



# CATHAY DISPATCH

Veterans - Sounding Off Since 1931

## EMBRACING THE NECESSARY CHANGE

By Ron Neff, Membership Engagement Coordinator—National HQ

*Follow up article to "Evolve or Die" by Clara Pon, Cathay Dispatch  
November 2019*

### Important Dates:

Apr 1—April Fool's Day  
Apr 10—Good Friday  
Apr 11 —11 a.m. Post  
monthly meeting  
Apr 12—Easter  
Apr 15—Tax Day  
extended to July 15.

### Inside this issue:

Embracing Change	<a href="#">2</a>
Commander Helen Wong	<a href="#">3, 5</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander George Tsang	<a href="#">4</a>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander Charles Paskerian	<a href="#">5</a>
Buddy Checks	<a href="#">7 - 9</a>
Change is Inevitable	<a href="#">10, 15</a>
SBA Relief	<a href="#">11</a>
Veterans Art	<a href="#">12</a>
Legion Family News	<a href="#">13</a>
VAVS, Spring Poem	<a href="#">14</a>
SS Stimulus Check	<a href="#">15</a>
Scams	<a href="#">18</a>
Cathay Post History	<a href="#">19</a>
Chinese Virus	<a href="#">20</a>
Next Pandemic	<a href="#">21, 22</a>
Calendar	<a href="#">23</a>

The recent COVID-19 pandemic has caused people to reevaluate the things that are most important to them. It has certainly taught us that nothing is inevitable, and we need to be prepared to adjust our routine at any given moment. It has pulled us away from superficial things; exposed our capacity for humor and strengthened our tolerance for seclusion. Most impressively, it has exposed the good in people in an otherwise turbulent, disconnected world of high-octane opinions, emotions and attitudes toward the body politic. We have looked away from the rich and famous beautiful people and recognized the heroism of the everyday citizen. Farmers, ranchers, truck drivers, grocery store employees, doctors and nurses are just a few of the people who the world holds on a pedestal these days.

The highlight of it all is the overwhelming good on display every single day from businesses who are building ventilators instead of trucks; the places of worship offering virtual prayer; the restaurants offering free curbside delivery; veteran support organizations who are conducting real buddy checks; the list goes on. What we all have learned, some more painfully than others, is that we have to be able to adapt.

Perhaps it's irony that when COVID-19 really gained momentum in the United

States, I was presenting a class to the Department of California DEC on *Organizational Lifecycles*. I first presented this material at the 2019 National American Legion College (NALC) and it seemed to resonate. (Application to attend 2020 NALC session is available online at: [www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/2020\\_Legion\\_College\\_Application.pdf](http://www.legion.org/documents/legion/pdf/2020_Legion_College_Application.pdf)). The summary of the hour-long presentation is that every organization must evolve, or it will age and die following its prime phase. So, if this were the experiment to test the hypothesis, what stage of the organizational lifecycle would our American Legion be in?

For those who have not seen the material, the five phases are: 1) infancy phase, 2) growth phase, 3) prime phase, 4) aging phase and 5) dying phase. The infancy phase is marked by collective excitement in the organization, willingness to take risk and deep commitment to purpose. The growth phase is marked by universal commitment to the mission and the establishment of policies and procedures. The prime phase is marked by high-visibility for the organization and excelling in all performance. The aging phase is marked by a decline in the understanding of and commitment to the organization. Finally, the dying phase is marked by a total loss of

*(Continued on page 2)*



## Embracing Change, Continued

*(Continued from page 1)*

purpose and hope.

The best answers during the college and my trip to the California DEC on “which phase is The American Legion in” was the answer: “all of them.” The absolute truth is that the organizational lifecycle phase of The American Legion is subjective, depending on what phase the respective post, department or national headquarters is currently in. We have witnessed posts and departments that refuse to adapt with the changes in their communities and constituencies. We have also seen countless more posts and departments that are adapting to change before it is necessary, effectively getting ahead of the bell curve.

What this COVID-19 challenge has shown blatantly, is our capacity to change. Whether there is a desire to change, or acceptance of

forced change, change is inevitable. Those who didn’t believe that likely do now. The outpouring of inspirational stories about how posts are conducting virtual meetings, buddy checks by mail and phone and, most impressively, delivering food and goods to the elderly and sick has shown just how relevant and important the whole The American Legion is today! Legiontown.org is filled with stories about how Legionnaires are rising to the occasion in every corner of the globe. We are, by all accounts, back in uniform and in the fight to preserve the American way of life. If you wondered if The American Legion really makes a difference, you know now.

The answer to the question of “which phase of the organizational lifecycle is The American Legion in?” remains the same: all of them. What has been seen in recent weeks, however, is that

there are far more posts and departments in the growth and prime phase than in the aging and dying phase. The Department of California is perhaps one of the best examples of behavior for the rest of us to emulate, but they aren’t the only ones. Our veterans and their families have stepped up, yet again, in support of this great nation. The American Legion is part of the solution to our national emergency right now, and we brought our A-game.

Never forget—change is inevitable. As our culture changes our veterans change; as our veterans change our needs change. We must be willing to adapt to change and embrace it, because COVID-19 is not our last national emergency. The country needs The American Legion today; they will need it again tomorrow and the next 100 years. Will you be ready?

### National updates on coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

Here are some useful links... just click on them.

[National Commander Oxford's updates](#)

[Legion's actions with COVID-19](#)

[www.legion.org/coronavirus](http://www.legion.org/coronavirus)

[April: A month of hope for our children and youth](#)

[www.cdc.gov/](http://www.cdc.gov/)

## COMMANDER HELEN WONG

Reaching out matters! A month ago, most of us had never heard of coronavirus, much less know anyone who came down with it. What many of us didn't know was that we have heard of the coronavirus before. Most likely, we heard of SARS (severe acute respiratory syndrome) back in 2002 and MERS (Middle East respiratory syndrome) in 2012. SARS and MERS is a coronavirus. For more information click on: [www.cdc.gov/sars/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/sars/index.html)

In a space of a month, the San Francisco Bay Area went from very few cases to 2,933 confirmed COVID-19 cases in the 11 counties from Mendocino to Santa Cruz with 75 deaths as of April 2, 2020, 7:18PM. Despite Shelter-At-Home orders in the 6 counties on March 16<sup>th</sup> to the Governor's order for a statewide Stay-At-Home on March 19<sup>th</sup>, the number of cases started exploding. The first weekend after the order saw a lot of people who did not practice social distancing as the weather was so nice, the beaches and parks beckoned, and it seemed that they did not take the order seriously.

Now with the prediction that the worse is coming in the next two weeks, it is more important than

ever to reach out to our fellow veterans. Buddy checks were started after our last meeting by teleconference call. It is with great sadness that two of the Korean War Veterans on my list had passed away and have gone to Post Everlasting: Sammy Louie and George Lee. Many members remember Comrade Louie as he was active with the post for many, many years. Our color guard was scheduled to participate at his celebration of life ceremony last month, but inevitably postponed. Comrade Lee lived in Sacramento, but had family in San Francisco so he requested his membership be transferred to Cathay Post several years ago. He had intentions of attending a meeting, but never got the chance. If you know a veteran, please contact him/her to let him/her know we are thinking about them. If they need anything and it is something we can do to help, let us know.

