



American Legion Lt. B. R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291
Legion Year 17 – 18 Newsletter No. 2

紐約華裔美國退伍軍人會會務簡訊

September, 2017

Dear Legionnaires 親愛的會友：

The Post has reviewed its qualifications for its transportation reimbursement policy for members which was updated last year and increased to thirty (30) continuous years. It was deemed a necessary step due to the weak financial outlook for the coming year. As the Post finances continue to improve, the post has approved reducing the continuous years from thirty (30) to fifteen (15) to be eligible for the transportation reimbursement during the June membership meeting. During the past year, the Post encountered numerous inquiries from members that had not achieved the necessary continuous years for reimbursement asking why they had to pay membership dues. We would like to remind our members that every member is obligated and responsible for their dues. As a matter of fact, the current membership dues for every member are set by the American Legion National Headquarters and the New York Department Headquarters at thirty-eight dollars. The Post has been absorbing membership due increases for years and continues to hold membership dues constant at twenty-five dollars. This means every member is receiving a substantial subsidy of thirteen dollars.

After being the first woman unanimously elected as National Commander to lead the nation's largest veteran organization for a one-year term, Denise Rohan of Post 385 in Verona, Wisconsin had one question for the delegates of the 99th National Convention in Reno, Nevada: "Are you ready?" "Are you ready to continue to join forces as part of the nation's largest veteran service organization's family?" Commander Rohan said her theme for the year is "Family First"; "we are not here to judge one another, we are here to nurture and take care of one another." She challenged legionnaires to treat each other in the same spirit of love and support like an extended family.

President Trump addressed the convention delegates in Reno, Nevada by thanking the American Legion for working tirelessly over the years to speak up on veteran's issues. President Trump said, "one year ago at this gathering, I promised you that I would make it a priority to fix the broken VA system and deliver to our veterans the care they so richly deserve." President Trump signed the bipartisan bill, H. R. 2288, The Veterans Appeal Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 on the convention floor witnessed by all delegates to allow veterans to choose one of the three "lanes" that best suit his or her needs on the appeal process. Veterans currently facing average wait times of five years for the appeal will expect it to shorten to 125 days. It is truly a historical event many long suffering veterans will benefit from for years to come. President Trump also addressed other key issues including the American Flag. He said "It is time to heal the wounds that have divided us, and to seek a new unity based on the common values that unite us. We are one people, with one home, and one flag."

Department of Veterans Affairs Secretary David Shulkin addressed the convention delegates on the subject of veterans' care. He said the problems that plagued the VA Hospitals across the country and affected millions of veterans waiting for care have improved. He acknowledged that there is evidence that veterans are trusting their VA facilities more than in the past. He said the VA's major priority for this year is to get the Choice Program working; cut the red tape and allow veterans' greater choice over their care. Along with the Choice Program, he also said his priorities include Modernizing VA, Improving Timeliness of Services, Focusing Resources More Effectively and Addressing Suicide Prevention. He stressed that he will never let the VA system to be privatized.

In July, the Post leaders also attended the 99th Department Convention in Syracuse, New York. Rena M. Nessler of Winnek Post 296, Ontario County, and 7th District was elected Department Commander of the Legion for 2017-2018. Commander Nessler became the first woman to be elected as commander of Department of New York. Also, congratulations are in order for our Past Commander Harvard Tang as he was elected 1st District Vice Commander.

本會經商討後重新決定更改去年議決的車馬費領取條件，將由三十年改為入會十五年合格領取車馬費。去年更改車馬費領取條件最重要原因是本會來年經濟預算未如理想，本會一切開支需要從減。自從車馬費議案更改後，本會已經收到不少會員來電詢問及表示他們感到迷惘，並一致表達他們的會費向來由軍人會代繳，為何今年要自己繳交。我們要提醒大家，每一個會員都有繳交會費的責任。其實會費是由全國總會及紐約州總會規定是三十八元，過去屢次總會增收會費時本會都沒增加會費，仍維持二十五元會費，其實每個會員已經享受本會十三元的補助。

