

June 30 2017

POST 117 FAMILY NEWSLETTER  
Support Our Troops Remember our  
Veterans

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 18

NEWSLETTER DATE  
JANUARY—JUNE 2017

Commander's Corner  
Steven Johnson Commander Post 117

For those fellow Legionaries who do not know me, I am Steven Johnson. My military career consisted of 3 years in the USMC, 7 years in the MI Army National Guard then over 25 years in the Army Reserve. I served almost 100 days in the 100 day war (Desert Storm/Desert Shield) and 23 months in Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). I retired in 2011 as a Command Sergeant Major (E-9).

As the new post commander, two goals have been set for Post 117.

**First Goal:** Is to improve communication between the post and its members. As most are aware past newsletters have typically been sent quarterly and recently biannually.

Effective communication is vital to our becoming better informed, more motivated, and conveying a sense of belonging. Approximately 95 % of Post 117's Legionaries are not seen, not heard from and not spoken to until their annual membership dues are due. If a Legionnaire is paid-up-for-life (PUFL), he or she may not be seen or spoken to at all. So... how can we (American Legion Post 117 Legionnaires) improve our communication skills? The best way is talking one-on-one or in person. However that may not be possible when trying to reach 367 geographically dispersed Legionnaires. Undeniably e-mail is the best communication method because it is easier to reach many legionnaires in one e-mail than it is to talk to them individually over the phone. A few of the post officers have collaborated and are in the process of implementing a communication system. **Naturally it will take a little effort on your part.** The vision is that Post 117 communicates more frequently with each Legionnaire to let them know what their Post is doing in their community. We can ask how each legionnaire is doing. This will give Legionnaires a sense of camaraderie this will help each feel that they belong to the Post and are not just a number. As the improved communication system progresses your input and assistance would help and will be greatly appreciated. More importantly, if you have an e-mail address please send it to [post117sanleandro@gmail.com](mailto:post117sanleandro@gmail.com).

1. No one's email will be given to anyone else, period!

2. A distribution list will be compiled for all Legionnaires who send their e-mail address.

3. For security purposes, members will be blind copied (BCC) when e-mails are sent to all Post 117 members.

**Second Goal:** the post would like to increase active participation 10 % to 12 %. All members are encouraged to come to post regular meetings and participate in post functions. Everyone joined the American Legion for one reason or another. **THIS IS YOUR POST!** How do you see YOUR POST in three years or five years? Post 117's regular scheduled meetings are on the fourth (4th) Friday of every month @ 7 PM upstairs meeting room. Regular meeting or any Friday night after 4:30pm: All are welcomed to meet to visit with a refreshment and enjoy your Canteen downstairs.

**June - No meeting (American Legion Department of CA Convention)**

REMEMBER 4th Sunday Breakfast 8am-11am except for Holiday weekends

Respectfully,

Steven P. Johnson

Commander San Leandro Post 117

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**Dues are Due for all  
American Legion  
members & Programs.  
ALR, SAL, Auxiliary,  
40/8 members**

**Poppy Day is coming!  
Story on page 2  
\*Contact President Aux  
Susan Marr for details  
on this fund raiser.**

Pictures of the Month



## The Story of the Symbolic Poppy

The poppy seed can lie for years before it spouts nodding buds and then blooms four crumpled petals. It is a vivid mix between red and orange in color. These simple flowers grew en masse over the grave sites on the Western Front. They soon became a symbol associated with Veterans.



In the 1920's people began selling paper poppies made to look like the wildflower. This provided assistance to ex-servicemen and their families. Today, the donations help build housing for seniors and support groups such as Meals-on-Wheels. People buy them to show their support for soldiers and their families. You will probably see someone selling them on Veterans Day, so help out if you can and wear your poppy proudly.

## Auxiliary Supports Legion Family

Post 117 Family has always been an active Post. We support many civic programs that lets the public know we are here for veterans. From the Dinners and Memorial Day to the VA Hospitals our members of the SAL and Auxiliary are there willing to help anyway hey can. Their help is always welcomed and appreciated! Remember many hands make little work!



