

# THE LEGIONAIRE GAZZETE

A NEWSLETTER FROM WEST VALLEY MEMORY POST 99

Post phone: 408/379-6420  
Lounge: 408/374-5597  
Hall Rental: Joann 408/858-8722

## WEBSITES

www.post99.org  
www.lakecampbellevcenter.com  
www.calegion.org  
www.calegion13.org



November December 2009

1344 Dell AV  
Campbell, CA 95008

Editor: Lee Turcotte 408/410-1156

Still Serving America

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Karaoke** – There will be Karaoke in the lounge on the second and fourth Friday's of each month. Music by Gary Carnes at 8:00 pm. Come on out and sing or listen.

**Happy Hour** every Saturday from 2pm to 7pm. \$1.00 off each and every drink in the lounge.

**Movers & Shakers** – 2008/9: Contributors of \$25 per year to directly support the publication of this newsletter: L Lynch, L Turcotte, C Borgia, N Lopes, W Barber, W Lewis, R Laws, J Pletsch, J Isbell, D Foote, Gil Smith, J Augis, E & T Wigham, R Magoria, T Hastings, M Wiselogel, D Duggans, P Bacosa, R Bowers

**Sunday Breakfast** – Starting at 9am, breakfast of eggs & bacon, sausage or ham and potatoes including orange juice or mimosa and coffee will cost only \$8.00. Steak and eggs slightly more. Or you might try the Hawaiian pancakes.

### **SONS OF AMERICAN LEGION - Gary Tremaine**

Post 99 SAL will serve their annual Thanksgiving dinner Nov.26.. There will be turkey, ham, and trimmings. The food is free and donations will be accepted.

**WWII vets** can receive a free trip to Washington DC to visit the **WWII War Memorial**. For details and an application visit [www.honorflight.org](http://www.honorflight.org).

### **AUXILIARY - Winnie Benanti, President**

We will be collecting new unwrapped toys to be given to the San Jose Veterans Center for their Children Christmas party on December 12, 2009. There will be a barrel in the Post Lounge starting November 1<sup>st</sup>. The age range is babies to eight years, the majority being toddlers. Please help us support our local Military families. The past two months the Auxiliary has voted to donate money to the Post toward the loan payment. Watch for postings in the Lounge for information about Auxiliary fund raisers. We plan to start collecting "box tops for schools" and labels from Campbell's products to donate to a local schools who can use them to earn educational materials & supply's. So bring your labels and box tops to us. I'd like to encourage those of you who have not paid your 2010 dues to please send them to the Post at 1344 Dell AV in Campbell CA 95008 or better yet, bring them to an Auxiliary meeting held on the second Thursday of the month. I'm happy to report that 50% of our members have renewed their membership. Thank you! Ladies. If you have any questions or suggestions please call me at 264-76123

## COMMANDERS CORNER - Chuck Berls

**I'm Worried!** Certainly **NOT** from the success we are having from our increased Hall rentals and leasing the Kitchen to caterers and bakers. I'm concerned about the **non-response** from our many members who apparently are "voting" to raise our membership dues to **\$50?** Since we haven't heard from you, we'll be forced to do that! Why? The Executive Board and many of you have "voted" the \$50 pledge. So **PLEASE** send your "**no vote**"; a \$50 minimum donation **TODAY!!!**

A lot of hard work has been done sprucing up our Post Home – painting the Hall and all the doors and major landscaping improvements. Our Hall has now hosted some beautiful events – outdoor weddings, reunions, etc. Check out our websites: [lakecampbellevcenter.com](http://lakecampbellevcenter.com) and [post99.org](http://post99.org) for information and the calendar of events. You can make some money too; refer an event and get \$35!

With the Hall rentals/leases, fund raising dinners/auctions and membership (\$50) contributions we are on our way toward our plan to have our Hall income cover the Post expenses in the next few months. But we still need **your** support! Please send in your \$50 "vote" **TODAY!**

**Post doings:** A very busy November and December is coming up. We're marching in the San Jose Veterans Day Parade. The Campbell Veterans Memorial Foundation is honoring us in joint-sponsoring our Veterans Day Open House/BBQ: 11/11, 1-4:30pm. Check our calendar and website: [post99.org](http://post99.org) and come join the fun!