來自威斯康星州的迪妮斯、羅翰被出席雷諾、內華達州第九十九屆全國年會代表一致推選為二零一七年至二零一八年度全國退伍軍人會有史以來第一位女主席，羅翰主席致詞詢問年會代表「你們預備好了嗎？」；「你們預備好繼續成為全國最大的退伍軍人會大家庭的一部份嗎？」羅翰主席說她在任內重點是「家庭為主」；「她強調我們不應互相判斷，我們應互相尊重及照顧。」她呼籲我們要互相團結，以大家同屬於一個大家庭一樣去支持及愛護每一個大家庭成員。

川普總統在全國年會致詞，他首先向美國退伍軍人會致謝，他感謝美國退伍軍人會多年來一直不懈地為爭取及向國會重申退伍軍人應得的福利。在他演說中，他提及他在去年參加美國退伍軍人會在俄亥俄州辛辛那提市舉行的年會時，他答應將退伍軍人人事部全面改革及對退伍軍人提供更好的服務為優先施政事項。在大會眾代表見證下，川普總統簽署了獲得民主黨及共和黨協議的法案 HR2288：「退伍軍人上訴改善和現代化法案」，這法案將對退伍軍人不滿退伍軍人人事務部初判結果而上訴提供三條渠道，允許退伍軍人選擇最合適其個人的需求而自作出選擇及決定選用最利於其上訴條件。而這法案改善了退伍軍人目前面臨平均期待五年才得知上訴結果縮短至一百二十五日。這破歷史性的在全國年會簽署法案對等待上訴的退伍軍人得益匪淺。川普總統亦提及另一些美國面對的重要難題，如對國旗的保護，他認為我們現在應團結一致，排除分裂，對我們信重的自由價值盡力愛護，因為我們都是屬於國家的一份子。

退伍軍人人事部部长大衛、舒爾金對年會代表致詞時稱退伍軍人因長期等待退伍軍人醫院醫療而引致在排期致死亡仍未得醫治改善已有進展。他說現有明顯的證據一般退伍軍人對改善後的退伍軍人醫院提供的醫療加與信任。他說退伍軍人人事部最優先及重視的行政措施是退伍軍人對其醫療的選擇計劃，我們必需削減不必要的手續，讓退伍軍人作出對其合適的醫療選擇。除了醫療的選擇計劃外，他說被重視的行政措施包括退伍軍人人事部現代化，繼續減短醫療排期問題，提高人力資源效率及加強教育去預防退伍軍人自殺。他並強調絕對不能容許退伍軍人醫院改為私有化。

第九十九屆紐約州年會於七月中旬在上州雪城舉行，來自紐約安大略郡、第七區的雷納、奈斯勒獲選為二零一七至二零一八年度紐約州美國退伍軍人總會第一位女主席。此外，本會前任主席鄧遐勳獲選為二零一七至二零一八年度紐約州美國退伍軍人會第一區副主席，這是值得大家向他致賀！

1. **Post Activities** 會務

The following motions were approved during the June 25, 2017 General Meeting:

本年六月二十五日第一次會員大會通過下列各項議案：

a. Approved the Lt. Kimlau Post 1291 2017-2018 budget plan.

