

AMERICAN LEGION POST 419 REVEILLE

Veterans Helping Veterans & Serving the Community Since 1932

Issue 1-23

958 Homestead Rd., Santa Clara, CA 95050

August 2019

FROM THE EDITOR

Hello Post 419:

As usual, we have a jam-packed *Reveille*. There are good reports on Post activities so you may continue to be kept current as a member of Post 419. See Gene Grundstrom's Special Report on National Legion news. Take special note of the story of "Romy" in our Commander's Corner. Commander Wong tells in a compelling way. Rick Gundo's Car Show Report is great!

We have begun a new fiscal year. Our officers believe this fiscal year will be our greatest. The Post will continue to provide wonderful benefits to our members and other veterans, and veterans' organizations in the area.

If you have news not readily available to our members that would be appropriate to publish in the *Reveille*, send it to disbrep@gmail.com for consideration.

Best regards,

Mel Irvin, Publisher

COMMANDER'S CORNER:

DreamPower Horsemanship – Monday, June 17th – as you know from last month's newsletter, the SAL Squadron Commander, Jim Hoogesteger and I, delivered a monetary donation to DreamPower Horsemanship. After a short visit and a quick look around, we fed the horses apples and counted our fingers. The staff invited Squadron 419 to have their monthly meeting at the ranch and afterwards they will give us driving lessons. Driving, as in "carriage with single horse power". Who knows, you could be so good at it that you may want to volunteer as a Driving Instructor for the veteran's program. Come to the SAL membership meeting and voice your opinion. There is more information on DreamPower at 'www.dreampowerhorsemanship.com' or Facebook: 'DreamPower Horsemanship'.

Honor Flight # 21 Reunion, Sunday, June 23rd, I finally attended my first Honor Flight Reunion. I did not do much except to clean up a bit and put things away. It was enjoyable listening to the veterans talk about their experiences on the trip with some misadventures. I guess it doesn't matter how old they are, wise guys just don't change in age. They were very grateful for the opportunity to participate in this program.

The president of the Honor Flight Bay Area Foundation, Carl Steward gave Post 419 a Certificate of Appreciation for the Post's Dedicated and Outstanding Services to the program.

Anyone interested in learning more about this program or want to sit in and/or volunteer, just let us know.

(Continued on Page 2)

VA Menlo Park – On Tuesday, July 4th, I attended the Holiday Celebration at the Menlo Park facility of the VA. This is an event that I have never attended in the past. I thought I would attend briefly and be off to a 4th of July BBQ in San Jose.

I knew that we did not need too many people staffing the game booth. As I slowly walked from one end of the game area to the other end in 30 seconds, I knew it was time to go to my BBQ party. But before I could make my get away, a nurse wheeling a patient asked me to stay with him for a while. His name was Romy and the nurse said, "he does what he wants and nobody tells him what to do". In a little while the nurse returned and asked me to stay with him for the rest of the event. Romy just wanted to stay in the shade and I wanted him to play some games. The first booth was a spinning wheel, he refused to spin and told me he didn't like gambling (?). I wheeled him to the next booth to toss bean bags. This time he did and won a small pouch. He was so happy, now he has a place to hide his cigarettes. The next booth was our Post 419 bean bag toss, and there he won a small note book which he placed in the pouch. He did very well and earned a rest in the shade under the trees.

We were resting behind some buildings about 30 yards away when we saw some activities and we both agreed to go and investigate. Now, how good can this be, a live band was getting ready to perform. He and I just rocked and rolled till lunch time. I cut up his food in bite size portions as instructed by the nurse. When the band returned we rocked and rolled to the end of the event.

Most of the patients there were not like Romy. They were more limited in movement and articulation. Some were confined on a gurney with only eye movement. I only spent 3 hours in their environment but they are there for a life time. I was asked to help because there was not enough volunteers. Maybe, next 4th of July, more of our members can give 3 hours to these veterans.

Event Committee – Tuesday, July 9th – the officers of the Legion Family met and set the event dates for calendar year 2020.

Here are changes made to our calendar by the Event Committee:

Auxiliary—The Auxiliary's February 2020 'Sadie Hawkins dinner/dance' will be eliminated and may be replaced with a family event (to be determined).

SAL—April 'Sock Hop' will be renamed to 'Socks for Vets', Any quests on why?

