



American Legion Lt. B. R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291, Inc.

Legion Year 17 – 18 Newsletter No. 4

紐約華裔美國退伍軍人會會務簡訊

April, 2018

Dear Legionnaires 親愛的會友：

We want to thank our members and their families for joining us at the lunar New Year Eve celebration at Delight 28 Restaurant and Joy Luck Palace Restaurant. We hope the year of the Dog brings everyone good health and prosperity. The dinner was enjoyed by over 700 members and their families. The Joy Luck Restaurant was equipped with a modern sound system and a huge screen, so members enjoyed a great night of karaoke without incurring any additional charges. On February 13th, our Post, along with Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association and Chinese Chamber of Commerce of New York were invited by U. S. Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao to attend the Lunar New Year celebration at the Transportation Headquarters, in Washington, DC. The last time our Post was invited to attend the Lunar New Year celebration in Washington, DC was when Secretary Chao was with the Labor Department under the Bush administration. Over 300 Leaders of the Chinese-American communities from all over the United States were among the invitees to attend this year's celebration. Secretary Chao reiterated her gratitude to our Post for hosting the parade and the memorial service at Lt. Kimlau Square while she visited New York's Chinatown last Memorial Day weekend.

Alexis Wichowski, PhD, Press Secretary and Senior Advisor to Dr. Loree Sutton, Commissioner of the New York City Department of Veterans' Services along with two of her deputy Secretaries kicked off their tour of visiting veterans' organizations in New York City. Our Post was chosen to be their first stop in their New York City veterans' group tour. The primary reason for their visit was to listen and gather information of how they can best serve veterans by knowing their concerns and issues they face every day. They also reiterated that veterans in New York City seeking help with permanent housing, mental health, education, employment and other problems can contact the Department of Veterans' Services for assistance. They also explained the Department of Veterans' Services can do a lot more for veterans than their predecessor, the Mayor's Office of Veterans' Affairs (MOVA), which is mostly ineffective, under-staffed, and lacking the authority to deal with the increasing needs of the City's 225,000 veterans.

The latest NY Department membership renewal report is at 88%. The First District has been and still is, in last place of the 10 districts in the Department. New York County which is part of the First District is also in 54th place of all 63 counties, due in large part that our Post's renewal is at 74%. There are still 160 members that have yet to renew to date. The higher renewal rates in the past were largely due to a policy that was put in place many years ago to help members with transportation reimbursement. This policy was to be ratified by membership each year based on the financial health of the Post and other factors. The transportation reimbursement was purposely set at the same rate as the membership dues, to encourage member participation at Post functions and increase meeting attendance. Members qualified to receive the transportation reimbursement when they achieved five or more continuous membership years with our Post. We also encouraged members to substitute the transportation reimbursement for membership dues to reduce the extra steps of the back and forth mailing. At the first membership meeting of this year, the transportation reimbursement policy was modified so that qualifying members must achieve 15 continuous years instead of 5 continuous years. This good deed policy instituted by the Post for many years created some unwanted problems. When members under 15 years of continuous membership were reminded to renew their membership, to our surprise, some of the answers we have heard from members are "do we have to pay dues?"; "over five year members do not have to pay dues"; "our dues were paid the Post"; "I do not want to be a member if I have to pay dues"...

we would like to advise these members to reflect a moment and understand why you as a member of the American Legion are important. The American Legion is the largest veterans' organization and has the most influential voice in advocating veterans' issues and benefits on Capitol Hill. It has recorded consistent accomplishments for veterans and their families since 1919. We should also remember that "it is not the price you pay to belong, but the price you paid to be eligible to belong." Most importantly, the biggest intangible benefit of being a member is the lifelong friendships that are created. That being said, we would like to remind our members once again to remit membership dues to the Post in a timely manner.

