Candidate for Department Commander
2019 - 2020
Edward Grimsley aka “Ed”

Edward Grimsley was born and raised in Dothan, Alabama and graduated from Newville Rosenwald High School. He enlisted in the United States Marine Corps upon graduation in 1969 as a Combat Engineer and later became an Administrative Chief.

While enlisted in the Marine Corps, Ed served in a number of capacities as well as duty stations home and abroad until he retired as a non-commissioned officer in 1990.

After retirement, Ed worked as the Manager of various club systems throughout Okinawa, Japan, setting up various morale, recreational and entertainment venues for Marines and Sailors stationed overseas. He later began civil service employment with Camp Butler, Marine Corps Base, Okinawa, Japan, Disbursing Office. After returning to San Diego in 1999, Ed continued his employment with civil service, working for the U.S. Navy as an Education Specialist, responsible for managing, administering and monitoring the career advancements for all Navy enlistment personal in and around Naval Submarine Base, Point Loma. Ed retired in 2016 after having served over 18 years.

Ed is married to Annette Grimsley (USMC Retired Warrant Officer). Annette is a Legionnaire and member of the American Legion Auxiliary. Ed has three sons and one granddaughter.

American Legion member since 1999:
• 2001 – 2002, Post 310 Sergeant at Arms
• 2002 – 2003, 2nd Vice Commander
• 2003 – 2004, 1st Vice Commander
• 2004 – 2006, Post Commander
• 2012 – 2018, Judge Advocate

Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT) (LIT) has had a long-standing mission of supporting The American Legion. LIT recently donated $207,867.55 to support our Veterans Service Officers (VSO).

The Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT) proudly salutes your Department of The American Legion on the occasion of The Legion’s 100th anniversary. Thank you for your continued service and support of programs to benefit all Veterans.

We are happy to help support those efforts. We wish you a productive and enjoyable Convention.

Your Legionnaire Insurance Trust

Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT)

Legionnaire Insurance Trust

Legionnaire Insurance Trust

Save the Date:

June 26, 2019
Past Commanders’ Club Convention
Ontario Post #112

June 27-30, 2019
Department Convention
Ontario Convention Center

July 26, 2019
21st Annual Yountville Veterans’ Home
American Legion Golf Tournament

August 9 – 11, 2019
Fall Department Executive Committee Mtg.
Bakersfield Post 26

August 23 – 29, 2019
National American Legion Convention
Indianapolis, IN

Thank You LIT!
**DEPARTMENT COMMANDER**

Larry Leonardo, Sr. Commander

2018-2019

Early on we set some lofty goals to increase membership, identify membership pot-holes, increase our ability to communicate with our leadership at all levels as well as the membership, itself and increase our educational mentoring with our various training programs offered to our membership. These goals were to make the Department of California the shining star of the organization for years to come. It isn’t a one-year goal, it’s a goal we must continue into the future, “Continuing the Legacy”.

Any program, project or event doesn’t just happen, it’s the members that join together and make it happen and so it has been this year. We were off to a slow start as we analyzed and identified areas that we could improve, reduce costs and increase the efficiency of the Department and its programs. Some worked, some didn’t, but we learned from those failures. Our new Department Adjutant, Paul Brown, assuming the role as Adjutant in December 2018, soon realized the enormous task at hand and without hesitation, started formulating plans to get the Department “Boulder” moving in the right direction, in membership, in communications and in mentoring our members and prospective leaders. These were my goals, “M – M – M”. We identified problems with our Membership, California doesn’t have a recruiting problem, we have a Retention problem. While we need to recruit to build our organization, these numbers increase our ability to advocate for Veterans causes, but the effort goes to waste if we can’t keep our members in our Posts and on our membership rosters, year to year. We have been addressing this retention issue and we will be providing training at all levels.

Through our Communication “Hub”, we greatly enhanced our ability to “Get the Word Out” through a great Web-Team, developing an informative Web-site and a weekly email blast, we have important information, events and necessary forms and training clips to help our members at all levels to understand our organization, obtain the information to do the jobs necessary to insure that the Department of California is the Shining Star. Communicating to Department what your Post has done via the Mandatory Report Forms and Post Activities Reports such as Law & Order Programs, Children and Youth and the many other reports are now developed and tested so each Post can report their activities, their volunteer hours and donation amounts, electronically with the goal of 100% reporting and 100% accuracy and with unprecedented ease. Fear not, hard copies filled out by hand and mailed, email or faxed in are still acceptable and will be until Posts becomes proficient in the use of computers and current technology, in the near future. We want, and we need your reports even if it is on a coconut shell, but that’s a step backwards, unless you’re on a desert island. Our Report Development Team did a great job enhancing the forms, beta testing the forms and insuring that the 100% is a success. I thank Rick Pushies and his teams that worked so hard and continue to work to make sure we have a truly functional Web-Site and Reporting System. Good work, to all of you.