### **CHAPLAIN - George Depold**

#### **POST EVERLASTING:**

1. Del Vuksich Aug 3, 2009
2. Armando Lanuza 2009
3. Edward Fernandez Oct 11, 2009

### **VA NEWS - Ron Hruby**

#### **Opening Statement on VA Prescription Drugs**

The Subcommittee on Health will now come to order. I would like to thank everyone for attending this hearing. The goal of today's hearing is to determine whether the VA is meeting the pharmaceutical needs of our veterans. We are conducting this hearing because of the concerns that I have heard from our veterans about proper access to non-formulary prescription drugs, concerns about adverse drug interactions and patient safety, and recent reports by the Office of Inspector General citing the need to better manage certain aspects of the VA's pharmacy benefits program. Continued on page 2

**POST OFFICERS**

Commander	: Chuck Berls	265-1527
Adjutant	: Lee Turcotte	410-1156
First Vice	: Jim O'Donnell	741-9060
Second Vice	: Stu Lavatai	793-5105
Third Vice	: Ron Hruby	963-8455
Judge Advocate	: Earl Honey	267-9453
Sgt-at-Arms	: Randy Klingborg	410-9429
Service Officer	: open	
Chaplain	: George Depold	377-0591
Finance Officer	: Bill Barber	246-3295
Executive Board	: George Lauzon	661-8655
Executive Board	: Larry Lynch	395-7447
Executive Board	: Ray White	371-0384
Past Cmdr	: Ernie Glave	292-1277

Exec Bd meets the 1st Thur of each month, 7pm

**BUILDING BOARD**

President	: Dave Garley	971-1678
Vice Pres :	: Rich Ridout	281-2700
Sec/Treas	: Bob Bourdon	650/856-9785
Board	: Ken Blair	265-1527
Board	: Bill Barber	246-3295
Board	: Open	
Board	: Open	
Board	: Open	
Commander	: Chuck Berls	265-1527

Bldg Bd meets on 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wed eve

Operations Manager: Earl Wigham 373-4151

**VA NEWS continued - Ron Hruby**

When properly designed and implemented, formularies can promote drug therapy that is rational, clinically appropriate, safe, and cost-effective. However, patient care may be compromised if a formulary system is not developed and administered so that individuals can access the drugs that they need. I have heard from veterans who have voiced their frustration with the VA national formulary as being too restrictive to the point that accessing appropriate drugs is a barrier. Some veterans have pointed to a flawed, subjective system for securing non-formulary drugs. For example, a veteran who is denied access to a non-formulary drug at one VA medical center may be approved in another medical center, which suggests that the decision may not be based entirely on clinical factors.

**S.H.A.R.E.S. Program: -- Larry Lynch**

A new and non-cost way to raise money for Post 99. Post 99 is enrolled in a LUCKY Supermarket SHARES program which gives back 3% of our spending total at all Lucky and Save Mart Markets. You can pay for purchases using credit or debit cards or cash, and there is no need to register a card to get credit points for purchases. The usual purchases do not qualify for points, these are; postage stamps, gift cards, tickets of any kind including LOTTO, money order/grams, charity sales, fuel, liquor, senior discounts and sales tax. Points are applied after discounts are applied. Cards coded with a Post 99 registration number are available at the Post.

**ADJUTANTS REPORT - Lee Turcotte**

We all know that membership is critical to the Post's ability to support veterans and community. Your timely payment of dues is important. If you have not already paid your dues please do so immediately. Our goal for the 2009/2010 year is 450. As of this writing 368 renewals have been processed, roughly 82%.

**From the desk of Stu Lavatai, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice**

Thank You to our Legionaires and members from Post 99 Auxiliary, Post 99 Sons of the American Legion and Post 99 friends for your continued support! December 2009 will be another opportunity for Legionaires, and members from Post 99 Auxiliary & the Post 99 SALs to come out and participate in our social events! December is exciting because its nearing the end of the collegiate football season and game play is at it's peak. The excitement continues ever more so during the ARMY versus NAVY football game! Regardless of what service you joined, our goal is to completely pack the Post 99 Lounge during the 2009 ARMY versus NAVY football goal. So, come out and support our veterans! We continue to have Karaoke singing nights (the second Friday and last Friday monthly) and Dinner every Monday Night during NFL Monday Night Football games. Also, the Auxiliary is planning a Christmas Party for December 19th (details to follow). Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays!

**Failed Army Rifles & Machine Guns Caused 9 Army Deaths**

WASHINGTON—In the chaos of an early morning assault on a remote U.S. outpost in eastern Afghanistan, Staff Sgt. Erich Phillips' M4 carbine quit firing as militant forces surrounded the base.

The machine gun he grabbed after tossing the rifle aside didn't work either.

When the battle in the small village of Wanat ended, nine U.S. soldiers lay dead and 27 more were wounded. A detailed study of the attack by a military historian found that weapons failed repeatedly at a "critical moment" during the firefight on July 13, 2008, putting the outnumbered American troops at risk of being overrun by nearly 200 insurgents.

Which raises the question: Eight years into the war against the Taliban in Afghanistan, do U.S. armed forces have the best guns money can buy?

Despite the military's insistence that they do, a small but vocal number of troops in Afghanistan and Iraq has complained that the standard-issue M4 rifles need too much maintenance and jam at the worst possible times.