

AMERICAN LEGION POST 419 REVEILLE

Veterans Helping Veterans & Serving the Community Since 1932

Issue 1-29

958 Homestead Rd., Santa Clara, CA 95050

February 2020

Hello, all. My wife and I attended the 79th Anniversary celebration of the founding of the 1st-Marine Division at Camp Pendleton. It was a wonderful week, especially for Jeri. She had never been exposed to a military celebration such as this one. The young Marines and Sailors that we met gave us pride in the future of our military and our country.

These men and women will become veterans and are the future of the American Legion. They will become members, leaders and veterans-in-need once their military tour is completed. We all need to be on the lookout for qualified young veterans who could become members of the Legion and, specifically, Post 419.

Don't forget the drop-in coffee sessions sponsored by Dignity Memorial will be continuing in February each Monday from 8:30am until 10:30am. I have spoken to our hostess, Karen Carter, and I believe you will enjoy the time.

Please note new information for 2020 is attached for the Honor Flight Program. If you are able, please consider volunteering for this great program.

Best regards,

Mel Irvin, Publisher

COMMANDER'S CORNER:

On January 6, 2020, I sent out an email to all members that live in Santa Clara County. The quick survey was to identify why so few members participate in the post's dinner dances. Over 320 were emailed and 51 replied.

1	<i>I attend some of the dinner dances</i>	15
2	<i>I live too far to drive and don't like to drive at night</i>	8
3	<i>I am too busy with work and/or Family</i>	11
4	<i>It's a little too expensive</i>	2
5	<i>It's difficult to get tickets</i>	0
6	<i>Not family friendly for my kids or grand kids</i>	0
7	<i>It is not what I like to do - better events would be ---</i>	3
8	<i>None of the above, it's because</i>	12
		51

Being that this is a quick survey, let's just have a quick look. Items # 3 and 8 can be together totaling 23. If it isn't due to work, it is caring of kids, senior parents, spouses, or health issues. There were two in their 40's that felt that they may not fit it. And for item #7, one comment was 'A's or Giants outing'. For Item #2, it is not so much the distance, but difficulty in seeing at night.

(Continued on Page 2)

It may not be an overwhelming response. The post events are just to get members to come together to get to know each other and maybe help out at the post. But, your 'Continual Membership' to support the veterans in need and for a strong voice on Capitol Hill to lobby for veteran's benefits is the most important part of being with the Legion Family. We will carry on and will let you know of any changes as we go. If you have any other comments or suggestions, just email me.

What has been happening at the Post?

THE OUTSIDE FLAGS - *According to the U.S. Flag Code, you can keep your flag flying 24-hours if it is properly illuminated during all hours of darkness. As some of you may know, our flags have been flying in the dark for a long time. Once again the flags are now flying brightly in the night sky. Thanks to Don Brown for the donation of a light fixture and Ken Pearson for the electrical work and the rest of the committee facilitated by Stan Ferro for the completion of this project.*

NEON SIGN – *Have you ever noticed our 'American Legion' neon sign at night? It is in so much need of repair that it only lights up with 'American Leg'. Some want to replace it with a 21st century sign and others want to repair the Iconic American Legion sign. I am okay with just leaving it alone and with the lights off. So, what do you think?*

SOLAR INSTALLATION – *Back in August of 2019, the Santa Clara Utility provider gave us a grant to install solar on the roof. After many inspections and negotiations, I think we have signed our last agreement this month and hopefully, the work will start very shortly. Once the panels are operational, we are expecting a savings of \$500 to \$600 a month on our average monthly utility bill of \$1,875 (I know, shocking!). Again, 'Thanks' to our 2nd Vice Commander Stan Ferro for his effect and work in securing the solar for the post.*

HONOR GUARD – *District 13 has an honor guard that provides funeral honors for veterans in Santa Clara County. We are one of 12 Posts within the triangle from Los Gatos, north to Los Altos, and South East San Jose that belong to District 13. Any members of the 12 posts can join the team. 80% of the honor guard members are from our post with Rick Gundo as the coordinator.*

When do you perform these duties? It is almost like the minutemen in the colonial days. When a call to arms was sounded, they unhitched the plow, got on their horses and mustered. In the 21st century Honor Guard, you turn off the TV and jump into your car and muster at post 419, ONLY if you are available. If you are not trigger happy and can fire off volleys in unison, there's a spot for you. Please come see us.