通過本會二零一七至二零一八年度預算。

- b. Approve new members of the “Post Scholarship Committee” (Harvard Tang, Yeuk C. Moy and Mimi Wang) for the LY 2017-2020 term.
通過本會獎學金委員會新成員 - 鄧遐勳、梅若松、王咪咪，三人任期為二零一七年至二零二零年。
- c. Approved new members of the “Post Compliance Committee” (Mimi Wang, Frank Gee and Paul Tam) for the LY 2017-2020 term.
通過本會順從法令委員會新成員 - 王咪咪、朱灼輝、譚煥瑜，三人任期為二零一七年至二零二零年。
- d. Approved to appoint the Honorable Randall Eng as the Post Judge Advocate Consultant for LY 2017-2018.
通過委任伍元天法官為本會本年度評議顧問。
- e. Approved to appoint Robert E. Lee, Esq. as the Post Legal Consultant for LY 2017-2018.
通過委任李羅伯特為本會本年度法律顧問。
- f. Approved a one-time \$25.00 2017 transportation reimbursement for meetings and functions to all members with over 15 years of good standing membership status with the Lt. Kimlau Post (as determined by Post records as of June 2017). Deadline to claim the special reimbursement is December 31, 2017. See attached notice for special conditions with this motion.
通過本年度會員出席會議車馬費，凡會員入會超過十五年者（以本會記錄為準），每人二十五元。此車馬費必須於本年十二月三十一日前領取，逾時作廢。（詳情請參閱本期附件）
- g. Approved to have Mimi Wang and Hon. Judge Randall Eng to co-chair the “2017 9-11 Remembrance Ceremony Committee”.
通過由王咪咪及伍元天法官負責籌劃二零一七年“紀念九、一一事件”儀式。
- h. Approve the endorsement of Harvard Tang to serve as 1st District Vice Commander for 2017-2018.
通過推薦鄧遐勳前任主席為紐約第一區副主席。
- i. Approved the donation of \$2,000 to support the building of the memorial monument by Boston Chinatown Post 328 in Boston Chinatown.
通過捐款二千元支持波士頓興建退伍軍人紀念碑。

2. News/Announcement/Gossip

The 2017-2018 Membership cards have arrived and ready for pick up. Members can remit the \$25.00 membership dues by mail or in person. Members eligible (fifteen or more continuous membership years) for the Post 2017 Transportation Reimbursement can substitute this payment for annual dues and should consult the attached notice for additional information (See Para 1f above).

二零一七至二零一八年會員證已經開始分發（辦公時間，每日下午二時至四時），各會友請將二十五元會費以郵寄方式或親臨本會繳交。適合條件領取二零一七年會員出席會議車馬費會友可用車馬費代繳會費。詳情請參照本通訊附件辦理。

3. Taps 仙逝會員

We are sad to report the following legionnaires have passed on to the Commander of us all post everlasting.

May Our Comrades Rest In Peace!

Kien Pang Gee 朱鏡澎 (Apr 17)
Jeffrey Lee 李子慧 (July 17)
Jim Lee 李皓倫 (Aug 17)

Lam Ng 伍林 (Jun 17)
Jonathon Clement (July 17)
Chin Kan 陳耀倫 (Aug 17)

4. New/Transfer Members 新入會會員

There were total of ten new members approved by the last two General meetings
去年第四次會員大會及本年第一次會員大會通過接納下列十位新入會會員：

Allan Chong (Gulf – Army)
Jiahao Zhong 鍾嘉豪 (Gulf – Navy)
Daniel C. Foust (Gulf – Air Force)
Ming N. Moy 梅藝明 (Vietnam – Army)
Dajian Wu 吳大建 (Gulf – Marine)

Bo Qu 曲博 (Gulf – Navy)
Sherry Wu 吳小萌 (Gulf – Navy)
Pauline Foust (Gulf – Navy)
Allen Wong 黃康昌 (Gulf – Marine)
Jeffrey Cheung (Gulf – Navy)

Please join us to welcome the above new members. Hope to see all of you in future functions.
我們歡迎上述新會友加入我們的行列，更希望他們多參加本會各項活動。

We hope the above information will be of interest to you and we hope to hear from you soon.
Let us know what we can do for you. Until we meet again, stay well!
我們希望這份簡訊，對你有所幫助，更希望在不久的將來，能得到你參予本會各種活動的回應。
假如我們有任何可以為你服務之處，務請隨時提出意見。

THE STAFF

本會行政小組仝人敬啓
Kenneth Wong 黃建中

Kai S. Chung 李禎年

Antonio Chuy 朱超然

Don Yee 余超俊

Gabe B. Mui 梅本立

Wing Y. Tam 譚永源

David Lam 林善群

Mark Eng 伍顯宗

