Areas and Districts of The American Legion Department of California

Notes (see highlighted Area:District):
In 2000, District 7 and 8 merged into District 8 (2:8).
In 2007, District 31 was renamed District 7 (1:7), there is not a current District 31.
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA OFFICIALS 2008-2009

DEPARTMENT OFFICERS
Department Commander
  Alan C. Lennox (108-11) 401 Van Ness Ave Ste 117, San Francisco CA 94102
Department Adjutant
  William Siler III (132-29) 401 Van Ness Ave Ste 117, San Francisco CA 94102
Department National Executive Committeeman
  Fred J. Walton (21-5) 182 Larksfield Dr, Santa Rosa CA 95403
Department Alternate National Executive Committeeman
  Roy L. Nichols (741-16) 862 Sharon Dr, Camarillo CA 93010
Department Judge Advocate
  Charles A. Waters (4-14) 4296 N6th St, Fresno CA 93726
Department Assistant Judge Advocate
  Everett W. Maguire (283-24) 927 Lachman Ln, Pacific Plsds CA 90272-2208
Department Chaplain
  Henry J. Hicks (790-18) 2619 Marlena St, West Covina CA 91792
Department Historian
  S. R. Barghoorn (108-11) PO Box 666, Sutter Creek CA 95685
Department Sergeant-at-Arms
  Norm G. Clendenin (221-15) 21508 Country Club Dr, Tehachapi CA 93561
Department Parliamentarian
  William J. Reed (790-18) 4121 S Morganfield Ave, West Covina CA 91792
Department Service Officer
  Terry N. Tracy (283-24) 11000 Wilshire Blvd Ste 5201, Los Angeles CA 90024
Department Representative to the California Legislature
  Peter M. Conaty (108-11) 9 Cagney Ct, Sacramento CA 95835
Department Junior Past Department Commander
  Howard J. Darter jr. (291-29) PO Box 966, Lake Forrest CA 92609

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDERS
Department Vice Commander Area 1
  Steve M. Hooper (807-4) 1820 Fernwood Dr, Marysville CA 95901
Department Vice Commander Area 2
  Allen D. Hale (238-26) 3 Acacia Ct, Pacifica CA 94044
Department Vice Commander Area 3
  Bill L. Dacus (83-12) 1065 Rambler Rd, Merced CA 95348
Department Vice Commander Area 4
  Joe Gonzales (51-19) 14040 Sunrise Dr, Whittier CA 90602
Department Vice Commander Area 5
  Lee A. Quarcelino (60-30) 788 Maple Ct, Brawley CA 92227
Department Vice Commander Area 6
  Charles P. Overcleft (484-16) 1278 Bryson Ave, Simi Valley CA 93065
Department Vice Commander Representing Women
  Sheryl D. Palsrok (646-27) 6607 Center View Dr, Pollock Pines CA 95726
DISTRICT COMMANDERS

District 1 Commander O’Dell Shelton Jr (205) 1861 Clara ASve, Fontana CA 95540
District 2 Commander Jack D. Price (acting) (720) 16995 Santa Barbara Dr, Redding CA 96003
District 3 Commander David L. Rothman (acting) (204) 100 S Sacramento St, Susanville CA 96130
District 4 Commander Gerald I. Verrill (807) 1820 Ash Way, Marysville CA 95901
District 5 Commander David W. Price (179) 15 Jessup St, San Raphael CA 94901
District 6 Commander Terrance L. Parkhurst (77) 274 Cascade St, Woodland CA 95695
District 7 Commander Joseph F. Handy (acting) (84) 3740 Light Foot Ct, Antelope CA 95843
District 8 Commander Michael J. Gerold (991) 680 Mission St Apt 33F, San Francisco CA 94105
District 9 Commander Wilfred J. Scott (151) PO Box 8063, Pittsburg CA 94565
District 10 Commander Ronald W. Parshall (647) 879 Walnut St, Alameda CA 94501
District 11 Commander Richard M. Carpino (16) 618 Joaquin St, Lodi CA 95420
District 12 Commander Roy A. Santiago (872) 3519 Pioneer Rd, Hughson CA 95326
District 13 Commander Carlos A. Ramos (564) 765 Flume Ct, Milpitas CA 95035
District 14 Commander Agustin M. Cano (355) 847 S. Park Ave, kerman CA 93630
District 15 Commander Edward L. Ryan (711) 4417 juniper Ln, Lake Isabella CA 93240
District 16 Commander Daniel W. Crow (741) 1205 Skee; Dr, Camarillo CA 93010
District 17 Commander James R. Leiphardt (381) 10727 Wescott Ave, Sunland CA 91040
District 18 Commander Steve Turley (30) 1502 College Ave, Pomona CA 91767
District 19 Commander Gil Soto (acting) (51) 11578 Aldrich St, Whittier CA 90606
District 20 Commander David L. Keenan (311) 2451 Spice Pecan, palmdale CA 93551
District 21 Commander Gayl J. Thomson (289) 4000 Pierce St Spc 88, Riverside CA 92505
District 22 Commander Ralph E. Huskey (867) PO Box 1330, Imperial BNeach CA 91933
District 23 Commander Lowell E. Arnold (252) 821 Edgewood St Apt 5, Inglewood CA 90302
District 24 Commander Tim L. Carr (253) 520 S. Mariposa Ave Apt 403, Los Angeles CA 90020
District 25 Commander Scott C. Fuqua (777) 884 Sequoia St, San Bernardino CA 92407
District 26 Commander Jerry D. Wilcox (105) 3015 E Bayshore Rd Spc 440, Redwood city CA 94063
District 27 Commander Robert F. Edwards (636) 13597 Fran St, North Edwards CA 93523
District 28 Commander Michael Ryan (591) 1019 Portola Dr, Del Rey Oaks CA 93940
District 29 Commander John W Chizmar (862) 26302 Los Viveros #C, Mission Viejo CA 92691
District 30 Commander Andrew J. Lowenthal (138) 660 Olive Dr, Holtville CA 92250
To My Fellow Legionnaires in the Department of California:

Since you met in convention last year, America has gone through many changes. A new political landscape in Washington has given us opportunities as well as challenges. But there is one given that has remained rock solid: The American Legion remains at the forefront in standing up for the rights and benefits of those who have served our nation in uniform.

When bureaucrats in our nation's capitol raised the specter of charging the private insurances of service-connected, disabled veterans for treatment in their own VA health care system, you responded. Switchboards and email servers of the White House and Congress were overloaded with the heavy volume of Legionnaires warning, Washington not to raise funds on the backs of our veterans. Within two days, the administration withdrew the plan from consideration.

You have consistently, throughout the year, reached out to veterans and their families throughout the state, welcoming them into The American Legion family through your Heroes to Hometowns program. You have sponsored military units in deployment, sent packages to the troops, and provided assistance to their loved ones left behind, whenever they needed it. You have helped us raise more than $140,000 for Operation Comfort Warriors to improve the morale of our hospitalized troops. You have mentored more young people through American Legion youth programs and significantly impacted the direction of their lives as you gave them pleasant memories of their Legion experiences they will forever cherish.

I salute each and every member of the California American Legion family for their dedication to God and country. You have truly lived up to our motto, "Still serving America."

As you gather this weekend to celebrate the year's accomplishments and to plan for the future, I am confident that this momentum of success will serve the department well into 2010.

My best wishes to each of you for an enjoyable and productive convention. God bless you for your undying service to America and The American Legion.

Sincerely,

David K. Rehbein
National Commander
Comrades,
The year is almost complete and yet there is so much yet to accomplish. I wonder if any Commander ever accomplishes their entire respective agendas. I felt my agenda for this year would be a challenge, it was. I guess the following is my report card, that and the test of time.

**Commissions:** I have always felt that The American Legion programs that are successful have strong commissions; I replaced a significant number of Commissioners at the beginning of this year based on the recommendations of last year’s Vice Commanders. I believe the totality of the success of our programs bears out my hypothesis.

**Legislative Advocate:** We hired a professional Legislative Advocate in Sacramento, Pete Conaty and Assoc. It has proven to be worth every dollar. The American Legion has never had a stronger voice in Sacramento than it has today. This year’s legislative Day was by far the most successful ever. We have been on top of legislative issues as they happened all year long.

**Staff Retirements:** At the beginning of the year several key Department Staff retired simultaneously. This was due to changes in the existing retirement program of which we were not in control. We hired new replacement staff and I’m happy to announce that their adaptation and success was and is a pleasant surprise. I give Adjutant Bill Siler credit for skillful hands on management of Department Staff. In addition to new staff, new Human Resources policies and procedures have been developed in compliance with California employment law. The staff at Department is converting over from a Mac computer environment to a PC environment. This transition should prove valuable and improve staff productivity. I give my highest regards to Bill and the most dedicated staff, your Department Office Staff!

**Department Headquarters:** For several years we were concerned about the possibility of leaving Department HQ. I’m pleased to report that after careful examination of the original endowment documents and a complete understanding of our rights and responsibilities, that possibility has been averted.

**VA&R Foundation:** The costs of the Service Officer division have increased over time, exceeding the revenue from our Ways & Means programs. In an effort to offset this disparity we completed the 501(c)-3 Foundation that allows us to solicit grant and foundation monies for VA&R. If our core mission is to help veterans there is no thought of reducing services. The Service Officer, Terry Tracy and his staff are to be commended for another stellar year. The division brings in hundreds of millions of dollars annually for the Veterans of California. Terry has announced his retirement; we wish him all the best.

**Reapportionment:** A cursory look at California showed Areas and Districts of concern regarding the logistical management because of: size, population density, topography, road access, inclement weather and overall performance. Why do some Districts always succeed and why are some are always at the bottom of the ladder? It certainly is worth examination. I’m pleased to announce that under the stewardship of PDC Dan Heatherington the first of many drafts has been completed. I look forward to this worthwhile work in progress.

**Conventions:** I have appointed an ADHOC Committee on Convention planning for the future of California. We need to examine new markets and have a skilled contract knowledgeable core committee well versed in convention negotiations. California legionnaires must always be as-
sured the best value possible. **Technology:** I am considering an additional ADHOC Committee, one that is high technology communications orientated. I believe it will benefit California to examine and quite possibly utilize the latest new technologies in every aspect of Department communications. The future is now, are we prepared for it?

At the beginning of the year we knew that membership would be a challenge. Auster times and a recent per capita increase compounded an already difficult situation. Whatever the final outcome; I thank Floyd Martin and his membership team. I am keenly aware of the effort that was made on our behalf.

I am confident that any success the Department has had this year is because of the strength and depth of the officers. I have had the pleasure and luxury of officers that are skilled, dedicated, loyal to the cause and relentless in the pursuit of perfection. The membership of the Department of California should be very proud of the accomplishments of the Vice Commanders, District Commanders, appointed Officers and Commissioners. Without their unyielding support and energy...it suffices to say without them there would be no success.

This is last year for Vice Commander representing women. Vice Commander Sheryl Palsrok did that office proud this year. She traveled our state extensively and represented women Legionnaires very effectively.

I would be remiss if I didn’t recognize the Auxiliary, Sons of the Legion and our newest branch, The American Legion Riders. I have attended their midyear meetings; listened to the reports and assure you their efforts this year have contributed greatly to the accomplishments of The American Legion Family. California stands tall second to no other Department.

Donna and I have traveled this year extensively. Indianapolis, Washington DC, DEC’s, Area Meetings, District Meetings, for special events and holidays and finally our convention. Without her support and love my involvement this year would not have been possible. Along with my wife Donna, my Historian/Aide Dick Barghoorn and his wife Laura have always been there. Their friendship and companionship will be cherished for my lifetime.

I am proud and privileged to represent the Department of California this year as Commander. I can’t think of more noble endeavors than those that exist in the preamble to our constitution. The American Legion was founded upon four pillars: VA&R, Children and Youth, National Security, and Americanism. My goodness, what’s not to like about our American Legion.

Best wishes always,

Al
DEPARTMENT ADJUTANT
WILLIAM SILER III

This year we have been getting more of our forms electronic and now “fill-able”. We now have the capability of putting information that we send out to the posts on CD’s. All forms and manuals will be recorded on CD’s and sent to the posts and districts. Also all district information is now going to the District Adjutant as well as the District Commander.

We are changing the Department Headquarters computers, that are now obsolete and the computer programs can’t be updated. We are also looking into the National Organizations computer programs (AIM) that will hopefully help department staff.

In my articles that I write for “The Legionnaire” newspaper I have tried to answer questions that were asked by members as well as post and district officers. I have tried to make my articles informational.

I appreciate the telephone calls with questions and statements from a lot of you.

We had our Commission Call-Ins in the month of October 2008. We now have to make these meetings the last weekend in October because National has moved their meetings to the middle of the month in October.

Bill Miller and his crew at Lakewood Post #496 in Long Beach did an outstanding job. Thank you very much for your outstanding hospitality.

Our Department Executive Committee Meetings were hosted this fiscal year by General Chairperson Nicole Guzman (August 2008) and her crew at the Amador Post 108 and General Chairman John Fazzone (Spring 2009) and his crew at Corporal Marshall N. Braden Post 56 in Santa Maria. We thank them all for a job well done.

We have helped many veterans and their families this past year. I want to thank all legionnaires who have helped the Department by being TFA Investigators for these families. This has been accomplished by our “Temporary Financial Assistance Program” through the Children and Youth Program. We have also helped families of troops coming back through the “Heros to Hometowns” Program through the Department of Defense.

For the year 2008 - 2009 we have been able to help thirty families by giving them a total of $35,669.00.

Let’s not forget our Department Headquarters Staff. Our staff is very professional and knowledgeable when it comes to The American Legion. Remember how dedicated the entire staff is and remember that none of us could do our jobs if they weren’t there to assist us. Next time you see any of the staff, say, “Thank you for what you do to make our jobs easier”.

Our Headquarters Staff: Gary Prater, Jim Matsukuma, Mary Long, Nenita LaCap, Ashmika Singh, Gil Manalo, and Kathy Tinitali.

I also would like to thank our retirees, Joan Matsukuma, Tammy Manini, Sheila Fitzgerald for their dedication in helping and educating our new staff members during the transition period. They are still helping to educate our new staff members as you read this article.

THANK YOU!
Your Judge Advocate has had a busy year. From Sexual Harassments to embezzlement, fighting and so forth but my most sad judicial decision comes from having to remove members from the organization. A member after serving in the various official positions without even being in the military or serving during periods of time not compatible with The American Legion membership eligibility requirement.

My main request for my fellow Legionnaires is two folds:
1. When a Legionnaire joins check his or her DD-214.
2. During any Legion activities or functions watch the language and attitude. Act like the “True” veteran that you are and be “Civil”. If you are at a club and someone is feeling high, try to calm them down before bad things happens.

One last thing, I know that membership numbers are important. Be sure you verify and properly fill-in and check all of the information needed on the form. Make sure you play by the book otherwise, not only will the new member leave the legion but your continued membership may be put into jeopardy.

God Bless American
See you at the convention
DEPARTMENT NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN (NEC)
FRED J. WALTON

It has been an honor to have served this past year as your NECman. Thank you for your support and your contributions to The American Legion.

Some current positions and programs of The American Legion include Disabled Veteran’s Tax, Flag Amendment, New G.I. Bill, National Security, VA Budget, Heroes to Home towns; Membership, National Emergency Funds, and many other very important programs.

Robert W. Spanogle, National Adjutant, recently retired after 26 plus years of service and has been replaced by Daniel S. Wheeler, Former Executive Director of The American Legion Magazine.

Four Pillars: You will hear a lot of discussion about the Four Pillars of The American Legion. The value of The American Legion membership is built around this Four Pillars Mission.
1. Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation
2. National Security
3. Americanism
4. Children and Youth

National Commander Rehbein’s visit to California December 10-16 was a huge success. Three major VA Hospitals visited included Yountville, Palo Alto and Los Angeles including the New Fisher House. Commander Rehbein and his entourage gained significant knowledge regarding the operations of the various hospitals.

The VA is to open 31 new clinics in 16 states. Those in California will be Lake County (2010), Oakhurst (2010), Susanville (2010), and Yuba County (2010).

Veterans will see an increase of more than 40 percent in mileage reimbursement they receive from USAV when they travel long distance to receive medical treatment. Mileage will be increased from 28.5 to 41.5 cents per mile.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has received increased funding through Public Law 110-329 to alleviate some restrictions on Priority 8 Vets.

Operation Comfort Warriors - The Legion Family was issued a challenge to donate $50,000 so we could purchase comfort items for our wounded heroes recovering in U.S. Hospitals. Now more than $129,000 has been raised. Donations will be used to purchase items such as hooded sweatshirts and pants for serious wounded personnel.

Good news: The American Legion played a key role in the passage of the new G.I. Bill. It’s free - it’s worth about twice what it was before and it becomes effective August 1, 2009.

Three years active duty equals full benefits for a college education. It pays tuition, a monthly living stipend and an annual book allowance. The benefits will average some $80,000 for those with three years active duty. Those with less than three years will have the benefits prorated.

Help support all elements of the American Legion Family. By working together we can strengthen and improve “OUR” Organization.

Thank You.
Good Health and God Bless each of you!

DEPARTMENT ALTERNATE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEEMAN (ALT-NEC)
ROY L. NICHOLS

First of all I want to thank the Legionaries of California for allowing me the opportunity to assist our NEC man Mr. Fred Walton at the National level.

I attended the two NEC meetings at the National Convention in Phoenix last year and the October NEC meeting in Indianapolis where I was dully impressed by the historic meeting room as well as the proceedings of the meetings and the retirement ceremony of Past National Adjutant Mr. Robert Spanogle after 38 years of service in that position.

This past year I attended the Four Chaplains service in San Francisco, The Legislative Day in Sacramento, where I met with the Senators and Representatives staff and discussed Veterans related bills and resolutions. It was an honor to dine with The Wounded Heroes in Ventura and to see them off the next morning on their bicycle ride from San Francisco to the VA facility at West L.A. What a wonderful program to raise funds for the VA Rehab Program.

Attending Area and District meetings is always very informative, visiting and meeting with old friends and bringing news and greetings from the National organization. I welcome you all to this Convention in Riverside. Let’s all have a good time enjoy the Convention, get the job done and have a safe trip home, because I care for each and ever one of you.
DEPARTMENT CHAPLAIN
HENRY J. HICKS

I will begin this report by thanking Department Commander Alan C. Lennox for appointing me the Department Chaplain for 2008-2009. It was one of the highlights of my Legion Career.

The Four Chaplains Service held February in San Francisco is something I will not forget. It was a pleasure working with the Legionnaires and office personnel at the Department Headquarters. I had assistance from past Chaplains from the 2nd and 6th areas, also JRROTC Cadets from several schools in the area. We had the use of St. Mary’s Cathedral and Department Commander gave a great speech about the Four Chaplains. This was my first visit to Department Headquarters and it was a pleasure to meet the personnel that I have talked to on the phone but never met. Gary Prater, the Executive Secretary to the Adjutant was the one that kept everything right on track who coordinated commitments from all involved. This is why we had a great Four Chaplains ceremony.

My trip to Indianapolis for the National Chaplains Conference was another highlight for me. I arrived Friday evening and was treated to a great dinner with guest speakers, including the National Chaplain. There were as many as 60 Chaplains who attended the workshops on Saturday, including one Bishop and the Chaplain from Europe. One important topic we discussed was that of “Chaplains being elected” or “appointed” for more than one term. I would say about 10 of those present were ordained Ministers. Most agreed that a Chaplain could not really do an effective job in one term, but the problem is getting the right people. And we discussed why more Chaplains are not ordained? The problem seems to be money and time, most Ministers get paid and have to be in church on Sunday.

I’ve enjoyed my year as Department Chaplain. I believe that two or more terms is better than one. But you had better be dedicated to whatever you do.

God Bless,

DEPARTMENT HISTORIAN
S. R. B ARGHOON

It has been my pleasure to serve Commander Lennox and the Department of California as this year’s Historian. The Commander, his wife Donna, my wife Laura and I have traveled this great state extensively. Up and down this state we found hard working Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, Sons of Legion and Legion Riders all contributing to our programs. It has been an exciting never to forget experience.

