



THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 257 & AUXILIARY LAGUNA WOODS



April 2014

EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Auxiliary Contact	Vanda Bresnan 581-6287 vanda@cox.net
Photographer	Vince Howley 842-4069 vincehow@msn.com
Quartermaster	Vince Howley 842-4069 vincehow@msn.com

Laguna Woods American Legion and Auxiliary serves veterans, the community, and local youth with many programs.

Nationally The American Legion has 2.4 million vet members and 14,600 posts stretching from Paris, to Philadelphia, to Peoria, to Pomona, to the Philippines and beyond.

Our local Laguna Woods Post 257 has 180 members. It boasts some 15 service programs that support not only vets but also the local community and youth. These programs include:

- 1) Free for anyone: wheel chairs, walkers, cane call Quartermaster Vince Howley at 949 842-4069.
- 2) Hosts monthly free veteran counseling by experts at the Florence Sylvester Center all day, every 1st Wednesday. Call 949-380-0155 for more information.
- 3) Participates in Operation Interdependence, sending packages overseas with items for troops like socks, Kleenex, small toiletries. To donate Mike Thayer or Vanda Bresnan at 949-581-6287 or bring them to our monthly dinner meeting the fourth Thursday of the month.
- 4) Free programs on national holidays: Memorial Day on May 26, July 4th, 9-11 Day (with the City of Laguna Woods) and Veterans Day on Nov 11.
- 5) Properly disposes of worn U.S. flags. Take them to the office at Clubhouse 1 or contact one of us to pick it up.
- 6) Provides new flags at a minimum price. Call Quartermaster Vince Howley at 842-4069 or John Draper at 949-533-8904.
- 7) Every second Sunday at 5:15 PM we visit the VA Hospital in Long Beach with gifts for veterans and Bingo. To help call Vanda at 949-581-6287 .
- 8) Sponsors annual Boys and Girls State programs, in which four juniors from local high schools spend a week in at the state capitol in Sacramento, setting up and running a state government.
- 9) We sponsor a quarterly bus trip to Laughlin, Nevada, - a fund raiser for us – for an unbeatable bargain price of just \$99, which includes two nights, bus, some meals. Hosted by Wally Gramberg at 949-380-9626
- 10) Twice monthly dinners, featuring companionship, friends, and a raffle;-
 - A) second Thursday at Pollys, call Jim Shaffer at 949-583-0510;
 - B) fourth Thursday, post meeting & dinner at Clubhouse 1, call Ken Sigmund at 949-455-0608.
- 12) February Oratorical Contest for high school students, national winners are awarded scholarships. Call Sam Higa at 949-427-3295.
- 14) Free Honor Guard (bugler, flags, riflemen) for funerals, special occasions, ceremonies. Call Joe Rainey at 949-322-9456.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 24 – Legion Dinner
- May 1 -- Legion Board Meeting
- May 7 -- Veterans Outreach
- May 8 – Auxiliary Meeting
Polly's
- May 11-- VA Hospital
- May 22— Legion Dinner
- May 26 – Memorial Day
- June 4 -- Veterans Outreach
- June 5 -- Legion Board Meeting
- June 8 -- VA Hospital
- June 12 – Auxiliary Meeting
Polly's
- June 26— Legion Dinner

APRIL DINNER

Thursday Doors open at 4:45 pm Ceremony begins 5:30 pm

Fruit Salad, Garden Salad, Baked Ham, Scalloped Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls and Butter, Apple Pie Meal served at immediately after ceremony Location: Clubhouse #1 Main Dining Room Cost \$13.00 per person
RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED For reservations, call

Ken Sigmund (949) 455-0608

The program features Mike Chamberlin, the singing TV guy.

Post web site at AL257.org/

15) Two annual Poppy exchange programs (a Poppy to remember our fallen brethren when you give us a donation in any amount), Memorial Day and Veterans Day, the funds raised go only to needy veterans or the Long Beach V.A. Hospital. Call Jerry Anderson at 949-837-0120 or Jim Shaffer at 949-583-0510.

16) Two annual charity events to provide support for students and vets undergoing therapy:

A) Camp Pendleton Elementary School providing cash to 30 teachers for necessary classroom supplies;

B) Monetary support to the Long Beach VA Hospital's therapy band for disabled vets at Long Beach V.A. Hospital.

Post Commander is Mike Thayer.

The post also includes a Ladies Auxiliary, President Vanda Bresnan.

Please consider providing your support to your American Legion Post, we can always use your help. Veterans who qualify can join our post for only \$40 a year. For more info call our Adjutant, Hugh Seamster at 949-472-9690, or any of the Post officers.

Or visit our website: <http://www.al257.org/>



COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Did you feel the earthquake last month? We, my wife Dorothy and I, felt it, though at first we weren't sure whether it was one of us moving about on the sofa, or something else. When we saw our dining room chandelier swaying back and forth, we knew that nature was adjusting the geography yet again.

The earth moving in Southern California is a fact of life, and as the experts constantly remind us, a big one, capable of causing major damage is just around the corner, geographically speaking. Which brings up an important question, are you prepared? Dorothy and I went through the 1989

Loma Prieta Quake up in San Francisco, and for a time, there was no power, no radio or TV, and no telephone, cell or land line. The Bay Bridge had fallen and a major freeway collapsed.

Though we were safe, many were not, and the damage to infrastructure caused significant disruptions to our daily routines and accesses that we previously took for granted.

Fortunately, Laguna Woods has a Disaster Preparedness Task Force and they have plans that will help us all get through any hard times that might occur. One of their goals is to have a building captain in every building. And if you haven't met yours, that means no one in your building has yet volunteered.

