

## Monty Roberts' "Horse Sense & Soldiers" The Next Workshop – March 22-24, 2013

By Rees Lloyd



Monty Roberts (center) at "Horse Sense & Soldiers" workshop explains his "Join-Up" method to help vets with stress (from Roberts' left): Terry Tracy, Past Dept. Service Officer; Col. Tony Monaco, Patriot Outreach founder; Bugler and Eagle Scout Robert Morgan; Rees Lloyd, Post 79, District 21.

The third "Horse Sense & Soldiers" equine therapy "Join-Up"® workshop developed and offered free to veterans by the legendary "Monty Roberts – the "Horse Whisperer" – to help vets with stress in conjunction with Patriot Outreach and our Department of California Patriot Outreach Pilot Project will be held March 22-24, 2013 at Roberts' "Flag Is Up Farm" in Solvang, California. Register at [www.Join-Up.org/veterans](http://www.Join-Up.org/veterans)

"I continue to be amazed at how Monty Roberts, using his innovative and unique equine therapy method of teaching veterans how to non-violently "join up" with horses, is giving back their lives to veterans who have been injured by stress, up to and including Post Traumatic Stress Injury," said Col. Antonio Monaco (USA, Ret.), founder of Patriot Outreach ([www.PatriotOutreach.com](http://www.PatriotOutreach.com)).

One of the most amazing examples  
— MONTY, continued on page 2

### Department Executive Meeting

March 9-10 2013  
Meeting Schedule

Corporal Marshall N. Braden Post 56  
Vets Memorial Community Center  
501 N. Pine Street, Santa Maria, CA

#### Friday, March 8, 2013

9:00 a.m. – Dept. Finance Committee Meeting  
1:00 p.m. – Dept. Ways & Means Committee Meeting

#### Saturday, March 9, 2013

9:00 a.m. – DEC Meeting

#### Sunday, March 10, 2013

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

#### For SAL DEC information, contact:

Adj. Ned Fox at 916-283-5634  
Email: [adjutant@salcalifornia.org](mailto:adjutant@salcalifornia.org)

### Calling all CA Women Veterans

By Patricia Jackson-Kelley,  
email: [geekell@aol.com](mailto:geekell@aol.com)

American Legion Department of California  
Women Veterans Outreach Coordinator  
Cal Vet 2010 Southern California Woman  
Veteran of the Year  
Cal Vet 2012 Lifetime Achievement in  
Leadership Award

The American Legion continues to recognize the need to increase adequate services for women veterans. Our current Commander, James E. Koutz, vowed to complete the task of assigning a Women Veteran Outreach Coordinator in each state. This responsibility for the State of California falls upon my shoulders. It is unrealistic to accomplish this mission alone. I need your help.

Our goal is to identify an advocate in each of the 58 counties to coordinate efforts to identify our 167,000+ women veterans and create the "3 E's" of women survival: EMBRACE, EMPOWER and ENERGIZE. Once these three goals have been achieved, the fourth E – EQUIP – will fall into place.

I am enthusiastic and confident that the "world of women veterans" will create many new possibilities in 2013. The fact that the House has 81 women is a sure sign that if you have not done so previously, it is time to hold our elected officials accountable. This is history and we must use it to our advantage. Please contact me by email, telephone, Facebook, or "carrier pigeon". Time is of the essence and we must "get busy!"

#### A Call To Action...

If you would like to be a woman veteran contact for your county, please send me your name, email, telephone and your organizational title, and a bit of description about yourself to my email address at [geekell@aol.com](mailto:geekell@aol.com)

### April 19, 2013 is the deadline...

## Help brand your American Legion

Part of every company's identity is its tagline. What company do you think of when you read: "Semper Fidelis"; "Where's The Beef?"; "Don't Leave Home Without It"; "No One Does More For Veterans"; "We've Got Your Back"; or "The UnCola"? Visit <http://www.taglineguru.com/survey05.html> to read the "100 Most Influential Taglines Since 1948."

During the next few years (and thereafter), as part of The American Legion's strategy for continuous growth, we will have to concentrate much more on marketing our name and what we do than we've ever had to in the past. Thousands of "veterans' service organizations" have popped up all across the country. All are competing for the membership of veterans and the donations to help support their good works. Some do great things in a niche market. Some raise millions of dollars to support their programs. Some may actually do very little.

None do as much for active-duty military,

veterans, military retirees and their families as does The American Legion. And yet, we have no consistent tagline that readily tells people who we are, what we do or who we do it for. Each National Commander has a slogan and they are well thought out and well themed, but they don't lend a permanent identity to the Legion.

Through the years we have had many slogans, including "Marching Together Again"; "Veterans Serving Veterans"; "Every Day is Veterans Day"; "Still Serving America"; and "For God and Country", which will never go away but doesn't serve as an effective tagline.

The Membership and Post Activities Committee will meet in January to draft a strategic plan for growing membership year after year, and for inculcating into our corporate culture the idea that "growth is a prerequisite to everything we do."

Another of the committee's tasks is to suggest a corporate tagline, which

– upon NEC approval – will be used for the foreseeable future in all of our advertisements, letterheads, publications, press releases and so forth as a description of who we are and what we do.

The goal is to adopt a tagline which is so significant that all of the public will recognize it, associate it with The American Legion and know what is our "reason for being." Even though it must be short and pithy, it must be filled with content and phrased in a memorable and catchy way.

You can help us craft an American Legion tagline by submitting your ideas by email. Submissions may be submitted by individuals (membership is not required), Posts, Districts, counties or Departments; there is no limit to the number that may be submitted, but each submission must be contained in a single email. We encourage Departments and

— BRAND, continued on page 2

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is that of Alicia, a homeless, helpless and hopeless veteran who, after going through Monty Roberts' "Join-Up" workshop for veterans, went from living under bridges to earning a scholarship to Harvard where she is studying today to become a psychologist. (See her story at [www.MontyRoberts.com](http://www.MontyRoberts.com))

Terry Tracy, former Marine and Past Dept. of California Service Officer and one of the most knowledgeable people in the state and nation on VA affairs and rehabilitation, said he went to the "Horse Sense & Soldiers" workshop in December extremely skeptical, but "left convinced that Monty Robert's 'join-up' method really does work and is an effective way to help veterans overcome debilitating stress, including PTSD."

Similarly, Jim Banakus, Chairman of the California American Legion Riders Commission, and a personal friend of Monty Roberts, said, "I have seen remarkable progress in the lives of those who have attended several sessions. Even after their first three-day clinic, you can see them starting to come out of the shell they arrived with on Friday morning, to one of learning to trust in themselves again by Sunday afternoon." (See past issues of *California Legionnaire* for more testimonials at [www.calegion.org](http://www.calegion.org))

Legends from other fields are expected to attend the March 22-24 workshop.

One is Matt Lindland, Mixed Martial Arts legend as fighter and coach, former Olympic Silver Medalist in Greco-Roman Wrestling, a founder of the world renown MMA training center Team Quest in Gresham, Oregon and the present Head Coach of the U.S. World [Olympic] Greco Roman Wrestling Team.

Lindland, an MMA great who has done a great deal of volunteer work with troops and veterans, including teaching hand-to-hand combat, said: "I grew up in Eagle Creek in rural Oregon. Monty Roberts was one of my heroes. I think I read all of his books. I am really looking forward to

working with Monty Roberts and the veterans at the 'Horse Sense & Soldiers' workshop, along with my daughter, Robin."

Another is Christi Edelbrock, she of the family whose "Edelbrock" brand name is legendary in the world of hot rodders and high performance cars needing high performance parts. She is an equestrian who has performed at the Olympic level; is an industry leader at Edelbrock; has her own Christi Edelbrock Foundation doing charitable work; and among other things, will be staging her annual Edelbrock "Rev'ed Up For Kids" car show and fundraiser on May 5, 2013, in Torrance, California. (See, [www.Revvedup4kids.com](http://www.Revvedup4kids.com))

"For as long as I have been involved in the equestrian world, competing professionally, I've never seen the kind of professionalism that Monty Roberts consistently demonstrates. What he is contributing to support veterans to overcome stress is nothing less than outstanding," said Christi Edelbrock, who is also the national spokeswoman for Patriot Outreach.

Monty Roberts' remarkable life has been the subject of movies, television documentaries, books, articles and countless media interviews. His autobiography, *The Man Who Listens to Horses*, has sold over 6.5 million copies worldwide in fifteen languages. Altogether, some 10 million of his books have been sold. Yet he remains a man on a mission in his humanitarian work, traveling all over the world more than 300 days a year to teach his "Join-Up" method to gentle horses without violence and to heal veterans, abused and autistic children, battered women and others who have suffered traumatic stress injury. (See [www.montyroberts.com](http://www.montyroberts.com))

I asked him, "Why does he continue to do it at age 77?" He answered, "Since the late 1940s I have stated that my life's goal is 'to leave the world a better place for horses and for people, too.' Veterans returning from combat are not just people but, 'special people'. These are individuals who deserve our assistance if there's

anything we can contribute to their lives."

For all he has contributed to the lives of veterans, The American Legion Department of California Executive Committee will have before it at its meeting March 8-10, 2013, a resolution from District 21 calling for Monty Roberts to be honored at the 2013 California Dept. Convention in Palm Springs in June.

For now, there is an opportunity for veterans and their families to join up with Monty Roberts and his horses at his "Horse Sense & Soldiers" workshop in conjunction with Patriot Outreach and the California Legion, March 22-24, 2013. Register free at [www.Join-Up.Org/veterans](http://www.Join-Up.Org/veterans)

**BRAND, continued from page 1**

Posts to give this information the widest dissemination, as we will do in your national publications. All submissions must be received no later than April 19, 2013, in order to be considered.

The Internal Affairs Commission will be the final reviewer of submissions and will draft a resolution recommending a permanent tagline. The decision of the National Executive Committee is final.

If your tagline is the one recommended to the NEC, and adopted exactly as submitted, you will receive a \$500 check, and a certificate of appreciation plaque signed by the National Commander in recognition of your winning entry. The winning entry will be posted on the Legion website after the NEC meets in mid-May 2013. In the event of duplicate winning entries, the earliest received will be declared the winner.

Remember: April 19, 2013 is the deadline, and the email address is [tagline@legion.org](mailto:tagline@legion.org). Please include your name and phone number on each entry. Only one entry per email submission. All entries will be acknowledged by a return email. Save that return receipt as proof of your submission.



