



Veterans Helping Veterans & Serving the Community Since 1932

Issue 1-31

958 Homestead Rd, Santa Clara CA 95050

April 2020

## Commander's Corner

We hope that you are all doing well and keeping yourself and your family safe. I know it can be depressing, and it is tough not to be able to be in control with everything that is important to you. The only thing we can do now is to be patient and be informed.

**We had an emergency meeting on Thursday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**, to determine actions needed to secure the Post to protect our customers, members, and community from the COVID-19 pandemic as mandated from the Santa Clara Health Department. Also, without any source of income, all refrigeration, ice makers, and other appliances needed to be shut off as a necessary step in lowering our utility bill.

**All post events have been 'cancelled' for the rest of Fiscal Year 2020 (June 30, 2020).** The Member's Lounge and Hall Rentals will resume when the Health Department gives the county a 'Green Light'. This will be an indicator that all is well. It may be a while, but will be a welcome sight.

In our last General Meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup>

We had 3 guests from 'Pathways'. They teamed up with Golden Heart Dove Production to produce the 'We Honor Veterans' documentary. The Vision of the Documentary is to bring awareness for the 'We Honor Veterans' Program and other benefits to eligible U.S. Veterans. Some of the issues in the documentary are the growing need for veteran-centered care, Hospice and palliative care for aging Vets, Informational Vets of benefits, End-of-Life services availability. They were looking for Volunteers to interview and be filmed. The primary distribution of the documentary will be through Pathways location for internal training (may include social media and film premieres).

Note, less than 40% of Veterans are enrolled in the VA. Do you '**Know a Vet?**' point them to the direction of the VA or to post 419. Let's help them get enrolled.

We had our nomination for convention delegates. The 11 nominees are, Steve Villegas, Ralph Jacobs, Jeff Driskell, Al Wong, Don Newton, Gene Grundstrom, Rich Peralez, Rick Gundo, John Boyle, Antonio Leyba, and Ken Pearson. We were planning to continue with nominations this April just to give others who have never been a delegate an opportunity to be one.

With the cancellation of April's general meeting, we will not be able to have our nomination for Fiscal Year 2021 Post Officers. It seems like we did not have many problems last month getting 11 delegates, maybe we could do just as well with post officers. The positions are as follows: Commander, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice, Adjutant, Finance Officer, Chaplain, Service Officer, 3 Members at Large, and Sargent-at-Arms.

### **Commander's Report Continued:**

The new officers of Fiscal Year 2021 will embark on an unprecedented journey to 'Rebooting the Post'. Your ideas and fresh approaches will be needed to get the post up and running. We do not know when our next meeting will be, but if you are interested in any of the positions or want to give it a go, please let us know.

We all have family and other community obligations. We hurt from head to toes, from bending, standing, reaching, and even sitting. We get cramps in places where we didn't even know we could have them in. However, we serve and do the best we can, and if you are a bit slow in moving around, we understand and welcome you. But, if you do not have any of these ailments, then it is time for you to take the baton and run the post. Get your buddies together and full charge ahead; none of this slow motion stuff.



DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA  
THE AMERICAN LEGION

### **IMPORTANT COMMUNICATION**

The following information was provided by the California Department of American Legion may be helpful in choosing our new leaders.

#### **Please take the opportunity to volunteer.**

It will soon be time to elect new leaders in our local posts. Sometimes Legionnaires question who is eligible to hold office in a post? Traditionally, a post member who is in good standing (dues paid current) is eligible vote and to hold office.

The annual cycle of leadership in The American Legion starts each year on July 1 and runs through the end of June the following year. The officer election cycle starts to come into view in March when some posts start accepting nominations for new post leaders. During April and May, the nomination process continues and by the end of June, the annual election process is over until the cycle begins again the following year.

#### **Elect The Best Legionnaires**

The Legionnaires we elect to lead our posts are important to the success of our post. Seek out, encourage, and and cultivate the best Legionnaires available to lead and govern your post.

Whether big or small, every post should seek the best leadership candidates who:

- Want to serve for the good of the post
- Is a good communicator
- Has a clear vision for post success
- Is trained and is willing to train others

The hope leaders offer is important to how posts:

- Serve our veterans, their families, and our communities better.
- Grow in active membership
- Become stronger financially, and
- Succeed!

## **Electing new leaders, continued:**

### **Leaders Are Responsible**

What are post leaders responsible for? In the broad view, they are responsible for the success of our post. To find a more detailed answer to the question of what leaders do, look in these documents:

- Your post constitution, bylaws, and standing rules, which should be available from your post adjutant, and
- The Post Officer Guide & Manual of Ceremonies and the Post Adjutant's Manual which are available on The American Legion website in the Internal Affairs portion of the Publications Page.

