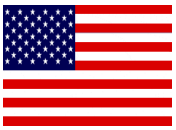




September 2026



Volume 102
No. 3



STILL WANTED: FLASH Editor



**19th District
Next E-Board meeting
Wednesday September 2nd
VIRTUAL**

<https://meet.google.com/tym-vjgv-ffh>

**General District Meeting
Wednesday September 9th
South Bay Post 184
412 Camino Real
Redondo Beach, CA
Meetings start at 7:00 PM**



Quick Notes from the Commander

Comrades,

I have taken back the FLASH and am now actively seeking someone to be the next FLASH Editor. Please let me know if you are interested.

Per 8/28 Department Report: Posts **170, 184, 341, 465 and 833** are currently on probation for missing reports to the department.

Please go to <https://calegion.org/department-reports/> and select Post Probation & Suspension Report to see exactly what reports need to be submitted. **It is each post's responsibility to verify that their reports are being registered at the department. If you have submitted them and they do not appear, contact Sam Flores (department adjutant).**

The Department has updated the database to reflect Membership data at this point.

Bring your post Helmets for Heros donations to each district meeting. We will be starting a competition to see which post can bring the most for the fiscal year. We will present checks in DEC and at convention for district Helmets for Heros.



Karl Wilvert—Commander

Comrades,

I hope this message finds you and your loved ones healthy.

The Budget and Audit are complete; thank you to the team for completing this task for the 26/27 fiscal year. This important process helps us verify that we allocate our money properly. We also determined how to categorize where our resources are best spent. We will present this at the September General District Meeting.

We are entering the midterm election season for the USA. Please be aware that the American Legion is non-political. While I encourage all of us to display our Legion proudly, you must be aware of political rallies and of being photographed while wearing Legion apparel. Please do all you can to keep the American Legion out of any political activities. This includes local, county, state, regional, or national gatherings.

I want to take a moment to ask that we all reach into our souls and access our inner selves. Currently, tempers seem stretched, and interactions during our meetings have had some rough patches. I ask that we stay focused on the business at hand and not bring in the outside uneasiness I am seeing. We are all comrades with the common goal of assisting veterans to the best of our ability; let's focus on accomplishing this task.

Angelo has been working hard to handle the hospitality events for the next Department Convention in June of 2027. Many ideas have been floating around, and I will let him keep us all informed on where we are headed. With the convention being held here in LA, I hope each post can send many of their members to the convention. Let's make the Noisy 19th one of the best districts in attendance.

I encourage everyone to support those in need. Please pay your dues for 2027.

REMINDER: We are dark for the November 11th General District Meeting.

Please note that the next District 19 General meeting is on **Wednesday, September 9th, 2026, at South Bay Post 184 in Redondo Beach**. The next EBoard meeting is a ***virtual meeting*** and will take place **on Wednesday, September 2nd, 2026**. I kindly request that each 19th District Post send at least one representative to our general meetings.

Karl Wilvert
19th District Commander

1st Vice Commander—Manny Vital

Fellow Comrades,

I hope everyone is doing well and keeping cool with this Heat Wave. Our new membership goals are out. Last year's Goal was 2,162; our new Goal for 2026-2027 is 2,029. As you can see, the numbers have come down. We are currently at 49.48%. Our District sits at #19. Currently 4th Area sits at 52.69% and #3 in California. The Department Goal is now 60,762. Currently, the Department is at 51.60% and #37. We will be having a Zoom meeting on September 2 for the E-Board, TBA per Commander. At this meeting, I will be giving out the Post's new Goals. Please join us so I can give your Post its Goal number for the year.

Just a reminder: we will have a Revitalization on September 19 at Norwalk Post 359 from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Coffee and pastries in the morning and lunch will be provided for a Donation. Please bring your Rosters so you can work on those, and we will also have the Post 1000 list and the 1601 list. All the Membership Cards have been distributed except Post 61, so if Post 61 can please attend the next District Meeting on September 9 at South Bay Post 184 in Redondo Beach, I will give them to whoever can attend. Let's see if we can achieve our goal of 100%; the numbers look doable this year.