San Francisco has extended Stay-At-Home orders to May 3<sup>rd</sup>, so please reach out. As the days stretch into weeks, many people feel isolated and can become depressed especially if there is an income change for the worse or if they cannot physically go out to get groceries or

food. Seniors can call the Seniors hotline at (833) 544-2374 to talk to someone. For those affected by small business closures, [www.COVID19.ca.gov](http://www.COVID19.ca.gov) has information about small business loans and grants. For those laid off, the local Employment Development Department is where you apply for unemployment, and there is an extra \$600 per week of federal funds that will be added on. Sales tax payments of up to \$50,000 to California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA) will be deferred for up to 12 months. Most evictions and foreclosures will be banned for the next months.

With every passing day, there are new ways we learn about how to stay connected. From not knowing much about teleconferencing/videoconferencing, we have been forced to look into new technology. Most people have heard about Skype which is a videoconferencing application that has been around for almost two decades. Our post chose to do teleconferencing and used Freeconferencecall.com (they have video conferencing ability, too) to connect over 25 members at our

(Continued on page 5)



Helen Wong

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Cathay Post Member  
since: 1990

Branch: Army

Final Rank: Lt. Col.

*“Now with  
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George Tsang

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Cathay Post Member since: 2014

Branch: Army

Final Rank: SFC

*“National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific... more than 53,000 veterans and their families buried there... a very numbing and rewarding experience for any visitor!”*

**1st VICE COMMANDER GEORGE TSANG**

We are in our homes for another month to try and curb the spread of the virus. Try and get some exercise at home to keep our activity level up. You do not want to come back to our monthly meetings with an additional 50 lbs. in your gut! Some suggestions to keep active are walking to a local park and doing some stretching, light exercise, and deep breathing. This will help to keep your immune system healthy to ward off the coronavirus as there is no vaccine at the present time. Make sure you wear a mask and keep your distance from others.

The City is pretty much empty at this time and driving is reminiscent of a time when there were fewer cars on the roads. Repair shops are considered “essential services” and the ones I oversee remain open and are trying their best to keep their employees on the payroll. This will be harder to do in the coming weeks. Although the doors are open, business has dropped considerably. Rent and utilities still have to be paid. To cut expenses, some of the shops will be open for half a day while allowing their employees to exhaust their sick leave and vacation pay.

In order to ease some of the burden, the recently passed stimulus package include several relief funds, grants, and loans available from the federal government and from the Small Business Administration (SBA). SF has a Small Business Relief fund which is a loan of \$10,000 to help businesses and some of it may be forgiven if the funds are used to pay employees. I am in the process for applying for these funds for four auto repair shops. <https://covid19.ca.gov/business-and-employers/#top>

On the lighter side, on my recent visit to Honolulu, I had a chance to visit the

National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (or Punch Bowl Cemetery). There are more than 53,000 veterans and their families buried at the cemetery. Besides the white marble statue of Lady Liberty, there as you enter, is a covered hallway lined with mosaic murals depicting different battles and campaigns that took place during WWII, Korean, Vietnam, and some of the Iraq wars. A very humbling and rewarding experience for any visitor.

Our next meeting on Saturday, April 11 will be a video conference. Please check your email for information. Stay safe!



## 2<sup>nd</sup> VICE COMMANDER Charles Paskerian

Last week, I fell and broke my fibula (small bone in lower leg) and am in a cast. I was in the hospital for three days and am not allowed to let my left foot touch the ground for six weeks. I am bedridden right now, but improving every day.

I am sorry to have to write about this now, but to me, the information below is as important as any I have ever written to you, my comrades.

I am a soldier just as you all are, and now the world is at war with a virus with no known cure or vaccination at this time. I wish my leg had not broken, so I could help more. Trouble is when America has been at war since the Civil War. The wars have not touched our shores. As a result, most U.S. Citizens

of today have not experienced anything like this within our borders.

Those who have are our military, like you, many who died or were wounded, and/or saw the misery of war, and followed the required rules of war, and those families that suffered the loss of a loved one...the Gold Star families. And today, only 1 per cent of our U S Citizens are veterans.

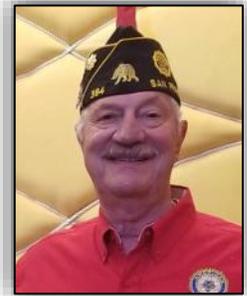
Our country with inexperienced citizens is now experiencing war and must learn to follow rules. These rules are not as harsh and strict as real war, believe me! So please help everyone to understand this and that following the rules of stay at home orders, keep at least 6 ft distance apart, and wear a face

mask and gloves when you have to go out is for everyone's safety.

We are Armenians and Chinese (and Ernest Stanton) Ha!, Love our fresh vegetables! Be careful!

Going out is bad, especially to Chinatown right now. Suggest you consider a Chinese merchant you know to deliver or buy from a company like "Sprouts," which I do through Instacart. And tip at least 20%! Now is not a time to scrimp on a few dollars and take a major chance on your health! Take care, and make youngsters and oldsters follow the law.

Prayer does not hurt. It gives hope. "And this too shall pass!"



Charles Paskerian

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Cathay Post member since: 2011

Branch: USAF

Final Rank: Major

*"Prayer does not hurt. It gives hope. "And this too shall pass."*

## COMMANDER WONG, CONTINUED

*(Continued from page 3)*

March meeting as it was easy to dial a number, put in an access code, and get on the call. We have been hearing about using Zoom videoconferencing to see the people on the call if they wish to have their image shown. More groups have been using this platform and seem to like the ease of use. We will look into this and let the members know if this will work for our group. Other applications are GoToMeeting.com, BlueJeans, Lifesize Video, Any Meeting Video Connect, High Five Video Conference, Ring Central, Cisco

Web, BITRIX 24, VIDYO Connect, and the list goes on. There are probably pros and cons on each application and with time, each could be investigated to find the best fit for our post meetings. Meanwhile, my opinion of the best way to stay connected is to call each other rather than text or email!

Please keep an eye out for an email notice regarding our upcoming meeting. We will send an email to all current paid members a link to participate in the meeting via video conference. We will offer technical assistance for those who need it.

# BREAKING NEWS

## LEGION NATIONAL PROGRAM UPDATES

### 102<sup>nd</sup> AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL CONVENTION IN LOUISVILLE, KY HAS BEEN CANCELED.

