



Monday, October 20, 2008

Welcome to... California

And the 2008 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival!

The veterans gathered this week in Riverside, California are all national competition medal-winners from 47 VA facilities nationwide. They are part of a total of 3,188 veterans from 113 VA facilities who originally entered categories within the divisions of art, creative writing, dance, drama and music during the local level competition phase this past winter.

The week ahead will be filled with rehearsals, workshops and alternate activities. It's a wonderful time to get to know people from around the country who all share a love for the arts. It's also a chance to demonstrate to the communities of the Loma Linda and Riverside area the depth of artistic talent and skill that our nation's veterans possess, and how artistic expression promotes healing and enhances quality of life.

Please join the national steering committee members and me in expressing our deepest appreciation to the staff and volunteers of the VA Loma Linda Healthcare System and the surrounding community. Without their enthusiasm and absolute willingness to extend their talents, energies and resources above and beyond the norm, we would not have this chance to experience the beauty and excitement of this area and all it has to offer. We are grateful to the management staff, Annie Tuttle, our host site coordinator, and all local staff members and volunteers for their warm welcome and preparation for our arrival.

Special thanks to our co-presenters, Help Hospitalized Veterans and the American Legion Auxiliary. Without them, the Festival week would not be as successful or memorable as it is each year. Be sure to get to know and thank these wonderful sponsors, as well as the other gracious sponsors who will be joining us later in the week.

Congratulations to the veterans! We are here because of you, and we thank you for allowing us to share this part of your journey. You represent all of the veterans who participated in the 2008 competition and are extremely worthy of the recognition you are receiving this week. We want to do whatever we can to serve you and make this experience both inspiring and rewarding, as part of our way of saying thank you for your service to us. All the best to each of you in the week ahead.

Liz Mackey
National Director
National Veterans Creative Arts Festival



Liz Mackey, National Director,
National Veterans Creative
Arts Festival

Host Site Coordinator Welcomes Participants



Annie Tuttle,
2008 Host Site Coordinator

Welcome to the 2008 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival! We have been planning your visit for two years and finally, you are here.

Your starring role in the Festival truly helps showcase the benefits of the visual and performing arts as a therapy, enhancing one's life while also encouraging other veterans to get involved.

It took a lot of people to make this week happen. First, the great team from the VA Loma Linda

Healthcare System, which has worked very hard to be sure this week is extra special for you and your guests.

Also, the many VA staff and volunteers who have traveled from across the country to help with this week's event, and our generous sponsors who contribute in so many ways. Thanks to each of you for making this a memorable week for us all.

On behalf of the VA Loma Linda Healthcare System staff and volunteers, I thank you for the opportunity to serve America's heroes, our nation's veterans. We are honored by your presence and look forward to meeting each of you throughout the week.

Annie Tuttle
2008 Host Site Coordinator





The Week Begins This Evening!

Attending the Opening Ceremonies at the 2008 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival is a bit like previewing one of the greatest shows on earth. Nationally known for some of the best talent and artwork in the country, this annual Festival is the premier showcase for the 120 uniquely talented military veterans expected to attend this week.

Be sure to arrive early for tonight's celebration, with pre-ceremony music beginning at 6 p.m. outside on the plaza, located between the Marriott Hotel and the Riverside Convention Center. There, the Riverside Community College "Marching Tigers" band will be on hand to entertain us. At 7 p.m., the festivities move indoors with the Opening Ceremonies and banquet, taking place in the

Raincross Ballroom on the first floor of the convention center.

The program begins with a welcome from our hosts and introductions, followed by dinner. Television

journalist Wendy Burch, most recently from *KABC TV* in Los Angeles, is serving as Mistress of Ceremonies for the evening. Medical center leaders and other top VA officials will make welcoming remarks.

Team #38 from the Riverside National Cemetery Honor Detail is presenting the Colors. Sheryl Terkildsen, RN, a nursing supervisor at the VA Loma Linda Community Living Center (and local tapestry artist) will lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Gloria Dowdy, another VA Loma Linda employee, will sing the National Anthem. At the conclusion of the ceremony, participants will be introduced to this year's team leaders and national steering committee members.

