



Neil La Sala  
Commander 2023 - 2024  
The Elegant 18<sup>th</sup> District



Hello Legion Family,

Spring brings with it a fresh beginning and the hope for a better future. At the recent American Legion Department of California Executive Committee meeting, Legion leaders were reminded of the \$5 dues increase that will take place for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Everyone is to understand that Post operations costs and Legion operations costs at the State and National levels have jumped significantly. Unfortunately, rising costs are a sign of the times and a reality that we cannot ignore. Besides operating expenses, your dues also fund veterans' service organizations, Boys and Girls State, political lobbying for veterans' related legislation, the Homeless Veteran Outreach Program and much, much more. In order to ensure a brighter future and to move forward with the fore mentioned programs this Spring, we must be prepared for the inevitable rising costs relevant to the times we are living in.

Lastly, please keep in mind that membership renewals and seeking new joins are essential to the existence of our Legion. If you have not renewed your 2024 membership, it is past due and please do so at this time. Additionally, please share this membership renewal/new join link with everyone for the specific purpose of keeping the American Legion alive:

<https://cadistrict18.org/join-or-renew-membership/>

Semper Fidelis,

Neil La Sala  
American Legion Department of California  
Commander- District 18  
Adjutant- Post 280  
626-833-8493/ntlasala@att.net





Greetings American Legion Family,

April is a big month for our Legionnaires. Let us talk numbers our target membership goal is 95%. Many of our Post in our District are close to it or surpassed the current goal.

This year membership is very competitive, out of the 6 Areas we are in 6<sup>th</sup> place with 88.73% Our District is at 84.25% with 3 Posts achieving 100% membership or better. **Temple City Post 279 – 102.33%, Edison Post 431– 100% and West Covina Post 790 with 111.42%** Lets give these Posts kudos at our upcoming meetings. In the Nation our Department of California is 44 out of 55 Departments with 89.54%.

We have some posts that have some improvement, and I will be meeting with their Post executive board to help conduct membership revitalizations. Post that are under 90%.

Training is available online at - <https://www.legion.org/training>

There are videos, Power Points and a lot of great info that is available. Every Post has the ability to reach 100% membership this year. Let us be mindful that this coming year starting July 1<sup>st</sup> the American Legion National dues are going up by \$5. That means the Per Capita for Department and National will go from \$33.50 to \$38.50.

We have access to a American Legion branded Pop-Up-Tent. We will use it tentatively at the Los Angeles county fair in a May. Its also available for membership events let me know in advance when your Post is hosting Membership drive and time permitting I will come by to set it up. Look forward to visiting posts this year and seeing membership at the District meetings and events. Also lets keep in mind that the next membership year starts July 1st 2024 . Encourage to transmit membership on time and often.

18 District  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander  
Semper Fidelis  
Samuel Cafiero

## *American Legion Department of California Bulletin Board*



### *Virtual Post Bylaws Class*



#### *Comrades and Posts,*

The deadline is quickly approaching and there are a lot of Posts that need to bring their Bylaws up to date in order to come off of Administrative Probation  
(check the [Administrative Compliance Report](#)).

***On Wednesday, April 3rd at 7:00 PM***, there will be an online Zoom Class on the easiest and most effective way to help your Post establish the most up to date set of Post Bylaws.

Cost: \$0.00 or free (whichever you choose). The class will take about 45-60 minutes to do (depending on questions). Pre-registration is not required, but there will be a ***limit of 150 participants***. I suggest you have at least one person that will be helping with your brand new Bylaws online to participate.

***Together We Achieve More!!!***



## Elegant 18th District

Department of California

P. O. Box 5256  
El Monte, CA 91734



### From the desk of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Jack Evanilla



Hello Legion Family..

Good April all..... Aprils 2d Vice report will be short order.

Please call Dennis at Lamplighter Inn to register for convention, please see flyer which I hope Mr. Auggie and Dave, The web master included in the April newsletter.

Have so far three appointments for money, the important one is LA Metro, might have to start at bottom and work upwards.

Working on food stuff donations for Memorial Weekend program Saturday steak sandwiches. Will have more intel by next April 's meetings, profit is the key, Scott we may have to go to a 5x5 tomato. Will explain in April meetings. I have a sample prop.

Finally had a late March donation, from Serabian Farms in Sanger California, fourth generation produce growers, and yes family had several men and women who served, thank you Michael Serabian.  
Sanger California is not too far from Visalia!!!!