Well-designed training is a large part of our Mentoring process. Through our fully functional California American Legion College classes, we are training our future American Legion Leaders as well as training the trainer. We will be taking over the task of training our prospective leaders in the future. Training at the various levels are being developed so District and Areas can provide training in all aspect of the American Legion, from Membership procedures, Conducting meetings, Leadership Roles and Responsibility, Financial accountability as well as other tasks and procedures that help our Posts run smoother and by-the-numbers. You will see various training sessions at this convention, please take advantage of this opportunity.

Within this Book of Reports, you will find many reports on the activities of our commissions, please take time to read them as this will help our membership understand our mission. I would like to personally praise the many commissions for their great efforts, but time and space prohibits it. However, I would like to say to all of our Commissioners who put the time, energy and enthusiasm to make your commission operate, I thank you on behalf of the Department of California and myself.

I would have liked to have personally thanked everyone that has worked so hard this year to get the “Boulder” rolling in the right direction, however, I fear I might skip someone, so please accept my humble “thank you” for the work you all have done and I hope you will continue. Thank you, again.

I can’t forget my Department Leadership staff, HQ Office Staff and the members of the DEC that have made a great impact this year, To Adjutant Paul Brown, thank you for your energy in working so hard to make the Department of California one of the best run Departments, your knowledge, your ability to think outside of the-box has been a great benefit to us all. To the Headquarters’ Office Staff, thank you all for the hard work and putting up with the likes of Paul and myself.

To all of those members and Advisors working behind the scene that made things happen, that made California look great, I also thank you. To the members of the DEC, thank you for your time, your energy and your dedication to the tasks placed before you. To my aide, Marilyn Rideaux, I thank you for the many jobs that you have helped with and I will apologize for the lack of acknowledgement for the many tasks you have been asked to handle, my schedule, the California Legionnaire, the Book of Reports just to name a few, thank you for your energy, dedication and effort... I know all of my goals were not fully accomplished, but I realized many of the goals we set out to do were impossible within one year’s time, but we gave it a hell of a try. And we couldn’t have done it without you…our #1 asset, our members.

God Bless America, our Veterans and their families, the American Legion, and you, the members of the Department of California.

By the Numbers: 100 years… Four Pillars... One American Legion Family

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**Solano Community College, first Purple Heart College on west coast**

By Nestor Aliga, Post 603 Historian

Members of The American Legion Manuel L. Quezon Post 603 in Vallejo were all smiles after the Solano Community College District Governing Board unanimously adopted on April 17, 2019 Resolution No. 18/19-19 Proclaiming Solano Community College as a “Purple Heart College” - the first one on the west coast. Another proclamation will be presented at the official opening of the new Science and Veterans Resource Center on August 21, 2019, during National Purple Heart Month.

Solano College is the ninth Purple Heart entity that Post 603 has assisted, which includes: the City of Vallejo, Vallejo City Unified School District, Greater Vallejo Recreation District, California State University - Solano, see page 3.

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The second Area 2 meeting was held at Santa Clara Post #419 on Saturday, April 27, 2019. Among those in attendance were Commander Larry Leonardo and Commander candidate Ed Grimsley. During his presentation, District 9 Commander Randy Reid informed us that they have formed a relationship with the Community Colleges in Contra Costa County. The goal is to recruit and mentor veterans attending college. They also are providing them with needed supplies and equipment. Finance Commissioner Dave Jackson provided us with what basically could be defined as the State of the Department. His information was very interesting and informative. Ways and Means Commissioner Paul Rodriguez had an opportunity to explain the issues that prevent or diminish the ROI for his commission. He is also looking for a Business Plan for the Helmets for Heroes project.

