

AMERICAN LEGION POST 419 REVEILLE

Veterans Helping Veterans & Serving the Community Since 1932

Issue 1-64

958 Homestead Road, Santa Clara CA 95050

January 2023

HAPPY NEW YEAR

As we start a new year I want to thank all who attended the Christmas Party. A great time was had by all. I want to thank the kitchen crew and those who decorated and cleaned up. I also want to apologize to Linda Mc Haffie and Loren Marmet. I have known both of these good people for over 20 years and had talked to them earlier in the evening, but when I was introducing them before our Memorial service I forgot their names. And nearly forgot Pat Manley.

This months Breakfast is the 8th, all the other fixins. 9am to 11am. Come early and spend time meeting your neighbors.

New Years Party was on Saturday the 31st in the afternoon. I am sure those who attended were treated to a good time. This is a special New Year's Eve party for the community and especially Senior's who still love to get out and have a good meal and dancing in the New Year, but no longer stay up late or drive late at night.

Don't be afraid to volunteer a few hours at the post. Honor Guard, Honor Flight, clipping the plants in the yard. Just volunteer. I wrote that last line for last months bulletin it is even more important for this month.

Marty McCormick has served as Finance Officer off and on for nearly 10 years, He has finally found and is working with his relief Mike Roosevelt and a new accounting firm. Gene Grundstrom has also served for a long time as Adjutant doing a yeoman's job at keeping the Post running despite the failings of all the Commanders he has worked with. I want to give both of them a very heart felt THANK YOU.

My reasons for pointing both of these men out is that we are not getting younger. All post positions, but especially these two, are the glue that keeps us going forward. Please volunteer to work with them and learn these positions and keep us going for the next 90 years.

Those that work the yard, kitchen, and club room I also want to thank you and ask for more help for you.

These are my last 6 months as your Commander. Richard Peralez has agreed to move up to Commander next year but we need others to fill Post position. Think about serving in an office or on the exec board. Nominations and elections will be held in April and May keep an open mind.

I want to welcome the Marine Corp League who will be holding their meetings at Post 419 beginning this month. Semper Fi. Check the schedule for all upcoming events.

See you at the meeting 4 Jan at 7 pm. We will welcoming new members and a surprise finish. Take an hour to join us.

Have a good month

Ralph Jacob, Commander



AMERICAN LEGION ADJUTANT

Adjutant Report

As it has been said by others, I too hope for a much better 2023 New Year for all. Our renewal of members for the 2023 year has been as expected. We currently have 295 renewed members however our goal is 387. This is significantly lower than last years goal of 447. We still have an opportunity to reach this years goal. If you have not renewed by Jan 1, 2023 your membership will be considered as delinquent, and suspended on Jan 31, 2023. This means you will not have any American Legion privileges.

Please go online or mail in your dues to the post and I will forward your membership card to you. Our dues are still only \$45. I am excited about an influx of new members which will not only help our numbers but also help our actives and volunteer and hopefully our leadership. The MyLegion database show that we have 99 members who have NOT renewed for 2023.

I have asked in the past WHY a member, especially one who has been a member for a lot of years chooses not to renew and not to take part in serving our veterans and the Post. I am still waiting for an answer TO the question. WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP YOU BECOME AN ACTIVE INVOLVED MEMBER TO THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 419?

Gene Grundstrom Adjutant

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Hello ALA Unit 419 members,

Hope your holidays were joyful and merry. Our New Years Eve Party is on Saturday and I am writing to you for three things:

Our passionate ticket seller, Frances Borg, was unable to attend NYE party with Louie because they are dealing with some health issues within their family. Frances wanted me to share that she is doing fine but will be sad she can't join while she is taking care of her family members. I ask you all to lift the Borg family up in prayer, as well as any other Legion family members struggling with health this holiday season. Even with everything going on, Frances was able to sell our event tickets (with help from Gene G.).

A small group of volunteers met, Friday 12/30 @ 4:30pm at the post for setup. They did an outstanding job decorating the hall for the occasion.

