



The Flash

Serving the 19th District Community, State and Nation Since 1926



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APRIL, 2016

Member National & California American Legion Press Associations



CHILDREN & YOUTH MONTH



News from National HQ Department of Homeland Security recruiting veterans

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is recruiting veterans and promoting on-the-spot job offers to qualified veterans looking for jobs in law enforcement, mission support, program and budget analysis, contracting and chemical security.

The National Protection and Programs Directorate hiring event is scheduled for April 5 from 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. at the Fort Belvoir Community Center, Fort Belvoir, Va. (Click here to see a flyer promoting the event.)

"We are hiring military veterans who are eligible under the following special hiring authorities: go to pg 6

MEMBERSHIP



ARE
YOU DOING
YOUR
SHARE?

DISTRICT MEETING

MONTEBELLO 272

616 W. CLEVELAND

APRIL 13, 2016

323-721-4878

DINNER / BEVERAGES 6:00

MEETING AT 7:00 PM

Time to plan children and youth activities



The American Legion has celebrated "April is Children & Youth Month" for the past 78 years by supporting and promoting its national theme – "Children... Our Most Precious Natural Resource." During this month of celebration, American Legion Family members are encouraged to show their local communities the Legion's commitment to young people by hosting youth activities or by becoming involved in programs and organizations that support young people.

Legion Family members can invite families and community leaders to the post discuss the challenges facing children, families and the community, as well as share ideas for addressing those issues. Also, invite a subject-matter expert on child safety, health and education to present at the post event.

For the past several years, Legion Family members at American Legion Post 371 in Valparaiso, Neb., have hosted an event-filled day in April at the post for military kids and other local youth. The children enjoy lunch, fire truck and hay rides, crafts, a petting zoo, a bouncy house, face painting and a magic show. They also write Mother's Day and Father's Day cards for their parents and

Continued on page 4

Fresno 98th Department Convention

Housing in Fresno Update

The Fresno Convention Housing Committee Chairperson Mildred Wright-Pearson as informed us that the **Deadline for securing hotel reservations will be MAY 1, 2016.** Please note that the previous e-mail send in March indicating an April deadline was in error.

This gives us all an opportunity to select our delegates, or at least those wishing to attend the convention ample time to make their reservations, at the Americans Best Value Inn. We are requesting you do not delay 40 rooms are now available on first come first served. Please mail you deposits to Finance Officer Gil Soto at 11478 Aldridge St, Whittier 90606. Reservation form to J.T. Higuera at 726 E. Colorado # 29 Glendora 91740. or e-mail it to jthiguera@yahoo.com. Your attention to this matter as soon as possible will be greatly appreciated. (Housing form attached in back page).

Comrades,



Membership is still an ongoing work in progress; take a look at your Post membership and retention program and see if there is anything that you might consider doing to help your Post to see where your Post might need to make some changes that would increase your Post percentage standings.

Please contact Nick Rosa, 1st Vice Commander also 4th Area Membership Chairman, at nrosa1212@yahoo.com or cell phone number is 1-626-476-6056 if you have any question or if your Post needs help, he will put together a membership team and come out to your Post and help you

to improve your standings, such as offer ideas for membership drives, Community involvements, getting your transmittals in earlier and working your Membership recruitment and retention programs.

If very Post can bring your percentages up to 85% or better, if this can be accomplished the 19th District would be much higher in the standings, we are currently at 22nd place in the District Standings. I have included the District Standings Report as of 3/4/2016, please check the 3/4/2016 District Membership Report if your Post is less than 75%. Time is now of the essence as June 16th just a few months away.

We really need to concentrate on our Membership and Retention programs plus using the Post 1000 to transfer and regenerate the Posts memberships. I would like to congratulate the Posts who are doing a very good job at keeping their Posts at 75% or better.

Remember that the District Nominations are coming up at Montebello Post 272 May 11th, and the Elections will be held at the Lakewood Post 496 on June 1st which is the Annual Meeting where we'll check your Post, your Post must have all the BARS - NO - BARS completed. District Delegates forms and Convention Delegates forms must be completed or your Posts Delegates will not be able to vote for District Officers on June 1st and your Convention Delegates cannot cast their votes at the State Convention at Fresno June 24th, 25th, & 26th.

