

JANUARY 2019 Member National & California American Legion Press Associations



# Welcome 2019



## **2019 WASHINGTON**

## **CONFERENCE**

California National Executive Committeeman Larry Van Kuran informs us that the Annual Washington Conference will take place February 24 -27, 2019.

We understand that the National organization will call in several California legionnaires who are members of the National Legislative Council.

Senate and House Representatives on major committees will be visited, requesting support on all issues regarding veterans, National Defense, Homeland Security, Immigration, to name a few. National Commander Brett Reistad will address the Joint Committee on Wednesday February 27th. Final draft of testimony will not be . . . .

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#### DISTRICT MEETINGS

E-BOARD Jan. 2, 2019

**Whittier Post 51** 

13225 Walnut St Room #6

**General Membership Meeting** 

Jan. 12, 2019

**Hawthorne Post 314** 

14124 S. Prairie Ave.

All meetings start at 7:00 PM

The Noisy 19th Team 100

American Legion Family wishing you

Rappy New Year

## National Commander's Pin Incentive Program



American Legion National Commander Brett P. Reistad will award his national commander "Membership Excellence: Team 100" incentive pin to any Legion Family member who obtains three new members into The American Legion. A new member is any eligible person joining for the 2019 membership year who was not a member of The American Legion.

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## NATIONAL COMMANDERS VISIT TO SO CAL

As published in last months Flash, our National Commander Brett Reistad will be making his official visit to Southern California starting on January 2, 2019. This a great opportunity to meet and Greet Commander Brett.

Commander Reistad will arrive Los Angeles prior to the New Year, as he will ride on the 100th Anniversary Centennial Float, Jan 1, 2019 Pasadena Tournament of Roses Parade. Mr. Reistad will also be the guest of Pasadena Post 13 Gala "Black Tie" gathering December 30, 2018, and tour the Phoenix Decorating Company, on or about Dec. 29, 2018. Special thanks to all our volunteers who assisted in decorating our Centennial Float., and to those who assisted in our Membership Booth.

Brief stops for the commander will be on Jan. 4th. Starting off at South Bay Post 184 early morning 9:00 AM, followed by a tour of the Battleship Iowa, Post 61 members will be on board to greet Commander Brett with the traditional Boatswain's Call (Traditional Piping by Senior Officers, Lunch is scheduled for noon at Chinatown Post , at the Golden Dragon.. Commander Brett will then travel to our West L.A. National Cemetery, and conclude with Cocktails and Dinner at The Bob Hope Patriotic Hall, hosted by Palisades Post 283. Reservations are a Must and maybe obtained on line only.

## A MESSAGE FROM COMMANDER RAY GARD

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year my fellow legionnaires. I want to thank a few people and Posts who made our Christmas Morning at the VA hospital a continued success. I asked for socks this year because that what they requested on our last visit. The District came thru with flying colors. We had plenty of socks along with t-shirts donated by Carson High School. Thank you, Bob Boyd. Thanks go to Whittier Post # 51, Post # 560, Post #314, Post #270 and Post #804 for their participation and contribution.

A special thanks goes to Mary Skill, President of the Emblem Club, Downey Elks lodge for here donation of 200 plus socks. Thanks go to Denise Conrad, Jeanne Wood, Melissa Murray who helped distribute our socks and t-shirts. If I missed anybody I apologize Thank you District 17, 18 and 29 for your support today at the hospital. I look forward to working with you next year.

On December 24 the 19<sup>th</sup> District participated with the Ivan Project at the Bell Homeless shelter. Post 804 presented the colors and the Pledge of Allegiance to the audience of Homeless Veterans. Food was served by Stevens Steak House. Thanks, Nick, for contacting us. Boys State interviews are coming up. Let's support this program along with Law and Order night.

We are seeing an improvement on our membership numbers but the job is not done yet. Keep pushing. Please pass on the name of your First Vice Commanders with contact information to the First Vice Commander Louie Adame of the 19<sup>th</sup> District who can help you with your membership.

