At the General Meeting on April 20th First nominations for the coming year were completed. The following is the first ballot of nominees:

**1st Nominations**
Commander-Steve Miller
1st Vice Commander
Bret Olson
2nd Vice Commander
VACANT

Finance Officer-Terry Moxley
Chaplain – David Plank
Historian – Kris Thorsten
Sgt-at-Arms – Jerry Stephens
Asst. Sgt-at-Arms – Alina Diaz
EBoard – Joe Kuntz
EBoard – JD Ernst
EBoard – Dan Canright
EBoard – Terry Moxley
EBoard – DJ Nason
EBoard – VACANT

2nd Nominations, Voting, & INSTALLATION will take place on May 18th at 10:00 am. The position of 2nd Vice Commander and one seat on the Executive Committee have yet to be filled. Additionally, you can still be nominated for any position on the ballot during the 2nd nomination process. If you would like to know more about the positions and the duties involved, attend the meeting and a full explanation of the office you are interested in will be available. This is your post. Your participation in how it is run is important. Be the solution, not the problem.

**Move to Electronic Delivery of The California Legionnaire**
One of the benefits we all have with our paid-up membership is the California Legionnaire newsletter, published every February, April, June, August, October, and December. In the past it has been mailed to all members. Things are about to change. One of Department Adjutant Paul Brown’s first undertakings was to assess department operations and identify areas in an attempt to realign
spending to better serve the organization, members, and all the veterans of California. One of the biggest issues that needed to be resolved was the cost surrounding the printing and distribution of the CALIFORNIA LEGIONNAIRE. Every year it costs $175,000 to print and mail six issues of the CA LEGIONNAIRE to the 80,000-105,000 active members. This means that 10% of the operating budget is spent on printing and postage. This is not a practice that can continue. The CALIFORNIA LEGIONNAIRE is currently available on www.calegion.org. Starting with the June 2019 issue, we will physically mail future editions only to active members who “opt-in” by returning the postcard inserted in the April issue. The remaining distribution will occur through email. To sign up for electronic delivery (sent to your email address) click on the following link: LA Legionnaire Email

The postcard in the April edition can also be used to provide your email address. The Department currently has accurate emails for over 60% of its members, but needs to increase this level to above 75% to move the organization forward. Please consider sharing your email information rather than selecting the mailing option. As a member, you can always go to www.mylegion.org to update your own information on the national American Legion member database. Your signing up for email delivery could bring annual expenses connected to the printing and distribution of the newsletter to less than 1% of the annual budget rather than 10%, saving the department over $150,000. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

The graphic below is the “Opt-In/Out” card you will find in your April Issue of the California Legionnaire.

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Man of many talents

You might have noticed the name Kris Thorsten on the 1st Nomination ballot. Kris was featured in last month’s issue of The Press for the work he does at the Rancho del Oro VA Center in Oceanside. You might also recognize his name in regards to the American Legion Baseball program. Kris is the Post 365 representative for the program and is working with District in putting things together for the coming season. In addition to all of this, Kris is a writer and poet and has recently had a book of poems published. Here is one of them that many of us can relate to.

**Changed**

All of us do, you know
Those who’ve battled war.
We come back changed
Some never find that door.

Returning to the “Real World”
All struggle some degree.
Whether they saw many horrors
Or only a fraction did see.

Some doors never open
When we physically come back.
Our body has returned
But the mind hasn’t unpacked.

We fight with the demons
Who visit us each night.
Clinging to our loved ones
We try to make it right.

So never give up hope
We fight for our return.
Always stand beside us
This court has not adjourned.

Leif K. Thorsten

If you would like to see more of his work, seek him out at the next meeting.
Iwo Jima Revisited II

A couple of months ago my buddy Tom Morton, (a closet Historian), introduced me to Gardner “Mickey” Plummer, a Legion Post 365 member who told us about a visit he made on the island of Iwo Jima in 1955, ten years after the battle. Mickey was a member of Shore Party, 3rd Marine Division at the time. At the bar that night was another Legion member, and good friend, Kevin Gascon, who joined in our conversation and announced that he, too, had made a visit to Iwo Jima on the 70th Anniversary of the battle in 2015 when he was a member of Hq. Regiment, 3rd Marine Logistics Group. Kevin and Mickey brought in some photos from their visits and they appear below. Taken sixty years apart, with the exception of a few gray hairs, you can see not much has changed.

Raymond K. Johnson - Historian
Driving in Okinawa – I still cannot get used to driving on the wrong side of the road (left). The first step to driving is to pass the driving exam, not an easy task, but I did it.

Next step, is to obtain a vehicle, I have a WII Cypha, nice economy size car. The steering wheel is on the wrong side. I am always hitting the wipers instead of hitting my turn signal, therefore you have what is called “Okinawa Wave”.

Take note of the sticker on the front of my car – this signifies that I am a new driver, a great concept. I thought of plastering my car with several of these stickers, but thought against it and only placed one on the front and back of the car, so that they can see me coming either direction. I will however leave the stickers on my car the whole time I am here as a safety measure.

Now onto learning the international street signs, and there are many. I will add the signs were the hardest part of the driving exam. I only am showing two of the many signs, the 20 signifies 20 Km per hour. On a side note the highest speed is on the highway at 80 Km, which equates to 49.7 mph, this is my kind of speed. The sign below the 20, round blue with red line through it, means no standing at any time where the arrow is pointing.

One more interesting picture.

Note the license plate: the “Y” signifies Americans – AKA Yankees

From the Land of the Rising Sun
By Javier Collazo, CALPA/NALPA
Something exciting is about to happen here in Japan and we get the pleasure of witnessing history in the making.

