





Happy New Year Legion Family,

Entering the year 2025 indicates we are a quarter of the way through the 21st century! Keeping that in mind, it is highly likely most of us will not be around for the dawn of the the 22nd century. This is where our responsibilities today become very important. A key responsibility for us is to make the Legion strong and sound for its future members. At our meetings and with our community contacts, we must demonstrate and reiterate the Four Pillars the American Legion was founded on in 1919: Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism and Children and Youth. Make a New Year's Resolution to get involved in a project at your Post. Making a positive difference with an established program or creating something new will set the stage for perpetuating the Four Pillars for generations to come.

Additionally, I would like to mention a tradition we've established that I hope will continue in perpetuity. Mission accomplished for a needy group of homeless vets in West Los Angeles on Christmas Day! For the third consecutive year, we delivered 188 backpacks with essential items to them. Thanks to all who had a hand in making this happen and thanks to those who were able to join us for this rewarding experience by sharing a portion of their Christmas morning with those less fortunate.

Lastly, membership renewals and seeking new joins are essential to the existence of our Legion. If you have not renewed your 2024-2025 membership, please do so as soon as possible. The membership dues deadline was December 31, 2024. Nothing is more important to an operating Post than membership. Furthermore, 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















.Semper Fidelis,

Samuel Cafiero-1st Vice Commander Elegant 18 District

Happy New Year, Legion Family!

As we step into 2025, let's reflect on our accomplishments and gear up for an exciting year filled with opportunities to grow, connect, and make an impact.

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who contributed to last month's Tamale Festival! This event allowed us to:

- Showcase our membership booth.
- Promote American Legion Baseball.
- Enjoy delicious tamales crafted by our talented Legion family members.

Your support made this event a resounding success!

Azusa Armory Christmas Party

During the Azusa Armory Christmas Party, we connected with young men and women joining the National Guard through membership and gaming booths. The camaraderie among our Army brothers and sisters, their families, and the Legion family was inspiring and uplifting.

Upcoming Event

Membership Revitalization:

Date: January 11, 2025 **Time:** 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

P Location: American Legion Post 272 616 W Cleveland Ave, Montebello, CA 90640

Continental Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Purpose:

This event aims to:

- Transfer department headquarters members to local posts.
- Recruit new members.
- Strengthen connections with veterans.

Best Practices for Membership Success

- **Service Support:** Have a service officer available to assist with veteran benefits.
- **Hospitality:** Promote the complimentary lunch in event materials.
- Take-Home Resources: Distribute newsletters, applications, and brochures.
- Effective Communication:
 - o Update member contact information.
 - o Reconnect with members who are difficult to reach.

• Engagement Activities:

- o Make welcome calls and buddy-check calls.
- o Reach out to members for renewals and support.
- Volunteer Recognition: Publicly acknowledge and celebrate contributions to boost morale.







From the desk of 2nd Vice Jack Evanilla





Happy New year to all Legion Family.

Information-events happening in month of January 2025.

Can not believe we are starting a new year, and it will be a GREAT YEAR. I will try my best to make it a great year for the 18th District!!!

Here we go. DAR-daughters of American revolution. 18 January at 0945, at the Glendora Chapter. I am putting together a team to attend their Saturday meeting. Mission is to fund raise and ask DAR members to help with our West LA -Xmas morning Homeless Veterans' project. Please ware Coat and tie, legion cover dress shoes-shined. DAR loves the Military and Veterans. Should be a fun PR morning for the 18th team attending.

H4HS program, any post or members needing materials, please contact me-626-617-5213. Commander Rosa wantsneeds all legion members to get involved.

Please see January newsletter for December news articles writer by Marsha Mason, from San Gabriel Examiner.

Spring Fling, another legion bonding party, like 31 August, 2024. Upcoming flyer soon. 50/50 raffle till all prizes and money gone, Pot luck, beer, wine and shots. Possible white elephant and R C L dice game. Will need to bring ten one-dollar bills. Corn hole and Bocce-Ball maybe some egg tossing-live eggs-not hard-boiled...BBQ tri-tip and brots and big hot dogs. More to come, so get the word out. Possible date is last Saturday in March...that's 29 March, 2025. Time..1300...just follow the "penguin"!