HONOR FLIGHT - *This is a free trip for WW2, Korea, and Vietnam era veterans that have never been to Washington DC an opportunity to visit their memorials (see January's 2020 newsletter, by Don Newton). What is it that we at the post do for this program? This year there will be 4 flights leaving from San Francisco Airport. For each flight, there are two meetings, an orientation and a reunion. At these meetings, we prepare, cook and serve lunches, and clean up for as many as 70 people each time. If you are interested or have experiences in doing a light lunch with a budget of \$300, we need you.*

Each veteran is provided a wheel chair for their 3 day, 2 night trip. We pick up and load 24 wheel chairs in San Jose and transport them to SF Airport by 6:00 AM for departure time of 8:00 am. To accomplish this task, our team will need to get up by 3:30 in the morning or earlier depending on how much coffee they need to put down. Maybe, if you have insomnia and need something to do?

The return flight usually arrives around 8:30 pm. We welcome them back home along with the vets' families, USO, and airport personnel. We have 8 flags to carry as we parade with the veterans. Most of the time we would enlist the help from airport security, USO, families of vets, or just grab a motionless body to carry the flags. At the end, we would gather the wheels and return them to San Jose. You should be back home by 11:30 pm, just in time to relax and watch the late show.

Crab Feed (January 25, 2020) – Over 175 hungry guests, 750 pounds of crabs, 40 loaves of garlic bread. It was definitely a feeding frenzy. Everybody had their fill and some took a walk around the block for round two. They are the professional feasters with expertise in the use of precision surgical tools.

We successfully auctioned off a 'VIP Table' for next year's crab feed and there were many other happy winners in our lucky drawing.

Great job by our host Marty McCormick and the rest of the volunteers from the Legion Family and Friends for their enthusiasm in taking care of the guests as servers, kitchen workers, bartenders, decorators, and cleanup. And usually they are all the same people, so 'Double Thanks' to all. And as always, thanks to Francis Borg for her ticket sales, she never leaves home without a fist full of tickets.

Veterans Monday's Drop-In – anytime between 8:30 to 10:30 in the morning at Post 419. Get some fresh air and take a drive to the post for coffee and donuts. No need to make it yourself or go to Starbucks. We already have it made for you and **it is free**. It is sponsored by Dignity Memorial as part of their 'Honor Veteran' program. So, please drop in and help us drink the coffee and eat the donuts.

St. Patrick Day dinner Dance will be on Saturday, March 14 – ticket sale is on.

Big Band may be coming soon – still in the works.

Al Wong
Post Commander



SONS OF THE LEGION

SQUADRON 419



SAL COMMANDER'S REPORT

Welcome to 2020, Hope that everyone is enjoying the start of a brand new calendar year. Besides the cold weather as you all know we are staying on course within the Post, Auxiliary and Son's trying to keep everyone informed on what's happening within the department as well as our local activities.

So, starting off – Membership:

We still have a ways to go, and members are sending in their dues. Cards for paying members are being sent out. As I mentioned in last month's report, we are now able to do the transmittals on line. This does help saving monies on stamps and some envelopes. Dues for this year are \$19.00. **Remember next year dues may be going up.**

For those of you who were able to get tickets for the post's crab feed, hope that you all enjoyed yourselves.

The Son's next event will be the Socks for Vets Dinner dance on April 11th, formerly known as a Sock Hop. The idea of this is for each person who attends to bring in a new pair of socks which will donate to veterans at Menlo Park. I will get a flyer out as soon as possible.

Boys State:

This year we are sponsoring 2 students to Boys State, while the post will be sponsoring 1 student. Arch Bishop Mitty, Christi Reye Charter and Harker Academy are the institutions from where our candidates are coming from.

Other Projects:

Helmets for Hero's – We have plastic helmets which we are utilizing to collect change to which will be donated to VA &R (State Level)

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SONS OF THE LEGION

SQUADRON 419



SAL COMMANDER'S REPORT-Continued from Page 4

The campaign to elect Michael Fox for the position of National Son's of the Legion Commander is going on.

We are asking for a \$10.00 donation for the opportunity to win a 2020 CAMO KAWASAKI ATV 750C 4X4. **Flyers in Hall Entry way.**

We do have the tickets and you do not need to be present.

The drawing will be held in June 2020 at our Convention in Visalia.

For tickets contact Steve Villegas 408-309-9158 or leave a message at the post.

NOTE

February meeting is being rescheduled for a week later > Feb 13th

Steve Villegas

Squadron Adjutant



**HON-
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ANS
WWII,**

American Legion
POST
419
FOR GOD
AND
COUNTRY

**ORING
MILI-
VETER-
KORE-**



American Legion
Auxiliary

UNIT 419



Jumpstart on 2020

We started the New Year in January with members supporting the Legion's Crab Feed which was a full day and night of activity. The next morning we prepared to host the annual Auxiliary District 13 Meeting and learned what other Auxiliary Units are doing in our county (lots of great ideas, sharing and comradery). The next District 13 meeting open to all members is at 10 a.m. on March 8, 2020 at Willow Glen Post 318 located at 1504 Minnesota Av., San Jose, CA. Many thanks to Gene Grundstrom who always helps the Auxiliary set up for their monthly and special meetings.

