we challenge “The Hill” promoting information we have been tasked to share.

One particular item was repeatedly STRESSED and we were urged to share this with our Members in Congress during our visits to Capitol Hill.

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Numerous Priorities were selected by The American Legion to be presented before this 2nd Session of the 115th Congress. I shall summarize these issues:

• On the top of our Legislative priorities this year is the alarming rate of veteran suicide. It is imperative the VA address its’ shortage of mental health professionals to combat this problem. The American Legion strongly urges Congress to provide the necessary funding to the VA in order that it may increase its Integrative Health and Wellness Program (Resolutions 28 and 165).
• Also, on the Agenda is the need for a continued focus to ensure the VA can meet the challenges in delivering high-quality, timely benefits and health care to veterans. The importance of addressing the Choice Program which expires in August. A community care option is not a basic expectation for enrollees in the VA health-care system. We must limit out-sourcing and thus unify the VA’s programs in order to preserve quality of care. Congress should pass legislation to unify VA’s multiple non-VA care programs with the Veterans’ Administration as the coordinator and guarantor of care. (Resolution 372).
• Fully fund a superior National Defense as the global war on terror continues. The American Legion advocates for a good quality of life for our troops and an improved transition process from military service to civilian life. The Legion vows to fight against those who desire to reduce the benefits of veterans, servicemembers, and their families (Resolutions 17 and 86).
• The American Legion supports the efforts of the VA to fully implement a quality lifetime electronic health record (EHR) system that works in concert with the DOD system to ensure the seamless transfer of a veteran’s medical documents from active service into the VA providers system (Resolution 83).
• The Reclassification of Cannabis for Medical Research is part of a larger effort to develop complementary and alternative drug treatments and therapies. Currently Cannabis is a Schedule 1 drug. The American Legion strongly urges Congress to reclassify Cannabis in order to recognize it as a drug with potential medical value. It is further urged that the Drug Enforcement Agency licenses privately-funded medical cannabis production operations in the United States to enable safe and efficient cannabis drug development research (Resolutions 11, 160, 165).
• Institute gender-specific health care for women veterans. Women veterans face remarkably different experiences than their male counterparts when transitioning in and out of combat roles, in between services, or back to civilian life. VA must ensure an improved quality of life for women veterans with gender-specific health care to meet their needs (Resolution 147).
• There are 5.5 million caregivers that go unnoticed while they care for America’s wounded. These caregivers suffer higher rates of depression and health problems than others. The American Legion is committed to supporting these ‘hidden heroes’ (Resolution 146).

–WASHINGTON, see page 12
By Michael Hjelmstad

The physical revitalization occurring at the iconic American Legion building in Hollywood is bigger than the world-class theater that is under construction.

Hollywood Post 43 chartered in 1919 and completed construction of the current clubhouse in 1929. The three-story, 30,000 square-foot Egyptian Revival structure was designed by famed Los Angeles architects, Joseph & Eugene Weston. It was

historically significant posts in the American Legion, and I felt we had a responsibility to ensure that it had a new life and could be here for the next generation of veterans.”

The Hollywood American Legion has been showing motion pictures at the Post as far back as 1923 when the executive committee minutes show approval of a projection machine.

The 1929 construction of the current post included an established projection room. But the auditorium that can seat nearly 500 was built primarily as an assembly hall for member meetings and social events, and not designed for cinema.

The first professional equipment came to the motion picture post in 1938 when Harry Warner of Warner Bros. secured complete sound and projection equipment, including sound screen. Warner was not a veteran, but is described as a man who believed in the American Legion and was vitally interested in Americanism and peace. At the same time Commander

Commander Fernando Rivero is a Lt. Cmdr. in the Navy Reserve and Senior Promo Producer at FX Networks. “I know that this place is going to make a difference in the lives of veterans for generations because of what we are doing,” said Rivero. “We are going to be a cultural center where the community can meet its veterans.”

When it opens in late April, Hollywood Legion Theater is going to be a destination for military related programming. It will host events, activities, and meetings that will support education, entertainment, fundraising, and serve as a testimonial to the leadership role veterans in the community.

When Rivero came into leadership in the post it became clear that they needed to grow membership. “I firmly believed that one of the best ways to do that was to invest in our clubhouse,” said Rivero. “We are fortunate to have one of the most beautiful and

Max Thayer, Vietnam era medic, has been a member of Post 43 for 35 years and has spent a lot of that time in the auditorium. Thayer joined The American Legion after being a part of a theatrical company called Liberty Theater.

In the course of doing plays they opened the building up to the public, which hadn’t been done for a long time. The producers of ‘Tamara’, a unique theater performance that moves throughout the building took notice of the space and started a show that ran for

over nine years becoming the longest running play in Los Angeles history.

When Tamara ended in the early 1990’s the auditorium was available to host popular concert shows like Foo Fighters, Iggy Pop, GAWR, Ben Harper, Jeff Buckley, and Keanu Reeves band, Dogstar. “All these people they loved the post they loved the room,” said Thayer. He was instrumental in filling the auditorium with live music and fans.

The room Thayer loved hadn’t changed much when the theater renovation started. Unfortunately decades of deferred maintenance meant a heavy investment in new systems. There were many physical challenges to overcome. Among them the surprises that a 90-year old building has, particularly when it comes to electrical, plumbing, and heating ventilation and air conditioning. “Anybody who’s renovated their house can relate to this. Just multiply by 1000,” said Rivero. “The first obstacle that we had was really just convincing everyone that this was the right thing to do.” Post 43 set out to invest in their building, and their future.

“This building is so special, it’s architecturally very significant,” said Steele. “You’re coming here not just to see a film but to become steeped in a different culture, in a sense, an American veteran culture.”

The most important thing is that the revenue generated through facility rentals will support American Legion programs, which will help veterans, children and youth, and the community. The post is going to be able to serve the greater Los Angeles area with a new destination for film and other events which brings

the community closer to the veteran experience.

Post 43 will continue to support the entire veteran community. “We can help other veterans organizations who are trying to host events,” said Rivero. “We can help our active duty friends to see a good place to go when they visit Hollywood, and really be relevant to the next generation of veterans.”

The intention now is that this will be a place where veterans from around the country will come to visit and participate in events and experience The American Legion history through this building and see what veterans are doing today as leaders in the community. “One thing The American Legion can offer veterans at the local level that other organizations don’t have is a place. A place to call home, a place to find community with other veterans. We’re going to be able to provide a place for veterans that Hollywood could offer.”

The renovation is bitter sweet for Thayer who has many great memories but looks forward to a bright future. “The culture of that post is going to outlive us all,” said Thayer. “Some of the heart and the soul of that building that people are still going to be able to look at something built in 1929 and appreciate it one hundred years from now. It’s a turning of a one page and an opening up of another chapter, and yet the song remains the same.”

