



THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 257 & AUXILIARY LAGUNA WOODS



JANUARY 2015

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Happy new year comrades. I do hope everyone had a merry Christmas and that you all were able to enjoy the day with family, friends, and loved ones.

I suppose you have made some resolutions and are looking forward to the changes the New Year will bring. Your American Legion Post will be undergoing some changes too, though not due to resolutions, but rather due to some necessary personnel changes in the board of officers who serve you.

Most significantly, your 2nd Vice Commander John Draper, who has done an outstanding job as the Dinner Meeting Program chairman has indicated that he will be unable to continue.

Other positions in need of new leaders are newsletter editor and adjutant. If you are interested in joining the staff of your Post, please let me or one of the other post officers know.

Mike Thayer 540-9784 libertycard@gmail.com

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

We had our first meeting for 2015 and welcomed returning member Marion Houseman. Our membership is at 78% and would welcome any lady relative or wife of our Post members to join. We always need help preparing bags for the VA hospital. Our meeting last ONE hour so come and meet with us on the 2nd Thursday, CH 2, DR 3.

Vanda Bresnan 581-6287 vanda@cox.net

DINNER

Thursday, January 22nd, Doors open at 4:45 pm Ceremony begins 5:30 pm
Meal served at immediately after ceremony Location: Clubhouse #1
Main Dining Room, Chicken Marsala, Rice Pilaf, Green Beans and Key Lime pie
Cost \$13.00 per person RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED
For reservations, call Ken Sigmund (949) 455-0608
The program features the Barbershop Quartet, "Sound Encounter".
Post web site at AL257.org/

UPCOMING EVENTS

Jan 22—Legion Dinner
Jan 29 – Polly's
Feb 4 -- Veterans Outreach
Feb 5 -- Legion Board Meeting
Feb 8 -- VA Hospital
Feb 12 –Auxiliary Meeting
-- Polly's
Feb26 —Legion Dinner

**Jan 29th --Laguna Café
all day fundraiser for
Post 257**

3RD VICE COMMANDER

Tuesday Nov 18th, 2014, Veterans Day program
at 11:30 AM until 12:10, for the Kiwanis's
Aktion Club located at Vocational Visions, 26041
Pala, Mission Viejo, CA 92891 phone: 949-837-
7280

Photographer; Kiwanis and Legion member
Sam Higa

11:30- Kiwanis Aktion Club lunch
11:40- Shaffer introduces Warren Marr and
Honor Guard
11:42- Honor Guard marches in
Pledge
Invocation
Folds Flag, Marr explains folds of the flag
Marr introduces members of Guard, their
service background
11:55- Marr dismisses Guard, they go with
students under tent
11:56 – Shaffer displays 2 famous photos of
WWII
Introduces Kiwanis staff of Aktion Club
Marilyn Atwell, Prexy, Dorothy
Woods, Nancy Field
Introduces Terry Collins of Vocational
Visions, who introduces the officers of the
Aktion Club
Introduces Joan McKinney, Director of
Vocational Visions
12:05- Aktion Club goes back to work. Honor
Guard visits work area of Aktion Club
12:10 – Program over

Jim Shaffer

SERVICE OFFICER QUOTES

By Mike Evans

Many of you Veterans are not yet registered in
the VA's Health Plan. This Plan is basically the
same as other HMO Plans such as Kaiser
Permanente, Hoag and etc. It has nothing to do
with Obamacare plan. Most other HMO Plans
that you may now have will welcome you to take
on an additional health plan, since it is to their
benefit. The VA Health Plan will provide you
with more benefits.

The following is a partial list of benefits that you
may not now have and or come with lower
priced co-pays--

Chiropractic services, Quality, latest model
Hearing aids, with life-time free batteries. Now

they provide on a trial basis, Dental
care. Medicine is provided and mailed to your
home on a continuous basis. Immunizations,
Emergency out-patient care in VA
facility. Surgery, including
reconstructive/plastic as a result of disease or
trauma, and ambulatory services are normal
benefits. Also, Mental health and many other
Medical services that you've never heard of are
offered if needed such as clothes If your
condition is rated Service Connected and you
would be getting pay for it, even your
transportation costs on a per mile basis. all of
this is free. Otherwise there might be a token co-
pay involved. Remember that in WWII, Mrs.
Roosevelt was sent overseas to find out what the
"boys" needed. She came back and said
"Socks". So naturally you can get the very best
quality socks on your VA health Plan. Please, if
you want better health or more attention to your
health problems, just call your local health
provider on McIntyre Road, Phone 949-587-
3700.

