



THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 257 & AUXILIARY LAGUNA WOODS



September 2014

EXECUTIVE BOARD

Commander Mike Thayer
540-9784 libertycard@gmail.com

1st Vice Commander Joe Rainey
322-9456 linksguy@comline.com

2nd Vice Commander John Draper
533-8904 Jdraper@comline.com

3rd Vice Commander Jim Shaffer
583-0510 Jimjls@att.net

Chaplain Ray Fico
768-7262 raymondcfico@comline.com

Finance Officer Sam Higa
427-3295 Sth9999@yahoo.com

Historian Sam Higa
427-3295 Sth19999@yahoo.com

Judge Advocate Cynthia Conners
581-7777 cyncity@comline.com

Post Adjutant Hugh Seamster
380-0303 hmonline@cox.net

Post Secretary Pat Burr
581-1784 pat949@comline.com

Service Officer Mike Evans
770-0708 mevens@fea.net

Sgt-at-Arms Lou Tirado
380-8542 louandmarylee@comline.com

Newsletter Editor Vanda Bresnan
581-6287 vanda@cox.net

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

COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Do the dog days of summer ever really end here in beautiful, sunny, southern California? The calendar says they do, but unless you have kids in school, or you spend summer somewhere else, there's little other than the shortening of days to let us know that nature has turned another page. On the other hand, you may set your seasonal clock by your American Legion post's return to activity following our summer 'dark days'. If that's you, well the summer's gone, and your American Legion Post is back in good running order.

Whatever it is, fall brings a season of remembrances and celebrations, and we will be right in the middle of things. As you may know we did not host a 9-11 ceremony, instead we participated in the Laguna Woods' 50th anniversary celebration which included a remembrance of the attack we endured on that day in 2001.

Our entertainment 'chairman', Vice Commander John Draper, has scored not one, but two world class standup comedians for our September and October meetings. I promise you, no comedy club anywhere will have better entertainment.

You might also have heard of the upcoming return of "Stand Down" – though not in the sense of the stand downs we had in the military – where service clubs and public service agencies extend extraordinary aid to homeless, down on their luck, and needy veterans. Your board voted to donate \$1,000 – about \$5.00 per member – to our District's program for this year's Stand Down. Not that it matters, but Newport Beach Post's contribution to the event, which earned them mention on the Stand Down flyer, is just \$1.50 per member.

We will also have our Boy's and (our Auxillary's) Girls' State delegates at our October meeting. If you ever think the future of our country might not be in good hands, come down and meet these outstanding young Americans, you will be impressed.

I do hope you all come to the September Dinner Meeting, besides the best entertainment, Vice Commander Joe Rainey will be presenting each Korean War Veteran who served in country or off the beach a special medal from the government of South Korea. Martinez Catering will again be providing our dinners, and September's fare will be his famous Chicken Parmesan. I look forward to seeing you all there. .

Mike Thayer 540-9784 libertycard@gmail.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sept 24 – Legion Dinner
Oct 1 -- Veterans Outreach
Oct 2 -- Legion Board Meeting
Oct 9 – Auxiliary Meeting
Polly's
Oct 12 -- VA Hospital
Oct 23 -- Legion Dinner
Nov 5 -- Veterans Outreach
Nov 6 -- Legion Board Meeting
Nov 9 -- VA Hospital
Nov 13 –Auxiliary Meeting
Polly's
DARK —Legion Dinner DARK

DINNER

Thursday, September 25th, Doors open at 4:45 pm Ceremony begins 5:30 pm
Meal (Chicken Parmesan, Penne Pasta with Marinna sauce and Spumoni ice cream) served immediately after brief 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 Standup comedian Karen Rontowski.
Post web site at AL257.org/

AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

We had our first meeting last week and it was wonderful get back to preparing packages for the VA patients. Even though National has not sent out our dues notice, they are due. Please send a \$25 check made out to ALA Unit 257 to JoAnn Kilian, 2276 VIA MARIPOSA E UNIT A, Laguna Woods, CA 92637 *Vanda Bresnan*

