

Commander's Report 2009-2010

By Commander Harvard Tang

Time goes by so quickly. Suddenly one year has elapsed. I remember last June, I was encouraged to accept the nomination as Commander of the Lt. B. R. Kimlau Chinese Memorial Post 1291. At that time, I was hesitant about what I should do in order to fulfill my duties as commander of this great organization. I pledged to adhere to the principles of the American Legion and serve the Post earnestly. I am grateful to my officers and staff: Vice Commanders, Kai S. Chung, Mimi Wang, and John Chang, Adjutant Gabe B. Mui, Assistant Adjutant Wing Yuen Tam, Treasurer Robert G. T. Chin, and Chinese Secretary David Lam. I also thank the past Post Commanders for their enthusiasm. I am glad to report that we had a very successful year. Due to our past commanders who had the foresight to purchase the building in the 1960's, we are financially sound. This has enabled us to provide many activities for our members and for our community.

During this past year, I attended numerous Legion related functions, such as the New York County meetings, New York Department and National Conventions, the Testimonial Dinner in honor of the American Legion's National Commander, the First District Legislative meeting, and the New York Department Legion College event. I also participated in as many community activities as possible. We donated annually to The American Legion's National Emergency Fund and to the Legacy Scholarship Fund. In support of the Chinese Consolidated Benevolent Association's (CCBA) sponsored fund raising efforts, we made donations to the earthquake victims in China, Haiti, and Chile, and to the typhoon victims in Taiwan. We also made donations to the community school education fund and the Day Care Center. We awarded scholarship monies to the off-springs and grandchildren of our Legion members.

Many of the Post's family, including Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion members, and the Post Color Guards, have participated in the Veterans Day and Memorial Day parades, as well as the community sponsored parades. Over two hundred Legionnaires and their family members on each occasion attended our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas parties, and our annual picnic. We have about seven hundred members and family friends attend our annual Lunar New Year's banquet. The most significant events that our enthusiastic members participate in are the visits to comrades who are in a hospital or a nursing home, and the eulogies rendered at the wake upon a hero who passed away.

As a community service, we continue to provide "Tai Chi for Life" classes to the community in our Post auditorium, a service in partnership with the NY Downtown Hospital. We have been doing this since February, 2001. In April, 2005, St. Vincent's Hospital used our auditorium once a week to provide an acupuncture clinic for people with stress and sleep deprivation. These two programs proved to be very successful. Several hundred students have graduated from the "Tai Chi for Life" classes. The acupuncture clinic sessions average about sixty patients who receive treatments each week. We also held several seminars given by professionals, which are open to the Legionnaires and to the community. The topics include "Medicare and Social Security Benefits", "Medicines and you", "Financial Planning", "Sleeping Disorder", and "Are You Prepared for An Emergency". This year, we accepted many new members to our Post.

If we do not move forward and think ahead, we will fall behind. We need to take risks and encourage new ideas and thoughts to maintain our organization. Being a Chinese-American Legionnaire, we need to pay more attention and get involved with our community's developments and activities. I believe that working with the community leaders and the CCBA, we will be able to improve the quality of life in our community and society.

Lastly, I would like to commend Fang A. Wong for his candidacy for National Commander of The American Legion in LY 2011-2012. Fang's involvements with the Kimlau Post include his service as Post Executive Board member and Post Adjutant for thirteen years. As an American Legionnaire, he has served as the New York County Commander, Department of New York Commander, and National Vice-Commander. If elected as National Commander, he will be the first Chinese-American to hold this high office in The American Legion. I hope everyone will support him and provide him with all the encouragement he needs.