Legionnaires and veteran supporters can secure their place in history by sponsoring a new theater seat with their name engraved on a bronze plaque, or dedicate it in memory of a loved one by going to hollywoodpost43.org/donate.
Palm Springs Fallen Heroes

https://www.facebook.com/groups/PalmSpringsFallenHeroes/?ref=bookmarks

My name is Lee Wilson Jr. and I teach World and U.S. History at Cathedral City High School. I am a member of Post 519 and served as historian for a couple of years. I thought that this could be something worthy of publication/publicity for the monthly California Legionnaire Newsletter.

I founded the Palm Springs Fallen Heroes project a few years back to honor my two former students, Ming Sun/KIA Iraq and Suresh Krause/KIA Afghanistan. It morphed into honoring all 27 of our local KIA/MIA from WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. I am continuously trying to update my historical record of our local heroes.

In addition to having a display at the Palm Springs Air Museum, we display banners along Palm Canyon Drive for Veterans Day and Memorial Day. We also have on permanent display 27 banners at the Palm Springs Air Museum.

We recently replaced our older banners with newer ones. Several groups from the Palm Springs American Legion Owen Coffman Post 519 sponsored a banner.

Lee Wilson Jr.

World/U.S. History Teacher, Cathedral City High School
97-present
USMC/USMCR 81-93
US Peace Corps 93-95
Member PSAL Post 519, VFW Post 1534, Voiture 1341 40/8

Moving memorial honors victims of Yountville shooting

By Cornell Barnard

Monday, March 19, 2018 11:54PM

YOUNTVILLE, Calif. (KGO) -- There was a moving tribute in wine country Monday night to three women who dedicated their lives to helping veterans.

Many memorial attendees wiped back tears during an emotional tribute to three women with one mission -- helping our veterans.

“They were unafraid,” said Veterans Home Chaplain Ira Book. “They were proud to serve those who served.”

More than 1,000 relatives, friends, and colleagues of Christine Loeber, Dr. Jennifer Gonzales Shushereba, and Dr. Jennifer Golick gathered to celebrate their lives.

“We all loved Christine, Jennifer, and Jenn,” said Pathway Home Board Member Dorothy Salmon.

The three women worked at Pathway Home, a treatment program for veterans with PTSD. Their lives were cut short by Albert Wong, a veteran who was removed from the program weeks before the shooting.

There was a standing ovation for the veterans helped by Pathway Home.

Veteran Zach Stiles is a graduate himself. “Thanks Christine, Jenn, and Jennifer for giving everything in the service of veterans.”

Gonzales Shushereba’s father Mike Gonzales said his daughter and her husband were expecting their first child. He remembers how she drove to help others during the North Bay fires.

“She’d get in her Honda and put on her particulate mask, make the rounds looking for vets. That was Jen,” Mike said.

At the end of the ceremony, relatives were presented with American flags.

BOOK OF REPORTS
2017-2018

Attention: Department Vice Commanders, NEC, Department Adjutant, Department Sgt-at-Arm, Department Chaplain, Department Judge Advocate, Department Parliamentarian, Department Historian, Women Veterans’ Outreach Coordinator, Legislative Advocate, Membership Director, and ALL Commission Chairmen

Deadline for reports, April 30, 2018

Forward report to Marilyn Rideaux, aide_deptcmdr@att.net

PAST COMMANDERS’ CLUB
OF CALIFORNIA, Inc.

DENNIS L. MATARIESE
State President

PCC

MARILYN E. RIDEAUX
State Secretary

83rd STATE CONVENTION

June 20, 2018 @ 9:00 AM
Haggin Grant Post 521
6700 8th Street, Rio Linda 95673
(916) 991-9921

Registration: Wednesday, June 20, 2018
8:00 AM
Dinner-Installation of New Officers
6:00 PM
Haggin Grant Post 521

June 21, 2018 @ 8:00 AM
State Board – 2018/2019
Location: To Be Announced

ON THE WEB AT WWW.CALEGION.ORG

CALIFORNIA LEGIONNAIRE | April 2018 | 9
By Michael Hjortstad

Historical filmmaker Richard Lanni began research for a WWII-themed documentary to follow-up his series, The American Road to Victory, which is currently airing on the History channel.

When the Yankee Division arrived in France, Stubby was given special orders to accompany the front lines and saw action in four offensive and 17 defensive battles, serving for 18 months on the western front. The regiment that was to become the whole life of the American Legion was under the command of the French Second Army. The regiment was the French-Italian 14th Division, which had been wounded and taken prisoner in the Battle of the Bulge that filmed on location in the Ardennes Forest. The regiment was with the French the whole time so it was a very interesting meeting of cultures.

He located wounded Soldiers and became adept at warning his new family when to take cover because he could hear the whine of incoming artillery shells before humans. His keen sense of smell gave him the ability to detect incoming gas attacks, once saving an entire company by alerting the men to don their gasmasks. Stubby is seen as a precursor to the modern military dog working dog program.

Stubby was not only a hero in war, as depicted in this film, but he was also heroic in supporting the veterans returning to a world that had changed. “The veterans had a particularly hard time when they celebrated Armistice Day,” Richard [Lanni] realized if we make this as an animated picture, kids can learn history. He worked with Beck to bring his documentary The American Road to Victory to the National Infantry Museum Foundation where Beck works. The National Infantry Museum and Soldier Center opened in 2009 with one guiding mission, to honor the legacy and value of the U.S. Army Infantryman. One way the support effort is to tell the story of our nation’s past with the latest in technological innovation and featuring these kinds of projects.

“The American Legion was a huge part in endorsing it and making it become such a staple,” said Beck. They did a tour of Legion posts in promote the series. The infantry museum has a giant screen theater where they worked together on specialty screenings around days like D-Day, and Memorial Day. Through that relationship Lanni and Beck started developing a WWII documentary, tentatively titled Over There: Doughboys in the Great War. Lanni is known for making historical stories more interesting by telling them through voices of reliable people who were really there. “We are telling a true story, said Lanni. “I have to be sensitive about people think about this, I have grandparents saying you gotta take the grandkids to see this, you gonna go as a family, couples seeing date night, and kids saying I hope someone takes us to see this film.”

The story is about the United States coming of age internationally, it’s about friendship between soldiers, in the American character and the dog, the friendship between the Americans and television history. Lanni has been appointed to the American Legion’s centennial and envisioned following historical figures through the American experience. Lanni came across this story about Sgt. Stubby.

