



THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 257 & AUXILIARY LAGUNA WOODS



FEBRUARY 2014

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COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

As many of you may know, the IRS and other government agencies have been looking at tax exempt and veteran's organizations to ensure that we are in compliance with the rules that govern such organizations. To that end, the National Commander has instructed us to make sure our – and their – records are accurate and as nearly identical as possible.

We have been working to make sure we have accurate information in our directory as well as what we submit for the National record. If you are receiving this newsletter electronically, then we have the information we need. If you are receiving it by mail, please contact us and let us know what your email address is. This is so we can minimize our postage costs – which in the past have been a significant burden both financially and administratively.

You should also be receiving a phone call at least once a month to invite you to your monthly dinner meeting. If have not received a phone call, it is likely because we either have the wrong one or none at all. Again, please call, write or email one of us to let us know how best to contact you. We are here to make your Post available to you.

On another matter, the American Legion is the sole sponsor of the highly successful Boy's State program <http://www.legion.org/boysnation>. We are looking for a volunteer to oversee the program. Our current chairman, John Badgley will be 'retiring' at the end of this year's competition. He has done a super job these past many years and is ready to pass on his vast experience to his successor. This year's program is just getting under way, so if this is something you'd love to do, contact us, and we'll get you started.

For God And Country,

Mike Thayer 540-9784 libertycard@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Feb 27 – Legion Dinner
Mar 6 -- Legion Board Meeting
Mar 9 -- VA Hospital
Mar 13 –Auxiliary Meeting
Polly's
Mar 19 -- Veterans Outreach
Mar 27—Legion Dinner
Apr 2 -- Veterans Outreach
Apr 3 -- Legion Board Meeting
Apr 10 –Auxiliary Meeting
Polly's
Apr 13 -- VA Hospital
Apr 25 —Legion Dinner

FEBRUARY DINNER

February 27, Thursday Doors open at 4:45 pm Ceremony begins 5:30 pm
Meal (Beef Stroganoff, Fruit Salad, Garden Salad, Steamed Rice, Mixed Vegetables, Rolls with butter and Carrot Cake for Dessert) served at immediately after ceremony

Location: Clubhouse #1 Main Dining Room Cost \$13.00 per person

Check preferred

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED For reservations, call
Ken Sigmund (949) 455-0608

The program features vocalist April Walsh

Post web site at <http://www.al257.org/>

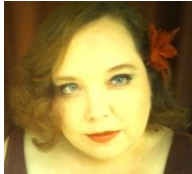
AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

March 13th is our next meeting at as Clubhouse 2, Dining Room 3. We will have the annual visitation by our District President Cheryl. We want all that can come to be there. Prior to her visit our unit will be visit T2 (spinal cord injury ward) on March 11th. We have bags with shaving cream, Deodorant, Doritos, Slim Jims, manicure kits, \$10 worth of canteen books, and lip balm. If anyone is interested in going please call me (949-581-6287) prior to the 11th.

Vanda Bresnan 581-6287

vanda@cox.net

2nd VICE COMMANDER ENTERTAINER FOR FEBRUARY APRIL WALSH



April Walsh has been a performer all of her life. Starting in high school chorales and leading the church congregation in song, she went on to earn her Bachelor's Degree in Theater from DeSales University.

She auditioned for the 2006 season of American Idol and made the cut up to Top 44.

April enjoys singing hits both new and old, though she has a particular affection for show tunes and standards of the thirties and forties.

John Draper

3rd Vice Commander (James Shaffer)

Cathy Carlisle of Laguna Woods recently gave us 2 big bags of lap robes she has fashioned. She does this several times a year. They promptly go to the Long Beach Hospital. Thank you Cathy!!

Jerry Anderson has agreed to help co-chair with Shaffer the annual Poppy Program which we undertake twice a year on Memorial Day and Veteran's Day. Jerry is from South Dakota, served in the US Army during WWII, and lived for many years in Paris... Paris, Illinois that is, where he was the manager of a facility producing agricultural products for cereal.

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 .

The person who wanted the "JESUS" carving. It is ready, please call Emil.

Info only- I just saw a truck in Laguna Woods picking up boxes and furniture from a condo. The truck was marked Vet Pick Up—Vietnam Vets of America. There were 2 contact numbers 1-800-775-VETS and PICKUPPLEASE.ORG. I used both and the service sounds legit. The Vietnam Vets of America are headquartered in Silver Springs, Maryland.

SERVICE OFFICER QUOTES

By Mike Evans

This is the last of a series of 3 messages about a member's quest for hearing aids from the VA Health Plan. Remember some facts mentioned before the VA Health Plan is no way connected to Obama Care. With VA Plan, you may keep and are encouraged to keep your present health plan. There is no disadvantage to having this plan, but there are many advantages. Our veteran applied sometime in late 2013 for membership. He called 1-800-310-5001. He was accepted and he immediately requested hearing aids. The hearing test was performed on Dec. 18th at the (new) Santa Ana office, where he met the friendliest, most wonderful technicians who truly went out of their way to help him.

His next appointment was at Long Beach Hospital on Jan. 22, 2014. There he was fitted with the latest, top-of-the-line set of hearing aids, whose performance he could not believe. His hearing problems were over. He was in and out of that office in less than 30 minutes with a set of hearing aids and a 6 months' supply of hearing aid batteries.

Oh yes, the VA hearing aid program includes free batteries and service for life. Can anyone do better than that? Not unless one is a President of these United States!

For more information, call your Laguna Woods American Legion Service Officer, Mike Evans at 770-0708 or mevans@fea.net.

Quartermaster's Comment:

Any veteran who is under VA health care is eligible for a new dental insurance plan underwritten by the VA. The premiums are low. Go to: <http://www.deltadentalvadip.org/>

The Quartermaster Vince has lots of medical equipment to loan for FREE. Call Vince at 842-4069 or vincehow@msn.com if you need medical equipment or would like to donate medical equipment.



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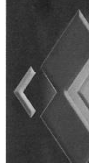
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**** ATTENTION ****
Veterans, Spouses & Surviving Spouses

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

MARCH 2014 ONLY
OUTREACH WILL BE ON THE THIRD WEDNESDAY
MARCH 19TH
NEXT MONTH IT WILL RETURN TO NORMAL TIME

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