本會非常感謝各位會員及眷屬參加本年度在喜運來及彩福樓舉行的團年晚宴，祝各位狗年快樂，身體健康。今年團年晚宴約七百多位會員及親友分別在兩家酒樓共聚一堂迎接新年，彩福樓餐廳裡配備了現代化的音響系統和大屏幕，當天晚上會員們享受免費卡拉 OK 娛興，大家歡樂而歸。本會，中華公所及中華總商會在二月十三日被美國交通部趙小蘭部長邀請參加在華盛頓交通部舉辦的慶祝農曆新年宴會，與會華裔各界團體領袖遍佈美國各州超三百多人。本會上次參加由趙小蘭部長舉辦的慶祝農曆新年活動是她在小布殊總統任內當勞工部部長。趙小蘭部長仍非常感激本會在國殤日週末為她安排並舉辦華埠遊行及在華裔退伍軍人忠烈坊獻花紀念。

紐約市退伍軍人服務部高級顧問兼新聞秘書長維嘉斯基博士連同她兩位副組長在近日拜訪本會，他們選擇本會為拜訪全紐約市退伍軍人組織第一站確定本會在紐約市的影響力，他們這一次拜訪最主要目的是宣佈對退伍軍人服務部可以提供更好的服務及更深入了解退伍軍人面對的困難，解決如找尋工作，房屋支配，無家流民，就學機會及其它的服務。她強調退伍軍人們如遇上上述困難可直接聯絡紐約退伍軍人服務尋求協助。紐約市退伍軍人服務部比起過去市府退伍軍人事務局的名不虛傳，只能提建議而無執行權力實是天淵之別，他們能真實的服務退伍軍人。

最新的紐約州退伍軍人會報告大約有百分八十八會員已經繳交會費。我們所屬的第一區今年一直是十區中排名最後，而紐約郡亦在紐約州六十三個郡中排名五十四，其最大原因是本會會費繳交率是百分之七十四，至目前為止，本會仍有一百六十個會員尚未繳交今年會費。往年會員繳交會費之所以能達到快速進行最重要的原因是本會在多年來通過領取車馬費議案，本會為鼓勵會員參與本會一切活動及關心會務，多年來增設車馬費，為了節省將車馬費郵寄給合格領取車馬費的會員及會員將每年會費寄到本會的郵費及手續，特別將車馬費定於二十五元與會費配合，並呼籲及鼓勵會員以車馬費替代會費。在本年六月會員大會通過更改車馬費議案，將由以往入會五年合格領取車馬費改為十五年才合格。這個多年來為會員提供的福利卻帶來一個非常驚訝的後果，就是當我們提醒未繳交會費的會員，他們的回答是「我們需要繳交會費呀？」；「會齡五年以上會員不用繳交會費。」；「我們的會費是由退伍軍人會代交。」；「如果我必須繳交會費，我不想繼續為會員。」我們建議這些會員應該去理解你為何要成為美國退伍軍人會會員，美國退伍軍人會是美國最大的退伍軍人組織，亦是在國會最受尊重及最富影響力的退伍軍人團體，自一九一九年設立到現在不停的為退伍軍人及其家屬謀取福利。我們應該感到榮幸有資格成為退伍軍人會會員，這是因為你會付出重大的代價。我們想再次提醒大家，請及時將會費寄到本會。

1. **Post Activities** 會務

The following motions were approved during the February 4, 2018 General Meeting:
本年二月四日第三次會員大會通過下列各項議案：

- a. Approved the appointment of Chinese Secretary David Lam and Past Commander Mimi Wang to co-chair the annual Picnic Committee; annual picnic to be held on July 29, 2018.
通過委派林善群中文書記及前任主席王咪咪為本年度郊遊小組負責人，本年度郊遊將在七月二十九日舉行。

- b. Approved the Commander, Adjutant and Sergeant-at-Arms to inspect and determine the Color Guards should receive the uniform cleaning allowance.
通過由主席，幹事及糾察檢視並決定儀仗隊成員可否領取儀仗隊制服清洗補助費。
- c. Approved to discontinue the Roger Ling Memorial Award and reintroduce the \$1,000 as two \$500 Post Scholarship.
通過中止頒發凌志騰獎學金並將其一千元獎學金改設兩名本會各五百元獎學金。
- d. Approved to increase two more Post Scholarship for a total twelve at \$500 each.
通過本會每年獎學金增至十二名各五百元獎學金。
- e. Approved the Commander to appoint a three non-beneficial bearing member task force to review and make recommendation of the current officer's stipend.
通過由主席委任三位非受益會員為調整職員車馬費委員會成員並委派他們研究及提供職員車馬費調整規劃。