After 8 years of development and production, the animated film Sgt. Stubby: An American Hero, will debut at 3,000 theaters across the country in April. The film is a real-life story of a war-stubby-tailed pup rescued from the streets of New Haven, Conn., in 1917. Private 1st Class Robert Conroy of the 102nd Infantry Regiment, 26th “Yankee” Division adopted the scrappy little straggler that became America’s first decorated dog. The canine became a lifetime member of the American Legion, and is memorialized at the American Legion’s national headquarters in Washington, D.C.

In order to engage younger people and make the story more palatable Lanni decided to tell the story through the eyes of this dog. “I have to be sensitive about it, otherwise its going to be a war movie,” he said. After five years of traditional documentary filmmaking, he aimed to reach a much wider audience and bring this vital chapter of American history back into the popular consciousness through animation and the eyes of a dog.

With the decision to tell the story in this medium, Lanni partnered with Technicolor, a global powerhouse in entertainment technology and animation, to handle the film’s animation through its subsidiary company, Mikros Animation (The Little Prince, Captain Underpants: The First Epic Movie). Jordan Beck, an officer in the Georgia Army National Guard, is the 3D animation director and assistant producer of the movie and has a voice role in the film. Beck said, “Through this visual language we’re able to bring a history to life that all audiences can relate to.”

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Sgt. Stubby: An American Hero
Remembering Stephen Michael (Mike) Hooper

By Susan Johnson, Linda Post 807

When you think of Mike Hooper, the first thing you remember is his fabulous smile. He greeted everyone he met. Once you met Mike, you were no longer a stranger to him. He was a very friendly and giving individual. When he entered a room, you could feel his positive energy. He was also such a joker which ensured that everyone had a great time.

A California native, Mike grew up and attended schools in Riverside. Upon his graduation from High School he entered the United States Navy in 1972. He retired from active duty in August 1993 after twenty years of service. He married his Sweetheart Janet in 1979. They have two daughters, Stacy and Nicole. Upon retirement they moved to the Yuba Sutter area to be close to family. He went to work for the Department of Defense Contractor Houston Fearless and was just 14 days before his scheduled retirement at the time of his passing.

Mike, as everyone called him, was a pillar in the American Legion. He served in many capacities at the Post, District, Area and Department of California levels. He served as Department Vice Commander Representing Area 1 in 2008 - 2009, District 4 Commander in 2004 – 2005, Linda Post 807 Commander in 1998, and in numerous commissions and committees.

Mike truly excelled in the membership arena, the lifeblood of the American Legion. Recruiting was a way of life. As the Department Membership Director, he traveled up and down the state holding revitalizations in all of the Districts. He also provided training, ensuring California worked hard to make our membership goals. He helped train individuals on the day to day operation of their Posts. If you had questions about any subject or needed advice, he was just a phone call away. He mentored and trained thousands of Comrades in Membership and general Legion business.

We are forever in his debt. Thank you, Mike, for all that you did.

-WASHINGTON from page 7

• As the primary author of the GI Bill, The American Legion continues to focus on the sustainability of this important “earned” benefit, while ensuring that veterans receive the most benefit possible from it (Resolution 349).
• Repeal unfair offsets that penalize disabled veterans and widows. Many military retirees must forfeit some of their retirement pay to receive their VA service-connected disability compensation. It is equally outrageous that VA survivor benefits (DIC) are offset from military Survivor Benefit Plan annuities. The American Legion supports legislation to repeal both of these unjust offsets. (Resolutions 85 and 224).
• Provide mandatory end-of-service exams for Reservists. Active-duty servicemembers have the right to physical examinations when separating. Servicemembers retiring from active duty are required to have such examinations. This same right to an end-of-service exam is only partially authorized for reserve component servicemembers. This unfair treatment must be changed. (Resolution 85).
• The Uniformed Services Employment and Re-employment Rights Act protects the rights of servicemembers to be re-employed after returning from active duty, including reserve or National Guard members. The American Legion wants to prohibit employers from pressuring a veteran into waiving his or her veteran’s employment rights and protections (Resolution 315).
• The American Legion continues to urge Congress to fund programs to address the homeless veterans’ problem. The VA has pledged to eradicate veteran homelessness. Congress must continue making responsible investments in affordable housing and programs such as Supportive Services for Veteran Families that move veterans and their families off the streets and into stable housing (Resolution 340).

And lest we forget, The American Legion is again at the forefront of the push to urge Congress to propose and approve an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would allow Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States. The U.S. House of Representatives has routinely passed such an amendment. Every state has endorsed such a resolution. Surveys show that a majority of Americans agree that the flag should be protected. Everyone reading this message should ask their Representative to support and co-sponsor H.J. Res. 61 and your Senators to support S.J. Res. 46. (Resolution 460).

I would like to thank all those that took time and also contributed so much to make this another successful Conference. Attending this year, were, Dept. Commander Robert Heinisch, N.E.C. Jemmet Wilson, Alt. N.E.C. Ed Grimsley, Past Dept.Cmdr. Dennis Percho, Past Dept. Cmdr. Larry Van Kuran, Past Dept. Cmdr. Gary Leach, Dept. Chaplain John Aldridge, Robert Brower, Eddie Castillo, Dr. George Curtis, Pete Conaty, Peter Duncan, David Graham, Kenneth George, Clara Pon, Desiree Herrera, Nelson Lum, Eduardo Ramirez, Bernie Remaoldo, Harley Santos Jr., James Scariot Sr, and Wesley Schermann. If I have missed anyone, I apologize.

I would also like to acknowledge National’s staff who work tirelessly to prepare data which allows us to approach our Members in Congress with facts and supporting information. A particular thanks to Matthew Shuman, Director of the National Legislative Division.

I would be remiss to not include a personal friend and a most valuable asset in my efforts to do my job, Mr. Jeff Steele. Jeff visited our Dept. Convention last summer to share his enthusiasm and expertise regarding the 100th Anniversary American Legion Coin. His energy and direction allowed us to contact and convince both our Senators and 50 of our 53 Representatives to co-sponsor legislation instructing Congress to approve the U.S. Mint to go forward with this important acknowledgement of the heroic efforts of our wonderful organization for these past 100 years.

I am proud of those Council Members that were relentless in urging their Representatives to join the effort. It was not an easy accomplishment. Many went outside their comfort zone to make this happen. California was most impressive in this struggle.

I look forward to working with most of you again this coming Session. A few Council members have indicated a desire to step down. I will be seeking replacements and welcome inquiries. I can be reached at my email address: haydenfallls@aol.com

Member PSAL Post 519, VFW
Post 1534, Voiture 1341 40/8
The purpose-driven mindset of a top recruiter

Mary Jane Fisher is a third-generation American Legion member, following her grandfather and father into the service and then into the nation’s largest veterans service organization.