In Comradeship,
Manuel E. Vital
1st Vice Commander
19th District

2nd Vice Commander—Angelo Moldonado

Welcome, Members, Auxiliary, Sons, and Riders,

Another month, another donation. Just a reminder of our First District Fundraiser: 1700 hrs., September 23rd, at South Bay Post in Redondo Beach. It's a cigar night. It's \$25.00 per person, which includes one high-end cigar and a few other cigars. We will have cutters, lighters, and matches for you. There will also be food available for an additional donation. We are still finalizing our day trip to a casino in October (tentative), leaving from Norwalk Post. Reminder: we are still looking for a few more legions to host District Fundraisers at your post; just let me know and share a few ideas. At our revitalization at Norwalk Post on September 19th, we will have a lunch for donations to support the 19th District VA&R efforts.

Our new riders' chapter will have a BBQ the Sunday before Memorial Day with Hamburgers and Hot Dogs. Please support them as our newest Chapter in California. They started in April and unfortunately lost their Chaplain, Michael Salinas, last month; we had a great funeral in Fullerton, with an escort ride to the Riverside National Cemetery, with help from other riding groups, including the Patriot Riders. Thank you, Department Chaplain (Commander) Kathy Cash, for being there to comfort the family and provide support. You are number one in my book!

I mentioned last month that I am looking for raffle (or opportunity drawings) baskets for our monthly meetings. Last month we had a commemorative "gold" ticket and pins from the World Cup Semi-Final in Atlanta. This is a great opportunity to engage members who don't typically make it to district meetings. Let's come together and show that we are the best district this side of the 10 Freeway.

I am looking for members to join our hospitality committee to prepare for next year's Department Convention in Los Angeles. A lot of ideas have been floated, including a joint hospitality suite or shuttles for dinners at our local posts, to showcase our district and the Greater Los Angeles Area. Please lend your hand and ideas.

Don't forget to keep bringing in those Helmets for Heroes funds from your Posts. It's just a great way to keep our membership involved in our true mission of mutual helpfulness. Remember, if we aren't going to have any fun, we aren't going to do it!

Please contact me to arrange events for our VA&R. Thank you for your interest. You can reach me at agandalf22@aol.com or (253) 495-9462.

Thank you all for your continued support for our district.
Yours in comradeship,
Angelo Gandalf Maldonado, JD

Historian—David DeMoss

No Report

Chaplain – Monika Rueda

Hello Comrades.

Hoping all is well. We have been dealing with some challenging times and weather conditions. Let us all try to reach out to our fellow Comrades, friends and neighbors to make sure they're okay. As part of humanity, we need each other. As a veteran, we leave no brother or sister behind. God Bless You All.

Chaplain Monika Rueda

Post Everlasting:

Robert Adams Post 272 Montebello

May He Rest in Peace

3rd Vice Commander—Jessie Leal

Greetings Comrades,

On September 7th, South Bay Post 184 will be celebrating our Labor Day BBQ starting at noon till 3pm. All are welcomed to join us.

Our District 19 General Meeting will be held at Post 184. We will be serving BBQ Pork sliders with chips and dessert for \$10 a plate.

We are hosting Cigar Nite September 23rd at Post 184 starting at 5pm to support our VA&R program.

We need our District to participate in the Compton Stand Down September 25th thru 27th. Post 184 is already committed to have their Post tent for those days.

I would like to see other Post's to participate in this event.

We are there to help our homeless veterans. So far no one has responded which is why we need your help and support for this event. Also, we need your donations to help with this event to include clothing and supplies. Time to step up and make this happen.

For God and Country,

Jesse Y Leal
 Department of California
 Commander
 South Bay Post 184
 Redondo Beach, California
 3rd Vice Commander
 Area 4 District 19

CALC is coming to SoCal

Redlands American Legion Post 106
814 West Colton Avenue, Redlands, California 92374

16-18 October 2026

- The course starts at 8:00 am on Friday, 16 October, and will conclude with graduation at 1:00 pm on Sunday, 18 October
- Registration closes at midnight on 30 September 2026
- Applicants have until 30 September to submit a completion certificate from The American Legion's online Basic Training Course and a resolution on a topic of their choice
- Applicants will receive mileage reimbursement for travel to and from their home Post @ .40 per mile, along with a \$50.00 per diem per day to cover expenses during the event
- Please send questions to CALC@calegion.org

Topics include - Legion Charities, Be The One/Buddy Checks, Community Engagement, Corporate Responsibility, Legislative Advocacy, Tax Exempt status, Post Charters, Marketing/Public Relations, Parliamentary Procedures, Post Operations, Post VSO, Flag Code, Resolutions, Strategic Planning, & Trademarks



3-2026

Registration Period
Between 8/1/2026 and 9/30/2026

ABOUT LEGION NATIONAL COLLEGE

legion.org/college

The American Legion National College enhances knowledge and appreciation of The American Legion and teaches the core values and contributions of the organization, its Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, and many subordinate programs. The National Legion College prepares Legionnaires for leadership positions in posts, districts, counties, and departments through education, development, and motivation. The curriculum challenges student leaders to think critically and creatively about issues confronting the Legion.