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**PUBLICATION POLICY**

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

**To submit articles and/or photos:** Please e-mail article and any photos attached at a minimum 200 DPI (1600 x 1200) to [calegion@pacific.net](mailto:calegion@pacific.net) or mail prints, negatives or slides to Editor David L. Eby, 9804 Diane Lane, Upper Lake, CA 95485. All submissions become the property of The American Legion Department of California. All submitted material is subject to edit, rework and omission. We are not responsible for lost items or misplaced material.

**Please send "Change of Address" and "Deceased Notifications" to:** email: [kathy@calegion.org](mailto:kathy@calegion.org) or mail to: The American Legion, Department of California, 401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 117, San Francisco, CA 94102-4587

**Do not direct them to the Editor**

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**DoD and VA to scrap electronic health record program**

WASHINGTON – The departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs are scrapping their joint effort to create an Integrated Electronic Health Record (iEHR) system by 2017, after spending about \$1 billion on the project.

Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Secretary Eric Shinseki and Department of Defense (DoD) Secretary Leon Panetta made the announcement February 5 at VA's Central Office here.

The iEHR was previously lauded by VA and DoD as a solution to the ongoing problem of incompatibility between the two departments' electronic health record systems (VA's VISTA and DoD's ALTA).

"We applaud both secretaries for their efforts in trying to develop a truly seamless solution to this problem," said James E. Koutz, National Commander of The American Legion. "But our veterans are the real losers in this decision. Without a joint DoD-VA record that is easy to access, veterans have to ask for copies, and those requests often take months to process."

"We understand the financial constraints that both departments are under," Koutz said. "We're cautiously optimistic about the new plan and eagerly wait to hear more details."

**Do you know someone who may appreciate Membership in The American Legion?**

Mail completed form and dues to:  
The American Legion Department of California  
401 Van Ness Ave Room 117  
San Francisco, California 94102-4587

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

**THE AMERICAN LEGION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

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## FROM THE COMMANDER'S DESK



**Kenneth Kramlich**  
Department  
Commander

I am compelled to address delinquent membership at this point. If you have not renewed your 2013 membership dues by now, you are not considered "a Legionnaire in good standing." We, the California Legion, don't want to lose you as a member of The

American Legion. What can we do to motivate you to renew? What can we do to help? We are all in this together – veterans helping veterans. I am asking each and every Post in the State to reach out to members who have not yet paid their dues. These are very difficult times for us all and maybe some good Legionnaires in your Post cannot afford to pay membership dues this year. Sometimes, it just comes down to putting 'beans and rice' on the table and there's not enough money for the extras. Believe me, I understand.

By the time you receive this article I will have been in Washington, D.C. with Alan Lennox, our NEC man. Hopefully we will get a chance to see our congress people and twist their arms on Veterans Affairs. This is what this trip will be all about. Wish us luck.

During the month of March, I will continue to visit Districts as time permits. I will arrive in Santa Maria on Thursday, March 7 to prepare for Commission meetings and the Spring Department Executive Committee (DEC) meeting. On March 23, I will venture

to the south to visit Area 6 at East Pasadena Post 280, followed by a dinner banquet hosted by the 23rd District at Jackie Robinson Post 252 in Los Angeles. On Sunday, March 24, I will attend an Area 5 meeting at Larry E. Holmberg Post 731 in San Diego. We also have the Fall DEC coming on the 9th and 10th of March in Santa Maria, California. We should talk about Disaster & Relief with what is going on in the country. We have had everything, but an Earthquake in California. Thank God, we didn't have one yet. There are many other items on the agenda that we need to discuss. We will have a visit from a candidate for National Commander in 2014 speaking to us.

As you probably know by now, Department Headquarters will be temporarily relocating in April of this year due to a two-year retrofit project of the War Memorial Building in San Francisco. It is uncertain at this time exactly where Headquarters will be relocated, but that information will be shared with you as soon as possible. Please be patient and cooperative with Headquarters staff during this period. Also, if you have some free time on your hands to assist with the move, I know it would be appreciated. Just contact Department Adjutant, Bill Siler iii or Executive Secretary, Mary Jasinski.

I would like to offer a very special thank you to those of you who were able to attend the Four Chaplains Observance in San Francisco in February. As always, the program was outstanding. Until next time, remember National Commander James Koutz motto, "Every day is Veterans day."



## DEPARTMENT SERVICE OFFICER



**Scott McKee**  
Department  
Service Officer  
VA & R  
Division

As we write about today's veterans let us keep in mind the words of *General of the Armies John Joseph Pershing*: "The point I wish to make is that those things cause the soldier to remember that the people at home are behind him. You do not know how

much that is going to mean to us who are going abroad. You do not know how much that means to any soldier who is over there carrying the flag for his country. That is the point which should be uppermost in the minds of those who are working for the soldier." In our Nation's populace today, are those words true today as they were spoken in WWI? Generally within the confines of Veterans, Patriotic Organizations and at the very heart of those who individually serve the Veterans Administration. However, how are we, as a nation of citizens, remembering our military and veterans?

The need of our veterans is great and yes, greater than the resources rationed by our government. The backlog of veteran's claims has increased as the conflicts in the Middle East continue to groan on and on. Many of our military, active, reserve and guardsmen, have served multiple deployments, and as the state of our world shows will probably deploy again and again. That means we, as an organization, will need to find the resources to meet this challenge. Just as our government, The American Legion has limited resources, which will constantly need resupplying as we care for those who have borne the battle, as well as their dependents. Those of us who serve our veterans as "Affiliates of the Veterans

Administration" will have job security based upon the abundant amount of work coming into our offices. However, without adequate funding we will be limited in what we can do for our present veterans, as well as our future veterans.

Rehabilitation programs in The American Legion have always been a viable asset, by helping veterans with claims and advocacy of veterans' rights. The Department of California sponsors the **Rehab Fund Drive** for the purpose of offsetting expenses incurred in the operation of the Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) division. VA&R consists of thirteen full time employees staffing the three offices. These offices are co-located with Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) regional offices. VA&R also supports a part-time staff at almost every VA medical center and outpatient clinic in California. The mission of the staff is to make veteran's lives easier by providing expert, no-cost representation in VA claims to veterans, their dependents or survivors. But operational costs for the VA&R Division continue to increase, and we've had a serious shortfall for several years. In 2012, the **Rehab Fund Drive** raised **\$221,572.09** of net income. **Unfortunately, we were short on our fund drive net income in 2012 by about \$12,900. We are asking all of you to make sure this isn't a trend and bring in the best year ever in 2013. These necessary funds** offset the VA&R budget of \$948,678. We'd like to have the full amount raised this year to cover the operating costs and hire the help we need. **EVERY DOLLAR DONATED TO THE REHAB FUND DRIVE IS APPLIED TO REHAB. IT DOES NOT GO IN THE DEPARTMENT GENERAL FUND OR ANY OTHER FUND!**

— SVC. OFFICER, continued on page 4



## ADJUTANT'S CORNER



**Bill Siler iii**  
Adjutant

**ROSTER 2012-13 CHANGES:** If you see in the Department Roster that your address and/or telephone number is wrong, please let me know ASAP. I am making up a "Roster Correction List" to send out to those who received a roster. The changes will also be in the March Mailing. Addresses and telephone numbers are taken from the National Membership Database for California. To check to see if your information is correct, please do the following: Go online to **www.mylegion.org**

1. Click on "Members click here".
2. Get started (new or already a member)
3. Click on "Edit my profile" if any of your information is incorrect.
4. Then change incorrect information.

**IRS AGAIN:** A law still requires small American Legion Posts – those with annual gross receipts of \$50,000.00 or less to electronically file Form 990-N (e-Postcard) with the Internal Revenue Service each year. If those Posts do not file the form or a regular Form 990, they face losing their Tax-Exempt Status. So for American Legion Posts, the words "may be required to file" can be exchanged for "MUST file."

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

The State of California has changed their law starting with the Tax Filing for 2012 and starting with the year 2013. It has increased the annual gross receipts to \$50,000.00 or less instead of the \$25,000.00 limit they have used up until



## DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN



**Bishop Earl Frazier**  
Department  
Chaplain

"Freedom OF Religion", not "Freedom FROM Religion". This statement pretty much sums up the current situation facing the free expression of religion in America today. Religion has always been a part of American life.

The Pilgrims came to America seeking to practice their faith without being persecuted, harassed or denied their faith beliefs. Others followed later looking for new opportunities and freedom from the turbulent times of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The writings of our Founding Fathers show that religion and faith were a part of their everyday lives.

General George Washington asked the Continental Congress to authorize the position of chaplain for the Continental Army so that he could have an ordained minister attend to the morale and wellbeing of the his troops as they endured many hardships, from bitter cold winters to being unable to return home to harvest crops.

When the Constitution of the United States was ratified, there was a call for amendments to address issues not clarified in the Constitution. Thus ten amendments were approved and added to the Constitution to address delegates' concerns. We know them as the "Bill of Rights". Amendment 1 reads: "Amendment 1 – Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the

now. The electronic file form FTB 199-N (California e-Postcard) must be filed with the California Franchise Tax Board or the Form 199 if the Post's Annual Gross Receipts are OVER \$50,000.00.

**REMEMBER:** The Federal e-Postcard is Form 990-N. The California e-Postcard is FTB 199-N.

**REMINDER:** The American Legion "Officers Guide and Manual of Ceremonies" is your guide to The American Legion. It also contains the National Constitution and Bylaws of The American Legion, Membership Qualifications, How to run a Post meeting and many more useful things that have to do with The American Legion.

The "Officers Guide and Manual of Ceremonies" has already been sent to all Posts in the Department of California, along with a Department Roster and "Post Service Officers Guide".

If you go on the Internet to the National Website: **www.legion.org** and to the Department Website: **www.calegion.org** you will find a lot of manuals, brochures and forms that can be downloaded at no cost to you. Take some time and explore these two websites. You will be glad that you did explore the websites.

Please mark the following dates on your calendars:

DEC – March 9-10, 2013 in Santa Maria  
Legislative Day – May 1, 2013 at the State Capitol in Sacramento

Department Convention – June 28-30, 2013 in Palm Springs

The last word is that the Department of California is still moving to a temporary location from the War Memorial Building, so the building can go through a two-year retrofit and remodel. We are still supposed to be moving out of the building sometime in April 2013. Our new address will be: 205 13th Street, Suite 3300, San Francisco, CA 94103-2461.

free exercise thereof (emphasis added); or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

After World War II, the world was beset by Communism. Communism stated that religion was false and suppressed in communist countries. Our response was to add "under God" to our Pledge of Allegiance to counter the godlessness of Communist propaganda. Families went to synagogue on Saturdays and to church on Sundays. We were taught that the United States of America was a democratic republic, governed by elected representatives and that the majority ruled.