Fisher, who served in the Navy from 1979 until 1995, is not a follower. She is a leader. In fact, she was recognized as the Department of California’s Recruiter of the Year in 2017 when she achieved Gold Brigade status by recruiting 136 new members.

Each day her goal is to make 10 calls to prospective members. “It’s so fun, so fun,” said Fisher, a member of Post 416 in Encinitas, Calif. “If I don’t connect with these people who are in my neighborhood, I don’t feel like I’m doing a service to The American Legion.”

Fisher sat down for an interview about her experience with The American Legion, passion for recruiting and more.

The American Legion: When did you first hear about The American Legion? Fisher: My grandfather and my father were both in The American Legion, but I didn’t get inspired in The American Legion. When I was in college I chased education opportunities because my father was no longer able to support us because he became ill. I found out about the benefits of education. When I went in, it was the GI Bill. We had the veterans’ educational opportunity program or something, what they called VIP.

I was kind of disheartened, but I went ahead and used my tuition assistance. I got an associate’s degree, but still felt compelled to keep finding ways to get a bachelor’s degree. When I got out, I applied for college and they said I didn’t get approved because I didn’t have the GI Bill. Later, I became an advocate to figure out as a 40 percent disabled veteran why don’t I have any education benefits. I started asking questions, and The American Legion actually came up as one of my point of contacts and I said, “You know what? I’m going to go talk to them because I know my father and my grandfather, they had to be members of The American Legion with a purpose.” It was there that the Legion in Vista, Calif., helped me. I kept inquiring, resourcing, inquiring, and then they suggested I apply for Chapter 31 which is a program within the VA for disabled vets. I got approved to go back to retrain so I could achieve my bachelor’s degree. There’s a lot of perseverance here.

Fisher: I did join the Legion. I walked into (Post 416) with my DD-214 unecessored and said, “I’d like to become a member right here.” I had people totally completely researched. I was completely aware that they had benefits and I had already done my homework. I wanted to become a member, so they vetted me right there and I became a member. That’s probably about seven years ago, so I just took off, which I do usually.

Fisher: It’s the (four) pillars, the programs and how much we give back. When I look at the different programs, The American Legion, and, of course, I carry American flags with me everywhere I go. I think I’m just that type of patriot. It’s my icebreaker. Some people will tell me that they’re not American, and I ask them about their interests, and if they’d like to become a citizen. I work all avenues of The American Legion and don’t realize it. When I started studying The American Legion I thought, “That fits with what I do in life purposely.” I’m purpose-driven.

Fisher: It’s interesting that you mention that. Grace Hopper did the cobra system for all the communications that we’re using today. She was in as a security, or and so I remember listening to her speak and she inspired me. She always said to never ask for permission, ask for forgiveness. I moved that forward, and then there was some people who met through The American Legion. Without asking anybody, I can say Department of National (American Legion) Committeeman Janet Wilson and (National Commander) Denise H. Rohan have really inspired me. When Denise was campaigning, Janet was telling me I really needed to learn more about Denise and her role in life and what she’s been doing. I did read up on her a little bit, and I had an opportunity to meet her when I went to National American Legion College. She’s amazing.

Fisher: I think the main thing is that. They’ve been through The American Legion and I think that is what I would like to do. Just let them become aware of it. I kind of spread the seeds everywhere I go. Then whenever I go shopping I’ll have a Legion cap on, so people will have a conversation about it. Paul Brown came to a membership revitalization two or three years ago in San Diego. I was transferring people from Post 1000. I said, “What if I go tell some people every single person, ‘Tell me what’s right away and qualify them. Most of the time they don’t know about the programs or the pillars. Cultivating, I plant the seeds and educate them about our programs. I usually don’t give out a business card; I’m not a forward person like that. I want it to be comfortable for them. Sometimes they’ll ask me if I have a card. I’ll go into my box here in my bag and give them a card.

Fisher: It’s the (four) pillars, the programs and how much we give back. When I look at the different programs, The American Legion, and, of course, I carry American flags with me everywhere I go. I think I’m just that type of patriot. It’s my icebreaker. Some people will tell me that they’re not American, and I ask them about their interests, and if they’d like to become a citizen. I work all avenues of The American Legion and don’t realize it. When I started studying The American Legion I thought, “That fits with what I do in life purposely.” I’m purpose-driven.

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News from California American Legion Press Association
CALPA
MILDRED S. WRIGHT-PEARSON, PRESIDENT
2017-2018

calpapresident@gmail.com

This year is flying by. We have once again come upon the time for notification of awards categories that will be voted upon this year. Nothing has really changed from last year. If you do not remember, the following is the categories that will be judged:

- Newsletters/Newspapers
- Editorials
- Press Releases
- Websites
- Social Media
- Photography
- Videography
- Graphic Design

Specific details will be available when the submission guideline and application is published in the near future. Submission deadline will be May 1, 2018. Good luck to all those who apply.

Presently, CALPA is very close to completing the requirements for becoming a 501-C (3). This should happen before the end of this CALPA year.

The American Legion Uniform
By Larry Leonardo,
Chairman, Riverside County Veterans Past Dept. Sgt.-at-Arms, 2013-2014

The official American Legion uniform, which has evolved over the years from the military style blouse coat with Sam Brown Belt to the current Dark Blue Blazer and grey colored slacks, however, the one item that has not change is the official American Legion cap, the true recognized “uniform of the American Legion”. There is proper etiquette in the wearing of the “official uniform. Pins showing your military rank should be avoided as “there is no rank among us”. Civic and Fraternal organization pins or patches are prohibited, as well.

The question always arises; when can I wear my American Legion Cap? You can wear your Legion Cap at any Legion function, events where you represent the American Legion and your Post, and when you are a guest at a civic function. Be aware that wearing the cap any place, such as political rallies, protests and other controversial places that brings discredit to the American Legion is strictly forbidden. You don’t wear your cap during a meal (males only). Even though the established etiquette states that your cap is not to be worn during an official Legion or civic dinner or luncheon, however, social norms have been to uncover whenever eating. The garrison cap is the “Official Cap” of the American Legion, not a ball cap or beret with American Legion written on it or has an American Legion emblem. (American Legion Riders beret with the ALR emblem is part of the official ALR uniform).

As stated in the 2017 Officers Guide and Manual of Ceremonies; “the cap should be worn in a place of worship only by the guard of honor, color guard and commander of the same in marching order or standing guard. When one is seated, the cap should be removed (author’s notation; unless your religious tenets state otherwise or you are a female who has the option to wear her cap or remove it.) Posts marching in formation into a place of worship should uncover at the door, hold the cap with the right hand over the heart until arriving in the pews and commanded to take seats, and remain uncovered during the entire service. At the close of the service, upon command, the post shall rise, hold the cap with right hand over the heart, march out of the place of worship, and recover after marching through the door. Note: The cap should be held over the heart as one approaches the casket and is not at any time worn in a place of worship except – UNIFORM, see page 15.