By the way Navy was robbed. We will be next year. Go Navy

## MEMBERSHIP BY LOUIE ADAME 1ST VICE COMMANDER

To all members and American Legion families of District 19"HAPPY NEW YEAR'S" In the November newsletter, I had reported that District 19 had fallen in the state standings from 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> place, but happily, the current report now shows the District has improved from a low of 67.08% to a current 75.34% to be placed at 12<sup>th</sup> place. I am elated to report District 19 achieved this positive move due to various Posts submitting their transmittals and accompanying per capita in a timely manner. In my article of November, I reported that five Posts had not yet achieved more than 50% of reaching their membership goals, and three Posts had not yet achieved more than 65% of their membership goals. In our current report, District 19 now shows four Posts still remain at less than 50% goal ranging from 49.30% to a disappointing low of 16.67% which reflects there is still work to be done for those four Posts to achieve current levels. All Posts should have reached the milestone goal of 75% for December 2018, and Posts should be pushing their membership drive to reach the January 2019 goal of 80.00%. However, there are posts that need to step up and again apply urgent efforts to renew their members or sign up new members to help bring themselves up to current membership goals.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander is responsible for membership recruitment and retention, but he should not be the only person working membership. Each Post Commander should have created a Membership Committee to assist the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander with membership duties as it is not a one person job. Post membership drives should be reviewed periodically to find out what works or doesn't work for recruiting new members or renewing current and expired members. Avoid any delays in the submission of transmittals, per capita payments, and the 2-part cards submitted to the Department. Any delay in submitting the member's per capita payment, he/she is not considered a paid member by either the Department or the National offices which may result in your members receiving past-due notices, and their subsequent inquiries to the Post as to where their dues payment has been directed. District 19 is willing to support you with resources that can help you with your Post membership program, but District 19 will not be doing the work for your Post. That is the responsibility of the Post officers and membership committee of each Post to do. In the coming months, there are preliminary plans to hold an Area 4 revitalization to help all Posts who are in need of memberships to assist in meeting their goals. But delinquent Posts do not have to wait for the Revitalization by accessing the membership site located on the CALEGION.ORG website. You will find helpful information relating to membership program, renewals or campaigns just contact me at (562) 201-3095 or at 71Phantom68@gmail.com.

Until mid -January.

## **AGENDA**

Sunday: Feb,. 24

9:00 AM TBI-PTSD Committee

12:00 PM National Commander and Department Leadership Discuss Membership Plan

4:00 PM Candidates Reception Post 135 Greenbelt, Maryland

## Monday Feb. 25th

7:00 AM ANAVICUS Breakfast

8:00 AM VA&R Commission

8:00 AM VA&E Commission

9:00 AM Finance Commission

9:00 AM Legislative Commission

9:00 AM National Security

1:00 PM Health Administration

1:00 PM National Cemetery

1:00 PM Veterans Benefits

5:00 PM Know before you Go Legislative Briefing.

## **Tuesday February 26th**

8:00 AM Commander's Call

followed by Walk on the Hill

Should you be interested in joining our National Commander at our 2019 Washington Conference, please note the following for Room reservations.

## **WASHINGTON HILTON**

Deluxe Guest Room or 2 double beds

\$ 247.00 + 14.5% tax

Cutoff date for a room reservation is January 26, 2019

Online: https://book.passkey.com/ go/aml2019washingtonmeeting



## Legion to keep fighting for Blue Water veterans

Incoming House Committee on Veterans Affairs Chairman Mark Takano, D -Calif., promised in a bipartisan Dec. 20 press conference that the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act will resurface early when the 116th Congress begins Jan. 3.

A top priority of the Republican he is replacing as chairman of the committee, Dr. Phil Roe of Tennessee, Takano said the measure – which affects some 90,000 Vietnam War veterans exposed to the toxic defoliant Agent Orange who served on surface ships during the war – will also be high on his agenda.

"We will keep working on the issue of toxic exposures," Takano said at the conference, called by Roe in an effort to persuade a full floor vote in the waning days of the 115th Congress after the measure was blocked on Dec. 10 primarily by two senators who objected, one on the basis of cost and the other who questioned the science. "I look forward to working with all my colleagues ... to continue making this a priority," Takano said. The act passed the House by a 382-0 vote last June.

American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Division Director Chanin Nuntavong joined lawmakers and other veterans service organizations in a chorus of complaint that just two opponents in the Senate could sink the bill, which would restore Agent Orange-related benefits that were stripped away by administrative action in 2002. "It is unfortunate to be standing here today under a massive cloud of disappointment," Nuntavong said at the press conference. "The American Legion and our nearly 2 million members are extremely disappointed that this commonsense bill was not sent to President Trump, who promised so aggressively to take care of the men and women who have served our country."

Nuntavong said The American Legion will continue to argue before Congress for the fair treatment of Blue Water Navy veterans, as he did last August in a Senate hearing when VA Under Secretary for Benefits Paul Lawrence voiced opposition claiming that "the science is not there." Nuntavong made the point that the science debate should have been put to rest when the American Legion-supported Agent Orange Act of 1991 passed and subsequent changes were made to include other health conditions presumed to have been caused by exposure, regardless if it occurred on a ship or under a jungle canopy.

"It's the right thing to do," said Rep. Mike Bost, R-Ill. "This bill goes to the heart of those men and women who served."