Sorry.....that's all for now folks!!!!!!

PS; please call Lamplighter Inn Rep. Dennis, and please have your posts reps make reservations.  
Dennis has Monday and Tuesday off. FYI.

### Post 790 West Covina

Recognizes WWII/Korea Air Force Veteran  
Bob Chase 99 years old Birthday @ Kaiser Hospital

### BG0 & Vet. Buddy Muster

@ Post 291 Newport Beach  
Sunday 18 April / 1030 a.m.



BGO and Veteran Buddy Muster  
Sunday 28 APR 24, 1030  
American Legion Post 291  
215 15th Street  
Newport Beach, CA 92663



Please join us in April, as we will celebrate Fred's 82nd Birthday at Post 291! We are a group of fun-loving veterans from all branches of the service and we represent all ranks... junior enlisted to flag officer!

In the attachment participating in today's muster,  
back row, left to right: BGen Herb Riessen, USAFR (Ret.),  
PO2 Paul Swaim, USN, Col David Fey, USAFR (Ret.),  
SPC4 Fred Childs, USA, Capt Kent Parsons, USNR (Ret.).  
Front row, left to right: Sgt Gene Torncello, USA,  
Hillary Fey, Esq., CWO5 Neil La Sala, USMCR (Ret.)







JUDGE  
ADVOCATE



*Comments from the J.A./Scribe*

BE THE  
ONE



## By-Laws, Regulations, Policies and Administrative Compliance

My fellow Officers, elected and appointed,

In Service is our Representation to our Members! Through Leadership is an affability to our Veterans, your membership has so recognized the many Veterans to the American Legion.

Reminder, you've all read my monthly articles this year about By-laws, procedures, protocols, Management, your own Post business standards in accordance to the Post Operations Manual, officers manual and Code of Professional Conduct. Not once have I told a post what to do or ordered anyone to do, my job is to be a Mentor, advise, assist and support our Members, Officers and aspiring new Leaders in our organization for the good of the Legion our Veterans.

The American Legion is a non-profit Veterans organization, managed and supported by the "Blue Cap" members! Post and District have their annual Standing Rules & By Laws, written documentations as guidelines when questions arise. Monthly and annual reports are mandates that should be submitted to Department to show how well or if a need of assistance may be required? When no report is submitted to Department, their monthly reports will show non-compliance, District is notified to follow up and see if a post may need any assistance? At this time, I commend the majority of our district posts that have complied and fulfilled many programs under the "Four Pillars", the few post that have been in question two have so earnestly contacted the district in efforts to resolve most questionable issues and have been working with other advisors that, show they are complying. Thanks

In Service,

Auggie G. - 18<sup>th</sup> District Judge Advocate  
/Scribe & Department Historian  
[age69vet@veriozn.net](mailto:age69vet@veriozn.net) / (562) 706-0178

Send text or email –  
with name, post or district,  
To know who you are?  
If you wish to be added  
To the District newsletter.

When you shake hands  
with an Indigenous person

it should be gentle  
and soft.

Our Elders teach us that

we have nothing to prove  
we do not have to be powerful  
we do not have to display dominance.

We are respectful, modest & humble.

We are silently powerful.

**HEROES IN THE SHADOWS**  
SAN GABRIEL VALLEY  
HOMELESS VETERAN STAND DOWN

SAVE THE DATE  
**APRIL 5th - 7th 2024**

IN CELEBRATION OF HECTOR ELIZALDE, VETERAN ADVOCATE  
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH: U.S. ARMY RESERVE, VET HUNTERS, JVS, VPAN SD-1, SGV-VEC, WHITTIER  
NARROWS RECREATIONAL AREA, U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, VFW POST 10218,  
NATIONAL VETERANS FOUNDATION, EAST LA VET CENTER, AND TELAGU VETERANS UPWARD BOUND.

**DAY 1**  
FRIDAY  
APRIL 5TH  
HOMELESS VETERANS STAND DOWN 9:00AM - 3:00PM  
HOT MEALS, SHOWERS, VA SERVICES, VET CENTER,  
DISABILITY CLAIMS, HOMELESS PREVENTION, SSVF,  
MENTAL HEALTH, LEGAL RESOURCES, HAIR CUTS, MEDICAL  
SERVICES, GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE & MORE...