CALPA Contest Submission - 2018

Your name

Cell Phone Number

Post/Unit/Squadron Name

Post/Unit/Squadron Number

CHECK THE BOX of the category you are submitting
Use a separate form for each entry

Post/Unit/Squadron Newsletters / Newspapers - Al Weisberg Award
- Under 250 members
- Between 250 & 450 members
- Over 450 members

Post/Unit/Squadron Websites - Tim Barnes-Lee Award
- Under 250 members
- Between 250 & 450 members
- Over 450 members

Editorials from members - William E. Rominger Award

Editorials from non-members - Gloria Emerson Award

Press Releases - Lyn Cross Award

District Social Media - Robert Morril Award

Post/Unit/Squadron Social Media - Glenn David Award

Photography - Willard Hope Award

Videography - John E. “Jack” Mannert Award

Graphic Design - Martijn Kroon Award

SUBMISSION DEADLINE
Tuesday, May 1, 2018

MAIL OR E-MAIL SUBMISSIONS
ALONG WITH THIS FORM TO

CALPA Contest
PO Box 6421
Orange, CA 92863-6421

RULES FOR THE BASIS OF JUDGING -(1ST, 2ND & 3RD PLACE)

Newsletters / Newspapers - content (Legion, Auxiliary, SAL), local, county, district and state news, as appropriate - clear, concise and balanced writing, layout, design and appearance, use of photos and illustrations

Editorials - headline and lead attracts interest, clear, concise and imaginative writing, research, group of subject, timeliness and appropriate objectives suitable to the public

Press Releases - headline and lead arousing of interest, clear, concise and imaginative writing and research, group of subject, timeliness and appropriate objectives suitable to the public

Websites - Department or local information, site design, links, appropriateness of information and attractiveness

Social Media - appearance and presentation, content, readability and engagement, purposes and goals

Photography - visual interest, originality, clarity, perspective, quality, purpose and connection to veterans

Videography - originality, clarity, perspective, quality, purpose and connection to veterans

Graphic Design - originality, quality, imagination and overall conveyance of message

ENTRY FORM INSTRUCTIONS -(USE A SEPARATE FORM FOR EACH ENTRY)

Must be a current member of the California American Legion Press Association

(EXCEPTION: Non-Member Editorial)

For newsletters & newspapers - submit three 3 papers - one each for three separate issues published during the Legion year (June 2017 to present). They need not be consecutive months.

For websites and social media... include the electronic address (URL).

Editorials... send the entire paper or tear-sheet containing the editorial with date of issue.

Photos... you can submit up to three (3) photos that have been published covering the same subject or event.

Videos... provide a URL if posted on YouTube or other media or provide on a nonremovable flashdrive or DVD.

Graphic designs... provide flyers or publications in which they appeared (DO NOT SEND ORIGINALES)

* Rules & Instructions follow those of the National American Legion Press Association Reference:

ON THE WEB AT WWW.CALEGIION.ORG
2017-18 legislative session
2017-18 legislative session 2018 is the second year of the two-year legislative session. There are many veteran bills coming to our attention and we have been working closely with Don Harper, the Legislative Commission Chair, to develop positions on legislation. Some of the top legislative priorities for 2018 are briefly listed below. We will be getting more information on these bills to Legionnaires for the Legislative Day at the Capitol. Until then, we will be submitting position letters to the Legislature, as well as working with Don Harper to testify in committee and also on items in the State Budget pertaining to veterans.

Key veteran bills for 2018:
AB 2801-Salas (D-Bakersfield); Addresses the problem of veteran and law enforcement memorials being vandalized.
AB 2521-Quirk-Silva (D-Fullerton); Seeks to curb abuses by unscrupulous lenders who seek to deny deployed military members the benefits of the California Military Families Financial Relief Act via a loophole in the law.
SB 924-Morrell (R-Rancho Cucamonga); Will seek to exclude from gross income, income of active duty servicemembers of the National Guard while on active duty in CA if that income is derived from his or her position as a servicemember of the National Guard.
SB 1043-Newman (D-Fullerton); Increase in local assistance funding for County Veterans’ Service Officers (from the current $5.6 million to $7 million).
SB 1357-Gaines (R-EI Dorado Hills); Reinstates the “VETERAN” license plate which will be available to veterans only.

New lobbyist representing the Legion at the State Capitol
Pete Conaty, longtime lobbyist for the American Legion-Department of California has retired, however, he still remains active in veteran issues. Iraq and Afghanistan veteran, Seth Reeb, who worked closely with Pete last year has taken over as the lobbyist for the Legion. Dana Nichol, formerly of Pete Conaty and Associates, is assisting Seth on veteran issues.

Seth enlisted in the US Army in 2004 as an Infantryman with the 10th Mountain Division out of Fort Polk Louisiana. He served in Afghanistan in 2006 and Iraq in 2007-2008. He is the recipient of the Combat Infantry Badge, the Expert Infantry Badge, and the Army Commendation Medal for Valor. He was promoted to the rank of Sergeant prior to leaving the Army in 2009.
Seth joined his father’s firm, Reeb Government Relations-LLC, as a legislative advocate in January 2017 where he worked closely with Pete Conaty on veteran issues.

Reeb Government Relations was established in January 2005 to assist clients with policy analysis, issues management and California legislative and regulatory advocacy. The firm specializes in water resources policy representing clients throughout California that have urban water, farm water and flood control perspectives. With the addition of Seth Reeb to the firm, Reeb Government Relations will now be representing the American Legion-Department of California.
Bob Reeb, the principal of Reeb Government Relations has over 35 years of experience in public policy and local government experience and has been a registered lobbyist for over 20 years.

American Legion-Department of California Day at the State Capitol
The Department’s annual Day at the State Capitol event will be held on April 25, 2018 in the Governor’s Conference Room. Seating is limited to 65 participants, so please be sure to sign up by completing the registration form and forwarding it to Dana Nichol via email, dana.nichol@sbcglobal.net or by FAX, 916 492-8957.

Partnerships, a great way to make a huge impact
Chuck Camarato,
Department Sgt-at-Arms
Ernie Miranda, a 94-year old US Navy WWII Veteran, who served in the Pacific Theatre, had come upon hard times after retiring as a Union Electrician. Over an extended period of time, the place Ernie called home in Chula Vista California, had become extremely dilapidated, in danger of becoming uninhabitable. Ernie’s next-door neighbor, Victor Graff, also served during WWII in the US Navy. Victor, a member of the American Legion San Diego Post 492, contacted Chuck Camarato, Department of California Sergeant at Arms and local member of the San Diego 22nd District, for help. Chuck, a US Marine and certified project manager, partnered up with another US Marine, Dan Rice, from the US4Warriors Foundation to perform an assessment and formulate a project plan.

