



THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 257 & AUXILIARY LAGUNA WOODS



SEPTEMBER 2015

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

As the Post Commander for the 2016 membership year, I welcome all of you back! Hope that you had an enjoyable summer.

Your New Officers are:

Mike Layton	1 st Vice Commander
(Open)	2nd Vice Commander
Jerry Anderson	3d Vice Commander
Vanda Bresnan	Adjutant
Nick Alpino	Finance Officer



I believe that you know that the American Legion's overriding mission is to help veterans who have been somehow changed by war. Our Post has helped by working with veteran patients at the Long Beach VA Hospital, sponsoring activities to support impoverished vets at annual events such as the Orange County Stand Down and providing monthly assistance with our Veterans Outreach Program at the Florence Sylvester Center. We continue to support active duty veterans and families with significant contributions to the USO at John Wayne Airport along with contributing funds to the public schools at Camp Pendleton.

We want to continue to do so but our membership rolls have been significantly reduced mainly due to the passing of a lot of our World War II members. It's time for our younger members to step up; the **youngest age** of a World War II vet is 87!

The quickest way to invigorate the Post is to recruit new members. For this reason, I've asked Mike Layton, our First Vice Commander to focus almost exclusively in getting new members to help us accomplish our mission. Please read his article elsewhere for more detail on how you can help recruit more veterans to the Post. I'm proud to say that, as of the date of publishing this article, we will have **14** new Legion members to initiate at the September 24th dinner meeting!

We will be adding some ceremony to the dinner meetings this year so that we can more clearly communicate what's important to the membership.

(Continued on next page)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 24 -- Legion Dinner
Oct 1-- Legion Board Meeting
Oct 7 -- Veterans Outreach
Oct 8 -- Auxiliary Meeting
-- Polly's
Oct 11 -- VA Hospital
Oct 22 -- Legion Dinner
Nov 4 -- Veterans Outreach
Nov 5 -- Legion Board Meeting
Nov 8 -- VA Hospital
Nov 12 -- Auxiliary Meeting
-- Polly's

**NO LEGION DINNER
IN NOVEMBER**

DINNER

Thursday, September 24th Doors open at 4:45 pm Meal served at 5:30 pm

Chicken Parmesan, vegetables, salad and spumoni ice cream
Program and ceremony begins immediately after meal.

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 Post Boys State delegates, Auxiliary Girls State delegate and recognition of Post members. Post web site at AL257.org/

We believe that it's also important to recognize our long standing members so this year, as time permits, we will be recognizing members who have significant continuous Legion membership. We'll start at the September meeting by honoring two members who have had respectively 59 and 65 years of continuous membership! In addition, we will recognize all the PUFL (Paid Up For Life) members for their exemplary support of the American Legion.

We will also introduce the four high school students that the Post and Auxiliary sponsored to this year's Boys and Girls State and they will give us a review of their experiences in good governing and citizenship.

Please come to our September 24th dinner meeting at Clubhouse 1; it will be great!

For God and Country
Warren F. Marr
Commander

1ST VICE COMMANDER

It is an honor for me to be your 2015-2016 1st Vice Commander. The challenge presented to me is to increase membership enrollment by a minimum of 40% over the course of the next year. We are off to a good start as we will be initiating up to 14 new members at our September Post meeting on Thursday the 24th. A big boost to new membership is existing member participation in the recruitment process. As such I ask each and every Post 257 member to recruit & sponsor two new members over the next six months. At the meeting on the 24th you all will receive a batch of recruitment packages that includes American Legion brochures and application forms. Each of you has acquaintances that are qualified to be in the American Legion. Recruit and sign them up today! Thank you,

Michael B. Layton

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

As we start the 2015-16 Legion year, two of our outreach programs are in need of additional membership donations and participation.

The Operation Interdependence program would appreciate more C-rats packages. The C-rats are individual quart-sized baggies that contain a personal note from a caring Veteran civilian at home and a few items such as snacks, games and personal care products. All items must be small enough to fit in a QUART SIZED (7in. X 8in.) zippered plastic baggie. The most important part of the package is the personalized note from a caring person back home.

Please bring your C-rat baggies to our monthly dinner meeting or drop them off any time to the Clubhouse 1 business office.

Also Post 257 needs additional member volunteers to participate in our monthly visit to the VA hospital in Long Beach. We currently have 3 or 4 of our members who have been faithfully going on these visits each month for several years. They need help and we want to move the participation level up to 30 to 40 members who are willing to go on a regularly scheduled basis. If we get enough volunteers the individual burden will be very minimal. Activities include conversations with the patients, helping out with food service and playing games such as bingo with all those hospitalized vets who are willing. Items needed for veterans at the VA include for men: T-shirts in solid colors (no red) XL and XXL, knit caps, athletic socks, boxer briefs (stretchy-not standard), sweat pants size L & XL. And slippers with an open heel size 11-12. Volunteers please call Michael B. Layton, 1st Vice Commander, Post 257 at 949-855-1994.

For more information about C-rat donations and to volunteer for the VA visits call Michael B. Layton, 1st Vice Commander, Post 257 at 949-855-1994



Open Positions for Post 257

Your Post **urgently** needs volunteers for the following open positions:

Second Vice Commander: mainly responsible for the monthly and special Post programs.

Veteran s Outreach Facilitator: greets and checks in Veterans who have appointments with the County Veterans Service Officer.

Photographer: Provide digital photos of Post events along with appropriate captions for publication on Post website and in the bimonthly newsletter.

Website Administrator: to upgrade and maintain website for the Post.

Newsletter Publisher: to publish bimonthly newsletter from articles provided by Post personnel approved by the Commander.

Honor Guard: to provide ceremonial service at the direction of the Guard Commander at Post meetings.

Special Events Coordinator: lead planning committees for special events such as Veterans Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July and other events that are not part of the monthly meeting schedule.

Please contact Warren Marr at 949-275-8151 to learn more about volunteering for the Post.

WE REALLY NEED YOU!



AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

As the new president of the American Legion Auxiliary, I am overwhelmed by the support of the members that attend our meetings. So many have elected to remain in their positions giving the support that we all need as an organization.

September's meeting attendance was small so I would like to remind you all that Clubhouse 2 is not available for our meetings because of renovations. For the future we will be meeting at Clubhouse 5.

The Auxiliary will be meeting Thursday Oct.8 at 2:00 pm. in the small meeting room at Clubhouse 5.

I would like to report that we have reached 50% of our membership goal for 2016 and that Pat Burr has done a great job. Now the other 50% **LET,S HAVE YOUR RENEWAL SENT IN.**

I have received my renewal for from National in the mail even though I am paid – so –If this has also happened to you please know that the ones who have paid will still receive renewal notices from National because we are on the ball! – National will catch up to us.

Let's make this a special year for us and the American Legion.

JoAnn Kilian
President Auxiliary



**** 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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