



# CATHAY DISPATCH

Veterans - Sounding Off Since 1931

## ARE YOU THE NEXT LEADER?

By District 16 Best Practices

It will soon be time to elect new leaders in your local posts. Sometimes Legionnaires question who is eligible to hold office in your post? Typically, every member of a post, that is in good standing (dues paid current), is eligible to hold office in their post.

The annual cycle of The American Legion begins each year on July 1 and runs through the end of June the following year. The officer election cycle starts in March when nominations begin to be made for new leaders at the post. During April and May, officer nominations continue and elections are usually complete by June. The annual election process starts over again the following summer.

The quality of the leaders you elect significantly impacts the success of your posts. Posts that have a sizeable pool of Legionnaires with a passion to serve as leaders are blessed. Good leadership candidates have a clear vision for success in your post and gives you hope that things will get better.

### LOOKING FOR LEADERS

What should we look for in the Legionnaires we elect to lead our post? The most obvious is a desire to serve. Legionnaires who really want to serve as leaders usually make better leaders than those who do not.

Here are some thoughts on the kind of things we should all look for in Legionnaires we select as leaders:

- A true passion for The American Legion.
- Have a willingness to learn more about our history and programs.
- Have the time and energy needed to succeed.
- Ability to develop a clear vision for post success.
- Is an effective and frequent communicator.
- Effective computer skills are increasingly becoming important.
- Can get the job done and keep the Legion Family together.

The Legionnaires we elect to lead our posts, are important. Seek out and elect the best Legionnaires available to lead, then work hard to support them, as we work

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Important Dates:

Apr 8—11 a.m. Monthly general meeting  
 Apr 9—Palm Sunday  
 Apr 10—Passover  
 Apr 14—Good Friday  
 Apr 16—Easter  
 May 13—11 a.m. Monthly general meeting & election

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## Leadership, Continued

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hard to serve all our veterans. What are post leaders responsible for? In the broad view, they are responsible for the success of our post. To find a more detailed answer to the question of "What leaders do," look in these documents:

- Your post constitution, bylaws and standing rules. *These should be available from the adjutant or your post website.*

[2017 Post Officer's Guide and Manual of Ceremonies](#)

[2017 Post Adjutant's Manual](#)

[Post Operations Manual and Post Building Guide](#)

Post leaders are elected by the post membership or appointed by the newly elected post commander, per the post bylaws. The key post leadership roles are commander, first vice commander, second vice commander, adjutant and finance officer. Good post commanders work with and through other post leaders.

To help our newer Legionnaires better understand what these key leaders do, here is our "grass roots" perspective.

**Post commander:** "First among equals" is a good way to look at the relationship of the post commander to other post members. The commander ensures the post's vision of success is completed and keeps the post family together in the process. The post commander traditionally serves as the president of the board of directors for incorporated posts. The post commander is also the voice of the post,

within the post, and at meetings beyond the post. Post commanders also work with and through other leaders to complete the business of the post as they cultivate and guide them for future leadership roles.

**First vice commander:** The American Legion *Officer's Guide* states this about the first vice commander. "In the majority of posts, a first and second vice commander are elected, with membership the primary concern of the first vice commander." In too many posts, the first vice commander serves as a membership committee of one. A post, even a small post, should have a membership committee to help with recruitment, Post 1000 transfers, renewals, retention, and ensuring the post routinely has personal (by phone or in person) contact with every member of the post. A membership committee of two (or more), is far more effective than a committee of one.