If you attended the NYE Dinner/Dance thank you for your support. It was a great function, I was informed that we had 78 + staff in attendance.

I want to thank our chef, Brenda and her staff for the excellent meal and Island Wave for a great evening of dance music.

Even with the BAD weather it was great to see so many of your beautiful faces at the NYE party.

Happy New Years friends,

Maggie Taylor Aherne
ALA Unit 419 President 2022-23
909-731-4309

AMERICAN LEGION SONS

Greetings to all

2022 was an OK year for the Squadron, our ending for our Toys for Tots drive was very well supported. We, as a family contributed 11 boxes of toys. Thank you all for supporting this program.

Membership continues as it has in the past. For those of you who haven't renewed you are now considered delinquent. To make things a bit easier for you, an idea from Detachment is for members to just submit the per capita, (the amount we must send to the Detachment and National offices) for each member, which is \$11.00. We aren't the only squadron with membership issues.

Boys state is once again creeping upon us and we will be supporting this program. We will see how this year plays out across the state.

Now for the new year, our first year's event will be in the month of April and being scheduled for the 22. The theme will be Socks for Vets, dinner/dance, and as you can guess – bring a per of new socks which we will donate to veterans. Main courses will be Ribs with all the fixins. Price will be \$25.00 per person. So, start making your plans. Remember that you will be needing to make reservations and that information will be on the flyers with all needed information. The flyer will be made available at the March 1st Sunday breakfast.

As a reminder, our monthly meetings are on the 1st Thursday of the month at 7pm. We, would love to see you there and help us discuss things and what we can do to improve.

Steve Villegas

Squadron Adjutant

<https://www.legion.org/sons>



Boxes full of Toys 4 Tots were donated for the 2022 Christmas distribution by the SONs Squadron 419, Post 419 and Unit 419 plus friends of Post 419 family. Below are photo from three out of four trips to the Marine Corp Reserve Center in San Jose



AMERICAN LEGION CHAPLAIN

May your Holiday Season be blessed. May your loved ones be happy, safe and in good spirits. May your *Light* shine bright in 2023! As we reflect back on this past month and year that was 2022, three thoughts come to mind ... A Time for Thanks, A Time for Farewells, and A Time for Progress.

A Time for Thanks

Had the privilege of participating in the retirement ceremony for Juanita Morales-Euresti, Director of the [San Jose Vet Center](#). Her efforts over the past few decades has helped many a combat Veteran acquire the treatment services to heal, recover and grow.

Had the honor of participating in a We Honor Veterans Pinning Ceremony for Mr. Alfred D. Fregosi, WWII US Navy, Okinawa theater and 109 years old! Sharp as a tack and loved pizza and donuts. Local lad from San Francisco, great sense of humor and the smile says it all!



A [We Honor Veterans](#) Pinning Ceremony was also conducted for Mr. Larry Gutierrez, US Army in San Pablo. Mr. Gutierrez, Vietnam Veteran, was surrounded by his family, friends and loved ones and was very appreciative of his Military Service recognition.

A Time for Farewells

The season of Winter marks the passage of time where we say farewell to what once was. In December, we mark the time with a [Wreaths Across America](#) ceremony and remembrance service. Along with Karen Carter, Cheryl Walsh and Gloria Cervantes, we gathered together to say words in honor of Gold Star Mother's, Father's and Families, those who rest in marked graves and the 93,129 whose last known status was either Prisoners of War or Missing in Action.



As part of Pathways Hospice, we conducted a [Celebration of Light](#) Memorial Service at Skylawn in San Mateo. There were several readings from different Faith-Based Religions and Traditions. They reflected on how *Light* is utilized as a symbol of hope for those who mourn, those managing grief and those who honor the memories of loved ones. It is in that spirit of *Light* that we acknowledge our fellow Post 419 Members who have who passed in 2022. May their souls Rest in Peace.