NATIONAL LEGION COLLEGE COURSE STRUCTURE



The curriculum centers on self-taught, small-group sessions supervised by graduate facilitators, staff members, contracted professional speakers, and national officers. Students review The American Legion's core values, develop new ideas and consider the future. An emphasis is placed on programs, management techniques, and leadership skills necessary to increase the visibility of programs, growth in membership, and public awareness of the Legion and its corresponding organizations

New District 19 Pin and Sticker

A limited number of District pins and stickers are still available



The pin is approximately 1 ¼ inch wide. Made of polished brass, with a dark blue background color. The pin has a double rubber clutch on the back and won't stain your cover or suit lapel.

The sticker is 3.00 inches wide, with yellow and blue colors on an adhesive back.

You can get both pin and sticker for \$5.00.

Commission Web Pages

Go to <https://calegion.org/commissions/> for information on all open commissions.

[Aerospace Commission](#)

[Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Energy Commission](#)

[Amateur Radio Commission](#)

[American Legion Baseball Commission](#)

[CALegion.org/baseball](#)

[American Legion Riders Commission](#)

[American Legion Riders Website](#)

[Americanism Commission](#)

[Boys & Girls State Foundation](#)

[Constitution & Bylaws](#)

[Children and Youth Commission](#)

[Community Service Commission](#)

[Disaster and Emergency Services Commission](#)

[Finance Commission](#)

[Foreign Relations and National Security Commission](#)

[Housing \(Veteran\) Commission](#)

[Internal Affairs Commission](#)

[Law and Order Commission](#)

[Leadership Commission](#)

[Legislative Commission](#)

[Media and Communications Commission](#)

[Naturalization Commission](#)

[Oratorical Contests Commission](#)

[Ritual Commission](#)

[Scouting Commission](#)

[Sons of The American Legion Commission](#)

[Valley Forge Workshop Commission](#)

[Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation \(VA&R\) Commission](#)

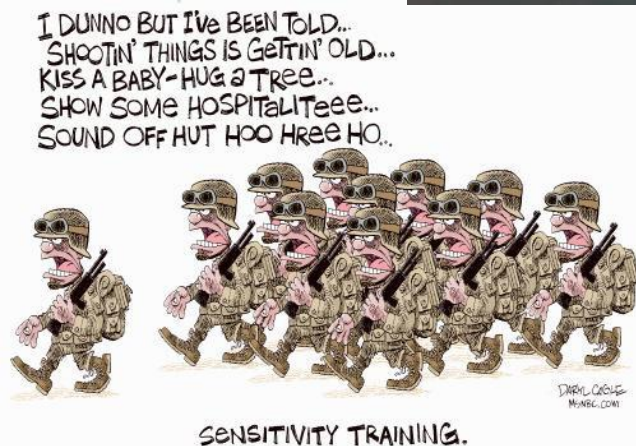
[Veterans Employment and Education Commission](#)

[Ways and Means Commission](#)

Some Fun for all



"ACTUALLY — IT WAS THE GIRL IN EVERY PORT BIT THAT SWUNG IT!"



Education & Transition



A jobseeker speaks with a recruiter during the Catalyst Career Group Dallas Job Fair in Dallas, Texas, July 29, 2026. (Dylan Hollingsworth/Bloomberg via Getty Images)

Veterans' unemployment stable despite job market cratering in July, report shows

A volatile month of July saw employers shed 23,000 jobs and lay off another 153,000, according to the monthly jobs report by the Bureau of Labor Statistics [released Friday](#). Amid the plunge, the unemployment rate for veterans appeared to stabilize at 4.2% despite the impact of artificial intelligence, tariffs and the war in Iran.

The 4.2% jobless rate for all veterans was up a tick from the 4.1% recorded in June, while the rate for post-9/11 veterans dropped from 4.8% in June to 4.7% in July. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate for women veterans rose from 3.6% in June to 3.8% in July.