LACC meetings will be held at post 755, February, March and April. Meal provided. 1800. Meeting at 1900.

Please remember to buddy-check-text or call our veterans. We all need this at one time or another. Currently I checking on Brett Reid, Post 755-Glendora. He fell and fractured two vertebrae -One and two. He is in VA Long Beach, recovering nicely. Expected to get home by 18th January, 2025.

DEC is in Santa Maria, California. 21-22-23 March, 2025. Please book hotel rooms ASAP. Santa Maria INN. 805-928-7777. There filing up fast.no more room in towers. New part.

Currently looking for sponsor for our West LA Homeless program. We will need help here any ideas?? I have call in to HEAL-VETS PROGRAM for more kits. They open back 6 January. Thank you, Command Sargent Major Larry Keen.

Fundraising is going very-very well. December brought in checks of \$300, \$500. A \$400.00 check came from our own Ed Barlow. Arcadia post. Thank you so very much Ed Barlow. 50/50 brought in \$173.00 at District Christmas Party. Thank you to Al Mora for donating his winnings to District. \$1373.00 dollars total. January 2025 may see another \$300.00 to \$500.00.

I will need to get new flyer out about June Convention and Hospitality Room Party. Commander LaSala and I are driving to Sanger, California in February to attend the Four Chaplains Ceremony, 8 February, 2025. On the way back we plan to check in on Lamplighter Inn...in fact I called Jay this morning, he says construction going well. We'll see it, how that is in February.

Please attend the "MEMBERSHIP REVITALIZATION EVENT" in January. HELP needed to complete this MISSION_EVENT!!! 11 January, 2025. 0900 to 1300. 616 West Cleveland Avenue, Montebello, California. Post 272 Montebello. Please Sam Cafiero -first Vice January newsletter article for more information.

Finally Happy-Safe New Year to all Veteran's, please be safe and watch your six.







1st Vice Report-Continued from page-2

Recruitment Tips

- Leverage Technology: Add QR codes to business cards and materials for easy online sign-ups.
- **Provide Useful Info:** Include post details and resources on business cards.
- Make It Personal: Visit lapsed members to encourage renewals.
- Address Concerns: Contact members with unpaid dues to understand challenges and offer assistance with renewals.

District Leadership Visits

Our District executive board members have been visiting posts across the District to observe and support local operations. I will also be conducting visits to see firsthand how posts conduct meetings and to foster connections. It's inspiring to witness the dedication and hard work of our Legion family.

Looking Ahead

Together, let's make 2025 a year of growth, connection, and meaningful impact for the American Legion. Your commitment to our mission ensures that we continue to honor and support our veterans and their families.

Thank you for your dedication!











Comments from the Scribe

Whew, we are now year 2025, hope you had a happy holiday break? A time to look at our future, what can each of us do for our Veteran community through our organization? Let us review our standards, how can we better assist and support our Members through the American Legion. Officers, elected & appointed, you have already stepped forward by your kindhearted volunteer service to your Post and District, with your experience and knowledge, you can mentor, assist & guide our members & officers in giving light to what the American Legion stands for as a viable Veteran's organization...

What more can we do? create a coalition between our various community leaders and congressional representatives to what we can achieve for our Veterans. Thank you for your Service

- Meeting 7: January 17, 2025 at 7:30 PM Location: Post 13, Pasadena
 - Point of Contact: Scott Sinclair, (747) 275-7778
- Meeting 8: February 21, 2025 at 7:30 PM Location: Post 139, Alhambra
 Point of Contact: Scott Sinclair, (747) 275-7778
- Meeting 9: March 21, 2025 at 7:30 PM Location: Post 279, Temple City
 Point of Contact: Scott Sinclair, (747) 275-7778
- Meeting 10: April 18, 2025 at 7:30 PM Location: Post 180, Azusa