Eddie Arabe
Edward Franco
James Rider

Paul Blefari
Kenneth Hill
Robert Rohrer

Lois Bongers
Dennis Ikerd
Al Tortolano

George Dailey
Joseph Lopez
Robert Turner

John Felicich
Alejandro Reposar
Stan Williams



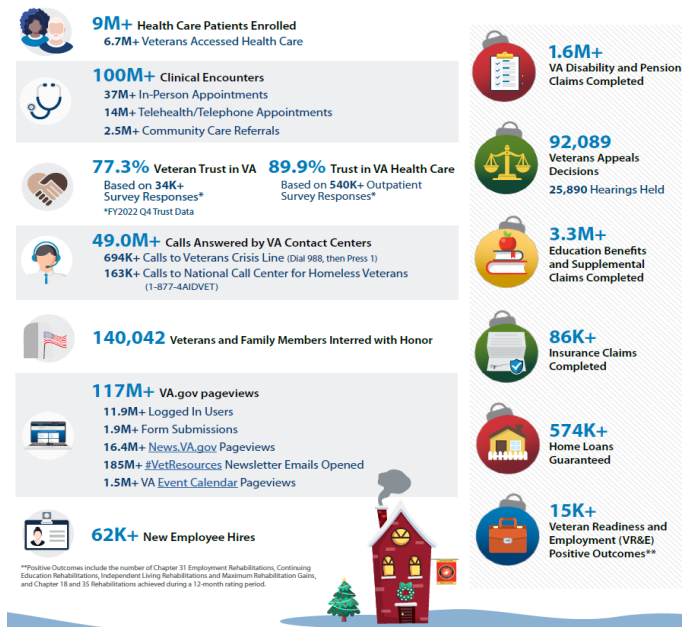
AMERICAN LEGION SERVICE OFFICER

A Time for Progress

The VA shared a few data points regarding the progress they had made in helping Veterans. The emphasis is to serve Veterans and their families, caregivers and survivors with more care and expanded access to benefits.

The 2022 [VA Summary](#) of major accomplishments provides links and additional detail regarding the focus areas and what is being done to drive down Veteran homelessness.

The fight to end Veteran suicide is starting to make an impact. The [National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report](#) was published with data highlighting Anchors of Hope. The report does indicate a decrease each year and that new programs are in place focusing on preventions and interventions.



NEWS RELEASES

VA will begin processing PACT Act benefits claims for all Veterans and survivors on Jan. 1

Dec 29, 2022 10:00 am

Veterans Benefits

The American Legion helps veterans and families understand and apply for benefits.

[BENEFITS CALCULATOR](#)

CALOVET

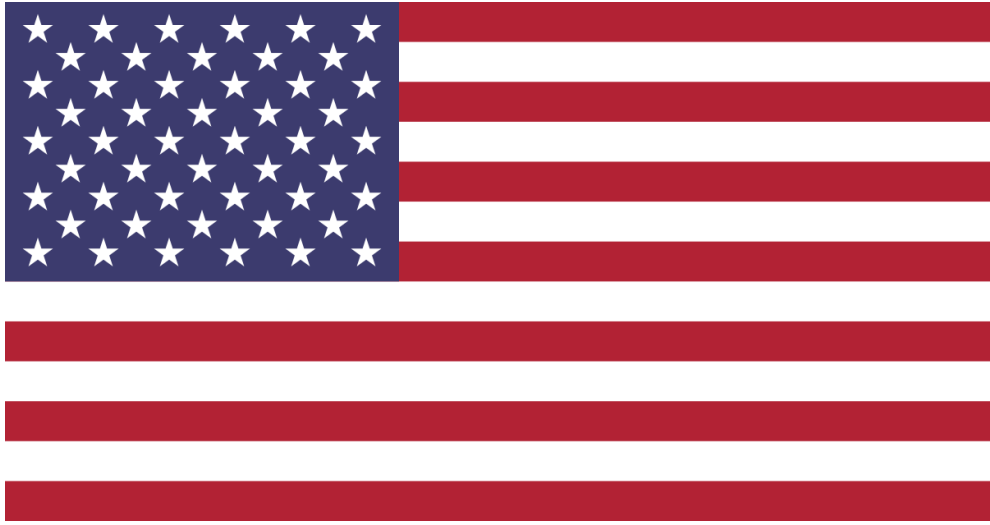
- Education
- Employment
- Healthcare
- Home Loans
- Housing
- Advocacy
- VA Claims

