



# THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 257 & AUXILIARY LAGUNA WOODS



JUNE – AUGUST 2014

## EXECUTIVE BOARD

**Commander** Mike Thayer  
540-9784 [libertycard@gmail.com](mailto:libertycard@gmail.com)

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander** Joe Rainey  
322-9456 [linksguy@comline.com](mailto:linksguy@comline.com)

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander** John Draper  
533-8904 [Jdraper@comline.com](mailto:Jdraper@comline.com)

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander** Jim Shaffer  
583-0510 [Jimjls@att.net](mailto:Jimjls@att.net)

**Chaplain** Ray Fico  
768-7262 [raymondcfico@comline.com](mailto:raymondcfico@comline.com)

**Finance Officer** Sam Higa  
427-3295 [Sth9999@yahoo.com](mailto:Sth9999@yahoo.com)

**Historian** Sam Higa  
427-3295 [Sth19999@yahoo.com](mailto:Sth19999@yahoo.com)

**Judge Advocate** Cynthia Conners  
581-7777 [cyncity@comline.com](mailto:cyncity@comline.com)

**Post Adjutant** Hugh Seamster  
380-0303 [hmonline@cox.net](mailto:hmonline@cox.net)

**Post Secretary** VACANT

**Service Officer** Mike Evans  
770-0708 [mevans@fea.net](mailto:mevans@fea.net)

**Sgt-at-Arms** Lou Tirado  
380-8542 [louandmarylee@comline.com](mailto:louandmarylee@comline.com)

**Newsletter Editor** Vanda Bresnan  
581-6287 [vanda@cox.net](mailto:vanda@cox.net)

**Auxiliary Contact** Vanda Bresnan  
581-6287 [vanda@cox.net](mailto:vanda@cox.net)

**Photographer** Vince Howley  
842-4069 [vincehow@msn.com](mailto:vincehow@msn.com)

**Quartermaster** Vince Howley  
842-4069 [vincehow@msn.com](mailto:vincehow@msn.com)

## COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

This month's dinner meeting will include the installation of officers for the coming year. Though it's pretty much the same crew who lead us through last year, you can expect some changes as we transition to new technologies and welcome new members whose wars have been fought in ways and under conditions far different than what we experienced.

You may have noticed some of the changes. We now have a website where pictures and details of events we participated in are recorded. You can also find out what's coming up and how we are helping our fellow veterans and LW villagers who need items they can't afford or are otherwise unavailable to them. We also have a Facebook page with stories and links from other military sources. You may have also noted that we are now promulgating our newsletter electronically whenever possible. This has been done to keep our costs to a minimum and to keep up with the technology of the future. You may get your newsletter via email, from our website, or through the mail. Though it is now published bi monthly, our goal is to keep you up-to-date and informed on items you are interested in so if we are not serving you, please let us know how to make it better.

You will also see more information about your post on Laguna Woods' website and in their newsletter. We intend to publish more articles in the Globe and on Channel 6. We will be sending out postcards on the non-newsletter month with information regarding the monthly dinner meeting.

On another note, there has been much attention paid to issues involving the VA of late. Whether any of us have experienced the conditions being discussed, some of our brothers and sisters have and this is something we should all work to correct. The American Legion has resources and members who are ready, willing, and able to help us. If you have a disability issue, a problem getting an appointment to see your primary care physician or even help getting to a VA care facility, let us know. We can help you and would be honored to do so.

Lastly, some have wondered where the new Directory is. Your adjutant and I spent many hours verifying the information in that directory, and making sure that the National Directory reflects the same information as ours. It is all squared away and on its way to the publisher. Look for it later this month.

*Mike Thayer* 540-9784 [libertycard@gmail.com](mailto:libertycard@gmail.com)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

June 26 – Legion Dinner  
July 2 -- Veterans Outreach  
July 13 -- VA Hospital  
DARK -- Auxiliary Meeting & Legion Dinner  
July 10 -- Polly's  
Aug 11 -- Veterans Outreach  
Aug 10 -- VA Hospital  
DARK -- Auxiliary Meeting & Legion Dinner  
Aug 14 – Polly's

## JUNE DINNER

**Thursday, June 26<sup>th</sup>** Doors open at 4:45 pm Ceremony begins 5:30 pm  
Meal served at immediately after ceremony Location: Clubhouse #1  
Main Dining Room Beef Brisket, Roasted Potatoes and Cherry Pie  
Cost \$13.00 per person RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED  
For reservations, call Ken Sigmund (949) 455-0608  
The program features "Imagine That Band".  
Post web site at [AL257.org/](http://AL257.org/)

## AUXILIARY PRESIDENT

This completes our year and I would like to extend a personal thanks to our members for participating in the Post Everlasting ceremony on Memorial Day – Leanna Wheat, Dorothy Thayer, Delores Evans, Charlene Alpino, Lois Frilund and Joyce Brockett. Also I would be remiss if I did not thank Bivian Marr and Nancy Alpino for our POW/MIA ceremony at the Legion Dinners and Veterans' Day.