"For over three decades, we, as a legislative body, have tried to come to some resolution about how these men and women should be treated," said Roe, who added that "it's time to move past" debates over the connection between Agent Orange exposure and multiple cancers and other deadly illnesses which VA presumes to be service-connected only for Vietnam veterans who had boots on the ground during the war

"We are not going to give up," added Rep. Gus Bilirakis, R-Fla.

## Welcome to mylegion!

myLegion.org is a FREE website designed to connect members of The American Legion to their Post and Department leadership,

myLegion includes a site at each level of the organization:

Members - allows members to view information on file at National Headquarters, view messages and events published through the department and post myLegion sites, and network with other myLegion members using networking tools.

**Departments** - provides membership information, reports and electronic membership tools such as data change forms for all posts and squadrons within their department.

Posts/Districts/Counties - provides Legion and SAL information for all members in their post. Allows post to submit member data change forms and Consolidated Post Reports electronically. Upload post image, newsletter, message, and calendar. Create membership listings, view members renewing online, search for members who have expired or are members of the department headquarters post, and chat with other officers discussing veterans issues and sharing membership ideas.

If you haven't done so, do it today

#### **GUIDE TO REGISTERING**

Go to: mylegion.org

Click on to Register

Type in User name and your Password

Or you can call direct to speak with a representative to guide you.

1-800-433-3318

8:30 - 4:30 PM EST

## **CALVET HOME LOANS**

Welcome to CalVet Home Loans. If you are ready to buy a home, CalVet Home Loans is here to meet our veterans' home financing needs. You will find the CalVet Home Loan is a true benefit with features that will save you money, simplify the lending process, and help you protect your investment.

CalVet Home Loan products have below market interest rates with low or no down payment requirements. In addition, CalVet Home Loans has expanded eligibility. Now, nearly any veteran wanting to buy a home in California is eligible.

If you are new to the home buying process, this website is designed to help you understand the steps to home ownership and discover just how easy and stress free purchasing a home and securing a CalVet home loan can be.

Are you ready to get started now? Just choose one of the options that works the best for your schedule! Call one of our CalVet Loan Originators at 866-653-2510 Toll Free (Monday-Friday, 8am-5pm)

E-Mail: Homeloans@calvet.ca.gov

#### CHRISTMAS DAT AT LONG BEACH VA



Noisy 19th Delegation



Ray Gard, & Tibor Foki





Melissa & Mike Murray



Denise Conrad with National President Kathy & Wm.Dungan



Michael Hilemstad, J.T.

Higuera, Denise Conrad

Still Serving America and our **Veterans** 







Tibor Foki & Bob Boyd



## CAMP FIRE UPDATE

On Wednesday November 28, 2018, Department Commander Larry Leonardo, Department Adjutant Paul Brown and Sue Dewbre traveled to Paradise California to assess the devastation of the recent fire. Reports were unconfirmed and many reports conflicted other reports. We visited the Paradise Memorial Building, the Post Home of Paradise Post 259. The Veterans Hall was

not damaged but "Red Tagged" due to the fire-damaged redwood trees that are approximately 200 feet from the Veterans Memorial Building. The building cannot be occupied until the potential falling hazard created by the damaged trees has been removed.

Department Adjutant brought 18 cases of water, National Emergency Fund (NEF) application forms and Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) for those veterans that experienced damage to their homes. Member Data Forms were also made available so displaced members can report their new-temporary addresses so we can continue to communicate with our members and they can continue to receive newsletters with information to help our members.

District 4 Commander John Leach and crew took the lead to identify any effected members in the early stages of the fire. Commander John and crew, thank you for leadership during this devastation. Material goods have flooded in and relief agencies have asked that no more materials such as clothes, bedding and other materials, be sent to the agencies, helping with those affected by the fire. The immediate need is gift cards and money to help those affected, purchase clothing, pay for accommodations and money for fuel and transportation as some people are staying with friends and family outside of the damaged area. Many others seek accommodation at shelters and motels in unaffected areas, some many miles away.

We can help by allowing the professionals to do their jobs unabated, material goods are in overabundance and further material donations are being turned away. Those effected need money or non-store specific gift cards. Checks should be made out to "American Legion Post 45", please include the following in the check's memo line": "Donation for Camp Fire Relief" Send Checks and gift cards" to:

Mailing Address American Legion, Raisner Post 45 P.O. Box 773

Corning, Ca. 96021



Point of Contact: Commander John Leach 503-209-3415 jleach204@gmail.com

Commanders Incentive

during the 2018 membership year.

Each member listed must be eligible for membership in The American Legion. Forward names of Sons of The American Legion members or Auxiliary members to your detachment or unit for use in their respective incentive programs.