## Service Officer Input

### DO YOU KNOW YOUR BENEFITS?

The State of California Department of Veterans Affairs (CAL VET) publishes a reference resource book called *California Veterans Resource Book*. The book includes chapters on California state benefits, VA claims & benefits, healthcare, employment, and advocacy and assistance.

The Department of Veterans Affairs publishes a guide called *Federal Benefits for Veterans Dependents and Survivors*. The book contains important phone numbers and websites. It also includes chapters on VA health care benefits, veterans with service-connected disabilities, vocational rehabilitation and employment, burial and memorial benefits, dependents and survivors' health care and dependents and survivors' benefits.

Veterans, veteran's dependent, and surviving spouse, child or parent of a deceased veteran may be eligible for VA benefits.



**Support Our Post 117 Auxiliary  
We are all on the same ship! All Aboard!**

### Legion Members Supports Lets Go Fishing

This years Fishing with Special Kids had a surprise visitor when Jim Grassi the originator of this very worth wild program showed. He started it at Lake Temescal in the Oakland Hills. There are 4 events a year at EBRP lakes (2 in May and 2 in October). Jim has since moved to Idaho and plans to start the program there.



## Alameda County US Flag Retirement Center Lone Tree Cemetery

A short but respectful ceremony is preformed by Alameda County Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts twice a year to help promote Americanism in our youth. They retire one flag that represents all the flags collected in the previous 6 months. The public is invited to attend the ceremonies and will be inform that there is a proper way to retire their tattered flags. The Scouts give instructions on the proper way to fold our flag to all in attendance. Once a year the ALR from District 10 will escort the retired flags to a local crematorium for a bulk retirement. The ashes are then brought back to their final resting place at Lone Tree. Pictured to the right is spot near "The Lone Tree" from the 1700's.

### Donated spot of Honor by Lone Tree Cemetery in Hayward Hills



NOTE: Ceremony's every year on the weekend closest to Veterans Day in November and the weekend closest to Flag Day in June.

**The Riders very successful Raffle**

Thanks to our SAL Commander and Legion Rider John Teixeira he got access to a 1911 Military 45 cal. He made it available to be raffled off as a fundraiser for our ALR. It brought in \$4000 to the ALR coffers. The donations went far to donate \$1000 to the Peninsula Vet Center, \$2500 to Pets 4 Vets and \$1500 to the Fisher House. Thank you for all that donated trying to win. Pictured is 93 year young Alberta Bothetto that won the great prize.



Riders elect new President Don Reed at last Riders meeting. He is an Army Veteran still active and working at Camp Parks. He will be leading the Riders into 2018.



**American Legion Riders Bid Goodbye to Tribute Wall**

The Tribute Wall was created by Samuel Nicoara. It was built in Hayward by Sam and a few volunteers'. It was built to honor the son's and daughters' that paid the final cost for freedom in Gulf, Iraq, and Afghanistan wars. It also let's the Gold Star Fathers and Mothers know that their family's sacrifice will be honored and their loved one will not be forgotten. The American Legion Riders of District 10 were honored to setup and escort the Wall to the many Bay Area appearances. It has now been relocated to Georgia where it will continue to travel around the USA . Sam has plans to set it up at the Pentagon some day. The Wall has already been featured on several news stations back east. Check out the website @ <http://www.tributewall.org/>



**Join District 10 American Legion Riders**

Ride a motorcycle? Thinking of getting one? Any licensed member in good standing of any District 10 Legion Posts in (Alameda County) Auxiliary or Sons of the American Legion (SAL) may join the American Legion Riders. Presently the only District 10 Post that has an organized Rider Chapter is Post 117 (San Leandro) we ride under the District 10 Rocker. They meet monthly on the 4th Tuesday at 7 PM at the San Leandro Veterans Memorial Building. The meeting site address is 1105 Bancroft Avenue, San Leandro, California 94577

\* Check us out on the Web: @ **NOTE: Check State Website for upcoming ALR events.** @ <http://www.alrdoc.com>

**Flagpole Donation**

The ALR installed a new Flagpole at the new Oakland Vet Center @ 7700 Edgewater Dr. It was donated in memory of Post 117 member and Legion Rider Doug Scott. The Vet Center helps all veterans in the Oakland area. The Flagpole looks great and will help Vets find the Vet Center easier.



