

SEPTEMBER 2023

# Posts from



## From the COMMANDER:

We're heading into the Fall, my favorite time of year! We have a lot of busy times ahead and I am excited to be your Commander again.

This is a new format for our monthly newsletter as Rick Pushies, our fearless webmaster; has transferred his duties to me. I am so grateful for the many years he volunteered as our communications expert and the amazing work he did. He has assured me he is always available for consultation, and believe me; I will take advantage of that as needed!

I want to thank Yvonne Hampton for the amazing work she did as Commander for the past year. She connected our Post family with so many other local Veteran organizations through events and activities, and only through these connections can our Post grow and prosper. Thank you Yvonne for the amazing job you did as Commander, and for stepping up again to fill the job as my First Vice for the coming year. I look forward to working with you and the rest of the amazing leadership team that has been assembled. Working Together,  
**Nora O'Donnell, Commander**

## From the AUXILIARY

I recently returned from the American Legion Auxiliary Department of California convention. What a great 4 days spending time with ALA members from all over the state. It's important how we members can make a difference in the lives of Veterans, active military and their families. I will share at the next meeting (ALA) what I learned/relearned from the conventions. Also on Sunday they held an installation ceremony for the new President for the Department of California, Glenda Schultz. New incoming district president, first vice and second vice president were also sworn in. All Department chairs were also sworn in. I was in attendance for the swearing in as First Vice of District 16.

At our August meeting we went over all of the program positions, re: Poppy, Chaplin (filled by Faith Ann), Community Service plus many more. For those who can crochet or knit within the Legion Family, we have within our District 16, a unit who donates baby blankets. As we plan for the new year we will be working on any or all programs together so we can accomplish great things for our veterans and active military.

**Laurie Richards, President Unit 66**

## From the ADJUTANT:

Hello Post 66 Members! We had a healthy start to our 2024 membership renewals in July. There were approximately 75 renewals received and I want to thank each member for doing so. We also have some new members I'd like to introduce: Anthony Trifiletti (USA), Sean Metzler (USA), Gail Crawford (USN), and Randy Berryhill (USAF). When you see these folks at the Post please give them a warm welcome and share your stories. There are some great perks included when you join or renew your membership, such as: VA benefits assistance, a strong voice in our nation's capital, the nationwide Legion magazine, and best of all family and camaraderie. Much more information about the legion can also be found at these links beginning with our very own website: <https://post66slo.org/>, <https://www.legion.org/join>, and <https://calegion.org/>. As of 8/4/23 CaLegion.Org website, the Department Membership report lists San Luis Obispo Post 66 at 317 members.

I hope all of you enjoy our last month of Summer, and I look forward to seeing you at the Post!

Sincerely,

**Ramona Hedges, Post 66 Adjutant**

Sick Call: , Chuck Emery, Randy Arseneau, John Archuleta, George Galvan, and John Buckley.  
Post Everlasting: Frank Rowan and Bill Cotnam

## September Schedule of Events:

**9/4** - Labor Day Holiday. **Post Closed**

**9/6** - Auxiliary Mtg. 5:00pm

Membership Mtg. 6:30pm

**9/8** - Friday night social - Hot dogs & chips or bring your own dinner. 430pm. Games & pool table available.

**9/11** - Fire Station 1, SLO. Gather at 8:00am. Program begins at 8:30 am. Speeches by Boys & Girls State students.

**9/11** - Sons Meeting - 6:30pm

Monday Night Social: Spaghetti with meat sauce.