The American Legion Riders held their convention at Post #69 in Hollister, CA on May 4-5, 2019. Since Post #69 is part of District 28, and part of Area 2, I went over in the afternoon of May 4 as Area 2 Vice Commander. Much to my surprise, the ALR President snubbed me. He didn’t even recognize that I was present even after his Sgt-at-Arms informed him that I wanted 5-10 minutes to address the group. Had I been given the opportunity, I have nothing but praise for the American Legion Riders. Nothing illustrates this was the dedication demonstrated by them during National Commander Brett Reid’s visit to Area 2. The rainstorm was difficult to handle in a car, much less a motorcycle. Other instances were times they attended the Four Chaplains Service at the Ft. Ord Chapel, escorting the remains of service members returned to their families from Iraq and Afghanistan, and escorts for local veterans to their final resting place at the California Central Coast Veterans Cemetery. During my tenure as Salinas Post #31 Commander, it took 3 years for me to convince the membership to allow an ALR Chapter to be formed there.

On May 5, 2019, I was able to attend the joint District 28 American Legion/ American Legion Ladies Auxiliary Boys/ Girls State orientation luncheon at my host post, Salinas Post #31. It was very well attended. As expected, District 28 will be sending high quality delegates to both Boys State and Girls State.

Hello Comrades

I want to congratulate all posts and districts that have achieved their membership goals. We normally only have three or four districts that make 100% all year. Currently we have 5 districts that have 100% and two or three that can make it by the June 7 deadline. While we celebrate any and all victories, I want you to be mindful that our department goal went down by 768 members and we’re currently approximately 4,000 members short of our 82,732-department goal. I mention this to point out that our work is not done. It is important that we continue to build a strong membership base to secure our future. Also, I believe there’s no real victory unless or until the Department of California wins. Sure, it’s great to be 100% post or district, at time same, we must consider the department membership goal as the ultimate prize. Have you considered helping your Area get a win in membership? We have to look outside our own backyards, and develop a more departmental approach to winning. It’s critical that we change the way we think about membership. Specifically, the notion that, it’s only the membership teams’ job to work membership. This change in thinking is crucial if we’re going to survive and thrive as a department going forward.

We all know membership is the lifeblood of the American Legion and a big key in our ultimate success. There’s no doubt that, for our department to be victorious, everyone has to get on the membership train. Even if you don’t recruit one member, you can make new members feel comfortable, be available to answer questions or just show them around. You get the picture, any act of kindness, will be appreciated.

All I’m trying to say is membership is everybody’s business and we all have to do our part in order to be successful. It does no one any good, if we bring in new members and they head right out the back door, because they were mistreated or disrespected. I would ask you to go back to the time that you were a new member. What kept you coming back? Isn’t it going to be easier to keep a happy member, than get a new one? Retention is critical going forward and 70% of your membership energy should be focused on retention. There is a rule in marketing that needs to be mentioned here, and that is, happy people tell 2 friends but angry people tell 10. This means that a happy post will grow organically, because happy post members will tell friends, and your post membership will benefit. We have a big decision to make going forward, and that is, what are we going to do to solidify and grow our membership base?

Currently we have several posts in all parts of California that are hanging on by a thread. All members in leadership positions or not, have to step up and help challenged posts to either, get on their feet, combine with another post or turn in their charter. This way we can combine limited resources and create one successful post instead of two struggling ones. We’ve got to do a better job getting interested Legionaries’ prepared for leadership positions. We can always put someone in a position, but wouldn’t it be better if we helped our members get up to speed? You could review the officer’s guide at meetings, encourage members to take the online basic training, attend California Legion College, and if you’re in any leadership position, replace yourself!

Even with all the challenges we face, the future looks bright, because the department adjutant has implemented a new program that will put post 1000 members directly in your post, unless your post opts out of the program. This way, the posts simply have to vet the new member and vote them in. Utilizing this program will save time and money for the post and districts. The new program will also shift the emphasis from transferring post 1000 members, during revitalizations, to retaining your current members, and yes, we will still need to be recruiting new members “off the Street”.

This is my last article as your Membership Director, it was a challenging yet rewarding two-year ride. I wanted to thank everyone for their help and support on behalf of the Department of California. Let’s go TEAM CALIFORNIA!

BELIEVE AND ACHIEVE DOUBT AND GO WITHOUT!
KEEP LOOKING FOR THE GOLD!
GOD BLESS AMERICA
GOD BLESS THE AMERICAN LEGION

Harry Woods

DEPARTMENT VICE COMMANDER — AREA 2

From left: Jerry Benkowski, Vietnam War US Army Combat Infantry Badge; Manny Concepcion, Vietnam War US Marine Corps Purple Heart and his wife Orilda; and Luther Hendricks, Iwo Jima WWII Montford Point Marine Congressional Gold Medal.

