

REVEILLE

AMERICAN LEGION POST 419

Veterans Helping Veterans & Serving the Community Since 1932

Issue 1-50

958 Homestead Road, Santa Clara CA 95050

November 2021

Only 61 days left in the year!

Time to make sure your 2021 resolutions don't go up in flames.

November starts and ends as an active month. Craft show on the 6th, breakfast 7th, Veterans Day and parade on the 11th, busy 2 weeks. Then the big feast on the 25th, hopefully you all have your shots and can spend Thanksgiving with your families in good health.

We will have a booth at the Battaglia Tree Farm again this year. Friday, Sat, Sun after Thanksgiving and the first weekend in December. People make donations for Trees For Troops, small amounts or a whole tree. The trees are shipped to Camp Pendleton, via FED-EX for those service members who cannot afford a tree. The Post and District have supported this program for nearly 15 years. Any donations at the post will be matched up to \$300. Help a young soldier have a better holiday.

Went to the VA last week and got shots for Pneumonia, Tetanus and Shingles they know how to make your arm hurt but want to keep us all well. Told to check a local pharmacy for 3rd Covid shot.

If you would like to join us for the Veterans Day parade you can march with us, just call the post for info or you can cheer us on by lining the streets in San Jose. The length is only about a mile but it seems we stop and rest every 100 feet.

The Post is also looking for a Finance Officer or Bookkeeper that has knowledge of accounting practices and QuickBooks software also Word and Excel. This is a stipend position and a Post Member is preferred but non-Post Members can also be interviewed.

Hope you have a great start of the Holiday season and take care and stay well.

See you at this months activities especially the regular members meeting on Nov 3, 7PM.

Ralph Jacob

Commander



Sons of the American Legion: Squadron Adjutant's Report

Greetings once again.

Well, here we go again, as in past inputs our main drive is membership.

If you haven't renewed your membership cards yet, you are not a member in good standing. So please look at your card and if it is 2021, then send in your dues to the Post with Atten (S.A.L).

Many things are going on within the detachment, Our National Commander for the Detachment of Calif, as his Special project for the year is "Flying Flags for Hero's". (www.flyingflagsforheros.com). This is a nationwide project, 1,000,000 Flags on the graves of Veteran's nationwide. It's already started. More information will be coming out and I will email all of our members when we get in step to support this project.

So, as you all know, we didn't plan for our annual Thanks for Giving Dinner, hopefully next year we will be hosting it.

If anyone is interested in volunteering at either the VA Hospital or Clinic, only a couple of hours (4), Monday thru Friday, various positions.

If interested, please reach out to Evan Fasbinder @ evan.fasbinder@va.gov, (650) 493-5000, S.J. Clinic ext 41108.

Or click on the Volunteer page - VA.govVeterans Affairs.

We have already started with "TOYS FOR TOTS", 2 boxes have been set up at the post, one in the clubroom and the other in the main hall.

This year the cut-Off is Dec 10th, all toys need to be at the Navy/Marine Corp Reserve Center.

We are now getting ahead of this Covid, and for our future events, we will be making changes on times, starting a bit earlier to accommodate many who may have trouble in the evenings.

Veterans Day is only a few days away, so Please Honor all of our Active Duty Men and Women here and those stationed overseas..

Submitted

Steve Villegas

Squadron 419 Adjutant



American Legion Auxiliary: President's Report

Hello Everyone,

So as another month has ended we are so grateful for family and friends. The Auxiliary is going strong and our membership is strong as well. At the time of writing this we are still looking forward to our Halloween dinner dance and so far it seems that the numbers are strong, thankfully.

Please remember that you can always drop off toys, stuffed animals or any unused jewelry to the post for the different groups.

Thank you all who help and encourage all of us to do better!

Cheryl Rafferty

ALA Santa Clara Unit 419 President



AMERICAN LEGION FUNDRAISER
Veterans Craft Faire
November 6, 2021
10 am - 3 pm

 American Legion Post 419
958 Homestead, Santa Clara

**Buy American
from Local Crafters
And Support Veterans**

- ✓ Free Admission
- ✓ Hourly Drawings
- ✓ Hand Made Crafts & Collectibles
- ✓ Fundraiser for Veterans Programs

Vendors Reaister
By Oct. 11, 2021 \$40-\$45 (After Add \$10)
Info email: eventsALA419@yahoo.com
Cindy Newman (650) 219-1041

Online registration: Scan QR code or
visit <https://forms.gle/LsX1hP5diMZJTa68A>



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Gulf War Veterans

More than 650,000 Service members served in Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm from August 2, 1990 to July 31, 1991. For VA benefits eligibility purposes, the Gulf War period is still in effect. This means that anyone who served on active duty from August 2, 1990, to present is considered a Gulf War Veteran. For example, the Veterans Pension benefit requires service during a wartime period. Therefore, any Veteran who served on active military service for any period from August 2, 1990, to the present meets the wartime service requirement.

VA Benefits

Gulf War Veterans may be eligible for a wide-variety of benefits available to all U.S. military Veterans. VA benefits include [disability compensation](#), [pension](#), [education and training](#), [health care](#), [home loans](#), [insurance](#), [vocational rehabilitation and employment](#), and [burial](#). See our [Veterans](#) page for an overview of the benefits available to all Veterans.

Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses

Certain illnesses and diseases are "presumed" by VA to be related to your military service in designated areas of Southwest Asia and may entitle you to VA disability compensation benefits. For Gulf War Veterans, these presumptive diseases include:

- Medically unexplained illnesses (popularly called "Gulf War Syndrome").
- Certain infectious diseases.

Amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) diagnosed in all Veterans who had 90 days or more continuous active military service.