The post bylaws define which post leaders are elected by the post membership and which leaders are appointed by the newly elected post commander. Three of the key post leaders are the post commander, adjutant, and finance officer. Good post commanders work with and through these and other post leaders.

To help our newer Legionnaires better understand what these key leaders do, here is a “grassroots” perspective.

#### **Post Commander:**

"First among equals" is a good way to look at the relationship of the post commander to other post members. The commander ensures the post's vision of success is completed and keeps the post-family together as the post pursues their vision of success. The post commander traditionally serves as the president of the board of directors for incorporated posts.

The post commander is also the voice of the post, within the post and at meetings beyond the post. Post commanders work with and through other leaders to complete the business of the post, as they cultivate and guide them for future leadership roles.

#### **Finance Officer:**

The Post Finance Officer is one of the three key leaders in a post. In addition to administering the post book of accounts and developing an annual post budget, the Finance Officer assists the Adjutant with administrative compliance on government reporting requirements.

The Finance Officers is a key advisor to post leaders on formulating and administering long term policies geared to financial growth and stability. Many see financial stability and growth as the realm of the Finance Officer.

#### **Post Adjutant:**

Whether the post adjutant is seen as a post ‘first sergeant’ or a continuity officer, the adjutant is a critical leader in the long-term success of a post. In so many local posts, administrative duties are the realm of adjutants.

Adjutants are also the key focus of many post communications. They are responsible for keeping official records of post business, minutes of meetings and many other important Legion and governmental administrative duties.

The post commanders, finance officer, and adjutant, work with and through other post officers, including the post Executive Committee. These leaders make up the core of a post's leadership team. Through their leadership and hard work, your post leaders help fulfill your post's vision of success.

## **Chaplain's Report**

Nothing new to report. Please stay safe and we pray for all of our members





## Squadron 419 Report

Greetings to everyone

Hoping that everyone is in good Health during these times, as we all are in sheltering in Place.

Everyone should be practicing good hygiene during his time; remember to wash your hands as needed. Avoid going out unless it is needed such as shopping or going for a doctor's appointment.

At this time we are still working hard on building our membership. If you know of any members who haven't paid this year's dues, that they are delinquent. I will of course send out reminders of this.

Due to the Shelter at Home order by the governor, at the Post's emergency meeting held on 3/19/2020, it was decided that we must close down daily operations. Therefore, all meetings and events have cancelled for the time being. Stay tuned for any changes and updates.

As for Boy's State, we are presently still moving forward until we are told otherwise. The bad news is that Boy's Nation has been cancelled.

The only other thing to report is that our past squadron Commander Jim Hoogestegar has been having health issues, please keep him in your prayers.

Until next month, I hope that you and your families stay healthy and be safe as we go thru this crisis together.

Steve Villegas

Squadron Correspondent 419

### Important Contact Information — Post 419, Squadron and Auxiliary

**GENERAL CONTACT NUMBER** — 408-244-3050 (You may leave messages here any time of the day or night.)

**Post Adjutant email contact** — [www.americanlegionpost419@comcast.net](mailto:www.americanlegionpost419@comcast.net) (excellent means for sending information and/or requests to Post officers).

# ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

## HONORING OUR MILITARY VETERANS WWII, KOREAN AND VIETNAM

### Honor Flight Bay Area Foundation — 598 Veterans Honored with trip to Washington, D.C.



Honor Flight Bay Area Foundation is preparing for its 6<sup>th</sup> year of operation in 2020. Since organizing in 2014, we have flown 598 veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit their war memorials. This is an all-expense paid trip for the veteran and our way of thanking them for their service and sacrifice.

If you are a WWII, Korean or Vietnam war veteran who has not been to D.C. and seen your war memorial, you are invited, encouraged, to participate in this trip of a

lifetime. Applications are available at [www.honorflightbayarea.org](http://www.honorflightbayarea.org). Full details of the trip and information about Honor Flight Bay Area is available at our Web site.

#### **2020 Flight Schedule Update**

**~~Trip #24: April 26-28~~**

**~~Trip #25: June 7-9~~**

Trip #26 now #24: Sept 13-15

Trip #27 now #25: Oct 18-20

New Trip #26: Nov 8-9

**ALERT — COVID-19.** The current public health situation requires the cancelling and rescheduling of flights. Trips planned for April 26-28 and June 7-9 are being rescheduled for a later date. Honor Flight Bay Area will continue to monitor this public health situation and make adjustments to our flight schedules and activities as warranted. The health and well-being of our veterans and all participants is critical to us.