**DAY 2**  
SATURDAY  
APRIL 6TH  
JOB FAIR AND SUPPORT SERVICES DAY 9:00AM - 3:00PM  
HOT MEALS, SHOWERS, EMPLOYMENT AND JOB  
TRAINING REFERRALS, VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION,  
VETERINARIAN CARE FOR ANIMALS, AND MORE...

**FREE**  
OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS  
SERVICES FOR VETERANS  
CURRENTLY SERVING  
FAMILIES & COMMUNITY

WHITTIER NARROWS RECREATIONAL AREA ★ 1200 N POTRERO AVE, SOUTH EL MONTE, CA  
★ INFO: JOE LEAL (909) 200-8960 JOE@VETHUNTERS.ORG  
★ VERONICA (661) 625-1980 VERONICA.HERNANDEZ@JVS-SOCL.ORG ★



**18<sup>th</sup> District Meeting, @ Post 755 / Great attendance**



**Post 755 cook and meal servers**



**District 18 Aux. President Gabriella Ramos**



**Dave Mushinski Receiving Webmaster award**



**The Elegant 18<sup>th</sup> District**

Photos by District Historian Wayne Lundy.

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 280**  
**Welcomes Families & Friends**  
**to Sunday Breakfast & Bake Sale**  
**APRIL 7<sup>th</sup> - 9am to 11:00am**



**Scrambled Eggs, Chorizo and Eggs,**  
**Sausage, Potatoes, Bacon,**  
**Pancakes, Fresh Fruit**  
**Donation \$12.00**



American Legion Unit 280  
179 N. Vinado Avenue  
Pasadena, CA 91107



**THE AMERICAN LEGION**  
**PASADENA POST 13**



**25**  
**APRIL**

**11:30**  
**AM**



**PASADENA**  
**POLICE OFFICER & FIREFIGHTER**  
**OF THE YEAR**  
**★★★ AWARDS LUNCHEON ★★★**

131 N. Marengo Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101

**\$25 PER PERSON**

To reserve & order tickets visit  
[PasadenaPost13.com/awards](http://PasadenaPost13.com/awards)





# Around the District

Elegant 18th



District



# BE THE ONE

## Programs throughout Elegant 18<sup>th</sup> District



Post 241 Baldwin Park, Post 139 Alhambra, Post 261 El Monte, Post 508, Post 755, Post 790





## The Elegant 18<sup>th</sup> District



**08 April 2024 District Executive Board meeting @ Post 279 Temple City**

**Friday – 19 April 2024 District General Membership Meeting @ Post 279 Temple City, District & Post program All Post Officers should attend.**

Post Commanders, Vice Commanders, Adjutants are required to attend these meetings by either one or all of these elected officers who are duly elected and appointed officers of their respective post to represent their Membership...

**Reports are required from each post representative on the development and compliance mandates as per American Legion. Only through your oath of office in service to your membership working together as one team will we all succeed for our Veterans.**



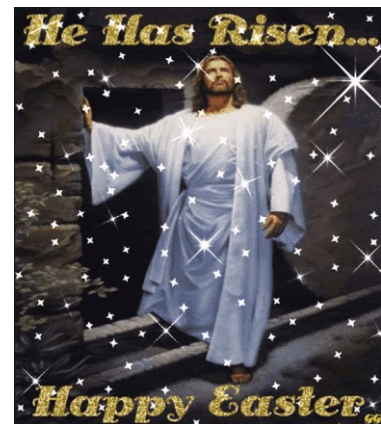
**District Chaplain,  
Jack Evanila**



From the Chaplains April Blog.

Historical Military dates in April:

- 4-6-Army Day, US entered WW 1, 1917.
- 4-9-National POW reconstruction Day.
- 4-11-Desert Storm cease fire -Persian Gulf...1991.
- 4-12-Civil War begins, 1861.
- 4-25-Spanish American War begins, 1891.



Prayer for April,

Ask God to replace your worry with worship, and to surrender the things we long to reign control over that are Meant to carry. Ask God to reveal the things in your heart that need to the Light, and in return, share that with all you meet. Amen

From Dr. Kathy Cash, Department Chaplain.

As Chaplains, we're entrusted with the Sacred task of fostering unity, compassion, and support within our American Legion Family. We have to Lead with empathy while listening to Hearts with open ears and comforting Spirits with unwavering presence. May our prayers be a beacon of hope, our words a balm for the weary, and our actions a testament to the values we hold dear. Together, let's uphold the legacy of service and camaraderie, guiding souls with grace and dignity!