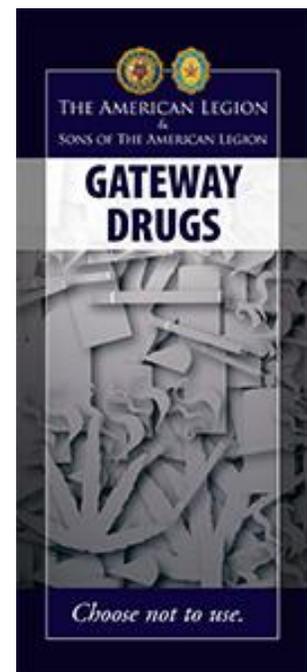
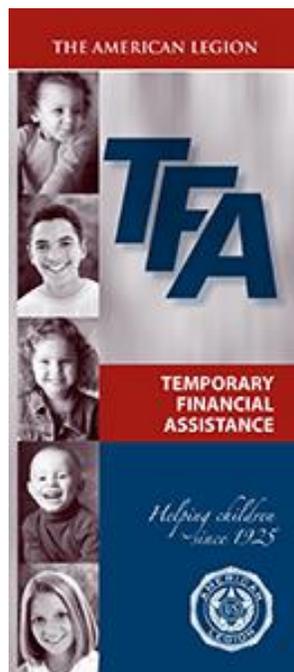
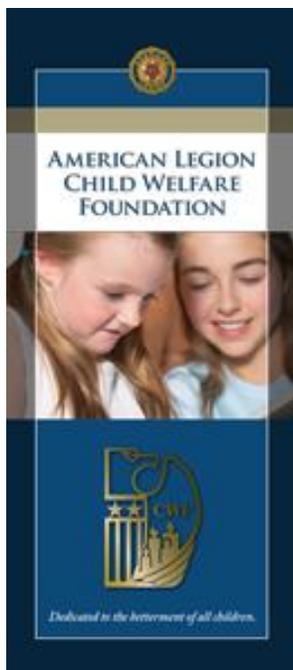
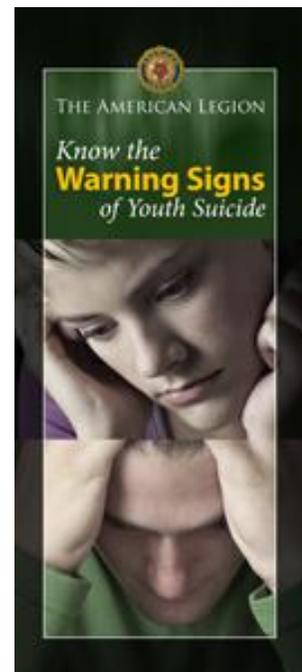
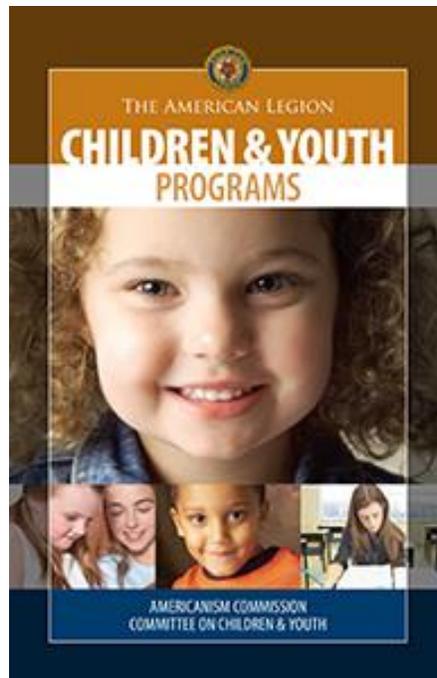
**Second vice commander:** The duties of a post second vice commander can vary from post to post. Most posts ask their second vice commander to follow the guidance given in the *Officer's Guide*, "The second vice commander is responsible for building an "I like my post because ..." atmosphere in which Legionnaires have fun while doing the work of the Legion. The commander depends on him/her to help run the programs that spice up meetings and attract attendance. The social calendar should be filled with activities that will bring out the active members, as well as those who are just card-carrying Legionnaires.

**Finance officer:** Much of the post finance officer's work is defined and

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# APRIL IS CHILDREN & YOUTH MONTH



[https://www.legion.org/publications#children\\_&\\_youth](https://www.legion.org/publications#children_&_youth)

## COMMANDER NELSON LUM

I was hoping to be able to convey to you how nicely the “new” facilities located on the first floor of our post’s headquarters looks as we approach April. However, this renovation project does not seem to ever end. The planned rededication ceremony must still be put off until a definite completion date can be obtained. To say that I am somewhat frustrated is an understatement.

The process of nominating candidates for all elected positions for Cathay Post 384 began officially on the month of March and will continue to the month of April. The actual election will be held during the regular monthly meeting on May with the new office holders taking over their respective positions in the month of June. All elected and appointed officers will be sworn in during our annual banquet on June 3, 2017. I must emphasize that all elected positions are open, however, one must look into the duties and responsibilities of those positions prior to accepting such nomination.