Point of Contact: Scott Sinclair, (747) 275-7778







18th District Meeting, & XMAS party @ Post 280 E. Pasadena 20 December 2024









790 West Covina



West Covina



















	CA DEPARTMENT POST PROBATION & SUSPENSION REPORT 12/27/2024																		
			POSTS IN	RED ARE ON SUSPENSION P	ER DEPAR	TMEN	T EXEC	UTIVE	COMN	NITTEE	POS	TS IN E	LUE A	RE CLO	SED				
				■ REPRESE	NTS AN ITI	M TH	AT HAS	NOT	BEEN S	UBMI	TTED								
Area	District	Post	Name	City	On Suspension	Post Data Report	Consolidated Post Report	Certification of Post Delegates	Certification of Post Officers	Financial Audit (2019-2020)	Financial Audit (2020-2021)	Financial Audit (2021-2022)	Financial Audit (2022-2023)	Financial Audit (2023-2024)	Updated Bylaws (every 7 years)	Balance Owed to Dept.	# of posts on probation	# of posts in district	% of posts on probation
6	18	44	Monrovia	Monrovia			\boxtimes	\boxtimes	X				X	X	X	<i>i</i> ,	6	18	33.33%
		139	Alhambra	Alhambra		9				-				X	200	70	5 60		
		241	Abraham Lincoln	Baldwin Park										\boxtimes		0.0			
		397	Monterey Park	Monterey Park										\boxtimes	l k		5 5		8
		748	Reyner Aguirre	San Gabriel										X	3.3	65 6	9 6	4	



Ground the Districe

















Army National Guard Holds Christmas Toy Give-Away











illed back packs of necessities delivered to West LA Veterans Center 12-25-202



Backpack filling after Exec Board mt'g at Post 280 12-9-2024

American Legion Post 755 Donates "Use-of-Facility" to SGV Army **Recruiters Family Christmas**

By Marsha Edwards Mason
CHARTER OAK - The
American Legion Post 755 in
Charter Oak gave the San Gabriel
Valley Army Recruiter Company
of the U.S. Army Lox Angeles
Recruiting Battalion a special
Christmas gift. Post 755 gifted
the SGV Recruiters the use of
their trental facility at no change
for the SGV Army Recruiters
Family Christmas party.
The San Gabriel Valley Army
Recruiters looked everywhere to
rent a facility to hold their Army

The San Gabriel Valley Army Recruiters looked everywhere to rent a facility to hold their Army Recruiter Indies Christmas Party. Rentals are expensive, most of them charging about \$1,200.00 or more for a day or evening event. They wanted the SGV Recruiters to have a place to bring their families and give away toys while having a social event. The Recruiters were unable to afford the high cost of an event rental.

able to afford the high cost of an event rental.

First Sergeant Rick Badem was fortunate enough to contact Post 755 and share his plight with Veteran, Nick Silva, who answered the phone call. Nick had a generous idea and called the Commander of Post 755, Joaquin Parades. They were in agreement the American Legion is all about service to Veterans, and Post 755 would donate their rental to the recruiters and their families for their Christmas party.

The Recruiters were grateful to the American Legion for the generosity to the Army and to Veterans. They presented Poterans they presented potentially and adonation.





Drazen Kilkowac, Executive Officer, and 1st Sergentt, Rick Badem.
The Christinas party was a family success with a big turn-out of kids, wives, recruiters and an Ugly Christinas Sweater contest.
The Recruiters were in the spirit
Ligion Post 755.











The Elegant 18th District



13 January 2025 District Executive Board meeting @ Post 13 Pasadena

Friday – <u>17 January 2025</u> District General Membership Meeting @ Post 13 Pasadena 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 per Department American Legion.



District Chaplain,

Jack Evanila





From the Chaplains Corner

Happy New Year, 2025, American Legion Family...

Important dates in January, military history.

- 1-3-1777...general g. Washington defeats the British at Princeton.
- 1-1-1863...emancipation proclamation, ending of slavery
- 1-16-1945...Battle of the Bulge. Lasts 41 days, begin 12-16-1944, ends 1-25-1945.
- 1-27-1973...Vietnam, Cease fire. Paris Peace Accords...
- 1-31-1990...Panama Campaign ends.
- 1-19-1991...Desert Storm begins.