ADJUTANT REPORTS Hugh Seamster
American Legion Renewals Notices, why do we
get them so often?

The simple answer is that our budgets depend on
the funds your dues provide, and the unpaid
dues of members are like wages your employer
owes that he hasn't paid.

Dues from veterans in good standing fund the
services the Legion provides to all members.
To be in "Good Standing" means a member is
paid-up for the current FY 2015. You may not
be aware that the Legion Fiscal Year is 1 July
through June 30th of the next year.

If dues are not paid by 1 January, members are
classified as Delinquent, and if not paid by 1
February, their membership is classified as
Expired.

So check your membership card, and if it doesn't
say 2015, you should renew immediately. You
can renew at our monthly dinner meeting, or, if
you are computer user, on line at

<http://www.legion.org> where you will find a big
blue banner right on the front page that says
"RENEW YOUR LEGION MEMBERSHIP
TODAY"

That's a good thing to do to keep your Post and
the Legion fiscally sound.

Call Emil Welden (458-3916) to have your personal service(Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force or Coast Guard) wood carving made or in loving memory carving (shown below).



Commander know if you want to participate and if you will have a wheelchair to be pushed.

Vietnam Veteran
7 Day Hero invites you to
march in the Tet Parade with fellow Veterans

Who : All Vietnam Veterans
 What : Marching in the Tet Parade
 When : Feb 21st, 2015
 Where : Little Saigon
 Why : To be HONORED

Lunch provided after parade, stay and visit with other Veterans register at www.7dayhero.org




Dr. Trinh talked about his involvement in 7day hero program and has offered a trip to Vietnam veterans to go to Vietnam in May 2015. They will visit orphanages and Dr. Trinh's will provide medical assistance.



VA Hospital 2nd Sunday Visitation



USO
 Bob Hope USO

Please Join American Legion Auxiliary Newport Harbor Unit 291

SALUTE TO BOB HOPE USO
ORANGE COUNTY

Saturday, January 31st, 2015
The Radisson Hotel
 4545 MacArthur Boulevard, Newport Beach, CA







Silent Auction · Cocktail Attire · Social Hour No-Host Cocktails 5:00 pm
 Italian Buffet Dinner 6:00 pm · Dancing 7:00 pm
 \$45.00 per person

All proceeds go to Bob Hope USO Orange County

Hotel Rooms are available at special rates for overnight guests
 Contact Linda Wade at 949.608.1085
 Courtesy shuttle from John Wayne Airport

Tables of 10 are available
 For ticket info, call 949.673.5070 Ext. 100
 Make checks payable to ALA 291 and mail to
 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 291 - USO Gala
 215 15th St, Newport Beach, CA 92663

American Legion Auxiliary

Dr. Dung Trinh spoke at the Legion Board meeting and asked the Post to support the "Salute to Bob Hope USO". Dr Trinh invited the Post to participate in the Vietnamese New Year Parade on February 21st. The Vietnamese community would like to use this opportunity to thank those veterans who served during the Vietnam War Era, whether in or out of country. If you are not able to walk a distance, Dr Trinh will have people to push wheelchairs. Let the

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Katie (Im Sook Lee) is a big supporter of our Post and is very thankful for what the Americans did during the Korean War.

** ATTENTION **

Veterans, Spouses & Surviving Spouses

The Florence Sylvester Memorial Senior Center is now offering free Veterans Service Counseling. Do you have questions or problems pertaining to...

- Benefit Entitlements / Claims
 - VA Health Care
 - Burial Information



FLORENCE SYLVESTER MEMORIAL SENIOR CENTER

23721 Moulton Parkway
Laguna Hills, CA 92653

949-380-0155

ORANGE COUNTY VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE

1300 S. Grand Avenue, Building B
Santa Ana, CA 92705

(714) 480-6555

Email: ocvso@occr.ocgov.com

First Wednesday of each month
8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
To schedule an appointment — call 949-380-0155

Walk-ins are welcome
If available, please bring your DD214 or Discharge

Must know Social Security Number!