For God and Country
Patrick Dowd



1ST VICE COMMANDER NICK ROSA

CONTACT 626-476-6075

Comrades,

With the steady decline in posts membership transmittals, each and every one of us need to take serious thought in the survival of our own individual post. As of mid March our numbers indicated slightly over 2,700 members, and just fewer than 80%, for a 22nd place standing in Department. On the bright side, we are first in the 4th Area. The 17th and 23rd District have a combined total of 2,558 members.

This message to you can only tell us, we have some serious work to do.

and once again we offer our assistance. Starting today, we must reconnect with our delinquent members, they are our neighbors, friends, and they frequent our club rooms. As a suggestion, we ask you reactivate your membership teams, take this Saturday, and start knocking on members doors, Let them know they are valued members, and their support is appreciated. Should they have financial issues, offer to meet them half way, or all the way per-capita is only \$ 33.50? Be persistent, but understanding, getting one, or more is better than none, an effort worth trying.

To Whittier 51 and Gilbert Lindsey 352, Congratulations on exceeding the 90% goal for March, Runner-up's at 80 plus percent include Paramount 134, South Bay 184, Gardena 187, Downey 270, Leland Cup-p 341, Hager 465, Lakewood 496, Hollydale 723, and Obregon 804.

Please keep in mind membership is everyone responsibility, not just your post officers. Hopefully, we can increase our numbers at the next suggested goal of 95% on April 13th, final cut off on Armed Forces Day May 11, 2016 at 100%. Let's all do our best.

2ND VICE COMMANDER RICHARD RAMIREZ

CONTACT 562-949-5454

**VIEJAS CASINO
BUS TRIP
PLANNED**



Greetings,

Just a reminder to all, please make your plans for a fun filled day at Viejas Indian Casino & Factory Outlet in Alpine, CA. Plan for a full day of excitement and Fun. There will be gambling, and shopping while enjoying

your favorite beverages. Included with your ticket is a 50 % off coupon for the amazing Casino Buffet that includes unlimited Beer, Wine & champagne while in the dining room.

First boarding will be at Rivera Post 411, 7642 Serapis Ave Pico Rivera Ca. departing at 8:30 sharp. 2nd pick up will be at Lakewood Post 496, 5938 East Parkcrest Street, Long Beach, Ca. then off to the casino. Beer & liquor will be available for a small fee on the bus. We will

also have a 50/50 & raffle prizes, and lots of Fun for everyone.

Make your plans now, All this for only \$25.00. Make the call now to ensure your seat on the Fun Bus. Inquires and additional information, please contact Vice Commander Richard Ramirez @ **562-949-5454** to reserve your place. Please remember your participation is essential for the success of this important event. Let's fill our party bus, and have some fun. Thank You all

3RD VICE COMMANDER L. RAY GARD CONTACT AT 562-544-0372

THINK L-1 BINGO!

Greetings comrades, welcome to Daylight Savings Time. We can get to our meetings while there is still daylight now. I like the extra daylight in the evening. I would like to wish Richard Ramirez our 2nd vice commander a speedy recovery from his injury. The omelet that I had at Rivera Post last Sunday was good but Richard's are so much better, so hurry back Richard.

I want to wish the American Legion a happy 97th birthday. We are proud to be veterans and it is an honor to serve other veterans. We need to celebrate our history of helping our fellow veterans and looking for new and innovative ways to continue our service to veterans.

Just a reminder Downey Post #270 will be participating in the Downey Street Faire on April 9th on Brookshire Ave and Firestone Ave. The time is 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 PM.

I also want to thank the posts who have participated in L1 bingo at the VA hospital. Your help is much appreciated. Please think L1 bingo.

“Support this Veterans program”

Helpful tips on filing claim with VA



By Johnny T. Brown,

Accredited American Legion Service Officers are trained to provide expert assistance, free of charge to veterans and their families. While the majority of a service officer's work involves application for VA disability benefits, these compassionate professionals also provide information, referrals and resources on education, employment and business, death benefits and other important topics.