As Historian I have taken many pictures and kept the record of the year for posterity. As the book of the Commander’s year progresses please take time to enjoy.

I am grateful for the Commander and his wife’s friendship and I will always remember our times together. Without the Love and support of my wife Laura it would not have been possible, thank you.

Lastly I would like to thank all of you for your hospitality, friendship and courtesy. The memories will last our lifetimes.

May God continue to bless veterans and The American Legion.
DEPARTMENT PARLIAMENTARIAN
WILLIAN J. REED

My profound thanks to Department Commander Alan C. Lennox, officers and member of The American Legion Department of California.

It has been a honor for me to serve as your 2008-2009 Parliamentarian. It has been very rewarding to say the least.

Parliamentary Procedure and Roberts Rules of Order came together in their first edition February 1876. The American Legion since being organized in 1918 has used the modern version on the post, district and department level to insure that all meetings are run in efficient and orderly manner to insure that the right decisions are made and adhered to.

Dealing with resolutions, emotional decisions, making rulings, and trying to keep a civil understanding are all part of the process. I would like to thank the Department Judge Advocate for his advise and help.

In closing “Remember” - To be courageous requires no exceptional qualifications, no magic formula, no special combination of time, place and/or circumstance. it is an opportunity that sooner or later is presented to us all.

DEPARTMENT SERGEANT-AT-ARMS
NORM G. CLENDENIN

This year has gone by so quickly and the 91st Department Convention is here that will end my tenure as Department Sgt-at-Arms. It has been an honor and privilege to serve as your Sgt-at-Arms this past year of The American Legion’s 90th birthday. This CA Legion Family has reinforced my belief that we are united in our stand of the “Four Pillars” to our Communities, State and Nation in my travels around the State. I have traveled to the DEC, Area, District and Post meetings as well as other Legion functions and events totaling over 30 thousand miles this year.

I have spent a total of sixteen days this year at the Yountville Veterans Home documenting the cemetery of 5,500 names on the headstones from the Civil War thru every War thereafter and by this reading will be on the National Cemetery Registry with thirty-three other State cemeteries. This cemetery contains three “Medal of Honor”, an unknown soldier who may be the oldest in the Nation and with a Flag pole of a mast from an old schooner.

On March 24th, I attended the Legion’s legislative day in Sacramento and visited with Assemblyman Danny Gilmore’s office. He and his staff are gathering information with regard to the Veteran Organizations and Associations struggle in the use of Veteran Memorial Buildings in the State. Approximately two hundred and fifty of the Posts in the Department meet and have functions within these buildings and without them would cause a major hardship to a Post’s membership and activities. I will continue to support this effort when a Senate or Assembly Bill becomes a reality since my Post struggles for the use or displaying any military type paraphernalia or honoring veterans in the Tehachapi Veteran Memorial Building.

I also had the pleasure of traveling with our National Commander David Rehbein during the 2nd week in December 2008 for 6 days from San Francisco to the Los Angeles with stops along the way at a number of the Posts in the area. I was very impressed with the National Commander’s message of the ideals and convictions when it involves The American Legion purpose and accomplishments.
Another Legion Year has come to an end. This year saw many changes in our VA&R staff. John Leisure, Service Officer in our Los Angeles office retired in December. Cynthia Mann was promoted into that position. In addition, I retired as of June 5, 2009. We are fortunate to have a cast of very talented people, who are helping us to provide better service in keeping with the reputation that your VA&R Division in the Department of California enjoys. As usual, the work of the VA&R and our service to those veterans we serve proceeds uninterrupted.

This year has been a very busy one. The Department of California operates a Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) division, consisting of 3 offices co-located with the 3 VA regional offices in Oakland, Los Angeles and San Diego. Services range from assistance with VA medical care, claims, appeals, VA insurance programs, burial benefits and veterans’ employment - to involvement in volunteer programs, by continuing liaisons with the administrators of California State Veterans Affairs programs. Other efforts are geared toward maintaining and improving VA benefits through work with congressional committees and executive branches of government, the VA and other federal agencies.

Additionally we would like to thank two veterans grateful for the services of our Oakland office for donations of $2,000 each, another Oakland area veteran for his donation of $1,000 and the Walter Ski Gamulski Post 482 for their donation of $6,000, just to mention a few. Thanks to donations like these, we in Rehab. continue to provide an important, high quality service to California veterans and their dependants or survivors.

Beginning February 1, 2003, using our VIMS computer program, VA&R began inputting all VA awards granted to California veterans or dependents holding American Legion Power of Attorney in VA matters. Current fiscal year to date (1 Jul 08 - 31 Mar 09) these awards total $237,845,606, and we still have three months to go before the Legion year ends 30 June 2009. If we continue at this rate, this number will be close to $317,127,289 by the end of the Legion year.

The following shows the financial return on dollars invested by the Legionnaires in California through their donations to the Rehab Fund Drive:

This summary of VA&R division’s workload doesn’t illustrate many other day-to-day activities, ranging from discharge upgrades to assisting veterans in obtaining their military medals or records. VA&R’s mission is to serve as an informed source available to California’s veterans and their families on all veterans’ programs.

On behalf of myself, and the staff of the VA&R Division, it has been a privilege to serve you during these past seventeen Legion Years.
This has been a very rewarding American Legion year for myself and Janet, we have met some great legionaries and attended many Posts and Districts in Area 1 who have welcomed us with open arms and treated us very well, my knowledge of the American Legion has expanded beyond my thoughts due to the leadership of this great organization.

One of my goals was to get Legionaries informed on the American Legion programs, training on Saturdays during the Area meetings was very successful and attendance has been good, we all need to bring new members to the District and Area meetings if at all possible, this will give them a better perspective on what the American Legion is really about.

Another goal of mine was to get all commissioners involved at the area level, this was task was not so successful, we still have commissioners who do not attend the Area meetings and do not send in reports on there commissions. When we accept the challenge of being a commissioner or an advisor for the District or Area level, stand up and be part of this great organization, learn your job and get others involved and teach them, an American Legion Post can not do every program but I guarantee you will get someone interested in your program and it will be a success, otherwise it will fail.

I want to thank all who have served Area 1 this year, you have done the American Legion well. We had some new commissioners assigned this year and they took the bull by the horns and have done an outstanding job, William “Smoky” Davis (789-4) took over the Oratorical contest and had a record turnout for the Area contest, great job Smoky, you have set the standard. Another new Commissioner assigned this year was Patrick Geronimi who, at the last minute, stepped up and took over as the American Legion Riders (ALR) commission, Patrick, you have done an outstanding job in getting the information out to all Districts in Area 1 about the ALR program. Area 1 membership was in first place all of 2008 thanks to the effort of Membership Chairman E. Paul Ball (550-5) and District First Vice Commanders, thanks for your hard work!

I would like to thank all District Commanders:
- Odell Shelton (205-1),
- Jack D. Price (720-2),
- David L. Rothman (204-3),
- Gerald I. Verrill (807-4),
- David W. Price (179-5),
- Terrance L. Parkhurst (77-6),
- Joseph F. Handy (84-7)

for working with me this year, you made a big difference in Area 1. I was fortunate enough to visit some Posts with you in your Districts and assist in helping with membership and American Legion Programs, all were very receptive and very thankful. We need to visit as many Posts as we can, they do appreciate it. District Commanders please remember, the incoming District commanders are going to need your assistance this year, please be there for them.

And Last but not least, I would like to thank my staff:
- Gary B. Leach (77-6)
- David E. Meredith (61-6)
- George W. Dixon (197-3)
- Ray E. Bull (42-4)

you are hard working Legionaries and you made a big difference this year in Area 1. I couldn’t have done my job without some great advisors such as John J. Flynn (104-5), James E. Shank (199-5) and all Past Area 1 Commanders.

God bless you all and God Bless America.
Enthusiasm, Patriotism, Voluntarism, Survivalism, Sensationalism, Postmillennialism are just a few of the descriptions of the dramatic inspirational members of the 2nd Area. The leaders with fantastic support of the members of the 2nd Area fulfilled the very core values of The American Legion participating in all aspects and areas of commitment to the legion first by serving God and Country and service to each other and in the programs for the hospitalized veterans and programs and those in need.

The first caucus in the 2nd Area held at post 92 in San Mateo October 4, 2008 with 97% of committees, commissions, and districts represented established and provided legitimate and proper credibility to the foundation that this was to be an outstanding year for 2nd Area. The depth and leadership prevailed within the area and without hesitation opened the dialogue of the possibility of hosting the 2014 Department Convention in Santa Clara California. Area 2 had the honor of hosting the 44th Department of California Four Chaplains Interfaith Memorial Service at St. Mary’s Cathedral in San Francisco on February 7, 2009 with Department Commander Alan C. Lennox presiding. We had the honor to also have the JROTC’s units from San Francisco in attendance and with the city voting in confidence we will continue to keep up the fight to retain the JROTC units in the schools. The magnificent transformation of 8th District, under District Commander Michael Gerold and his sensational staff, propelled the district from last place in membership to the very top heading toward the Department Convention in Riverside this year. These numbers hardly recognize the fact the programs of The American Legion were fulfilled dramatically. The reintroduction of quality in the programs of The American Legion in the 8th District prevailed through out the year with the 9th, 10th, 13th, 26th, 28th, providing quality and dedicated leadership, help and guidance.

The youth programs continue with great success with all six districts participating in the area oratorical contest held at Pacifica Post 238 under the direction of 2nd Area Oratorical Chairman Bob Biby, the Boys State and Baseball Programs continue to grow in the area.

The 2nd Area had the pleasure of hosting National Commander David Rehbein in his first official visit to California through the hard work of Ralph Jacob providing the visitation to the Veteran’s Hospital in Palo Alto. The same night National Commander Rehbein was party to a great reception at Department Headquarters given by 8th District.

It was an honor to have a magnificent staff comprised of Adjutant Paul Terry, Janet Wilson Historian, Walter Waite III Sgt at arms, Chaplin Michael Ryan, Joseph Paynter Distinguished guest chairman and Jack O’Leary judge advocate.

The 2nd, Area 2 caucus was held on March 7, 2009 at the fabulous Post 31 in Salinas with Post Commander James Scariot and his hard working post members hosting this spectacular event. We had the honor of having Department Commander Alan C. Lennox present briefly preceding his departure to attend the funeral of Past Department Commander James Hackney.

There were many meaningful events this year. Among them are being part of the U.S.C.G. Cutter Bertholf commissioning at Alameda California August 4, 2008. Opening the ceremonies of the “Cancer Relay for Life” July 19, 2008 in which $127,000 was raised for the cause, and being one of the honored guests at the United Veterans Councils’ 90th annual day parade in San Jose November 11, 2008 under the direction of chairperson Gene Fanucchi of District 13. The “Ride to Recovery Cycling” event from San Francisco to Los Angeles commencing September 28 was welcomed along the way with refreshments and lodging provided along the way by districts 8, 26, 13, and 28. The “Women’s Military week” celebration March 21, 2009 held in Alameda was a tremendous testimonial to the great part the gals played in service to our country.

A special thanks to Commander A.C. Ralston of San Mateo Post 82 and Commander James Scariot of Post 31 in Salinas for all their help this year. I am grateful to Membership Chairman Ralph Jacob for the expert advice given to the 1st Vice Commanders in the district and post member’s for their membership enrollment. The support of 2nd Area Past Vice Commander Vince Rios during the year was truly appreciated.

I wish to congratulate Department Commander Alan C. Lennox and his staff for the year of enthusiasm they brought to the legion and to the department staff that pitched in to form a great nucleus of workers for the department.
A “Refuel The American Legion with Membership” was the theme that I used for this past year. To date the men and women Legionnaires of Area 3 have done just that. Area 3 has over 500 new members! Signing them up as members is just the first step. Now we must make them feel that they are really members and make them welcome in our Post and organization. We need to invite them to every function, every meeting, and ask them to help us when and where ever they can. Our job as recruiters is just beginning. Our new members will need guidance from us, they will need help in learning about the American Legion. Don’t let them down! If you do, you’ll lose them and we need them very much.

With all the hard work done in getting new members, we seem to have failed many of our past members. Retention has not been as good as it should be this year. Sometimes keeping our past members is just as hard as getting new members. I’ve found that in today financial climate, you must give members a reason for maintaining their membership. There are many good reasons to remain a member of the American Legion. Programs like the VA&R, Children and Youth, Boy’s State, Oratorical, Aerospace, just to name a few are some very good reasons. The new GI Bill, VA benefits, and legislative issues are also good reasons. You must let people know what we do and let them know that through their membership they are the reason these programs and events happen.

I wish to thank the Post in Area 3 for their hard work and hard work. Ridgecrest Post 684 suffered a devastating flood just a couple months before we were scheduled to have the first Area 3 meeting. The Commander called me and stated that the Post would be ready for the meeting and it was. Such dedication to the Area and Legion is inspiring and I commend that Post for their efforts to help make that a successful meeting. Merced Post 83 hosted the second meeting and again the members of that Post worked had to make this a great meeting. Then in the final meeting of the year was hosted by Amador Post 108! The Amador Post is one of the most gracious and accommodating Post I have ever visited. My thanks to the members of the Post and Auxiliary of Ridgecrest, Merced and Amador for your efforts and support.

To the Members of Area 3, thank you for your hard work on membership and keep up the work. Membership is one of those jobs that is never done and requires a constant effort.
DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER REPRESENTING AREA FOUR
JOE GONZALES

It has been an honor and pleasure to represent the Legionnaires, Posts, and Districts of the 4th Area as Department Vice Commander. Thank you to all who have supported and encouraged me this past year. A special “Thank You” to the three District Commanders in the 4th area: District Commander James R. Leiphardt of the Sensible 17th, District Commander Gil Soto, of the “Noisy” 19th, and District Commander Lowell Arnold, of the “Teaming” 23rd, for their leadership and dedication to the principles of The American Legion. These leaders leave a legacy of hard work and dedication for all to follow. I am committed to helping them with their future endeavors in this great organization.

I also want to thank Past Area Vice Commanders, Roy C. Allen and Woody Baca for their candid advice. Robert C. Brown, 4th Area Membership Chairman had two highly successful workshops. Robert always remains focused with a goal of retaining all current members. Membership is everyone’s responsibility. His workshops were well attended and included the entire American Legion family. Thank you, Robert, for your aggressive approach to membership within the 4th Area.

As I traveled throughout California, I visited posts and districts that participate in many annual Legion activities. It was a pleasure to meet Auxiliary President LuAnn Capazzi at the 19th District meeting held at Hawthorne Post 314. Her message was; Promise of Honoring our Veterans and their Families, Encourage our Youth, and Join Community Activities. I don’t believe anyone can surpass that message.

As a member of the MHD #1 color guard, (Military Honors Detail) I participated in honoring those who served their country but have now gone to meet their God. MHD #1 is dispatched from Norwalk Post 359. The member are; Brown, Chavez, Cowan, Della Valle, Foltz, Hatton, Huerta, Kessler, Neujhar, Potter, and Weimers. Thank you for all that you do to honor our country’s veterans as we lay them to rest.

I had the honor of attending the 20th Anniversary of the dedication of the Vietnam Memorial in Sacramento. It was an especially important event for my family in that we lost a brother during that war. While in attendance of this solemn occasion I had the extreme pleasure of meeting the National Commander, David Rehbein. Department Commander Al Lennox, was also there, both commanders were gracious with their time and took pictures with my family and me in front of the Memorial. Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans.

Next, I traveled to the dedication of the opening of the 43rd Fisher House located in West Los Angeles. Fisher House is a home away from home for veterans while awaiting treatment at the West Los Angeles VA Medical Center. Pacific Palisades, Post 283 made a generous contribution to the Fisher House Foundation. Every Christmas so many joyous legionnaires, their families, and friends go to the Veterans Hospital in Long Beach to spread Christmas joy and laughter to those confined on that holiday. The smiles on the faces of those confined make our Christmas Day all the more delightful knowing we shared a little time giving back to those in need. Thank you 3rd Vice Commander, William Perry, of the 19th District for all your hard work on Christmas morning at Long Beach Veterans Hospital.

Legislative Day was spent in the state capitol, this was made possible by our Department Commander Al Lennox, who authorized an official call in on that day. Everyone who participated enjoyed this unique event and enjoyed themselves. Veterans from southern California actively shared in this activity because of Commander Lennox. We were able to meet with our legislative representatives to further our cause, for the American Legion and veteran issues.

I have had two area caucuses, the year’s third will be on May 9th. The first caucus was held at Lakewood Post 496. Thank you to Post Commander William Miller, and 19th District Commander Gil Soto. Another thank you to Jackie Robinson Post 252 and their Commander, Thomas Caeser, and the 23rd District Commander Lowell Arnold. The third and final caucus will be held on May 9 at Los Angeles Police Academy in Elysian Park, home of the 17th District. Thank you in advance to Commander James Leiphardt and the 17th District for their assistance. A special thanks to Adjutant Bert Ladre and scribe Rose Anne Kroll for a great job. Thank you to all 4th Area Officers and Commissioners for their excellent reports.

For God and Country.
DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER REPRESENTING AREA FIVE
LEE QUARCELINO SR.

This year has been a busy for me. Besides all of the Posts and Districts I have visited I have been busy in Imperial County. I am the United Veterans Council President, the Veterans Advisor for a County Supervisor as well as the President of the Veterans Employment Commission for the EDD in Imperial Valley.

The American Legion is a very important part of my life. I feel that what we do for Veterans and their families is important. The youth of our nation need our help, our advice, and to be part of the community. Being part of their lives is rewarding for all of us. The young men and women coming back from harms way, need all of the help we can give. It is important that the VA is watched and advised on veteran’s issues and we must make sure that they give our veterans what they deserve. As a legionnaire we must teach the public that the American Legion and its family are here for them and the youth of our home towns.

To all of my officers and chairmen in the Area, Thank you for the help and advice. “Thanks for a great year”.

As the 5th Area Vice Commander I am honored to say that the District Commanders in my Area who have worked extremely hard to get their membership up and as you know we are Number 1 in membership.

It is important to give all that you can for the Department. National is the leading force and the Department of California is the command center. We are the back bone of the whole organization. We supply the money and the information to make this the largest force of veterans in the world. We need not just be a bar. We need to spend the money we get at the post level, on our organization, our Veterans and the Youth of our Nation. We need to all work for the betterment of ourselves. To all of the Post Commanders and the membership, thank you for your work and you are a credit to your families and your organization. I welcome all of you back home may you have calm seas and the wind always at you back. All of you are the life blood of this country and without you, we would die.

GOD Bless our country our organization and all of us.

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER REPRESENTING AREA SIX
CHARLES P OVERKLEEF

Being installed at the Bakersfield Convention on June 22nd, 2008 was a great honor. Thanks to all the delegates who cast their votes for their new 6th Area Vice Commander.

My first 6th Area Caucus was held at San Fernando Post 176 on August 2nd and 3rd, 2008. Commander Ray R. Espinosa’s hospitality for myself and delegates was outstanding.

December 15th, 2008 National Commander Dave Rehbein made an official visit to Palisades Post 283. Commander Rehbein’s speech inspired all present Guests included: our Department Commander Alan Lennox, Past National Vice Commanders Leo Burke Past National Commander Bruce Theisen, Alternate National Executive Committeeman Roy Nichols, Past Department Commander Willie Wilkins and many other distinguished State and National officers.

January 17th, 2009 I had the pleasure of visiting Brawley Post 60, 5th Area. They had a chili cook-off and Commander Lee Quarcelino, District officers and fellow legionnaires along with Alternate National Executive Committeemen Roy Nichols are doing a wonderful job on membership.

January 28th, 2009 I was invited to Hollywood Post 43 meeting and picked up 6th Area standard.

February 6th, 2009 I was invited to the Wilshire Veterans Campus for opening ceremonies of the 43rd Fisher House donated for families to be close to their sons and daughters who were wounded. Palisades Post 283 was the honor guard for the occasion and were also honored for their donation of over $2.125 Million dollars to Fisher House. Joe Gonzales, 4th Area Commander, was my comrade during the ceremony plus many other Palisades Post 283 members.