Honor Flight Bay Area encourages everyone to follow the guidelines provided by the CDC and local public health officials in combating this virus.

**Note that we are continuing to accept applications during this situation and encourage all veterans interested in an Honor Flight to submit your application. Once this situation is behind us, our practice of reviewing applications and screening applicants will continue as in the past.**

As we have done in the past, prior to each flight we will conduct an orientation meeting for all participants. This gives you the opportunity to meet your fellow travelers and learn about the trip itinerary. A few weeks after each flight we hold a reunion where participants can share their experiences from the trip. All of this is a truly memorable experience... for the veteran, the guardian and our volunteers.

Many of our senior veterans are concerned with health issues and the ability to make this trip. Let us help you evaluate your situation before you disqualify yourself. Part of the application process involves a private conversation with an Honor Flight Bay Area health professional.

Guardians, escorts, are also needed to assist our veterans. If you are interested in volunteering as a guardian, you can obtain an application at [www.honorflightbayarea.org](http://www.honorflightbayarea.org). Or, if you just want to volunteer to help Honor Flight Bay Area with the logistics and work required to organize each flight, an application for volunteers is available at the Web site.

A huge thank you to Post 419 and to all of the members and volunteers who have helped to make our honor flights a success.

I look forward to everyone's continued support for our 2020 honor flights and to working together to safeguard our veterans and communities at large.

Don Newton

Co-Founder and Director, Honor Flight Bay Area Foundation



*The American Legion Auxiliary is the world's largest women's patriotic service organization.*

**MESSAGE FROM MAGGIE:** Click [video](#) or <https://share.vidyard.com/watch/wXsfOuHbpB2Mc6ZSmA7HVo> If you can't get the video, read the transcript below [brackets show text that was slightly edited for newsletter].

Hello Dear Friends

Together we are facing a truly unprecedented situation. The global corona virus pandemic is affecting all of our families, our communities and our way of life.

I'm Maggie Ahern, American Legion Auxiliary Santa Clara unit 419 President. And this is Charlie, my little 4 month old, and also a member of the Squadron 419 Sons of the American Legion.

During this time I want to reach out to first say that my heart goes out to all of our members who are being impacted. I lift you up with prayer that together we can stay home, stay healthy, and get past this time of uncertainty.

If you feel that you would like to just chat with someone, our unit officers are here for you. Me personally, we love Facetime and would be happy to check in with our members. If you would like, my cell phone is (909) 731 4309 and would love to chat. [For other officers, see below Contact Us – 419 Cares.]

Next, I will share some helpful information. We have moved our April 8th membership meeting to an online platform (Zoom.com) and will be hosting this meeting digitally. [This will be an “e-meeting” and you can participate by phone or computer, more details below.]

If you are local in the Santa Clara, San Jose area, and are in need of getting some essential items, please reach out to us. I would not want our mission of helping veterans, serving our community, and our devotion to mutual helpfulness to stop during this time when some need it most. So our unit email is [alaunit419santaclarara@gmail.com](mailto:alaunit419santaclarara@gmail.com).

Last, I want to ask for your support. Our Unit 419 is so close to our annual membership goal for 2020, so consider the gift of membership for your daughter, granddaughter, mother, sister or spouse of an eligible Veteran. Annual dues are only \$5 for juniors and \$30 for adult members. You can contact our amazing chairwoman, Maydean Grundstrom, at (408) 732-5257.

God bless you and your loved ones. Please stay safe and healthy and remember to take care of each other. Thank you for watching. We thought our video today would be a little cheerier than a plain email. Take care, everyone. We love you. Bye bye.

#### **CONTACT US – 419 CARES**

- American Legion Auxiliary Santa Clara Unit 419: [ALAunit419santaclarara@gmail.com](mailto:ALAunit419santaclarara@gmail.com)
- Maggie Taylor, President, (909) 731-4309, [maggietailor8@gmail.com](mailto:maggietailor8@gmail.com)
- Maydean Grundstrom, Membership Chair (408) 732-5257, [megefg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:megefg@sbcglobal.net)
- Cindy Newman, Treasurer, (650) 219-1041, [cnewman419@yahoo.com](mailto:cnewman419@yahoo.com)
- Linda McHaffie, Treasurer (408) 247-4746, [earlmchaffie@gmail.com](mailto:earlmchaffie@gmail.com)