Documents that may help support a VA disability claim: If possible have the following ready when you make your call: **DD Form 214 (Issued at separation)** Service medical records (outpatient), dental records, entrance and separation examination reports, Inpatient hospitalization records (private or military) Private outpatient medical records (if applicable) Personal file: Line of Duty (LOD) investigation reports., Overseas or temporary duty (travel) orders.

Separating personnel should ensure that all of the information (including awards, overseas time, campaigns, RE code, etc) on DD-214 is correct before signing Uncorrected errors may cause problems in the future when applying for VA and other benefits.

Be prepared with all your paper work in hand

DISTRICT ADJUTANT LOUIE ADAME CONTACT AT: 562-237-4644

YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE



Comrades, it is now April 2016, and it is time for all Posts to start gathering its activity information to help prepare the **“Consolidated Post Report”** (“CPR”) for submission to the Department of California and to the National office. This document is vital to the American Legion to ascertain what the individual Posts are doing in serving fellow Veterans and to show how Legionnaires are making differences in their communities and beyond. All Posts should have received a packet from the Department with many forms including the CPR. It is the Commander's and Adjutant's responsibility to gather the Post's information and complete the form in a timely manner. The CPR can also be completed online through MyLegion.org.

Once again, I reiterate that some Posts have yet to submit the District Delegates form which is required under the District's Constitution and By-laws, Article V, Section 1, which allows each Post the right to be represented at all District meetings. If your Post has not yet submitted the Delegate form naming its representative delegates, then the Post will not be allowed to vote on any important issues or at elections as the Delegate form identifies who from your Post is an authorized delegate that may vote on behalf of the Post's membership.

In closing, all Posts will be holding elections of new officers for 2016-2017 which means that any nominees for office must be a member of the American Legion in good standing. It also means that all nominees should have their DD-214 handy so that the Post's Credentials Committee has reviewed and verified the nominee's eligibility for office or appointment.

An invitation to Law & Order night

DOWNEY 270 EXTENDS AN INVITE

Post Commander Ray Gard wishes to extend an invitation to its Award Winning Law and Order program, April 19, 2017 at 7:00 PM.

“Downey's Finest” Police and Fire Departments officers will be honored as its officers of the year. The event will take place at Sizzlers (Florence and Lakewood, Downey. No host dinner at

6:00 PM if your wish to come early.

This event will be the 11th year of “Saluting our Communities Finest” A memorial ceremony honoring Downey Police Officer Ricardo Galvez, Downey's Officer of the Year 2014, who was killed while reporting for duty on November 18, 2015.

Our special guest include Police, Fires Chief's as well as family, and friends. This is one event you may not want to miss, hope to see you there.

Boys State Up date

As we are now in the month of April, is it important that all Boy State candidate interviews be completed, and the on-line registration process started.

Orientation date, time and place will be announced in our next issue. It is also important that those post sponsoring delegates, to have the Alternates present at the orientation.

One never knows, there just maybe an opening for your alternate to attend the 2016 Boys State session.

Commander Barnett Continued

visit with members of the state and local police department. The children and youth also recite the Pledge of Allegiance and pledge not to be a bully. And make any post event in April an opportunity to raise funds for Legion programs that support children and youth, such as the Temporary Financial Assistance program and the Child Welfare Foundation.

Whatever event you host or participate in as a Legion Family, remember to invite local leaders and officials to support the event and engage the media in publicity and promotion. Legion Family members can promote Children & Youth Month awareness through their local newspapers, radio and TV stations, civic groups, schools, social media, and in conversations with other veterans and their families. Communities need to know that American Legion services are available and why young people matter so much to us.

For ideas on how to support and promote Children & Youth Month in your community, download a copy of the "April is Children & Youth Month" brochure online at www.legion.org/publications under Americanism.

In a world filled with uncertainty and fear, life can often leave us with a bleak view of what lies ahead. Colonel George Washington provided for the religious needs of his troops. In 1758, during the French and Indian War, Virginia created regimental chaplaincies at his request. Virginia's chaplains came not only from the established Church of England but also from the Baptist Church, a minority religion.