February 13th, 2009 I paid a visit to Guadalupe Post 371. Commander John Valasquez, membership and hospitality were outstanding.

February 21st, 2009 I attended the 16th District Caucus at San Luis Obispo Post 66. Outstanding reports and membership retention.

March 8th, 2009 I attended the Post Everlasting Memorial for Legionnaire James Hackney Palisades Post 283 past National Executive committeeman, March 15th, 2009 attended Department Executive Committee caucus at Santa

Continued next page
Maria Post 56. Commander Alan Lennox presiding chairman. Good news from delegates. Membership is on the rise. Commission reports show the American Legion is marching forward. March 21st - 22nd, 2009 6th Area Vice Commander Overcleeft’s 2nd caucus was held at Camarillo Post 741. Commission officers and chairmen were advised to send advance notice if they were going to be absent because ALL REPORTS ARE IMPORTANT.

March 24th, 2009. I attended Legislative Day in Sacramento California. Together with Alternate National Executive Committeeman Roy Nichols we attended the capital work shop along with Commander Alan Lennox and other department officers and members to protect our veteran’s programs from budget cuts. After the workshop Roy Nichols and I visited Kirk Hudson (Capital Director) of Senator Tony Strickland 19th District. We believe our goal of not cutting any veteran’s programs was accomplished.

March 28th, 2009 visited Jackie Robinson Post 252 with Department Commander Alan Lennox, Alternate NEC Roy Nichols, Membership chairman Pete Duncan of 6th Area. Marilyn Rideaux sponsored a social dinner/fund raiser for her campaign for sergeant at arms.

April 3rd, 2009 attended the Los Angeles County Council held at Burbank Post 150. Commander Bill Branch of LACC appointed me as temporary Chaplain. LACC is doing a splendid job.

April 18th, 2009 visited 18th district at La Puente Post 75, Steve Turley Commander. Congratulations on a great meeting. Congratulations also to Walter Martinez for a wonderful speech.

May 13th, 2009 I will visit Orcutt Post 534 on official business. Closing out my term I will visit Commander Alan Lennox’s homecoming on May 23rd, 2009 at Amador Post 108, June 12th, 2009 visitation to West Covina Post 790. 18th District Commander Steve Turley will be present.

June 16th and 17th, 2009 I will attend the 16th District caucus at Camarillo Post 741.

The remainder of my term I will dedicate to all the veterans who are giving so much.

I salute you.
God Bless.
Respectfully Submitted,

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER REPRESENTING WOMEN LEGIONNAIRES

Sheryl D. Palsrok

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone of you for your support throughout this year. It sure has been an interesting one.

Starting off with going to the first Women Veterans’ Conference in Sacramento. Wow is all I can say. The information and speakers were outstanding. Then it was off to my first National American Legion Convention in Phoenix. What an learning experience. We in the American Legion Family started this convention on a high from having the new GI Bill signed by Congress before the convention started.

Then it was back to California where I was able to make five of the Area Meetings, some of the Post and District Meetings, the Hayward Veterans’ Dinner and Parade, DEC’s in Amador and Santa Maria and the Christmas Tree Decorating and BBQ at the Long Beach VA Hospital.

Visiting the VA Hospitals listening and exchanging information with the Veterans and their families from all ages, walks of life and being able to help them is truly uplifting and rejuvenating.

As I have tried to impart to each and everyone of you to be kind to one another, to be safe and happy and most of all the one saying that I used in my first article as it fits to All of those have served and here it is again with a few words added:

“A veteran - whether male or female, active duty, retired, National Guard, or Reserve - is someone who at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to “The United States of America,” for an amount of “up to and including my life!”

May the Great Spirit give you and yours peace and protection!

God Bless You and Yours!

God Bless the United States of America!
YEAR-END
DEPARTMENT
REPORTS
2008-2009
COMMISSION REPORTS
AERONAUTICS AND AEROSPACE
ROBERT E. COZAD, CHAIRMAN

Field Trips and Museum Visits:
During the Department of California's State Convention, the Aerospace Commission attempts to locate and visit a nearby aerospace museum or a military aviation unit. These field trips are not only educational, they build camaraderie within the ranks of The American Legion, but also stimulates the interest and participation of the members of the American Legion in the field of aerospace. This year the Aerospace Commission is visiting the C-17 Globemaster III flight simulator and Control Tower at March AFB.

Area Activities:
Area 1
Jack Wallace, in Area One has acted as a docent in local air shows and continues to provide useful information on aviation and aerospace events to the commissioners and advisors, for distribution and reference material for our program, projects and reports.

Area 2
Posts in Area 2 have taken the lead in museum support, creating a special room at a local museum. The Western Aerospace Museum is located at North Field, Oakland Airport. The American Legion Room chronicles the achievements of members of The American Legion in military and civilian aviation and aerospace. This year the commission provided $500 for this endeavor, member support is greatly needed for continuation of this room. District 10 Aerospace Advisor, Dennis Matarrese has provided the liaison and dedicated work with the Western Aerospace Museum on our behalf. One of the projects Dennis has undertaken has been trying to find funding sources for transportation of school children to the museum. Currently Dennis is also working with the museum planning staff as they prepare to remodel the museum and The American Legion Room. Dennis has been working with the San Leandro School District to investigate the possibility of creating an Aerospace Education Program in the district’s middle schools and plans are being made to extend this program to the district’s High Schools as well.

District 10 also held a B-17 model airplane contest at the Oakland Aviation Museum in Oakland, California on April 18, 2009. The theme of the contest is to honor the WW II B-17 aircraft’s flight and their ground crew veterans. The contest started with the Posts of District 10 sponsoring a team of Boy Scouts from the local Boy Scouts of American Troops. The scout teams were given an unassembled model and an unfinished 2x2 foot display board. The scout teams were to assemble and decorate the model with a squadron designation and make a historical event diorama on the board that is correct for that B-17 aircraft. A short description of the historic research was to be included. The completed model and display boards were to be brought to the Oakland Aviation Museum to be judged. Pamela Kruse-Buckingham, Director of the Oakland Aviation Museum, provided the space, tables, judges and coordinated the contest. The judges were volunteer members of the Oakland Aviation Museum.

The judges used a printed form to standardize the rating. Three categories were judged on: Model skill, historical accuracy and creativity. A first, second and third place award was given based on the ratings. John Aufdermauer, a merit badge counselor, was available to help the scouts with the requirements for an aviation merit badge. Other counselors were also contacted to help the scouts. The local Young Eagles program will help with the flying requirement. Gary Freitas, a WWII veteran, was at the Museum the day of the contest. He talked informally about his experience as a B-17 flight crew radio operator. Those in attendance included District 10 Commander Ron Parshall, Vice Commander Ed Castillo and members of the sponsoring Posts along with the scout’s family and friends. The winning models are on display at the Museum through June 2009. The sponsoring Posts will be inviting their team to a Post meeting where a participation certificate will be presented to each scout, and the model will be able to be viewed by all Legionnaires in attendance.

Area 3
A s Commission Chairmen and Area 3 Commissioner, I have been researching books and videos on the aviation and aerospace field for possible acceptance by the school districts in his Area. With this information regarding what materials the school district will accept, I will forward this information to the posts within Area 3 can provide book and video donations to the local schools. Currently there is a Special Space exhibit at the California Aerospace Museum in Sacramento. As Chairman I have begun a program of sending out Aerospace and Aeronautic information by e-mail to all California Legionnaires that I have addresses for and ask that this information be passed on to as many Legionnaires as possible.
niates as possible. I have been working with the local CAP Cadet program to arrange speakers for their group. In November as Chairman of the Aerospace Commission I attended a dinner of the Daedalians pilot organization at Beale AFB. There was a wonderful presentation on the F-22 Raptor by chief test pilot J. B. Brown. I was recognized for my efforts to gain support for funding of additional F-22 Raptors for the Air Force.

Area 4
Jack Craigie as past Commission Chairman provided the inspection for the improvement in communication within the Commission and deserves a great deal of thanks for his fantastic work in the Los Angeles area museums and local schools. His idea of providing educational reading material to the school children is slowly taking off. Vince Migliazzo, the current Area 4 Commissioner is our go to “Guy” when it came to setting up the special demonstration of the flight simulators from FLIGHT PATH LAX at the convention center in Riverside. Hope everyone has an opportunity to try the simulators.

Area 5
Long time Commissioner Richard Mowrey is no longer with the Commission due to his health. His previous efforts with the San Diego Aerospace allows children free admission. I have welcomed the new commissioner Timothy Heck on board. He was a F-16 pilot in the first Gulf War and currently flies for a commercial airline.

Aerospace Program
Teachers Aerospace Education Workshops A rea Two has sponsored Teacher/Administrator workshops at NASA Ames and San Jose State University, Aviation Dept. The commission provides one of two $500.00 scholarship for this program. Local posts are encouraged to help defray the costs borne by the Teacher/Administrator team that is chosen from within California’s School System. Workshops have been co-sponsored by the Aerospace Commission and the NA SA/Ames Aerospace Education Services Program, to enhance grade school instructors’ teaching techniques in the math and science fields using aviation and aerospace teaching materials and student project materials. Emphasis has been placed on local math and science teachers who can reach 20 to 30 students per year. This type of program could be available throughout California with help from the local post and area commissioners.

Flight Training Scholarship
In the late 1990s, the Aerospace Commission, with the financial assistance of Mission Post 564 made available a one-time Flight Training scholarship $500.00 for a high school or college student who has shown the desire to enter the Armed Forces and becoming a military aviator. Through the continuing support of Mission City Post 564, this scholarship was increased in 2006 to $2000, to meet the rising costs: pre-flight training. We that all Legionnaires refer any interested students to the Aerospace Commission.

Books and Authors
In this age of videos and computers, books still have a place with our younger citizens. Past Chairman, Jack Craigie started a pilot program within the neighborhood. He acquired an aerospace library of over 90 excellent books on flying and aerospace. Venice Post 177 offers them - and/or others of the schools choosing - to local schools in the name of The American Legion. A worthwhile program that the Aerospace Commission must put more effort into, insuring our future leaders have had the gratifying experience of book and the written words.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Aerospace Commissioner and the District Advisors for their support of our children, our commission and our future. Without the help of these people, whose efforts largely go unnoticed by the general membership and the public at large, our children would be lacking of an important and vital resource in their development and future educational and employment plans. Aerospace Education is but a catalyst to spawn a deep lifelong interest in the fields of science, mathematics, chemistry, physic and biology for our students.

I thank Commander Al Lennox, and the Department of California Leadership and Staff, for their support of the Aerospace Commissions programs and I also offer thanks to the many members of The American Legion who through their own personal interest have contributed to our programs.

Aeronautics & Aerospace
To promote civilian air activities in the Department, including the building of model airplanes, and if deemed advisable competition among persons engaged. (Aviation in the military field shall be handled by National Security). To promote Aerospace research and to keep The American Legion advised of all activity in the field of Aerospace.

Area
1: John W. Wallace (28-8)
2: Larry Leonardo (564-14) Vice Chairman
3: Robert E. Cozad (108-11) Chairman
4: Vincent Migliazzo (177-23)
5: Richard I. Mowrey (820-22)
6: Eugene M. Johan (311-20)
Agriculture, Natural Resources & Energy Commission
Richard A “Dick” Hiser, Chairman

A lot has transpired since the start of the 2008-2009 Legion year. With the call in at Lakewood Post 496 in Long Beach to current convention in Riverside. The Commission has concerns in all areas and has strived to pass on through the Area Commissioners, District Commanders and Posts the need to be aware of areas concerning agriculture, natural resources and energy. The state continues to be in a drought and with summer coming on fairly rapidly the need to conserve both water and electrical power are even more important. Our natural resources are still in need of watching even more now that global warming seems to be the latest push on saving the planet. We must keep aware of the efforts to improve the levees dams and dike though-out the State and support any legislation that serves to better these areas. One area this of concern is the methods used thought-out the state that is used to flush out water lines periodically, it seems there must be a way to change the current methodology. Also the global warming situation seems to effect all of us and although it is not a specific charge of this commission we are concerned. We need to be aware of the situation. We need continue to support the efforts of the farmers who grow our food.

It has been my honor to serve as Chairman and I want to personally thank the Commissioners and the Technical Advisors for their support. It is with a great deal of sadness that I report the loss of Phillip Gibson of Post 74 in the 12th District who served as Area 3 Commissioner. He was a great Legionnaire and will truly be missed. Phil transferred to Post Everlasting in April 2009. Our Department of California Premier youth program “THE YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE” held from 15-18 May went very well. Look for the Article on the Conference elsewhere in this book of reports. For those who are not aware the conference is held annually in the El Dorado National Forest at Camp Sly near Pollock Pines in cooperation with the National Forest Service and the Sacramento County School system.

My special thanks to this years coordinator Barbara Ross for all her diligent efforts and support. It is the hope of the Commission that more Posts will get involved in this most worthy program. My thanks to Department Commander Al Lennox for allowing me to this serve the American Legion and the Department of California.

God Bless America, The American Legion and especially all of you.

American Legion 2009 Youth Environmental Conference
Barbara Ross (D7 - Aux), Coordinator

Following breakfast at Rio Linda Post 521 on Friday, May 15, 47 high school students and 5 counselors began the 4 day Youth Environmental Conference conducted by 5 U.S. Forest Service cadre members. A combination of 32 girls and 15 boys heard the orientation from Frank Mosbacher, Public Affairs Officer, El Dorado National Forest (ENF). The other members of the cadre who spent the weekend with us were: Kristi Schroeder, Public Affairs, Recreation, ENF, Dana Walsh, Forester, Sue Durham, Botanist and Jessica Ilse, Biologist. Counselors were Gene Fanucchi, Legionnaire D13; Julie Potter, Legionnaire D18; Rick Bernard, SAL and science teacher from West Covina, Lynn Ross, D7 Auxiliary, and Coordinator Barbara Ross, D7 Auxiliary.

Students are divided into hat color groups for interactive activities, and ease of head-counting when they gathered for hikes and other functions. Every attempt is made to mix students from various areas of the state so they can accomplish the goal of meeting other students with the same likes and goals, as well as meeting students with diverse backgrounds and life experiences. Hats and binders are distributed and we are off!!

Heading up Highway 50 towards Sly Park, the students were asked to read one of the pages in their binder which outlined the theme and goals of the conference, and complete the first exercise “The Environment and You”. The students were also made aware of the changes in foliage and type of trees as we reached higher elevations. Arriving at Sly Park the students broke into their groups to become better acquainted with those they would be working with throughout the weekend. Each group has a “civilian” counselor, and member of the USFS cadre. Pizza was delivered for lunch and it’s always amazing that the veggie and cheese pizzas go first. Water was available to the students at all times, and Gatorade was also provided.

continue on next page...
Ross continued...

A short hike through Cedar Park Trail begins the “Introduction to the Forest”.

Students have a lively discussion on how their actions affect the environment: “People-You and Me”. The next interactive exercise is titled “Our Needs and Values”. Seventeen cards are placed in a large circle and the students are asked to gather around the one that reflects the most important value in their life. These include values like Freedom, Mature Love, a Comfortable Life, Self Respect, Social Recognition and A World of Peace. The students then select their second most important value, and then their least important. This is always a fascinating exercise.

Students then get together according to their most important value and make a coat of arms which they then explain to the other students.

Next exercise is learning who runs the forest, how laws are made that affect the forest, and who enforces the law. This is a role-playing exercise which the students enjoy.

Friday evening activities include rock wall climbing, the planetarium (mandatory activities) then a choice of volley ball, basketball, ping pong, or just shower and bed since many of the students were on the bus at 11:45 Thursday night, or 3:15 Friday morning.

Saturday morning we watch a movie about South Lake Tahoe, then climb aboard the buses for an all day trip to Tahoe. We are met with 3 Forest Service staff from the Tahoe Basin Management Team who talk about the development, recreation and business opportunities in the ENF.

The students hike to the shore of Lake Tahoe and sit for a half hour, reflecting on what they see, hear and feel and making notes. They share these with the other participants and, if they choose to, turn them in to be typed and distributed to everyone. These are also published on the Legion’s website.

Taylor Creek trail leads us to the underwater Stream Chamber which is an aquarium tank built into the rocks. The walls have murals depicting the four seasons. We see bear claws on the trees, deer tracks, and unfortunately, human carvings.

The weather is perfect, and we pass many hikers and elderly as well as young families. They are curious about our group and we have the opportunity to explain our unique program to them. Lots of information is provided on the Angora Fire; how it started; how large it became; how many fire fighting units responded; how many homes were evacuated, etc. Many of the students live in fire-prone areas and have gone through the experience of being evacuated.

Next stop is the site of the Angora fire, we see the devastation it caused, and see how some of the residents are already rebuilding. We are on the school parking lot, and the fire reached the very edge. We receive an explanation of why all burned trees aren’t removed, what happens when they are removed and lots of decisions to be made on reforestation, protecting the area from mudslides, keeping habitats for critters to start returning.

Saturday night is movie night!! “The Greatest Good” and a Forest Service Centennial movie., then some free time.

Sunday morning is time for another “Reflections” in a forest setting. “Wildlife Roundup” and “Creating a Healthy Forest” activities. Students learn to ID trees, evaluate condition, calculate size, and using marking guidelines, decide which trees need to be trimmed in an assigned plot.

Another hike around Sly Park for general ID of local fauna, National Forest issues, Stakeholders and Fuels.

Later that afternoon Archeologist Krista Deal spoke about fire, obsidian and baskets, explaining how the dates of previous fires are determined and how archeological sites are protected.

Sunday night is time for the students to make some remarks about the program, and thank their sponsors, counselors and USFS personnel. Then the talent show. Jokes, singing, acrobatics, Smokey Bear dancing. We see it all!! A marshmallow roast caps off the evening events, then it’s free time.

Sunday is the final project and tie it all together with Community Action Project. All students will participate in applying what they have learned in an intense, interactive exercise. Have the students met the goals established for the conference? If they have used their time wisely they will have learned about Forest Service management, partnership and leadership. All groups come together to discuss what they can do for their communities when they return home. What will their project be - goal, budget, timeline, volunteers, funding, etc.

This has been a great group of students. Dates for 2010 are May 14-17. The cost of the conference, between the Forest Service and The American Legion, is approximately $30,000. This is a unique partnership between the two sponsors and provides our students with a program and experience unlike any others.
The Amateur Radio Commission was established in the Department of California as a backup Communication in times of disasters. Per our mission statement to form a chain of volunteers throughout the state, California American Legion Amateur Radio Service (CALARS) was formed.

These volunteers check in on a radio net that is held every Sunday at 1 PM Pacific Time on the dialed frequency of 7.278 Megahertz (Mhz). The purpose of this net is to verify the operation of our equipment and to pass on any information concerning our Legion members. This also gives us the opportunity to practice relaying messages due to noisy radio frequency conditions which may prevent one station from hearing another. I have always believed that Amateur Radio and Disaster Preparedness (Homeland Security) should be working closely together. The majority of the CALARS membership is currently working with their city, county, or state on ARES/RACES or CERT or other radio support organizations. We receive training along with police, fire, and other civil/governmental agencies.

If you have a post home, you should go to the American Legion National web site at www.legion.org. To obtain a pamphlet which is a downloadable PDF file called Disaster Preparedness and Response for American Legion Posts. Every post should make a point to identify at least one amateur radio operator in their post and each district should have as many as they can find, of which at least one who is a member of at least one of the organizations I mention in the previous paragraph. Not every amateur radio operator may qualify to be a Legionnaire, but you can still use them or get them to guide you in getting a member of your post trained to pass a test for an FCC license. The following web site www.qrz.com is the best site for information and links to other sites.

As I have stated before, we are seeing more and more households getting rid of their land lines in favor of their cell phones. This is a big mistake for many, as the following example which happened this year in the Bay area. Vandals cut fiber cables of one of the local phone companies in three places. This caused all communications in Morgan Hill, Gilroy and some part of south San Jose to be lost. No cell, no land line, no internet and this interrupted communication between police, fire, and hospitals in the area. The Amateur Radio operators in those cities were activated and supported the OES in aiding the local police and fire departments in giving aid to the communities.