All other programs, meetings, events were previously canceled are as follows:

- 2020 National Oratorical contest (scheduled for April 17-19 Indianapolis, IN)
- Legion spring and NEC meeting (scheduled for May 6-7 Indianapolis, IN)
- American Legion 3-Position Air Rifle National Championship (scheduled for July 21-26 Colorado Springs, Colo.)
- 75<sup>th</sup> session of American Legion Boys Nation (scheduled for July 17-25 Washington, D.C.)
- 2020 Legion Baseball Regionals and World Series (in August, Shelby, NC)
- The Samsung American Legion Scholarship for 2020 has been suspended.

Please visit the Legion website for updated notices and headlines. [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)

## CA DEPARTMENT UPDATES

Like national, there are many Americanism programs that Department of California have canceled due to the current novel coronavirus 2019 pandemic. Please check the department website for the latest information. [www.calegion.org](http://www.calegion.org)

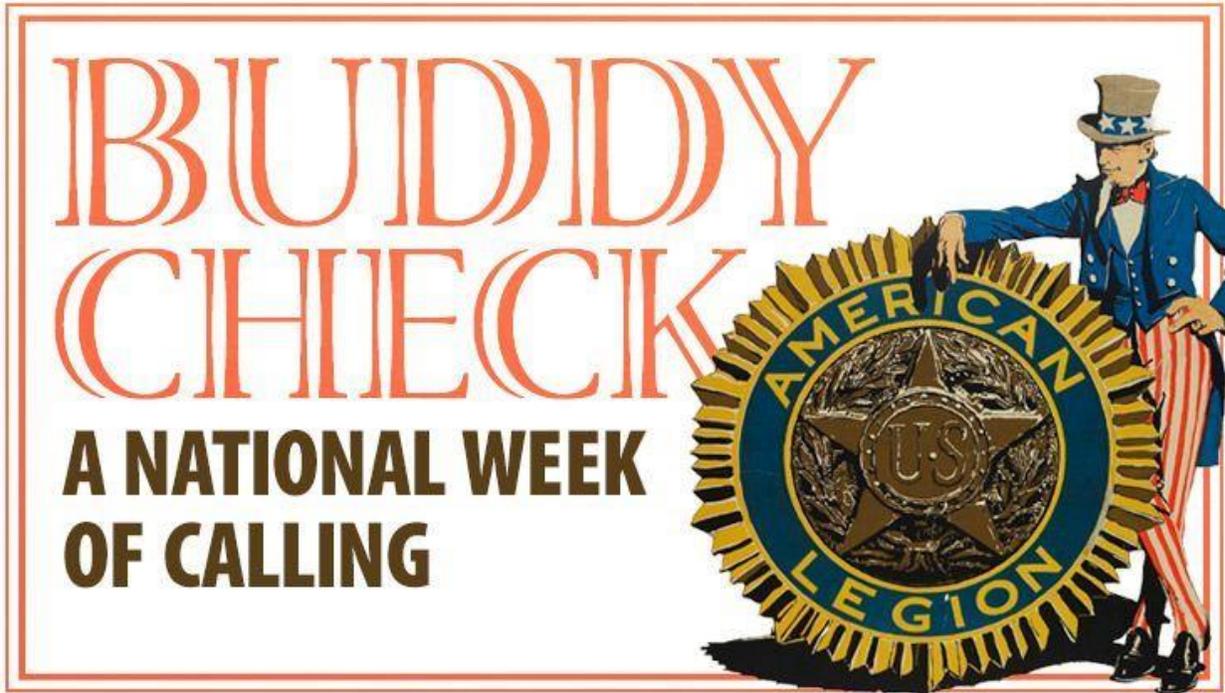
- CA Boys State—canceled
- Legion Baseball—canceled
- Small Business Administration (SBA) – April 9, 11 a.m. Looks like there will be a Zoom webinar by SBA on relief options mentioned in my article on page 10. Go to calegion.org website to register for this webinar.

Again, check department website for the latest information on state programs, meetings, and events.

## CATHAY POST 384 UPDATES

- Cathay Post 384 will continue to hold its monthly meeting as scheduled via video conference.
- Memberships are still being received and processed.
- JROTC drill competition has been canceled, so we will not be able to award students with scholarships as we have in past years.
- With the cancelation of CA Boys State, there will be no delegates chosen.
- 2020-2021 Post Officer installation rescheduled in July is tentatively pending.
- District 8 meetings are still held on the same day, but at 3 p.m. via Zoom.

We will try to keep information updated on our website and Facebook page.



**Conducting Buddy Checks during this time is the perfect time to check on all our members, not just our elder members, but all of them.**

**2019-2020 NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP TARGET DATES—UPDATED**

CHILDREN & YOUTH	MAY 13, 2020	95%
ARMED FORCES DAY	JUN 17, 2020	100%
DELEGATE STRENGTH	JULY 24, 2020	

Target dates fall on the second Wednesday of the month unless there is a holiday on that day or at the beginning of that week. Since Veterans’ Day falls on a Monday, the November target date will be on a Thursday.

**2019-2020 NATIONAL RENEWAL SCHEDULE**

<u>Cutoff Date</u>	<u>Renewal Mail Date</u>
APR 10, 2019	APR 24, 2020

Please note that renewals transmitted and received by the cutoff (which is also a national target date) will be updated prior to printing renewal notices, assuming they can be successfully scanned. Please transmit as early and as often as possible in advance of the target dates to help avoid delays in processing.



## HOW TO PERFORM A **BUDDY CHECK** — DURING THE — **CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC**

### **BUDDY CHECK: NOW MORE THAN EVER**

With the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic that is affecting us all, the Buddy Check program is perhaps more important now than ever before. The idea is to connect with veterans who may need assistance but don't know where to go or who to ask.

The American Legion Family already reaches out to fellow Legionnaires at this time of year but now we must do more. It's not enough to simply pick up the phone and call the veterans you know. We need to check on ALL VETERANS in each of our communities to be sure they are safe, feeling OK and have access to health care and services. If we hear of someone in need, we can offer someone a ride, deliver groceries or supplies and, in short, be there for them.

Some people won't ask for help. Encourage members of your post to reach out and offer assistance to other veterans in your area. Please be particularly attentive to seniors, a population that is especially vulnerable to the harmful effects of this virus.

The important part is to let the veterans in your community know you care and can provide assistance. It's what we do for our battle buddies.

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## HOW DO I ORGANIZE A BUDDY CHECK?

1. Gather up a team to call members, former members and all veterans in your area. If each member in a team of 10 calls just 10 people, 100 veterans can be reached in one sitting.
2. If you don't have a list of current and former members at your fingertips, visit [myLegion.org](http://myLegion.org) and download the names of current members and those who have let their memberships expire.
3. Save the file of members and those whose memberships have expired onto a spreadsheet or copy and paste into a Word file to distribute among your team members. Send out several copies of the lists via email.
4. Divide up the call list among your team members. Some may have personal connections with the member or veteran and should make that particular Buddy Check.
5. Make a list of local resources and phone numbers of services such as pharmacies with drive through windows, restaurants that are now providing order ahead takeout and meal delivery vendors that may be in your area, such as DoorDash, Grubhub and Uber Eats. Be prepared to educate people on how they can place orders online or by calling. Having these resources prepared ahead of time will be helpful when your team is making calls.
6. Start calling to see how people are doing. Ask if they need anything.
7. Use the spreadsheet to record your calls and identify those who may need a follow up or additional assistance.
8. Leave contact information in case the call doesn't get answered so you can be reached in the future.