Yet, starting in the latter part of the twentieth century, challenges to religious expression have mounted to where today, individuals and minority groups, through the courts, have repeatedly tried to remove any mention of God or religion from our daily lives. "In God We Trust" on coins, "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance, no public expression of religion of any kind lest we offend someone (being "politically correct"). This is not the America I grew up in and remember.

Wherever we go we should always express our religious faith and ideals. Invocations and benedictions at public meetings, grace before and after meals, praying for our country, leaders, troops, veterans and families, whenever and wherever we gather together. This is part of our American heritage and why we say in The American Legion "For God and Country".





## NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN



Al Lennox  
National Executive  
Committeeman

Un Fortunately, there is not much to report between this month's article and last month's. However, I would like to reiterate that the role as National Executive Committeeman first and foremost is a fiduciary relationship responsibility as a director with the National American Legion.

Second is the responsibility to report to the California Legionnaires the events that transpire at the NEC Convention. During these events an abundance of information in regards to the happenings of The American Legion across the nation is relayed to the National Executive Committee. I strongly feel that it is my responsibility to relay this information across our state.

I received positive feedback up and down the state after the last report, and will continue to help disseminate the

information from NEC as I receive it.

Finally, another important role of the NEC Committeeman is to take mandates to and from National to the Department.

If you undertake NEC with the mission of completing all three of these responsibilities, it is a significant role with significant responsibility. I will continue to do the best as time and ability will allow. I would like to thank you all for your continued support as I work on accomplishing these tasks.

The next NEC event is legislative week in Washington D.C. at the end of February. I will report the significant happenings of the week shortly after I return.

Once I have returned from the National Executive Committee meetings, I will be traveling around the state visiting Area and District meetings to disseminate the information that I glean from the weeklong meeting. If you are interested in me stopping by your meeting, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to these visitations in the spring and summer. Thank you.



## DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN



Gary Leach  
Department  
Parliamentarian

### When the Chair Affects the Outcome of a Vote

If the presiding officer (the Chair) is a member of the assembly, he can vote as any other member when the vote is by ballot. In all other cases the Chair, if a member of the assembly, can (but is not obliged to) vote whenever his vote will affect the outcome – that is, he can vote either to break or to cause a tie; or, in a case where a two-thirds vote is required, he can vote either to cause or to block the attainment of the necessary two-thirds. In particular, if a motion requires a simple majority and the vote is tied, the motion fails, since a tie is not a majority. In this case, the Chair can vote in the affirmative, break the tie and the motion

will pass. If the affirmative votes exceed the negative votes by one, the Chair could vote in the negative, thereby creating a tie and defeating the motion. The vote of the Chair can perform a similar function in a case where a two-thirds majority is required.

In an appeal from the decision of the Chair, a tie vote would sustain the chair, even if the Chair created the tie, because a majority is required to overrule the Chair and, as previously stated, a tie is not a majority.

It is important to note that the Chair cannot vote twice; once as a member, then again as the presiding officer. Also, the Chair, if a member of the assembly, can always vote in the case of a ballot vote at the time other members do. But should he fail to vote before the polls close, he cannot then do so without the permission of the assembly.



## DEPARTMENT JUDGE ADVOCATE



Robert Carolan  
Department  
Judge Advocate

In 2011 the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) issued Revenue Procedure (Rev Pro) 2011-36, which impacted all of our American Legion entities. It was the Automatic Revocation of Tax-Exempt Status aimed at making

all of our Posts, etc. file annual information returns of the 990 series. Many of our Posts and some of our Districts had fallen into this loss of tax-exempt status. The deadline to remedy this situation and regain our tax-exempt status has passed. It was December 31, 2012.

The question now is what to do if we missed this deadline. I have checked the IRS website and there is still no guidance. We must still wait. In the meantime, use caution when accepting gifts from donors who expect a tax deduction. MAKE SURE YOUR ORGANIZATION IS TAX-EXEMPT. I may not have mentioned it before, but a simple phone call to the IRS will suffice. The number to call is 1-877-829-5500. You will need your correct organization name and your EIN.

After a few months on this job I realize that most of the work can become routine and mundane. There are questions about Bylaws, line of communication (chain of command), Legion vs. bar operations, taxable income, Trial Manual, Post operations, Robert's Rules of Order (God forbid), requirements of Department and National, insurance coverage and many more questions – where some questions can be answered in the Officer's Manual. There are also some more complicated cases, which require

much more effort. Legal opinions I leave to the attorneys, but sometimes I like to digress when I see something worthy and good about The American Legion and as such I hope our Editor, PDC Dave Eby, will grant me this license to add the following story:

Yesterday as I was reading *The Current*, a weekly newspaper for Newport Beach and Costa Mesa, an article caught my eye: IRAQI WAR VETERAN REVIVES COSTA MESA AMERICAN LEGION POST. Most of our members outside of the 29th District would not understand this heading. But Costa Mesa Post 455 has been relatively dormant for 10-15 years. Many of us have tried to assist in its revival, but have not had much luck. Costa Mesa Police Dept. Sgt. Vic Bakkila even recruited his father to help him keep Post 455 alive. This article reports from the Costa Mesa City Council Meeting this week that a 32-year-old Iraqi War veteran and former US Marine was addressing the Council. Gabriel Corona, a full-time student at local Vanguard University and new Commander of Post 455 stated, "I appreciate all the support you have given to veterans in welcoming us back home." After that, city council members asked the City CFO to report back on the status of Veteran's Hall, which was overtaken by the Police Dept.

I called 29th District Commander Steve Spriggs to confirm what I had just read. Steve told me it was all correct. This Post is fully alive and working and has reached 100% of membership quota. He will recommend to his District that Post 455 be taken off of probation and report such to the next DEC Meeting. News like this boosts all of us volunteers.



## DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER REPRESENTING AREA 2



Greg Corrales  
Department Vice  
Commander  
Representing Area 2

January 16, 2013 found me at San Leandro Post 117, which was hosting the District 10 meeting. The meeting was preceded by an outstanding dinner consisting of epicurean delights and mouth-watering morsels, which frolicked across our taste buds. At the conclusion of dinner, District

10 Commander Ed Castillo conducted a very efficient District meeting. I was very fortunate to view the District 10 Oratorical competition. Six very squared-away young men and women participated in the competition. I am very glad that I wasn't one of the judges. They had a very difficult job, as all six contestants were outstanding. I was reminded of the words of Franklin D. Roosevelt when he stated, "We cannot always build the future for our youth,

but we can build our youth for the future."

I attended the Convention 2014 meeting in Santa Clara on January 26, 2013. It was a great meeting and great strides were made. We are confident that many Area 2 Legionnaires will step forward and volunteer to do their part in making the 2014 Department Convention in Santa Clara a huge success.

We had a full day on February 2, 2013. The Four Chaplains service in San Francisco's St. Mary's Cathedral was, as always, very moving. There are too many people that worked very hard to make the ceremony a success for me to name them all, but I must commend MJ for her planning, her energy and her "take charge" attitude. She really got things done! Later the same evening, my wife and I attended the District 9 crab feed in Martinez. It was a great evening of outstanding food, wonderful comradeship and, of course, serious Legion business. God Bless America!



## DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER REPRESENTING AREA 3



Richard L. Kearns  
Department Vice  
Commander  
Representing Area 3

Hope everybody had a nice holiday season and survived the nasty flu.

I attended a dinner at Amador Post 108 and a luncheon the next day at Post 509-Fresno during the National Commander's visit to California. Events were well attended and they had good programs. Saturday, January

5th, I attended the 14th District meeting in Clovis and watched parts of the Post oratorical contest. These young people are very impressive.

Saturday, January 12 was the Area 3 meeting at Modesto Post 74 with the Department Membership Director among the many guests. Also visiting was Department Commander candidate Joe Garcia and his wife

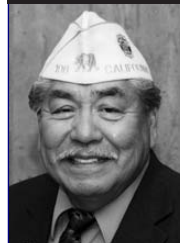
who were on their way to Travis Air Force Base for an Auxiliary meeting. The end of January found us on the road to Brawley to attend the 5th Area meeting and other scheduled festivities. It was 585 miles one way for us, but there were a lot of dignitaries and visitations there. Great weekend and lots of fun.

February began by attending the Department's Four Chaplains Day services, which were very impressive. I attended local services before, but nothing this great.

On a sad note, Area 3 is no longer in 1st Place with membership; with a little more effort I think, or rather I know, we can move up again. The next Area 3 meeting will be at Karl Ross Post 16-Stockton on Saturday, April 13. The meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. with a PCC meeting at 9:15 a.m.; it should be noted that Area 3 meetings are for one day only. Feel free to come join us.



## DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER REPRESENTING AREA 5



Frank H. Granado  
Department Vice  
Commander  
Representing Area 5

Happy Valentine's Day, Comrades!

On January 26-27, 2013, the 5th Area Meeting was held at American Legion Post 60 in Brawley, California. The chili cook-off held on the 26th was a success – everyone who attended had a great time. Over \$700 was raised

for veterans' rehab. A hospitality hour was held for Department Commander candidate Joseph Garcia and Bill Reed candidate for Department Sgt.-at-Arms on Saturday. On Friday, the Post served a great steak dinner and on Saturday night, they had a fundraiser for Joseph Garcia – a dinner of tacos, tostadas, beans and rice were served.

At the Sunday meeting, both candidates were endorsed by the 5th Area. In attendance was

## Scouting Commission

Marvin Levy, Chairman  
llevy118@aol.com

Eagle Scout of the Year and Scout Camporee Applications are at the [www.calegion.org](http://www.calegion.org) website under Scouting.

The American Legion Department of California Scout Camporee will be

held August 16-18, 2013.

Be Prepared to Attend. California Scout Commission Breaking Ground to also implement the Girl Scouts, for the "GSA Gold Scout of the Year Award". The California Scouting Commission would also like to have the Ladies Auxiliary and all Posts to help with this project.



## SONS OF TAL – COMMANDER DETACHMENT OF CALIFORNIA



Mark L. Smith,  
Commander

On February 2nd we attended the Four Chaplains Ceremony at St. Mary's Cathedral in my hometown of San Francisco. It was more than I imagined and I was even asked to participate in a small part at the end of it.