SOLANO, from page 2

Grayson to install “VA Clinic” signs at highway exits to designate the I-780 and I-80 interchange as the “Congressional Gold Medal Memorial Interchange,” and to rename the Hunter Hill Rest Area to “Medal of Honor Safety Roadside Rest Area.” The latter will honor Vallejo-related Medal of Honor recipients: James Cooney, William Halford, and Alexander Parker buried at the Mare Island Naval Cemetery; Richard Dunphy buried at St Vincent Cemetery; William Bond buried at Sunrise Cemetery; and Patrick Burke, George Carter, Robert Young, and Anund Roark who were originally from Vallejo but are buried in other Veterans Affairs National Cemeteries.

Harvey Woods
By: Seth Reeb, Legislative Advocate
2019 AMERICAN LEGION-Department of CALIFORNIA, DAY AT THE CAPITOL

On March 20, the American Legion-Department of California held their annual legislative day at the State Capitol in Sacramento. The attendance at this event was another successful turnout with about 60 Legionnaires from around California in attendance.

The event began at 8:30 am in the Capitol’s Eureka Room. The meeting was called to order by Department Commander Leonardo and followed by the Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and welcoming remarks. There was a very packed schedule consisting of legislative and Administration speakers and the presentations of the Department’s two Legislator of the Year awards. Our office organized a continental breakfast and lunch which were provided free of charge to attendees courtesy of the Department.

We organized a wide cross-section of legislative speakers to speak to Legionnaires about what they are doing at the Capitol, in committee, and in their districts for veterans. California Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary, Dr. Vito Imbasciani and his leadership team briefed us on the goals of CalVet for 2019 and beyond. Senator Bob Archuleta (D-Pico Rivera), Chair of the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs and an Army veteran, outlined his positions on key issues and briefed us on legislation he is carrying that will help our state’s veterans and their families.

The following speakers addressed Legionnaires at this event:
- Senator Brian Jones (R-Santee); Author of SB 663-Vet Hall Property Tax Exemption.
- Dr. Vito Imbasciani M.D., Secretary, California Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Senator Toni Atkins (D-San Diego), President pro-Tem, California State Senate, American Legion 2018 Legislator of the Year award.
- State Treasurer Fiona Ma, Presentation of 100th Anniversary of the American Legion.
- Assemblyman Rudy Salas (D-Bakersfield), Member, Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs, American Legion 2018 Legislator of the Year award.
- Senator Melissa Hurtado (D-Sanger), Member, Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.
- Senator Bob Archuleta (D-Pico Rivera), Chair, Senator Committee on Veterans Affairs.
- Assemblyman Randy Voepel (R-Santee), Vice Chair, Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs.
- Assemblyman Bill Brough (R-Dana Point) and Assemblywoman Tasha Boerner Horvath (D-Encinitas), Members, Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs Presentation of 100th Anniversary of the American Legion Member’s Resolution.
- Senator Bob Archuleta (D-Pico Rivera), Chair, Senator Committee on Veterans Affairs.

After lunch, Legionnaires distributed informational packets to over 100 legislative offices containing:
- Information about the American Legion; its mission, goals, and programs.
- A listing and description of the Legion’s top legislative priorities.
- A list of the current Top Legislation supported by the Legion.
- Co-author request and fact sheet for SB 663-Jones; Veterans Hall property tax exemption.
Larry Van Kurann

June is already upon us, and with that comes both our next convention in Ontario and this article to you as National Executive Committeeman, Department of California, The American Legion. It has truly been an honor, an adventure and a sincere pleasure to have served you and our Department of California during my first year as National Executive Committeeman. I remain humbled by the opportunity to continue to serve.

I promised you communications between our National American Legion offices in Indianapolis and our Department. So, here are a few items to discuss with you regarding goings on with our National Executive Committee (NEC):

**Resolutions 2018 NEC – To be brought to the National Convention floor in August**

After the Fall NEC meeting in mid-October, 2018, we sent a package of 28 resolutions that were passed at the meeting. [Go here for all 28 resolutions:](#)

- Resolution No. 1: **Unrecognized Armed Hostilities Recognition**
  - There are 53 separate WHEREAS statements for Resolution No. 1: they will not be listed here. The intent is to build the case for Congress to declare that the United States has been engaged in a continuous state or war since December 7, 1941.
  - **RESOLVED**, That The American Legion calls on the Congress of the United States to declare that the United States of America has been continuously engaged in a state of war from December 7, 1941 to such date in the future as the United States government may determine that there has been an end to armed hostilities; and, be it finally
  - **RESOLVED**, That the United States Congress direct the Department of Veterans Affairs to qualify as “war-time veteran” all military service personnel who served honorably under federal government Title 10 orders for at least one day during said period.