Following the formal ceremony, all artists and performers are asked to remain in the Raincross Ballroom for their first meeting with Festival team leaders and fellow team members. Important information about the upcoming week will be shared at that time.

So come early, enjoy the music, then come to the ballroom for the rest of tonight's activities. See you this evening!



The **Medical Suite** is located in the **Marriot Hotel, Room 901 & 902**.

Hours of Operation: 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

The Medical Suite phone number if you are calling **inside** the Hotel is **extension 7901**. **Outside** of the Hotel, call **(951) 784-8000** and ask for **Room 901**.

Participants should inform their team leader(s) of any medical concerns, and the team leaders will then assist with contacting the Medical Room.

Medical personnel will accompany veterans and support personnel on all trips away from the hotel.

The **Hospitality Suite** is located in the **Marriott Hotel, Suite 1228** and is open today for your convenience. The only meal being served today is the opening banquet at 7 p.m., but the wonderful volunteers in the hospitality suite have snacks and drinks available if you need something before then – along with a lot of welcoming smiles!

Hours of operation for the week of the Festival are as follows:

Monday, October 20	Noon to 11 p.m.
Tuesday, October 21	9 a.m. to 11 p.m.
Wednesday, October 22	9 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Thursday, October 23	9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Friday, October 24	9 a.m. to Midnight
Saturday, October 25	9 a.m. to 1 p.m.; and 4 to 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, October 26	10 a.m. to Noon



Stars of the Stage

Welcome, performers!

This week, we are thrilled to welcome the more than 70 performers to the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.

This week is sure to be both fun and rewarding as you prepare for Sunday's stage presentation at the Riverside Convention Center. In addition to coachings, costume fittings and rehearsals, you will also tour the headquarters of HHV, participate in the HHV craft workshop, tour Hollywood and enjoy a celebration dinner on Saturday evening. What a week is planned ahead!

Please get to know as many people as possible, have a fantastic week and enjoy the excitement of being part of a fantastic show!



Stars of the Studio

There are more than 40 participants at the Festival this week who won first place in an artistic category. We are glad you are here!

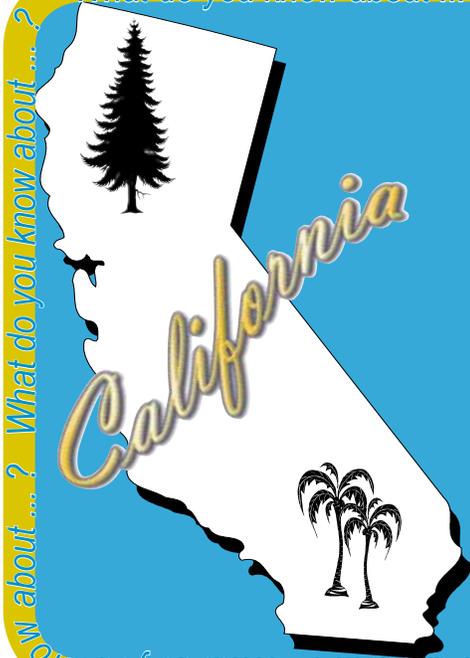
We have many activities scheduled for you, including workshops in creative writing, "Stepping Stones," basics of origami and HHV crafts kits.

Your week's activities will also include opening ceremonies on this evening, and touring the Fender Guitar Museum, Hollywood, and Huntington Library and Gardens. (Plus, a whole lot more!)

Welcome, artists! We hope you enjoy your week.



What do you know about ...? What do you know about ...? What do you know about ...?