A project plan was developed dividing the renovation into two phases. The first phase, pictured here, targeted the outside of the home. The home had accumulated an enormous amount of yard debris along with excessive vegetation overgrowth. The plan called for clearing the home property first, to allow for the second phase, assessing the home itself for construction and repair requirements.

The first phase had tremendous support and partnerships. Six San Diego American Legion Posts were represented, Posts 255, 310, 434, 451, 492 and 731. A major role was played by the US4Warriors Foundation and Veterans Volunteer Force, a special program that coordinates active duty military with community service projects. VVF had 25 active duty Navy and Marines on site volunteering to help.

The California Elks Association, through the local lodge, provided a cooking team to serve lunch to volunteers and keep volunteers hydrated. Lastly, the City of Chula Vista stepped up to help the project with equipment, permits and volunteers.

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**UNIFORM**, from page 14
by the guard of honor, color guard or commander of same while in marching order or standing guard. Legionnaires not in formation will uncover upon entering the place of worship, remain uncovered during the entire service and re-cover after leaving the place of worship. At the graveside, the cap should be held in the right hand over the heart during the entire service. In cold and inclement weather, the cap should not be lifted. In meetings, the cap should be worn except during the Pledge of Allegiance, prayer and while standing in silent reverence in memory of departed comrades, when it should be held with the right hand over the heart. A Legionnaire wearing a cap should behave in proper accordance as to salutes, etc. the same as if wearing a military uniform. If not wearing a cap, observe ordinary rules of etiquette for civilian dress. Female Legionnaires should wear their caps in the manner prescribed for women in the armed forces. This is suitable for most situations, but taste and common sense should prevail. By American Legion tradition, a female Legionnaire may leave her cap on during the Pledge of Allegiance, the national anthem, prayer and meals. Legionnaires wishing to attach decorations and/or other official insignia to their caps are advised of National Executive Committee Resolution No. 58, adopted by the National Executive Committee, April 30-May 1, 1964 resolution on the subject.

Show your Legion Pride; wear your uniform properly with pride and respect. You are the greatest Public Relations asset of this great organization.

Thanks.

ON THE WEB AT WWW.CALEGION.ORG CALIFORNIA LEGIONNAIRE | April 2018 | 15
American Legion Protocol: Non-Political and Non-Partisan

By Janet Wilson, National Executive Committeeman

According to Article II, Section 2, of the Constitution of The American Legion, “The American Legion shall be absolutely nonpolitical and shall not be used for the dissemination of partisan principles nor for the promotion of the candidacy of any person seeking public office or preference.” The National Charter, approved by Congress, also stipulates The American Legion as an organization is nonpolitical* which has been interpreted by the National Judge Advocate as “nonpartisan” in modern lingo. Therefore, The American Legion as an organization is prohibited from contributing, helping or endorsing a candidate. However, a member, as a private citizen, and not representing the organization, can employ whatever legal and ethical means to advance his or her candidate.

Appropriate wear of the Legion Cover at political events and rallies
The Legion cap is considered the official Legion uniform (see p. 42). It is not an individual Legion member’s decision on the appropriate usage of the cap and emblem. If attending a political event, The American Legion cap, or any clothing with the emblem visible, should be removed so as not to imply endorsement by The American Legion. The problem is the assumption of endorsement by those who see the emblem or name worn at in improper location, such as a partisan rally.

Hosting a political candidate at your Post
When using post facilities to host candidates, post should remove emblem and Legion flag to avoid any impression of endorsement. Candidates for all parties must be presented equal opportunity at the same time to use the facilities on the same terms and conditions as other competing candidates.

Accepting donations from a political figure
If financial contributions are offered by candidates for political office, campaigns, political action committees or political parties, The American Legion should politely decline. Accepting these contributions may be perfectly legal, but The American Legion must avoid any perception of supporting any candidate or political party.

The American Legion values its independence and effectiveness on veterans’ issues. This stance is best maintained by neutrality on individual candidates or political parties. The American Legion by legal definition is non-partisan and supports only issues which impact the Four Pillars.

* This means “non-partisan” in today’s society. The American Legion is allowed by Congress to lobby for veterans’ benefits and a strong United States of America. (NJA, October 25, 2012)

Riverside JROTC Softball Classic

By Marquis T. Palmer CCRM, Chairman, Riverside County Veterans Advisory Committee (951) 500-9551

RIVERSIDE, Calif. -- The weather was cool, the competition was intense, and the sportsmanship was palpable as three JROTC units faced off in a tournament of winner-takes-all softball. Ultimately, only one school could walk away with the coveted ammo can trophy.

Rancho Verde High School won the Inaugural JROTC Softball Classic, hosted by American Legion Fellowship Post #951 in Riverside. The softball classic was held Saturday, February 10, at The Grove Community Church in Riverside. In addition to Rancho Verde High School, the JROTC units from Canyon Springs High School in Moreno Valley and Poly High School in Riverside rounded out the competition field.

“These students work so hard all year and face off against each other in drill competitions, so we wanted to provide an atmosphere of friendly competition and team building,” said Mike Heckenlaible, the First Vice Commander of American Legion Fellowship Post #951. “It also turned out to be a great team building experience for the members of our American Legion post, which is less than a year old.”

The softball classic was the biggest event the post, which was chartered by the Department of California in April of 2017, has hosted to date. From contacting instructors and speaking to JROTC units to purchasing, grilling, and serving more than 10 dozen hot dogs, members of the post coordinated every detail.

“These students are our future leaders,” said Heckenlaible. “We plan to do many more events with them to hopefully teach them what we learned about leadership while serving in the armed forces.”

Many of the JROTC instructors indicated that they had a hard time getting students and participants to participate next year. Maybe some of us old, out of shape vets will be ready to field a team in 2019,” said Heckenlaible. “We better start training now.”

Rancho Verde High School JROTC after winning the Inaugural JROTC Softball Classic

The coveted ammo can trophy comprised of three Ammo cans donated by Big John’s Military Surplus store in Riverside.
CALL TO CONVENTION

The 100th Annual Convention of The American Legion, Department of California, is hereby called to meet in Sacramento, California at the McClellan Conference Center, 5411 Luce Avenue, McClellan, CA 95652 on June 22-24, 2018.

Purpose: The convention is called for the annual reports of the Department Officers and Department Convention Commissions and Committees, consideration of proposed amendments to the Department By-Laws, adoption of the Department budget for the ensuing year, election of Department Officers for the ensuing year, and transaction of such other business as may be brought before it.