- Resolution No. 2: **Unrecognized Armed Hostilities Membership Date Change**
  - The intent is to build the case to request that Congress remove all individually stipulated conflict dates as the basis for American Legion membership. In other words, eliminate the membership eligibility “buckets” for Legion membership.
  - **RESOLVED**, That subsequent to the Congress of the United States declaring “December 7, 1941 through the cessation of armed hostilities at an as-of-yet undetermined future date” as the official date for the current war-time period; the Legislative Commission be and is hereby authorized and directed to petition the Congress of the United States to further amend Section 5 of the Act entitled “An Act to Incorporate The American Legion, “Public Law ….” to read when amended as follows…” (see the resolution):
    - **RESOLVED**, that when, and if the Congress of the United States enacts the above amendment, and the president of the United States approves the same and it becomes law, then the National Constitution of The American Legion shall be deemed amended in conformance therewith...

- Resolution No. 15: **Expedited Citizenship Through Military Service**
- Resolution No. 16: **Recognition for Afghan and Iraqi Combat Translators**
- Resolution No. 22: **Expanding Post-9/11 GI Bill for Student Loan Repayments**
- Resolution No. 23: **Close the GI Bill Flight School Loophole**
- Resolution No. 26: **Eliminate GI Bill Transferability Maximum Year Caps.**

Join with me in taking time during this Convention to enjoy the events, our traditions and to recognize our accomplishments as a strong organization. Also, pause with me to recognize members of all branches of our military who are serving on the front lines to protect and maintain our country and our way of life. And, especially, to recognize and support the military families who have given even more, and who are so deserving of our continued support.

I remain, ever your Comrade.
Hello Comrades,
I want to announce my candidacy for Area 5 Department Vice Commander. I’ve been a member of the American Legion for 30 years and I’ve been for 10 years. I’ve been department service officer for two years. I’ve held the position of Area 5 leadership chairman, team management chairman, and Department Membership Director last year. If I’m elected, I plan to focus on and encourage all 5 Area members to expand their energy in three main areas, I call it 3M, Mission, Membership, Mentoring. It’s imperative that we stay focused on our mission. What is our mission? Simply put it’s to help veterans and their families get the benefits they’ve earned by their military service. Also stay focused on our mission, keep us from getting caught up in trivial matters, that may occur in our day to day interactions with other members. Membership is the lifeblood of the organization. We all know it, but we’ve all got to do a better job of working membership. In other words, each and every one of us must be our current members, and our membership outreach must be to our current members and our membership outreach must be to our current members and our membership outreach must be to our current members. That’s it, short and sweet, we can always put someone in a new company if we don’t need new members, we don’t need new members, we don’t need new members. And what we need is our current members, and if we helped our members get up to speed? Review the officer’s guide at meetings, encourage members to take the online basic training, attend California Legion College, and if you’re in any leadership position, replace yourself.
We have several posts that are hanging on by a thread. All members in leadership have to step up and help challenged posts to either, get on their feet, combine with another post or turn in their charter. This way we can combine limited resources and create one successful post instead of two struggling ones.
That’s it, short and sweet, Mission, Membership, Mentoring. If you believe like I believe, I’m asking for your vote for Area 5 Department Vice Commander at the convention.
Keep looking for the Gold! May God bless America and the American Legion!}

Hello Comrades, I want to announce my candidacy for Area 5 Department Vice Commander. Since I started a little late, I’m only endorsed by my post currently, but hope to be endorsed by my district and others by department convention. I’ve gone through the chains at both the post and district level and I’m currently my post service officer and have been for 10 years. I’ve been second service officer for two years. I’ve held the position of Area 5 leadership chairman, team management chairman, and Department Membership Director last year. If I’m elected, I plan to focus on and encourage all 5 Area members to expand their energy in three main areas, I call it 3M, Mission, Membership, Mentoring. It’s imperative that we stay focused on our mission. What is our mission? Simply put it’s to help veterans and their families get the benefits they’ve earned by their military service. Also stay focused on our mission, keep us from getting caught up in trivial matters, that may occur in our day to day interactions with other members. Membership is the lifeblood of the organization. We all know it, but we’ve all got to do a better job of working membership. In other words, each and every one of us must be our current members, and our membership outreach must be to our current members and our membership outreach must be to our current members. That’s it, short and sweet, we can always put someone in a new company if we don’t need new members, we don’t need new members, we don’t need new members. And what we need is our current members, and if we helped our members get up to speed? Review the officer’s guide at meetings, encourage members to take the online basic training, attend California Legion College, and if you’re in any leadership position, replace yourself.
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That’s it, short and sweet, Mission, Membership, Mentoring. If you believe like I believe, I’m asking for your vote for Area 5 Department Vice Commander at the convention.
Keep looking for the Gold! May God bless America and the American Legion!}