As you all know, our post is exclusively run by all volunteers with only one part time paid employee. It is very important that

you, our members, through your dedication, be willing to work towards the betterment of our post. The more you are willing to pitch in, the less encompassing it will be for the rest of the members who are involved. Looking at the next term, there will still be some major decisions and projects that will require your input and assistance. If I am re-elected as post commander, I look forward to working with you to tackle these issues.

The week that followed our last monthly meeting was hectic for me. I had to adjust my schedule daily due to being summoned for jury duty. I had to call in everyday just to see if I was needed to respond to the court house. Thus, I was limited as to my ability to schedule activities for that week. As it turned out, my service was not needed.

On Saturday, March 25, 2017, I attended the area 2 meeting held at Santa Clara. Among the many topics that were discussed, a motion was made to introduce a resolution at the next department convention that will require the finance commission to make available to the

district commanders all financial documents distributed to the members of the finance commission. The distributions to the district commanders must be completed a week in advance of any scheduled meetings of the commission. During the nomination portion, I was nominated for the position of area 2 vice commander for the term 2017 to 2018. Area 2 covers a large area that goes from Santa Rosa to Carmel. There are six area vice commanders in the state of California under the department commander.

As mentioned above, our 86<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner will be held on Saturday, June 3, 2017 at the Far East Restaurant. We will be conducting our swearing in ceremony of new officers, awarding the first responders, providing scholarships to both the ROTC and JROTC cadets as well as honoring a community hero. It promises to be a great time for everyone who attends. Please mark this date on your calendar and help us by selling a table or two. We want to fill the restaurant to its capacity.

The 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Yountville Veterans

(Continued on page 6)



Nelson Lum

nelson1431@aol.com

(415) 797-7384

Cathay Post Member  
since: 2005

Branch: Army

Final Rank: SPC

*“It is very important that you, our members, through your dedication, be willing to work towards the betterment of our post.”*



Helen Wong

wong\_helen@sbcglob  
al.net

(415) 797-7384

Cathay Post Member  
since: 1990

Branch: Army

Final Rank: Lt. Col.

*“It is a time to  
heal the painful  
wounds and  
allow all to pause  
and give respect,  
admiration and  
thanks to the  
patriotic men  
and  
women who  
sacrificed so  
much in service  
to their nation!!”*

### 1<sup>st</sup> VICE COMMANDER HELEN WONG

Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Matters! Why does it matter you ask? The Vietnam war, also known as the Second Indochina War, was fought in Vietnam from 1959-1975, involving the North Vietnamese and National Liberation Front (NLF) in conflict with United States forces and the South Vietnamese army.

The United States became involved in Vietnam because American policymakers believed that if the entire country fell under a Communist government, Communism would spread throughout Southwest Asia. In 1965, U.S. combat troops composed mainly of volunteers arrived in Vietnam and by 1969, a high of approximately 543,000 troops would be reached.

On January 27, 1973, the Treaty of Paris was signed declaring the release of all American prisoners of war from North Vietnam and the withdrawal of all U.S. forces from South Vietnam. On March 29, 1973 the last U.S. troops left Vietnam. Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day is an opportunity to recognize and give thanks for all who served during the Vietnam War, including those who were wounded, gave their lives, or went miss-

ing. Many who served faced opposition and controversy, and those fortunate enough to return home endured protests, name calling, spat upon rejection. Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day is the hero’s welcome they never

received. It is a time to heal the painful wounds and allow all to pause and give respect, admiration and thanks to the patriotic men and women who sacrificed so much in service to their nation.

On Tuesday, March 28, President Trump signed into law designating March 29 as National Vietnam Veterans Day by the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017 so Vietnam Veterans will be commemorated annually for their service. Previously, a proclamation by President Obama declared March 29, 2012 as Vietnam Veterans Day. Depending on the state, March 29 or 30 has been the designated date to observe Welcome Home.

The White House  
Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

March 28, 2017

## President Donald J. Trump Signs S. 305 into Law

On Tuesday, March 28, 2017, the President signed into law: S. 305, the "Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act of 2017," which encourages the display of the U.S. flag on March 29, National Vietnam War Veterans Day.



## COMMANDER LUM, CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 4)*

Home American Legion Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, July 28, 2017. As most of you know, Yountville is one of the veteran home facilities run by the Veterans Administration. The proceeds of the tournament will benefit the folks who are residing at the facility. You don't really have to

play golf in order to attend. Please mark this down on your calendar and support this worthwhile cause.

I will not be present at our next regular monthly meeting in April. Our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Helen Wong will chair the meeting in my absence. Please be there to give her your support.