For God and Country.

From Dr. Kathy Cash, Chaplain  
Department of California  
The American Legion

Please be reminded, buddy checks are so important. Please help our Legion Brothers.

Finally, I have invited Dr Cash back again. She was awesome at the Four Chaplains Ceremony at Post 139, in February. I will ask her to do the opening and closing prayers, with the permission of Commander LaSala at our General Meeting at Temple City Post in April.





## American Legion Department California



### ***Greetings California Members,***

Have a Post question or concern? Contact your Post Officers first. Please do not call the National or Department office with Post concerns, problems, or issues. These two levels of the American Legion have no first-hand jurisdiction to solving local post matters, therefore, concerns must be communicated to the Post Commander for resolution. If you need to speak with someone at a higher level, contact your respective District Commander. Post and District officers are in the best position to answer your questions and assist you with Post matters. Also, you may seek advice from Past Commanders (PCC). Some Post have Past Department Commanders or higher-level members with much experience that you may seek advice from. These Past Commanders can be most helpful. And lastly, but most importantly, please read and know your Post bylaws and other guidance materials that will assist you through day-to-day Post operations.

We must always reflect credit upon the American Legion, so when it comes to member conduct issues, please read the Code of Professional Conduct that was adopted by the Department of California, in Convention June 20 - 22, 2008. It is still in effect. The Department thanks you in advance for your cooperation and adherence to this message with hopes that we all can run a more efficient organization.

**“Joint Efforts Triumph!”**



**California American Legion College (CALC 1-2024) is being held at Yolo Post 77 in Woodland, CA, April 19-21, 2024.**

***Applications must be submitted by : April 1***



***DUES INCREASE FOR THE 2025 MEMBERSHIP YEAR***

***At the National Convention held on August 25-31 in Charlotte, NC it was voted to increase the National per capita by \$5.00***



### **AMERICAN LEGION – DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA**

**CAPITOL ADVOCACY DAY**

**APRIL 17, 2024**

**SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA**

THE AMERICAN LEGION-DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA WILL BE HOSTING ITS CAPITOL ADVOCACY DAY IN SACRAMENTO ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17, 2024. THIS IS AN OPPORTUNITY FOR LEGIONNAIRES TO VISIT STATE LEGISLATORS AND THEIR STAFF TO ADVOCATE AND EDUCATE ON IMPORTANT VETERANS ISSUES.

THE STATE CAPITOL BUILDING'S LEGISLATIVE ANNEX IS UNDERGOING A MULTI-YEAR REMODEL. THE GOVERNOR, LT. GOVERNOR, AND LEGISLATORS ARE CURRENTLY HOUSED IN A STATE OFFICE BUILDING CALLED THE CAPITOL ANNEX SWING SPACE, WHICH IS 1 BLOCK SOUTH OF THE WEST END OF CAPITOL PARK. THIS EVENT WILL BE HELD AT THE CALIFORNIA SECRETARY OF STATE'S OFFICE BUILDING, WHICH IS ACROSS THE STREET FROM THE SWING SPACE.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST AND LUNCH PROVIDED BY THE DEPARTMENT. PLEASE WEAR YOUR HATS! SHOW THE LEGISLATURE THAT THE LEGION IS ACTIVE AND INVOLVED.

**WHEN:** APRIL 17, 2024 (WEDNESDAY)  
8:30 AM TO 3:30 PM

**WHERE:** MARCH FONG EU SECRETARY OF STATE BUILDING  
1500 11TH ST, SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(ENTRANCE ON THE SOUTH/WEST CORNER OF 11<sup>TH</sup> AND O STREETS)  
1<sup>ST</sup> FLOOR MULTIPURPOSE ROOM; MUST SHOW DRIVER'S LICENSE OR CA ID CARD TO ENTER

#### **PARKING:**

- **DGS PUBLIC GARAGE, 1500 10TH ST. 200 YARDS FROM EVENT.**  
WEEKDAY RATES (5:30 A.M. TO 6:30 P.M.); \$1.25 EACH 20 MINUTES; \$20.00 DAILY MAXIMUM
- **CAPITOL GARAGE, 10<sup>TH</sup> AND L STREETS. 0.43 MILES FROM EVENT.**  
ENTRANCE ON 10 STREET, WHICH IS ONE-WAY GOING NORTH  
WEEKDAY RATES (6 A.M. TO 5 P.M.); \$1.50 EACH HALF HOUR OR FRACTION THEREOF; \$25.00 DAILY MAXIMUM

**MUST RSVP TO ATTEND, SEATING IS LIMITED.**

**OPEN TO THE FIRST 75 LEGIONNAIRES TO RSVP.**

ATTENDANCE FOR THIS EVENT IS LIMITED TO 75 PEOPLE BECAUSE OF THE MEETING ROOM'S OCCUPANCY LIMIT.