We jumped into February by being very involved with the organizing and running of the annual Four Chaplains Interfaith Memorial Ceremony. Our Secretary/Treasurer Cindy Newman leads this effort and works closely with Post and Unit 318 to bring this multi-organization event to the community. A whole slew of VSOs participated in the flag procession led by Steve Villegas, D13 Sergeant-at-Arms, a live bagpiper and bugler. While Don Newton read the Story of the Four Chaplains, two JROTC cadets escorted member and Gold Star Mom Cheryl Walsh to the alter where 4 empty chairs stand. They placed a life preserver and helmet on each chair and a candle was lit. Three more people were escorted representing the Fleet Reserve, a WWII veteran, and SJ Councilmember Pam Foley. County Supervisor Dave Cortese's office presented a commendation to Willow Glen Post 318 for 40 years of holding the ceremony. This one hour event should not be missed and is a great educational opportunity for parents. The next event will be on Saturday, February 6, 2021 at St. Cabrini's Church.



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Four Chaplains Day is a national event, in its 77th year, commemorating the sacrifice of the same who gave up their life preservers aboard a troop ship in WWII. As it traveled at night through the perilous torpedo alley, a German u-boat sunk her in just 18 minutes. Of 903 souls on board, only 230 survived, many of whom credited the Four Chaplains for shouting encouragement to them in the icy waters to hang on, while they consoled the other soldiers on board and prayed as they sunk. It was a terrible event, not unlike other terrible events of any war, but we commemorate the Four Chaplains as a symbol, and nod, to military chaplains for the work they do, without arms, in the service of man and God. See more at www.fourchaplains.org.

In March, our President, Maggie Taylor, will be interviewing Girls State candidates from five different high schools for the June 25-28 summer camp. Only one junior girl per school is chosen for this honor. Many thanks to Los Altos Post 558 for financially supporting most of the schools we sponsor. Come to the Girls State recognition dinner to hear their stories about their adventure and what they learned in late summer/fall.

Catch up with our news. Our January newsletter is now posted at <https://www.alpost419ca.org/reveille-newsletters/>. Join us for our next meeting, the 2nd Wednesday of the month, with social time at 6:30 p.m. and meeting 7-8 p.m. in the main hall.

Auxiliary Celebrates 100 Years

The American Legion Auxiliary celebrated 100 Years with the Legion Family at activities in November and December.

The mission of the Auxiliary is to support the aims and purposes of the American Legion as well as handle it's own programs for Veterans Assistance and Rehabilitation, Children & Youth, Community Service, Girls State and many more.

A good example is the year-round support to the Legion from members Frances Borg, Maydean Grundstrom, Lucille David, and others that I don't have room to mention. Get to know us!

Frances is the Legion and Auxiliary's main ticket seller for all events, which is a full-time demanding job. She loves selling tickets, but it's a real nail-biter when people wait until the last minute to buy tickets (hey, it happens, we are all busy, but let's resolve in 2020 to get it together). Do you know that she often has to meet people at the Post to exchange the cash for tickets in the evening? That's dedication.

Maydean is the Auxiliary's Membership Chair whom many of you know because of her James Dean cool denim jacket with the angel on the back (she embroidered). Maydean supports the Legion by making her special spaghetti sauce for Honor Flight and other Legion events. She loves making the fleece scarves and filling Christmas bags with toiletries and other stuff for 50 hospitalized veterans and the Palo Alto VA. If you are interested in membership contact Maydean at megefg@sbcglobal.net or (408) 732-5257. She is always at the Legion's First Breakfast!

Lucille David is the Auxiliary's Golden Girl and I don't mean age. She handles the jewelry fundraiser for our Children and Youth program and Community Service program. She and Linda McHaffie (Chaplain) and member Joanne Franklin spent some time sifting through new and gently used jewelry and affixing price tags before it is set out on the table at the car show. Many hands make light work. Then Lucille spends the money to buy new toys and stuffed animals for a variety of holiday children's parties. If you have jewelry to donate, contact lucilledavid@hotmail.com.

I'm Cindy Newman and am the Veterans Craft Faire organizer for Post 419 (with a lot of help from Post members that I've mentioned in earlier newsletters). I'm also the Treasurer and a Past President.