## Leadership, Continued

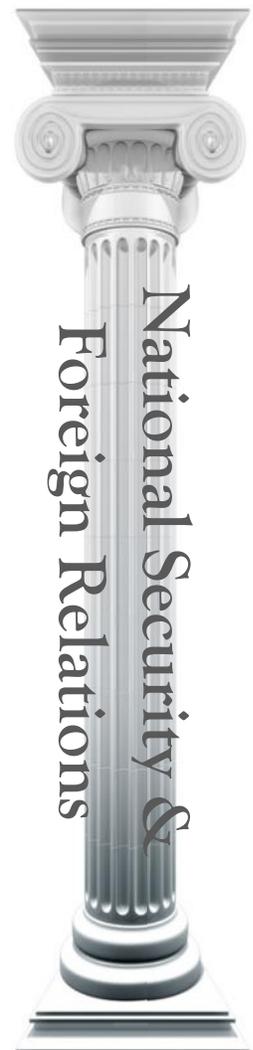
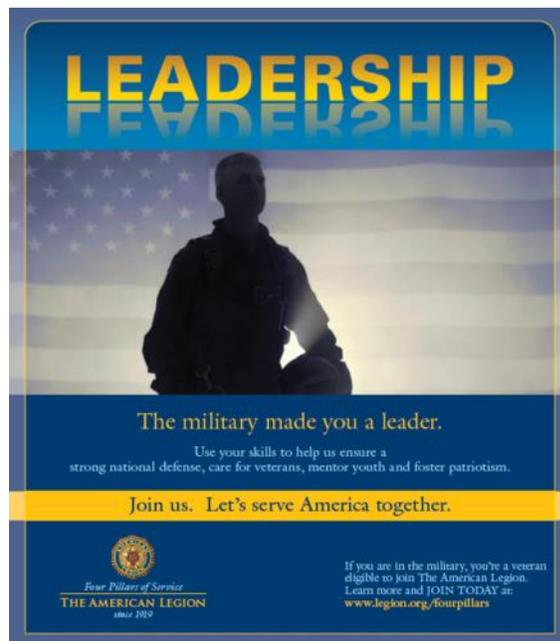
*(Continued from page 2)*

determined by standard accounting practices and the needs of the post. The post finance officer is the person of integrity that helps develop a post budget and administers the post book of accounts. Finance officers also advise post leaders on the formulating and administering of financial policies, including the annual post budget.

**Post adjutant:** Whether the post adjutant is seen as a post 'First Sergeant' or a continuity officer, the adjutant is a critical leader in the long term success of a post. Adjutants are responsible for keeping official records of post business, minutes of meetings, and a number of key administrative duties.

The post commanders, finance officer, and adjutant working with and through the post executive committee make up a significant portion of a post's leadership team. They have a big influence in the success our posts achieves.

Good post leaders must give an adequate commitment of time, sufficient personal energy, and must communicate effectively to give our posts strong roots in the communities where we serve our veterans. Our post leaders should ensure good green grass grows at our posts and the roots grow strong. The grass roots of The American Legion always grow best at local posts.



THE AMERICAN LEGION  
*Centennial celebration*

# **Cathay Post 384**

## **86<sup>th</sup> Annual Installation & First Responders Awards Banquet**

**Saturday, June 3, 2017**

**No host social hour at 5:30 ★ Dinner at 6:30**

**FAR EAST CAFE**

**631 Grant Ave., San Francisco**

**\$70 per person ★ \$650 per table of 10**

**RSVP by Friday, May 19<sup>th</sup>**

For tickets, contact

Charles Paskerian (415) 749-1750

Nelson Lum (415) 205-0120

Helen Wong (650) 576-7875

George Tsang (415) 608-6312



**American Legion Cathay Post 384, 1524 Powell St., San Francisco, CA 94133**

## **MAY—Mark Your Calendars / Save The Date**

May is packed full of events. Take out your smartphones, open your calendar, and start entering these dates.