The BLS report also included revised figures on the number of jobs added in June and May, which showed major downward trends. The initial May numbers showed that 129,000 jobs had been added, but that number was revised downward to 63,000. June's initial job growth number was 57,000, but that number was revised to 20,000.

In addition, the BLS report stated, "Among the unemployed, the number of people on temporary layoff increased by 153,000 to 921,000 in July," and the "number of permanent job losers changed little at 1.7 million."

Friday's BLS report came out the day after President Donald Trump declared at a Las Vegas rally that the U.S. economy was "the greatest in the history of the world," although archived BLS reports show that the U.S. economy has added a total of 542,000 jobs over the 19 months of Trump's second term, while nearly 2.7 million jobs were added in the last 19 months of the Biden administration.

In response to Friday's report, White House aides put out not-to-worry statements noting job growth in construction and manufacturing.

White House spokesman Kush Desai said in a released statement that the "Trump industrial resurgence is on schedule."

"Manufacturing (which added 5,000 jobs in July) and factory construction jobs grew again in July even as government payrolls continued to significantly shrink," Desai said. "Unemployment claims are at record lows."

On Fox Business News, White House National Economic Council Director Kevin Hassett said that the end of the FIFA World Cup was a factor in the number of jobs lost. He described it as a "sort of rebound from all the employment we got from the World Cup, because the World Cup was ending."

Hassett's comments contrasted with the analysis of other economists who have focused on the eventual long-term impact of artificial intelligence and the uncertainty over whether the chokehold on oil tankers passing through the Strait of Hormuz can be lifted.

"It's a bleak (BLS) report," Heather Long, chief economist for the Navy Federal Credit Union, said in a phone interview with Military Times. The report shows that "a lot of people are leaving the labor force," and "there's no doubt that the job market has flatlined in President Trump's second term."

"It's just not a dynamic jobs market," she added. "Tariffs and the war in Iran have caused companies to cut back" on hiring. To sidestep hiring slowdowns due to the impact of AI, "young people are looking again at trade schools."

The BLS report also highlighted one of the great counter-intuitive of American economics: people losing their jobs can be good news for the stock markets, Long said.

By midday Friday, the Dow Industrial Average was up 50 points, possibly indicating that investors were betting on the gloomy jobs report making it unlikely that the Federal Reserve would raise interest rates in September.

★ 23RD ANNUAL ★ COMPTON VETERANS = STAND ★ DOWN =



**3-DAY
OVERNIGHT
EVENT**

**★ SEPT. ★
26-28,
2026**

*Save
the
date*

DOORS OPEN

6:00 AM

SATURDAY


 Veteran Peer Access Network - LA County


 U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
 Veterans Health Administration
 VA Long Beach Healthcare System


 COMPTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE


 BATTLESHIP IOWA
 LOS ANGELES

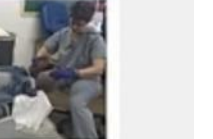





★ PROUDLY PRESENTED BY THE COMPTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ★











★ SERVICES INCLUDE ★

- ✓ Employment Assistance
- ✓ Housing Assistance
- ✓ Legal Assistance
- ✓ Workshops
- ✓ Medical & Vision Exams
- ✓ Mental Health Counseling
- ✓ Chiropractic / Acupuncture
- ✓ Massage Therapy
- ✓ Clothing & Hygiene Kits
- ✓ Showers & Haircuts
- ✓ Hot Meals
- ✓ Social Security Benefits
- ✓ & so much more

VETERAN PRE-REGISTRATION

Veterans may pre-register with their VA Healthcare System for a faster check-in process.

VA Long Beach
 Melanie Martins
 Phone: (562) 826-8000 ext 12054



COMPTON HOUSING AUTHORITY

700 N Bullis Rd.
 Compton, CA 90221

More info:
 Charlie Lonon
 (562) 400-1485
 Charlie.Lonon@gmail.com

Dr. Lestean M. Johnson
 Compton Chamber of Commerce
 (310) 631-8611
 cptchamber@aol.com




 Employment Development Department
 State of California




 LAFD.ORG


 KJLH


 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
 EDISON


**THE AMERICAN
 LEGION**

"Still and Forever

Serving America"



DEADLINE

25TH OF MONTH

COMMENTS/SUGGESTIONS

FLASH EDITOR WANTED

Looking for a volunteer to help get
 the district word out to the
 membership

About This Newsletter

The District 19 Council of the American Legion, Department of California, is a 503(c)(19) non-profit veterans organization registered with the IRS and the State of California. District 19 publishes this edition for all registered members at no charge.