I was born in Riverside, CA in December 1951. I have been active in the American Legion since I was a teenager. I graduated from El Monte High School in 1969 and was stationed in Los Alamitos, CA during the Vietnam War. After leaving the Navy, I joined the Air Force Reserves as a Firefighter in 1975 and in 1980 and again in 1985 to 1991, stationed at March Air Base. In 1990, I was placed on active duty Desert Storm. In 1991 I received an honorable discharge from the Reserves.
I served on the City of Perris Public Safety Commission for five years. City of Perris Planning Commission for three years and 14 years on the Veteran and Christmas Parade Committee. Over the years I was a member of Post 100 and 5 years ago I was invited to join Post 595 in District 31 and have held the following positions:
Post 595: Post Commander, 2016-2017, Finance Officer, Law and Order Chairman, Base State Chairman, District 21: E-Board Central, 3rd Vice Commander, Boy State Chairman, Law and Order Chairman.
On January 20, 2019, at the 5th Area meeting in Brawley, I went before the steam team as a candidate and was presented to the members and received their endorsement to be the candidate for Area 5 Vice Commander. I ask for your support. Thank You.
Washington, D.C. – Today, the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs launched a new bipartisan Women Veterans Task Force to increase the visibility of the two million women veterans living in the United States and to promote inclusivity and equitable access to resources, benefits, and healthcare for women veterans.

The Task Force will be chaired by Congresswoman Julia Brownley (D-CA), who is also the Chairwoman of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs Health Subcommittee. This announcement came ahead of the first hearing of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs in recent memory focused solely on the health of women veterans, which is taking place today.

“Women have served our nation in uniform since its earliest days, yet for far too long, the contributions and distinct challenges facing the growing population of female veterans have been forgotten or ignored,” said Congresswoman Brownley. “My vision is for this Task Force to have a national presence and create a national dialogue where we can identify all of the inequities faced by women veterans and determine how we can tackle them through legislation and other means.”

Women have served in the U.S. military since the Revolutionary War. Today, women comprise roughly 17% of serving military personnel, 10% of the veteran population, and 30% of service academy students. Women are the fastest-growing subpopulation of both servicemembers and veterans. The Task Force aims to increase their visibility, improve equity between male and female veterans, and ensure that women veterans have access to the resources, benefits, and healthcare they have earned and deserve.

“By launching the bipartisan Women Veterans Task Force we can begin to shed light on the issues the more than two million US women veterans face and prepare VA for the future,” said Congressman Mark Takano, Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs. “I am proud of Chairwoman Brownley’s leadership on this issue and am grateful to have Andrea on our team.”

Dr. Phil Roe, Ranking Member of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs added, “As an obstetrician with more than 30 years of experience caring for women in private practice, women’s health has always been a priority of mine. I am glad to see that, with the creation of this task force, Chairman Takano and Rep. Brownley are making it a priority of theirs as well. With an increasing number of women veterans seeking care and benefits following their service, it is important that we break down any barriers that women face within VA and ensure that VA is a safe, welcoming place for them and all veterans in need of support. I look forward learning more about the goals and priorities that the task force will be pursuing in the coming months and to engaging in thoughtful discussions as a Committee about the unique issues women veterans are overcoming.”

The House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs has made this Task Force a signature issue, including hiring Andrea Goldstein, a Navy veteran, as senior policy advisor to help lead the effort.

“Women veterans are thriving,” said Goldstein. “They are already resilient leaders in their communities, in industry, and in government, including here in Congress. I’m proud to be part of the Task Force’s effort to honor my fellow women veterans’ service by raising their profile, and supporting efforts to ensure they have equitable access to resources that they have earned.”