**To RSVP:** PLEASE EMAIL DANA NICHOL [danan@water-warrior.com](mailto:danan@water-warrior.com) with the following information:

1. Your first and last name
2. City
3. Post



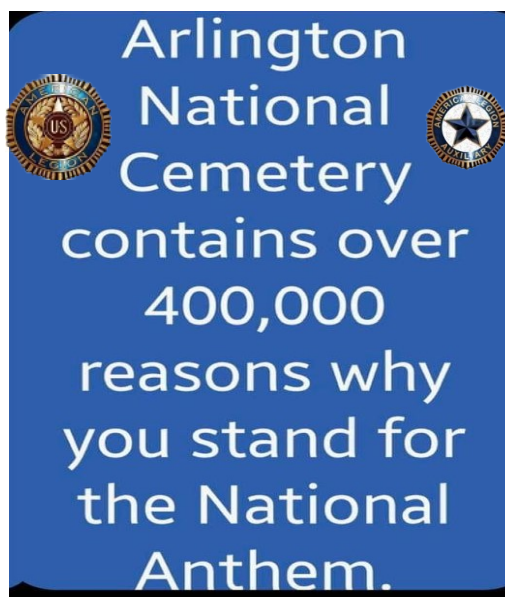


# April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5 <b>LACC Mtg.</b> Vets Stand Down	6 U.S. Entered WWI 1917
7 Vets Stand Down P280 Bkfst.	8 Dist.18 E-Bd.	9 Ramadan Ends	10	11 .Persian Gulf War Cease Fire 1991	12 Civil War begins 1861 P280 BloodDrive	13
14 Palm Sunday	15	16	17 <b>LACC</b> Bd.Mtg.	18	19 Dist. 18 Mtg. @P-279 Good Friday	20 Passover
21 Easter Sunday	22 Earth Day Passover begins	23	24 Administrative Professionals Day	25 P13 Program Spanish American War begins 1891	26	27 SAL 790 Free Dinner for all Vets
28	29	30 Passover ends				

The Voice of Elegance

District 18 THE AMERICAN LEGION  
P.O. Box 5256  
El Monte, CA 91734



**DISTRICT MEETING Friday April 19, 2024**  
**Post-279 Temple City, @ 1930 hrs.**

Wish to receive the District  
newsletter by Email, please notify  
Editor Auggie G. at  
[age69vet@verizon.net](mailto:age69vet@verizon.net)

E- Bd. Mtg. Post 279  
Monday 04/08/2024



## VA Health Care Expands for Veterans

### All Veterans exposed to toxins while serving can enroll in VA health care.

As of March 5, 2024, millions of Veterans are eligible for VA health care years earlier than called for by the PACT Act. Apply for the care you deserve today.

#### Come prepared

My HealtheVet makes it easy to come prepared for your health care appointments. Before your visit, sign in and check your [prescription records](#) online. Let your health care team know if there are changes to your medications or how you have been taking them. You can also review [notes](#) from previous visits with your health care team and recent [lab test results](#). These are conveniently found in your [VA Blue Button report](#).



### *The Post Everlasting Ceremony*



What is this ceremony and why is it important? The Post Everlasting ceremony in the American Legion holds profound significance as it honors the memory and service of departed comrades. It serves as a solemn tribute, recognizing the sacrifices made by Veterans in defense of their country. This ritual not only pays homage to the deceased but also provides closure and comfort to their families and fellow Legionnaires. Through this ceremony, the American Legion reaffirms its commitment to never forget those who have served and sacrificed. It also fosters a sense of camaraderie and solidarity within the Legion community, reminding members of the enduring legacy of service and dedication.