Ms. Mary Jasinski was very impressive in her handling of the event and the social afterwards. This event goes on my list of so-called "must do's" or "should do" when you are a regular volunteer in our organization(s).

1. Regularly attend your Squadron Meetings and actively be a part of your Squadron's activities.
2. If you are in a Certified District, attend their meetings. If not, plan how to form your District.
3. Go to at least one State Convention; they rotate between all six Areas of the State of California.
4. Plan to go to at least one National Convention; they rotate between the five Regions of the U.S.
5. Go to a National Executive Committee session held twice a year in Indianapolis – impressive!
6. Attend the annual Legislative Day sponsored by the Legion held at the Capitol in Sacramento.
7. Go to the barbecue at the Veterans Home in Yountville; then watch some Legion Baseball.
8. Riverside National Cemetery – Anything I would try to say wouldn't describe it properly enough.
9. Any Veterans Home – there are several and two new ones waiting for funding to open the doors.
10. And now...the Four Chaplains Ceremony at St. Mary's Cathedral held in San Francisco...do it!

As with any list, it is not possible for everyone to do, but over my twenty years in the Sons of The American Legion, I have managed to do all of these events and numbers two through ten in just the last five years. It has been a great time for my wife, Molly and I to do most of the list together and as most of you know, we now have our dog, "Buddy" traveling with us in places where he is allowed to go with us. We enjoy every minute of it.

Keep the transmittals flowing, so that we can keep making our National Membership target dates happen and we'll see you in Santa Maria for the DEC; then we get ready for the Convention in Palm Springs!

## The American Legion Riders Department of California

### Official Call to 7th Annual American Legion Riders

### Department of California Convention

### April 12-14, 2013 – Amador, California

To all Chapters of The American Legion Riders Department of California; American Legion Riders Department of California Executive Committee Members; American Legion Riders Department of California Past Presidents, All Past Department Presidents and Past Department Secretaries.

Pursuant to Article VIII of the American Legion Riders Department of California, the 7th Annual American Legion Riders Department of California Convention will be held Friday through Sunday, April 12-14, 2013 in Sutter Creek, California hosted by American Legion Amador Post 108 at 11350 American Legion Drive, Sutter Creek, CA 95685.

The Convention will be convened at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 13, 2013 at the Amador Post 108. A copy of the 7th Annual Call and Convention Operating Rules may be obtained from The American Legion Riders Department of California website and at <http://alrdocjag.blogspot.com/>

The 7th Annual Convention shall be convened for the following purposes: 1. To complete all business of The American Legion Riders Department of California for 2013-2014. 2. To consider and vote on all resolutions, which are properly presented to the Department Secretary. 3. To adopt a Budget for fiscal year 2013-2014. 4. To consider and act upon all other business of The American Legion Riders Department of California properly presented to the Delegates of the 7th Annual Convention. 5. To elect a Department President and all other positions of the Department Executive Committee for the ensuing year 2013-2014. Elections shall take place on Sunday, April 14, 2013 at Amador Post 108.

### Department Executive Committee Meetings:

The Pre-Convention DEC Meeting will be held on Friday, April 12, 2013 at 5:30 p.m. at Amador American Legion Post 108. The Post-Convention DEC Meeting will convene one hour after the close of the 7th Annual Convention at Amador American Legion Post 108.

Delegates to the Convention shall be allotted in accordance with the provisions of Article VIII of the Department Bylaws.

### Registration:

Chapters must elect delegates and alternates to the Convention before March 14, 2013. The Delegate Certification Form, a copy of the Chapter's current Bylaws, Chapter Certification Form, Membership Roster and Delegate Fees must be received by the Department Secretary at the address printed on the Delegate Certification Form, no later than March 19, 2013. There are no exceptions to this rule. The Delegate Certification Form must be authenticated and signed by the Chapter President and the Chapter Secretary.

Check in for Delegates and Alternates will open on Friday, April 12, 2013 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Saturday, April 13, 2013 from 7:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m.; and Sunday April 14, 2013 from 8:00 a.m. to 8:45 a.m.

Credentials will only be issued to properly certified and paid delegates. All Convention Delegates and Alternate Delegates must possess a valid and current 2013 American Legion Membership Card, American Legion Auxiliary Membership Card or Sons of The American Legion Membership Card and must show their Membership Card when registering. All Delegates and Alternate Delegates must display their Convention Identification Credentials while on the floor of the Convention while the Convention is in session.



## Newly Engaged!

Bill Siler III and Donna Scott

### AREA 5, continued from page 5

Department Commander Ken Kramlich, Adjutant Bill Siler III, Sgt.-at-Arms Anthony Guerrero, NEC man Al Lennox, Alt. NEC man Bobby Brown, Judge Advocate Bob Carolan, Department Membership Director Janet Wilson, Department Service Officer Scott McKee and Department Commander's Aide Marilyn Rideaux.

I want to thank all my area's District Commanders and 1st Vice Commanders for doing a great job on their membership and all their programs. It has been a hard year for everyone and thanks to all officers in the area.

As of January 31, 2013 membership for the 5th Area stands at 83.61%. That puts

us in 3rd Place. District 21 is at 80.01%, District 22 is at 83.12%, District 25 is at 82.45%, District 29 is at 87.89% and District 30 is at 85.01%.

In February, I will be attending the oratorical contest at AL Post 112-Ontario, the Boy Scout dinner at AL Post 777-San Bernardino and the Veterans Rehab dinner at AL Post 422-Rialto.

Memorial services for Past Department Sgt.-at-Arms and Past Alt. NEC man Chuck Neimeyer will be held at AL Post 106 Redlands, California on February 8, 2013.

For God and Country – God Bless the Legion Family and all troops who are protecting our freedom and God Bless America.

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Complete details of the coverage are contained in accident only Master Policy LIT102002 underwritten by Life Insurance Company of North America. This plan is not available in all states.

\*For Purposes of the Legionnaire Insurance Trust, a member of The American Legion, with current year's dues paid, could be eligible for the \$5,000 Accidental Death benefit if he/she is traveling to, attending, or returning from an official function at which the Legionnaire represents his/her Post, District, Department, or National Organization in an official capacity.

## Former Californian gets Medal of Honor for valor in Afghanistan

By Michael Muskal, Los Angeles Times

A former Californian was awarded the nation's highest military honor on Monday for his efforts against a 2009 Taliban attack on his Afghanistan outpost that U.S. officials have described as tactically indefensible.

Former Staff Sgt. Clinton Romesha, 31, received the Medal of Honor from President Obama during a nationally televised ceremony Monday (Feb. 11, 2013). Romesha is the fourth living recipient who fought in Iraq or Afghanistan. Seven others who fought in those conflicts have received the medal posthumously.

Romesha grew up in Lake City in Northern California, near the Oregon border, and now lives in Minot, North Dakota, with his wife and three children, all of whom attended Monday's ceremony. Obama joked how Romesha's youngest child had run around the Oval Office, sampling apples.

"We're so glad that you're here, along with your three beautiful children – Dessi, Gwen and Colin," Obama said. "Colin is not as shy as Clint. He was in the Oval Office, and he was racing around pretty good and sampled a number of the apples before he found the one that was just right."

Now involved with oil field safety, Romesha was a troop section leader in the 4th Brigade Combat Team of the 4th Infantry Division when the Taliban attacked his Combat Outpost Keating in an area near the Pakistan border beginning at 6 a.m. Oct. 3, 2009.

"Combat Outpost Keating was a collection of buildings of concrete and plywood with trenches and sandbags," Obama said. "Of all the outposts in Afghanistan, Keating was among the most remote. It sat at the bottom of a steep valley, surrounded by mountains – terrain that a later investigation said gave 'ideal' cover for insurgents to attack. COP Keating, the investigation found, was 'tactically indefensible.' But that's what these soldiers were asked to do – defend the indefensible."

"These men were outnumbered, outgunned and almost overrun," the president said during the ceremony, adding: "Our troops should never, ever, be put in a position where they have to defend the indefensible."

Eight of the 53 U.S. soldiers at the out-

post were killed in the firefight. Many in the audience were seen weeping as Obama read the names of the fallen. Twenty-two soldiers were wounded, including Romesha, who received shrapnel from a rocket-propelled grenade. At a news conference last month, Romesha dismissed his wounds.

"I've had buddies that have lost eyesight and lost limbs," Romesha said at that news conference, held after Obama notified the former soldier of his award. "I would rather give them all the credit they deserve for sacrificing so much. For me it was nothing, really. I got a little peppered, that was it."

Even though he was wounded, Romesha continued to kill enemy soldiers, recovered his fallen comrades and led operations for the counterattack, according to the account of the day's action. Officially, Romesha is credited with directly killing more than 10 enemy fighters, about 30 more with indirect fire and leading other U.S. troops to kill at least five more.

"His heroic actions allowed B Troop to reconsolidate on the combat outpost and enabled him to lead the counterattack that secured" the outpost, according to the Army's official narrative.

Romesha served two tours in Iraq as well as his time in Afghanistan. He left the Army in 2011.

In his book, "The Outpost: An Untold Story of American Valor," CNN anchor Jake Tapper described the battle.

"Everything was just about his buddies and trying to save his fellow soldiers and trying to do everything he could, literally everything he could, at great risk to his own life over and over," Tapper told the *Associated Press*. "He's still very broken up about how he couldn't save everyone. He saved lives that day, without question, but eight of the guys died that day and that still tears him up."

Obama described the fight as "one of the most intense battles of the entire war in Afghanistan."

"And if you seek a measure of that day," he said later in the ceremony of those who fought, "you need to look no further than the medals and ribbons that grace their chests – for their sustained heroism, 37 Army Commendation Medals; for their wounds, 27 Purple Hearts; for their valor, 18 Bronze Stars; for their gallantry, nine Silver Stars."

## VA & R Challenge Coins

### Ways and Means Commission

Bill Clapp – Area 4 Commissioner

First, I would like to thank all who have made donations so far to the VA&R Challenge Coin program. We are well on our way to achieving our goal of \$10,000. We still have coins available (600), and you can still get your coin(s). Just send your check (\$15 per coin), payable to either the Department of California or to me, Bill Clapp. Please add (\$3.00) three dollars for shipping and handling. Mail your check to: Bill Clapp, 4422 Canehill Avenue, Lakewood, CA 90713.