1ST VICE COMMANDER

Summer is over and it's time again for our post to serve our community. Our Color Guard is very busy helping LWV celebrate their 50th Anniversary this month. We're also presenting the colors for the LW Lawn Bowling United States Open - what an honor for us. In addition to our regular visits to the Long Beach Vet Hospital, we also financially supporting this years Standown at the Tustin Reserve facility where homeless veterans are helped with medical, legal and spiritual aid for 3 days this month. A new way to serve our active military is to volunteer at the new Bob Hope USO at John Wayne airport - 4 hour shifts. If you're not involved with helping veterans and want to start, please give me a call.

God bless you all. *Joe Rainey*

2ND VICE COMMANDER

From "The Late Show with David Letterman" to Sirius Satellite Radio and Comedy Central, Karen Rontowski's fast-paced clean optimistic humor is perfect for our Post. With a stand up career that spans over 20 years she has performed in 45 of the United States and over 13 countries including New Jersey.

Karen has opened for such show biz legends as Bob Hope, Ray Charles, David Brenner and the Monkees which was a big thrill for her since she feels there is no time like the present to be living in the past. She is now featured in the new line of greeting cards called "Frank and Funny" that you can find in Target stores everywhere and is the comedy writer for "Haunted Magazine".

John Draper

3RD VICE COMMANDER

Please keep in mind that the week before Vet Day, Nov 11- we will be in the trenches soliciting contributions for poppies. More later

Jerry Anderson/Jim Shaffer.

SERVICE OFFICER QUOTES

Are you a procrastinator? Most of us are. One of the most important times in our lifetime, we cheat. WE DON'T PREPARE OUR AFFAIRS AS WE SHOULD FOR OUR PASSING. We all plan TO DO

IT, but our time is spent otherwise. So after our time is up, we leave all the hard work to our spouses or siblings.

Especially if you are a veteran, you must:--

Have a will or a trust. Have all your military records, especially discharge papers.

All of your financial records must be updated. A Living Will is helpful.

You can obtain an itemized, official list for the things that you must have done and gather before you pass away, from Mike Evans.

Next duty, you must have prepared the distribution of your property, if you don't want ill feelings between your family & relatives. I have seen several of the nicest, friendliest families break up when a member walked into the home, took whatever was wanted, even before the body was removed.

You must also have money prepared for the funeral expenses. Your life insurance will not be immediately available.

Please read the complete article in the June 2014 American Legion Magazine, then check with me for the to- do list at the next Legion Dinner Meeting.

Mike Evans

FINANCE OFFICER

As of 3 Sept 2014 the Post 257 bank account has:

POPPY FUND	\$8,451
GENERAL FUND	\$5,751
TOTAL	\$14,202

The BOOSTER CLUB for FY 2015 is starting again, anyone can become a member with a donation of any amount. This will help fund our Veterans and Youth programs on a continuing basis such as:

Operation Interdependence

Long Beach Naval Hospital

Orange County Operation Standdown

Camp Pendleton Schools

Boys State

In addition we have assisted individual veterans in need and other programs as they are identified.

Contributions can be sent to:

American Legion Post 257

PO Box 2246

Laguna Hills, CA 92654

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

Ken Sigmund will be making an all-expense covered trip for 3 days to Washington, D.C. to see the WWII Memorial . He signed up over a year ago with the agency that sponsors the trip. All WWII vets are eligible to sign up. Contact Ken for info.

**LET'S SUPPORT OUR
ADVERTISERS**

A memorial service will be held Sat Sept 27, Clubhouse 2, 11:00 to 3:00 for Ward Payne. Lunch included. All free. Call Vicky Brown at [949-295-4740](tel:949-295-4740) for a necessary reservation. Our Honor Guard under Joe Rainey will perform.

**** 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



**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**

**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



**Marion Wilfong
CENTURY 21 Rainbow
Realty**

24221 Paseo De Valencia
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mobile: 949.290.8155



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