### The Elegant 18<sup>th</sup> District at Department California American Legion D.E.C. Santa Maria, CA







## American Legion Post 280 Community Blood Drive

Located at American Legion Hall Post 280  
179 N Vinedo Ave  
Pasadena, CA 91107

**Friday, April 12, 2024  
12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

To schedule your appointment go to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter sponsor code  
LEGION, or contact American Legion representative Jr. Duarte at 626-592-3842.



Streamline your donation experience and save up to 15  
minutes by visiting [RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](http://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) to  
complete your pre-donation reading and health history  
questions on the day of your appointment.



[redcrossblood.org](http://redcrossblood.org) | 1-800 RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767

Download the Blood Donor App today!

**BE THE ONE**  
SQUADRON 790 PRESENTS  
\*\*\*  
**1ST ANNUAL  
VETERANS  
Dinner/Dance**

Veterans Eat Free  
Dinner Plate 12.00

\*\*\*\*\*  
Featuring music by Dj Island  
\*\*\*\*\*

SATURDAY  
APRIL  
27, 2024  
DINNER 6-8 PM  
MUSIC 8-11 PM

American Legion Post 790  
330 N Azusa Ave  
West Covina Ca 91791

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## TACO SATURDAY

That's right, tacos are not just for Tuesday



**COME GET YOUR \$2.00 TACOS**

**Auxiliary Fundraiser  
American Legion - Unit 790**

Sat - 5/4  
2pm to 5pm

**330 N. Azusa Ave  
West Covina, CA 91791**

## American Legion Department Convention

June 26-30, 2024

Lampighter Inn (Gateway to the Sequoias)

3300 West Mineral King Avenue

Visalia, California 93291

Rooms: \$120 Plus tax per night

Contact Dennis: 1-559-732-4511

Please book Now ASAP

# DISTRICT 18 Commander NEIL LA SALA (AREA 6)

## Department of California - 2024 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

3/29/2024

POST	Name	City	New	PUFL	Members Paid	1000/DMS Transfers	Total Members	Goal	%
10	South El Monte	South El Monte	0	1	15	0	16	22	72.73%
13	Pasadena	Pasadena	1	14	62	0	77	86	89.53%
30	Pomana Charles P Rowe	Pomona	0	30	71	1	102	136	75.00%
44	Monrovia	Monrovia	0	11	20	1	32	85	37.65%
78	Keith Powell	Claremont	0	10	40	0	50	67	74.63%
139	Alhambra	Alhambra	13	24	118	1	156	167	93.41%
180	Canyon City	Azuza	4	27	110	0	141	151	93.38%
241	Abraham Lincoln	Baldwin Park	2	7	25	0	34	53	64.15%
247	Arcadia	Monrovia	2	25	69	1	97	107	90.65%
261	El Monte	El Monte	1	4	23	0	28	52	53.85%
279	Temple City	Temple City	2	9	33	0	44	43	102.33%
280	East Pasadena	Pasadena	11	38	103	1	153	167	91.62%
397	Monterey Park	Monterey Park	0	8	16	0	24	49	48.98%
431	Edison	Alhambra	1	1	16	2	20	20	100.00%
475	San Dimas - Glendora	Glendora	3	9	65	2	79	88	89.77%
508	Borinquen	Baldwin Park	3	13	76	0	92	94	97.87%
748	Reyner Aguirre	San Gabriel	0	11	19	0	30	31	96.77%
755	Charter Cove	Covina	4	14	97	0	115	122	94.26%
790	West Covina	West Covina	34	63	185	1	283	254	111.42%
Total			81	337	1,174	10	1,602	1,898	84.40%
20									

# DISTRICT 18 Commander JESSE BRADSHAW (AREA 6)

## Detachment of CA - 2024 MEMBERSHIP REPORT

3/29/2024

Squadron	Name	City	New	Renewed	Total Members	Goal	%
13	Pasadena	Pasadena	0	0	0	0	0.00%
30	Pomana Charles P Rowe	Pomona	3	14	17	30	56.67%
139	Alhambra	Alhambra	5	30	35	33	106.06%
180	Canyon City	Azuza	25	53	78	57	136.84%
241	Abraham Lincoln	Baldwin Park	8	15	23	29	79.31%
280	East Pasadena	Pasadena	5	34	39	36	108.33%
755	Charter Cove	Covina	7	41	48	62	77.42%
790	West Covina	West Covina	13	22	35	36	97.22%
Total			66	214	280	309	90.61%