First I would like to thank Commander Lennox for keeping me active. Then Gary Prater and Jim Matsukuma for their help in getting the paper work out to the Posts and keeping me informed of things. Then there is Steve Weber who lead me, Dan Hetherington who pushed me, Bert O Lader with his computer who made us all look good and Chuck Anderson who make sure the Trophies were here for presentation.

The Book of Report article was prepared before the Fisk Reports and we do not know who the WINNERS are for 2008 - 2009. But last year: Group 1~Post 451, Group 2~Post 360, Group 3~Post 604, Group 5~Post 280, Group 6~Post 22, Group 7~Post 74 and San Diego Post 6 District 22 was selected as the “Best Overall Report” recipient. “CONGRATULATIONS” to those Posts and a BIG “THANKS” to all the Posts that send in Reports.

I know every Legionnaire out there has spent time and monies on something under Americanism, if just going to Church once a year, let’s put it down so the rest of the World knows what we as Legionnaires are doing.
Again I would like to thank all you “LEGIONNAIRES” out there that put up with me and help me along life’s road, have a good Convention and live the good American way.

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS
JIM BANAKUS, CHAIRMAN

As this Legion fiscal year comes to a close, I would like to thank Department Commander Alan C. Lennox for his support of the relatively new ALRiders Commission. I would also like to thank Department Adjutant Bill Siler III as well as Department Executive Secretary Gary Prater for their support.

One problem we have with this report is the ALRiders moved its State Convention into May, which is when and where we hold our Commission meeting. This report is due to the Department before our 2009 Commission meeting. As of this writing, I cannot report on what will have been discussed or resolved since our last Commission meeting in 2008. There will be an updated report given at the Department of California State Convention in Riverside.

That being said, I would like to inform you that the ALR program has become a valuable asset not only to California, but to National as well. We see blue cappers at Legion meetings, honor guard ceremonies, conventions, etc. Once you are out and about with the general public, the blue cap is no longer in place, and the general public has no idea that you are a Legion member or part of the Legion family, in many instances. Contrast that with someone who is a Legion Rider! We are authorized to wear our American Legion Rider “colors” or the back patches that are highly visible when we are out on our motorcycles. We go from place to place during the day and become very visible to the general public we come in contact with. Many times it is other folks who also ride, asking for information about the American Legion and more specifically, the Riders program. The program is having a positive membership influence. Within my own District I can report that one Post, because of its Riders Chapter, has started a SAL Squadron as well as a Ladies Auxiliary, neither of which they previously had. It is not an isolated instance; as is happening at many Posts within California as well as nationally.

Several Area Commissioners participate in the ALR Department Executive Committee teleconferences that are held about every month and a half. As a result, the Area Commissioners become aware of items that are being discussed by the officers within the ALRiders program. As liaison between the ALRiders and The American Legion, it is important to be able to provide oversight for such a worthwhile program. Being aware of current items being discussed helps in that process.

ALR Chapters from around the state have been involved with providing veteran support in many different venues. There have been visitations to veterans hospitals and rest homes, conducting fund raisers benefiting Veterans and their families, i.e. the A.L Legacy Fund and riding in support of deployed servicemen returning home, acting as escorts and manning flag lines for those who gave their all. Without question, the ALRiders continue to be an asset to this Department and the number of ALRiders Chapters keeps growing virtually month to month.

At this time I would like to thank the Area Commissioners that served this past year for their commitment and a job well done.
AMERICAN LEGION BASEBALL COMMISSION
HAROLD HALL, CHAIRMAN

California American Legion baseball continued to have a successful season. The department reports 247 team who participated in California. Our senior team Merced for the second year advanced to Wyoming and were defeated again in the championship game. Our runner up team, Covina went to Arizona but lost in two games.

The Junior tournament was won by Oxnard who defeated Chico in the final Championship bracket.

For the 2009 season California will again place two teams in tournament play. One team going to region seven, at Medford OR, and the second team to region Eight in Fairfield CA, who also is hosting the tournament.

We again thank both the department and veterans home for assistance in our work.

Yountville Ball Park has received new dugouts and sprinkler systems improvement plus other improvements at the barracks.

The tournament will again be held in the Veterans Home at Yountville. The Legion Day will be held during our Junior tournament.

DATES FOR THE 2008 AREA, STATE, REGIONAL AND WORLD SERIES TOURNAMENTS
State “A” Tournament July 25 - 28
State “B” Tournament August 1 - 4
Regional Tournaments August 6 - 9
Region 7, location-Medford, Oregon
Region 8, location-Fairfield, Calif.
World Series August 14 - 18
location - Fargo North Dakota

Baseball Commission
To foster the program of The American Legion as regard to baseball; it shall prepare an annual budget of all its operations and shall include all funds received and expended to be presented to the Finance Commission which will be presented with the Department budget to the Convention.

Area
1  Clarence Meyer (119-31) Vice Chairman
1  Roi Hammond (283-24)
2  A C Ralston (82-26)
2  Victor Vasgerdsian (517-9)
3  James I. Marz (108-11)
3  Richard T. Edgecomb (74-12)
4  Robert Mitchell Jr (352-19)
4  Fernando Soto (833-19)
5  Harold Hall (72-29) Chairman
5  Robert N. Escarcega (112-25)
6  Robert K. Ryan (283-24)
6  Jeff McKendry (339-16)

2008 Champions - Merced Team
As in previous years, the planning for the 2009 Boys’ State Session began with our November 1, 2008 call-in, held at American Legion Department Headquarters in San Francisco. The purpose for this meeting was to discuss and lay out the groundwork for our upcoming session of The Boys’ State Program. This will mark our 72nd year for California Boys’ State and our 38th year on the Campus of Sacramento State University, in Sacramento, California. As usual, we are expecting some 960 delegates from all over the state to attend. With our fine group of Counselors and Staff, the session promises to be outstanding in every way.

Along with our regular staff present at the call-in, we were honored to have our very own Department Commander, Al Lennox, Department Adjutant, Bill Siler III, Department Historian and Aide, Dick Barghoon, Department Finance Chairman, Mike Gombar, and many of the district advisors from throughout the state. Along with these guest, we also had our own Tammy Manini present. Tammy has retired now but she was there to answer any questions that may arise. For your information, Carita-Ronin has taken up the helm as being our new program coordinator and she was present also. The very best to Carita!

A good number of our staff is getting up in age, me included, so with that in mind, The Commission voted to elevate some of our staff into positions that would eliminate the possibility of not being covered should the need arise. All of these new appointees have been in the Boys’ State Program for many years and are capable of carrying on. These new positions are Jim Alcom, Assistant Director, Tim Aboudara, Chief Counselor, and Bill Denson, Assistant Chief Counselor. We are very confident that these individuals will do an excellent job in their new rolls. Impossible to name all of the other staff and counselors, but I feel the need to mention our Director, Dick Shick. Dick knows this program inside and out! Under his leadership, California has one of the best, if not the best, Boys’ State Programs in the Nation! Thank you Dick for your continued service!

The dates for the 2009, 72nd session, will be June 20-27 on the Campus of Sacramento State University, Sacramento. The fee per boy is $280.00 this year due to rising cost. We will always do our very best to hold cost down but we cannot promise what the future will bring. We have limited number of beds available to us and the quota system is still a MUST!

Since the dates for Convention in Riverside conflict with the dates for Boys’ State Session again this year, the newly elected GOVERNOR OF BOYS’ STATE will not be presented as usual on Saturday morning on the convention floor. Looks like this will not be the case for the Fresno Convention.

A huge THANK YOU to all of you Legionnaires for your continued support of the Boys’ State Program. Your support is appreciated more than you can imagine! Again, it has been a pleasure for me to serve you as Commission Chairman for another year. My dedication and service to the Boys’ State Program will never diminish!
CHILDREN & YOUTH COMMISSION
MICHAEL L. STADNICK J R., CHAIRMAN

Our mission is to work as the “Legion Family” to help provide care and protection to our nation’s children. Only by working together with The American Legion, the Son’s of The American Legion and our Auxiliary members, can we help sponsor programs and provide services for our military families, our veteran’s families and for all the children.

Our programs are to help encourage, enhance and ensure the needs of all the children. The programs principles are to improve physical, spiritual, emotional, educational and the family home for all children. By working together with other organizations and agencies, it helps to strengthen our programs.

In these times of great need, Temporary Financial Assistance (TFA) has become more important to the welfare of our children and provides a form of direct aid. Through TFA, a Post can call upon the National Organization for cash assistance to help maintain the basic needs of veterans’ children.

For 2008-2009, our Legion Family has actively worked to ensure that California has a viable Children and Youth (C&Y) Programs. The Commissioners have been active in ensuring their Areas are making Posts aware of the Programs sponsored by C&Y. A lot of time goes into the various programs, sponsored by the Legion or co-sponsored with Community Based Groups and entities. Our Post volunteers’ hours and fund raises’ for our youth. It is a proud accomplishment to further any cause for C&Y, be it our Legion programs or Community based programs. Get out there and wave our banners in support of those programs and wear your Legion caps.

The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation, in its 54th year, has awarded $639,875 to 18 non-profit organizations. These grants have been awarded to support worthwhile projects through the dissemination of information to the general public and specific target groups. The following are brief summary of the grants awarded for 2009 to California: Car ing Kids Television of Dana Point, California was awarded $45,000 for their project titled “Dewey’s Teacher’s Kits”; RAND Corporation of Santa Monica, California was awarded $10,089 for their project titled “Dissemination of Cognitive Behavioral Intervention for Trauma in Schools (CBITS) Adoptions Manual and Implementation Guidelines”.

In September 2008, Chairman Stadnick attended the Second Annual C&Y Conference in Indianapolis. The presentation highlights included; Special Olympics, Children Miracle Network, Boys and Girls State, Military Child Education Coalition, When Parents Deploy, Child Welfare Foundation, American Legion Auxiliary Youth Programs, and much more. The information and brochures from the conference was shared with the Department Commission at our call in, who then used some of the materiel to further our Department Programs. The Commission is making a further emphasis on completing our report. The Legion Families are doing outstanding work to support our C&Y, and there is satisfaction of doing this work, but without reporting it in the Consolidated Post Report (CPR) and especially in the Annual C&Y Report, these efforts will not be recognized.

I want to thank Department for the coverage of C&Y Programs in the state newsletter. The C&Y received front page coverage on the programs sponsored by C&Y and an outstanding article by C&Y Commission Chairman Richard Ledesma (Post 371-17) Area 4 on “The American Legion Celebrates Children & Youth Month “. At the Spring DEC in Santa Maria, I received a lot of compliments on the work of the Commission members in their Areas.

I want to thanks all those Posts, and individual members for giving to ensure our C&Y are being cared for. I would like to recognize the commission members who have accepted the challenge of leading this program. It has been an honor to serve the Department of California in the programs close to my heart.
The Community Service Commission has continued to try to make the program one of the best within the Department of California.

This year there was a Limited Commission call-in at Lakewood Post 496 on October 25, 2008. Unfortunately, only the Commission Chairman was present. Two of the Commissioners had previously notified the Department that they would be unable to attend (with one sending a written report on activity with their area, and the other unable to come due to family illness). The other Commissioners were absent.

I would be remiss if I did not take time to thank the prior Chairman, Gil Sattler Jr. (126-16) for his hard work and the leadership that he exhibited, so that this Commission would have written documentation for each Post within the Department to follow and explain how the reports were judged.

The Limited Call-in had an unexpected result when it was discovered that the Mission statement had been inadvertently changed and switched to a fire prevention program. After investigating to see if there had been an official change, and none found, this was resolved and changed to the correct Mission Statement.

In addition, the determination was made to observe if any processes or steps might need to be changed or deleted when evaluating reports and determining recipients of awards during the Convention. The only procedure that would be eliminated would be having the Committee members present electing a Convention Chairman. As evidenced at prior Conventions, the commission chairman or his designee has always been elected, due to his knowledge of the Commission procedures.

As a reminder, the Awards are awarded to the Posts for qualified Community Services projects as follows:

1. The most money donated by a Post.
2. The most man hours expended by a Post.
3. The most money donated by a Post divided by the number of Post members.
4. The most man hours expended by a Post divided by the number of Post members.
5. The most unique Community project or the best report submitted.

Thanks to all of the Posts who have submitted their reports. Without the reports that are submitted this Commission could not fulfill its Mission. I hope that you have a great Convention and are able to observe the presentations of the awards.

A special thank you to all who have made my job easier this year especially Bill Siller iii, and the professional staff of the Department of California. I am grateful for having the opportunity to chairing this Commission.

Yours in comradeship

Commander Al Lennox called in the Commission at the spring D.E.C. in Santa Maria. His charge to the Commission was to look at the Posts’ Incorporation’s. The Department does not have a list of which Posts are incorporated and which are not.

The Commission met and reported to the D.E.C. that there were just to continued on next page...
many legal questions for the Commission to answer at that time. The Commission said the incorporation’s problem would be looked into and reported to the D.E.C. at Convention.

The California Secretary Of State office is now the keeper of incorporation’s. A corporation is either “ACTIVE” or “SUSPENDED”. The main reason a corporation is suspended is because the corporation did not send in their annual $20.00 fee. Their office informed me “A corporation that is suspended LOSES ALL RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES OF A CORPORATION”.

I have been able to recap Area’s 1, 2, and 3 as of the end of April. Over 50% of the Posts in these area’s are either suspended or there is no record. This is a very serious problem that needs immediate attention. I will have Area’s 5 and 6 completed by Convention. The Convention D.E.C. will be given a complete report then.

One recommendation the Commission will be making to the Department and the D.E.C. is to have the Post Officers Report changed to add a section stating the Posts Incorporation number and it’s status whether “ACTIVE” or “SUSPENDED”. This way all Posts will have to check their status at least once a year.

The Commission does not anticipate any changes in the By-Laws this year.

I would like to thank all the Commissioners for their work this year in trying to solve the problems of a Convention quorum and Incorporation status. These are two major issues facing the Department. There work in their respective Area’s make my job easy and enjoyable.

(Uncle) Bobbie Castillo of Riverside transferred to Post Everlasting. A long time Convention City leader, Legionnaire of The Year recipient, and a valued mentor. He will be missed. He was replaced for the Riverside Convention by Bobbie Dale Castillo (his nephew).

Where we stand after this Riverside Convention:

2010 June 24-27 Fresno
2011 June 23-26 Ontario
2012 June 21-24 Redding
2013 June 27-30 Open for bid
2014 June 26-29 Open for bid

The Department of California Convention City (DCCC) Representatives assignments and reports include a lot of phone work and attending Area and District meetings to give reports. All were represented at the DEC in Santa Maria (Glenn Mayor past DCCC) represented Area 1. The Southern Calif. (DCCC) Team including Barbara Carlson of the Department Auxiliary met in Ontario in Nov. 2008 along with Ontario Visitors Bureau, District 18 Team, SAL people et al. We took a tour of the Double Tree Hotel as a possible Headquarters center and the Convention Center facilities outlining the area’s for our meetings etc. We looked at the general area by car for other hotel and eating places and a mall that would take hours to explore. We recommended to the Department Commander our approval.

I did a little research and came up with some interesting trivia. There are 100’s of cities in California and since we have been having conventions since 1919 we have had 26 different cities host conventions. The first was San Francisco. In the last 10 years or so 5 cities have had 30 of our conventions. Nine have had only one; Anaheim, Santa Clara, Eureka, Santa Cruz, Avalon, Susanville, Santa Barbara, Yosemite Valley, and San Mateo. Two with the most, Fresno and San Diego with 11 each. This would indicate we could have a variety of interesting and enjoyable cities to consider.

I keep track each year of each Districts attendance at the DCCC Standing Committee meeting. Each District can send one representative to
Kidd continued...

-discuss and vote for future conventions. Since I have been Chairman, the last two years of this committee, 13 Districts of a possible 30 Districts have attended both meetings. Eleven have missed both meetings. The rest have made one or the other. The solution to have better attendance is for the District Commander to submit a name of a legimnaire that plans to attend the next Department Convention to Headquarters in June, and if that fails fill out a “Authorization Slip” at Convention of a District member that has registered.

Here are some advantages for hosting a Department Convention:
1. Increase income for the Post through food, beverage, buttons, shirt sales etc.
2. Income for local community
3. Tourist trade from returning people
4. Helps membership, awareness by the community, who we are, and the good that we do.
5. Personal satisfaction, peer pride, “Legionnaire of The Year” caliber leadership.

Everyone should be aware of the package that DCCC offers of “How to organize a convention” which is available for those that are interested in hosting a convention. If there is enough interest we could have a seminar for those who want to learn the “in’s” and “out’s” of putting on a convention. There are not many people in the Department that are knowledgeable and brave enough for this exclusive group.

DISASTER AND EMERGENCY SERVICE
RAYMOND A. GOSS, CHAIRMAN

I would like to thank all my Commissioners:
Area 1 - Richard A. Behrendt
Area 2 - Kenneth W. White
Area 3 - Michael V. Cruz
Area 4 - Ozan J. Evans
Area 6 - Wilbert E. “Whip” Wilson
for a job well done. I would also like to thank Commander Alan C Lennox for his appointment of me to this position.

This year there were again fires in Southern California. Many applications for Insurance were filed, but fortunately there were few Veterans requesting assistance. Only 1 application for assistance was received from a Veteran. This member received $700.00 from department, and his application was forwarded to National with a recommendation for the maximum amount of $1,500.00

The commissioners have been given much information as well as the forms members would need for applications for assistance. All district commanders were given this information as well. It was also posted on the department Web site. http://www.calegion.org.

If you still need further assistance, please contact me by phone 714-978-2161 or E-mail Rayncarolgossfam@aol.com.

Please include in your next year budget a donation to the California Disaster Emergency Fund. There is a donation form available on the department Web site or please mail directly to department earmarked for “Disaster Emergency Fund”.

The 29th District has set aside $2,500.00 in a special fund for Disaster and Emergency to aid Veterans in need. Applicants may receive up to $500.00 with their application being sent on to Department HQ. The consideration for assistance approval is the same criteria used by the Department of California.

If your post or district has done something special, please advise.
FINANCE COMMISSION
MICHAEL A GOMBAR, CHAIRMAN

With a strong personal commitment to successfully completing our designated assignments, the Department Finance Commission submits the Annual Finance Commission Report for fiscal 2008-2009; a very challenging, yet productive year.

In an extremely difficult economy, the commission has been tasked with keeping a close watch on the revenue while controlling expenses without experiencing negative consequences. While focusing on the department’s financial needs, commission members have been able to identify additional and potential new sources of revenue.

The department can be proud of the high priority placed on loyalty and dedication as demonstrated by our commissioners and staff in their efforts at managing the department finances. Their knowledge and close attention to detail have resulted in outstanding financial outcomes, given the challenging economic climate we are operating in.

Please join me in acknowledging the commission’s financial expertise, and praising their many accomplishments on behalf of the Department of California. Our department is grateful for their extraordinary achievements.

Your 2009 Finance Commissioners:
Area
1 Robert A. Canclini (96-1)
2 John O’Leary (340-9)
3 Charles Parnell (159-14)
4 L. Michael Black (273-17)
5 Jesse James (Vice Chairman) (112-25)
6 Michael A. Gombar (Chairman) (150-20)

We extend a special thank you and recognition to the commander’s representative, Howard Darter; Department Controller, Mary Long; and Department Adjutant, Bill Siler III. Their insight, judgment, and professionalism have inspired allegiance throughout our organization.

We would also like to recognize the efforts and support of Alan C. Lennox, our Department Commander, who has maintained a high profile with the commission and has demonstrated the willingness to challenge conventional wisdom in the pursuit of excellence.

Try to imagine working in an environment where you have over fifty (50) supervisors to report to and keep happy. Well....welcome to the Department of California Headquarters. As well as providing department headquarters with the day-to-day service it requires, each time a commission or committee meets, our staff is asked to tackle yet another priority project or assignment. The Finance Commission is pleased to commend our skillful, reliable, versatile, and highly motivated remarkable headquarters staff. We salute these exceptional individuals for the cheerful, professional service they provide to all of us throughout the year. The fact that a number of our staff members are relatively new (less than one year) makes their outstanding performance all the more remarkable.