Deadline for the next issue of the California Legionnaire is July 8, 2019

Metro Veterans Employment Fair
We Want You to Go Places

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

Opening Ceremony | 9 – 10am
Job Fair | 10am – 1pm

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

LOCATION
Carson Civic Center
801 E Carson St
Carson, CA 90745

> Open to the public, including all branches of the military, current service members and their families
> Tips for professional networking

Detach below and send with check

Please make checks payable to American Legion Auxiliary Department of California
And mail to Sandra Kurfoske 1377 W. Congress St SP56 San Bernardino CA 92410

Circle 1, 2 or 3 below for dinner choice

Dinner choice 1 2 3
Name: ________________________ Post: ______ Unit: ______ District: ______
Dinner choice 1 2 3
Name: ________________________ Post: ______ Unit: ______ District: ______
Dinner choice 1 2 3
Name: ________________________ Post: ______ Unit: ______ District: ______
Chedit ________________________ No of Reservations
As we diligently prepare for our Memorial Day observances and our annual Convention, I bring you greetings. It has been a tremendous year. I thank every Commissioner and every Post Commander for their perseverance throughout the year. To all the membership and officers elected and appointed, your attendance at our meetings and commitment has been inspiring. I would be a miss not to mention Paul Brown, Larry Leonardo, Harry Woods, E. Paul Ball, and all the Past Vice Commanders and Department Commanders I leaned on for advice.

Thank you, David Graham, Area Adjutant from Post 491, and David Smith, Area Chaplain from Post 108, as well as all the Department Staff for their service to our Department. Recent Membership Report reflects that our Area is over 100%, first time since 2004/05 under Bobby Mahaffey. Congratulation to District 12 now ranked #3 with 105.22%, D-15 ranked #5 with 103.72% and D-11 ranked #9 with 100.27 with still some time before convention to add more to District 27 ranked #16 96% and District 14 ranked #19 with 94%.

God Bless you all and continue to add to your Consolidated Post Reports. As we transition into a new fiscal year, remember we are all charged with mutual helpfulness so let’s be available to our future leaders and the membership when called upon. Speak no harsh words to your guest and Legion Family for they may leave you and never return....

Scouting Commission Honors Bruce Olson

At the Area 3 meeting, on April 20th, the Area 3 Scouting Commissioner, Michael Feist, presented two awards to Bruce Olson, (102-11-3) for his exceptional dedication and service to Scouting. Bruce has been serving Scouting for many years, and he is presently one of the Key 3 leaders of the Yosemite Area Council, BSA, where he is the Council Commissioner. Bruce is very proud of his two Eagle Scout sons. In the past few months he has helped to organize new Boy Scout Troops from Scouts who have been left without a troop.

Bruce was presented with the prestigious American Legion Square Knot Award, along with a personal letter from the American Legion National Commander, which he earned through many years of service to his community, and the American Legion, through Scouting. He also received the new “Area 3 Legionnaire Scouter of the Year” medal. This is the first time this award and medal have been presented in California. Bruce will now be considered for the “Dept Legionnaire Scouter of the Year” at Convention.

Thanks,
Michael Feist, Chairman
Scouting Commission

Candidates Reception

Come and meet your candidates for 2019 – 2020

Department President
Kathie Martinez
Department Vice President
DeeAnn Graham
Jr. Member of Finance
Cathaleen McCoy
National Executive Committee Woman
Linda Workman
Alternate Executive Committee Woman
Joan Cannon

Thursday, June 27, 2019
6:30pm – 9:00pm
Room 134,
Ontario Airport & Convention Center Hotel
700 N. Haven Ave
Ontario, CA 91764
Light Refreshments will be served
## Top 20 Posts - Members Paid Online

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rank</th>
<th>Post Name</th>
<th>Total Views</th>
<th>Paid Views</th>
<th>% Paid</th>
<th>Post Date</th>
<th>Post URL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Football</td>
<td>344,177</td>
<td>212,251</td>
<td>61.8</td>
<td>2019-06-27</td>
<td>[Link]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Soccer</td>
<td>336,172</td>
<td>189,068</td>
<td>55.9</td>
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<td>[Link]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>316,956</td>
<td>136,738</td>
<td>43.2</td>
<td>2019-06-27</td>
<td>[Link]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Tennis</td>
<td>298,456</td>
<td>105,681</td>
<td>35.4</td>
<td>2019-06-27</td>
<td>[Link]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Badminton</td>
<td>290,546</td>
<td>91,268</td>
<td>31.3</td>
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<td>[Link]</td>
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<td>Volleyball</td>
<td>288,036</td>
<td>83,045</td>
<td>28.8</td>
<td>2019-06-27</td>
<td>[Link]</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Swimming</td>
<td>284,236</td>
<td>69,581</td>
<td>24.5</td>
<td>2019-06-27</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Water Polo</td>
<td>279,146</td>
<td>51,268</td>
<td>18.5</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Handball</td>
<td>277,166</td>
<td>37,945</td>
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<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Squash</td>
<td>274,626</td>
<td>19,526</td>
<td>7.1</td>
<td>2019-06-27</td>
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## Top 20 Posts - Membership Dues Paid to Post

