



THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 257 & AUXILIARY LAGUNA WOODS



NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2015

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Photographer	Vacant
Quartermaster 842-4069	Vince Howley vincehow@msn.com

COMMANDER'S CORNER

October wrapped up with eight of our members and their spouses participating in Operation Stand Down. It was a big success for our Homeless and At-Risk-Veterans that was held over the October 24th weekend. The Post donated \$1000.00 to the District's general fund to help defray the cost of medical, food and clothing for these Vets. It's a worthy cause that we support every year as this is part of our mission statement of "*Veterans helping Veterans*".

On November 11th, the Post celebrated Veterans Day with a great program featuring the two top Marines of the "Fighting Fifth" 5th Marine Regiment, the most decorated regiment in the Corps. Colonel Ken Kassner and Sgt. Major Chuong Nguyen enthralled the audience with their stories and sincere appreciation for all the veterans who have honorably served. Sgt. Major Nguyen's recount of escaping from Vietnam and high-seas pirates as a 10 year old boy was especially inspiring. He left on a small craft and was rescued by an American destroyer in the Philippine Sea. He enlisted in the Marine Corps as a 17 year old and has served several tours in Iraq and Afghanistan with distinction.

The Post has been assessed by the national Legion organization with a \$5.00 increase in dues starting in January 2016 so it behooves those who have not already done so to pay the current rate of \$40.00 before it increases to \$45.00 in January. It's also very timely to ask your veteran friends and neighbors to join now so that they can be part of the Post at the lower cost. WE NEED NEW MEMBERS! Please bring one to the December 17th meeting.

We still have important positions to fill to ensure the Post's viability, most notably, Second Vice Commander. This position is responsible for auditioning and selecting entertainment for our monthly programs and heading the Event Committee to ensure our special events are run well in the spirit of "*Veterans helping Veterans*".

Other open positions that need to be filled are photographer, newsletter publisher, honor guard, telephone committee. Contact me for details.

Our website has been revamped so please go to www.al257.org/ to check out the American Legion and Post 257 news, videos and photos.

The December Holidays are coming up so we wish you a Happy Christmas and Rosh Hashanah.

Please attend our December 17th dinner meeting that will feature songs of the season by the Flashback Duo who did such a great job at the 4th of July program. The dinner entrée will be tri-tip steak and all the trimmings.

Hope to see you there!

For God and Country
Warren F. Marr
Commander

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER DINNER DARK

Dec 2 -- Veterans Outreach

Dec 3 -- Legion Board Meeting

DARK –Auxiliary Meeting

Cancelled -- Polly's

Dec 13 -- VA Hospital

Dec 17 —Legion Dinner

Jan 6 -- Veterans Outreach

Jan 7 -- Legion Board Meeting

Jan 10 -- VA Hospital

Jan 14 –Auxiliary Meeting

Jan 28 —Legion Dinner

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

We of the American Legion Auxiliary Post 257 are proud to report our 2016 membership renewal and new members are reaching our goal.

Any members that have missed renewing for 2016 will not be the winning group. If you have forgotten, please send the renewal to Pat Burr.

We are a proud group that supports the American Legion and honor our Veterans and work for the return of the MIA and POW.

I am happy to report that this year we have three schools participating in our Girl's State for the year 2016. This is such a special program for the girls that are selected and such a joy to hear their reports at our selected dinner meeting. WE WELCOME ANY NEW MEMBERS WHO DESIRE TO SUPPORT THIS AMERICAN LEGION POST 257.

“With freedom comes responsibility, and I can think of no responsibility greater than putting on a U.S. military uniform and standing in the gap between an enemy threat and civilian life” (Zach Wamp)

JoAnn Killian
President

1ST VICE COMMANDER

Membership campaign and Operation
Interdependence

As we complete the 1st quarter of Post 257's membership year I am very pleased to report that we have initiated 20 new members into the Post. And, as of today we have 3 applicants who will be initiated at our next dinner meeting on December 17th. While we are doing well I remind everyone that our challenge is for each and every member to recruit and sponsor 2 new members by the halfway mark of the membership year. Thanks to those who have already sponsored a new member. It would be great if we wind up with 10 or more individuals to be initiated at our Christmas dinner meeting. With Thanksgiving and Christmas coming quickly I wish every member as well as their spouse and family a Happy and Holy Holiday Season. I also remind everyone of the Operation Interdependence program providing the opportunity for each of us to show our servicemen who are overseas our appreciation and thanks for their sacrifice on

our behalf. Please bring your Civilian Ration packets (C-rat) to our December meeting or drop them off at the Clubhouse 1 office.