As of this writing, the Finance Commission is headed to San Francisco for the purpose of developing the 2009-2010 department budget. Therefore, all of the figures quoted below are derived from our financial position on March 31, 2009, and/or based on projections utilizing that data.

For the fourth consecutive year, the Department of California has received an unqualified audited financial report (a clear bill of finance) for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2008. The auditor’s management letter gave the department high marks for the manner in which financial matters are managed.

As part of our auditing procedure, Vice Chairman Jesse James and Commissioner Jack O’Leary have conducted three (3) internal audits during the course of the year. Those audits echoed the findings of our external auditor and indicated that all department finances are being handled in accordance with department policy.

Actual to Budget-General Fund

Revenue:

Clearly, our national economic downturn has impacted our financial statement. With only nine (9) months of actual data, the department’s revenue appears to be tracking to about 3% behind last year at this same time. As of March 31, 2009, we have realized 73% of our projected income. Overall income is currently $645,909 under the annual budget figures. However, several of our major fund raising programs were just getting under way in March. The actual revenue realized from those programs in 2008 was $318,451. As of March 31st, no income had been reported.

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Also, membership was behind by $151,998 compared to $193,682 in 2008. We anticipate that the figures will get much closer to budget by year’s end.

Expenses:

Expenses are also tracking very close to budget. However, due to recent postage increases, the California Legionnaire expenses will most likely exceed budget projections. All other expense line items should finish the year at or below budget projections.

VA & R Division

With the assistance of our Service Director Terry Tracy, the Finance Commission continues evaluating other methods of revenue enhancement to help balance the VA & R annual budget.

Currently, 100% of the department’s fund-raising proceeds (approximately $780,000 per year) are used to support VA & R staffing and programs. With a current budget of $937,288, it is easy to see that additional resources are urgently needed, or expenses (services) may have to be dramatically curtailed.

This year, the Finance Commission completed its work on developing an Internal Revenue Service 501 (c) (3) Charitable Foundation for our VA & R Division. The DEC has approved the articles of incorporation, and the required filing fees and documents have been filed with the required government agencies and the VA & R Foundation has had its initial meeting. The new 501(c) (3) status will enable us to apply for grants and charitable contributions from outside our organization and will open a whole new source of potential funding that was not available to us under our current IRS tax exemption status.

We anticipate our initial fund raising effort under our new exemption status to be implemented the first part of fiscal year 2009-2010.

Challenges for 2009-2010

While the current financial condition of the department is good, and our reserves are substantial, we cannot ignore the current economic conditions. An unstable economy has had, and will continue to have, an impact on our ability to perform financially.

In fiscal 2009-2010, we will be challenged to pay close attention to detail when evaluating our expenses, and be conservative when projecting revenue. Clearly, we will encounter some very difficult times. Our success will be determined by how respectful we are of our true financial condition, and what the long term impact of any monetary decisions will have on our overall financial stability.

Cognizant of our financial goals, we will develop and strongly recommend the adoption of a balanced budget for fiscal 2009-2010. While we continue to be optimistic, we must temper that optimism with the caution necessary to weather the uncertainty of the current economic climate.

Yours in comradeship,
Michael A. Gombar
The Department Law and Order Commission met on May 2 in Fresno to consider nominations from Area Commissioners for Law Officer of the Year for Valor, Law Officer of the Year for Community Service, and Public Safety Officer of the Year. Awards were also made for Area Officers of the Year in two categories. This year, the number of nominations was very low.

All six Commissioners were present. Police Officer Joseph M. Salazar of the San Francisco Police Department was selected as the Law Officer of the Year for Valor. He was nominated by Police & Fire Post 456, District 8, Area 2. California Fire Department Firefighter Eric R. Ayers was selected as the Public Safety Officer of the Year. He was nominated by Thomas Tucker Post 204, District 3, Area 1. The Commissioners found that the one nomination for Law Enforcement Officer of the Year for Community Service did not qualify as the nomination contained no discussion of community service, only that of on-duty police work.

Commission members expressed concern that Posts are not fully aware of the requirements for presenting a Law and Order Program nomination to the Commission. A suggestion from District 21 was discussed. Various other suggestions were made. Commission member Bill Evans will create a weighted criteria for evaluating program submissions.

One issue of concern is whether a report sheet is sufficient to receive an award. Last year in one category, only one submission was made and it was by means of a report sheet. At that time, it was deemed sufficient by those committee members who reviewed it. One of the questions to be resolved at the Department Convention this year is whether, in such a case, should a sole submission be rejected simply because it is on a Department Report form with no supporting documentation.

Another issue of concern is whether to require all Law and Order Program reports to be submitted prior to May 1, even though Law and Order Month is May. There are several solutions possible, including allowing May Law and Order program reports to be submitted in the following year. This issue will also be considered at convention.

The Commission also raised the question of what would be done at the Law and Order Committee meeting during Department Convention if all judging was done by the Commission during the first Saturday in May. Of course, it can consider resolutions. It also can consider future award criteria. An effort will be made to respond to this question at the Department Convention.

Law and Order
To foster within the scope of The American Legion principles and policies an affirmative program of respect for and support of law and order in general and law enforcement agencies and officers and duties, and further that a sub-committee be appointed to formulate American Legion policies concerning the use of narcotics and dangerous drugs.

Area
1. Gary B. Leach (77-6)
2. Gregory Corrales (456-8) Vice Chairman
3. Roger W Baldwin (11-14)
4. John B Bartos (812-17) Chairman
5. Edward M. Alvarez (277-29)
6. William S. Evans (826-20)
LEADERSHIP COMMISSION
Benjamin A Kepaa, Chairman

Hello California Legionnaires, comrades, distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen one and all. Welcome to beautiful downtown Riverside, California and our 91st American Legion Department of California Convention. It is time once again to submit our annual (2008-2009) Department Leadership Commission Report.

On behalf of the Commission, I would like to express my sincerest Gratitude to our Department Commander, Alan C. Lennox, Department Adjutant, William “Bill” Siler III, and the office staff of our Headquarters; Gary Prater, Executive Secretary, Mary Long, Controller, Jim Matsukuma, System Administrator, Kathy Tinitali, Membership Coordinator, Nenita LaCap, DMS/Fund Raising Coordinator, Gildo O. Manalo, Mail/Stock/Archives Coordinator, Carita Ronin, Special Program Coordinator and Ashmika Singh, Office Assistant/Receptionist for their outstanding Professional support and assistance. Their professionalism is above Reproach.

Once again, special thanks also to every Area and District Leadership Commissioner and their advisors/assistants:
Gene B. Fanucchi (Area 2)
Billy C. Hurst (Area 3)
Brian E. Franklin (Area 4)
Gerald W. Gemmell (Area 5)
EDWARD E. ORDUNEZ (Area 6)

Thank you gentlemen for your LEADERSHIP efforts and support to our Commission this year 2008-2009.

And now for my brief report. Throughout this past year, I’ve reminded my Area, District and Post Commanders about the importance of their Consolidated Post Reports (CPR’s). Hopefully, their CPR’s have been Submitted through their Districts and on to Department in a timely manner Prior the printing of this publication. It is very important to mention, every CPR is the voice of that Post being transmitted by our National Commander, David K. Rehbein to members of our U.S. Congress. Please remember How important your CPR is to you and your Post. I would like to encourage every Legionnaire to be ever mindful of our Mission; we as LEADERS are “to encourage members to utilize everyone’s Innate potentials and develop within those potentials the enthusiasm to Function for the best interest of The American Legion at all levels!”

Now, I would be remiss if I did not mention last year’s winner of our Department is Legionnaire of the Year (LOY). It is an honor and pleasure to Announce with pride for Area 5, District 22, San Diego Post 6, Legionnaire Ann M. Pina-Brown (a Korean War veteran) winner of last year’s 2007-2008 California Legionnaire of the Year Award.

I wish to thank every Post, District and Area who participated in Last year’s LOY competition. At present, the Department Leadership Commission is anticipating who will be the next winner of this year’s 2008-2009 Legionnaire of the Year and Lifetime Achievement Awards. This year’s competition should be very interesting because of the Department’s newly LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT award contest. And the Commission is looking forward to receive your qualified candidates.

In conclusion, remember your Consolidated Post Reports and all that it entails. Be ever mindful of our LEADERSHIP mission and lastly, Our Legionnaire of the Year (LOY) and LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT Award programs. With that said, I am confident our CALIFORNIA LEGIONNAIRES Will again work together towards another successful LEADERSHIP year. Also remember, “LEAD by example and they will come!”

God Bless America and God Bess The american Legion! Mahalo!
The American Legion, Department of California had another successful Legislative Day at the State Capitol on March 24, 2009. With the state facing an unprecedented fiscal crisis, contemplating budget cuts, discussing reductions in services, with over 60 bills dealing with military and veterans affairs being introduced; it was imperative that the Legion maintain its presence at the Legislature.

The event officially kicked off at 8:00am; however there was a sizable advance force of Legionnaires standing outside of the Capitol at 7:00 waiting for the building to be opened to the public. Attendees enjoyed a Continental breakfast and Italian buffet lunch in the Capitol’s Eureka Room, which is located in the downstairs cafeteria (a great location to intercept Senators and Assemblymembers on their way to their offices).

Attendance was excellent this year with over 90 Department of California Legionnaires turning out for the event. The American Legion Department of California awarded 2 legislators with the Legislator of the Year Award for 2008. Recipients were Senator Gloria Negrete McLeod and Assemblyman Chuck DeVore. Negrete McLeod (D-Chino) has been a steadfast member of the Senate Veterans Committee and has carried numerous bills dealing with education and retirement benefits for the National Guard, beautification of veterans memorials, and extended benefits for Guardsmen and reservists who are employed by the state. DeVore (R-Irvine), a long serving member of the Assembly Veterans Committee and retired National Guard Lt. Colonel, has also authored numerous pieces of legislation and resolutions to advance the cause of veterans and the military.

American Legion Life Member and Senate Veterans Affairs Committee Chairman Senator Jeff Denham (R-Merced) addressed the gathering and outlined his legislative agenda for the committee for the 2009-2010 session. Senator Dave Cogdill (R-Fresno), Assemblymembers Paul Cook (R-Yucaipa), Nathan Fletcher (R-San Diego), Paul Fong (D-Mountain View), and Senate Veterans Committee consultant Donald Wilson; who are all American Legion members, spoke to the gathering and spoke about their issues and goals. Assemblywoman Mary Salas (D-Chula Vista) is the Chairwoman of the Assembly Veterans Committee and briefed everyone on that committee’s ambitious 2009 agenda.

As always, the California Department of Veterans Affairs showed up in force and Secretary Tom Johnson outlined the department’s goals, veterans home status, outreach efforts, the Governor’s priorities regarding veterans, the Cal-Vet Home Loan program, and the myriad of other services and oversight the department provides.

Many other legislators and staff dropped by to say hello and meet attendees. Among them were the President pro Tempore of the Senate Darrell Steinberg (D-Sacramento), Senators Alan Lowenthal (D-Long Beach) and Lou Correa (Santa Ana) and Assemblymembers Joel Anderson (La Mesa), Tom Berryhill (R-Modesto), Mike Duvall (R-Brea), Danny Gilmore (R-Hanford) and Curt Hagman (R-Diamond Bar).

After the lunch, Legion members visited their local legislators and briefed them on the Legion while also advocating on legislation currently moving through the Legislature. Each Legionnaire left a packet of information about the Legion and the bills we support with each legislator visited. This raises the visibility, of the work the Legion does to help veterans, with new legislators and staff, especially in light of the fact that every 2 years there is a 30% turnover in legislators and staff.
FOREIGN RELATIONS AND NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION

MARIAN F LANDIS, CHAIRMAN

What a year this Commission has had. We wrote our resolution on the California ID Act of 2010 and had it adopted at the 2008 Convention. Working constantly with Ted Hilton and his people in Sacramento and San Diego, we are nearing the time when we will be receiving the first petitions to get out to all organizations, Posts, etc. and are working on organizations and companies and other people who fund these resolutions.

A very successful trip to Sacramento on March 24th allowed me to talk to many Assembly members and Senators, informing them about what we are doing and asking them to help us push this so we can eventually get it on the June 2010 ballot. Since it was turned down at National and sent back to us with the statement “get it passed in California, then the other states will try to have it passed in their states”, we have a lot to prove. With California (so) in debt it is the best time ever to have this on the ballot. California alone is spending $400 million per year, or approximately $8 billion dollars in the last 20 years toward these alien border crossers when they cross into the US, in labor and our hospitals have to care for them. We need every one of you Legionnaires to help us get this passed.

Also at the special call in October we discussed stricter security on all Ocean containers coming from overseas aboard ships and airplanes into the United States. They should all be opened and thoroughly inspected. A resolution was written and sent to Department of California to be presented at the Riverside Convention in June of 2009.

I thank every one of our National Security Commission members. They are a loyal group and work together with no problems. We really discuss, tear apart and come out with some great Resolutions. We lost a member this year, Bill Dacus, who was Area 3 Vice Commander, but he came back and wrote our latest Resolution. Thank you Bill!

We have quite a job ahead of us on our ID Act Resolution, but if every Legionnaire in California steps in and supports us, we will save our state and cities millions of dollars. I feel we will do this and make California step out front when we prove it can be done.

Thank you Commander for this chance to prove programs like this are possible and Legionnaires can make them happen.
The Public Relations Commission met October 25 & 26, 2008 at Lakewood Post in Long Beach at the Department “call-in”. The report form was discussed in detail with the main objective being to encourage Posts to fill it out and send in their reports on public relations. It was obvious that a lot of public relations were being carried on, but the reporting portion was not completed.

With reports from the individual Commissioners it is apparent that the Posts have been doing a great job welcoming back our troops, prompting PERA, the Blue Star Program and recently many are getting involved with “Heroes to Hometowns”. Some Districts are participating in “Stand downs” for the homeless veterans and working with the “Wounded Warriors” program. We also have the “Riders” participating in the different “Honors” and escorting ceremonies for those coming home for burial. It was obvious that much is being done within the realm of public relations but not much is being done to advertise it to the public.

The commission reviewed information available to them and to Posts for training on miscellaneous subjects such as “Four Pillars Promotion” Membership Video PSA’s, “Heroes to Hometowns”, Implementation for local Posts, “Operation Outreach” and a video to train on “Developing an Effective Post Public Relations Program”. Each Commissioner in the Department has copies of these CD’s and some are available with a request through your commissioner through Department. As new CD’s and information are printed at National, Department has been graciously making file copies. (Thank You Jim Matsukuma for all your assistance).

We are hoping that many Posts will submit the Public Relations reports this year. I know there have been a lot of programs worked, and I hope that every Post will find that the Public Relations Report for this year is very basic and simple to understand and quick to fill out. We hope we will get a great input this year from all of you who work so hard.

Since you will not see this until you receive your “Book of Reports” the Public Relations Commissioners and I wish to thank you in advance for your dedication in promoting the American Legion Programs and for supporting our troops. Let’s reach out and let the public know just how great the American Legion is and show that it is the largest veteran’s organization in the world.

I thank Commander Al Lenox for this opportunity to serve and I sincerely thank the great staff of commissioners I was able to serve with this year for their time, and dedication, expertise and support. And most of all I thank each and every one of you who worked the public relations program in your Post, District or Area.

See You in Riverside!

Semper Fi!
documents needed to arrive at their own opinions. A reply was requested with the input indicating their opinion. The reply was 100% in favor of staying with the current vendor.

The Postal Service is requiring that we re-certify all address in the mailing lists each ninety days by a certified mailing vendor. We have complied with this new postal service regulation. Additional costs will be incurred (which will not be large) but we will be assured that everyone will get the paper with the proper address.

Postage costs will be going UP & UP each year, we will be pennyed to death. The only answer is Electronic Mailing (this means your E-Mail Address needs to be sent to the editor). So far our response has been slow, less than 100 addresses. To make a viable enterprise we need addresses in the thousands, and then we are at a point to make it pay.

Thanks to Dave Eby Editor for his guidance and support, Carleton M. Enloe Area 1, Kelly S. Haughton Area 3, Marilyn E. Rideaux Area 4, Lanny D. Peterson Vice Chairman, Area 5, Larry Johnson Area 6

Thank you all for a wonderful and productive year.

RITUAL COMMISSION
JACKSON G. PRESSEY, CHAIRMAN

In today’s world we must keep alive the ways that we do things and this is called Ritual. Our forefathers did a good job on the Ritual that we use as there has been very little change since its inception. Whether we hold a round table or a full fledged meeting we should abide by the Ritual so that we never forget how it is done and how consistent the Ritual has been over the years.

The Rituals if carried out properly, especially in the disposal of tattered, dirty or otherwise unserviceable fags, is a sight to behold when proper respect is paid to our flag. This is also true in the way we conduct ourselves in the passing of a comrade whether the service is conducted in the field, cemetery, funeral home or in a house of worship.

Some will say why do we use the phrase “Comrade” (it might imply Communist), well this all stems from our services in the various wars where we considered ourselves “Comrade in Arms”.

God Bless America and see you at Riverside.

Ritual
To promote and teach the use of ritual in all Legion meetings as described in official National publications, e.g. Officer’s Guide, to foster teams at all levels of The American Legion for initiatory and installation at meetings; to lend color to Legion functions, particularly parades at state and national conventions; and to supervise contests of uniform bodies.

Area
1  Jackson G. Pressey (21-9) Chairman
2  Joseph A. Paynter (105-26)
3  Darel Selman (108-11)
4  Charles Leonard (252-23) Vice Chairman
5  Donna E Griggs (500-21)
6  G. B. Barker (211-16)

Publishing
The Publishing Commission shall be totally responsible for setting the criteria of what will be published in The California Legionnaire; its content will reflect the policies and activities of The American Legion. The term of employment of the editor will extend one issue past the Department Convention. All editors will be signed or approved by the Department Commander. All advertising consistent with The American Legion policy will be accepted. The commission shall be totally responsible for soliciting of competitive bids for the printing of The California Legionnaire, keeping in mind the financial aspects for the benefit of all California Legion members. It shall be responsible for documenting all policy and administrative decisions made by the commission which shall be forwarded in writing to the Department Adjutant as a matter of record. Candidates for statewide Legion office shall be given equal space in the columns of The California Legionnaire. Commissions paid to individuals or companies for advertising in the paper will be made known upon request of any member in good standing of The American Legion.

Area
1  Carleton M. Enloe (604-6)
2  E. Paul Terry (410-26) Chairman
3  Kelly S. Haughton (26-15)
4  Marilyn E. Rideaux (252-23)
5  Lanny D. Peterson (149-22) Vice Chairman
6  Larry Johnson (280-18)
The American Legion Scouting Program in California is one of the best in the Nation, as evidenced by the Department receiving from the National Organization the Frank N. Belgrano, Jr. Trophy for 2008. The trophy is awarded annually to the American Legion Department which has rendered the most outstanding service during the period of August 1 to August 1 to the Boy Scout program. The award is based on the number of troops organized, strength of existing troops and the general welfare of the Scouting movement under Legion sponsorship. For the California Legionnaires involved in or supporting the Scouting program, I sincerely thank each of you for your participation.

As of January 31, 2009 89 Posts within the Department are Chartering a total of 177 Scouting Units, representing 4479 youth and 1903 adult leaders. The units consist of 80 Cub Packs, 67 Troops, 25 Venturing Crews, 2 Ships (Sea Scouts) and 1 Scout Team.

The “Eagle Scout of the Year” is a strong part of the Scouting Program both at Department and National level. This year eight California Eagle Scouts were nominated for this award. A screening committee selected one candidate to be forwarded to National for consideration as the National Legion Eagle Scout of the Year. The Scout selected by National receives a $500.00 Savings Bond, a plaque and certificate when introduced at Department convention. Matthew is a member of Venturing Crew 103 chartered by the Civil Air Patrol and received his eligibility through his Grandmother, Legion Auxiliary member Esther Kudija. He is a student at Mission College Preparatory with a 4.49 grade point average. Matthew’s Nomination Application has been submitted to National for consideration as the American Legion National Eagle Scout of the Year-2009. Congratulations to Matthew and his family, we wish him the best during the National Legion selection process.