### ~ Asian Heritage Month & Poppy Program ~



- May 10 National 100% Membership Target Date (Convention delegate strength count)
- May 13 [Cathay Post No. 384 meeting and election of new 2017-18 post officers.](#)
- May 13 SFUSD JROTC Spring Drill Competition @ Abraham Lincoln High School
- May 14 [Mother's Day](#)
- May 20 [Armed Forces Day](#)
- May 28 USS San Francisco Memorial, Ft. Miley @ 12 p.m.
- May 28 St. Mary's Square WWI & WWII Memorial @ 3 p.m.
- May 29 [Memorial Day](#)—San Francisco National Cemetery, Presidio Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony @ 11 a.m.
- Jun 3 [Cathay Post 86<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet & Honoring First Responders at Far East Cafe beginning at 5:30 p.m. \(See flyer on page 7.\)](#)



## **99<sup>th</sup> American Legion Department of California Convention**

**Riverside, CA**

**June 21—25, 2017**

There is still time to plan your trip to this year's Department convention. More detailed information coming soon.

Check with your district officers for hotel accommodations and rates or ask your post commander.

[2017-18 Commander's membership shirts are now available.](#)

## 2017-18 Cathay Post Officer Duties By Clara Pon

There are 13 positions that are available for candidate nominations. All members current on 2017 dues are eligible for making nominations as well as accepting a nomination based on the following criteria as outlined in the current Cathay Post by-laws.

The following officer positions must be a member of Cathay Post 384 for at least nine (9) months prior to installation: Sergeant-at-Arms, Quartermaster, and Judge Advocate.

The following officer positions must be a member of Cathay Post 384 for at least 21 (twenty-one) consecutive months and have held an officer's position for at least 12 (twelve) months prior to installation: First Vice Commander and Second Vice Commander.

The Commander must be a member of Cathay Post 384 for at least 33 (thirty-three) consecutive months and have held an officer's position for at least 12 (twelve) months prior to installation.

Our post by-laws describes the duties and responsibilities for each of the elected positions are as follows:

**Post Commander:** The Post Commander shall preside at all meetings of the Post and has general supervision over the business affairs of the Post. Such officer shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Post and shall perform such other duties as directed by the Post. The Commander shall approve all orders directing the disbursement of funds and shall make an annual report covering the business of the Post for the year and make recommendations for the ensuing year.

**First Vice Commander:** The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander shall assume and discharge the duties of the office of Commander in the absence or disability of, or when called upon by the Post Commander.

**Second Vice Commander:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander shall assume and discharge the duties of the office of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander in the absence or disability of such officer and shall perform such other duties as directed by this Post.

**Adjutant:** The Adjutant shall have charge of and keep a full and corrected record of all records as the Department and National Organizations may require, render reports on membership annually or when called upon at a meeting, and under direction of the commander, handle all correspondence received by the Department or National Organization. He/She shall also supervise the annual nomination and election process.

**Finance Officer:** The Finance Officer of the Post shall have charge of all finances and see that they are safely deposited in a local bank or banks and shall

*(Continued on page 10)*



## Officer Responsibilities, Continued

*(Continued from page 9)*

report once a month to the Executive Committee the condition of the finances of the Post, with such recommendations as may deem expedient or necessary for raising funds with which to carry on the activities of the Post. He/She or two (2) members of the Executive Board shall sign all checks disbursing the monies of the Post. The Finance Officer shall be bonded under a blanket bond procured from the Department Headquarters and paid for by the Post at cost.

**Secretary:** The Secretary shall have charge of and keep a full and correct record of all proceedings of all meetings and under the direction of the Commander handle all correspondence of the Post.

**Historian:** The Historian shall be charged with the individual records and incidents of the Post and Post members, and shall perform such other duties as directed by the Post or Executive Board. The Post Historian is also charged with photographing and documenting Post events.

**Sergeant-at-Arms:** The Sergeant-at-Arms shall preserve order at all meetings and shall perform such other duties as may be from time to time assigned to him/her by the Commander or Executive Board.

**Chaplain:** The Chaplain shall be charged with the spiritual welfare of the Post comrades and will offer divine but nonsectarian service in the event of dedications, funerals, public functions, and adhere to such ceremonial rituals as are recommended by the National or Department Headquarters from time to time.

**Service Officer:** The Service Officer shall be generally that of prosecuting claims and protecting the rights and privileges of all veterans, their dependents and survivors and to handle such other matters as may properly be considered service work.

**Judge Advocate:** The duties of the Judge Advocate shall be to advise the Post Officers on the construction and interpretation of the Post Constitution and By-Laws; and to perform such other duties as are usually incident to the office.