**Senior Awards Night**

The Girl's \$500 Scholarship and the Boy's \$500 Scholarship was presented to Joel Castellanos and Erica Dazo at the San Leandro High School's Senior Recognition night. Joel headed up the mechanical department in the Robotics Club. He plans to major in Mechanical or Aerospace Engineering. Erica was the Associated Student Body (ASB) President and a peer educator with Girls Inc. She plans on going to San Francisco State.

**Some Upcoming Events July – December 2017**

- July 2017 - 4th Independence Day
- August 2017-The 12th ALR 8th Annual Horseshoe Tourney. 18 - 24th 99th National Convention Reno NV
- September 2017 - 9/11 remembered
- October 2017 - 27th Post meeting Halloween Pot Luck, R2R
- November 2017 - 11th Veterans Day @ SL Senior Center, Aux Dinner, Post/Breakfast & meeting Blacked Out
- December 2017 Toys 4 Tots - Post/Breakfast & meeting Blacked Out, Merry Christmas!

**District 10 meetings will be held every 3rd Wednesday @ 7pm @ Rotating POST**

**Sick Call Update**

George Maroulas and Susan Marr are recovering nicely from the motor cycle accident in February. John Fee is back on duty with the Honor Guard after his knee replacement and fall. He is tuff but plans on obeying Doctors order from now on! Prayers go out to Past President Dan Freeman.

**THE RUMOR MILL**

*\*The Elevator is still in County's plan! No really it is coming since 2005! The Latest news! The county actually started the construction finished Disabled access to Upstairs meeting Room Canteen & Kitchen. But some plaster fell in meeting room so it is now contemned and they ran out of funds to start the ELEVADER as of 2017?*

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Ave San Leandro, Ca 94577

We're on the Web Do you  
have an Email Address?

[http://alrdoc.com/SL117/Post\\_117.html](http://alrdoc.com/SL117/Post_117.html)

Email your Email Address:  
Post117sanleanro@gmail.com

Get that email address in see our  
Newsletter earlier than Snail mail!



One of our  
past comrades



## FOR GOD and COUNTRY Veterans Helping Veterans

### POST 117 Meetings

**Board of Director** meet  
Monthly every 3rd Friday at 7  
pm in the Canteen.

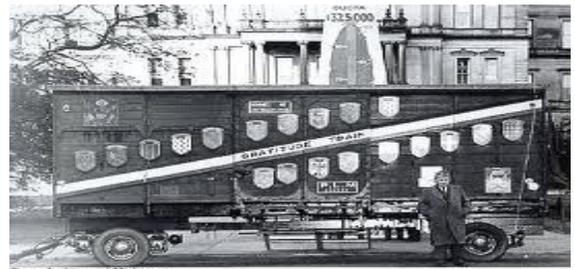
**The General Meeting** for all  
members meets Monthly on  
the 4th Friday night at 7 pm  
upstairs.

**Ladies Auxiliary** under new  
leadership meets the 4th Friday  
monthly.

**10th District legion Riders**  
meets at the post monthly on  
the 4th Tuesday at 7pm.

**Sons of the Legion** have a  
informal time for our Son's on  
the First Friday 6 to 10 pm.

**10th District Meetings** are  
held monthly on the 3rd  
Wednesday at 7 pm @ rotating  
Post.



**40/8 Meetings** are held monthly the First Thurs-  
day of the month at 5:30 pm with Dinner served  
at most for only \$10.

**Help promote patriotism in your neighborhood let  
the ALR install A 20' flagpole in front of your  
house.**



Order your own Flag-  
pole for a donation to  
the ALR. It will be  
installed  
by mem-  
bers of the  
Post 117  
Legion  
Riders.