SAL— Will also work on a family event for July 2020 (to be determined)

POST—Will work on a family event for August 2020 (to be determined)

HAVE A GREAT REMAINDER OF SUMMER!

Al Wong
Post Commander



Chaplain's Report:



Chaplain Services

We have been notified that the following Post 419 members have transferred to Post Everlasting:

| | | | |
|--------------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Homer Perez | 17 years in AL | war era Vietnam | service unknown |
| George Daissson | 6 year in AL | war era unknown | service unknown |
| John Figueria | 59 years in AL | war era Korea | service US Navy |
| Frank (Poncho) Caballero | 27 years in AL | war era Vietnam | service US Army |

District 13 Color Guard (D13CG)

The District 13 Honor Guard attended the services of Frank and John and rendered Military honors.

Respectfully submitted,

Gene Grundstrom

Adjutant Post 419 and Acting Chaplain

Special Report by Gene Grundstrom, Post Adjutant

LEGION Act signed into law
The American Legion
July 30, 2019

In a significant legislative victory for The American Legion, President Trump signed a bill July 30 that declares the United States has been in a state of war since Dec. 7, 1941. The American Legion sought the declaration as a way to honor approximately 1,600 U.S. servicemembers who were killed or wounded during previously undeclared periods of war. The LEGION Act (Let Everyone Get Involved In Opportunities for National Service Act) also opens the door for approximately 6 million [veterans](#) to access American Legion programs and [benefits](#) for which they previously had not been eligible.

“Recognizing the service of these wartime veterans is the right thing to do and it is long overdue,” National Commander Brett Reistad said. “The families of those who were killed or wounded during these wartime acts should take pride in knowing that we recognize their sacrifice and service. Moreover, we are proud to welcome any of the six million living veterans from the previously unrecognized periods into our organization and call them ‘Legionnaires.’”

Now that the legislation has been signed, The American Legion’s eligibility criteria immediately changes from seven war eras to two: April 6, 1917, to Nov. 11, 1918, and Dec. 7, 1941 to a time later determined by the federal government. No other restrictions to American Legion membership are changed.

The law’s journey began on Feb. 14 when Sen. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., introduced S. 504, along with Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C. A companion measure, H.R. 1641, was introduced in the House by Reps. Lou Correa, D-Calif., and Ben Cline, R-Va.

Reistad expressed gratitude to the bipartisan members of Congress for passing the legislation.

“We are grateful that President Trump fully acknowledges the importance of The American Legion by signing the LEGION Act in the White [House](#) today – just one week after it passed the House of Representatives,” Reistad said. “In an era of partisan gridlock, Republicans and Democrats in Congress overwhelmingly recognized the importance of allowing thousands of honorable but previously ineligible veterans the right to [join](#) the largest and most influential veterans organization in the country.”

Reistad pointed out that existing American Legion [membership](#) applications are in the process of being updated but can still be used. “In the meantime, I recommend that prospective Legionnaires and recruiters write ‘LEGION Act’ in the eligibility date section of American Legion membership applications if they fall outside the previous war eras,” Reistad said. “The larger pool of veterans now eligible for The American Legion will also open their family members to eligibility in the Sons of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary as well.”

Car Show Report by Rick Gundo, Event Coordinator

This report is to inform you of the final results of the 2019 Annual Car Show held at Post 419 on Saturday, June 8, 2019.

This year we cleared \$8,081.64, which will again be donated to selected non-profit organizations. We had a total of 86 vehicles registered for the Car Show with only 76 actually arriving on the day of the show. Of the 86 vehicles, 10 were drive-ups registering the day of the Show. A target of 75 vehicles was our goal so it all worked out with a full street and parking lot. We certainly thank all participants for joining us this year. I would say that approximately 90% of all participants are repeats from past years, which makes for a good following and speaks a lot for our Show and what we provide. As stated by one participant, "It feels like a real community here today, small and intimate where one can socialize with others and doesn't have to walk across some open dirt field to get to the amenities, food, etc."

I would like to recognize all of our volunteers who helped make this a successful event and who are also mostly repeat volunteers. As we all know, three fundraisers require many volunteers and we want to send out a huge "THANK YOU" to all who participated this year.