As we've closed out 2022 and usher in 2023, I'd like to thank one of our newest members, Commandant Gary Bondaug of the Marine Corps League. Gary reached out to me regarding a Korea War Marine Veteran (living at the Mission Skilled Nursing Center on N. Winchester) who wanted to talk to fellow Veterans regarding services. Gary was in contact with the family back East and we both went to visit the Marine Veteran, however, he was in no condition to converse. Even at moments like this, a silent prayer is said for we do not know how the day unfolds.

We planned on stopping by within a day or two to coordinate with family and the nursing home, however, upon arrival, the Veteran was resting in peace.

My hope is that our fellow Veteran who passed, somehow, someway knows that he was not forgotten or alone. We all do what we can, when we can and if grace allows, perhaps we made a difference. Thank you to Gary Bondaug for setting an example and helping a fellow Veteran. Welcome to the American Legion Post 419 family

Sunny Dosanjh, Chaplain & Service Officer



Vet to Vet Café

**All Military and Veterans are invited to share
coffee, donuts, & conversation**

At The

American Legion Post 419

958 Homestead Rd. Santa Clara, CA

Thursday Mornings - 9 am – 11 am

Welcome To 2023

Hostess, Karen Carter 408 560-6691

Sponsored by Bay Area Dignity

Every Detail Remembered™ | **Dignity®**
MEMORIAL

2022/23 Calendar of Events

| HOST | EVENT | DATE |
|------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Aux | New Years Eve Dinner/Dance | 31-Dec-22 12:00-5:00 pm |
| Post | Membership Meeting | 4-Jan-23 7:00 pm |
| SONs | Membership Meeting | 5-Jan-23 7:00 pm |
| Post | 1st Sunday Breakfast | 8-Jan-23 9:00-11:00 am |
| Aux | Membership Meeting | 11-Jan-23 7:00 pm |
| Post | Executive Meeting | 26-Jan-23 4:30pm |
| Post | Crab Feed | CANCELLED |
| Post | Membership Meeting | 1- Feb-23 7:00 pm |
| SONs | Membership Meeting | 2-Feb-23 7:00 pm |
| Post | 1st Sunday Breakfast | 5-Feb-23 9:00-11:00 am |
| Aux | Sweet Heart Dance | CANCELLED |
| Post | Executive Meeting | 23-Feb-23 4:30pm |
| Post | Membership Meeting | 1- Mar-23 7:00 pm |
| SONs | Membership Meeting | 2-Mar-23 7:00 pm |

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)

| HOST | EVENT | DATE |
|------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Post | 1st Sunday Breakfast | 5-Mar-23 9:00-11:00 am |
| Aux | Membership Meeting | 8-Mar-23 7:00 pm |
| Post | St Patrick's Dinner/Dance | 17 Mar-23 5:00 - 10:00 pm |
| Post | Executive Meeting | 30 Mar-23 4:30pm |
| Post | 1st Sunday Breakfast | 2-Apr-23 9:00-11:00 am |

To get a complete listing of Rental and Post activities dates please go to the

Post Website <https://alpost419ca.org/> check under Event Calendar and Rentals - also follow us on the

Post Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064320414152>

HONOR FLIGHT BA

Here is our 2023 Trip Schedule.

| Flight# | Orientations | Trip Dates | Reunion Date | Notes |
|---------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---|
| | Post 419 | Roseville | Post 419 | |
| 29 | 3/19, | 3/21 | 3/30-4/1 | 4/23 |
| 30 | 4/30, | 5/2 | 5/11-13 | 6/4 Trip on Mother's Day weekend |
| 31 | 9/10, | 9/12 | 9/21-23 | 10/15 |
| 32 | 10/8, | 10/10 | 10/19-21 | 11/12 |

These are also on our honorflightbayarea.org website.

Regards,

Michael Singleton, President

Honor Flight Bay Area Foundation