## ***Auxiliary Report Continued:***

### **MEMBERSHIP E-MEETING APRIL 8 – BY PHONE OR COMPUTER**

Our next membership meeting is April 8. We will have an “e-meeting” through [www.Zoom.com](http://www.Zoom.com). You can join us by using your home phone, computer, smartphone, or tablet/ipad, **but we need to know who wants to participate so we can send you the video link or phone number.** Maggie will launch the Zoom program at 6 p.m. to help with any technical difficulties so that we can start business at 7 p.m. There is no cost to you and no need to provide personal info. Contact me for instructions on how to connect with us on April 8 and give us your email or phone number. Stay Safe, Stay Well, Stay Home! -- Cindy Newman, Treasurer, (650) 219-1041, [cnewman419@yahoo.com](mailto:cnewman419@yahoo.com)

### **HELP US MEET MEMBERSHIP GOAL – GIVE A GIFT OF MEMBERSHIP!**

We are so close . . . **We need a FEW more members to make goal by April 30th!** Consider a gift of membership for a daughter, granddaughter, mother, sister or spouse of an eligible Veteran. Members may be as active as they like—no pressure!

**Annual dues are only \$5 for juniors** and \$30 for adult members. Female Veterans may also join the Auxiliary as a dual member of the Legion, and their first year membership dues are on us! Spouses of female Vets are also accepted now. Membership benefits include [scholarship opportunities](#) and member discounts on computers, travel, entertainment, tickets, and a variety of products and services. Contact Maydean Grundstrom, Membership Chair for questions, forms, membership perks (discounts), and more **no later than April 30th.**

### **NEW CALENDAR - PROFILES OF NEW MEMBERS - THE NEXT 100 YEARS**

Stay-tuned for a calendar featuring new Junior members (with Mom and Dad’s permission of course) and our "Golden Girls" long-time members. Just as we were finishing our first 100 years, the health crisis hit, so now might be a good time to do a mash up of the advice from our Golden Girls with the sparkle and dreams of our new Junior members. Let Cindy Newman know if you are interested in having a Junior or Senior member in this calendar "The Next 100 Years."

## **American Legion Auxiliary Member Perks**

Watch our welcome video to discover thousands of ways to start saving today!

**Membership Benefits** - Here is a screen shot that quickly summarizes membership benefits.

Also, don't forget to check out **scholarships** at <https://www.calegionaux.org/scholarships>



# 2020 Calendar of Events

Host	Event	Date
Legion	First Sunday Breakfast	Sunday Apr 5, 2020 9 - 11am <b>Cancelled</b>
SAL	Socks for Vets	Sat Apr 11, 2020 <b>Cancelled</b>
Legion	Girl's State Orientation	Tuesday Apr 21, 2020 <b>Cancelled</b>
Legion	Delegate's Fundraiser Dinner	Friday Apr 24, 2020 <b>Cancelled</b>
Legion	First Sunday Breakfast Mother's Day	May 3, 2020 9 - 11am <b>Cancelled</b>
SAL	Rib Feed	Saturday May 16, 2020 <b>Cancelled</b>
Legion Aux SAL	Installation Dinner	Friday May 29, 2020 <b>Cancelled</b>
Legion	First Sunday Breakfast Father's Day	Sunday June 7, 2020 9 - 11am <b>Cancelled</b>
Legion	Annual Car Show	Saturday June 13, 2020 <b>Cancelled</b>
Legion	First Sunday Breakfast	Sunday July 5, 2020 9 - 11am
Legion	First Sunday Breakfast	Sunday Aug 2, 2020 9 - 11am
Legion	First Sunday Breakfast	Sept 6, 2020 9 - 11am
Legion	Surf City Dinner/Dance	Saturday Sept 26, 2020
SAL	First Sunday Breakfast	Sunday Oct 4, 2020 9 - 11am
Legion	Halloween Dinner/Dance	Sat Oct 31, 2020
Aux	First Sunday Breakfast	Nov 1, 2020 9 - 11am
Legion	Annual Craft Faire	Saturday Nov 7, 2020
Legion	Veterans Day	Wednesday, Nov 11, 2020
Legion Aux SAL	Thanks for Giving Dinner	Thursday Nov 19, 2020
SAL	First Sunday Breakfast	Sunday Dec 6, 2020 9 - 11am
Legion	Legion Family Christmas Dinner/Dance	Saturday Dec 12, 2020
Aux	New Years Eve Party	Thursday Dec 31, 2020