Another highlight of the Department’s Scouting Program is the Annual Camporee held in August. A very successful 27th Annual Camporee was held at BSA Camp Rancho Alegre on August 8-10 2008 near Solvang overlooking Lake Cachuma. This years Camporee is to be held at Mt. Zion near Juniper Hills, California. Additional Camporee information will be available on the Department’s web site: http://www.calegion.org.

I thank Commander Lennox and the Department staff for their outstanding support of the Scouting Program and wish each attendee an enjoyable and successful convention in Riverside.
SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

PAUL RODRIGUEZ, CHAIRMAN

The measure of the Commission's success has been to measure the success of the Sons' unwavering support to The American Legion programs. Their contributions to VA&R, Children and Youth, Americanism and Community service are commended each year by the National Organization for their performance and record in supporting and exceeding the National goals.

It all begins at the Individual Squadron level and their dedication to the premise of “Service to Veterans”. They average more than 4,500 hours of direct service at Veterans facilities and more than 6,500 hours in direct support of veterans programs yearly.

Participation in Community activities and programs, including Americanism, Boys State, Community Patriotic programs, Scholarships, School sports programs, Scouting and Special Academic Awards has brought recognition and praise for the Sons and The American Legion from all levels of the community.

For many years the Sons have identified and trained its many qualified leaders to fill the positions at Detachment, Area, District and Squadron levels. The Youth Leadership and Training program was started in May of 2008. The attendees received advanced leadership skills to familiarize delegates with the Legion Family environment and to provide useful tools and skills for conducting Sons of The American Legion Squadron operations and activities, programs of the Legion Family, and practical knowledge in conducting events and activities. The cost of the program was supported by the profits derived from the sale of The American Legion - Sons Challenge Coins, donations and SAL fundraisers. The Commission and the Sons thank all those who participated in supporting this endeavor.

Membership of the Sons organization has grown tremendously over the last ten years and continues to exceed membership goals each year. S.A.L. Area Vice Commanders were required to be more active with the formation of Districts with in their Area. The Vice Commanders provided comprehensive reports on their individual activities to the Area S.A.L. Commissioners. This was stressed as a necessity to keep the flow of information not only going up to Detachment, but down to the Districts and Squadrons. They continue to add new Squadrons and form New Districts around the State.

The Detachment follows the Legion in its structure and has formed all the Commissions and Committees necessary to propagate the Sons program. The Ways and means Committee has been tasked to increase its fund raising program to assist the Department Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation program.

The Commission continues to emphasize the need for a one year and five year program to insure past successes continue and future endeavors build those successful experiences. The dedication of the Sons to all aspects of The Legion programs and their tenacity of purpose will insure the continued development of The American Legion Family and its goals.

In closing I would like to thank my fellow Commissioners for their dedication to this vital legion program. I also thank the Department staff or their continued support and effort put towards Detachment. The Sons Of The American Legion continues to serve the legion in any venture they are asked and does so honoring their Fathers.

Son of The American Legion
To promote the program of The American Legion with the sons of the Legionnaires.

Areas: 1 Dennis J. Sutton (204-3)
2 Paul C. Rodriguez (512-28) Chairman
3 Ray A. Santiago (872-12)
4 William C. Murphy (188-23)
5 Greg D. Olson (328-21) Vice Chairman
6 Kenneth Johnson 534-16)
VETERAN’S AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION COMMISSION
ARTHUR W ZUHLKE, CHAIRMAN

Well, another year is almost in the books. The Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation (VA&R) Commission was called in October 25-26, 2008, at Lakewood Post 496. Present were: Terry N. Tracy, Department Service Officer, Bud Simmons, Joshua L. Laws, Harold F. Tattan, Anthony N. Guerrero, Joe LaPaglia and Arthur W. Zuhlke were excused. Zuhlke was out of state.

Area Commissioners reported:
Area 1: Reported on “Honor Flights” to send WW II Veterans back to the WW II Memorial in Washington, D.C.
Area 2: Reported on women Veterans, both at war and stateside. The rise of women in the armed forces continues to change and grow.
Area 3: Promoting Veterans to get their VA Health Care Card. District 14 hosted a barbecue for the Fresno VA Hospital.
Area 5: Scott Fuqua, District 25 Command, substituting for Joe La Paglia, reported that Loma Linda VA Hospital is planning a new structure with a new wing to follow.
Area 6: Reported that USC is training students as Claim Officers & one major project is the new facility under construction. Construction of the State Home has slowed considerably.

CITIZEN FLAG ALLIANCE
EMIL P WROBLICKY, CHAIRMAN

This past year, my contacts with Daniel Wheeler and Marty Justis of the National Headquarters in Indianapolis have indicated that nothing will happen with the Flag Amendment due to the makeup of the present Congress. This was reaffirmed by our California American Legion representatives who met with Congressional leaders while in Washington, D.C. This does not mean that we should relax our efforts. We need to keep the Flag Amendment issue on the front burner by enlisting local officials on the city, county and state levels, especially those who are seeking our support for their projects. Of course, we need to know their position on the Flag Amendment before giving them our support. These local officials may be influential with our Congressional leaders and could sway a vote when the issue comes up again.

I must strongly reiterate the words of our Past National Chairman, General Patrick Brady and Medal of Honor winner’s quote: “We must pass the Flag Amendment. It is our duty as veterans and American patriots to protect the flag that we all served under by passing the Flag Amendment, we must never retreat and never surrender in our fight to pass the Flag Amendment. Together, we can, we must, and we will win for God and Country.” The position of The American Legion still supports a proposed constitutional amendment to prohibit the physical desecration of Old Glory. Therefore, we must keep on the backs of our Senators and Representatives, especially the newly elected Representatives so, FIGHT ON, COMRADES.
VETERAN’S EMPLOYMENT COMMISSION
JOEL GREGG, CHAIRMAN

In today’s job market the active duty personnel must unlearn the job skills of yesterday and retrain for today and tomorrow and the futures skills. The awareness of the environment has created many new jobs and projects that are the future occupations of this country.

I told our troops to educate themselves for tomorrows career as I did when I was discharged from active duty. (1966-1969) I am now retired and a living proof that the system worked.

The state of employment for the military personnel who wants to better themselves are available. It is up to them to take advantage of this opportunity with education and technical trainings available to the service men and women of our country.

The American Legion has been represented in all job fairs in California. The active duty men and women who visited our American Legion information booth were provided with post information in California and we thanked them for their service to our country. The service men and women in turn reciprocated with appreciation and support of the troops.

WAYS AND MEANS COMMISSION
WILLIAM E. WILKIN, CHAIRMAN

The Ways and Means Commission met on March 13th at Santa Maria.

We reviewed our multi-funding programs and were pleased with the progress of all programs.

Barton & Cotton was given a 3 year extension for fundraising last year. This year the company was sold to another fundraising contractor. They will honor the contract we had with Barton & Cotton.

We voted to continue our Sweepstakes fundraising agreement with the American Legion Auxiliary.

There has been a slight increase in postage rates, but this is not uncommon.

We suggested increasing the number of winners in our Sweepstakes Awards. This would give participants a better chance of winning.

We viewed a 1 hour documentary movie named the “Ghosts of Patton”. We will share this movie with others to view and if interested in showing, we will contact the producer.

After all is said and done we are comfortable with the progress of this year’s programs.

We continue to appreciate the donations in every program. We will always welcome new donors.

We thank the Department Office Staff for a great job of recording and reporting.

The 6 members of the Ways and Means Commission are available at the Area meetings to answer any questions.

May God Bless those who donate and God Bless The American Legion.

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May God Bless those who donate and God Bless The American Legion.
EDITOR “CALIFORNIA LEGIONNAIRE”
DAVID L. EBY

It’s time to write that article for the California Legionnaire!

Send us your article by e-mail with “calegion editor” in the subject line to calegion@pacific.net

Here are the THREE simple rules:

1. California Legionnaire articles must be received at my home on the 26th day of the month prior to publication; Department Commission Chairman must keep this in mind to ensure the timely publication of information dealing with their respective commission; District and/or Post members are encouraged is submit articles for publication.

2. All submissions become the property of The American Legion Department of California. All submitted material is subject to edit, rework, and omission. We are not responsible for lost items or misplaced material.

3. If you have questions or need assistance, please call me at home 707-275-2771 or email me at calegion@pacific.net with “calegion editor” in the subject line.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Riverside Department Convention. Working with all the legionnaires throughout the state continues to be one of the most enjoyable experiences of my life. Being able to share your ideas, pictures and writings in the paper has brought our local post activities to the attention of the world via the internet.

Yes - the past issues of the California Legionnaire are on-line in our archive section of the department website. Just direct your browser to http://www.calegion.org/html/back-issues.html and enjoy the past issues dating to 1998.

My sincere THANKS to ALL for everything you do for “God and Country” and The American Legion!

WEB MASTER “CALEGION.ORG”
DAVID L. EBY

Department of California Website: www.calegion.org
Your veteran’s homepage gateway to the world-wide-web

My email is calegion@pacific.net Please put “calegion editor” in the subject line.

Posts and Districts are encouraged to set up and maintain Web pages promoting The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, and the American Legion Riders provided they follow a few simple guidelines.

Suggested website guidelines are listed below:

1. No individual should maintain a Web Homepage representing any American Legion Post, District, or Squadron without the knowledge and consent of that Post, District, or Squadron.

2. The person who publishes a Homepage on the Internet supporting and/or promoting The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion, the American Legion Riders or any of their programs, is responsible for notifying the National Headquarters of The American Legion and Department of California Headquarters in writing of such page’s existence and providing the National Headquarters and Department Headquarters with the page’s URL.

3. When using the emblems of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, Sons of The American Legion and/or the American Legion Riders, they must be used in accordance with the publication The American Legion Name and Emblem Identification System Manual and Style Guide published by the Emblem Sales Division of The American Legion National Headquarters.

4. All home web pages related to The American Legion should contain a link to The American Legion National Headquarters Homepage http://www.legion.org and the Department of California Homepage http://www.calegion.org

5. To obtain a request for the use of The American Legion name or emblem on merchandise, refer to your Post Officers Guide or visit: http://www.legion.org/members/resources/emblemuserrules

6. Web pages related to The American Legion shall not contain any pornographic images, other objectionable material, or links to pages containing such material.

7. Homepages should contain information pertaining to local, state, or...
national programs and projects as well as links to pages that give detailed information on the programs, goals, and ideals keeping with the spirit of The American Legion, The American Legion Auxiliary, and the Sons of The American Legion.

8. For those posts that seek a pre-designed website which can be easily changed/updated by anyone without basic computer knowledge or skills, The American Legion National Organization has partnered with Legionsites.com to offer this option. Along with technical support when needed, this option is an easy and affordable answer for posts and their website needs.

If you send me an email and I don’t write back immediately or in a couple days or hours - send me another e-mail! I get around 600 to 900 emails a day and have to filter through the lot to find your email. The secret is to put “calegion editor” in the subject line without the quote marks and you get top billing and whistles sound when I get these emails (a little hard for even me to miss).

Thanks for your support; I will continue to work hard for you both in cyberspace and the material world. See you on the convention floor!

FOR GOD AND COUNTRY FOREVER; SURRENDER TO ACLU - NEVER! - BY REESE LLOYD

Guided by these ten words, the Defense of Veterans Memorials Project of The American Legion Department of California and the Alliance Defense Fund (ADF) has won significant victories in its efforts to “innovate, educate, motivate, legislate, litigate - and annihilate” the ACLU and other organizations which attack veterans memorials to destroy any symbol or expression honoring veterans which has a religious aspect, almost always the Christian Cross - and then seek millions in profits by judge-ordered, taxpayer-paid attorney fee “awards” in such Establishment of Religion Clause lawsuits.

As director and co-founder of the Project along with Joseph Infranco of ADF, I am proud to report that we have participated in victories over the ACLU, working primarily with ADF Attorneys Tim Chandler and Infranco, and with Thomas More Law Center Regional Director Charles LiMandri, in defense of the Mt. Soledad National Veterans Memorial, and the Mojave Desert Veterans Memorial in the California Court of Appeal, the federal 9th Circuit Court of Appeal, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

I am further proud to report that I believe that this Project may be the most cost-effective program ever: The Project has not cost the dues of our American Legion members a single dime, as the ADF, true to its word, has paid all the costs of litigation.

We began the Project in California in 2006 by entering the legal fight against the ACLU to save Mt. Soledad, “as it is, where it is,” including the Cross which has existed there over fifty years. In 2007, it became a National American Legion Project, with nationwide publicity.

We now have over 1,000 pro bono attorneys of the ADF standing with us. Thus, for the first time in history, The American Legion is able to strike back wherever and whenever the ACLU or other secular-cleansing organization attacks a veterans memorial or cemetery.

Today, as we meet in convention, our Department of California is participating amicus curiae in the U.S. Supreme Court in defense of the Mojave Desert Veterans Memorial and in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeal in defense of the Mt. Soledad National Veterans Memorial, because of our Project with ADF, to which we owe a great debt of gratitude.

We continue to fight for passage of “PERA,” i.e., the Veterans Memorials, Boy Scouts, Public Seals, and Other Public Expressions of Religion Act (PERA), which reforms the law to eliminate judge-ordered, taxpayer-paid attorney fee “awards” in Establishment Clause cases, and thereby will end the profiteering and abuses of ACLU and others.

We have published articles, spoken widely, appeared in many print, radio, and television stories, interviews, and shows.

In short, this is a fight in defense of American values which we can, we must, and we will win - if we stand together; follow Patton’s admonition, “Audacity, Audacity, Always Audacity;” and never give up.

Therefore, I conclude this report as I began: For God And Country Forever; Surrender To The ACLU-Never!”
Here we are again doing year end reports. It seems like just a short time ago I finished the 2007 report. Let me start by thanking all who took the time to donate blood. As we all know, we need blood to keep us going.

Some people are not as fortunate as we and have set backs such as sickness, accidents, and such that need blood. We always need to replenish the supply.

And thanks to those who sent in reports. The deadline was March 31 and this report and citations are based on the reports received.

Blood Donor
To emphasize the importance of each Post having a blood bank committee and to assure that there will be an adequate supply of blood in the various blood banks so the same can be utilized by Legionnaires. To develop a strong plan requesting blood donations from our members and other sources.

Thomas D Hetherington (20-15) Chairman
Robert P Alves (594-14)
R V Poston (266-29)

### CALIFORNIA 2008-2009 BLOOD DONATIONS BY AREA AND DISTRICT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area/Dist</th>
<th>Post Name &amp; No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Area/Dist</th>
<th>Post Name &amp; No.</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/01</td>
<td>Lewis White Post 76</td>
<td>members</td>
<td>85 Units</td>
<td>3/12</td>
<td>Ballico Post 668</td>
<td>members</td>
<td>x Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/04</td>
<td>Yuba Sutter Post 42</td>
<td>0 Units</td>
<td></td>
<td>3/14</td>
<td>Hanford Post 3</td>
<td>members</td>
<td>6 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>South Butte Post 210</td>
<td>Dan M Cole</td>
<td>4 Units</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bakersfield Post 26</td>
<td>David Longbottom</td>
<td>5 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paradise Post 259</td>
<td>0 Units</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bakersfield Post 26</td>
<td>Kenneth Smith</td>
<td>6 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sutter Post 705</td>
<td>0 Units</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bakersfield Post 26</td>
<td>John Gregory</td>
<td>5 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/05</td>
<td>Rago Christopher Post 165</td>
<td>members</td>
<td>2 Units</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bakersfield Post 26</td>
<td>Daniel Morey</td>
<td>3 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1/06</td>
<td>Haggin Grant Post 521</td>
<td>Myrl Glenn</td>
<td>3 Units</td>
<td></td>
<td>Bakersfield Post 26</td>
<td>Greg Lucas</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Virgil Griffith</td>
<td>2 Units</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bakersfield Post 26</td>
<td>George Pytlak</td>
<td>3 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Darel Marquette</td>
<td>1 Unit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bakersfield Post 26</td>
<td>Karen Kuster</td>
<td>1 Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Phillip Romander</td>
<td>2 Units</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bakersfield Post 26</td>
<td>Janet Elliott</td>
<td>1 Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Leon Scheppamann</td>
<td>1 Unit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bakersfield Post 26</td>
<td>Max Morris</td>
<td>1 Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brenda Anderson</td>
<td>1 Unit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bakersfield Post 26</td>
<td>Darrel Graves</td>
<td>1 Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lerretta Drumheller</td>
<td>3 Units</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bakersfield Post 26</td>
<td>George Sieg</td>
<td>3 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Barbara Holmes</td>
<td>2 Units</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bakersfield Post 26</td>
<td>Phillip Scott</td>
<td>2 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Barbara Johnson</td>
<td>1 Unit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bakersfield Post 26</td>
<td>Rober Cordier</td>
<td>1 Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Cheryl Duran</td>
<td>1 Unit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bakersfield Post 26</td>
<td>Donald Bender</td>
<td>1 Unit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ramona Tafoya</td>
<td>2 Units</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bakersfield Post 26</td>
<td>Mark Garcia</td>
<td>1 Unit</td>
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<tr>
<td>1/07</td>
<td>James E Fowler post 264</td>
<td>0 Units</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Fellow Post 63</td>
<td>members</td>
<td>6 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Warren McKeon Post 587</td>
<td>0 Units</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Taft Post 70</td>
<td>0 Units</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rocklin Post 620</td>
<td>members</td>
<td>3 Units</td>
<td></td>
<td>Downey Post 270</td>
<td>Luis Melendes</td>
<td>5 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/09</td>
<td>Concord Post 171</td>
<td>0 Units</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Downey Post 270</td>
<td>James T Higuera</td>
<td>5 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mt. Diablo Post 246</td>
<td>0 Units</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Downey Post 270</td>
<td>Chuck Eldridge</td>
<td>5 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/13</td>
<td>W. Valley Memory Post 99</td>
<td>0 Units</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lakewood Post 496</td>
<td>Hank Gessel</td>
<td>1 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Santa Clara Post 419</td>
<td>members</td>
<td>6 Units</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lakewood Post 496</td>
<td>Jerry Beech</td>
<td>1 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stevens Creek Post 642</td>
<td>0 Units</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Lakewood Post 496</td>
<td>Bill Clapp</td>
<td>2 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2/26</td>
<td>Pacifica Post 238</td>
<td>Allan Hale</td>
<td>5 Units</td>
<td></td>
<td>Lakewood Post 496</td>
<td>Jim Larson</td>
<td>2 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/11</td>
<td>Amador Post 108</td>
<td>0 Units</td>
<td></td>
<td>5/21</td>
<td>Rahcho Mirage Post 301</td>
<td>0 Units</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gustaf-Thompson Post 263</td>
<td>members</td>
<td>1 Unit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3/12</td>
<td>Modesto Post 74</td>
<td>members</td>
<td>30 Units</td>
<td>5/22</td>
<td>J. B. Clark Post 149</td>
<td>members</td>
<td>3 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ceres Post 491</td>
<td>members</td>
<td>508 hrs blood bank service</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
We have just completed another year in our insurance programs. Our participation in Legionnaire Trust (LIT) received a check for $184,552.00 for 2008-2009. The National American Legion has entered competition with some LIT insurance programs. Those members who choose to participate in the National Program can reflect on our LIT programs. We urge you to Chose LIT insurance to maintain and support our programs in California.

### INSURANCE COMMITTEE
**Edward C. Landis, Chairman**

We have just completed another year in our insurance programs. Our participation in Legionnaire Trust (LIT) received a check for $184,552.00 for 2008-2009. The National American Legion has entered competition with some LIT insurance programs. Those members who choose to participate in the National Program can reflect on our LIT programs. We urge you to Chose LIT insurance to maintain and support our programs in California.