回顧 2009-2010 (第六十五屆)會務與展望將來

鄧遐勳

歲月確似流水一般過去，時光亦像飆車式的飛沖，轉眼之間又是過了一年。

回憶我在二零零九年六月時我在本會得到各位前輩的鼓勵下，帶著誠惶誠恐心情，來接任紐約華裔美國退伍軍人會主席的重任。戰戰兢兢遵循本會立會宗旨與既定之信條，抱著實事求是的態度去做。同時又得到會內的全體職員鼎力支持與合作，特別是下列幾位行政人員的協助。他們是：副主席（李禎年，王咪咪及張卓雄）、幹事（梅本立及譚永源）、財政陳東東及中文書記林善群等。並在前輩的支持與指導下，共同通力合作，會務總算得到順順利利而有所進展。而在經濟方面，又幸賴前輩先賢之高瞻遠矚，放長眼光，早年已安排購置物業，作為穩定財政，積聚實力，使到我們後進者無所顧慮。而更有力量地去擴展會務，以及加強聯絡各地區退伍軍人會之組織來爭取我們退伍軍人之應有福利。

在接任一年以來，我曾參加過多項軍人會及主流社會活動：例如參與紐約郡每月退伍軍人會議；紐約州及全美退伍軍人會年會、表揚全美退伍軍人會主席之聯歡晚宴、政府立法會議以及退伍軍人會大學課程等。總是捨己之私盡己之所能去參加。我在任職期間，除了參與上述各種主流活動外。更注意各項慈善捐款，本會每年捐助給美國退伍軍人會的緊急救濟基金及全美國退伍軍人會陣亡將士遺孤獎學基金。本會也曾捐助給台灣風災，中國，海地及智利震災善款。同時也捐給社區學校教育經費及頒發本會退伍軍人子弟獎學金等，此舉從來不甘後人。

每年軍人節及國殤紀念日，社區游行等項目，我們也派出儀仗隊，會員，婦女會及子弟部成員參與行列。每年感恩及聖誕新年等節日，本會也舉辦慶祝餐會聯歡以作加強聯絡。尤為重視者，如探訪患病會員和追思逝世會員，以及慰問其家屬等，無不實實在在熱心去做。每年夏季，本會舉辦旅行野餐等輕鬆節目，邀請各會員，婦女會及子弟部成員及親友來參加。大家放鬆心情同享大自然之風光。每次參與人數約有二百多人，確實相當熱鬧。

為了增強本會會員及社區朋友之健康活動，早在二零零一年二月本會便與紐約下城醫院的福安康寧社區服務部在本會所開設太極養生課程。後來在二零零五年四月又與聖雲仙醫院的社區服務部在本會所開設耳部針灸為本會會員及社區朋友服務，目的是減輕大家身心壓力。每星期三在本會所大約有六十人接受治療。此外，本會也曾舉辦其他多個講座，包括聯邦社會安全福利；醫藥常識；財務計劃；睡眠失調的處理及緊急常識知多少等等。增強活力來吸收新的會員參加。充實新血，謀求本會美好明天的更大之發展。

然而，凡事不進則退，我們亦不敢引以為榮。我們更不能固步自封，而墨守著傳統保守的作風。我們必須奮發創新，適應潮流和與時俱進，去做出更有貢獻於國家社會的事。作為一個華裔退伍軍人會的組織，身處於華僑社會與對僑社的發展，對僑胞的造福的事情，我們實在是義不容辭，責無旁貸的。不過大眾的事應要大家去做，我們必須多與社區各僑團加強聯絡，大家衷誠合作，凝聚實力。並以追隨中華公所一切善舉，同心協力，把僑社需要做的事推進於美好和成功，抒造福僑胞的舉措發展更上層樓。

最後，本會前任幹事黃宏達先生將在二零一一年八月參選全美國退伍軍人會主席。如能獲得成功不只為我們華人社區增添光彩，而且亦是為我們全美華裔爭取主流社會認同而邁進新的里程碑。黃宏達先生是本會精英，才華卓越，處事精明。他這次參選，是本會之一大喜訊，相信一定獲得成功。在此我希望大家給他多多鼓勵與支持！在此我謹預祝他成功獲選。