

Commander's Report - October 2012 to June 2014

PC Mimi Wang (王咪咪)

Upon the sudden loss of Commander Bob Chin in October 2012, I was honored that our post members gave me the opportunity to serve as the Post's first female Commander from October 2012 to June 2014. During that time I was still working full time in the New York Harbor Veterans Administration (VA) Healthcare System. I was not sure in the beginning whether I could perform the job as well as all the past commanders. Fortunately I had received great support and guidance from all the past commanders, staff members and Chairman of the Board. I was able to lead our post successfully in many activities based on the American Legion Missions: Serving the veterans, supporting our national security, Americanism, and mentoring the youth.

Serving the Veterans:

The Post was able to work closely with the VA health care system in providing a homeless veteran permanent housing after he had lived over thirty years in the streets. Veterans need nursing homes, medical care, tuition assistance and career guidance, our Post was able to help them make timely connections. Each year our Post staff has routinely provided burial honors to many veterans in all boroughs. Our chaplain has continued to represent our Post in visiting our veterans, whether they are in the hospital, nursing home or at home. As a result, our Post has received many letters of appreciation from the veterans and their families. We have reviewed resumes and provided suggestions to many young returning soldiers at our Post. After Hurricane Sandy in 2012, our Post has financially assisted Queens and Staten Island Legion Posts in their efforts to rebuild their communities.

Supporting our National Security:

When a platoon from the 10th Mountain Infantry Division was deployed to Afghanistan in 2013 - 2014 in support of the Operation Endurance Freedom (OEF), our Post made the pledge to adopt a platoon of 24 soldiers. The Legion family worked together and sent care packages (candies, instant noodles, cereal, shaving cream, books, DVD, beef jerky, instant coffee, handy wipe, etc.) enclosed with greeting letters from the P. S. 2 students. We thank God for their safe return after nine months of deployment without any casualties. Keeping national security in mind, our Post continues to lead the annual 9/11 memorial service with our members and community members at the Kimlau Memorial Square.

Americanism:

Our Post continues its well-recognized involvement in various community activities. We participate in the monthly 5th Police Precinct community meetings, Chinatown family association officer installations and holiday celebrations, the Chinatown Business Improvement and Development meetings, and the Consolidated Chinese Benevolent Association meetings. In 2012, KimLau Post began co-sponsoring the US Marine Corps "Toy for Tots" program during the Christmas period. Since then, close to 2500 toys were given to needy children in the neighborhood by the Legion Family Volunteers (Legion, Auxiliary and Sons of American Legion), adding tremendous joy to the children during the holiday session.

In the past two years, we have provided veteran's benefits, college application guide and health education seminars to the community and our Legion family. The routine weekly free Tai Chi classes and the yearly free flu shots continue to be well attended by the community and our members.

Renaming Bayard Street between Canal and Elizabeth Streets to Private Danny Chen Way on May 17, 2014 is another noted community event. The tragic loss of Private Chen has awakened our nation. Hazing in the

military is not tolerated and must be stopped. We are happy to see that Danny's parents have become active members of our Post.

KimLau Post has continued to take an active role in leading the Chinatown Memorial and Veterans Day parades each year with our Post color guards and marching band provided by the CCBA Chinese School Band. Many Post members also participated in the Annual 5th Avenue Veterans Day parade sponsored by the United War Veterans Council. We continue to remind everyone that freedom is not free!

Mentoring the youth:

Cadets from the United States Military Academy at West Point and midshipmen from the Naval Academy at Annapolis visited us each year. During their visit, selected senior Post members had presented mentoring sessions to the guests on "What the American Legion is All About?" We also explained our Post history and activities to them. Our Post continues to sponsor younger Legion members to attend the New York State Legion College for preparing them to become our future Post leaders each year. During my term, a total of six legionnaires had successfully graduated from this college. The Post Scholarship Committee worked diligently in selecting qualified high school seniors and college students to receive our Post scholarships. A total of twenty-seven scholarships were awarded from 2012-2014 at our annual Christmas holiday luncheons.

During my term a total of three Post members had participated as advisors in the New York State Boys State program. During the one week intensive training close to 3000 selected young men from New York State were given the opportunity to learn practical lessons on the operations of local, county and state government. Our Post financially sponsored three students from New York City to attend this program.

My 2 ½ years term had passed quickly. I was busy seven days a week and must give thanks to my husband for his unceasing support. Without his support it would not have been possible for me to devote time to the American Legion. I truly enjoyed serving our Post and participating in different community activities. The experience that I have gained from dealing with different events, the media and the community has provided me invaluable knowledge that I could not have learned from any textbook. I strongly encourage all our Legion members to take an active role in our Post organization, to experience many good challenging tasks, and to help the Kimlau Post continue as the largest and the best Chinese American Legion Post in this great nation.