Learn more about VA benefits for Gulf War benefits:

[Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry page](#)

[Disability Compensation Gulf War Presumptive Disability page](#)

Gulf War Veterans may still seek to establish service connection individually for other, "non-presumptive" diseases and illnesses related to service in the Gulf War. Learn more about qualifying for disability compensation for non-presumptive conditions on the [Compensation website](#).

How to Apply

The specific VA benefit or program web page will provide tailored information about how to apply for a particular benefit or program. Generally, Servicemembers, Veterans, and families can apply for VA benefits using one of the methods below.

Apply online using [eBenefits](#), **OR**

Work with an accredited [representative](#) or [agent](#), **OR**

Go to a VA regional office and have a VA employee assist you. You can find your regional office on our [Facility Locator](#) page.

Adjutant Report

We are facing a difficult year in membership. I understand that all of the VSO's in the country are having problems maintaining our membership. You wonder what the organization is doing why should I pay dues to a losing effort and unfortunately, we are living with a ME generation. We have to turn this thinking around, the world needs to start thinking what do YOU need and can I help. The American Legion (VSO) is the way to help, helping our veterans and their families,

We work with the Veteran Administration (VA). To help the vet get assistance with claims for medical needs or help with signing up for the GI Bill or if need we get them in touch with someone who can help with getting a VA loan for home purchases.

In the Legion there are special personnel who we refer to as Service Officers who are trained to handle and interface with VA files to process claims that a veteran needs, to receive the benefits, he/she deserves.

Posts also try to maintain a list of local organization, which the veteran can be referred for assistance.

There are several scholarships for education, there are programs for assisted living for senior veterans and or their spouse's. Finely we are here for comradeship, as no one can know a veteran more than a veteran.

Currently our Post is only 60% of our goal which leaves 40% of our membership have not renewed their membership for the 2022 year. I know you who haven't paid have received your remainder notices so please send them and continue to be a member of the biggest VSO in the country. Come to meeting and make suggestions on how we can make it more interesting for you to help. Given the right assistance I know we can make this a great year to help our Veterans and of course you, our members.

A return to the past, we are in the process to reestablish our activities in the Children and Youth Oratorical contest. Below is a brief description of what this contest is about and how our high school students benefit both personally and financially.

Children and Youth programs

WHAT IS THE AMERICAN LEGION ORATORICAL CONTEST

"A Constitutional Speech Contest"

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship. The program has featured numerous politicians and prominent contestants over the years, including former presidential candidate Alan Keyes, national television commentator and talk radio host Lou Dobbs, and former U.S. Vice President Mike Pence.

Young orators earn some of the most generous college scholarships available to high school students. Over \$203,500 in scholarships can be awarded each year. The overall national contest winner gets a \$25,000 scholarship. Second place takes home \$22,500, and third gets \$20,000. Each department (state) winner who is certified into and participates in the national contest's first round receives a \$2,000 scholarship. Those who advance past the first round receive an additional \$2,000 scholarship. The American Legion's National Organization awards the scholarships, which can be used at any college or university in the United States.

High school students under age 20 are eligible. Competition begins at the post level and advances to a state competition. Legion department representatives certify one winner per state to the national contest, where department winners compete against each other in two speaking rounds. The contest caps off with a final round that decides the three top finishers.

Speaking subjects must be on some aspect of the U.S. Constitution, with some emphasis on the duties and obligations of citizens to our government. Speeches are eight to 10 minutes long; three- to five-minute speeches on an assigned topic also are part of the contest.

For more information:
americanism@legion.org

If you know of a High School Student who is a good speaker and knows the US Constitution, please take advantage of this American Legion Program. Contact Post Adjutant at 408-244-3050

Gene Grundstrom
Adjutant Post 419

American Legion: Chaplain & Service Officer

Hello All,

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health and decent spirits. As we enter the month of November here in the year 2021, the word **COURAGE** is standing out.

The Merriam-Webster dictionary definition is as follows:

The Ability to do Something that you know is Difficult or Dangerous

Mental or Moral Strength to Venture, Persevere, and Withstand Danger, Fear or Difficulty

I incorporate that with the teachings from Western & Eastern traditions and relate to the source etymology from the old Latin/Old French meaning during the 1200-1300s:

HEART / LOVE

It will take **COURAGE** and **LOVE** to face your challenges, to stay the course and be true to thyself. Many may turn to a Faith, God, A Higher Power or a Divine Source, but no matter what path is made available to you, it comes with an inner truth that you are not alone.

On this Veterans Day, November 11th, 2021 may you have a moment to reflect upon those who still stand beside you, walk beside you and give you strength when things are not going well.





**Vet to Vet Café meeting every
Thursday mornings**

9 am – 10:30 am

American Legion Post 419

958 Homestead Rd. Santa Clara

Stop by for Donuts and Coffee and Conversation

Hostess, Karen Carter

408 560-6691

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MEMORIAL

2021 Calendar of Events

HOST	EVENT	DATE
Legion	Annual Craft Fair	6-Nov-21 10 am - 3:00 pm
Legion	First Sunday Breakfast	7-Nov-21 9-11 am
Legion SAL AUX	Veterans Day	11-Nov-21
Legion	First Sunday Breakfast Early Bird Free Breakfast	5 Dec-21 9-11 am
Legion	Legion Family Christmas Dinner / Dance	11-Dec-21
AUX	New Years Eve Party	31-Dec-21 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Legion	First Sunday Breakfast	2-Jan-22 9-11 am

Important Contact Information - Post 419, Squadron and Auxiliary

General Contact Number: 408.244.3050 (You may leave message here any time of the day or night)