### Table of Blood Donations by Area and District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area/Dist</th>
<th>Post Name &amp; No.</th>
<th>Units</th>
<th>Post Name &amp; No.</th>
<th>Units</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5/22</td>
<td>DeWitt C. Michell Post 201</td>
<td>Richard Ware</td>
<td>6 Units</td>
<td>6/18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Cajon Post 303</td>
<td>Richard Hubbel</td>
<td>3 Units</td>
<td>Charter Cove Post 442</td>
<td>members</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Cajon Post 303</td>
<td>Thomas J. Foster</td>
<td>3 Units</td>
<td>Charter Cove Post 755</td>
<td>Diane Walsh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Cajon Post 303</td>
<td>Robert L. Tade</td>
<td>5 Units</td>
<td>Charter Cove Post 755</td>
<td>Laura Brashaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Cajon Post 303</td>
<td>Cheryl Tade</td>
<td>5 Units</td>
<td>Charter Cove Post 755</td>
<td>Laura Brashaw</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/22</td>
<td>City Service Post 537</td>
<td>members</td>
<td>x Units</td>
<td>Charter Cove Post 755</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pacific Beach Post 552</td>
<td>0 Units</td>
<td>6/20</td>
<td>Panorama City Post 817</td>
<td>0 Units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5/29</td>
<td>Laguna Woods Post 257</td>
<td>members</td>
<td>6 Units</td>
<td>6/16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Insurance**

To analyze and recommend all matters of insurance pertaining to the Department and individual members.

James E. Shank (199-5)
Edward C. Landis (365-22) Chairman
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE
FLOYD MARTIN, DIRECTOR

First of all, I would like to thank all of the members of The Department of California for their outstanding efforts over the last 3 years. The last two years California was able to achieve 100% in membership. But this year was different. The economy, along with Post Everlasting, has taken its toll on our membership. Last year on May 1, membership stood at 100%. As of the same date this year our membership stands at approximately only 88%, but I know there are no quitters among us and I feel we can still achieve 100% before we go to National Convention in August.

I would like to give special thanks to California’s membership team: Ron Galvin, North Chairman Bernard E. Foley, South Chairman Area 1 E. “Paul” Ball Area 2 Ralph W. Jacob Jr Area 3 Walt L. Butler Area 4 Robert C. Brown Jr Area 5 Bernard E. Foley Area 6 Peter L. Duncan the Headquarters staff Jim Matsukuma and Kathy Tinitali, and of course my assistant Nicole Guzman who is responsible for the front cover of The California Legionnaire.

Again this year we sent out over 20,000 Christmas cards to our Headquarters Post members and over 16,000 postcards to members asking them to renew their membership. We made contact information for over 26,000 members who had allowed their membership to lapse available to the Districts. Some Districts had great success with this, while others did not utilize this tool. Also, again this year, our membership message has been on the front cover of The California Legionnaire all year.

This year we continued with the District incentive program and the deadline is May 5, 2009. As of May 1, only 4 districts qualify for their incentive; District 6, District 8, District 29 and District 10. We would like to give special recognition to District 10 Commander Ronald Parshall, 1st Vice Commander Edward Castillo and their team, not only for being the 1st district to reach 100%, but also because every post within their district reached 100% as well. We would like to also recognize District 8 Commander Michael J. Gerold and his team for also reaching 100% in membership. Both of these districts are 110%+ as of May 1st. We will continue to focus our efforts on re-instituting former members, along with retaining current members and gaining new members.

Thank you for what you continue to do all year. It has been a pleasure to serve as your Membership Director these past three years.

Membership
To foster and promote membership in The American Legion, Department of California.

Floyd Martin (108-11) Director
Ronald A. Galvan (117-10) Chairman, North
Bernard E. Foley (595-21) Chairman, South
Area Chairmen
1 Ercie D. Ball (550-5)
2 Ralph W. Jacob Jr (419-13)
3 Walt L. Butler (491-12)
4 Robert C. Brown Jr (252-23)
5 Bernard E. Foley (595-21)
6 Peter L. Duncan (502-16)
Posts With Over 1,000 Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>POST NUMBER</th>
<th>MEMBERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Amador Post 108</td>
<td>1,231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Modesto Post 74</td>
<td>1,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>L.A. Police Post 381</td>
<td>1,502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Chula Vista Post 434</td>
<td>1,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Newport Habor Post 291</td>
<td>2,911</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Posts With Over 1,000 Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>POST NUMBER</th>
<th>MEMBERS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Amador Post 108</td>
<td>1,231</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Modesto Post 74</td>
<td>1,107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>L.A. Police Post 381</td>
<td>1,502</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>Chula Vista Post 434</td>
<td>1,165</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>29</td>
<td>Newport Habor Post 291</td>
<td>2,911</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

New Post

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>POST - NUMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Wounded Warrior Post 883</td>
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Cancelled Posts

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>POST - NUMBER</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Victor Soares Post 756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Parkside Post 505</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>Homeland Post 878</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Upland Post 73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Yucca Valley Post 469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>Vets Home of CA-Barstow Post 855</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Menlo Adobe Post 828</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Certificate of Meritorious Service

ALL-TIME HIGH MEMBERSHIP AWARD

For the Legion Year just beginning, the following posts of the Department of California have re-enrolled advance membership equaling or surpassing their previous all-time records (as of close of business on December 31, 2007):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REPORTING POST THIS YEAR</th>
<th>DISTRICT</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>PREVIOUS HIGH</th>
<th>NO. OF ADVANCE MEMBERSHIPS</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Moorpark Post 502</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Moorpark</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jack V. Price Post 761</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>Josha Tree</td>
<td>187</td>
<td>192</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
APPENDIX

1919 – 2008
National & Department
Historical Background
## National and Department of California Year-End Membership Totals, 1919-2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>National California Posts</th>
<th>Members</th>
<th>Delegates</th>
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<tr>
<td>1919</td>
<td>no record</td>
<td>9,975</td>
<td>585</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1920</td>
<td>843,013</td>
<td>48,422</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1921</td>
<td>795,799</td>
<td>35,524</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1922</td>
<td>745,203</td>
<td>29,611</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1923</td>
<td>643,837</td>
<td>29,396</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1924</td>
<td>638,501</td>
<td>27,643</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1925</td>
<td>609,407</td>
<td>26,698</td>
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<tr>
<td>1926</td>
<td>688,412</td>
<td>30,825</td>
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<td>1927</td>
<td>719,852</td>
<td>34,424</td>
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<td>1928</td>
<td>660,052</td>
<td>41,604</td>
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<td>1929</td>
<td>794,219</td>
<td>50,114</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1930</td>
<td>887,754</td>
<td>55,541</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>1,053,909</td>
<td>64,150</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>931,373</td>
<td>60,769</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>769,551</td>
<td>52,755</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
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<td>1934</td>
<td>831,681</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>842,855</td>
<td>52,490</td>
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<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>956,273</td>
<td>60,031</td>
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<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>973,841</td>
<td>61,244</td>
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<tr>
<td>1938</td>
<td>974,637</td>
<td>65,583</td>
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<td>1939</td>
<td>1,032,989</td>
<td>64,842</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>1,078,119</td>
<td>67,925</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>1,107,075</td>
<td>69,513</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
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## Department of California Convention Membership & Delegate Totals, 1919-2008

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**Introduction**

The American Legion was chartered by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic, mutual-help, war-time veterans organization. A community-service organization which now numbers nearly 3 million members - men and women - in nearly 15,000 American Legion Posts worldwide. These posts are organized into 55 departments - one each for the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, France, Mexico, and the Philippines.

The American Legion’s national headquarters is in Indianapolis, Indiana, with additional offices in Washington, DC. In addition to thousands of volunteers serving in leadership and program implementation capacities in local communities to the Legion’s standing national commissions and committees, the national organization has a regular full-time staff of about 300 employees.

Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion

**FOR GOD AND COUNTRY WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES TOGETHER FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES:**

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a one hundred percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and incidents of our associations in the Great Wars; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and goodwill on earth; to safeguard and transmit to posterity the principles of justice, freedom and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by our devotion to mutual helpfulness.

Over the years, The American Legion has supported many causes directed at disadvantaged children, including the Special Olympics. In 1979 Eunice Kennedy Shriver presented a Special Olympics banner to The American Legion.

**March 15-17, 1919** The American Legion is founded in Paris at the first caucus by members of the American Expeditionary Force.

**May 9, 1919** Caucus meeting in St. Louis adopts “The American Legion” as the organization's official name. The Legion’s draft constitution is approved, and so is its preamble, which begins: “For God and Country, we associate ourselves together. . .” The preamble, with its heartfelt dedication to freedom and democracy, is still recited today at official gatherings of The American Legion.

**June 9, 1919** The National Executive Committee of The American Legion adopts the Legion Emblem.

**Sept. 16, 1919** The U.S. Congress charters The American Legion.

**Nov. 10-12, 1919** The American Legion convenes its first annual convention in Minneapolis.

**Nov. 10-12, 1919** The American Legion’s Constitution and Preamble are adopted at the convention in Minneapolis.

**Nov. 11, 1919** Delegates to The American Legion’s first annual convention in Minneapolis vote 361-323 to locate the Legion’s National Headquarters in Indianapolis, Ind., rather than Washington, D.C.

**Aug. 9, 1921** The U.S. Veterans Bureau, forerunner of the Veterans Administration, is created as a result of efforts by The American Legion. Today, the Legion continues to lobby for adequate funding of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

**June 15, 1923** The first “Flag Code” is drafted during a conference called by The American Legion in Washington, D.C. The code eventually was adopted by Congress in 1942. Today, the Legion is at the forefront of efforts to gain a constitutional amendment to protect the American flag from physical desecration.

**July 17, 1925** American Legion Baseball program is created. Today, more than 60 percent of professional baseball players are graduates of The American Legion Baseball program. About 89,000 high-school-age youths play on Legion-sponsored teams each year.

**1931 Membership in The American Legion increases to more than one million veterans.**

**June 23, 1935** The first American Legion Boys State is convened in Springfield, Ill., to help youths gain an understanding of the structure and operation of American government. The first Boys Nation was organized in 1946.

**June 1, 1938** The final round of The American Legion’s first annual National High School Oratorical Contest is held in Norman, Okla. Today, more than 25,000 high school students from around the country compete annually in the contest designed to develop a greater understanding of the U.S. Constitution. Winners are awarded thousands of dollars in college scholarships.

**Sept. 19-21, 1942** The Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion is changed for the first and only time since its creation in 1919 — the word “War” is changed to “Wars.”

**Oct. 29, 1942** The American Legion’s charter is amended to allow veterans of World War II to join the organization.

**Dec. 15, 1943** Harry W. Colmery, past national commander of The American Legion, writes in longhand on hotel stationery the first draft of what will later become the “GI Bill of Rights,” the Legion’s greatest single legislative achievement. Today, the Legion is at the forefront of efforts to improve benefits for this nation’s newest veterans, those who’ve served during Desert Shield/Desert Storm and are serving today in a variety of peacekeeping roles.

**June 22, 1944** The GI Bill is signed into law by President Franklin Roosevelt.

**May 29, 1946** A $50,000 grant from The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary is presented to a small, struggling organization, the American Heart Association, to inaugurate a nationwide program for the study, prevention and treatment of rheumatic heart disease.

**Aug. 28, 1946** Legion membership surpasses three million.

**Sept. 1, 1949** The first World War II veteran is elected national commander of The American Legion.
May 4, 1950 The American Legion votes to contribute funds to the field of mental health with the provision that the three major mental health organizations then in existence be amalgamated into one. They accepted this provision, and the National Association for Mental Health was born.

Dec. 28, 1950 Korean War veterans are approved for membership in the Legion.

July 9, 1954 The American Legion Child Welfare Foundation is formed. Since that time, the foundation has awarded $4 million to youth-oriented organizations and projects designed to help America’s children.

Sept. 1, 1966 Vietnam War veterans are approved for membership in the Legion.

Sept. 1, 1966 The American Legion voices great concern over the fate of POWs in Vietnam. Today, the Legion continues to press for a full accounting of POW/MIA and has formed a special group from among the nation’s major veterans organizations to take the lead on this issue.

May 1, 1972 The American Legion implements the Halloween safety program for children. Today, it remains the only national program of its kind.

Aug. 26, 1982 The American Legion presents a $1 million check to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund toward the construction of “The Wall” in Washington, D.C. The Legion, which had solicited donations from its members, eventually became the largest single contributor to the project.

Aug. 25, 1983 The first Korean War veteran is elected national commander of The American Legion.

July 21, 1983 The American Legion announces its sponsorship of an independent study on the effects of exposure to Agent Orange on Vietnam veterans. The results of “The American Legion-Columbia University Study of Vietnam-era Veterans” were presented to Congress in 1989.

Sept. 8, 1988 The first national commander of The American Legion to have been a Vietnam War veteran is elected.

Jan. 1, 1989 The new Department of Veterans Affairs, elevated to cabinet-level status, begins operations. The American Legion had fought hard for the Veterans Administration to become a cabinet-level department, arguing that veterans — as an important segment of society — deserved representation in the highest councils of government.

Oct. 16, 1989 The longstanding objectives of The American Legion to improve adjudication procedures for veterans’ claims are achieved as the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals begins operations. Most of the provisions contained in the law creating the court originally were included in the Veterans Reassurance Act, which was written by the Legion and introduced in Congress in 1988.

Aug. 2, 1990 The American Legion files suit against the federal government for failure to conduct a study, mandated by Congress, of the effects of Agent Orange on the health of Vietnam veterans.

Oct. 11, 1990 The “Family Support Network” is formed by The American Legion to assist the families of military personnel deployed during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm in the Middle East. The Network stepped in to help in a myriad of ways, from offering financial assistance to moving lawns to babysitting, or simply providing a sympathetic ear. Today, the Legion’s Family Support Network continues in existence to assist America’s newest veterans, particularly with employment, as they return to civilian life.

Oct. 30, 1990 Veterans of Lebanon, Grenada and Panama hostilities are approved for membership in the Legion.

June 15, 1991 The American Legion’s first annual Junior Shooting Sports National Air Rifle Championships are conducted at the Olympic Training Center at Colorado Springs, Colo. Each year, more than 600 high school students enter the contest, which is designed to teach gun safety and marksmanship.

Dec. 3, 1991 Veterans of Desert Shield/Desert Storm are approved for membership in The American Legion. Today, the Legion continues to press for improved educational and medical benefits for Gulf War veterans.

April 5, 1993 The first class of recently discharged veterans begins training in Sterling, Va., for eventual placement in well-paying jobs in the construction industry. The landmark training and job-placement program is a joint effort by The American Legion and the Laborers’ International Union of North America to assist veterans returning to an uncertain job market.

Aug. 24, 1994 The American Legion announces creation of the Citizens Flag Alliance, a coalition of organizations and individual citizens, to work for a constitutional amendment to protect the American flag from physical desecration.

Sept. 24, 1994 The American Legion announces partnership with the Air and Space Museum to develop an exhibit for the bomber Enola Gay, which dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima. Previous museum plans had drawn intense criticism from veterans, scholars and the public.

Jan. 30, 1995 The American Legion announces Legion’s acceptance of a scaled-down exhibit “without political commentary” for the Enola Gay, ending the greatest controversy in the Smithsonian Institute’s 149-year history.

March 21, 1995 Senators Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Howell Heflin (D-AL) introduce Senate Joint Resolution 31, calling for an amendment to the US Constitution to protect the American flag from physical desecration; Representatives Gerald Solomon (R-NY) and G. V. “Sonny” Montgomery (D-MS) introduce a similar bill, House Joint Resolution 79, in their chamber.

June 28, 1995 HJR 79 clears House 312-120; 290 votes were needed for the two-thirds majority required for passage of a constitutional amendment.

July 20, 1995 SJR 31 passes Senate Judiciary Committee in a 12-6 vote.

Oct. 1, 1995 The American Legion forms its Persian Gulf Task Force to enhance TAL’s service to America’s newest generation of wartime veterans, thousands of whom suffer from illnesses linked to their service in the region.

Dec. 12, 1995 Senate rejects SJR 31 by a vote of 63-36, three votes short of required two-thirds; The American Legion pledges to continue the fight for the amendment.

Feb. 13, 1996 Reps. Gerald Solomon (R-NY) and William Lipinski (D-IL) introduce HJR 54, a flag-protection constitutional amendment.

Sept. 16, 1996 The American Legion awards a $20,000 post-secondary scholarship to each of the 10 inaugural Samsung American Legion high school scholars.

June 11, 1997 The American Legion National Emergency Fund surpasses the $1 million mark in cash grants given in 1997 to flood victims who belonged to The American Legion, the American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of The American Legion. Most of the grant recipients reside in the Ohio River flood...
plains of Ohio, Kentucky and Indiana as well as in Red River flooded areas of Minnesota and North Dakota.

June 12, 1997  US House passes HJR 54, a flag-protection constitutional amendment, by a vote of 310-114.


Sept. 23, 1997  National Commander Anthony G. Jordan testifies before members of the US House and US Senate Veterans Affairs Committees. US Rep. Robert Stump (R-AZ) promises congressional hearings would be held on the GI Bill of Health, TAL’s plan to improve the Department of Veterans Affairs health care system.

Feb. 4, 1998  Senators Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Max Cleland (D-GA) introduce S.J. Res. 40. The amendment has 61 co-sponsors to date.

Oct. 7, 1998  Sen. Majority Leader Trent Lott brings SJR 40 to the floor of the U.S. Senate asking for unanimous consent to proceed to debate and vote. Sens. Robert Kerrey (D-NE) and Patrick Leahy (D-VT) objected to consideration of the resolution, citing lack of time to sufficiently debate the amendment. With that the measure was lost in the 105th Congress.

Feb. 24, 1999  Reps. Randy “Duke” Cunningham (R-CA) and John Murtha (D-PA) introduce H.J. Res. 33, a constitutional amendment which would return to the American people the right to protect their flag. Rep. John Sweeney (R-NY), who replaced retired Congressman Gerald Solomon, is also leading the co-sponsor drive by shoring up support among newly elected members of Congress.

Mar. 17, 1999  Senators Orrin Hatch (R-UT) and Max Cleland (D-GA) introduce S.J. Res. 14. The amendment has 54 cosponsors. In all sixty-four Senators have pledged their support of the amendment.

June 24, 1999  The U.S. House of Representatives, by an overwhelming majority, passes H.J. Res. 33 by a 305-124 margin, 15 votes more than was needed for the two-thirds majority required for passage of a constitutional amendment.

March 29, 2000  Senate Joint Resolution 14, the Flag Protection Constitutional Amendment, falling four short of the necessary 67 votes, is lost 63-37 in the United States Senate. Once again a clear, but insufficient, majority supported it. Once again, a small number of US Senators made it clear they place no trust in the American people and have a mere spoken regard for the importance the people place on the Flag of the United States.

For the remainder of the year, the Citizens Flag Alliance focuses in two broad areas: recognizing supporters in the 106th Congress and determining the position of every candidate seeking a seat in the 107th. Three hundred sixty-eight members of Congress (305 Representatives and 63 Senators) receive a formal, personal thank-you and a small memento from the CFA groups in their state. More than 1,000 candidates for federal office are queried on their support for a flag protection amendment. When election returns are finalized, more than 300 Representatives and 60 Senators are seated and on the record as flag amendment supporters.

March 2001  The CFA produces another in a continuing line of video pieces that depict the importance of the flag and call to action, during the 107th Congress, the 141 Organizations that make up the Citizens Flag Alliance.

March 13, 2001  A press conference is called in Washington, DC, to announce the introduction of the flag protection amendment in both chambers of the 107th Congress. Senators Max Cleland (D-GA) and Orrin Hatch (R-UT) become the Chief Cosponsors in the US Senate, while Representatives Randy “Duke” Cunningham (R-CA) and John Murtha (D-PA) champion the cause in the US House of Representatives. The House resolution, HJR 36, enjoys official cosponsorship from more than 100 members. In the Senate, SJR 7 counts 40 official cosponsors. Efforts toward a cosponsor drive in both chambers continue.

January 10, 2002  Vermont lawmakers pass a resolution calling on for the protection of the U.S. Flag from desecration. It becomes the 50th state to pass such a resolution.

November 2002  The American Legion launches national “I Am Not A Number” campaign to identify and document the delays veterans face in obtaining earned medical care benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

April 2003  The American Legion turns up the effort to eliminate the Disabled Veterans Tax, known as ‘concurrent receipt’ in political circles. As the last quarter of the year begins lawmakers continue to search for a solution as they feel the pressure from their constituents.