Since we are all veterans of the military, and have all been leaders in one form or another, being a building captain is a natural position for those of us physically able. I signed up, and I can tell you the process is quick and easy, is not a physically demanding job, but can bring vital aid to your neighbors should their manor be damaged, or worse, they have suffered some injury. If you can do it, stop by the Community Center on El Toro and visit the Disaster Preparedness Office (open between 1000 and 1200 Monday through Friday).

Speaking of leaders, the members of our post are showing the community what leadership is all about. We provide an Honor Guard for all sorts of events from High School Assemblies to Laguna Woods celebrations and memorials. We supply wheel chairs and other aids to mobility to veterans and others who need them. We visit shut ins and hospitalized vets, and take them to doctor's appointments. We also sponsor high school boys in the Boys State program that introduces them to the processes that make our government work. We also dispose of US Flags, and install flag staffs for anyone needing help. The problem is we have a greater demand for our assistance than we have people who can help.

Leadership, we have it, and if you are able, please consider joining us, not just in the fellowship of membership with your comrades at arms, but in bringing aid and comfort to those who cannot do for themselves. You will find, as is stated in the ritual of the BPOE, that “the witchery of wealth is not in having, but in sharing” and why even the Bible says that of faith, hope and charity, the greatest of these is charity (1 Corinthians 13:13) (revised versions have changed this to “love”).

Respectfully,

Mike Thayer, USN, Ret
Commander, AL Post 257
libertycard@gmail.com
949-540-9784

2nd VICE COMMANDER

Entertainer --The Singing TV Guy

Mike Chamberlin has been singing as long as he's been talking.

Mike interviews and sings to two of the eight remaining Munchkins from "The Wizard of Oz."

Musical parents influenced Mike at an early age and by the time he was in grade school, he was already performing. By high school, he was entrenched in Rock 'N Roll music and signed by a record label.

Mike's road to Rock 'N Roll stardom took a left-hand turn when he was drafted into the U.S. Army. He served a tour of duty in Viet Nam and then resumed a music career that led to a gig as a radio DJ and eventually into TV news anchoring.

Mike has been performing professionally for almost 50 years, and continues to perform for the 55+ communities in the West and Southwest.

John Draper

SERVICE OFFICER QUOTES

By Mike Evans (949-77-0708)

Can you hear and understand every word when you are called on your home phone?

If you were at our March Dinner meeting you might have heard the Cal Phones representative's presentation. But if you didn't, did you know that if you have a hearing problem and your doctor and/or audiologist agrees you can now get a no cost phone from the State of California to take care of your problem?

You can even get a new captioned phone so you can read incoming messages right on the phone's monitor, plus hear it with an amplified sound. And I repeat, this is at no cost to you.

There are many types of phones available from the State under this program. Phones with enhanced audio which will change the tone into a hearable range, provide amplified sound, and have big buttons if you need them. There are portable phones, wireless phones, phones with bright flashing lights, and even phones enhanced to address stuttering problems.

To get started, get an application by calling California Phones, toll FREE at 1-800-806-1191, fill it out, have it signed by your doctor or audiologist certifying that you are hard of hearing.

Second, send the application with the doctor's statement to the address on the information sheet or go directly to 2677 N. Main Street, Suite 130, Santa Ana. There a qualified representative will demonstrate the features of each phone and help you select one that is right for you, AND you can take it home that day! Of course, if you know which one you need, you need not make a personal visit; they will send the phone to you. The phone is also guaranteed and they will send a technician to you if the phone fails in any way.

You can read the advertisement for this phone in the March 2014 "American Legion" magazine, page 59.

Have you heard of a better deal anywhere? YES, IT'S ABSOLUTELY NO COST TO YOU!

CDR's Note: I and my wife got one of these phones, it was easy, the people at the phone store were pleasant and friendly, and if my wife and I disagree on the settings – we have different hearing impairments – we can get a second phone!



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).



AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

The end of the fiscal year is just around the corner which means dues need to be paid for 2014. Then here comes the bill for 2015 dues. Hopefully all of you (Legion & Auxiliary) will pay your dues for 2015 by December 2014 so our goals will be met by the beginning of the calendar/membership year of 2015!

As most of you know the Auxiliary along with the Legion will be dark in July and August. **BUT** the visitations to the VA Medical are **NOT**, we will continue the visitations on the 2nd Sunday of each month. We meet at CH 3 at 5:00pm (1700) and the carpool departs at 1715. We continue to need items for the Veterans – toiletries,

books, crossword puzzles, word search, new socks, colored Tee shirts with pockets (L & XL mainly)etc. Call (949-581-6287) or email (vanda@cox.net) me if you have items to be picked up.

Vanda Bresnan

POST FINANCE REPORT AS OF 4-1-2014

Poppy Fund Balance	\$5,240.66
General Fund Balance	\$4,116.22
Post Balance	\$9356.88

BOOSTERS CLUB 2014

This Booster List contains the names of individual citizens whose gracious and patriotic spirit support our Post with financial contributions.

Send your financial (tax deductible) contribution payable to:

AMERICAN LEGION POST 257

c/o Finance Officer

P.O Box 2246

Laguna Hills, CA 92654-2246

Any amount will be appreciated. (DO NOT SEND CASH). Contributions can also be delivered at the dinner meetings to the Finance Officer at the door.

Thank you for your support.

2014 MEMBERS

Hugh and Margaret Seamster

Sam and Anne Higa

Warren and Bivian Marr

James Shaffer

Betty Oliver and Kolstoe

Marion Wilfong

Im Sook Lee

Kenneth Hudson

Jack and Agnes Chau

Wally Granberg

Marie Thomas

LET'S SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS



Marion Wilfong
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Laguna Woods, CA 92637
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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

**THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 257
PO BOX 2246
Laguna Hills, CA 92654-2246**