As a reminder we continue to go to the VA hospital on the second Sunday of ALL months. Our faithful Legion participants (Joe Rainey, Mara Hodgkins and Moi) and Auxiliary participants (Pat Burr, JoAnn Kilian, Mara Hodgkins and Moi) enjoy the interaction with the Veterans. We invite you to attend, we carpool. The blind Rehab Veterans especially need assistance. We take personal care items, new T-shirts, pants with elastic waists, etc. If you would like to donate just call and one of us will pick up.

Have a wonderful summer, see you in September and hopefully for the VA visits!

*Vanda Bresnan 581-6287*

[\*vanda@cox.net\*](mailto:vanda@cox.net)

## 1<sup>ST</sup> VICE COMMANDER

The other day I met a new neighbor in Laguna Woods. I asked him if he was a veteran and he said "Yes - I served in Viet Nam". I thanked him for his service and asked him if he'd be interested in joining our post. I'm sure he and his wife are involved in other pursuits at this time but I proceeded to ask him if he'd like to help other veterans in need in our community. I think I planted a seed which hopefully would get him to become involved in our endeavors to "give back" our time and efforts in helping others. Being a Legionaire isn't supposed to be about hanging out with old veterans to have a good time for ourselves - we should instead be actively involved with helping others in need. If you feel it's the time in your life to start giving back - the American Legion is a good place to start.

Let's let our friends and neighbors know about what we do and invite them to our post. Call me or any of our officers if you need any details about ways you can serve your fellow veterans. May God bless you and your family.

*Joe Rainey*

## 2<sup>ND</sup> VICE COMMANDER

'Imagine That' consists of a unique combination of two keyboardists (Mike and Pattie Olson), one guitarist (Randy Jordan), and a saxophone (Mike Olson). Although only a three-piece band, the sound is incredibly full with an unusual focus on vocal harmonies. The band's music is extremely versatile covering a wide range of genres from Country to Easy Listening to Classic Rock. Between the members there are collectively over 70 years of performing experience between them.

*John Draper*

## 3<sup>RD</sup> Vice Commander

Record attendance for Legion's and Auxiliary's 2014 Memorial Day program.

Over 214 were counted at the program at 10:00 AM at Clubhouse 5. Commander Mike Thayer and 1st Vice Joe Rainey M/C ed the program. The prime speaker was LtCol Ted Tanner, USAF (ret) WWII who gave an attentive account of many of his service incidents.. Bert Hack, Mayor, also spoke briefly, as did officers of the County Fire Dept and County Sheriff's Dept.

The Post's Honor Guard opened the ceremony. Three sing-alongs were led by Nick Alpino and Sunshine Lutey. A dramatic, anonymous poem found in a WWII trench in Europe by David Hartman was personally delivered by him.

Jerry Anderson and Jim Shaffer defined the meaning of the Poppy symbol, that is, poppies are currently blooming on the graves of 371 WWI US infantrymen buried at a cemetery in Flanders, Belgium. The Post acknowledged some 15 members who passed during the year with a bell-ringing "Post Everlasting" ceremony.

*Jim Shaffer*

Adjutant

This month ends FY 2013-2014. Which means I am completing my first year as the Post Adjutant. My pleasure serving you, the members of Post 257.

This coming year will be more productive. We had a good response with renewals. My personal thanks for your continued support. We missed our membership goal by 6.85 %. Knowing what I know now, I think

we could have made our goal with my help and yours. I will start my part next month, July the beginning of renewals. Let's all renew by October 2014. This will permit me to focus more on new members from all sources.

I wish you all a pleasant summer and will see you in September at our first General meeting.

*Hugh Seamster*

**Recap of Poppy Program  
for Memorial Day, 2014  
By Jim Shaffer**

As of June 8, 2014, we have accumulated a record \$3812.46 and two of our troopers have yet to solicit and will be doing so before July 4.. So this is a preliminary report.

There were some 18 of us out in the trenches. The 3 top Poppy pullers so far are Jerry Anderson, Shaffer, and Kevin Pryle/ Susan.


We worked Stater Brothers, CVS Pharmacy, Ralph's in the El Toro Mall, and Traders Joe's. Please note there has been a change in some of the managers, and Trader Joe's even has 9 managers.

Total expenses are \$339.28, mostly for 1,400 poppies at .18 cents each.

It has been an extremely successful exchange so far. The following are the Platoon Patrol troopers who did or will spend time in the trenches... Jim and Kathleen Matthews, Kevin Pryle and Susan, Craig Charlton, Mara Hodgkins, Joe Rainey, Jerry Anderson, Marilyn Bowbeer, Warren Marr, Ed and Joyce Brockett, Mike Thayer, Maggie and Hugh Seamster, John Draper, Sam Higa, Shaffer, Vince Howley, and Charlene and Nick Alpino.

A final report comes later.

**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).**



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DRE# 01094779  
24361 El Toro Road, Suite 160  
Laguna Woods, California 92637-0616

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Realtor<sup>®</sup> DRE# 01889300  
Cell: **949.241.2747**  
Email: [thebesthome4u@yahoo.com](mailto:thebesthome4u@yahoo.com)



**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  
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23721 Moulton Parkway  
Laguna Hills, CA 92653  
**949-380-0155**

**ORANGE COUNTY  
VETERANS SERVICE OFFICE**  
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Santa Ana, CA 92705  
**(714) 480-6555**  
Email: [ocvso@occr.ocgov.com](mailto: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**