Thank you,



Michael B. Layton
1st Vice Commander

SERVICE OFFICER

By Vince Howley

Wanted: WWII veterans for free all expenses paid trip to Washington D.C. to see the Memorials built in their honor. One last mission...time is running out. Call Vince Howley (949 842 4069) or for detailed information, go on line to www.HonorFlightSouthland.org.

Did you receive the Combat Infantry Badge or Combat Medical Badge from your WWII service? If so, you have also earned the Bronze Star. Call me at the phone number above for details to get this medal.

If it is taking longer than 30 days to get a non audiology or visual appointment at the VA hospital in Long Beach, call Sara Lopez RN at the South County medical Clinic (949) 269-0700 to advocate for you to expedite your appointment.



POST EVERLASTING

William (Bill) Richards transferred to Post Everlasting on October 28th after a period of illness. He was 90 years old, A Navy WW II carrier pilot and a loyal member of the American Legion for over 68 years! Funeral services were held in his hometown of Manhattan, KS on November 20th.

Godspeed, Bill!

VETERANS DAY 2015



Col Kassner Cdr Marr SgtMaj Nguyen



Mayor Cynthia Connors presents Proclamation to 5th Marines



Post donates \$1000 to 5th Marines Thanksgiving Dinner



Cdr leading Post Honor Guard



Post Honor Guard



Flashback Duo

At Florence Sylvester Senior Center

Happy
Holidays
to you
and
yours
peace
on
earth
♥ T.H. Mafi

Check out our revamped website for more information about what is going on with the American Legion and the VA at www.al257.org/.

Welcome to the

American Legion Post 257

Laguna Woods Village

"The Friendliest Post in California"



No meeting in November.
Next meeting on Thursday, December 17th.



Meetings are held Clubhouse #1
on the 4th Thursday of each month - main lounge
24323 Calle Aragon
Laguna Woods, CA 92637

Doors open 4:45pm for socializing.
Dinner served 5:30pm followed by business meeting. Entertainment 7pm

Commander Warren Marr: 949-275-8151
Email: wfmarr@comline.com



POST DUES INCREASE TO \$45 IN JANUARY (see Commander's Corner) -- FOR QUICK AND EASY RENEWAL GO TO www.al257.org/ CLICK ON "ONLINE MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL" OR MAIL \$40 CHECK TO "American Legion Post 257, PO Box 2246, Laguna Hills, CA 92654-2246"

STAND DOWN OCTOBER 2015





TO ALL OUR VETERANS --



THANK YOU!

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 Marr thanks Ed Brockett and Mike Evans for their contributions to the Post

**** 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

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LAGUNA WOODS PROPERTIES

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LAGUNA WOODS PROPERTIES
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Trust when it's needed the most.

Laguna Hills Chapel and Crematory 25301 Alicia Pkwy. Laguna Hills, CA 92653 TEL: (949) 581-4300 FD 1293	Irvine Arrangement Center 4010 Barranca Pkwy., Ste. 200 Irvine, CA 92604 TEL: (949) 296-1010 FD 1818	San Juan Capistrano Arrangement Center 31920 Del Obispo, Suite 270 San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675 TEL: (949) 325-0143 FD 1916
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For more information please call
1-877-872-2736 (TOLL-FREE ANYTIME)
www.oconnormortuary.com



SHINING SEAS CRUISE TRAVEL



KATHY RATH
C.L.I.A. ACCREDITED
CRUISE COUNSELOR

544 VIA ESTRADA, UNIT G,
LAGUNA WOODS VILLAGE
CALIFORNIA 92637
PHONE: (949) 533 2633
kathyshiningseas@gmail.com

DINNER

Thursday, DECEMBER 17th

Doors open at 4:45 pm Meal served at 5:30 pm

Program and ceremony begin immediately after meal (Marinated Tri Tip, Roasted Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls and Butter plus cheesecake with cherry sauce)

NO BUFFET TABLE SERVICE

Location: Clubhouse #1 Main Dining Room Cost \$15.00 per person

RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED For reservations, call

Ken Sigmund (949) 455-0608

Post web site at www.AL257.org/