That's why it's so important for every American Legion Chaplain to pray for their respective Post, so those in need might find hope, encouragement, and comfort to keep marching forward physically as well spiritually even in the mist of challenging times. I thank God for every prayer that is lifted up for the American Legion, Nationally, Department, District, and most of all the Post.

Comrades, you are never alone for the Chaplain lift up his voice in solemn prayer that God may send His guarding Angels to walk with us day by day, so that each of us may continue to serve our God and Country with all our strength, commitment, and passion, and let us all always remember that it's the soldier who give us the freedom of the press, not the reporter, it's the soldier that who give us the freedom of speech, not the poet, it's the soldier who allows us to demonstrate, not the campus organizer, it's the soldier that salutes the flag, serves the flag, whose coffin is draped with the flag. Chaplains let's stand with prayer side by side for our "Veterans serving Veterans."

Today I pray for God's constant eye and hand of protection upon the American Legion. I pray to our God who is sovereign and powerful in the affairs of men of the American Legion starting where it all begins from the Post, District, Department and National. Lord restore the passion that we once had as soldiers and now legionnaires; You called us to defend the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy that hasn't change one iota today. Lord, make that clear to us in mind, heart, and soul for God and Country. Lord, hold each veterans in your loving hands as they serve God and Country and keep on fighting to serve each one. Let us remember the words of our Lord, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your request be made known to God." Amen

BATTER UP

By Robert Mitchell
Area 4 Commissioner



Your attention please 17th, 19th and 23rd Districts: Post Commanders, Adjutants, Sal, Aux. and Legion Rider Units:

Each year we rely on support and donations to help offset the costs to the 4th Area and the 19th District to run the 19th District Legion baseball program; to pay playoff umpire fees, buy baseballs, pay for State Tournament housing and buy Legion baseball insignia sleeve patches for the 4th Area champion to play in the State Tournament and pay other related costs to the program. This season we are asking for support and donations of \$100.00 or more from each post in our (3) districts (4th Area) to help offset the costs to the program for 2016.

We thank all for their 2015 donations.

The baseball program each year registers 16 High School teams in the South Bay; each team with 18 players, 19 years old and under. The teams play 120 regular season games and (8) teams play a 14 game 4th Area tournament.

Online registration begins January 1, of each year at the National Legion baseball Website www.baseball.legion.org each team pays \$1,345.00 to play; paid for entry fees, Insurance and umpire fees; paid by school Booster clubs, sponsors and individuals. We need 2 sponsors to pay playing fees for 2 teams, \$1,345.00 each team (Carson HS and Narbonne HS). The 4th Area/19th District season starts early June and ends mid-July with the (8) team 4th Area double elimination tournament. The American Legion baseball program provides a well-disciplined environment for community youth to play summer baseball nationwide.

For additional information, please feel free to contact us, donations maybe mailed or presented at any of our District meetings.

A schedule of teams participating, game days and ball park will be forthcoming in our next Flash issue.

Contact information

Robert Mitchell Area Commissioner/19th District Chairman
16913 Billings Dr. Carson, CA. 90746

310-625-6096 mtellrob@aol.com

Robert Boyd-4th Area Commissioner/
Commission Chairman

310-503-9644 bboyd446@gmail.com

Thank You for your continued support, and we hope to see you at the Ball park to cheer for your Team.



GHOST ARMY OF WORLD WAR II

The American GIs who used inflatable tanks and sound effects to dupe the Nazis during World War II could be awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. Two lawmakers say the Ghost Army's battlefield exploits in the months after D-Day deserve recognition at long last. "It is finally time that the American people recognize their ingenuity and selflessness which saved countless American and Allied lives," Rep. Peter King (R-N.Y.) said. "They deserve their due."

King and Rep. Annie Kuster (D-N.H.) are sponsoring the "The Ghost Army Gold Medal Act" and the bill has already picked up 30 co-sponsors, The Washington Times reported Saturday. A companion bill will be introduced soon in the Senate. On

the front lines from Normandy to the Rhine River, the Ghost Army used inflatable tanks and aircraft, sound effects, phony radio transmissions and illusion to carry out their mission, the Times reported.