Election of Department Officers: The Department Commander, Department Vice-Commanders, Department Sergeant-At-Arms, National Executive Committee, and Alternate National Executive Committee shall be elected at the regular Department Convention and shall hold office as prescribed by the By-Laws of the Department. Election of the six (6) Vice-Commanders representing the six (6) Areas of the Department shall be by vote of delegates of the Posts of each specific Area, provided further that the Department Vice-Commander shall be a member of a Post of the specific Area they are elected to represent. (By-Laws, Art. IX, Sec 19 and 20)

Representation: The convention shall be composed of delegates and alternates from each Post, each Post being entitled to two (2) delegates and two (2) alternates and one (1) additional delegate and one (1) additional alternate for each 50 members, or major fraction thereof, paid up 45 days prior to the opening date of the convention. The vote of each Post shall be equal to the total number of delegates to which the Post is entitled. (By-Laws, Art. IX, Sec 2)

Extra Votes: In addition to the above delegates to which each Post is entitled, all Past Department Commanders, Past Department Adjutants, members of the Department Executive Committee and incumbent elected Department Officers, who attend and register as such, shall be delegates to the Department Convention with voice and vote. Convention registration fee for such delegates shall be waived by the Department. (By-Laws, Art. IX, Sec. 5)

Each Post in the Department shall, at least 20 days prior to the opening of the Department Convention, elect delegates and alternates to the Convention and shall certify such election to the Department Adjutant at least 15 days prior to the opening of the convention. Certification sheet must be authenticated by Post Commander and Post Adjutant. (By-Laws, Art. IX, Sec. 3)

No Post shall be represented at the Convention by proxy. (By-Laws, Art. IX, Sec. 7)

Post Officers: Post Officers have no privileges in the Convention except as guests of their representative delegation unless they have been elected as delegates to the Convention.

Qualification and Seating of Delegates: The Department Constitution and By-Laws Commission annually at the meeting of the Department Executive Committee immediately preceding the Department Convention, shall report to the Executive Committee the lists of the Posts which have failed to comply with the provision of Section 16 of Article V of the Department By-Laws, and the Department Adjutant from such report shall notify the Convention Credentials Committee that the delegates to the Posts so listed are not entitled to be seated in the Convention until such Posts have complied with the provision of said Section.

In accordance with Department By-Laws Article IX, Section 3, no delegates from any Post shall be seated at the Annual Department Convention unless all Post obligations have been paid or satisfied at the time of the Convention, including the following:

1. Certification to the Department of officers elected and/or appointed by the Post for the current year.
2. Payment of delegate fees to the Department Convention for the prior year.
3. Payment of all bills contracted 30 days prior to the annual District meeting.

4. Certification to the Department of an examination of the Post Books of Account, as outlined in Art. V, Sec. 16.

5. Obtaining all bonds required by Post officers.
6. Approval of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Post and any amendment thereto by the Constitution and By-Laws Commission.

7. Payment of all prior per capita dues or other monies due from a Post to the District. The Convention registration fee shall be $10 for each delegate to which the Post is entitled which shall be paid before the opening date of the Convention (By-Laws, Art. IX, Sec. 4). This fee must be paid by each Post, whether or not the Post is actually represented at the Convention.

8. Submission of properly executed Post Consolidation Reports (By-laws Art. IX, Section 23).

Registration of Delegates: Booths for registration of delegates and alternates will be open Wednesday, JUNE 20, 2018 from 2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M. in the assigned registration area of the McClellan Conference Center. Registration fees must be paid before credentials can be issued. Delegate credentials will be issued only to those whose election as a delegate has been properly certified. Alternates acting for delegates will be accredited only when properly certified by their Post. Convention Committees: Each of the Convention Committees, except the Credentials, Organization and Rules, and Resolutions Assignment, shall consist of one delegate from each district, such delegate to be chosen by the delegates from the District. In addition, the Chairman and two members shall be Ex-Officio members of the representative Convention Committee. (By-Laws, Art. IX, Sec. 10)

District representatives on the Convention Committee shall be elected at the respective annual District meeting or at the first caucus of the District delegates held at the convention. It is mandatory for all Standing Committees to organize and function within 48 hours prior to the opening of the Convention. (By-Laws, Art. IX, Sec. 11)

Resolutions: All resolutions must be prepared in triplicate on forms which will be sent to the Post Adjutant on request. In order that resolutions may be properly classified before presentation to the Convention, it is requested that they be directed to Department Headquarters (Sanger) so as to arrive before June 1, 2018. Resolutions after this date should be presented to Department Headquarters in McClellan (Sacramento) immediately upon your Post representative’s arrival for convention.

Colors: Posts bringing Colors are asked to have their Colors permanently marked for identification purposes. All Colors should be insured. The Department shall not be liable for lost Colors.

Robert Heinisch, Department Commander
John Bart, Department Adjutant

Deadline for the next issue of the California Legionnaire is May 1, 2018

Pre-convention issue
Joan Cannon has been a member of American Legion Auxiliary McFall-Grisham Unit 249, District 11 for 33 years; she qualifies for membership in the ALA under her ex-husband a Vietnam Veteran, her father JW Holloway a WWII, Korea and Vietnam Veteran and retired Chief Petty Officer from the U.S Navy and her son David Cannon a Desert Storm veteran having served in the U.S Navy as a submariner. Joan’s son and grandchildren all belong to McFall-Grisham Post & Auxiliary. Joan is retired from the Defense Logistics Agency after serving 30 years at Defense Distribution Center San Joaquin and Defense Distribution Center New Cumberland, Pa. Joan served as President of her Unit and District and most chairmanships and tax point of contact for both. For Department of California Joan has held the following chairmanships; Elections, Public Relations, Community Service, Children & Youth and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation and in 2017-2018 Department Vice President and Membership Chairman. McFall-Grisham Unit 249 and District 11 along with her family and friends are happy to endorse Joan for President of the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of California for 2018-2019.