**9/13** - Membership BBQ - 6:30pm - \$15.00/pp Baby back ribs, beans, garlic bread, salads and cake for dessert

**9/16** - Friday night social - Hot dogs & chips or bring your own dinner. 430pm. Games & pool table available.

**9/18** - Monday Night Social, Antipasto salad, rolls, green salad and dessert

**9/22** - Friday night social - Hot dogs & chips or bring your own dinner. 430pm. Games & pool table available.

**9/25** - Monday Night Social - Taco salad bowls, rice, beans, salad and dessert

**9/30** - Friday night social - Hot dogs & chips or bring your own dinner. 430pm. Games & pool table available.



The 85<sup>th</sup> session of American Legion California Boys/Girls State Leadership program was held on the campus of California State University Sacramento (CSUS) June 17<sup>th</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup>. As many of you know, the 85<sup>th</sup> Session was a history making one as the program is now Co-Ed.

The B/G state program is among the top respected programs in the United States focusing on the operation of government for high school students to experience. The program engages students to become part of the operation of local (municipality) county and state government. Post 66 has a long legacy of supporting the State leadership program and providing the guidance and costs to our selected delegates from our local high schools: San Luis High, Mission College Prep, and Morro Bay High School. A shout out to all involved at the Post, school site personnel including parents in their support to help prepare the delegates to be successful to experience this opportunity "A week that shapes a lifetime Developing Tomorrows Leaders."

The following letters from our 3 delegates summarizes their experiences at the leadership program.

Sincerely,

Ken San Filippo

Post 66 chair, B/G State leadership program

**Camilo J. Baltodano / SLOHS - B/G State 2023**

Dear American Legion Post 66 Members,  
 First, thank you for sponsoring me to attend California Boys & Girls State 2023. I feel honored to have been given the opportunity to participate in such a special program. Over the course of my week in Sacramento, I learned a lot about political campaigns, our military, and most importantly, about the lives of my amazing fellow delegates. It is true that Boys & Girls State gives individuals the opportunity to make "friendships that last a lifetime". Thanks to social media and modern technology, I have been able to remain in contact with my Boys & Girls State friends. We are already planning a reunion. I was elected by my county to serve as a California Appellate Justice.

In this role, I heard oral argument, drafted opinions, and discussed constitutional law with my fellow justices. Additionally, I was an active member of my city and helped to pass dozens of city ordinances (some were serious, and others were silly... we had a rule that everyone must skip in the dorm hallways). One of my favorite memories occurred on day five when our city police successfully "arrested" six people for not skipping in the hallways. Not only did these culprits have to pay hefty traffic fees, but they were also subject to mandatory karaoke and successfully performed songs by Michael Jackson and Taylor Swift.

During my free time, I enjoyed playing volleyball, basketball, and having deep and fulfilling conversations with my Boys & Girls State friends.

Once again, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to represent San Luis Obispo High School at California Boys & Girls State 2023. I truly had a phenomenal time. The lessons I learned in citizenship, humility, and government will last far beyond my week in Sacramento.

**POST 66 - OFFICERS & COMMITTEES**

- Commander - Nora O'Donnell
- Adjutant - Ramona Hedges
- Finance Officer - Jim Irwin
- 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander - Yvonne Hampton
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander - Mario Perez
- Junior Past Commander - Yvonne Hampton
- Executive Committee
  - John McDonald
  - Bill Fieldhouse
  - Jeff Pillars
  - Greg Somers
  - Barbara Fisher

**APPOINTED POSITIONS**

- Bar Manager - Jim Miller
- Bar Manager, Assistant - Thom Dimmitt
- Booking Manager - Yvonne Hampton
- Chaplain - Vacant
- Chaplain Assistant - Vacant
- Facilities Committee Chair - Mario Perez
- Finance Committee Chair - Jim Irwin
- Food Service Committee Chair - Betty Bristol
- Investment Committee Chair - David Glidden
- Judge Advocate - Robert Bettencourt
- Liaison Sons - Greg Somers
- Media & Communications Committee Chair - Vacant
- Membership Committee Chair - Mario Perez
- Post Service Officer - David Glidden
- Sergeant at Arms - Jeffrey Pillars
- Sergeant at Arms Assistant - Vacant

**AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY**

- Auxilliary Unit 66, President - Laurie Richards
- Auxilliary Unit 66, Secretary - Janice Somers
- Sons, Squadron 66, Commander - Bob Evenson
- Sons, Squadron 66, Adjutant -
- Riders, Chapter 66, President - Vacant
- Riders, Chapter 66, Adjutant - Vacant

**Boys & Girls State letters, continued:****With gratitude from Easton Wier / Mission College Prep**

B/G State 2023

Attending California Boys and Girls State was a great experience, and I learned a lot. It was rough at the beginning having to leave at 4 a.m. and then arriving not knowing anybody, but once we met with our cities, I was able to meet a lot of people and make some friends. Over the next few days, city, county, and state elections took place. I ran for the office of justice on the Court of Appeals and ended up getting elected along with two other justices. The first thing we did as Appellate Court Justices was judge round two of the Legal Advocacy competition. This was a competition that dozens of delegates entered in which they would study a case, and either be the plaintiff or defendant and play it out like a real court case. We judges would then grade each person on their performance. This was a fun competition to judge, and it was interesting to see how each person interpreted the case. Our Appellate Court unfortunately didn't receive any cases the rest of the week because nobody in our county was appealing any cases, but judging the Legal Advocacy competition alone made it worth being an Appellate Court Justice.

One of the best parts of the week was getting to meet so many people. Everyone was super friendly, and I got to form many connections. Random people would just sit at my table at meals and start talking. Halfway through the week I saw some people playing tennis so I went over and played with them, and we would take turns playing with the few racquets we had. I think Boys and Girls State was a nice break from the busyness of everyday life and made everyone be social because no one knew anyone there. It was also interesting seeing the speeches that people running for state positions gave. The candidates that did the best were the ones that were super energetic and got the audience on their side. Everyone was qualified, and everyone had good policies, so it came down to how they got the audience to react to them. It was interesting learning about all the different positions that there are at the city, county, and state levels. Many of them I had never heard of. One of the best things was that we were divided into Whigs and Federalists, and everyone was partisan at first, but then eventually no one cared about which party you were from. This caused everyone to work together better and showed me how much energy we waste on partisanship in the real world. California Boys and Girls State gave me a great look at how our state's government works and gave me many new connections. I am grateful that I was able to attend.

**Reid Hammer / Morro Bay High School**

B/G State 2023

California Boys and Girls State was a truly amazing opportunity. In that week, I learned more than I ever had about politics, law, and government. In the program, all delegates were assigned to a city; I was a member of the city of Crocker in the county of Haley. Everyone was given the opportunity to run for various positions, and I chose to run for the State Assembly. I ended up being elected to represent my city in the State Assembly alongside one other member from my city. As an assembly member my role was to write and pass legislation as well as evaluate legislation from the Senate; we passed as many as 100 bills in the week. In the assembly, I was able to learn so much about the process of passing legislation; I also got to see how an actual state assembly is run. I even got the opportunity to pass my own bill in the assembly; I passed a bill stating that everyone should be required to take a mandatory financial literacy class in order to educate everyone on how to properly handle their money. I also studied for and passed a mock bar exam; in doing so, I learned many valuable facts and tidbits about law and our legal system. One of my main take-aways from the program is just how powerful public speaking is; the most successful people at the program were those that were the best at communicating their ideas to a large audience. Another big takeaway was that connections with people are incredibly important. People with the most connections were those that were most successful in their campaigns at the program; this can easily be carried over into real-life campaigning. Furthermore, along with giving me a better understanding of the workings of our government, this week gave me the opportunity to meet and interact with many amazing people from all sorts of backgrounds. All in all, Boys and Girls State was one of the best experiences of my life and makes me want to be more involved with politics in the future. I learned so much in that one week; it made me more educated on the government system, made me a better public speaker, and taught me so much about all aspects of law and government. I want to say thanks to everyone that made it possible for me to go to this program; without you, I would not have had this opportunity.

This was truly the experience of a lifetime. Thank you!