



Veterans Helping Veterans & Serving the Community Since 1932

Issue 1-34

958 Homestead Rd, Santa Clara CA 95050

July 2020

## Commander's Corner

As your 2020-21 Commander, I want to welcome you to a new year. Yes, July is the beginning of the Legion year. Whatever has, is, or will be sent against us, the Post will overcome as we have done for nearly 90 years.

I want to thank Al Wong for his leadership for the past several years in his many positions. Also, Stan Ferro is finally giving up his position as 2<sup>nd</sup> vice. I know all the past officers are working to make sure the post continues to help veterans and their families in Santa Clara.

Your Post has started an opening committee to try and determine what we will need to meet County requirements to open. We are looking forward to seeing all of you at post function soon.

At this time the only functions we are working to hold is the August Sunday breakfast and the Craft faire. If we must place tables in the parking lot we can do that. Watch for more news and be ready to volunteer for the extra work.

State and National conventions have been cancelled. National officers will remain for another year and new State officers will be elected somehow.

Post 419 will be writing new by-laws to include changes so that if this emergency continues, or for the next one, we will have written guidelines to follow.

We have cut expenses to the core. We are installing Solar Panels thru a Grant and a new roof with a loan that has its first payment due Nov 2021. A few donations have also assisted in our staying above water. With Gods help we hope that you all stay well. Let's pray that we can get through these current woes and make Post 419 and the American Legion greater for the next 100 years, as we have for the past 90 and 100 years.

I will do my best to support you during the coming year. These times, too, will end.

Ralph Jacob

Post Commander

## Adjutants Report

The Post membership meeting will be held via **ZOOM** on July 1, 2020 @ 4:00 pm. Please join us by logging into ZOOM using this link.

**Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:** [Join our Cloud HD Video Meeting.](#)

Gene Grundstrom

Adjutant Post 419

## Chaplin's Report

Douglas Allen passed away in June of this year. Doug was a U.S. Marine Corp veteran of the Korean War and a 30 year member of Post 419. Our Condolences go out to Allen family and friends.

Thomas D Dietz passed away in June. Tom was a U.S. Navy veteran of WWII and a 14year member of the Legion. Tom transferred from Post 1000 to Post 419 in 2008. Our Condolences go out to Tom's family and friends.

Gilbert Rodriguez passed away in May of this year. Gilbert joined the American Legion Post 419 in February, Gilbert was a U.S. Army veteran of the Korean War. Our Condolences go out to Gilbert's Family and friends.



## **Santa Clara Unit 419 Newsletter July 2020**

### **Message from New President Cheryl Rafferty**

Let me start by saying how blessed I feel to serve as Unit 419 President, and I will do my best to represent you well.

My vision for 2020-21 is to support, encourage, and strengthen our Unit 419 and support the ENTIRE Legion Family, so we can continue to make a positive impact in our community. The knowledge and passion that exists amongst our members is incredible — I hope to tap into your individual skills or interests and organize meaningful and innovative activities.

Two main areas that I want to focus on this upcoming year are membership and events:

**Membership:** I would love to hear any ideas on how we can remain vibrant as a unit to attract new members and keep our current members engaged and involved.

**(Safe and Fun) Events:** With new health regulations, our events and fundraisers may need to change or be transformed to help protect our participants' health and well-being. We would love to explore new approaches and event types that can help us all stay happy and healthy while allowing us to give back to our veterans and community.

Post 419 is literally my family, and I am proud to honor Gene Grundstrom's (my dad) service through my service as your Unit 419 President.

*Ready to serve,*

*Cheryl*

### **Message from Past President Maggie Taylor Aherne (and the new 1<sup>st</sup> Vice)**

It has been an absolute honor to serve as your Unit 419 President for the past two years. I thank every single member for your support and membership to our amazing tribe of volunteers. It was a privilege to work side-by-side with members from our Santa Clara unit and the entire Post 419 family to organize and support meaningful programs for our veterans and community.

This year marked 100 years for the ALA and ushered in new membership rules for all military spouses and opened up membership to recognize ALL wars. Many of us join the ALA to honor the service of those we love; for me, it is to honor my dad (Navy - Vietnam) and both my maternal and paternal grandfathers (Navy - WWII). With new challenges facing our world, I am encouraged with the growth we have seen in our unit and know that we will continue to be a beacon of support for our active military, veterans, and their families.

A heartfelt thank you to our officers and committee chairs that served with me, our Post 419 commander, and the entire American Legion family. Without your dedication, we would not be able to make such a significant impact on our service goals. I hope to continue my efforts of service by supporting our new incoming unit president, Cheryl, and know that leadership, compassion, and love for Post 419 is literally in her DNA!

*Wear a mask, stay safe, and God Bless,*

*Maggie Taylor Aherne*

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## Girls State News

Due to COVID-19, Girls State was not held in person. Instead, on June 22nd, our selected delegates participated in the ALA California Girls State *Digital* Town Hall: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O6DawNWRwRk> (fast forward to the 20-minute mark to watch). Maggie will report out on how it went at our July meeting. Maggie selected Girls State Delegates from seven schools. Many thanks to Los Altos Post 558 and Palo Alto Post 375 for financial assistance with six of the schools in their areas. Congratulations to our Girls State Delegates:

- The Harker School — Sophia Horng
- Mission Early College HS — Zoya Meydbray-Gonodanova
- Los Altos HS — Abigail Hagan
- Mountain View HS — Janya Sundar
- Saint Francis HS — Jamie Minden
- Kehillah Jewish HS — Laila Kleinberg

Palo Alto HS — Hailey Hwang

## Membership E-Meeting from Home – July 8, 2020

Our next E-meeting is July 8<sup>th</sup> with social time at 6:30 p.m. and meeting start at 7 p.m. Join us by home phone, computer, smartphone, or tablet/ipad. There is no cost to you and no need to provide personal info, thanks to Maggie's employer Kickfire. The Zoom meeting details are below. Maggie & Cindy are tech support – see contacts below.

### Join Zoom Meeting:

By Phone: 1-408-638-0968

By Computer (click on link below): <https://kickfire.zoom.us/j/799421628?pwd=VStWQXY0L1FNRzI2RFdLdkZFVStUUT09>

**Meeting ID:** 799 421 628

**Password:** 4192020

## CONTACT US – 419 CARES

American Legion Auxiliary Santa Clara Unit 419: [ALAunit419santaclara@gmail.com](mailto:ALAunit419santaclara@gmail.com)

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Cindy Newman, Treasurer, Past President, and Zoom Help, (650) 219-1041\*, [cnewman419@yahoo.com](mailto:cnewman419@yahoo.com)

Maydean Grundstrom, Membership Chair (408) 732-5257, [megefg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:megefg@sbcglobal.net)

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\*texts okay

Newsletter prepared by Cindy Newman, Treasurer and Past President



No report was submitted for July

# 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**

**All 2020 flights have been cancelled. Stay tuned for 2021 schedule.**

**ALERT — COVID-19.** The continued public health situation requires the cancelling of all 2020 flights. Honor Flight Bay Area is planning to schedule flights in 2021. For those veterans who have already submitted applications, please follow updates on the Honor Flight Web site and join us on FaceBook.

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

# 2020 Calendar of Events

Host	Event	Date
Legion	First Sunday Breakfast	Sunday July 5, 2020 <b>Cancelled</b>
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
Legion	First Sunday Breakfast	Sunday January 3 2021 9 - 11am
Legion	First Sunday Breakfast	Sunday February 7 2021 9 - 11am

## 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).