**Quartermaster:** The Quartermaster shall supply and purchase all goods and materials necessary for Post operations.

**ALWMC Delegate:** Duties of the Delegate and Alternate Delegate to the American Legion War Memorial Commission (ALWMC). The Delegate, and the Alternate Delegate if Delegate is unavailable, shall attend the monthly ALWMC meeting and represent the best interests of Cathay Post No. 384 in its dealings with the War Memorial Veterans Building. He/She will also be responsible for providing timely updates to Cathay Post members at the general monthly meetings or through written correspondence.

*(Continued on page 11)*



## Officer Responsibilities, Continued

(Continued from page 10)

If you are a recent member or new to the post and would like to become a more active member, contact the commander or one of the vice commanders to see how and where you can get more involved. Your support is always needed and appreciated to make your post the best it can be.

It is also important to mention that leadership positions such as *commander*, *vice commanders*, and *adjutant* are your posts' chief communicators. The post commander keeps all the members informed about what is going on at the various levels of the Legion: district, area, department, and national. The post vice commanders convey to members what is going on at the post in regards to membership, fund raisers, events, and other programs that fall under the Legions' four pillars of service.

The post adjutant is everyone's go-to person. You may have read the feature story about "Leadership" the adjutant, "...is a critical leader in the long term success of a post." He/she interacts with all the post officers, new and interested veterans who may wish to join, as well as the posts' own members. The adjutant also receives information from the department on all the administrative dealings that are required for every post in The American Legion. The commander, vice commanders, and adjutant are big influencers in the success of any post.

## 2017-18 Cathay Post Officer Nominations

Nominees for 2017-18 Cathay Post officers:

Commander—Nelson Lum  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander—Helen Wong  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander—Aaron Low  
 Adjutant—Open  
 Finance Officer—George Tsang  
 Judge Advocate—Stan Ellexson  
 Sergeant-at-Arms—Ernie Stanton  
 Chaplain—Richard Ow  
 Service Officer—David Wong  
 Historian—Roger Dong  
 Quartermaster—Open  
 War Memorial Commission Delegate—Open

There will be another round of open nominations at the April meeting. The election will be by ballot will be held at the next general meeting on Saturday, May 13, 2017. Please be sure to bring your current Legion membership card.

Newly elected officers will be sworn in at the annual installation and first responders banquet on Saturday, June 3, 2017 at Far East Café. Make your reservations early. The flyer with ticket information is on page 7.



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\*APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Promotional offer effective through June 30, 2017. Purchases and balance transfers must be made within 60 days of account opening to qualify for the 0% APR promotional rate. The new card purchase rate of 0% APR is valid for 6 months from the first qualifying transaction. After the promotional period, the 0% APR promotional rate will return to standard purchase/balance transfer rate (Rate based upon Prime Rate + a Margin of 6-12%). The balance transfer rate of 0% APR is valid for 6 months from each transaction date. Offer is only valid for balance transfers from existing credit card balances at other financial institutions. A balance transfer fee of \$5 or 1% of the amount of each transfer, whichever is greater, will be applied to transfers made during the promotional period (the first 60 days after account opening). All new applications are subject to terms, conditions and credit approval. You must be at least 18 years of age to apply, and show ability to repay future balances or apply with a co-signer if you are under the age of 21. Rates, fees and terms are subject to change at any time, contact us for more information.

PROMO CODE: VNC17

## 80<sup>th</sup> Session of CA Boys State By Jay Pon

Boys State 2017 is almost here again. Many high school junior candidates were interviewed in which they all answered a series of questions to include reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and naming elected officials.