As soon as I receive your donation, I will get your coin(s) in the mail to you. I will have Challenge Coins available at the upcoming DEC in March. If you



Get your VA & R Challenge Coin TODAY!

would like to reserve a coin, please email me at [clappbill@yahoo.com](mailto:clappbill@yahoo.com) and I will reserve your coin.

Thanks in advance for your donations, and I'm hoping everyone has a happy and prosperous New Year.

## Baseball Commission

Harold Hall, Chairman

With springtime coming, it is time to think baseball! Again – we will play our state tournaments at the Yountville Veterans Home.

Senior tournament is July 27-30, 2013. Junior tournament is August 3-6, 2013. We trust you will come out and watch our many players and visit with the Veterans Home members.

## YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE



Barbara Ross  
Program  
Coordinator  
916-798-3317  
[ross4834@comcast.net](mailto:ross4834@comcast.net)

### California's "Premier" Youth Program

We hope that you have not forgotten California's "Premier" Youth Program – the only one of its kind in the nation! For those Posts, Auxiliaries, Chapters, Squads, Chapters, Squads, Chapters, Squads that would like to make sure this one-of-a-kind program continues, please send your checks payable to American Legion Youth Environmental Leadership Conference to P.O. Box 601464, Sacramento, CA 95860.

It's really disheartening to know that some of our Posts are pretty wealthy and do not even sponsor a student. Why doesn't everyone support this premier "California" program? There should be

at least one person in each District who knows what the program is about. There are six Area Chairmen of the Agriculture and Natural Resources Commission who, hopefully, can answer your questions and concerns.

But, if all else fails, drop me an email and I'll answer any questions you have... or talk to reps from Posts who sponsor 2, 3 or 4 students every year because they know the value of the program. I can refer you to the person in those Posts who hear the students' reports every year and who can confirm that it's \$350 to \$415 per student that you'll be glad you spent.

Dates for 2013 are May 17-20, 2013. All forms are available at the Department website at [www.calegion.org](http://www.calegion.org) under the Agriculture and Natural Resources Commission or forms page.

## Record-Breaking Federal Benefits Payments to Veterans

Thanks to the efforts of the California County Veterans Service Officers (CVSOs), tens of thousands of California veterans are getting the federal benefits they've earned through their military service. In fact, during Fiscal Year 2011-2012, CVSOs set a new veterans benefits record by garnering \$346,727,459 in benefit payments which are paid directly to qualifying veterans. That accomplishment bests the previous fiscal year's total by nearly 6%.

"The partnership between CalVet and the CVSOs is critical to the ability of each to effectively reach and assist California veterans and their families," said Secretary Peter J. Gravett. "Besides improving the lives of families, the dollars veterans benefits bring into the State improve local communities, as well. We appreciate the work the CVSOs

do and congratulate them on their steadily increasing benefit payment numbers."

State and federal veterans benefits, available to everyone honorably discharged from the U.S. military, include disability compensation and pension payments, healthcare, money for education and training, housing, home loans and many others. Unlike Social Security, veterans' benefits must be applied for individually. The CVSOs are trained, accredited professionals located in each county who help veterans and their families navigate the complex and often frustrating benefit application processes. By law, this service is provided at no cost to the veterans.

For a list of County Veterans Service Offices in California, go to [www.cacvso.org](http://www.cacvso.org) and click on Contact Us.

**WELCOME HOME Vietnam Veterans Day**

**VETERANS OF ALL ERAS WELCOME**

"SPONSORED BY" Central Coast

**MARCH 30th 2013** 11:00AM - 4:00PM

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Join US for a GOOD DAY at

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# American Legion Auxiliary

Department of California

See us on the Web at [www.calegionaux.org](http://www.calegionaux.org)

*Empowering Women – Inspiring Communities*



## DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT



**Terry Mikesell**  
Department  
President  
Your Wizard  
530-221-6248  
[stevebow@c-zone.net](mailto:stevebow@c-zone.net)

Our year is coming to a close and it is the dreaded time of reporting. Have you completed your report forms yet? If not please complete them and get them to the appropriate chairman. Do you need a form or help with a report? Just contact the appropriate chairman and she will provide you with whatever information that you need.

The Leprechauns are doing a great job on membership! If you have not renewed, please send your dues into your Units; we need the strength in our membership to make a difference in the lives of active duty military and our Veterans. The head leprechaun does not want to take baskets to the National Convention to pay off her bets, so please send in those dues. I am not sure what the area bets are for Convention, but hearing the losing area sing at Mid-Year was a real treat, and so was seeing so many Units receive certificates for reaching goals. Check out the pictures on the website.

Our Mid-Year meeting was held at Travis AFB. District 6 did a great job on all accounts; thank you, ladies. The Legion Commander Ken Kramlich, Adjutant Bill Siler, Legion NEC Al Lennox and Past National Commander Bruce Thiesen also graced us with their presence and words

of wisdom; thank you, gentlemen. Our most distinguished guest was our National President Peggy Thomas. We were also graced with the attendance of our National Vice President Nancy Brown Park and our honorary Junior President, Talia Avina.

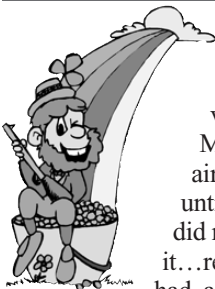
By the end of this year we will be in our new temporary location and we hope that the transition goes smoothly. Get those donations in now, so there is no confusion about the book of reports showing the correct information. Please adhere to all deadline dates and get your paperwork in as soon as possible.

We are also gearing up for our Poppy distribution, along with a multitude of other events that so many Units and Districts are planning. We would like to have a great turnout for Junior Conference; the committee has been working hard to prepare for this event. At this time, we have invited the Western Division National Vice President to attend. If you don't already know, Girls State will be the week before Convention. I hope to see a lot of you at Convention in Palm Springs; District 21 will be hosting us. Preferred housing forms have already been distributed, so please let Stella know if you are not using your reservation form.

The ladies of California are so impressive with their good works and the countless hours and money that goes in support of our Veterans and their families. Thanks to each and every one of you for being so hospitable during this past year; I sincerely appreciate it.

## MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

**Danielle White**



What a joyous time we had at the DEC meeting in Travis Air Force Base. Membership was in the air and will remain so until Convention. If you did not attend, you missed it...really missed it. We had a great attendance for our membership payoff party. Awards were presented to the first ten (10) 100% Units with a 100% pin, and the (13) early bird Units received a blue and gold ribbon, along with a beautiful scarf made by Ruby Kapsalis. Congratulations to these Units for their hard work and determination to make their Unit's goal!!!!

We presented (153) certificates to Units that met Milestone one – 55% by November 14, 2013, Milestone two – 70% (98 units), Milestone 3a – 80% (44 units), Milestone 3b (85%), Milestone 4 – 100% (29 units), Milestone 5 100%+2 members (18) units. DISTRICTS: Milestone one – 55% (13 districts), Milestone two – 70% (2 districts). A total of 433 certificates were presented. Leprechauns, you are amazing and Leprechaun Danielle loves you!!

REMEMBER: MILESTONE 3A – 80% by March 19, 2013 Certificates will be issued! REMEMBER those Department and National Awards – it's time to get busy to be eligible for both. You will again receive a copy of the awards in your March bulletin; these awards listings were given at the beginning of the year. Keep

on climbing the rainbow, many Units are on their way to the "Pot of Gold". Leprechauns, YOU CAN DO IT! With our current membership standing of 73.39%, "Ain't no stopping us now!"

**LISTED ARE THE GOLD UNITS:**  
D4: Vernon Jewel Danely Unit 218-103.6%, D5: San Anselma Unit 179-104.55%, James McDermott Unit 172-103.9%, McFall Grisham Unit 249-103.17%, D14: Squaw Valley Unit 621-108.33%, D15: Leslie L Robinson Unit 213-100%, D16: Santa Barbara Unit 49-111.76%, Paso Robles Unit 50-106.25%, San Luis Obispo Unit 66-103.85%, D18: San Dimas Unit 475-100%, D19: Gilbert W Lindsay Unit 352-108.70%, Lakewood Unit 496-100%, Lincoln Village Unit 833-104.88%, D20: Eagle Rock Unit 276-100%, D21: Herman Granadas Unit 739-111.76%, D22: Dewitt Mitchell Unit 201-112.50%, Pacific Beach Unit 552-106.45%, SGT Allan Walker Unit 619-104.65%, D25: Ontario Unit 112-209.09%, Apple Valley Unit 256-103.45%, Richard Arnold Griffith Unit 324-110.77%, Hesperia Unit 725-118.52%, D26: George Tadlock Unit 472 E Unit-100%, D27: Inyo Unit 118-106%, Mt. Whitney Unit 265-100%, Boron Unit 636-112.50%, D28: San Benito Unit 69-207.69%, D29: Anaheim Unit 72-101.47% and Leisure World Unit 327-101.09%.

YOU, TOO, CAN BE IN THAT NUMBER... WE ARE THE LEPRECHAUNS!

**Danielle White**  
[dara3154@hotmail.com](mailto:dara3154@hotmail.com)  
760-873-5839

## RESOLUTIONS

**Margaret Quinones, Chairman**



Department President Terry Mikesell's theme "Magical Mystical Fantasy" is proving to be a fun one. The Resolutions Chairmen are the "Magic Wands" as they "wave" with thoughtful care over proposed changes in the procedure and policy of our organization in a way that will enhance Madam President's vision for the future of our great Department.

The Constitution, Bylaws, Standing Rules and Code are living documents and as such, are open to change. Any change must be accomplished by way of a systematic approach leading to a consensus of the general membership. Resolutions are a form of presenting recommendations for changes in policy or procedure. They should be concise and deal with only one subject. An attempt to deal with more than one subject is both complicated and confusing. If you are planning to submit a resolution to the Department Convention Body, keep it simple. Before you start, ask

yourself the following questions: Will this action be feasible? Will it benefit the entire membership or just a few? Is it affordable? If your answers are yes, then by all means, submit your resolution.

There are two parts to a resolution. The Preamble, which consists of the "Whereas" Clause, comes first. In deciding how many "Whereas" Clauses a resolution should have – in general – the fewer you have, the better. The Resolve Clause is the intent or simply put, it states what you want to accomplish by this change.