1. California's Mount Whitney measures as the highest peak in the lower 48 states. Its most famous climb is Mount Whitney Trail to the 14,495 feet summit. Wilderness permits are required.
2. In the late 1850s, Kennedy Mine, located in Jackson, served as one of the richest gold mines in the world and the deepest mine in North America.
3. California Caverns claims the distinction of being the most extensive system of caverns and passageways in the Mother Lode region of the state.
4. Klamath Basin National Wildlife Refuge contains the largest winter population of bald eagles in the continental United States.
5. The Iron Door Saloon in Groveland claims to be the oldest drinking establishment in the state. It was constructed in 1852.
6. The state motto is "Eureka!", a Greek word translated "I have found it!" The motto was adopted in 1849 and alludes to the discovery of gold in the Sierra Nevada.
7. The highest and lowest points in the continental United States are within 100 miles of one another. Mount Whitney measures 14,495 feet and Bad Water in Death Valley is 282 feet below sea level.

What do you know about ...? What do you know about ...? What do you know about ...?



During the 2008 National Veterans Creative Arts Festival, the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Library of Congress invite all veterans to again take

part in the Veterans History Project (VHP).

This historic project honors our nation's veterans by creating a lasting legacy of their military experience. Regardless of branch or period of service, age, military career or experience, all veterans are invited to share their experiences with our VHP program staff this week. In past Creative Arts Festivals, more than 25 interviews took place, the largest percentage of participants at any VA national event.

As part of this project, a 45-minute interview with each veteran will be videotaped and given to the Library of Congress, to become part of our Nation's official historical records. Each participant will also receive a VHP tote bag and a DVD copy of their interview.

Interviews begin tomorrow (Tuesday), October 21, and will continue through noon on Saturday, October 25. Please sign up at the VHP registration area during registration today, or stop by the VHP interview room (in the **University Ballroom** on the first floor of the **Marriott Hotel**). The VHP interviews will be conducted this week by Steve Hollingshead and videotaped by Bill Browning from the John D. Dingell VA Medical Center in Detroit.

The schedule for VHP interviews this week starts on Tuesday, October 21 through Friday, October 24, from 8 a.m. – noon; and from 1 – 5 p.m. Saturday interviews will be from 10 a.m. – noon.

Only you can tell your story, and it's a story worth preserving and sharing with future generations. All veterans are encouraged to be a part of this important project. For more information, visit the Veterans History Project web site: <http://www.loc.gov/folklife/vets/>

NVCAAF WEB SITE

www.creativeartsfestival.va.gov

Tell your friends and family back home to log onto the Festival Web site to track all the exciting things happening at the Festival this week. There they will be able to check out the daily editions of the *ARTSGRAM* (on the main home page) as well as individual news releases and photos, located on the "Participant Information" tab. Information will be updated through Sunday morning.



DAILY MENU

Monday, October 20, 2008

The opening banquet this evening will be held in the **Riverside Convention Center (RCC), Raincross Ballroom** on the first floor at 7 p.m.

Raincross Buffet Menu

Tossed Garden Green Salad with Dressing; Marinated Roma Tomatoes; Cucumber, Basil and Fresh Mozzarella Salad; Tri-Colored Pasta Salad; Rolls and Butter; London Broil Marinated in Balsamic Vinaigrette & Honey; Roasted Chicken; Fresh Seasonal Vegetables; Parsley Potatoes; Assortment of Desserts; Coffee, Hot Tea & Iced Tea

The only meal served today is the opening banquet. Snacks are available in the Hospitality Room in the Marriott Hotel, Suite 1228, from noon to 11 p.m. today.

Starting tomorrow (Tuesday), meals will be served in Raincross Ballroom in the RCC unless otherwise designated.

Breakfast: 7 - 8:30 a.m.
Lunch: Noon - 1 p.m.
Dinner: 5:30 - 7 p.m.