二零一二至二零一四會務回顧

王咪咪

二零一二年十月，在痛失前主席陳東東之後，我很榮幸的被推薦成為本會二零一二年至二零一四年的首席女主席。

那時候，我還在紐約市退伍軍人醫院工作。剛開始，我不太確定自己是否可以像歷屆的主席們那樣勝任愉快。很幸運的是，我從歷屆的許多主席，工作人員及董事長那兒，得到許多的支持與指導，使我可以因此而將所有我們軍人會的任務- 對退伍軍人的服務，支持國家安全防衛，伸張美國公民主義和青年輔導..等等，都辦得圓滿順利的完成。

退伍軍人服務方面：

由於我們軍人會與退伍軍人醫療系統的合作，使我們能夠幫助一位在街上流浪，無屋可住達三十年以上的退伍軍人搬進一個永久性的政府住屋。在養老院，醫療照顧，獎助學金甚至在工作上的指導，指引等方

面，本會也都能給予即時的協助。每年，本會的工作人員，都會固定的在紐約市各區，參加許多退伍軍人們的喪禮，本會的牧師也持續他的按時拜訪慰問會員們，不論他們是在醫院，療養院或者在家裡。因此本會也收到許多來自這些會員或他們家人的感謝信函。我們也幫忙審看了許多年青的退伍軍人們的簡歷，並給他們一些協助性的建議。在二零一二年桑迪颶風過後，對於皇后區和史坦登島兩地的退伍軍人辦事處，本會也在經濟上幫助他們重建家園。

支持國家安全防衛方面：

在二零一三至二零一四 政府爲了支持阿富汗的自由，掉動了紐約上州第十軍團的軍人到阿富汗執行任務，本會承諾了照管二十四位軍人。因此，本會會員及家庭成員們同心合力作愛心包，並連同第二小學學生們寫的問候信，一起定期寄給他們。愛心包裡面有：糖果、速食麵、早點食品、刮鬍膏、書本、高清碟片、牛肉乾、即溶咖啡、和濕巾等等。感謝上帝的保佑，讓他們完成執行任務九個月後，毫無傷亡的安全返回。我們永遠都要警覺國家的安全防衛。本會也繼續帶領著本會會員及社區人士們，在退伍軍人忠烈坊紀念廣場，舉辦每年的九一一紀念會。

伸張美國公民主義方面：

如大眾所知，本會經常參與社區各種活動，例如第五分局的每月警民會議、各地同鄉會館的活動、節日慶典、唐人街商務協會和中華公所的會議…等等。

自從二零一二 年本會第一次與海軍陸戰隊聯合舉辦“在耶誕節期間捐贈玩具給幼兒”的活動。至今，本會同工已將近二千五百個玩具分贈給了鄰近需要的孩子們。這活動帶給許多孩子及其家人極大的歡樂。

在過去的兩年裡，本會爲退伍軍人及社區提供了許多其他的服務。例如：大學申請的指導，健康講座，每週兩次的免費太極課程及每年免費的流行感冒疫苗注射..等等。會員及社區人士都踴躍的參加。

二零一四年的五月十七日，市政府在堅尼路/伊麗沙白路的街名上加了一等兵陳宇暉的名字，這是我們社區非常被重視的一件事。陳宇暉的不幸事件，覺醒了全國對軍中欺壓凌辱行爲的重視與製止。我們也很欣慰陳宇暉父母走出陰霾，也加入本會爲會員。

本會繼續領導中國街退伍軍人節的遊行。每年的遊行都是由本會儀仗隊身著製服與中華公所中文學校的樂隊帶領大家，完成這個活動。許多本會會員，也參加由“紐約退伍軍人同盟會”主辦的第五大道的退伍軍人節日遊行。我們的目的地是一再的提醒大家，自由-絕對不是白白得來的。

青年教導方面：

每年本會都有西點軍校和海軍官校的學生來訪。在他們來訪期間，我們有安排資深的會員們，負責指導介紹，使他們了解，“美國退伍軍人會”是個什麼樣的組織。同時我們也會向他們解釋本會的歷史及活動…等等。

在我的任期中，在我們每年的耶誕節午餐慶典上，由本會獎學金委員會選出及頒發了總共二十八位高中與大學生獎學金。

兩年期間本會会有三位會員去紐約州“青少年公民訓練團”裡，擔任導師的職務。在一星期緊湊的訓練裡，每年有三千多名由全紐約州選拔出來的優秀青年得到機會模擬地區及州政府部門的行政組織，從中實習

與了解政府部門的行政系統。本會同時也在經濟上資助了九位來自紐約市的優秀青年參與這個活動。訓練他們成為未來的社區棟樑及領導人。

我兩年半的任期,很快就過去了。在這個期間,我一周七天;天天都很忙。在此,我必須要特別得感謝我先生給我的支持與鼓勵;沒有他的幫助,我是不可能投入這麼多的時間與精力的。

在任期間,不論是本會的服務或是對外參加各種不同的社區活動,我都非常的愉快。這項職務也增進了我許多的知識、常識與見識。例如:如何與各種不同的活動組織、新聞媒體及社區人士的交流、溝通、合作等等。這些寶貴的經驗都不是在任何書本上可以學習到的。所以,我強烈的鼓勵軍人會的所有會員,加入我們的行列,去經歷許多好的與正面性的挑戰,提升自身的閱歷和能力。讓本會能繼續保持是全美國最大,最好“華人退伍軍人會”的地位。