E-mail: karl.wilvert@yahoo.com

Editor-in-Chief: Karl Wilvert

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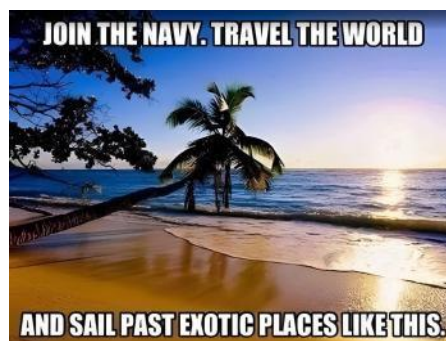
District 19 meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 PM at various locations throughout Los Angeles County, California. See the latest calendar for locations

END ZONE BRIEFS

Upcoming Events

9/9/2026 – District 19 General Membership meeting at South Bay Post 184 at 19:00. Dinner at 6pm

3/12-14, 2027 Department Executive Committee meeting, Santa Maria Post 56
 501 N Pine St, Santa Maria, CA 93458



POSTS OF DISTRICT 19

Post 27 Arthur L Peterson District 19 (4)

PO Box 20900, Long Beach, CA 90802
(562) 436-6182

Post 51 Whittier District 19 (4)

PO Box 51, Whittier, CA 90606
(562) 201-3095

Post 61 Battleship Iowa (ALR) District 19 (4)

250 S Harbor Blvd, San Pedro, CA 90731
28625 S Western Ave, PO Box 214, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90275
(310) 357-7063

Post 134 City of Paramount (SAL) District 19 (4)

7550 Somerset Blvd, Paramount, CA 90723
(310) 920-5545

Post 170 Bert S Crossland (SAL) (ALA) District 19 (4)

3309 Antonio St, Torrance, CA 90503
(310) 213-6484

Post 184 South Bay (SAL) (ALR) (ALA) District 19 (4)

412 S Camino Real, Redondo Beach, 90277
(310) 316-6718

Post 270 Downey District 19 (4)

(562) 544-0372

Post 272 Montebello (SAL) (ALA) District 19 (4)

616 W Cleveland Ave, Montebello, CA 90640
(323) 721-4878

Post 314 Hawthorne (SAL) (ALA) District 19 (4)

14124 S Prairie Ave, Hawthorne, CA 90250
(310) 675-1313

Continued next page

Post 341	Leland A Cupp	(SAL) (ALA)	District 19 (4)
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4900 Durfee Ave, Pico Rivera, CA 90660
(562) 641-9043

Post 352	Gilbert Lindsay		District 19 (4)
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PO Box 11171, Carson, CA 90749
(720) 840-5578

Post 359	Norwalk	(SAL) (ALA)	District 19 (4)
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11986 Front St, Norwalk, CA 90650
(562) 474-1977

Post 411	Rivera	(ALA)	District 19 (4)
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7642 Serapis Ave, Pico Rivera, CA 90660
PO Box 411, Pico Rivera, CA 90660
(562) 656-4117

Post 465	Clyde F Hager	(SAL) (ALA)	District 19 (4)
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7550 Eastern Ave, Bell Garden, CA 90201
(562) 927-6116

Post 496	Lakewood	(SAL) (ALA)	District 19 (4)
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5938 E Parkcrest St, Long Beach, CA 90808
(562) 420-1014

Post 804	Eugene A <u>Obregon</u>	(SAL) (ALR)	District 19 (4)
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4615 E Cesar E Chavez Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90022 (714) 360-9268

Post 833	Lincoln Village	(SAL) (ALA)	District 19 (4)
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21022 S Alameda St, Long Beach, CA 90810
(310) 518-5054

LIST OF DISTRICT COMMANDERS

1927 to Present
Department of California

Year Served	Name
1927	A. B. Waddingham
1928	Charles C. McGonegal
1929	Charles C. McGonegal
1930	Lawrence Klinker
1931	Lawrence Klinker
1932	Ray Hoskins
1933	Art Bliley
1934	Stephen M. Cope
1935	Lawrence M. Windle
1936	Authur Longnecker
1937	John C. Dunn
1938	Charles F. Walter
1939	Charles S. Warren
1940	Tracy C. Hicks
1941	Richard J. Myerscough
1942	Ray F. Tucker
1943	Raymond E. Jones
1943	Walter E. Mueller
1944	Merl W. Horn
1945	J. E. Child
1946	R. Y. O'Shaughnessy
1947	Robert L. Rossier
1948	Joseph F. McCann
1949	Emerson C. Miller
1950	Ralph E. Smith
1951	Henry S. Wilson
1952	Al Kaiser, Jr.
1953	W. Devore Walden
1954	Leonard G. Cross
1955	H. Ed Hissey