American Legion Auxiliary 2018 Department Convention
Sacramento California
June 21-24, 2018

All American Legion Auxiliary Meetings will be held at Crowne Plaza Hotel
5321 Date Ave Sacramento, 95841
(916) 338-5800

Delegate Registration will be in the lobby June 20-23, 2018:
Wednesday 2pm-6pm
Thursday 8am-2pm, 4-6pm
Friday 8pm-11:30, 2-5pm
Saturday 8-9am

All Convention Committee Meetings will be held:
Thursday June 21, 2018 from 9am-Noon

Department of California 2018 Convention
Commanders Ball and President Banquet
Crowne Plaza 5321 Date Ave, Sacramento CA 95841
Saturday June 23, 2018 7pm
$35 per Person

Meal includes Chopped Salad, Potato or Rice, Seasonal Vegetables, Rolls, Classic New York Cheese Cake and Water/Iced Tea, And choice of Meal option 1,2 or 3

1. Herb Marinated Sliced Tri Tip with a Green Peppercorn sauce
2. Chicken Picatta with a white wine and Lemon Caper sauce
3. Penne Pasta with Sautéed Zucchini, Tomatoes, Olives, Artichoke Hearts

Deadline for Reservations June 15, 2018

Please make any checks payable to American Legion Auxiliary, District 6
Mail to Glenda Schultz
P.O. Box 127 Elverta, CA 95626
Any questions please call 916-335-1045

Circle 1,2, or 3 below for dinner choices

Dinner choice 1 2 3 Name: ____________________________________ UNIT______ DISTRICT______
Dinner choice 1 2 3 Name: ____________________________________ UNIT______ DISTRICT______
Dinner choice 1 2 3 Name: ____________________________________ UNIT______ DISTRICT______

Check #_________________ Number of Reservations________
La Societe des Quarante Hommes et Huit Chevaux

OFFICIAL PROMENADE CALL

NINETY-EIGHTH (98th) GRANDE PROMENADE

GRANDE VOITURE du CALIFORNIA Inc.

In accordance with the Constitution of the Grande Voiture du California, the Ninety-Eighth (98th) Grande Promenade is hereby called to convene June 18, 2018 in the City of Auburn, CA.

HOUSING

Best Western Golden Key
13450 Lincoln Way, Auburn CA 95603
Reservation cut-off: June 1, 2018
Rate of $89.03 Single, $99.95 Double + tax per night
Group: 40 & 8 Grande Promenade
Call: 530-885-8611

MEETINGS

(All events at the Auburn VMB)
100 E Auburn St, Auburn CA 95603
Bar @ VMB will be open during non-business sessions. Lunch avail both Mon & Tue
Monday, June 18, 2018
Committee Meetings, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Cheminot, 4:30 pm
Followed by Opening of the 98th Grande Promenade
Tuesday, June 19, 2018
Business Meeting, 9:00 am – Adjournment
Cheminot upon adjournment of the Promenade
Banquet & Installation, 6:00 pm

PURPOSE

The Grande Promenade is called for the purpose of electing Officers for the ensuing year, amending the Grande Voiture Constitution and By-Laws, adopting a balanced budget for the ensuing year, and for the transacting of such other business as may be brought before it.

BASIS OF REPRESENTATION

Each Voiture Locale in good standing. (having Ten (10) or more paid up members reported for the current year) is entitled to Five (5) Delegates and Five (5) Alternate Delegates for their Charter, and One (1) Delegate and One (1) Alternate Delegate for each Twenty-Five (25) current members, or major fraction thereof.

PROMENADE REGISTRATION

Sunday, June 17, 2018 from 3 – 5 pm
Monday, June 18, 2018 from 8 am – 4 pm
Tuesday, June 19, 2018, from 8 am - Noon
Auburn VMB

CREDENTIALS

Credentials for Delegates and Alternate Delegates will be mailed to all Voiture Locaux on June 2, 2018. These must be signed by the local Chef de Gare and Correspondant and will be distributed to the Delegates and Alternate Delegates by the Correspondant Locale. Credentials for Grand Officers and Grand Chefs de Gare Passe will be mailed directly to them, and shall be signed by the Grand Chef and Grand Correspondant.

REGISTRATION FEE for DELEGATES

Article II Section 5 of the Grande Voiture By-Laws calls for a registration fee (currently set at Five Dollars ($5.00) per Delegate) (including Grand Officers and Grand Chefs de Gare Passe) who are entitled to vote at the Grande Promenade which shall be charged to each Voiture Locale. This registration fee must be paid prior to the opening of the Grande Promenade so that representation of the delegates may be allowed.

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS and RESOLUTIONS

Proposed amendments to the Grande Voiture Constitution and By-Laws and all resolutions must be submitted in writing to the Grand Correspondant not later than June 2, 2018 so that proper distribution to committees can be affected.

PROMENADE COMMITTEES

Correspondants Locaux shall, not later than June 14, 2018, submit to the Grand Correspondant a list of all Delegates, Alternate Delegates, Delegation Chair, and Delegation Secretary on the proper form provided by the Grand Correspondant. Don’t forget your Delegate fee check!

SUNDAY

June 17, 2018 Early Registration 3:00pm – 5:00pm Auburn VMB

MONDAY

June 18, 2018 COMMITTEE MEETINGS @ the VMB will follow the following schedule, modified as necessary: Americanism, Carville Star, Child Welfare, Loco & Box Car, Membership, Nurses Training, POW/MIA, Public Relations, Ritual, Special Awards, YAVS, Voiture Activities, Ways & Means, Youth Sports, Budget & Finance, Constitution & By-Laws, Insurance, Time & Place, Trophy’s Past Chef’s Club, and any others? Since all meetings will be in the same room, Grand Directors are expected to conduct THEIR business and solicit input from everyone as necessary, given the limited time available for all meetings.

4:30pm GRANDES CHEMINOTS MEETING; Grand Officers and Cheminots will give their final reports. Grand Directors will report any discrepancies or money owed by Locales for their programs for year 2018.

OPENING OF THE 98TH GRANDE PROMENADE (probably around 5:15pm)

TUESDAY

June 20, 2018-0900 BUSINESS SESSION followed by election of Grand Officers and Delegates/Alternates to the 99th National Promenade in Louisville KY. Upon adjournment of the Promenade, the Grandes Cheminots will convene to ratify the appointments of the newly elected Grand Chef.

6:00 pm-Banquet & Installation of Officers. Buffet style Pork or Chicken, $25.00 PAID reservations by June 13. Payable to FORTY & EIGHT VOITURE 858 AND SENT TO Court Bradbury, 155 Sunset Dr, Auburn CA 95603-4325, Tel 916-548-0292 cdbradbury@sbcglobal.net or cdbradbury007@att.net

ON THE WEB AT WWW.CALEGION.ORG

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The American Legion Membership Application

Sign-up on-line TODAY at: www.calegion.org – OR –
Mail Membership application and $47 to:
TAL DoC Post 1000 Application
1601 7th Street,
Sanger, CA 93657
Please make your check payable to
TAL DoC Post 1000
NOTE: $0.95 of annual dues goes to the California Legionnaire, the official publication of The American Legion-Department of California, to help offset the cost.

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

We know them to be with You forever... Amen.

THE LAST BUGLE CALL

Reporting Period:
01/1/2018 to 02/28/2018
496 Deceased Comrades

(Full report will be in the end of year Book of Reports)

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