The elite group, known officially as the 23rd Headquarters Special Troops, risked their lives to draw fire away from fellow GIs involved in the actual fighting, it reported. The bill comes after filmmaker Rick Beyer's 2013 award-winning documentary, "The Ghost Army," and 2015 book, "The Ghost Army of World War II," brought attention to the little-known unit.

The Times reported that Ghost Army vets are living in 11 states and Washington D.C. The "American Sniper" team, including actor Bradley Cooper, director Todd Phillips and producer Todd Phillips, is currently working on a movie about the Ghost Army for Hollywood, the Times reported.

Congressional Gold Medals have gone to previous unsung World War II units including The Doolittle Raiders, The Monuments Men, Women Air Service Pilots and the Native American Code talkers, according to The Times.

HISTORICAL EVENTS ON THIS DAY IN THE MONTH OF APRIL

April 6, 1917

Following a vote by Congress approving a declaration of war, the *U.S. entered World War I* in Europe.

April 9, 1865

After over 500,000 American deaths, the *Civil War effectively ended* as General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant in the village of Appomattox Court House. The surrender occurred in the home of Wilmer McLean. Terms of the surrender, written by General Grant, allowed Confederates to keep their horses and return home. Officers were allowed to keep their swords and side arms.

April 10, 1942

During World War II in the Pacific, the *Bataan Death March began* as American and Filipino prisoners were forced on a six-day march from an airfield on Bataan to a camp near Cabanatuan. Some 76,000 Allied POWs including 12,000 Americans were forced to

walk 60 miles under a blazing sun without food or water to the POW camp, resulting in over 5,000 American deaths.

April 10, 1945

The *Nazi concentration camp at Buchenwald was liberated* by U.S. troops. Located near Weimar in Germany, Buchenwald was established in July 1937 to hold criminals and was one of the first major concentration camps. It later included Jews and homosexuals and was used as a slave labor center for nearby German companies. Of a total of 238,980 Buchenwald inmates, 56,545 perished. Following its liberation, Supreme Allied Commander, General Dwight D. Eisenhower, and other top U.S. commanders visited the sub-camp at Ordure. U.S. Troops also forced German civilians from nearby towns into the camp to view the carnage.

April 12, 1945 - President Franklin D. Roosevelt died suddenly at Warm Springs, Georgia, after suffering a

cerebral hemorrhage. He had been President since March 4, 1933, elected to four consecutive terms and had guided America out of the Great Depression and through World War II.

April 19, 1989

Forty-seven U.S. sailors were killed by an *explosion in a gun turret on the USS Iowa* during gunnery exercises in the waters off Puerto Rico.

April 21, 1918

During World War I, the *Red Baron (Manfred von Richtofen)* was *shot down* and killed during the Battle of the Somme. He was credited with 80 kills in less than two years, flying a red Fokker triplane. British pilots recovered his body and buried him with full military honors.

April 22, 1864

"In God We Trust" was included on all newly minted U.S. coins by an Act of Congress.

April 30, 1789 -

George Washington became the first U.S. President as he was administered the oath of office on the balcony of Federal Hall at the corner of Wall and Broad Streets in New York City.


**THE AMERICAN
 LEGION**
*“Still and Forever
 Sewing America”*

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DEADLINE

20TH OF MONTH

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS

WELCOMED

Check us out on
 19th District Face book
 On the Web page
 Noisy 19th.com



Denise Rohan (WI) addresses DEC



Vice Commanders Rosa & Jr. Duarte



Eric Measles, Denise Rohan, J.T.Higuera



Nat. Vice Comrd. George Custing (AZ)



Eric, Denise with Bob Boyd, Gil Soto



Joe Gonzales with Jennie and John Garivito

END ZONE BRIEFS

Los Angeles County Council.

**19TH DISTRICT TO
 DONATE \$ 1,100.00
 TO COUNTY VA&R**

By an approval vote of the Delegates representing our member post of the 19th District, \$ 1,100.00 will be donated to the Los Angeles County's VA&R Fund.

As a historical note the 19th District designated (at least 50 Plus years ago), that all proceeds from fund raisers, and drawings received by the district from July to February be designated as a contribution to The Los Angeles County VA&R Fund. This declaration may also be found in the District's standing rules. Posts are also urged to contribute to this fund. Next meeting will be on April 1, 2016.