I'd like to recognize the following personnel in no specific order for their support and hopefully I didn't leave anyone out; Bonnie Gundo, Al Wong, Don Brown, Marty McCormick, Stan Ferro, Kevin Walters, Kirk McClelland, Armondo Reallyvasquez, Paul Rivera, Rich Souza, Leo DeSilva, John Boyles, Steve Villegas, John Quinn, Diana Quinn, Louie Borg, Frances Borg, Gene Venechanos, Ralph Jacob, Ray Valdez, Gene Grundstrom, Maydean Grundstrom, Linda McHaffie, Rich Frazier, Mary Frazier, Grace, JoAnn, Terry Alameda, Andre Rivera, Mary Rivera, Ken Tunnel, Tom Freeman, Forrest O'Brian and Jeff Driskell.

There were many nice Lucky Drawing gifts, Silent Auction and Live Auction items, which all contributed to the bottom line, so many thanks to all who participated in the creation, donation or purchasing of these items.

This year we played CDs for music due to the band breakup and our participants all agreed that it was great for having a variety of music to listen too.

The food was also great and provided by our efficient kitchen staff and cooks at the BBQ Grill. Good BBQ chicken, linguisa sandwiches, and baked beans. No one went hungry.

Setup and takedown of the event went very well again and we appreciate everyone's help considering it was such a long day.

So in conclusion, I personally wish to thank you all for your support towards the 2019 Car Show. It's all about Veterans Helping Veterans, our active military and their families and the local community.

Regards,

Rick Gundo

Event Coordinator



SONS OF THE LEGION

UNIT 419



Another month has gone by, time to get in your membership renewals. The SONS have been offered to the opportunity to hold one of our upcoming meetings at Dreampower Horsemanship. After the meeting, Dreampower will give all who attend, free horse cart lessons. Of course this will be during the day. Consideration and a response will be brought to a vote at our next meeting on August 1st. This kind offer is a thank you for supporting Dreampower for the past two years.

Until next month, God bless and take care,

In Service,

Jim Hoogesteger

Commander



American Legion
Auxiliary

UNIT 419



Happy Summer Time everyone!

In the months of June and July, our auxiliary volunteers have been busy all across California with the Post Car Show Jewelry Sale, Department Convention, Girls State, 4th of July Carnival at Menlo Park VA Hospital, and many other great opportunities to support our veterans and ALA programs.

We would like to extend a huge thank you to the Legion for granting us the ability to host our annual Jewelry Sale at the June Car Show and helping us with table and location setup!

Three main announcements:

If you have knowledge of a local veteran or local veterans service in need of immediate support (via financially or other means), please notify our Unit 419 Auxiliary at alaunit419santaclara@gmail.com.

We still have the position of 2nd Vice vacant and are looking for an interested Auxiliary member. If interested, please come to our next unit meeting on Wednesday, August 14th @ 7pm.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS – Annual Halloween Dinner Dance and Costume Contest will be held on Saturday, October 26th.

Blessings to all of our veterans, Auxiliary members, your families and our active service members.

In service not self,
Maggie Taylor Aherne
ALA Unit 419 President

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2019 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

| | | |
|----------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Legion | Spirit of '45 | August 2019-To be announced |
| Legion | First Sunday Breakfast | Sunday-August 4, 2019-9-11am |
| Legion | Post Membership Meeting | Wednesday-August 7, 2019-7pm |
| SAL | SON's Membership Meeting | Thursday-August 8-7pm |
| Auxiliary | Auxiliary Unit 419 Membership Meeting | Wednesday-August 14, 2019-7pm |
| Legion | Santa Clara Parade of Champions | September-To be announced |
| Legion | Honor Flight Number 22 | September 12-14, 2019 |
| SAL | Surf City Dinner Dance | Friday-September 14, 2019 |
| Legion | Honor Flight Number 23 | October 17-19, 2019 |
| Auxiliary | Halloween Dinner Dance | Saturday-October 26, 2019 |
| Legion | Veterans Craft Faire | Saturday-November 9, 2019 |
| Legion | San Jose Veterans Day Parade | Monday-November 11, 2019 |
| SAL | Thanks for Giving | Thursday-Nov. 21, 2019-5-9pm |
| Legion-Aux-SAL | Legion Family Christmas Party | Saturday-Dec. 7, 2019-5-10pm |
| Auxiliary | New Years Eve Day Party | Tuesday-Dec. 31, 2019-12-5pm |