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## Top 20 Posts - New Members

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<th>Post Name</th>
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## American Legion Family Night Fever vs. Las Vegas Aces

**The Indians Fever would like to invite you, your family and friends to American Legion Family Night on Tuesday, August 27th at Tankers Field.**

**The American Legion will be acknowledged, as it celebrates its 100 years, at halftime for its impactful work for our state and for our country.** Also represented will be the American Legion Auxiliary, the Sass of The American Legion, and American Legion Riders. You won’t want to miss it all!

**ORDER DEADLINE:** August 5, 2019

**To order tickets, visit** [https://www.legion.org/new/fever](https://www.legion.org/new/fever)

**Questions? Contact Catholic Campus Ministry at **317-977-3077 or dburris@feverbasketball.com

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**The American Legion's 101st National Convention**

**Come and see your National Commander, Brett Reistad, throw out the first pitch!**

**Indianapolis Indians vs. Louisville Bats**

**Saturday, August 24, 2019 • 7:05 P.M.**

Please click on the link below to order your tickets:
[https://www.eventstream.org/event/AmericanLegion101/](https://www.eventstream.org/event/AmericanLegion101/)

Be sure to purchase discounted tickets by August 24th or until sold out.

Please call 94-24 tickets contact Box Office at 317.269.3145

Groups of 25 or more please contact Ryan Barrett at 317.532.6792

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**ALL FOR LOVE**

**FEVERGROUPS.COM**
New Membership Application

Sign-up on-line TODAY at: www.calegion.org – OR – Mail Membership application and $47 to:
TAL DoC Post 1000 Application
1601 7th Street,
Sanger, CA 93657
Please make your check payable to TAL DoC Post 1000

NOTE: $0.95 of annual dues goes to the California Legionnaire, the official publication of The American Legion-Department of California, to help offset the cost.

THE LAST BUGLE CALL

See 2018-2019 Book of Reports

(O Lord, You have shown us that death is but the gateway to a more glorious life and that we must not fear its coming, and we know, also, that neither life nor death can separate us from Your love. Assure us, yet again, that our departed comrades are not lost to us, but sharing new life with You in the kingdom of our Father, where we shall in your good time be reunited.

We know them to be with You forever ... Amen.

Official DEC photos for 2019-2020 will be taken on

Saturday, June 29, 2019
1:30 PM – 3:30 PM

Sunday, June 30, 2019
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

On the Convention floor (Exact location to be announced)

If you are a candidate for the following Office:

- Department Commander (Dept cover-white)
- Department Vice-Commander Area1 - 6 (Dept cover-white)
- Department Sgt-at-Arms (Dept cover-white)
- Department Adjutant (Dept cover-white)
- Department Chaplain (Dept cover-white)
- Department Historian (Dept cover-white)
- Department Parliamentarian (Dept cover-white)
- Department Judge Advocate (Dept cover-white)
- Department Service Officer (Dept cover-white)
- Department Membership Director (Dept cover-white)
- (Outgoing) Department Commander (“blue cap” cover)
- (Incoming) District Commanders (District cover)
- Women Veterans Outreach Coordinator (“blue cap” cover)
- Editor, California Legionnaire (“blue cap” cover)

Please wear the appropriate Legion cover for this photo op. If you don’t have the proper cover, borrow one and leave the rest to the photographer. Gentlemen, you do not need to dress in full suit. A dark suit coat (black or navy), dress shirt, and tie will be fine. This will be a head shot only. Ladies, please wear a dark suit coat as well. This will ensure that all DEC photos are uniform.

Thank you,
Marilyn Rideaux
Editor, California Legionnaire

Sunday, June 30, 2019
8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Vol. 106, No.23
Official Publication of The American Legion Department of California
June 2019