Resolutions must be typed on the official form, in triplicate, double-spaced and signed before they are sent to the Department Office. Please do not mail resolutions to me. Strict deadline dates must be adhered to: April 9, 2013 for resolutions pertaining to the Constitution/Bylaws; April 24 for finance; May 9, 2013 for other matters. Exact details and further information can be found in the Department Constitution, Article IV, Section 4. A form and information will also be mailed out by the Department Office.

**Margaret Quinones**  
Tel: 626-962-4605  
[Amquinones241@verizon.net](mailto:Amquinones241@verizon.net)

## HONORARY JUNIOR PRESIDENT

**Talia Avina, Town Crier**



We just completed a Junior workshop in Corona. Diane Delashmit, Department Leadership

Chairman, did a great job and we received some great information that we will definitely be using. Thanks to all the juniors who attended. A big thank you to Joe Domingues of Unit 742 for hosting and donating lunch.

We are just a couple of months away from Junior Conference. I hope that we have a good turnout. I also have a challenge out; any Junior that brings a new junior (who has never been to a Junior Conference) will receive a special gift from me. We also have a special guest that will be spending the weekend with us.

Looking forward to seeing all of you there. Don't forget! I have promised the Department President that we are going to "ROCK THE CASTLE".

## CONVENTION CHAIRMAN

**Estella Avina**

The Palm Springs Convention Committee is getting the Kingdom Castle ready to go for our Auxiliary Department Convention. We hope that you are all planning to attend. The reservation forms have been handed out and we hope that you will send them in as soon as you can. This is a beautiful hotel, and I know that you will be very happy that all of the Convention activities are in the Hotel, so you will not need to go

out into the heat of Palm Springs.

We do have a standby list for those who would like to stay at the headquarters hotel, but are not on the Preferred Housing list. Just call me at 928-649-3027 or email me at [avinahotgram@aol.com](mailto:avinahotgram@aol.com) and as soon as rooms are available, you will be contacted.

Look forward to seeing all of you in Palm Springs!

## Pauline Angleman's 104th Birthday Celebration



**Pauline Angleman**

On October 4th, Department Secretary Peggy Voegel and Membership Clerk Julie Nordman attended Auxiliary member Pauline Angleman's 104th birthday party.

The salmon and

beef dinner was put on jointly by both the Twin Cities Post and Unit 313. A poem was written for Pauline and many stories were told by members and family. The event ended with a presentation of a red, white and blue cake that had an image of Pauline on the top as Queen that she is.

We are all looking forward to Pauline's 105th party next year.





# "Magical Mystical Fantasy" "Veterans, Our Biggest Treasure"



## ★ ★ ★ DEPARTMENT SECRETARY/ TREASURER



**Peggy Vogele**  
Department  
Secretary/  
Treasurer

**Call to the 94th Annual Department of California Convention**  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY Department of California  
401 Van Ness Avenue, Room 113  
San Francisco, CA 94102-4586  
(415) 861-5092 FAX (415) 861-8365  
E-mail: calegionaux@calegionaux.org

The Annual Convention, to be held at Palm Springs, California on June 27-30, 2013, is hereby called for the

purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year, amending Department Constitution and Bylaws, receiving reports of Department Officers, Chairmen and their committees and for the transaction of other such business as may be brought before the delegate body.

**Representation** – The annual Convention shall be composed of regularly elected and appointed Department Officers, District Presidents, Past Department Presidents in good standing in their respective Units, chairmen of Department committees, members of the Department Finance Committee, Girls State Director, Junior Conference Director, Hospital Representatives and regularly elected delegates and alternates from each Unit. Each Unit shall be entitled to two (2) delegates and two (2) alternates for charter and one (1) additional delegate and one (1) alternate for each seventy-five (75) members or major fraction thereof, paid up in Department Headquarters forty-five (45) days prior to the opening of Department Convention. The vote of each Unit shall be equal to the total number of delegates to which the Unit is entitled, provided full registration fee has been paid for such delegates at the call of the Department Secretary/Treasurer prior to pre-Convention caucus (Article IV, Section 2. Department Constitution).

Delegates in Their Own Right-Department Officers (President, Vice President, Secretary/Treasurer, Chaplain, Historian, Parliamentarian, Sergeant-at-Arms, Marshal, Musician), District Presidents, Past Department Presidents in Good Standing in Their Respective Units, Chairmen of Department Committees (Americanism, Auxiliary Emergency Fund, Children and Youth, Community Service, Constitution and Bylaws, Convention Commission, Editor, Education, Girls State, Junior Activities, Leadership, Legislative, Membership, Music, National Security, Past Presidents Parley, Poppy, Public Relations, Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation), Members of the Department Finance Committee, Girls State Director, Junior Conference Director, Hospital Representatives, Appointed Chairmen (Advisory Committee, Distinguished Guest, Resolutions, Elections, Rules, Credentials, Ways and Means).

### DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES

#### MUST BE ELECTED –

#### They cannot be appointed!

**Registration Fee** – All Units in good standing shall pay a registration fee not to exceed twenty dollars (\$20.00) per delegate. Fee shall cover full voting strength of the Unit prior to the District pre-Convention caucus. (Article IX, Section 3. Department Constitution) The fee is due whether or not the delegates and alternates attend Convention. Indebtedness-No delegate or delegates from any Unit shall be seated in Department Convention or pre-Convention caucus unless all obligations to Department

shall have been paid or satisfied (Article IV, Section 2. Department Constitution). Indebtedness includes Fidelity Bond, purchase of Poppies, ten percent (10%) net proceeds from Poppy donations, filing of Poppy Financial Report and delegate/alternate fees.

**Credential Cards** – Upon receipt of the registration fee of \$20.00 per delegate (including those accorded voice and vote in their own right) with the certification form of delegates and alternates, the Department Secretary/Treasurer will issue credential cards. The Credential cards will be available at the registration desk and will be signed by the Department Secretary only.

**Alternates Serving in Place of Delegates** – A delegate or alternate cannot be seated on the Convention floor unless her name appears on the Certification Form of Delegates and Alternates for the Unit. Regular credentials will be issued ONLY to those properly certified as delegates or alternates.

1. Those alternates serving in place of delegates who will not be attending Convention will then be registered as delegates upon presentation of credentials and be listed with the voting delegation.

2. All other alternates will receive credentials and shall be called in by the Unit Delegation Chairman of the delegation during a temporary absence of a regular delegate, provided the delegate has turned in her badge to the Unit Delegation Chairman or District President for the alternate to wear. When possible, it shall be the duty of each Unit Delegation Chairman and/or District President to see that a full voting delegation is present.

3. A delegate leaving the Convention not to return shall relinquish her badge to the District President if an alternate from the same Unit is available to serve. It shall be the duty of the District President to call in any available alternate from said Unit and to supply her with the badge of a delegate who has left the Convention.

#### Resolutions:

1. According to Article IV, Section 4, a copy of amendments pertaining to the Constitution and Bylaws is to be in Department Office not later than seventy-five (75) days prior to the opening of the following Department Convention. Triplicate copies required if via regular mail (Due April 13, 2013).

2. Resolutions pertaining to finance to be in the Department Office not later than sixty (60) days prior to the opening of the following Department Convention (Due April 28, 2013) Article IV, Section 4A.

3. All resolutions other than the above must be in the Department Office forty-five (45) days prior to the following Department Convention (due May 13, 2013). Exceptions to this may be made to allow the presenting of emergency resolutions no later than noon of the second day of Convention (Article IV, Section 4B). **Note:** Emergency resolutions are those which arise during the Convention or after the date established for admitting them (Article IV, Section 4C).

## CREREDENTIALS

Donna Scott

Time is passing quickly, and Department Convention will be upon us before we know it. Here are a few "reminders" to give you a head up about Delegates and Alternates who will be attending.

Delegates and Alternates are "Elected", and CANNOT be "Appointed". In addition to your elected Delegates and Alternates, you MAY have Delegates in their "Own Right" in your Units. Be sure to read all the information sent out from Department to know who is eligible to be a Delegate in her own right. List your elected Delegates and Alternates, along with those in their own right, on the Certification Form that is returned to Department. Delegate Fees must be paid, whether or not they are attending Convention. You will not be seated if these fees are not paid.

Each Unit is entitled to Two Delegates and Two Alternates for Charter, and

one additional Delegate and Alternate for each 75 members or major fraction thereof, paid into Department Headquarters 45 days prior to the opening of Convention. Alternates serving in place of Delegates not in attendance will be registered as Delegates and given the proper credentials. Alternates are moved up to Delegate status **in the order that they were elected.**

All Unit obligations must be paid to the Department Office in order for your Delegates to be seated at Convention.

You will receive a LOT of valuable information from Department before and time for Convention. PLEASE BE SURE TO READ EVERYTHING! We want the registration process and Roll Call of Delegates to go smoothly. Let's "Be Prepared" and have a GREAT Convention. See you in Palm Springs!

### Anita Biggs

#### Candidate for Department President 2013-2014

#### American Legion Auxiliary, Department of California



Anita Biggs is a 21 year, honorary Lifetime member of Jackie Robinson Unit 252 located in Los Angeles, California. Anita is eligible for the Auxiliary through the service of her late father, William "Chief" Johnson, dedicated Past 252 and 23rd District Commander; he retired after 30 years in the United States Navy.

On the Unit level, she has served many chairmanships and the offices of President, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Marshal, Executive Committeewoman and continues to be a proud member/Co-Captain of the award-winning Unit 252 Color Guard. On the District level she served as President, 1st Vice President and 2nd Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms and Marshal.

On the Department level, she served as Membership Chairman, leading the Department to goal for the first time in many years; also Leadership, Unit Development & Revitalization, Poppy and earning National Awards for Americanism, Children & Youth and Veteran's Affairs & Rehabilitation. Anita is currently serving as Department Vice President and Constitution & Bylaws Chairman.

Anita served on the National level as Unit Development & Revitalization Chairman and Vice Chairman; Membership Committee, National Security Committee; Girls State Western Division Chairman and is currently serving on the Legislative Committee.

Anita has been employed in the mortgage industry for over 30 years and is currently employed as a Senior Loan Underwriter in Los Angeles, California. Anita resides in Long Beach, California and has three adult children and five grandchildren, who are all members of The American Legion Family.

The "Teaming" 23rd District and Jackie Robinson Unit 252 have proudly and wholeheartedly endorsed Anita Biggs for the office of President, Department of California 2013-2014.

### Harriet Clendenin

#### Candidate for Department Vice President 2013-2014



American Legion Auxiliary, Tehachapi Unit 221 and District 15 are pleased and proud to endorse Harriet Clendenin as a candidate for Department of California Vice President for 2013-2014. Her eligibility is through her husband, Norm, who served in the Army during the Vietnam War.