## QUICK ANSWERS TO WHAT THE LEGION DOES

### NATIONAL

1. Stands as the nation's largest and most prominent voice for effective VA health care and disability benefits, GI Bill education and career opportunities. More than 3,600 American Legion service officers are handling over 700,000 veterans' cases at any one time, across the country and around the world. No other organization provides as much free service for veterans and their families.
2. Mentors thousands of children and youth through healthy, educational, competitive and patriotic programs, including Boys Nation, Oratorical Competition, American Legion Baseball, Junior Shooting Sports, flag education, Scouting, Junior ROTC and more.
3. Supports our nation's troops and a strong Department of Defense through innumerable programs and services for active-duty, National Guard and Reserve components, as well as resources for military families and advocacy for military retirees.

## AMERICAN LEGION SAMPLE SCRIPTS

The following scripts can help you and your American Legion Family team make Buddy Checks on members and other veterans. Use these, modify them or draft your own before reaching out.

Remember, the most important part of the call is to see if the veteran and family are OK and if the Legion can assist them in any way.

### MEMBER:

Hi, [MEMBER'S NAME]. This is [YOUR NAME] from your American Legion Post [XYZ]. I want to thank you for your membership and to check in on you and your family.

The coronavirus is a global pandemic that has changed life as we know it. I'm calling to see if there is anything that your American Legion post can assist you or your family with. Remember, your fellow Legionnaires are always here for you. If you, or a member of your family need anything, please let me know and I will do my best to help.

Thanks again for your service and know that you can call me any time at [PHONE NUMBER] or email me at [EMAIL ADDRESS].

Let's stay in touch.

### VETERAN / NON-MEMBER:

Hi, [NAME]. This is [YOUR NAME] from American Legion Post [XYZ]. I am calling to check in on you and your family.

The coronavirus is a global pandemic that has changed life as we know it. I'm calling to see if there is anything that American Legion Post [XYZ] can assist you or your family with. And really, just to say that we are here for you. If you, or a member of your family, need anything, please let me know and I will do my best to help.

Thank you for your service and know that you can call me anytime at [PHONE NUMBER] or email me at [EMAIL ADDRESS].

Let's stay in touch.



## Change is Inevitable By Nelson Lum

With the COVID-19 virus pandemic overshadowing every aspect of our lives, the once normal standards of the American society have all been changed drastically. Scenarios that once were thought of as some farfetched movie plots suddenly become enforceable policies. Survival may well depend on how persnickety we are in following the guidelines of social distancing and methods of disinfection.

Majority of our public were caught totally unprepared to deal with this crisis, many were driven to panic by unscrupulous people in authoritative positions who perpetuated the falsehood that “the sky is falling.” While we, the American people, along with the whole world are dealing with this unprecedented pandemic, staying calm and following advises of medical professionals, no one, not even experts, can claim with any kind of certainty regarding the duration of this epidemic. Once we’ve gained the upper hand in controlling this virus, we must immediately turn our attention and efforts to regroup and recapture the core strength of our economy. Our citizenry needs to know that we will overcome.

What about the effects of the pandemic to the health and wellbeing of The American Legion? Instead of discussing how this virus has affected the Legion at the national level, I am just going to report to you about the situation locally. Here in San Francisco, with the closure of the War Memorial Veterans Building, a majority of American Legion posts based in the building can no longer conduct their post businesses and meetings. Therefore, all physical post and district meetings are cancelled until further notice. Many are instead using new means of conducting meetings using teleconferencing or videoconferencing technologies. District 8 is conducting our meetings via Zoom video conferencing program.

Department of California’s Legion College scheduled for the end of March at Fairfield was postponed. California’s Boys State, the very important and shining jewel of American Legion programs has been cancelled for this year, along with California’s Legion Baseball program. There exists even the possibility of our department convention in June be called into question if the virus is not under control by that time. You can

check the department website for event updates.

Those who are holding leadership positions at all levels must be perspicacious and act decisively in order to conduct Legion businesses via alternative means. The virus has affected our ability to render assistance to our veterans, especially those homeless veterans who are more susceptible to contracting the virus. For those senior homeless veterans, they are already living with two strikes, and the virus may just be the fatal third strike awaiting them if we don’t act quickly.

The pandemic has presented the Legion with a huge obstacle to negotiate, but we must do our best to find ways to overcome this obstacle. It would be easy to just point our finger at the obstacle and shake our head. However, now is the time for those who hold positions of leadership to stand and navigate the Legion through these monstrous waves. We must inject ourselves as an organization that can make a difference, and aren’t fearful of obstacles.

American Legion Cathay

*(Continued on page 15)*

## Does Your Post Need Financial Assistance? By Clara Pon

Your post lounge, bar, kitchen, or other income source is closed or shutdown. Without this income, the post can't continue to pay the electricity bill, the water bill, the property taxes, employees if you have any, property insurance, and other such bills. The post may have to shut down for good if this goes on for much longer. What options are there?

Luckily, you can look into applying for a loan that you don't have to pay back. The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) offers an *Economic Injury Disaster Loan Emergency Advance*. This loan advance will provide up to \$10,000 of economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing temporary difficulties.

This is directly from the SBA website: [www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/economic-injury-disaster-loan-emergency-advance](http://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/economic-injury-disaster-loan-emergency-advance)

"In response to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, small business owners in all U.S. states, Washington D.C., and territories are eligible to

apply for an Economic Injury Disaster Loan advance of up to \$10,000. This advance will provide economic relief to businesses that are currently experiencing a temporary loss of revenue. Funds will be made available following a successful application. This loan advance will not have to be repaid."

"This program is for any small business with less than 500 employees (including sole proprietorships, independent contractors and self-employed persons), private non-profit organization or 501(c)(19) veterans organizations affected by COVID-19." That would be a majority of the posts around the country.

"The Economic Injury Disaster Loan advance funds will be made available within days of a successful application, and this loan advance will not have to be repaid."

To apply for the loan and see if you qualify, don't wait, go to: <https://covid19relief.sba.gov/#/>

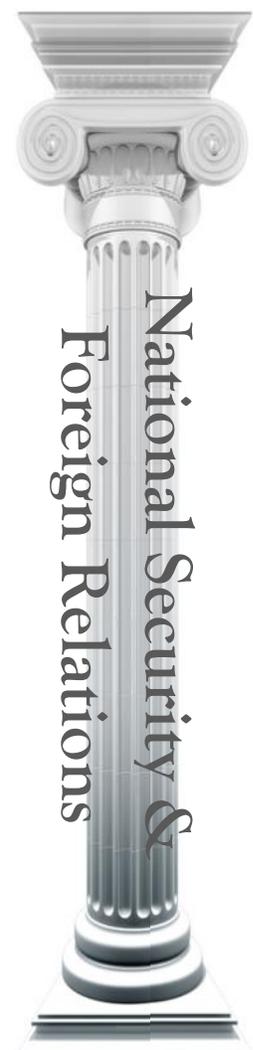
The loan application expires September 30, 2020.