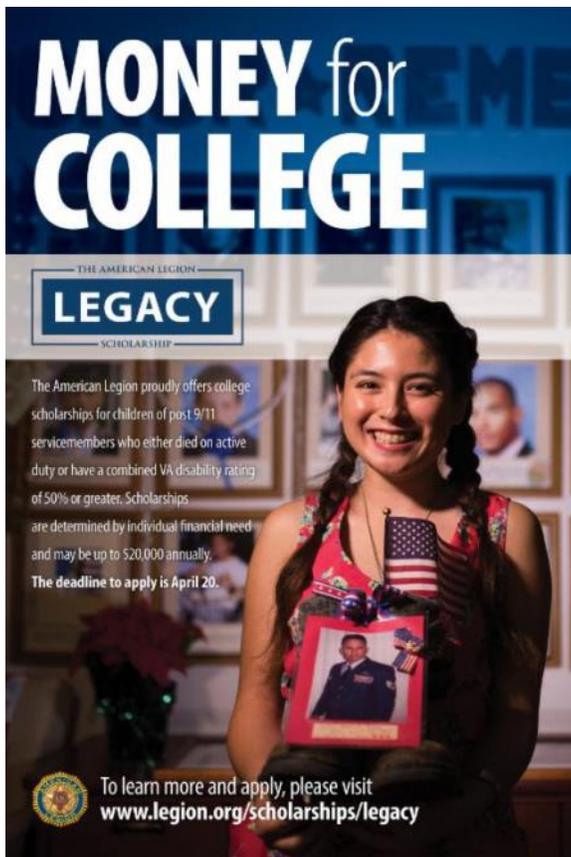
This year Cathay Post will be sponsoring 3 San Francisco students: James Estillore from Saint Ignatius College Preparatory, Dominic Dal Porto from Sacred Heart Cathedral Preparatory, and Saam Doroodian from Abraham Lincoln High School. These Cathay Post student delegates will join eight other District 8 delegates and travel to Sacramento State from June 17<sup>th</sup> to June 24<sup>th</sup> for a hands-on "Laboratory

of Political Science." One thousand California high school juniors will be participating in mock elections and government, meeting elected officials, and learning to be better citizens. This will be California's Boys State 80<sup>th</sup> year.

There is a **mandatory** orientation for the boys to attend on Sunday, May 7, 1:30-3:00 at American Legion San Mateo Post 82 located at 130 South Boulevard in San Mateo. The orientation will be conducted by Jim Alcorn, California Boys State Assistant Director. He will cover what to pack, what not to pack, and an overview of what to expect. Please have your delegates dress appropriately.

## AMERICAN LEGION LEGACY SCHOLARSHIP

**DEADLINE— APRIL 20, 2017**



**MONEY for COLLEGE**

THE AMERICAN LEGION  
**LEGACY**  
SCHOLARSHIP

The American Legion proudly offers college scholarships for children of post-9/11 servicemembers who either died on active duty or have a combined VA disability rating of 50% or greater. Scholarships are determined by individual financial need and may be up to \$20,000 annually. The deadline to apply is April 20.

To learn more and apply, please visit  
[www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy](http://www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy)

The American Legion Legacy Scholarship is available for children whose parents lost their lives while honorably serving on active duty on or after 9/11, as well as for children of post-9/11 veterans with a VA disability rating of 50 percent or higher. The renewable scholarship will award up to \$20,000 for the expense of graduate or post-graduate tuition, books, room and board, meal plans, transportation and other supplies needed to achieve a higher education.

[www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy](http://www.legion.org/scholarships/legacy)



**“Back to Prom Night” 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival** by Helen Wong



As in the past, Cathay Post was represented at the Community Youth Center (CYC) of San Francisco’s 47<sup>th</sup> Annual Festival of Youth Gala on March 10, 2017



by Roger Dong, Sinclair and Elizabeth Lai, and me, Helen Wong. Being around young students gave us the opportunity to talk to some of the sophomores and juniors about participating in The American Legion’s oratorical contest for scholarship consideration. Most were not aware of this program in their high schools.

Mistress of Ceremonies and she did a great job introducing Jaynry Mak, Esq., Board Chair of CYC.

The Lion Dance by the group Lion Dance Me was outstanding and very entertaining. Kristen Sze, an anchor from ABC7 News was the

The award presentations to the Outstanding CYC Youths Carmen Chen and Vicky Chung, and the Chris Yeo Community Service awards to Derek Tan and Jiali (Jack) Zhu were inspiring to hear. Recology was awarded the Corporate Partner of the Year and the Warriors Community Foundation was the Community Partner of the Year.



Left: Mistress of Ceremony Kristen Sze, ABC7 news anchor (in blue) next to Jaynry Mak and her family.

Photo Courtesy of Frank Jang.



Right: Lion dancers adorned with New Year well wishes.

Center: CYC Board of Directors surrounded by the dragon and lion dancers.

Photo Courtesy of Frank Jang.