Harriet has been a member of The American Legion Auxiliary for 13 years. She joined Camarillo Unit 741, District 16 in 2000 and in 2005, she and her husband, Norm, moved to Tehachapi and transferred to Tehachapi Unit 221, District 15.

On the Unit and District levels she served as Unit President for six years from 2006 to 2012 and District Presi-

dent in 2007-2008. On both levels she has chaired numerous programs including Children and Youth, Education, Junior Activities, Leadership and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation.

On the Department level she has served as the Department Musician and chaired Poppy, Education, Children and Youth and is currently serving as the Department Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman.

Professionally, her background is in retail management having managed several stores and received a customer service award while working for Nordstrom.

She actively serves within her community and recently chaired a very successful event – "Wall to Wall" – raising community awareness of the needs of our veterans and raising \$11,000 to help

— **CLENDENIN, continued on page 10**

## Auxiliary DEC

Here are some highlights from the Auxiliary DEC at Travis Air Force Base. These were taken at the Membership Pay Off party led by head Leprechaun Danielle White.



First group smiling, "We have met our Membership Goal!"



Second group wearing mustaches, "We still haven't reached our goal and that is why we are traveling incognito!"



National President Peggy Thomas and National Candidate for National President 2013/2014 Nancy Brown Park waiting to dance with the Leprechauns.

## Junior Workshop in Corona



The girls at the head table are learning how to conduct a meeting properly. Pictured, L-R: Tyler Barnes, Samantha Cooper, Deja'nae Trimble, Talia Avina and Diane Delashmit.



Young girls shown here are learning how the hospitalized veterans make Poppies. Pictured, L-R: Jabrese Saton, Dai'jane Smith and Angel Wade.



Pictured, L to R: Linda Hayes, Junior Activities Chairman; Diane Delashmit, Department Leadership Chairman; and Talia Avina, Honorary Junior President.

### Nancy Brown-Park Fundraiser Tea

Hosted by District 18, Odette Cuccaro, Margaret Quinones, Norma Duvall

Please join us at Unit 790, 330 N. Azusa Avenue, West Covina

March 9, 2013 • 11:30 AM

Tea, Finger Sandwiches, Scones, Fruit

Tickets are available for \$15.00

Please contact:

DeNyse Laugeson (626) 825-6629 • Mindy Sinclair (626) 818-9045

RSVP by February 28, 2013

CLENDENIN, continued from page 9 —

these wounded warriors. Other community projects include "Packages for our Troops" now in its seventh year, a food bank for Veterans, and attending a 5-week school locally.

Harriet and Norm have three daughters:

Kara, Hollis Susi and Lora Clendenin, who served as the Department of California Honorary Junior President in 2007-2008; Norm is currently serving Ways and Means and Board of Review for the Department of California American Legion. They are an American Legion Family dedicated to "Service, not Self".

## Los Angeles County Council The American Legion 2012-2013 Officers

**Commander Lawrence Van Kuran (20/826)** – 818.427.1577 – vankuran@ix.netcom.com

**Adjutant Michael A. Gombar (20/150)** – 818.727.0086 or 818.383.3886 – gombar\_michael@yahoo.com

**Treasurer Gil Soto (19/51)** – 562.692.9783 – gilsoto@roadrunner.com

**Judge Advocate Robert C. Brown Jr. (23/252)** – 310.516.0427 – bobbrown252@hotmail.com

**Past Commander Robert W. Mitchell, Jr (19/352)** – 310.625.6096 – mtcllrob@aol.com

**Chaplain James A. Hadley (23/252)** – 323.664.4698 – no email

**Historian Roy C. Allen (23/252)** – 323.291.5549 – roycmar@dslextreme.com

**Sergeant at Arms Leroy Baca (17/381)** – 562.863.6537 – no email

**LACC 17th District VC John J. Leonard (17/381)** – 818.992.1414 – jjjusmcbcmc@sbcglobal.net

**LACC 18th District VC Luis Dominquez (18/508)** – 909.986.8863 or 909.618.4770 – no email

**LACC 19th District VC Gil Palmer (19/272)** – 562.464.8809 – palmergibby@gmail.com

**LACC 20th District VC Larry Wible (20/206)** – 323.258.2352 – larrywible@aol.com

**LACC 23rd District VC James A. Hadley (23/252)** – 323.664.4698 – no email

**LACC 24th District VC Robert L. Miller (24/43)** – 323.293.3037 – no email

**LACC VC Rep Women Juliana F. Potter (18/790)** – 626.338.4264 or 626.343.3273 – no email

**LACC D17 Exec Committee Hugh E. Crooks, Jr (17/8)** – 323.227.6697 or 323.821.8787 – MRHEC@msn.com

**LACC D18 Exec Committee George "Bucky" Curtis (18/755)** – 626.339.6879 or 626.695.5430 – dspdoctor.george@verizon.net

**LACC D19 Exec Committee Robert Boyd (19/352)** – 310.503.9644 – bboyd446@gmail.com

**LACC D20 Exec Committee John Mika III (20/308)** – 818.966.4636 – john.mika@sbcglobal.net

**LACC D23 Exec Committee Roy C. Allen (23/252)** – 323.291.5549 – roycmar@dslextreme.com

**LACC D24 Exec Committee Tim Carr (24/322)** – 213.382.7910 – tshaner@aol.com

## Motivation for a Healthy Nation



Neha Jensen

Our generation has many addictive electronics. We all sit down, bored, hoping for something fun to do. We stare at the computer, the TV, Xbox, Wii, iThis and iThat – all that stuff. After about two minutes, every-

one jumps to their game device no matter what time or game it is and starts playing. It's not a bad thing. I'm not against them, even I still play. But what I'm trying to say is that there are a lot of ways to play and be active at the same time.

I'm here today to talk to you about living a healthier life. If I were principal, I would encourage students to put down the video games, get up, and get active. Everything you do affects your health. This includes what you eat, what you drink, and how much physical and mental exercise you get. If you fuel your body with good drinks and food, you'll have the energy needed to take on the day. Use that energy to get up and get moving. Put down the iPad and pick up a ball. Where we live, we enjoy near perfect weather all year long. Our opportunities to get outside and be active are never ending.

Your choices for being active include things like playing sports. For instance, you can play soccer, basketball, karate; it is endless fun. There are other things like bike riding, family hikes, walking the dog or just playing catch. All of these are incredibly healthy and fun! What more could you ask for?

A big part of having the energy to be active revolves around your diet and your mental fitness. A healthy body and mind is the foundation of a happy and healthy life. The first thing that everyone needs for a healthy body and mind is the correct amount of sleep. Not enough and you constantly feel tired. Getting the right amount of sleep keeps your mind and body SHARP! Go to bed when your

parents tell you to, kids!

Another part of mental fitness is education. Go grab some friends and get some books! You need to read, spell, write, all that stuff. Read some books! Exercising your mind rocks! The second thing everyone needs is the right nutrition. Put down those sodas and drink some high quality H2O. Water is THE BEST liquid you can drink. Juice is good too, but be careful about the ones with all the added sugars. Got milk? Milk is another drink that builds strong bones and a beautiful, healthy smile.

You also need to pay attention to what you eat. A good mix of fruits, vegetables, whole grains and proteins are essential for providing energy for the body. Did you know proper nutrition helps to prevent from getting sick? There's an old saying, "an apple a day keeps the doctor away". That's right; fruits and vegetables help keep you healthy. Drop the watermelon-flavored lollipop and eat some real watermelon for a change. Your body will thank you.

To conclude, be as active as possible. Remember to exercise your body and mind. Read, study, and if you're a gamer, try games that get you up on your feet like Microsoft Xbox Kinect Sports or Dance Central. You can play dancing games and singing games to improve what you do. Problem solving games will get you the mental gold medal.

Try one like Mathtopia or CoolMath-Games.com. These games are fun and educational at the same time. Make sure to have a good diet and have a good amount of sleep. If I was the principal of AVCS, I'd make healthy habits a big part of your life. Use these healthy habits to guide you through life. THANK YOU!

**Editor's Note:** Here is some background on this young Junior Auxiliary member from Unit 460 District 22 located in Kearney Mesa, San Diego, California. Neha Jensen, Age 9, 4th Grader at Arroyo Vista Charter School Eastlake, Chula Vista, California. Parents: Father, Michael Jensen, member Post 460; Mother, Vinit Jensen, member Unit 460 Auxiliary. Grandparents: Walt Jensen (HTCM Ret.), member Post 460 and Jean Jensen, 2nd Vice Commander Post 460.

## Operation Santa Claus

Steve Spriggs, District 29 Commander

In order to provide a great Christmas for the families of Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, Newport Harbor Post 291 and ALA Unit 291, along with the 29th District supported "Operation Santa Claus"

held on Saturday, December 22nd at VA Medical Center-Long Beach.

The total was over \$25,000 of donated gifts, that included 1,700 items of clothing, over 200 new toys and games and 160 Christmas stockings full of goodies presented by Santa and Mrs. Claus.

## New Film: VA "Betrays" Homeless Vets

By Rees Lloyd

"Duty, Honor, Country – BETRAYAL" is the title of a new documentary film, now available on DVD, dramatically exposing how the VA is failing homeless vets by giving away land donated solely to assist veterans to wealthy, politically-connected non-veteran interests through the VA's so-called "Enhanced Use Leases."

The focus of the documentary by Bill Dumas Productions is the National Veterans Home in West Los Angeles. But the problem of the VA's give-away of veterans' land to benefit non-veteran, politically-connected interests is nationwide.

Bill Dumas, an award-winning documentary film maker, said he focused on the National Veterans Home in L.A. because "it provides stark evidence that land that was donated to the government for the sole purpose of assisting veterans is instead being turned over to wealthy interests in give-away Enhanced Use Agreements while the VA locks out homeless veterans from that land."

L.A. is estimated to have some 20,000 homeless vets, the highest of any city. The National Veterans Home was established on a large tract of land, some 400 acres, which was donated to the government by two families in 1888 for the sole purpose of aiding veterans in need of medical and other services.

Instead, many of the wealthy residents and interests of Brentwood and other communities of the ultra-rich who are politically connected to Democrat Rep. Henry Waxman and the so-called "Westside Machine" now have control of many acres of the National Veterans Home through Enhanced Use Leases.