**W**ait, there's more. SBA also offers other coronavirus relief options. Find more information at: [www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options](http://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options)

Posts with employees and if you own a small business might find this offer very useful. The *Paycheck Protection Program* is a loan designed to provide a direct incentive for small businesses to keep their workers on the payroll. [www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program-ppp](http://www.sba.gov/funding-programs/loans/coronavirus-relief-options/paycheck-protection-program-ppp)

"SBA will forgive loans if all employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities. You can apply through any existing SBA 7(a) lender or through any federally insured depository institution, federally insured credit union, and Farm Credit System institution that is participating.

Lenders may begin processing loan applications as soon as April 3, 2020. The Paycheck Protection Program will be available through June 30, 2020."



### Veteran Art Show & Exhibition by Unit 1 By Helen Wong

Before the shutdown of the War Memorial Veterans Building in March, the local Veterans Art Show/Exhibit & Reception was held on March 6, 2020 to select 1<sup>st</sup> place art and creative writing entries for the annual 2020 National Veterans Creative Arts Competition. American Legion Auxiliary Unit 1 was the sponsor this year and had help from the

American Red Cross volunteers Ada Low and Denise So with setting up the reception and three AmeriCorps volunteers who did the judging.

Department of California Auxiliary Unit 1 President Teresa Canonizado and me, treasurer of Unit 1 presented the 1<sup>st</sup> place ribbons to the winning participants including

Cathay Post members Vivian Bonner-Cairo for her artwork and SGT-at-Arms CJ Reeves who won in four categories for his poems. Certificates of Appreciation were also given to Dan Evenhouse, VA Social Worker who helped with getting veterans to enter their art and to veteran John Baumhackl who helped with photographing the event.



L-R: Helen Wong, CJ Reeves, Teresa Canonizado presented with 1<sup>st</sup> place ribbons. (Center) CJ Reeves holding balloons. (Right) Vivian Bonner-Cairo with her art work. *Photos courtesy of John Baumhackl.*

### Representing Cathay Post By WT Jeanpierre



Last month, Board of Director's member WT Jeanpierre attended a Veteran's Advisory meeting at American Legion Post 165 in Vacaville, CA. Congressman John Garamendi (left), representing 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta was there to discuss topics such as: Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, repeal of the 'Widow's Tax', Veterans House Act of 2020 and other federal legislation impacting veterans. There were also a presentation on National Committee to Preserve Social Security

and Medicare.

In attendance was Jeffrey L. Jewell, American Legion National Employment and Education Council member and District 5 commander.





## LEGION FAMILY NEWS



**BREAKING NEWS**—American Legion Auxiliary's national convention in Louisville, Kentucky has also been canceled following the recommendation of The American Legion referenced in Resolution #3.

Auxiliary members: Going stir crazy and have cabin fever? Try focusing on something else other than being bored. ALA Academy is online and available for you to learn from the comfort of your favorite chair, love seat or lounge chair on your porch. The training is to help members learn as part of a process that includes learning the information, sharing it with others, practicing their new skills, and, eventually, making those new skills a habit.

### Developing ALA Leaders *at All Levels*

Under a new academy training program, the American Legion Auxiliary is providing all members with the tools they need to help grow the organization as a team.

Click on the link to see what it is all about. [www.alaforveterans.org/ala-academy/](http://www.alaforveterans.org/ala-academy/)

### Sons of The American Legion—Spring meeting is canceled.

SAL members, if you haven't already been informed, spring meeting in early May in Indianapolis have been canceled. Please check with your detachment and or national representative for more information.

From an announcement recently distributed by national American Legion headquarters to all department leadership, the 102<sup>nd</sup> American Legion National convention in Louisville, Kentucky from August 28 to September 3 has been canceled. It was recommended that national Sons of The American Legion cancel their annual convention as well and follow the recommendations provided in Resolution #3.

However, I have it on good authority that the 2020 Sons of The American Legion national convention in Louisville, KY will be canceled.

### Legion Riders—2020 Legacy Run CANCELED

The Legacy Run scheduled for August 23-27, 2020 has been canceled. Please check the ALR Legacy Run Facebook page or the AL Rider page for information. I believe there will be a video released shortly with a message from American Legion Advisory Committee Chairman Mark Clark.





**Did You Know?** By CJ Reeves

**DID YOU KNOW?**

VAVS stands for Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service. Established in 1946, VAVS has been helping the VA for 75 years. Today, more than 8,000 Legion volunteers contribute nearly 900,000 hours annually to the VA. The SF VAVS consists of about 20 veteran service organizations (VSO) which meet quarterly. Each VSO is assigned a representative (Rep) and a deputy (Dep). When VAVS meetings begin again, I will let you know. VAVS meetings are free and open to the public.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Three Legionnaires from Cathay Post belong to the VAVS and are the representatives of their local VSO. Commander Helen Wong (also a member of AmVets) is the AMVETS rep., Comrade Nestor Tom (also a member of VFW) is the VFW rep., and yours truly, SGT-at-ARMS CJ is The American

Legion rep. Something is very wrong in Denmark as neither one of us has a deputy. AMVETS lost Deputy Elvin when he moved to Arizona. VFW lost Deputy Chris when he moved to Hawaii. American Legion still needs a deputy from way back when. If you are a member in good standing of one of these organizations and are interested in becoming a deputy, please contact me at: [cj.reeves@va.gov](mailto:cj.reeves@va.gov). C'mon, take the plunge. You know you want to.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

Haiku is a Japanese poem of 17 syllables, in three lines of five (5), seven (7), and five (5). Haiku poets are challenged to convey a vivid message in only 17 syllables. This is not an easy endeavor. I leave you with a Legionnaire Haiku.

To consecrate and  
Sanctify our comradeship  
By our devotion



**SPRINGTIME IS HERE**

*by CJ Reeves*

Springtime is here dressed in green,  
Bordered with dandelions, gold and serene.  
High in the treetop, a red robin sings,  
Happy for springtime is here.

A tall, stately lily nods her white head  
To daisy and buttercups asleep in bed.  
Wake up, lazy daisy, the white lily said.  
Wake up, springtime is here.

A clump of sweet lilacs dressed in full bloom  
Shed a fragrance of richest perfume.  
The honeybee hums her own special tune,  
Happy for springtime is here.

The sweet, little violets in their natural hue  
Make a carpet covered in dew  
For fairies who dance in pale morning light  
And happy for springtime is here.