August 2005  Delegates at the 87th National Convention unanimously voice their support for the War on Terrorism by passing Resolution 169.

June 30, 2008  President George W. Bush signs the Post-911 Veterans Education Assistance Act, a modern GI Bill strongly supported by The American Legion, which lobbied on its behalf.
**PRELIMINARY CAUCUSES**

1919 Bennett C. Clark ... Paris Caucus
- Eric Fisher Wood was Temporary Chairman of Paris Caucus.

1919 Henry D. Lindsley ... St. Louis Caucus
- Theodore Roosevelt, J. r. was Temporary Chairman of St. Louis Caucus.

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<td>Los Angeles</td>
<td>Joseph S. Long</td>
<td>Hollywood</td>
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<tr>
<td>1939</td>
<td>Stephen F. Chadwick</td>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>Dr. H. G. Watters</td>
<td>Santa Monica</td>
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<tr>
<td>1940</td>
<td>Raymond J. Kelly</td>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>William S. Dunn</td>
<td>Oakland</td>
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<tr>
<td>1941</td>
<td>Milo J. Warner</td>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>William J. Farrell</td>
<td>San Diego</td>
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<td>1942</td>
<td>Lynn U. Stambaugh</td>
<td>Kansas City</td>
<td>Robert F. Garner, J r.</td>
<td>Sacramento</td>
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<tr>
<td>1943</td>
<td>Roane Waring</td>
<td>Omaha</td>
<td>Leon Happel</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
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<tr>
<td>1944</td>
<td>Warren Atherton</td>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>William P. Haughton</td>
<td>San Francisco</td>
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<tr>
<td>1945</td>
<td>Ed Scheiberling</td>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>Ed W. Bolt</td>
<td>Los Angeles</td>
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<td>1946</td>
<td>John Stelle</td>
<td>San Francisco</td>
<td>Irvin R. Snyder</td>
<td>Sacramento</td>
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<td>1947</td>
<td>Paul H. Griffith</td>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Richard Chamberlain</td>
<td>San Francisco</td>
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<td>1948</td>
<td>James O'Neil</td>
<td>Miami</td>
<td>Harry L. Foster</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year</td>
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<td>1979</td>
<td>John M. Carey</td>
<td>Houston</td>
<td>Leo P. Burke</td>
<td>San Mateo</td>
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<td>1980</td>
<td>Frank I. Hamilton</td>
<td>Boston</td>
<td>Robert L. Schwartz</td>
<td>San Diego</td>
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<tr>
<td>1981</td>
<td>Michael J. Kogutek</td>
<td>Hawaii</td>
<td>Bruce Thiesen</td>
<td>Sacramento</td>
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<tr>
<td>1982</td>
<td>Jack W. Flynt</td>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>John Homan</td>
<td>Pasadena</td>
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<tr>
<td>1983</td>
<td>Al Keller, Jr.</td>
<td>Seattle</td>
<td>Don Drumheller</td>
<td>Redding</td>
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<tr>
<td>1984</td>
<td>Keith Kreul</td>
<td>Salt Lake City</td>
<td>Hal Goldman</td>
<td>Palm Springs</td>
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<tr>
<td>1985</td>
<td>Clarence Bacon</td>
<td>New Orleans</td>
<td>Richard H. Mibach</td>
<td>Fresno</td>
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<tr>
<td>1986</td>
<td>Dale L. Renaud</td>
<td>Cincinnati</td>
<td>James D. Welch</td>
<td>San Diego</td>
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<tr>
<td>1987</td>
<td>James P. Dean</td>
<td>San Antonio</td>
<td>Frank H. Machado</td>
<td>Redding</td>
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<tr>
<td>1988</td>
<td>John &quot;Jake&quot; Comer</td>
<td>San Antonio</td>
<td>Mike Canales</td>
<td>San Bernardino</td>
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<tr>
<td>1989</td>
<td>H. F. &quot;Sparky&quot; Gierke</td>
<td>Baltimore</td>
<td>Andrew J. Steffanic</td>
<td>Sacramento</td>
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<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>Miles S. Epling</td>
<td>Indianapolis</td>
<td>Wallace W. Riddle</td>
<td>Palm Springs</td>
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<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>Dominic D. DiFrancesco</td>
<td>Chicago</td>
<td>Al Krank</td>
<td>Riverside</td>
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<tr>
<td>1993</td>
<td>Roger Munson</td>
<td>Pittsburgh</td>
<td>JJ Bettencourt</td>
<td>Fresno</td>
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<td>1994</td>
<td>Bruce Thiesen</td>
<td>Minneapolis</td>
<td>Michael A. Gombar</td>
<td>Palm Springs</td>
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<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>William Detweiler</td>
<td>Indianapolis</td>
<td>Stan Standard</td>
<td>Bakersfield</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>Daniel K. Ludwig</td>
<td>Salt Lake City</td>
<td>Joseph O. Early</td>
<td>Pasadena</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>Joseph J. Frank</td>
<td>Orlando</td>
<td>T. Daniel Hetherington</td>
<td>Santa Clara</td>
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<tr>
<td>1998</td>
<td>Anthony Jordan</td>
<td>New Orleans</td>
<td>Frank Larson</td>
<td>Long Beach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1999</td>
<td>Harold &quot;Butch&quot; Miller</td>
<td>Anaheim</td>
<td>David L. Eby</td>
<td>Redding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>Alan G. Lance</td>
<td>Milwaukee</td>
<td>William Wilkin</td>
<td>San Diego</td>
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<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>Ray Smith</td>
<td>San Antonio</td>
<td>Floyd Martin</td>
<td>Fresno</td>
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<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>Richard J. Santos</td>
<td>Charlotte</td>
<td>Ronald J Hanson</td>
<td>Riverside</td>
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<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Ronald F Conley</td>
<td>St. Louis</td>
<td>Charles E Parnell</td>
<td>Bakersfield</td>
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<tr>
<td>2004</td>
<td>John A Brieden III</td>
<td>Nashville</td>
<td>James W Hackney</td>
<td>Riverside</td>
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<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>Thomas P Cadmus</td>
<td>Honolulu</td>
<td>Fred J Walton</td>
<td>Redding</td>
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<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>Thomas L Bock</td>
<td>Salt Lake City</td>
<td>S Wayne Parrish</td>
<td>Palm Springs</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>Paul A. Morin</td>
<td>Reno, NV</td>
<td>Charlie M Eskridge</td>
<td>Fresno</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>Martin F Conatser</td>
<td>Phoenix,Az</td>
<td>Howard L Darter</td>
<td>Palm Springs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>David K Rehein</td>
<td>Indianapolis,In</td>
<td>Alan C Lennox</td>
<td>Riverside</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Department Convention: San Francisco, Oct. 8-10, 1919
H. G. Mathewson, Chairman, San Francisco Post 1
C. E. Palmen, Vice-Chairman, Coalinga Post 2
C. W. Goodwin, Secretary, Los Angeles, Post 8

Department Officials, 1919-1920
David F. Barnes, Commander, Berkeley Post 7
Buron R. Rfits, 1st Vice Cmdr, Los Angeles Post 8
Thomas McManus, 2nd Vice Cmdr, Frank S. Reynolds Post 26
Jerome B. Kavaughen, 3rd Vice Cmdr, San Bernardino Post 14
Fred F. Beiberall, Adjutant, Golden Gate Post 40, San Francisco
Henry G. Mathewson, NEC, San Francisco Post 1

Department Convention: San Francisco, Aug. 23-25, 1920
Department Officials, 1920-1921
Buron R. Rfits, Commander, Los Angeles Post 8
William F. Clay, 1st Vice Cmdr, San Diego Post 6
Irwin T. Quinn, 2nd Vice Cmdr, H. Humber Post 212, Eureka
Gree Toe Rawlond, 3rd Cmdr, Vallejo Post 10
Fred F. Beiberall, Adjutant, Golden Gate Post 40, San Francisco
Reed B. Cherington, Chaplain, Fremont Post 52, Palo Alto
Peter B. Kyne, Historian, Samuel Sill Post 156, Pitts
Jack Fentny, Sgt-at-Arms, Fresno Post 4
Henry G. Mathewson, NEC, San Francisco Post 1

Department Convention: Yosemite Valley, Aug. 22-24, 1921
Department Officials, 1921-1922
John R. Quinn, Commander, Merle Reed Post 124, Delano
Elise V. Rosenknrz, 1st Vice Cmdr, Victoria Post 54, Los Angeles
Walter J. Hoks, 2nd Vice Cmdr, Sacramento Post 61
Gabrielle Tasset Mulane, 3rd Vice Cmdr, San Bernardino Post 14
Morgan Keaton, Adjutant, Sacramento Post 61
N. W. Armstrong, Historian, Hayward Post 88
W. E. Edmondson, Chaplain, Victoria Post 54, Los Angeles
William Pfem, Sgt-at-Arms, San Francisco Post 1
Buron R. Rfits, NEC, Los Angeles Post 8
George J. Hatfield, Alternate NEC, Stevenson Post 91

Department Convention: Santa Clara, Sept. 5-6, 1922
Department Officials, 1922-1923
Seth Millington Jr., Commander, Gidley Post 20
Maurice E. Endstrom, 1st Vice Cmdr, Santa Ana Post 131
Arthur F. Fger, 2nd Vice Cmdr, Dunsmuir Post 126
† Horace V. Levy, 3rd Vice Cmdr, Yucaipa, Ross Nellon Post 122, Yucaipa
Anna Carkoda Sexauer, 3rd Vice Cmdr, Santa Barbara Post 49
Morgan Keaton, Adjutant, Sacramento Post 61
Dwight Robinson, Historian, Frank Bunch Post 116, San Francisco
F. B. Cynne, Chaplain, Pittsburg Post 151
William Kolender, Sgt-at-Arms, Long Beach Post 27
John R. Quinn, NEC, Merle Reed Post 124, Delano
H. G. Mathewson, Alternate NEC, San Francisco Post 1

Department Convention: Eureka, Aug. 27-30, 1923
Department Officials, 1923-1924
James F. Collins, Commander, Professional Engineers Post 495
George Miller, 1st Vice Cmdr, Zane Wrin Post 53, San Francisco
Roy W. Minng, 2nd Vice Cmdr, Redwood City Post 105
Neil Boulton, 3rd Vice Cmdr, Golden Gate Post 40, San Francisco
Morgan Keaton, Adjutant, (02/23-02/24), Sacramento Post 61
James K. Fialkopclmpd term, Adjutant, Berkeley Post 7
George A. Hartman, Chaplain, Boyce Atten Post 25, El Centro
Harold Elenstein, Historian, Venice Post 177
C. K. Bader, Sgt-at-Arms, Frank S. Reynolds Post 26, Bakersfield
Seth Millington Jr., NEC, Gridley Post 210
Hilary H. Crawford, Alternate NEC, San Francisco Post 1

Department Convention: Santa Cruz, Aug. 4-7, 1924
Department Officials, 1924-1925
Nathen F. Coombs, Commander, Napa Post 113
Vern B. Fish, 1st Vice Cmdr, Mt. Lassen Post 167, Red Bluff
Dr. E. R. Fountan, 2nd Vice Cmdr, Meredith Post 83
Miss Jean Griflin, 3rd Vice Cmdr, Pasadena Post 13
James K. Fisk, Adjutant, Berkeley Post 7
Rev. William E. Patric, Chaplain, Oxnard Post 48
Gil Raminik, Historan, Frank S. Reynolds Post 26, Bakersfield
Thomas L. Cayet, Sgt-at-Arms, Victoria Post 54, Los Angeles
George J. Hatfield, NEC, Stevenson Post 91
J. A. Sinclair, Alternate NEC, San Mateo Post 82

Department Convention: Avalon, Sept. 14-17, 1925
Department Officials, 1925-1926
Allen B. Bixby, Commander, Pasadera Post 13
Dr. Wall M. Bihgs, 1st Vice Cmdr, William R. Ledford Post 293
George H. Kniedt, 2nd Vice Cmdr, Osmond Post 48
Mrs. Marjorie Cresagh, 3rd Vice Cmdr, Ellision Post 236
James K. Fisk, Adjutant, Berkeley Post 7
Rev. J. R. Wright, Chaplain, Modesto Post 74
William Langdon Brite, Chaplain, Los Angeles Post 8
Edward W. Sully, Sgt-at-Arms, Fred Bunch Post 116, San Francisco
Nathan F. Coombs, NEC, Napa Post 113
Leonard Wood, Alternate NEC, Burbank Post 150

Department Convention: Stockton, Aug. 13-15, 1926
Department Officials, 1926-1927
Dr. John F. Sully, Commander, Oakland Post 5
Genevieve Crama, Vice Cmdr-at-Large, Hollywood Woman’s Post 185
Rev. Gordon Palmer, Chaplain, Los Angeles Post 8
William Langdon Brite, Chaplain, Los Angeles Post 8
Emma W. Sully, Sgt-at-Arms, Fred Bunch Post 116, San Francisco
Nathan F. Coombs, NEC, Napa Post 113
Dr. J. F. Sutliff, Alternate NEC, Oakland Post 5

Department Convention: Sacramento, Aug. 15-17, 1929
Department Officials, 1927-1928
Phil Dodson, Commander, South Pasadena Post 140
James K. Fisk, Adjutant, Berkeley Post 7
Bouwh M. Holdeige, Vice Cmdr-at-Large, Golden Gate Post 40
Itt. Rev. Stephen F. Barron, Chaplain, Zane Irwin Post 93
Fred W. Smith, Historian, Robert L. Webster Post 50
Louis T. Ruff, Sgt-at-Arms, Los Angeles Post 8
Nathan F. Coombs, NEC, Napa Post 113
Dr. J. F. Sutliff, Alternate NEC, Oakland Post 5

Department Convention: San Francisco, Aug. 13-15, 1934
Department Officials, 1932-1933
Department Convention: Long Beach, Aug. 31-Sept. 2, 1931
Department Officials, 1933-1934
Department Convention: San Diego, Aug. 15-17, 1932
Department Officials, 1934-1935
Department Convention: Oakland, Aug. 14-16, 1933
Department Officials, 1935-1936
Department Convention: Hollywood, Aug. 10-12, 1936
Department Officials, 1936-1937
Department Convention: Stockton, Aug. 8-10, 1937
Department Officials, 1937-1938
Department Convention: San Diego, Aug. 15-17, 1932
Department Officials, 1956-1957

Department Convention: Fresno, June 28-July 1, 1956

Fred Hill, Vice Cmdr, Pacific Post 290
Baldo Kristovich, Vice Cmdr, Los Angeles County Post 810
Dyer Pierson, Vice Cmdr, Berkeley Post 7
Charles Hurlburt, Vice Cmdr, Arcata Post 274
Gertrude Z. Denham, Historian, Ventura Post 339
John H. Van Vleet, Sgt-at-Arms, Whittier Post 51
Dee Holder, Judge Advocate, 91st Division A. E. F. Post 356
Gordon A. Lyons, Adjutant, Menlo-Adobe Post 443

Department Officials, 1954-1955

Lewls S. Sloneker, Rehabilitation Director, Karl Ross Post 16

Department Convention: Long Beach, June 27-30, 1957

Levert Prosky, Vice Cmdr, Oak View Post 686

Department Convention: Sacramento, June 26-29, 1956

Rev. Harry D. Durkee, Chaplain, Louis Hagen Post 340

Department Convention: Hollywood, June 23-26, 1959

Charles K. Wright, Vice Cmdr, Will Rogers Post 539

Department Convention: San Francisco, June 23-26, 1960

John R. Hann, Commander, Merced Post 83
Jack A. Stockman, Adjunct, Livingston Post 728
Rev. James J. Kelly, S. J., Chaplain, Mono Basin Post 672
Allan F. Daily Jr., Judge Advocate, Glendale Post 127
Peter Hegre, Sgit-at-Arms, Municipal Post 429
John I. Flynn, NEC, Vale Post 104
Louis L. Fisher, Alternate NEC, Ton Mi Post 583
Rachel E. Saelens, Vice Cmdr, San Francisco Post 1
George Mierneke, Vice Cmdr, Inyo Post 118
Alfred F. Mazzie, Vice Cmdr, East Los Angeles Post 323
W. K. Barker, Vice Cmdr, Chula Vista Post 434
James C. Sterm, Vice Cmdr, Santa Barbara Post 49
Justine Werner, Vice Cmdr, Ecoro Post 582
Lewis S. Stoneker, Rehabilitation Director, Karl Ross Post 16

Department Convention: Long Beach, June 29-July 2, 1961

Department Officials, 1961-1962

Roscoe T. Morse, Commander, North Island Service Post 753
Jack A. Stockman, Adjunct, Livingston Post 728
Kay F. Emmons, Chaplain, San Clemente Post 423
Edward M. Jaffa, Judge Advocate, Berkeley Post 7
Charles Schleppey, Sgit-at-Arms, Echo Park Post 414
John J. Flynn, National Executive, Committeeman, Vallejo Post 104
Louis L. Fisher, Alternate NEC, Ton Mi Post 583
uamita Wright, Historian, Dr. Albert Sollanto Post 750
Howard Owens, Vice Cmdr, Lewis White Post 76
Harry Stanley, Vice Cmdr, San Carle Post 585
Harry Dennis, Vice Cmdr, Fresno Federal Post 593
Alex Kahanowicz, Vice Cmdr, Los Angeles City Hall Post 387
Cruz Sandoval, Vice Cmdr, Placentia Post 277
Marvin Avery, Vice Cmdr, East Pasadena Post 280
Karen Fuller, Vice Cmdr, Janet Delano Post 226
Lewis S. Stoneker, Rehabilitation Director, Karl Ross Post 16

Department Convention: Fresno, June 29-July 1, 1962

Department Officials, 1962-1963

A. Lee Oder, Commander, Berkeley Post 7
Jack A. Stockman, Adjunct, Livingston Post 728
Rabbi Samuel W. Chornsky, D. D., Chaplain, Triangle Post 670
Edward M. Jaffa, Judge Advocate, Berkeley Post 7
T. V. Jones, Sgit-at-Arms, Theodore Roosevelt Post 21
Roscoe T. Morse, NEC, North Island Service Post 753
Howard Owens, Alternate NEC, Lewis White Post 76
Natalie Harper, Historian, Gompers 583
N. C. Betts, Vice Cmdr, Shasta Post 197
Arthur C. Ames, Vice Cmdr, San Leandro Post 117
A. W. Aroostag, Vice Cmdr, Edward Steward Post 803
Rollo Bennett, Vice Cmdr, South Gate Post 355
Russell Wood, Vice Cmdr, Fim of the World Post 380
Roy E. Armstrong, Vice Cmdr, Glendale Post 127
Sylde L. Beidan, Vice Cmdr, San Bernardino Post 14
Lewis S. Stoneker, Rehabilitation Director, Karl Ross Post 16

Department Convention: San Bernardino, June 27-30, 1963

Department Officials, 1963-1964

William K. Kretz Jr., Commander, Ingelwood Post 188
Jack A. Stockman, Adjunct, Livingston Post 728
Dr. Robert Zagierz, Chaplain, Musicians Post 424
Edward M. Jaffa, Judge Advocate, Berkeley Post 7
Clark Ed Cock Jr., Sgit-at-Arms, Chatsworth Post 622
Roscoe T. Morse, NEC, North Island Service Post 753
Howard Owens, Alternate NEC, Lewis White Post 76
Merle M. Birnie Trinoby, Historian, George W. Marthini Post 391
Homer L. Vincent, Vice Cmdr, Thomas Tudor Post 204
Richard H. Mabie, Vice Cmdr, Golden Gate Post 410
Chattie E. Cook, Vice Cmdr, Rex Ish Post 88
Thomas Pope, Vice Cmdr, William Charles Orr Jr. Post 120
Charles H. Sharp, Vice Cmdr, Boyce Aten Post 25
Charles K. Wright, Vice Cmdr, Will Rogers On Post 120
Helen Campbell, Vice Cmdr, Redwood City Post 105
Lewis S. Stoneker, Rehabilitation Director, Karl Ross Post 16
The American Legion
Department of California