These leases are for as long as 75 years, at prices far below market value, often nominal payments of "\$1 a year," sometimes nothing at all.

Worst of all: The Secretary of Veterans Affairs has the authority to give that land to the lessees entirely in the Secretary's sole discretion, without Congressional action, if the Secretary decides the land is no longer needed for veterans.

An exemplar of this exploitation of veterans lands by the rich and infamous is ultra-rich Brentwood, which adjoins the National Veterans Home. Among other things, some of its very wealthy residents who really don't want homeless veterans out, about and visible in their neighborhood, created the misleadingly named "Veterans (sic) Park Conservancy" (which is not, in fact, a veterans organization), to grab veterans' land for their purposes.

The non-veteran, wealthy, politically connected (to Henry Waxman, et al) Brentwoodites have obtained a lease of "16-acres" for "zero" payments, for "ten years" with option to renew at the same price (nothing) for an additional ten years, in order to establish a "park." The VPC boasted in its press release sealing the deal with VA brokered by Waxman

and political cohorts will "benefit veterans and the general public."

That is, the VPC will establish a public or semi-public "park" on land donated for the "sole" purpose of assisting veterans in need of medical, mental and emotional care and assistance, including housing.

Meanwhile, homeless veterans are locked outside the gates of their "National Veterans Home." Many large dormitory-like buildings on the land which could be used for the homeless, are empty, unused, deteriorating because the VA refuses to maintain them or build adequate new housing, or use the available land for temporary housing as new housing is built, as shown in the Bill Dumas documentary film.

The VA, with great fanfare praising itself, announced it would start a \$20 million building project, which is but a public relations gesture as it is woefully less than needed.

Similarly, the ACLU, also with great fanfare praising itself, shortly after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled against the ACLU in its ten-year long litigation to destroy the Mojave Desert Veterans Memorial Cross (*Buono vs. Salazar*), filed a face-saving lawsuit against the VA at the National Veterans Home in L.A. However, of the six major claims of its lawsuit, the court has dismissed five, and all that remains is one claim that the VA's policies violate the Administrative Procedure Act, the documentary notes.

Thus, it appears that if veterans' lands are going to be saved from the VA and politicians like Henry Waxman, it is going to take veterans actively fighting to save those lands.

The Department of California, following exposure of the Brentwood "park" give-away lease at the National Veterans Home, adopted at the 2009 Convention a resolution written by me and sponsored by District 21 which established a policy opposing the Brentwood VPC "park", and all VA land-use policies in which the land is not used "solely" to serve the needs of veterans, including housing.

At the 2010 Convention, the Department adopted a resolution written by Larry Van Kuran and sponsored by District 20 establishing a policy opposing the VA's land and facilities give-away policies at the VA's former medical center in Sepulveda, and opposing the VA's Extended Use Lease policies nationally. That resolution was adopted at the National Convention, as well.

"I made 'Duty, Honor, Country – BETRAYAL' because I believe that the VA's policies are a betrayal of veterans and a national disgrace," said Dumas. "I hope it will help the cause of defending veterans who defended the nation, but who now find themselves homeless and locked out of land and facilities intended for their exclusive use and benefit."

For more information on the DVD – go to [www.HomelessVetMovie.com](http://www.HomelessVetMovie.com)

## Foreign Relations & National Security Commission

Chuck Camarato, Chairman

Greetings, Fellow Legionnaires,

Your Foreign Relations & National Security Commission requests that all District Advisors please advise their Area Commissioner of their email addresses so that we may include you in our group discussions. You may find your Area Commissioner in the Department roster. If you prefer, please email me direct at [ccamarato@yahoo.com](mailto:ccamarato@yahoo.com). We have many differing opinions on all subjects.

Our purpose is not to debate right or wrongs, but to foster team communication that will help mold and shape the policies and viewpoints of the Department of California. We also are tasked to review and disseminate to our California Legionnaires the official stances of our National Executive Committee. I hope to see and meet as many of you as I can this year at our Convention in Palm Springs. Every day the news media is reporting on issues deeply affecting our country.

I suspect that the road will prove to be arduous for sometime into the future. Issues such as immigration reform, energy independence, and China's growing mili-

tary forces are top of the list topics, not to mention that since the mid 90s, the United Nations continues their efforts to enact the "Small Arms Treaty".

Yes, it has been defeated every time, but we should wisely note that their attempts continue on and on. How about the recent missile strikes into Syria by Israel – we all know that Israel will always stand by their doctrine of preemptive strikes...which leads us to Iran. Have any of you noticed that when Prime Minister Netanyahu was re-elected, the first thing he said was "My first concern is preventing Iran from getting a nuclear weapon...?"

How ironic that John Kerry was being confirmed as our new Secretary of State at the same time and the first thing he said was that he was concerned about stopping Iran from getting a nuclear weapon.

Comrades, our work is tedious. We must be diligent and ever watchful of our country's security. We all need to communicate together, Commissioners and Advisors, and keep this Commission well informed and on track with the issues that are the most threatening to our nation's well being.

## A Quick "Heads-Up" on Disaster Planning

By Mike Brimer, Chairman

Disaster & Emergency Services Commission

I am sure that you are all aware that 2012-2013 is the year that the California Department is putting a great deal of emphasis on getting our disaster planning and preparedness in order. The Disaster Commission has started the process by providing each Area Commander and Adjutant with a pre-prepared Disaster Plan that can be easily edited to meet the needs of the Area, then printed out and adopted. The target date to get this stage completed is March 30, 2013. Area 1 has adopted theirs. If you do not have the plan in the works, please contact your Area Disaster Commissioner for immediate assistance.

The second stage of the project is to get all Caledon Districts to adopt a Disaster Preparedness Plan by March 30, as well. To make the process as easy as possible, a customized draft plan has been prepared for each District and has been provided to your Area Disaster Commissioner for forwarding to the individual Districts. It is requested that you contact each of your District Commanders to confirm they have received their draft plan and that it is in process of being adopted.

While these two phases are underway, the final draft of a new Caledon Department Disaster Preparedness and Response

Plan has now been finished. The Department Commander has reviewed it and authorized it to be presented for adoption at the next DEC meeting in March.

Once the Department, Areas and Districts have adopted plans in place, each Post will be provided a draft "edit and fill in the blanks" plan for them to adopt for their Post. The target to get Post plans adopted is December 2013.

Starting in June, disaster training will begin to be provided in several formats, including a PowerPoint slide show, newsletter articles, downloadable lists and guidelines, links to free online FEMA training courses and so forth.

The American Legion in California has a great deal of work to do over the next two to three years to be prepared when the next disaster strikes. Planning, preparation and training are all necessary components of being ready to protect ourselves and to respond to help our friends, neighbors and communities.

I would appreciate you downloading the Plan, get familiar with it and then work with your District Commanders to get their plans adopted as soon as practical.

I am happy to answer questions either by phone or email. I can be reached at 707-429-4720 or by email at [calegion182mike@lanset.com](mailto:calegion182mike@lanset.com)

## Governor Brown Appoints CalVet Veterans Services Deputy Secretary

U.S. Army veteran Keith Boylan of Winters, California has been appointed deputy secretary of veteran services at the California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet). Boylan has been government relations liaison at the California Association of Veteran Service Agencies since 2012 and government relations and community education manager at the Institute for Veteran Policy since 2008. He was owner and operator of Boylan Window Fashions from 2004 to 2008 and Gulf War program coordinator at Swords to Plowshares from 1998 to 2003. Boylan was a tactical fire specialist in the U.S. Army from 1989 to 1992. He is a member of The American Legion and of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. This position does not require

Senate confirmation and the compensation is \$119,616. Boylan is a Democrat.

"Keith brings a wealth of valuable experience to this position," said CalVet Secretary Peter J. Gravett. "His work with the California Association of Veteran Service Agencies and the Institute for Veteran Policy will be especially helpful as the Department works to create additional avenues through which veterans and veteran families can connect with the benefits they are entitled to."

Deputy Secretary for Minority Veterans Affairs Lee Gutierrez, who has been also Acting Deputy Secretary for Veterans Services, will return to devoting his time exclusively to minority veterans' issues.

# Department of California American Legion Legislative Day at the Capitol May 1, 2013



Senator Steve Knight (R-Lancaster) addresses Legionnaires at the 2012 Day at the Capitol event.

The American Legion, Department of California will hold its Annual Day at the State Capitol on Wednesday, May 1, 2013. Legionnaires from across California are invited and encouraged to attend.

Many veterans' issues are debated and policies are formulated by the State Legislature. Some of these issues and policies are implemented by the various agencies and departments of the state government, such as the California Department of Veterans Affairs.

Therefore, it is important that Legionnaires attend the Day at the Capitol to show our support

for programs and policies which will benefit veterans as well as to educate legislators and staff on the issues.

American Legion-Department of California provides free Continental breakfast and lunch buffets to Legionnaire attendees. The day is spent at the State Capitol meeting your local legislators, educating legislators and staff on veterans' issues and hearing from key legislative and Administration speakers.

Please spread the word to all Posts and members. More information to come.

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## The Last Bugle Call

Reporting Period: January 1, 2013 to January 31, 2013

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

During the Reporting Period there have been 248 transfers to Post Everlasting. The names of all our departed comrades may be seen on the department Web site. Just click on the highlighted "Post Everlasting" button on our homepage [www.callegion-news.org/html/post-everlasting.html](http://www.callegion-news.org/html/post-everlasting.html)



PatriotOutreach.org

Dept. of California

# MONTY ROBERTS HORSE SENSE & SOLDIERS



From Homeless Vet to Harvard: A True Miracle!  
See the video: [www.join-up.org/join-up-veterans](http://www.join-up.org/join-up-veterans)

Join legendary "Horse Whisperer" Monty Roberts in a special three-day workshop for Warriors, Veterans and their Families. A simple, non-intrusive intervention widely known as "Join-Up" offers everyone an effective tool to rediscover themselves through nature. This self-awareness exercise deals effectively with emotional trauma, anti-social behavior and withdrawal, anger, stress, combat stress and even PTSD.

### When

December, 2012: 7, 8 & 9  
January, 2013: 11, 12 & 13  
March, 2013: 22, 23, & 24

### Where

Flag Is Up Farms  
901 East Highway 246  
Solvang, CA 93463

Contact Us: Email: [Maya@Join-Up.org](mailto:Maya@Join-Up.org) Tel: (805) 688 3483

[www.join-up.org](http://www.join-up.org)