Monday, October 20

All Day	Arrival of participants and staff
Noon – 6 p.m.	Registration at the Riverside Convention Center (RCC) – West Foyer, 1st floor
Noon – 11 p.m.	Hospitality Room Open at Marriott Hotel – Suite 1228 (Snacks Served)
5:30 p.m.	Team Leaders and Support Staff Meeting – RCC La Sierra, 2nd floor
6 p.m.	Pre-Ceremonies Musical Entertainment – Riverside Community College Band – RCC Plaza
7 p.m.	Opening Banquet and Ceremonies at hotel – RCC Raincross Ballroom, 1st floor
8 p.m.	Opening Meeting: Introductions, announcements – RCC Raincross Ballroom, 1st floor
8:30 p.m.	Team Meetings – Team leaders, support staff & veterans

Tuesday, October 21

Star Artists

7 – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast – RCC Raincross Ballroom, 1st floor
7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	Late Registration – RCC Citrus Heritage & Arlington, 2nd Floor
9 a.m. – 11 p.m.	Hospitality Room Open at Marriott Hotel – Suite 1228
8:30 a.m.	Teams I and II report to RCC East Foyer for photos
9 a.m.	Teams III and IV report to RCC East Foyer for photos
10 a.m.	Artists Interaction Session begins – RCC Magnolia North and South, 1st floor
Noon – 12:45 p.m.	Lunch – RCC Raincross Ballroom
12:45 p.m.	Board buses for tour: Chainsaw Art VFW Phelan
1 p.m.	Buses depart for tour
2 – 4:30 p.m.	Chainsaw art demonstration
4:30 p.m.	Board buses and return to hotel
5:30 – 7 p.m.	Dinner – RCC Raincross Ballroom
7:30 – 9 p.m.	Presentation of the Military Combat Experience entries (electronic images) from the 2008 national art competition – RCC Magnolia North & South, 1st floor
9 – 11 p.m.	Karaoke & Social time at Marriott Hotel, Orangecrest Room

Star Performers

7 – 8:30 a.m.	Breakfast – RCC Raincross Ballroom, 1st floor
7:30 – 8:30 a.m.	Late Registration – RCC Citrus Heritage & Arlington, 2nd floor
8 – 8:30 a.m.	Check in with team leaders – RCC Ben Lewis Hall
8:30 – 9 a.m.	Introductions and announcements for ALL stage performers and staff – RCC Ben Lewis Hall
9 a.m. – Noon	Act 1 rehearsal, including blocking, for individual numbers AND chorus numbers. All veterans and staff needed – RCC Ben Lewis Hall
9 a.m. – Noon	Chorus vests/costume fittings – RCC Aviators West, 2nd floor
9 a.m.–11 p.m.	Hospitality Room Open at Marriott Hotel – Suite 1228
Noon – 1 p.m.	Lunch – RCC Raincross Ballroom
1 – 2 p.m.	All individual acts have pictures taken IN COSTUMES – (lighting crew present) – RCC Ben Lewis Hall
1 – 2 p.m.	Rehearsal and sign up for audition solos and narration as scheduled – RCC De Anza North, University, Aviators
1 – 5 p.m.	Chorus vests/costume fittings – RCC Aviators West, 2nd floor
2 – 5 p.m.	Chorus music rehearsal with Gary/Jerry & sectional assistants (ALL participants must participate in these rehearsals when not needed in Main Rehearsal Room) – Work on audition pieces if time – RCC De Anza North
2:15 – 5 p.m.	Act 2 rehearsal, including blocking, for individual numbers AND Chorus Numbers – All veterans and staff needed – RCC Ben Lewis Hall
5:30 – 6:45 p.m.	Dinner – RCC Raincross Ballroom
7 – 9 p.m.	Chorus number rehearsal with music director (All show participants) – RCC Ben Lewis Hall
7 – 9 p.m.	Chorus vests/costume fittings – RCC Aviators West, 2nd floor
7:30 p.m. – until complete	Auditions for solos and narrations – one person or small group at a time will be called out of chorus number rehearsal – RCC Aviators East, 2nd Floor
9 – 11 p.m.	Karaoke & Social time at Marriott Hotel, Orangecrest Room

Internet Cafe

Where: Northeast Foyer
Riverside Convention Center

When: Tuesday, October 21 -
Saturday, October 25

Hours: 7 - 8:30 a.m.
11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
7 - 9 p.m.
(Not open Thursday
or Saturday evening)



Provided by Hewlett Packard

Please check with your team leader and/or the posted schedule outside of Ben Lewis Hall for any changes or updates to your daily schedule.