3/10/17 CYC 47th Annual Festival of Youth Gala...Frank Jang

## SFAPOA Scholarship Dinner by Virginia Yee



2017 SFPOA award recipients at annual awards and scholarship dinner at Far East Cafe.

The San Francisco Asian Peace Officers Association (SFAPOA) Scholarship Dinner was held on March 10, 2017 at Far East Restaurant in San Francisco. The program opened with an exciting lion dance which was expertly performed by the San Francisco Police Lion Dance team. The Mistress of Ceremonies was Maria Medina of KPIX Channel 5. She professionally guided the evening from beginning to end. The keynote speaker was Commander Gregory Yee and guest speaker was Retired Deputy Chief Garrett Tom.

The SFAPOA acknowledged its supporters including the Cathay Post 384 with award certificates. Finance Officer George Tsang accepted the award on behalf of the Cathay Post.

The scholarship recipients received their hard earned awards. The post annually supports the SFAPOA, first responders, which is one of the Legion's four pillars of service.

The Cathay Post table was comprised of Finance Officer George Tsang, post members Anthony Lyau, Richard Charney, WT Jeanpierre, and support members Frank and Kay Lee, Victor and May Tsang, Emily Onglatco, and me. It was not only a support event, but an opportunity for the members to enjoy an evening together. Hope to see more of you at a future event!



Cathay Post Legionnaires, support members, and friend.  
Photos by Virginia Yee.



## VA Launches New Access and Quality In Health Care Tool

By Johnathon Clinkscales

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs hosted a media roundtable Wednesday to unveil its innovative online tool, Access and Quality in VA Healthcare, which will make wait times transparent for veterans and provide them with data they need to make informed decisions about their health care.

The tool, which can be found on the [VA's Access to Care website](http://www.accesstocare.va.gov/), (<http://www.accesstocare.va.gov/>) is just one that VA is introducing to restore veterans' trust and confidence. Veterans will be able to compare access and quality measures from their facility to other VA facilities including:

- How long patients are waiting to be seen in their VA;
- How veterans describe their experiences scheduling primary and specialty care at specific VA facilities;
- Timeliness of appointments for care needed right away; and
- Information about the quality of health care delivered at every medical center compared to local private-sector hospitals.

"Veterans must have access to information that is clear and understandable to make informed decisions about their healthcare," VA Secretary David Shulkin said in a press release. "No other healthcare system in the country

releases this type of information on wait times. This allows veterans to see how VA is performing."

As the most transparent and easy to understand wait time and quality data website in the healthcare industry, VA Acting Under Secretary for Health Dr. Poonam Alaigh said the tool is another example of VA leading the way. "No one in the private sector publishes data like this," she said. "This tool will instill a spirit of competition and encourage our medical facilities to proactively address access and quality issues, while empowering veterans to make choices according to what works best for them and their families."

The new website will be a work in progress as VA continues to receive feedback from veterans, employees, media, veterans service organizations and their congressional partners to improve the site's tools and capabilities. VA's goal is to empower veterans to make informed decisions about their health care and, above all else, show a renewed commitment to solve the challenges VA is faced with, according to documents from the Office of the Under Secretary for Health.

Click [here](#) for a video walkthrough of how to use the new Access and Quality in VA Healthcare tool.

[www.legion.org/veteranshealthcare/237008/va-launches-new-access-and-quality-health-care-tool](http://www.legion.org/veteranshealthcare/237008/va-launches-new-access-and-quality-health-care-tool)

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# April 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4 ALWMC Meeting, 6:00 pm	5	6	7	8 Post Meeting 11 am
9	10 Passover	11	12 95% Membership Target	13 Dist. 8 Meeting 6:00 pm	14 Good Friday	15
16 Easter	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

# May 2017

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2 ALWMC Meeting, 6:00 pm	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 100% Membership Target	11 Dist. 8 Meeting 6:00 pm	12	13 Post Meeting 11 am & JROTC comp
14 Mother's Day	15	16	17	18	19	20 Armed Forces Day
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 USS SF Memorial 12 pm & St. Mary's Square 3 pm	29 Memorial Day	30	31			

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*Desert Shield/Desert Storm/OEF/  
OIF*  
8/2/1990 to present

**Panama**—*Operation Just Cause*  
12/20/1989 – 1/31/1990

**Lebanon/Grenada**  
*Lebanon War/Operation Urgent  
Fury*  
8/24/1982 – 7/31/1984

**Vietnam War**  
2/28/1961 – 5/7/1975

**Korean War**  
6/25/1950 – 1/31/1955

**World War II**  
12/7/1941 – 12/31/1946

**World War I**  
4/6/1917 – 11/11/1918

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