The Reveille



2020 Calendar of Events-Page One (1) of Two (2)

| | | |
|----------------|--|----------------------------|
| Legion | First Sunday Breakfast | Sunday Jan 5, 2020-9-11am |
| Legion | Annual Crab Feed | Saturday Jan 25, 2020 |
| Legion | First Sunday Breakfast | Sunday Feb 2, 2020 9-11am |
| Legion | First Sunday Breakfast | Sunday Mar 1, 2020 9-11am |
| Legion | St Patrick's Dinner/Dance | Saturday Mar 14, 2020 |
| Legion | First Sunday Breakfast | Sunday Apr 5, 2020 9-11am |
| SAL | Socks for Vets | Sat Apr 18, 2020 |
| Legion | Girl's State Orientation | Tuesday Apr 21, 2020 |
| Legion | Delegate's Fundraiser Dinner | Friday Apr 24. 2020 |
| Legion | First Sunday Breakfast-Mother's Day | May 3, 2020 9-11am |
| SAL | Rib Feed | Saturday May 16, 2020 |
| Legion-Aux-SAL | Installation Dinner | Friday May 29, 2020 |
| Legion | First Sunday Breakfast-Father's Day | Sunday June 7, 2020 9-11am |
| Legion | Annual Car Show | Saturday June 13, 2020 |
| 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 |

The Reveille



2020 Calendar of Events-Page Two (2) of Two (2)

| | | |
|----------------|---|----------------------------|
| Legion | First Sunday Breakfast | Sunday Sept 6, 2020 9-11am |
| SAL | Surf City Dinner/Dance | Saturday Sept 26, 2020 |
| Legion | First Sunday Breakfast | Sunday Oct 4, 2020 9-11am |
| Aux | Halloween Dinner/Dance | Sat Oct 31, 2020 |
| Legion | First Sunday Breakfast | Nov 1, 2020 9-11am |
| Legion | Annual Craft Faire | Saturday Nov 7, 2020 |
| Legion-Aux-SAL | Veterans Day | Wednesday, Nov 11, 2020 |
| SAL | Thanks for Giving Dinner | Thursday Nov 19, 2020 |
| Legion | 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 31, 2020 |

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

AT-A-GLANCE

UPCOMING POST EVENTS & MEETINGS FOR AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2019

- Aug—Spirit of ‘45-date to be announced
- Aug 4—First Sunday Breakfast 9:00-11:00 AM
- Aug 7—Post Membership Meeting— 7:00 PM
- Aug 8—SON’s Membership Meeting—7:00 PM
- Aug 14—Auxiliary Unit 419 Membership Meeting 7:00 PM
- Sept—Santa Clara Parade of Champions-date to be determined
- Sept 12-14—Honor Flight No. 22
- Sept 14-Surf City Dinner/Dance



Honor Flight Bay Area Foundation

Honor Flight Bay Area Foundation, an authorized affiliate of The Honor Flight Network. If you are a WWII, Korean War or Vietnam War veteran who has NOT had the opportunity to visit your national memorial in Washington, D.C., please contact us. This is an all expense paid trip for WWII, Korean War and Vietnam War veterans.

2019 Flight Dates:

| Flt # | Orientation Date | Trip Date | Reunion Date |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------|
| <u>Trip Leaders (TBD)</u> | | | |
| 22 | Aug 25, 27* | Sep 12-14 | Sep 29 |
| 23 | Oct 6, 8* | Oct 17-19 | Oct 27 |

* Citrus Heights orientation at Rosie’s Country Kitchen



NEED A BANQUET FACILITY FOR YOUR SPECIAL CELEBRATION OR MEETING?

The Post’s banquet facility is available for rent to members and the public. The facility can comfortably seat up to 200 people. The banquet room is equipped with a stage, full service bar and an adjoining kitchen. For complete details call Paul Rivera at 408-244-3050

Stop by and see what we have to offer.

We are located at 958 Homestead Rd., Santa Clara, CA 95050.

Contact Information

Visit our Web site for details or you may contact us at:
Honor Flight Bay Area Foundation
Office: 408-925-1999
E-mail: admin@honorflightbayarea.org

If you haven’t submitted an application, please do not hesitate to do so. We are accepting applications for our 2019 travel year. Details are available on our Web site or by calling or emailing us. Don’t hesitate to participate in this trip of a life time.

Applications

Be sure to send in your application.

Applications for Veterans, guardians and volunteers are available on line at www.honorflightbayarea.org.

Guardians are volunteers who pay their own way to accompany the Veterans and provide personal assistance throughout the trip.

Local assistance in applying for trips is available by contacting Honor Flight Bay Area Foundation.