Department of California

DEC IN SANTA MARIA

The annual Spring meeting of the Departments Executive Board took place at the historical Corporal Marshall N. Braden Post 56, In beautiful Santa Maria, March 11-13, 2016.

Highlights included, 19th District Commander Patrick Dowd Report. Department Membership Director Art Castro also reported on the status of our current membership, giving thanks to those that has met their goals. Department Chaplain Joe Gonzales, as always gave us all inspirational prayers

In addition to this, we had some very special guest, National Vice Commander George Cushing (Arizona) and Denise Rohan (Wisconsin) Candidate for National Commander 2017-2018. 10 members of the District attended this meeting, Thank you all.

News from HQ Con't from front page

Veterans Recruitment Appointment and 30 percent or more disabled veteran," according to a flyer presented to The American Legion from DHS.

“The American Legion strongly supports this kind of proactive approach by DHS to recruit and hire veterans, “The federal government offers multiple jobs and career tracks that fit perfectly with the credentials and skill sets of veterans, along with directives to make those employment opportunities readily available to disabled veterans.”

Applicants should bring current resumes, SF-50 forms if already federally employed, Form DD-214, VA compensation letter (if applicable) and college transcripts for those seeking jobs in information technology. For additional information at www.legion.org. Here's an opportunity worth looking into.

**“BARS-NO-BARS”
2015 – 2016 LEGON YEAR
March 25, 2016**

POST NAME	POST #	CERT OF OFFICERS	POST AUDIT	DISTRICT DELEGATES	DISTRICT DUES	LACC DELEGATES	LACC DUES	AREA 4 DUES	PER CAPITA	CONVENTION DELEGATES
ARTHUR L. PETERSON	27									
WHITTIER	51									
BELL-MAYWOOD	120									
PARAMOUNT	134									
BERT S. CROSSLAND	170									
SOUTH BAY	184									
GARDENA VALLEY	187									
DOWNEY	270									
MONTEBELLO	272									
HAWTHORNE	314									
ALBERT F. MAZZIE	323									
LELAND A. CUPP	341									
GILBERT LINDSAY	352									
NORWALK	359									
RIVERA	411									
CLYDE F. HAGER	465									
SUNSHINE ACRES	477									
LAKESWOOD	496									
HOUGHTON PARK	560									
HOLLYDALE	723									
EUGENE A. OBREGON	804									
LINCOLN VILLAGE	833									

ALL DOCUMENT ORIGINALS/COPIES ARE DUE TO THE ADJUTANT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. THIS IS AN ACCURATE ACCOUNTING OF ALL DOCUMENTATION

PLEASE BE ADVISED, if your Post has not submitted all documents/dues before the annual State Convention, the Post delegates will not be allowed to vote!

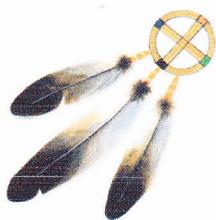
District 19 Dues: \$5.00

LACC Dues: \$15.00

Area 4 Dues: \$1.00

District 19 Per Capita: .50 cents per Post Member

ADVANCE BOOKING
19TH DISTRICT FUND RAISER
TO
VIEJAS INDIAN CASINO



SATURDAY
JUNE 11, 2016



\$ 25.00 PER PERSON

CONTACT

RICKARD "KIKI" RAMIREZ

562 - 949 - 5454

PROGRAM:

- 8:30 A.M.** Bus departs Rivera Post 411,7642 Serapis Ave Pico Rivera, CA
Second pick up at Lakewood Post 486, 5938 Parkcrest, L.B.
- 12:00 P.M.** Approximate arrival at Casino. Note: Everyone **MUST** have valid I.D. and **MUST** get a "Players Card" . The Casino requires all guest have a "Players Card" if not, a Financial people Penalty may result. Everyone's cooperation is needed.
- 5:00 P.M.** Depart for home
- Please Note:** Pay in advance to assure your reservation. Make check to 19th Dist.
There will be **NO Refunds**, You must find your own replacement.

**There will be loads of fun on the Bus,
Refreshments, Raffles and prizes**