## Social Security-Stimulus Checks By Roger Dong

For the millions of social security recipients who were concerned that they would not receive stimulus checks under the CARES Act, stop worrying. You will receive the \$1200 check for each adult and the money you receive will be tax free. That's right. It is tax free. Social security recipients normally do not have children under the age of 17 so they will not receive \$500 for each dependent child. Recipients don't even have to remember to include these funds in your 2020

tax return. The IRS did not make the decision, so they may not deserve credit for this generosity. Recipients should spend their stimulus checks wisely—\$1,200 does not go very far these days and no one knows if there will be future stimulus checks. They will be needed.

More good news. Even social security recipients who did not file a 2018 or 2019 tax return will receive a stimulus check.

For more information on social security issues,

visit: [www.ssa.gov/coronavirus/](http://www.ssa.gov/coronavirus/)

The US Treasury, not Social Security will make automatic payments to Social Security beneficiaries. Beneficiaries will receive these payments by direct deposit or by paper check, just as they would normally receive their Social Security benefits.

For updates from the IRS, please visit their website at: [www.irs.gov/coronavirus](http://www.irs.gov/coronavirus).

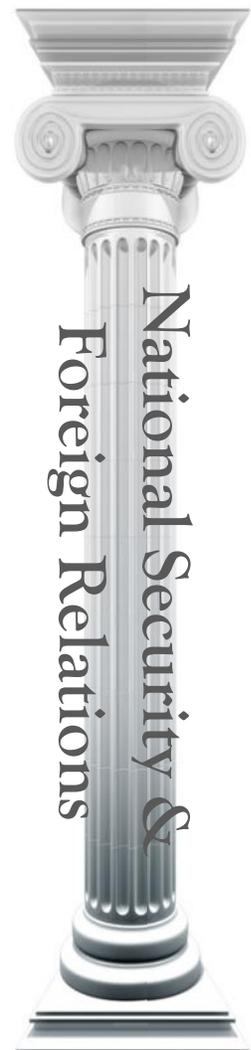
## Change, Continued

*(Continued from page 10)*

Post 384, under the leadership of Commander Helen Wong conducted its regular March monthly meeting by teleconferencing and it was met with resounding success. The meeting adhered to the preapproved agenda, went off in an orderly manner, and all items of business were resolved in accordance with the dictates of the post bylaws. The success of the teleconferencing did not just happen; it was the result of careful planning. Members of the board were assigned to assist the older members who may not be familiar with the process. These members were contacted a week prior and every step was covered until they were comfortable with the system.

The next step that must be followed is to amend the bylaws so that new methods of conducting meetings are recognized, authenticated, verified, and documented in our post bylaws. Reminder, your post bylaws should be updated about every three years so that it will reflect the latest changes from national and state levels.

The next post meeting is this Saturday, April 11 beginning at 11:00 a.m. via video conferencing program provided by Zoom. It is actually fairly easy to use and send out meeting invitations. There are many Zoom instructional videos on YouTube you can watch to get familiar with how to use it. Please look for the email invitation to this Saturday's post meeting.



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# MARCH 2020 IMPACT REPORT

 **250**

Number of protective masks provided free to health-care providers, to go along with 1,200 pairs of gloves, gauze, wipes and cleaning supplies in 50 kits assembled and distributed by Bethlehem, Conn., American Legion Post 146 on March 21.

 **24**

Number of veterans service organizations, military service organizations and non-governmental organizations who joined The American Legion in a March 23 conference call to coordinate military-support initiatives.

 **5,300**

Approximate number, from a total of 7,600 missing in action from the Korean War, whose remains are north of the DMZ, according to Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency Director Kelly McKeague, who spoke at the 60th American Legion Washington Conference March 10.

 **\$6.5 million**

Amount in Samsung Scholarships awarded to 2,266 applicants since the electronics giant entrusted The American Legion to manage a \$5 million trust in 1995 to assist the descendants of U.S. military veterans, in thanks for American defense in the Korean War.

 **48**

Number of American Legion Department Oratorical Contest champions crowned for 2020.

 **18**

Number of children assisted through \$7,019 in American Legion Temporary Financial Assistance grants in March. The grants help financially struggling military and veteran families with minor children who need assistance with housing, utilities, food and clothing.

 **\$36,224**

Amount in American Legion Child Welfare Foundation grants disbursed in March to three organizations that provide important services for young people facing difficulties not of their making.

## MARCH 2020 IMPACT REPORT, continued

 **\$17,915**

Amount in American Legion National Emergency Fund grants distributed in March to veterans and posts that suffered damages due to natural disasters.



**6**

Number of new American Legion posts chartered in March: Alabama 222; Colorado 1920 and 2020; Massachusetts 175; Oklahoma 2020; and Texas 233.



**389**

Number of VA disability claim decision appeals granted in favor of the veteran after representation by national American Legion appeals experts in March.

 **27,000**

Minimum number of hours logged since 1970 at the Charles George VA Medical Center in Asheville, N.C., by 2020 American Legion VA Volunteer Services Worker of the Year Robert G. Scruggs, a 52-year Paid Up for Life member of Post 77 in Hendersonville, N.C.



**1,325**

Number of Informal Hearing Presentations prepared by national American Legion staff experts assisting veterans with their disability claims in March.



**200**

Number of veterans who met with job recruiters in a March 5 American Legion-Hiring Our Heroes career fair in Washington, D.C.



**\$13,375**

Amount in American Legion national youth scholarships disbursed in March.

This is a snap shot of all the things Legionnaires, VSOs, donations, volunteers, and family members have done to help in their community, veterans, children, and those in need of a helping hand. For the entire report, go to:

[www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/membership-impact-report/March\\_Impact\\_Report.pdf](http://www.legion.org/sites/legion.org/files/legion/membership-impact-report/March_Impact_Report.pdf)

## Scams—Phishing and Phone Calls

**SCAMMERS**...Unfortunately, at times like we are experiencing now are when miscreants and scoundrels everywhere emerge with nefarious schemes to scam people out of their personal information, ask for donations, steal identities, hack your email, and much more.

The CDC has these warning for people. ([www.cdc.gov/media/phishing.html](http://www.cdc.gov/media/phishing.html))

### Phone Scams

“CDC has become aware that members of the general public are receiving calls appearing to originate from CDC through caller ID, or they are receiving scammer voice mail messages saying the caller is from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Some calls are requesting donations.

Downloadable apps and some free websites now make it simple for anyone to “spoof” a phone call and make it appear to come from any phone number. Unfortunately, current technology doesn’t make it easy to block these spoofed calls, either on business or personal phones. A spoofed call does not mean that anyone’s telephone has been hacked, so you can simply hang up.

These calls are a scam and are referred to as “government impersonation fraud,” meaning criminals are impersonating government officials for nefarious purposes. Scammers are becoming more sophisticated and organized in their approach. They are technologically savvy and often target young people and the elderly.

To protect yourself from falling victim to these scams, be wary of answering phone calls from numbers you do not recognize. Federal agencies do not request donations from the general public. Do not give out your personal

information, including banking information, Social Security number or other personally identifiable information over the phone or to individuals you do not know.”