Next Department---California State wide Chaplain Zoom meeting is 21 January..1830. Program will help you to be a better Chaplain.

Please attend. Via ZOOM. Contact Dr Kathy Cash, Department of California Chaplain. Cell is 323-251-5742. A Great program.

Post Everlasting in December. Joseph Valatkas, Post 475. Long and Outstanding member. Passing date 12-29-2023. May the Lord Rest Joseph Soul.

A prayer for the 2025...

Father, You are the most important Person in our Legion Family lives, and We ask that your Kingdom of all would come, and

Your Will be done to all of us, on earth-and in our lives, as it is in "the great everlasting". Please fill us all with abundant life in our spirit. Let us actually feel Your dunamis power roaring through us every day.

Amen, amen, Amen

Blessed 2025 Legion Family!!!! 18th District



Events around your neighborhood Posts



Hockey Night In The American Legion

The American Legion and the Ontario Reign Hockey Club are partnering up to bring you discounted tickets to our First Responder Appreciation Night! The Reign will be taking on the Henderson Silver Knights. Come and enjoy a fun hockey game and support the American Legion as they will be showcased at the game! We hope to see you at the Toyota Arena!

All tickets will be sent via the Ontario Reign App 24 hours before the game day. Please download the app on your phone and log in using the email you purchased the tickets with.



Ontario Reign vs. Henderson Silver Knights

Jan 18, 2025 6:00 PM PST Toyota Arena

4000 Ontario Center, Ontario, CA 91764 Purchase Deadline: Jan 18th @ 4:00pm PST

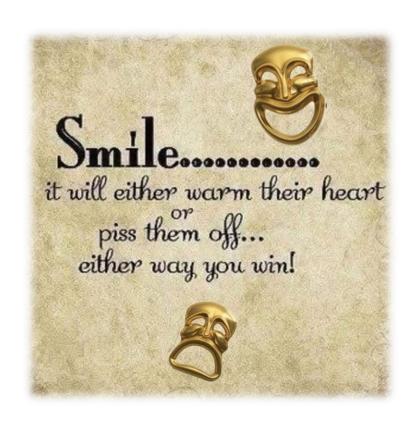
Tickets: \$25.00 plus tax and fees
Ticket link WWW.FEVOGM.COM/AMERICANLEGION81





Distance yourself from people who:

- 1. Lie to you.
- 2. Disrespect you.
 - 3. Use you.
- 4. Put you down.





January 2025



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
WE WENT AS STRANGERS NAM CAME HOME AS BROTHERS	Wishing You A Very Happy New Year		1 Emancipation proclamation 1863	2	3 LACC Mtg.	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 Dist. 18 E-Bd. Mtg. @P-13	14	15	16 US enters Persian Gulf War 1991	17 Dist. 18 Mtg. @P-13 Pasadena	18
19	20 Martin Luther Kiing Day	21	22	23	24	25 Area 5 Mtg. Chino Post 299
26 Area 5 Mtg. Chino Post 299	27 Signing of Vietnam Peace Accord 1973	28 US Vietnam Cease Fire 1973	29	30	31	MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY IHAVE A DREAM

The Voice of Elegance

District 18 THE AMERICAN LEGION

P.O. Box 5256 El Monte, CA 91734







New District Coin To be released early 2025

Side A

Side B

Wish to receive the District newsletter by Email, please notify Editor Auggie G. at age69vet@verizon.net DISTRICT MEETING Friday JANUARY 17, 2025 Post-13 Pasadena, @ 1930 hrs.