2. News/Announcement 其他消息

- a. The 2018 Memorial Day Parade/Ceremony will be held on Monday, May 28, 2018. All members are encourage to participate and should sign-up prior to 12:00 noon that day and be ready to assemble at the corner of Mott Street and Canal Street for march-off on or about 12:30 pm. Lunch will be served at the Delight 28 Restaurant, 28 Pell Street at 2:00 PM. Standard uniform required (Jacket and tie, Legion cap, shoes, no sneaker) to receive the \$10 transportation reimbursement.

本年度國殤日遊行，定於五月二十八日星期一中午在華埠舉行，參加會員請於該日十二時前到本會書記處登記，十二時半在勿街夾堅尼路集合出發忠烈坊，禮成後於下午二時在華埠披露街“喜運來大酒樓”午餐。參加遊行必須記得衣服整齊（穿套裝，結領帶，著皮鞋，戴軍帽）才能領取十元車馬費。

- b. The Legion Year 2018-2019 Post Installation ceremony and banquet will be held on Saturday, June 2, 2018. Installation of officers is scheduled for 4 pm at the Post Chairman Peter Woo Auditorium; follow immediately by the annual banquet at Jing Fong Restaurant at 6 pm. Anyone who wishes to attend the banquet must register with the Chinese Secretary from Monday May 7, 2018 to Sunday, May 20, 2018 (2 – 4 pm daily). First come first served, with no exceptions. Eligibility and cost for the banquet are as follow -
 - 1.) Members with 2018 membership card and who had made a donation of \$15.00 or more – one complimentary ticket.
 - 2.) Companion ticket \$15.00 each – limited to one per eligible member, no exceptions.
 - 3.) Members of the Lt. Kimlau American Auxiliary Unit or the Lt. Kimlau Sons of American Legion Squadron are invited to join this banquet if they are not otherwise qualified. Cost is \$15.00 per ticket and maximum 2 tickets each. Please bring your 2018 Auxiliary or SAL membership card.
 - 4.) Additional tickets can be purchased beginning May 14, 2018 for \$30.00 each. Maximum of 8 additional tickets per member.

本會一八至一九年職員就職及宴會定於二零一八年六月二日舉行。職員就職典禮定下午四時在本會伍覺良董事長禮堂舉行，宴會定下午六時假華埠金豐大酒樓舉行，歡迎本會會員及眷屬踴躍參加。宴會餐券請於下列時間（二零一八年五月七日（星期一）至二零一八年五月二十日（星期日），每日下午二時至四時）向本會中文書記處報名，領取職員就職宴會餐券，先到先得，賣完為止。報名辦法如下：

- 一) 凡憑二零一八年會員證報名及已奉本會年儀十五元以上者，免費餐券一張。
- 二) 凡憑二零一八年會員證報名者，可另購買伴侶券一張，每張十五元。
- 三) 凡已經參加本會婦女會及軍人子弟部者，如欲參加本會職員就職宴會，但又不適合上述二項報名辦法者，亦可購買餐券，每張十五元，每人以兩張為限。請憑二零一八年會員證報名。
- 四) 會員如欲購買超過二張餐券者，可於五月十四日後到會購買，每張三十元，最多不能超過八張。

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!

Leong Lee 梁利 (Jan 18)

David G. Yep 葉振君 (Feb 18)

Vincent K. Lee 李國光 (Feb 18)

4. **New/Transfer Members** 新入會會員

There were total of eight new members approved by the last General meeting
一七至一八年第三次會員大會通過接納下列八位新入會會員：

Wayland Fong 馮偉倫 (Gulf – Marine)

Jianying Lin 林劍英 (Gulf – Navy)

Jinfong Y. Lam 林展宏 (Gulf – Navy)

Harrison James Kendall (Gulf – Army)

Yin H. Chen 陳英豪 (Gulf – Navy)

Justin Chung (Gulf – Navy)

Joseph R. Herndon, Jr. (Gulf – Army)

Hankin Lei 雷漢建 (Gulf – Army)

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，能得到你參與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