### Phishing Attacks

“Malicious cyber criminals are also attempting to leverage interest and activity in COVID-19 to launch coronavirus-themed phishing emails. These phishing emails contain links and downloads for malware that can allow them to takeover healthcare IT systems and steal information.

At least one campaign is pretending to send emails from CDC, and targets Americans and other English-speaking victims with attached notices regarding infection-prevention measures for the disease.

It is critical to stay vigilant and follow good security practices to help reduce the likelihood of falling victim to phishing attacks.

- Don’t open unsolicited email from people you don’t know.
- Be wary of third-party sources spreading information about COVID-19. Refer to the official CDC [gov website for updates on COVID-19](http://www.cdc.gov).
- Hover your mouse over links to see where they lead.
- Do not click links in emails. If you think the address is correct, retype it in a browser window.
- Be wary of attachments in any email.
- Do not supply any personal information, especially passwords, to anyone via email.”



## A Bit of Cathay Post History By Nelson Lum

For all the members who were involved with the restructuring of Chinese American War Veterans Association (CAWVA). My report may contain information that you are already familiar with. However, for the purpose of educating those new members who were not involved, I am going to offer a brief historical tutorial of the organization and how it's related to the post.

In the year 1947, American Legion Cathay Post 384 was headquartered in Hang Ah Alley, just above the Chinese Playground at Sacramento Street. The building, which was rented at a very reasonable rate, was too small to facilitate the large number of members and support members at that time. The leaders of the post set out to find a larger building, and they found a place of interest located on Powell Street. The building being offered for sale was the headquarters of the Italian Athletic Club. The location of the building was two blocks away from Chinatown and into the Italian section of the city. After an extensive search, the Powell Street building was by far the best option. The membership made a bold decision to commit to the purchase of the building

for the sum of \$55,000. All members were required to donate toward this purchase. The building was paid in full in less than three years.

American Legion Cathay Post 384 is a chartered non-profit organization structured under IRS code 501(c)(19), a veteran service organization. When the purchase of the building was contemplated, concerns were raised as how to mitigate or shield potential liabilities from being transferred between the post and the building. It was decided to form a title holding company under IRS code 501(c)(2), with Cathay Post 384 as its parent company, for the sole purpose of overseeing the welfare of the building and to collect rentals that would be distributed to the parent company. CAWVA was born. The ultimate control still rests with the parent company, meaning members of Cathay Post 384 are the final deciding group in all matters concerning CAWVA.

As of July 2019 to the present, the basement and upper portions of the building are rented out full time. On every Sunday, the main floor of the building was rented out to a church group. Obviously, with the cur-

rent situation, the church and other groups are not able to meet at the post.

We are very proud of what we have accomplished with the building, but with the awareness the building was built in 1907. There will always be unexpected repairs. We discovered dry rot along the back-exterior stairs during the rainy season, but upon its initial repair, more and more damages were discovered. At the end, most of the back stairs had to be replaced. Although the facilities have undergone major renovations during the past four years, there are still some major items of improvements that need to be done. A heating system has been contracted for and will be installed shortly. The exterior of the building will need to be painted soon and so will replacement of the roof.

Overall, the income from the rental has sustained the maintenance of the building, and financial distributions to the post have augmented the operations of the post.

2019-2020 CAWVA Officers: President Nelson Lum, Treasure Roger Dong, Secretary Helen Wong, Board members David Wong and Charles Paskerian.



### “Chinese Virus” By Nelson Lum

Many of my friends, especially those who are of Asian/Chinese ethnicity, have been expressing their outrage over the POTUS referencing coronavirus disease 2019 as “Chinese virus.” The overwhelming number of them felt in that reference the POTUS is

revealing that he is racist or at the minimum, he is insensitive to the Asian/Chinese Americans who may encounter racist retributions from the masses due to his reference.

History has demonstrated to us that references as such have become lightening rods and or false justifications to victimize the affected groups. One only need to look back to 1982 in Detroit Michigan, a young Chinese American named Vincent Chin was beaten to death by two unemployed auto workers who blamed him for having caused their unemployment due to the rise of the Japanese auto industry (they thought Vincent was Japanese). What made this incident even more tragic was the fact that Vincent Chin did not even work in the auto industry. He was killed solely due to his Asian appearance. Unfortunately, there have already been reported cases throughout our country of harassments and assaults against Asians, not just the Chinese, that were apparently motivated by racism over the current crisis.

The POTUS may only be thinking of the originating location of COVID-19 when he labeled the virus as “Chinese virus.” Apparently, he was upset at the Chinese government’s inference that the coronavirus disease 2019 was created by the United States Army, and thus, he insisted in the labeling of the virus as “Chinese virus.”

In 1918, the “Spanish flu” ravished the world and infected over 500 million

people. It was estimated that approximately 20 to 50 million people died which included about 675,000 Americans. The origin of that virus is still not clear to this date. While the virus was discovered and reported in Spain in May of 1918, one of the first cases of that virus was reported on March 11, 1918 at a military base in Kansas. Why was that virus named the “Spanish flu” and not the “Kansas flu?” No one in authority has been able to offer a reasonable answer as yet.

In my opinion, the President of the United States must and should clarify his labeling was for the purpose of identifying where this particular virus most likely originated from. Better yet, as the president of all Americans, he needs to be aware of the potential consequences of his words and how they may affect others. Asian/Chinese Americans have been subjected to historic discriminate governmental policies. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and the internment of Japanese Americans during WWII are but small samples of governmental policies that displayed rampant racism; and as result, Asian/Chinese Americans are very sensitive and vigilant over perceived racial insensitivities.

If POTUS chooses not to clarify his reference, he will lend weight to those who view his reference as racist and deserve their condemnations. I am not and have never been a subscriber to a political correctness dominated world, but in this case, POTUS has crossed the line. He must learn to balance his personal feelings with the parameters of the bigger picture and must adhere to the guideline of not do or say anything that jeopardizes a contingent of Americans.



## Are We Ready for the Next Pandemic By Roger Dong

History has many stories about killer viruses that wiped large populations of mankind, but our national leaders did not heed the alarming warnings. Then the world was shocked by coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). We are now in the third month of this new virus's attack on the American population. To date, a few hundred thousand Americans have succumbed to the virus and we are hoping to face the peak of the viral attack in the weeks ahead.

Why should anyone be worrying now about the next pandemic? Right now, we are still in the middle of our nerve-racking war with COVID-19. Today, most of us are sitting at home and not directly involved with this viral war, just sitting at home glued to CNN, Fox, or some television station. Why not start thinking about preparing to fight the next pandemic? We need to do much better next time!!!

We have not done very well dealing with COVID-19 to date. Assuming that the virus will be contained sometime soon, let's make sure we are ready the next time and not waste time, money, and lives figuring out what to do.

