

**13TH DISTRICT
AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA**

Commander Guadalupe "Lupe" Spinner
April 1, 2008

Comrades of the 13th District,

Please share the contents of the attached memo with your membership. Not just for sharing sake, but to motivate participation of the several items addressed.

We are slipping comrades. We are not mentoring; we are not educating; too many of us are not providing a reason for our older members to continue participation, let alone encouraging newer and younger members to continue the greatness of an organization which was founded to "fight" for veterans entitlements, to assist those still serving, and contribute to the youth of our community, the leadership of tomorrow. The leadership that our warriors of today will have to depend upon (for the same support that many of us benefited from when we left the service) in the future needs to be educated and won today.

Don't let this great organization of ours falter during our "watch". The future well being of many is dependent upon us today.

Let's recall why we are part of this team. It's not the cap. Let's recall, reflect, and renew our own oath of membership.

Hope to see you all soon! At least at the next District meeting. In the meantime open the attachment and share.

Best wishes to all.....

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April 1, 2008

Comrades,

Eight months of the Legion year have now passed us. It is hoped that the goals that your Post set for itself are on target for accomplishment. Keep up the good works you set out to do for our veterans and community. And while giving some thought to your goals, how about having your Post Delegates, whom your Post elected last May, attend the next District meeting; an obligation and responsibility they accepted when elected. Please share this memo with your delegates so that they can mark their calendar and attend:

DISTRICT MEETING

SUNDAY, May 4, 2008

Northside Post 858

488 North 6th Ave. (at Empire St.)

Meeting 10:00 AM

Bite to Eat After Meeting

There will be much to be covered since this will be the last meeting before Convention Caucus, June 1, 2008. End of year reports need to be compiled; and there are numerous programs that need to be acted upon by our Posts. Don't isolate your Post from District functions and activities, or an opportunity to interface with other Legionnaires of the District. Entice your new members to also attend the District meeting. It will be a good opportunity for them to learn more of the Legion.

MEMBERSHIP ROSTER POSTING FOR 2009

Make sure your Post Adjutant is informed that April 4, 2008 is a critical date to have Post membership transmittals on the desk of Department Headquarters.

If a Post submits a member's annual dues, the dues of a new member, or notification of a transfer or death, to Department Headquarters after Friday, April 4th, that information will not be reflected on the Post Membership Roster for 2009, which will be released at State Convention June 29, 2008. Member's will lose continuous years of membership, and new or transferred members will not get a 2009 renewal notice as being a member of your Post (Transferred member will get a renewal for his/her prior Post of membership; your Post loses). If there are questions contact Department or your District Adjutant.

CONVENTION HOUSING ARRANGEMENTS

Larry Turley has finalized convention housing at Bakersfield. Forty rooms have been reserved for the District delegates who attend. A form was distributed at the last District meeting. If your Post was not in attendance at the District meeting you will have to contact the District Adjutant for a copy of the forms. Note that reservations must be submitted to the District Housing Chairman, Larry Turley, by May 10, 2008. Discuss attendance at your Post's general membership meeting this month. Convention will be Thursday, June 25 – June 29, 2008 in Bakersfield.

END OF YEAR PAPERWORK

Each Post has recently received two major packets from Department Headquarters: end of year program report forms, and membership recruitment recognition applications.

Ensure that the program forms are discussed with your membership and that the membership provides in-put to the Post Adjutant to complete the forms. Two things to remember about submitting reports to Department: first, if you did the activity, tell someone (Department) and take due credit; second, keep in mind, report contents are what our justification for existence is based upon. Congress, to whom our existence is dependent upon, utilizes our report activities in our community as the primary measurement of contributions and involvement in our community as a non-profit organization. And, last I read, there may be no more that 37 elected officials in Congress who have served in the armed forces of the United States.

In addition to program report forms that need to be submitted, there will be other papers important to Department and District. You will receive these soon after May 12, 2008: Certification of Officers, (Financial) Book Review certification, and Delegate sheets. Two of these are required by your District Adjutant as soon after your Post elections as possible: Certification of Officers, and Delegates. Have your Adjutants read the distribution of the carbon copies of each form. The lack of submission to the District has resulted in considerable miscommunications during the past few years, and a request to place Posts on probation for not complying with administrative procedures will be made at this next District meeting. Let us avoid needless headaches by following established procedures and instructions. If there are questions please contact the District Adjutant.

The above gives only a small “taste” of what will be part of the next District meeting. Again, ensure your Post is represented. There are seven Posts of the District that should make an extra effort to be at this meeting, having failed to appear at the past two or more District meetings. Lack of participation at District meetings is not a practice that can be condoned, and will be addressed.

Second Vice Commander Steve Villegas looks forward to the membership of all Posts participating in the District’s annual Flag Retirement Ceremony to be held on Saturday, June 14, 2008, at 10:00 AM, at Gates of Heaven Cemetery, Cupertino. More specifics to be forthcoming, but Posts should be collecting National Colors which have served our nation honorably, and are ready for proper retirement. If you have flags to be retired please notify Steve at the next District meeting on Sunday, May 4th, at Post 858.

Yours in comradeship

Gene Fanucchi
Adjutant
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