E- Bd. Mtg. Post 13 Monday 01/13/2025





DISTRICT 18 Commander NEIL LA SALA (AREA 6)											
Department of California - 2025 MEMBERSHIP REPORT											
POST	Name	City	New	PUFL	Members Paid	1000/DMS Transfers	Total Members	Goal	%		
10	South El Monte	South El Monte	2	19	9	0	30	28	107.14%		
13	Pasadena	Pasadena	0	15	40	2	57	83	68.67%		
78	Keith Powell	Claremont	1	9	36	0	46	59	77.97%		
139	Alhambra	Alhambra	14	23	94	0	131	173	75.72%		
180	Canyon City	Azuza	6	28	81	0	115	158	72.78%		
241	Abraham Lincoln	Baldwin Park	7	7	20	0	34	42	80.95%		
247	Arcadia	Monrovia	1	21	57	0	79	139	56.83%		
261	El Monte	El Monte	0	4	5	0	9	32	28.13%		
279	Temple City	Temple City	0	9	35	0	44	44	100.00%		
280	East Pasadena	Pasadena	6	38	88	0	132	180	73.33%		
397	Monterey Park	Monterey Park	0	9	8	0	17	26	65.38%		
431	Edison	Alhambra	0	1	10	0	11	21	52.38%		
475	San Dimas - Glendora	Glendora	0	10	52	0	62	87	71.26%		
508	Borinquen	Baldwin Park	0	13	64	1	78	97	80.41%		
748	Reyner Aguirre	San Gabriel	0	11	15	0	26	30	86.67%		
755	Charter Cove	Covina	5	13	72	0	90	128	70.31%		
790	West Covina	West Covina	8	63	173	1	245	310	79.03%		
Total			50	293	859	4	1,206	1,637	73.67%		
17											

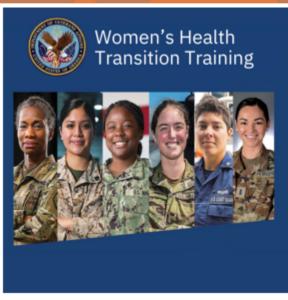
	DISTRICT 18 (AREA 6)										
	Detachment of CA - 2025 I	12/27/2024									
Squadron	Name	City	New	Renewed	Total Members	Goal	%				
13	Pasadena	Pasadena	0	0	0	0	0.00%				
30	Pomana Charles P Rowe	Pomona	0	2	2	30	6.67%				
139	Alhambra	Alhambra	0	16	16	47	34.04%				
180	Canyon City	Azuza	7	42	49	94	52.13%				
241	Abraham Lincoln	Baldwin Park	0	1	1	33	3.03%				
280	East Pasadena	Pasadena	2	15	17	47	36.17%				
755	Charter Cove	Covina	5	39	44	62	70.97%				
790	West Covina	West Covina	3	19	22	43	51.16%				
Total			17	134	151	356	42.42%				





Burn Pit Registry/PACT Act

In this episode of The BLUF, we take a look at the recently redesigned and updated Airborne Hazards and Open Air Burn Pit Registry associated with the PACT Act. The PACT Act is a law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they've earned and deserve.



Women's Health Transition Training

The online, self-paced Women's Health Transition Training is available for service women and women Veterans to take anytime, anyplace at the <u>Transition</u> <u>Assistance Program website</u>.

Explore the content further by downloading the <u>Participant Handbook</u>. Visit the <u>women's health website</u> and check out the comprehensive list of <u>women's health benefits and resources</u>.

My HealtheVet sign-in changes in 2025

We want to make sure you're ready for upcoming sign-in changes for VA websites and apps.

After **January 31, 2025**, you'll no longer be able to use your **My HealtheVet** user ID and password to sign in. Our records show you already have an **ID.me** account. We encourage you to start using your **ID.me** account soon so you're ready for this change.

Here's what to know:

- Don't worry. My HealtheVet isn't going away. We're just changing the way you sign in.
 We're moving to just 2 sign-in options (ID.me and Login.gov). We'll also require
 multifactor authentication (MFA) as an added layer of protection for your account. We're
 doing this to reduce the number of sign-in options Veterans need to choose from—and to
 protect all Veterans' information and benefits.
- Never give your information to anyone who says they can help you with signing in to VA
 websites—unless you're sure they're a VA employee or an accredited representative of
 VA. And always make sure a link is taking you to the official <u>va.gov</u> website before
 selecting it from an email, text message, social media post, or online ad. You can always
 go to <u>www.va.gov/sign-in-changes</u> for trusted information.
- If you need to verify your identity or add MFA for your ID.me account, we encourage you
 to do that soon. This process often takes about 10 minutes. <u>Learn more about verifying
 your identity for your account</u>