Even if we detect early and have good lead time, we still should make sure our medical suppliers are ready to ramp up their normal operations to support pandemic operations so that our healthcare medical staffs will have all the personal protection equipment, ventilators, and respirators needed to optimize medical care. Today (April 6) in the midst of COVID-19, we continue to hear of the shortage of medical supplies and equipment to protect medical staffs who are doing everything they can to provide medical for all patients. It is so painful to see the shortage of medical equipment for doctors, nurses, hospital support staffs, and 1<sup>st</sup> responders.

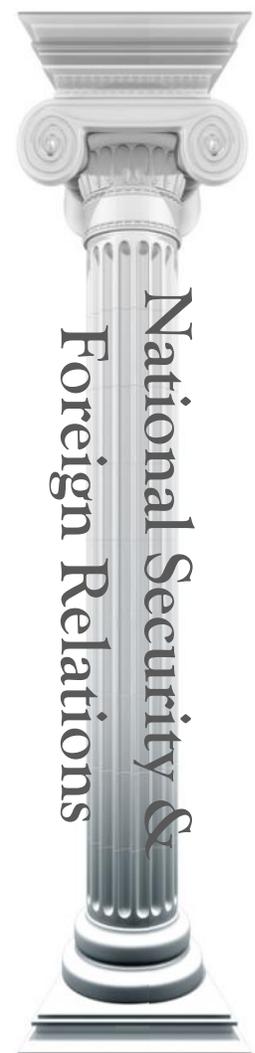
Next time, we should, through our elected officials, ensure that our federal government takes overall responsibility to manage, allocate, and commit resources where they are needed most so that we are most effective. Pandemics typically attack multiple locations and invade different locations at different times. Our nationally managed defenses must be flexible to focus our weapons precisely where the viral attacks are happening. It is rarely possible to be everywhere at once, so we must fight

smart. New York Governor Andrew Coumo has wisely suggested this flexible counterattack plan which our national leaders have apparently not considered and exploited.

As soon as the threat is halted, we need to immediately create a global early warning system. This needs to be an international cooperative effort because we must be able to detect the next viral attack ASAP, wherever it appears, and stifle it at the first identified location. Striking early will take a lot less resources to contain and destroy it. This is not simply about defending our own borders during a global pandemic. We must be prepared to go wherever the threat is, smother it immediately. Early intervention must be the objective. Early detection of the next virus will also give us more time to make relevant test kits and maximum time to develop a vaccine which takes many months.

Who knows? The next viral culprit could surface here in America. The first country the virus attacks will not have much heads up and preparation time so this takes global cooperation, even with governments

*(Continued on page 22)*



## Ready for the Next Pandemic, Continued

*(Continued from page 21)*

and national leaders who are normally antagonists. Everyone should contribute with necessary resources, including doctors, scientists, and necessary medical supplies and medical personnel to eradicate the novel virus at the earliest moment.

This is a war where every participating country can avoid defeat. No one can deny that any nation is immune to powerful, new viruses. Let's see if everyone will cooperate to save everyone's neck.

Every country must actively participate and poorer countries need to be funded by the wealthier countries who will also be threatened. Hopefully, the wealthier nations will see that it is in everyone's best interest to financially support less wealthy nations.

In America, the federal government must be able to mobilize quickly the U.S. Pandemic Response Team within the National Security Council. The federal government must take command of the overall campaign. The fed via the CDC must immediately map and track the situation, all the hot spots and cold spots.

We must nationalize all

companies that provide goods and services needed to support the national war effort. Our medical supply companies must be ordered to produce sufficient quantities to support the national effort. These supplies would include diagnostic tests, face masks, gloves, face shields, goggles, gowns, ventilators, and respirators. Companies that supply these critical items must be able to quickly ramp up production as soon as the next pandemic surfaces.

Before the next pandemic, our national strategic stockpile inventory of antibiotics, vaccines, and related critical medical material must be accumulated to projected requirements. Related to our stockpile of chemicals and ingredients for medicines, it is of great importance to the re-establish the companies that produce the vital chemicals needed to produce viral fighting like antibiotics.

In recent history, we have moved these industries overseas and are now dangerously dependent on the good graces of foreign countries to provide/sell these ingredients to us in sufficient quantities to meet our requirements. Foreign or overseas suppliers may not be able to

provide our supplies in a timely manner, regardless of intentions. Today, 80-90% of these chemicals are supplied by China. We must realize that during a global pandemic, everyone needs medical supplies and equipment. Our critical materials and supplies must be made in America. We must control our own supplies and we should not depend on outside sources.

We now know that some actions have high priority. Testing is imperative to determine who is infected, how many are infected, and their location. We must know the extent of the infections, so that those infected are quarantined, including those asymptomatic. If control is lost in isolating the infected, both symptomatic and asymptomatic, things quickly get out of control which will result in very serious disruptions and unnecessary fatalities. During COVID-19, 25% of those infected were asymptomatic. Only with quick and immediate testing will we be capable of identifying and isolating those asymptomatic.

Source: "Preparing For the Next Pandemic," Susan Desmond-Hellmann, WSJ, April 4, 2020, p C1, C2



## April 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1 April Fool's Day	2	3	4
5 Palm Sunday	6	7 ALWMC Meeting, 3 pm, Dist. 8 @ 4 pm	8	9	10 Good Friday	11 Post Meeting 11 am Zoom
12 	13	14	15 Tax day extended to July 15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

## May 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5 ALWMC Meeting, 3 pm, Dist. 8 @ 4 pm	6	7	8 Military Spouse Appreciation Day	9 Post Meeting 11 am
10 	11	12	13	14	15	16 Armed Forces Day
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 	26	27	28	29	30
31						

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We welcome article or letter submissions and reserve the right to publish, republish, or not publish any submission, and to edit articles or letters as appropriate. Submissions must include your name and an email address or telephone number. All submissions should be emailed to [cathaypost384events@gmail.com](mailto:cathaypost384events@gmail.com).

*Cathay Dispatch* writers were former members of the *National American Legion Media Association* (NALMA, 501(c)3), *National American Legion Press Association*, and *California Legion Press Association* (CALPA, 501(c)3). The award plaques received from those national and department level entities since 2014 will forever be displayed on the walls throughout the post as part of its distinguished history.



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

Come join American Legion Cathay Post 384 in San Francisco, one of the oldest and most active posts in San Francisco. We welcome all qualified retired or active military personnel.

Our veterans are courageous wartime military men and women who proudly served or are currently serving.

**NEW— July 30, 2019 LEGION Act, Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service expands eligibility to those who served honorably from December 7, 1941 to now.**

#### World War I

4/6/1917 – 11/11/1918

#### Beginning of World War II

12/7/1941 – to future date



## CATHAY POST 384 American Legion

### 2019-2020 Post Officers

**Commander:** Helen Wong

**1st Vice Commander:** George Tsang

**2nd Vice Commander:**  
Charles Paskerian

**Adjutant:** Ernie Stanton

**Finance Officer:** Randy Toy

**Historian:** Roger Dong

**Jr. Past Commander:** Nelson Lum

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