Only one pin will be awarded per individual. Upon receipt, national membership staff will confirm the names and mail the pin directly to the person who earned it. Commander Reistad's pin incentive pro-

gram will end June 30, 2019, or when supplies are exhausted.

For the New Member incentive pin form go to:

https://www.legion.org/ documents/legion/pdf/ newmemberpinform\_reistad.pdf »

#### **UPDATE YOUR CPR**

(Consolidated Post Report)

Post Commanders and Adjutants, and legion program chairmen please note that this is an ideal time to document your post activities, for the first half of our American Legion year.

If you are as post chairman, you should have documented all your activities that pertained to your program. i,e monies and time spent interviews in Boys State program, Blood Donors, Children and Youth, Oratorical, Legion Baseball, VA&R donations.

Patriotic observances participated in, noting media attention. Grave site services for deceased members. VA Hospital visitations, and so on.

By updating your annual report you avoid the year end rush of Department mandated paperwork.

Should you have any questions please contact your District Adjutant, he will direct you to your District Program chairman for additional details on completing your reports.

#### **GOT A FUNNY BONE?**

WOMEN'S REVENGE

Cash, check or charge? I asked after folding items the woman wished to purchase. As she fumbled for he wallet, I noticed a remote control for a TV in her purse.

So, do you always carry your TV remote? I asked, No! she replied, but my husband refused to come shopping with me, and I figured this was the most evil thing I could do to him legally!

WIFE VS. HUSBAND

A couple drove down a country road for several miles, not saying a word.

An earlier discussion had led to an argument and neither of them wanted to concede their position.

As they passed a barnyard of mules, goats, and pigs. The husband asked sarcastically "Relatives of yours?

"Yep, the wife replied, "In Laws"



"Still and Forever

Serving America"

19th District

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#### THE FLASH

#### **DEADLINE**

25TH OF MONTH

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

## WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Just A reminder of the 19th Districts VA &R Dinner Dance to be held on February 23, 2019 at Lakewood Post 496. There will be live music by Ron Frederick and the flashbacks. Rattles, baskets,50-50 and drawings. Social hour 5 PM dinner 6 PM dancing till ?? Dress code after 5 casual tickets are \$45 each . Tri-tip and chicken are the meat entrées.

Cut off date for purchasing tickets is February 18, 2019. To Purchase tickets call Bob Boyd at 310-503-9644, you will also be able to purchase the tickets at Lakewood Post 496.

Thank You, Robert Boyd



## YOUR ATTENTION PLEASE

As a reminder to all our 19th member post The "Helmets for Heroes" is an ongoing program of the District and Department of California. To those of you who signed out and received the Helmets this past year, please note, each month you are expected to submit your donations at a district meeting. Do not bring cash, or coins. Simply count monies collected and write out a check to: 19th District American Legion, ear mark VA&R contribution. As a side note, best time for donations is at all your post meetings, Pass the Helmet, and support our Departments Service officers.

## **END ZONE BRIEFS**

News for L.A. County Council

County Commander Robert "Bob "Heinisch once again invites all our member post to the first Friday of the month meeting of the Los Angeles County Council. Meetings are held at the Bob Hope Patriotic Hall, 18th and Figueroa &:00 PM

County Adjutant Robert "Bobby " Brown has also informed us that the Council By-Laws have been revised, and that a vote of approval is forthcoming.

As noted in previous months communications from Brown, Hall of Fame nominations for 2019 are now closed. We understand a very promanate19th. district legionnaires name has been submitted for induction to the Los Angeles County Council Hall of Fame. Details to follow, as its now in the hands of selection Committee.

News at Department by Paul C. Rodriguez, VA&R Chairman

Holiday shoppers please support the American Legion, Department of California , Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Foundation when shopping on smile.amazon.com. Through the AmazonSmile program 0.5% of the purchase price of your eligible Amazon Smile purchases are donated to: The American Legion CA VA&R Foundation. When it selected as your charitable organization.

Area Vice Commanders, District Commanders, Post Commanders, Squadron Commanders, Chapter Presidents and all Legionnaires, please share this information about the AmazonSmile Program with everyone you can and ask them to help. Then ask them to ask all the good people they know, even their Facebook friends, to select the AmazonSmile Program and select "The American Legion CA Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Foundation" as the charitable organization we should all support.

AmazonSmile is a simple and automatic way to support veterans in the Department of California every time you shop, at no cost to you. When you shop at www.smile.amazon.com, you'll find the exact same low prices, vast selection and convenient shopping experience as Amazon.com, with the added bonus that Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price to your favorite charitable organization. Simply go to smile.amazon.com, sign into your normal Amazon account and then type in "The American Legion CA Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation Foundation" result in a donation.