1956	J. Vincent Walker
1957	Ray Kimberlin
1958	Albert F. Mazzie
1959	Fredrick J. Pelletier
1960	Thomas Pope
1961	Willam H. Gilmore
1962	Nathan Sommer
1963	Christian A. Akeo
1963	Maynard E. Norquist
1964	H. Gordon Gregson
1964	Kenneth L. Van Sant
1965	Marvin Jones
1966	J. U. MacCartney
1967	Raymond R. Pfluger
1968	Roy W. Grimwood
1969	Guy F. Millburn
1970	Clifford R. Bell
1971	Casper C. Rea
1971	Robert A. Okeson
1972	Floyd W. Schultz
1973	Daniel M. Castillo
1974	John Hudak
1975	Thomas G. Jaurez
1976	Elbert W. Ralston
1977	J. W. McCormick
1978	Donald R. Carter
1979	John E. Mummert, Sr.
1980	Robert R. Hart
1981	Raymond F. Berucki
1982	Patrick M. Reese
1983	Lauro J. Jaime, Jr.
1984	Werner E. Wolf
1985	Thomas Vincent
1986	Fernando Soto
1987	Louis R. Gomez
1988	Gary CmCracken
1989	Frances F. Berlucki
1990	Carl F. Shasha
1991	Malcolm A. Jeffris
1992	James W. Wysong
1993	Ray Curry

1994	Albert B. Clugston
1995	James T. Higurea
1996	Ralph W. Shipley
1997	LeRoy "Lee" Spann
1998	John H. Holloway
1999	Rudy Moreno
2000	Johnny T. Brown
2001	James Potter
2002	Brian Franklin
2003	James Drew
2003	Richard Benninger
2004	Henry Pacheco
2005	Joe Gonzales
2006	Bull Musser
2007	Frank Dulleson
2008	Robert Mitchell
2009	Gil Soto
2010	Art Castro
2011	William Perry
2012	Gil Palmer
2013	William (Bill) Miller
2014	Dennis Radcliffe
2015	Robert Boyd
2016	Nick Rosa
2017	Richard Ramierez
2018	Patrick Dowd
2019	Ray Gard
2020	Ray Gard
2021	Louie Adame
2022	Louie Adame
2023	Fernando Gallardo
2024	Fernando Gallardo
2025	Karl Wilvert
2026	Karl Wilvert

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA

In 1919, many American Legion departments across the United States were holding conventions for the very first time. The Department of California held its first organizational gathering at Post 1 in San Francisco on October 10-12, 1919, where H. G. Mathewson was chosen as the first Department Commander. A year later, the first official Department Convention was held in San Diego on August 23-26, 1920, with David P. Barrow (Berkeley Post 7), elected as the second Department Commander.

Focusing on service to veterans and their families, the Legion evolved from a group of war-weary veterans of World War I into one of the most influential non-partisan and veteran non-profit organizations in America.

The state headquarters was located at the Veterans War Memorial Building on Van Ness Avenue, across the street from San Francisco City Hall. The building is under the administration of the American Legion War Memorial Commission, [https:// alwmcsf.org/](https://alwmcsf.org/) . But in 2014, when the headquarters rent was raised from \$1 a year to \$2,500 a month, the Department decided to look for a new home.

As it was in 1919 and continues to the present day, California has the largest veteran population of any state in the United States, at approximately 1.8 million veterans (as of 2022). San Francisco was our headquarters until 2015 and was home to the first American Legion post in California. That post was named as American Legion San Francisco Post 1 (within District 8) and was also located in the Veterans Memorial building, but now meets at the First Lutheran Church on 2nd Avenue SW.

In 2015, after approval from a majority of the state Legion membership, the Department of California bought an 8,000-square-foot former bank building in Sanger, CA, sixteen miles east of Fresno (Janet Wilson, Department Commander).

In March of 2015, the Department of California headquarters officially moved to Central California. Conveniently located in downtown Sanger. Our new headquarters has ample parking and includes offices for the Department Commander and the Department Adjutant, meeting rooms, record storage, and offices for our administration and support staff.