The Auxiliary celebrated its 100 years by making keepsake ornaments filled with a red velvet poinsettia and paper tag with the Legion's 100 year emblem on one side and the Auxiliary's 100 Year President's Pin on the other. These were passed out at the Auxiliary's December meeting and the Legion Family Christmas Party. A special extra large ornament was given to the Post 419 Commander and inside was the Auxiliary's check to support the Post, which is in addition to the member rates paid for hall rental. The Auxiliary ended the year with a fabulous New Year's Eve party with great food, music, and a huge World Map "Where Did You or a Family Member Serve" activity.

We are looking forward to another 100 years! Join us and have fun. We meet the 2nd Wednesday of the month with social time at 6:30 p.m. and meeting 7-8 p.m. in the main hall.

Yours,

Cindy Newman

(cnewman419@yahoo.com

650-219-1041).

The Reveille



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

Legion	Big Band. Swing, Jazz & Latin	February 23, 2020 2-5pm
Legion	First Sunday Breakfast	Sunday Mar 1, 2020 9-11am
Legion	St Patrick's Dinner/Dance	Saturday Mar 14, 2020 6-10pm
Legion	First Sunday Breakfast	Sunday Apr 5, 2020 9-11am
SAL	Socks for Vets	Sat Apr 11, 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 Dec 31, 2020

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.



2020 Flight Schedule

Trip #24: April 26-28

Trip #25: June 7-9

Trip #26: Sept 13-15

Honor Flight Bay Area Foundation is preparing for its 6th 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 life time. Applications are available at www.honorflightbayarea.org. Full details of the trip and information about Honor Flight Bay Area is available at our Web site.

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. 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.

Don Newton
Co-Founder and Director, Honor Flight Bay Area Foundation
Past Commander – Post 419 and District 13

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS

AT-A-GLANCE

UPCOMING POST EVENTS & MEETINGS FOR February/March 2020

Big Band, Swing, Jazz/Latin Feb. 23, 2020 2-5pm

First Sunday Breakfast Mar 1, 2020-9-11am

St. Patrick's Dinner/Dance Mar. 14, 2020



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 veterans. If you are a 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.

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

Be sure to send in your application. Applications for Veterans, guardians and volunteers are available online at www.honorflightbayarea.org.

Guardians for the trip 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.

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.

WEEKLY COFFEE, DONUTS
AND
CONVERSATION
BEGINNING JANUARY 6, 2020

Sponsored by



Would you consider coming to the American Legion Post 419 at 958 Homestead in Santa Clara for coffee, sweets, and visiting with other Veterans? No agenda, just coffee and conversation plus a donut or two.

Your hostess will be Karen Carter

This is part of our "We Honor Veteran" Program

All invited, No charge

It will be **every Monday morning from 8:30 am - 10:30 am**

Beginning January 6, 2020

You may drop in anytime between 8:30 & 10:30

or come for the entire 2 hours, your choice

Karen Carter 408 595-3333

karen.carter@dignitymemorial.com

JOIN THE 2020 CENSUS

APPLY ONLINE!

<https://2020census.gov/en/jobs.html> .

2020 Census jobs provide:

Great pay

Flexible Hours

Weekly Pay

Paid training

**For more Information or help applying. Please
call 1-855-JOB-2020**

**Federal Relay Service;
1-800-877-8339 TTY/ASCII
WWW.gsa.gov/fedrelay**

**

**** Vets get extra points and first hire. Friends family neighbors.**

Must be 18 and US Citizen.

Millennium Sounds Orchestra



Big Band Swing, Jazz & Latin

Sunday, February 23, 2020

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

*American Legion Post 419
958 Homestead Road, Santa Clara*

No Outside Food or Drinks Allowed

Dancing – No Host Cocktail

Admission: 2 for \$5.00 or 1 for \$3.00

Snacks Available for Purchase

Open to the Public

AMERICAN LEGION POST 419

HAPPY ST. PATTY'S DAY



ST. PATRICK'S DINNER and DANCE

Date: MARCH 14, 2020 Doors Open: 5:00 pm

Dinner Starts: 6:00 pm

Menu: Corned Beef & Cabbage

Live Music and Dancing: 7:00 – 10:00 pm

Full-Service Bar (Beverages not included in pricing)

Price: \$30 per person



FOR TICKETS CONTACT:

FRANCES @ 408-243-5832

POST 419 @ 408-244-3050

STOP BY POST 419

958 HOMESTEAD RD., SANTA CLARA, CA 95050

Phone: 408-244-3050



WEB SITE: alpost419ca.org