

Thank you, Thank you! ...to all the officers, committee people, and members who made 2019-2020 fiscal year a success. Thank you also to all those that stepped up to lead our Legion Family through the 2020-2021 fiscal year. I know they are all excited to see the year off to a great start and will work hard to assure the 2020-2021 year is the best year yet!

As many of you know, our Legion Family consists of Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, members of the Sons of The Legion (SAL), and the Legion Riders. Each of these family members have a specific mission and specific talents to complete the mission. I cannot stress enough to always be thinking about helping our Legion Family grow. For instance: When you are standing in line at the Hardware Store and notice someone wearing a tee-shirt or hat that would give you a clue that they may have some connection with the military, welcome them to an appropriate Legion Family meeting. Our Legion General meeting is on the second Thursday of each month. Our Legion Auxiliary and Sons of the Legion Meetings are both on the first Tuesday of the month. Finally, our Legion Riders meeting is at 1000hrs on the third Sunday of each month.

Remember, our Legion Family mission is to support and care for our Veterans and children. This work is most important and we need many members to carry out our mission successfully. One of the ways we carry out our mission is through our support of the many legion programs created to help our Veterans and children. To name a few, PROJECT: VetRelief which seeks to offer financial and other support to our Veterans experiencing hardships. PROJECT VetRelief is also very involved with trying to stem the tide of Veteran suicides, currently occurring at the rate of 22 per day. Another is the school medal program that recognizes achievement at our local schools. And others, such as our youth baseball and junior shooters help teach our young people skills while learning to function in a team environment. There are many, many programs...too many to list here. Suffice it to say, if you have an interest or a passion to help, there is Legion program that you will find challenging and fun.

Even with COVID-19, we managed to have an exceptional amount of participation year to date. In fact, our elections had the largest participation by far, in the history of the post. Many also participated in our Legion Riders 5th District Relief event that helped raise money for our Posts in crisis due to the COVID-19 shut downs.

I know many of us are tired of all things virus. There is a light at the end of the tunnel and we will get back to some semblance of normal before you know it. With this in mind, please remember that all meetings and Legion Family events still require masks and social distancing. Please don't let that stop us from carrying on our important work and our camaraderie with our fellow Legion Family members.

I am looking forward to a great year in which we can do our very best to help our Veterans and children while growing our Mandarin Fallen Heroes Legion Family.

Stay safe and God bless you. And God bless America!

Joe Maltese, Commander
Mandarin Fallen Heroes Post 372