On April 1, the Japanese government decided on the new name of the upcoming era. Since “Meiji” era approximately 150 years ago, one name of an era is applied to the one emperor. Japan's new era starting May 1, 2019 will be called “Reiwa” (pronounce leiwa).

Emperor Akihito, aged 85, will abdicates on April 30 of this year to his first son Crown Prince Naruhito. The Reiwa era will follow the Heisei era, which started on January 8, 1989 when the Showa era (1926-1989) ended. According to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, the meaning of Reiwa is the meaning of acceding to the long history,
traditional culture in Japan and the beautiful nature.
The name of the previous era, Heisei, is written with the characters for "peace" (hei) and "to become" (sei), directly reflecting the Japanese people's wish for peaceful times after the Showa era, which was marked by World War II and other international tensions.

Emperor Akihito was enthroned on January 8, 1989, one day after the passing of Emperor Hirohito. While welcoming the Emperor of the Heisei era, the Japanese people were still in mourning after their former Emperor. Seen from his point of view, the beginning of the new era is less tragic and abrupt.

This also affects the celebrated National Holiday in Japan. In Japan, the emperor’s birthday (Tennō tanjōbi) is considered a national holiday and is celebrated on the birthday of the reigning emperor. With the announcement of Emperor Akihito to abdicate the throne, Japan will not celebrate the emperor’s birthday this year. Emperor Akihito’s birthday is December 23rd. His son, Crown Prince Naruhito birthday is February 23rd. It will be celebrated in 2020, during the second year of Reiwa.

Editor’s Note: A bonus from the Collazo family. Javier and Colleen have been in Okinawa for just about a year now. We usually get an article from Colleen telling us about how she (they) are adapting to the change in lifestyle. This month Javie sends us his first communication since leaving CONUS. I emailed him upon its receipt and told him I was about to send Colleen a message asking for a “proof of life” photo as he has been neglecting the many emails that have been sent to him. He promises to be more attentive in the future. One thing I found interesting in his article was the font used. It seems he is working his way up the ladder and at present is stuck with an old Remington typewriter – the Courier 12 font brings back memories from the 1940’s. Maybe in a year or so he will be upgraded to an IBM Selectric with the interchangeable balls and ribbon cartridges. Hang in there Javie, we all miss you.

Steak Night
Those of us who enjoy the Tuesday Steak Night dinner at the post want to send a very special “Thank You!” to Tony Molnar and Mary Ann Haeussler for all the hard work they have done during the past year. Every Tuesday the two of them would come to the post and do all the prep work for the evening meal. Last month they decided to take a break, but not to worry, they did not leave without first getting replacements. Thanks to the both of you for all your help during the past year.
American Legion Baseball took a giant step forward at Post 365 last week. At the General Meeting the Legion Riders365 announced that they had donated $3,000.00 to the program and will be sponsoring a team this season. Post 365 will also sponsor a second team. For more information on the Legion Baseball program you can contact Kris Thorsten (LINK), the Post 365 representative, or Judy Leonardi (LINK), the District Representative for American Legion Baseball. Additionally, you can go to the District website at (LINK) for more information.

Special Events
The following events were submitted by Haywood Bagley, District 22 Executive Board member.

VA EDUCATION @ Post 731
5/18/19 0900-1500
About changes in the VA system. For everyone.

Tribune to WWII vets by the Padres
At Petco Park
POC: wenswold@att.net
858-952-4145
District EBoard member Haywood Bagley

Flag Detail
A couple of weeks ago we replaced the flag at Post 365. On hand to do the honors were Matt Foster, Commander of Escondido VFW Post 1513 and Joe Mortimer a member of American Legion Post 123 Angeles City, Pampanga, Philippines. Both Matt and Joe are members of the Military Order of the Cootie – a national honor degree membership association of the VFW. They attend our monthly Cootie meetings at VFW Post 7041 in Vista, and volunteered to assist in replacing the colors. After the flag raising, we adjourned to the club room and reveled at Joe Mortimer’s stories about the Philippines. Joe’s mantra, “I’m from the Government and I’m here to help you” was definitely in play today.

Below (L – R) Supervisor of the detail-Doug Hill, member of the SAL Squadron 365; Matt Foster; Joe Mortimer.

VFW Post 7041

Officers for 2019-2020
Commander - Roger Loiselle
Senior Vice Commander - Jerry Stephens
Junior Vice Commander - Kirk Prohaska
Adjutant – Raymond K. Johnson
Quartermaster - Mo Motier
Chaplain - Jose Flores
Judge Advocate - Bruce Mackamul
Service Officer - Bruce Degnan
Post Surgeon - Clyde Titus
1st Year Trustee - Terry Moxley
2nd Year Trustee - Frank Monteforte
3rd Year Trustee - Jonathon North

Special Event

Sunday Mother’s Day Breakfast
Eggs Benedict – $8
Lobster Benedict – $13
$11 for Mom’s
$6 for Dad
Full Breakfast Menu Available

Additional Parking available at DISCOUNT TIRE

Blueberry Pancakes – $3
Additional Parking available at DISCOUNT TIRE
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>Sunday Breakfast 8:30 am - 11:30 am: Chicken Fried Steak $8</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>Memorial Day Monday Special 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm: Mikes French Toast $7</td>
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<td>28</td>
<td>Tuesday Steak Night 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm</td>
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<td>29</td>
<td>Wednesday Line Dancing 10 am: Wings $5</td>
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Special Events for May:

- Post 365 Events Calendar - May 2019 - VFW Post 7041
- Kentucky Derby Day: 5/4, Cinco de Mayo Breakfast: 5/5, Mother's Day: 5/12, Memorial Day: 5/28