

# The Bulletin

L'Editeur, Renslar "Renny" Keagle, [rennykeagle@gmail.com](mailto:rennykeagle@gmail.com)

President, P.A.L.S., Robert Cearlock, [cearlock@aol.com](mailto:cearlock@aol.com)



## THE PRESS ASSOCIATION OF LA SOCIETE

### MAIL P.A.L.S. DUES TO:

Renslar R. Keagle

8714 Marble Dr., El Paso, TX 79904-1710

Ph: (915) 346-6099 [rennykeagle@gmail.com](mailto:rennykeagle@gmail.com)

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Vol. 38 No. 07 **Supporting and Encouraging La Societe Public Relations for 38 Years** March 2023



We do our best in support of the important V.A.V.S. Program in La Societe and how it fits with public relations. Read more inside. Next month we focus on Emblem Sales how it can support PR.

I'm a big fan of FACT SHEETS and I was asked to do one for recruitment for P.A.L.S. and Blue Chevalier—so I included it in this issue—please print and use and recruit for both. Blue Chevalier is approaching 300 members—would love to be at 500 by Nationale! Reminder, Blue Chevalier will be presenting the Law Officer of the Year \$2000 and membership supports that effort.

Now, not later, is the time to take a look at the updated and revised public relations report. Submission is very important as well for ALL reports. Reports take effort and a little time to do properly—but necessary.

Don't forget—La Societe birthday this month!!! **L'Editeur**

**"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time;  
they just have the heart."**

*~Elizabeth Andrew*

### In this issue!!

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### P.A.L.S. since 1984—Past L'Editeurs

George Hartley

Don Collins

Paul Chevalier



### NATIONAL PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE—2023

**Directeur—Renslar "Renny" Keagle, [rennykeagle@gmail.com](mailto:rennykeagle@gmail.com), 915.346.6099**

Area 1—Renslar R. Keagle

Sous/Directeur Area 2—Terry Stanberry, [terrync57@gmail.com](mailto:terrync57@gmail.com) 919.520.3861

Sous/Directeur Area 3—Andrea Miller, [xaylan@msn.com](mailto:xaylan@msn.com)

Sous/Directeur Area 4—Bradley Heck, [bheck@ionet.net](mailto:bheck@ionet.net) 480.987.4210

**Advisor—Mark Moots, [moots@charter.net](mailto:moots@charter.net) 256.582.5782**



## What should we name the next generation?



### GENERATION NAMES

*I've always been very confused about all these different generation names—their meaning and references. It might actually help to know and understand them in our recruiting efforts—especially in the younger generations.*

**The Greatest Generation – born 1901-1924**—These folks were indelibly impacted by the Great Depression, which molded their children in regards to frugality. This group was also representative of the majority of soldiers in World War II. If still with us, these folks are between the ages of 98 and 121.

**The Silent Generation – born 1925-1945**—Those born between these years are actually the smallest group, due to consequences from the Great Depression and World War II. Between the size of the population and the hesitancy to speak out against social issues due to the McCarthy era of government, they earned their name. People in this group are between 77 and 97.

**The Baby Boomer Generation – born 1946-1964**—Baby boomers, along with Millennials, are one of the most misunderstood and mislabeled groups of the entire list. Countless internet jokes and videos of young people saying “Ok boomer!” in referencing an older person not understanding the modern world and how it works.

The baby boomers are actually one of the most relevant groups in modern society as they were integral and present for many of the technology advances in the last 50 years. They have been more adaptable to modern growth and learning how to function in today's technological age. Boomers are between the ages of 58 and 76.

**Generation X – born 1965-1979**—As with Baby Boomers, Gen X'ers are the most relevant generation of modern times, in relation to technology and serve almost as a bridge from older populations to younger ones. They were present for the inception of the internet, video games, artificial intelligence and is the population that has created many of these advances. This groups of folks is currently between the ages of 43 and 57.

**Millennials – born 1980-1994**—As mentioned, alongside of Gen X'ers, Millennials are greatly misunderstood and often mislabeled. Older folks can tend to blame someone younger for being a “Millennial” when they don't understand the values of older times and hold the same views as they did when they were young. It's quite common to hear someone use the term Millennial to refer to people in their 20s, although true Millennials are between the ages of 28 and 42.

**Generation Z – born 1995-2012**—This group of younger people is an interesting one. They have been exposed to social media, and were the first population to cope with cyber-bullying and other internet related issues, It was also during this time that school related violence and climate crisis have become more prevalent. This large group of people are between the ages of 10 and 27. Grew up with cell phones and the Internet.

**Gen Alpha – born 2013 – 2025**—These are the youngest people in the United States and are the first group to be born in the 21st century. They are the first generation to be born to parents who grew up with the internet, cell phones, tablets and social media. They are also inclined to be the most racially diverse and the most technologically adept. The oldest people in this group would be 10 years old this year. •

*From caregiversofamerica.com*

# FACT SHEET

## Press Association of La Societe—P.A.L.S.



The Press Association of La Societe is dedicated to the advancement of Public Relations within the Forty and Eight. The Press Association of La Societe (P.A.L.S.) is established to help, assist, advise, and mentor those in La Societe public relations. By internal public relations assisting in membership and recruitment and external fostering community relations and awareness of the Forty and Eight.

- Membership is limited to paid-up members of La Societe. P.A.L.S. has a President, Secretary, Treasurer, L'Editeur and other officers voted on at each annual Promenade Nationale.
- \$10 annual dues for digital only, \$17 mail, \$100 PUFL. Includes pin shown above.
- Membership is highly encouraged at all levels of La Societe to include each Locale and Grand. The following officers at all levels are encouraged to join – Chef de Gare, Correspondant, Publiste, L'Editeur and anyone interested in public relations – to include all levels of La Femmes.
- Members will receive Press Credentials— membership card and an annual subscription to The Bulletin – the official publication of the Press Association. The Bulletin is published monthly and focuses on public relations and newsletter assistance. Members are encouraged to attend the P.A.L.S. meeting at Nationale.

## BLUE CHEVALIER

At the 2021 Promenade National held in Springfield Missouri the Public Relations Committee approved the “Blue Chevaliers Project”. This Project offers a great opportunity to gain exposure for the Forty and Eight and help fight the demoralizing attempt and in some cases, successful attempt by some to defund and demoralize law enforcement.



### GOALS

- Honor Locale, State & Federal Law Enforcement [including Military Police] Organizations and individuals for exceptional Community Relations activities and/or Projects.
- Raise La Societé’s profile in Local Communities to promote interest in our organization.
- Dues [first year] to be \$15.00 for the membership card and lapel pin. Subsequent years the dues will be \$2.00 for the membership card only. Corporate or Business membership is \$50.00.
- PUFL for existing members \$50.00, new members \$65.00
- Members have the privilege of proposing awards to Law Officers.
- Includes the pin shown above.
- Voyageurs, Dames, non-member supporters, businesses can join!!!!

*Info Renny Keagle 915-346-6099 rennykeagle@gmail.com*

**Project Manager Bob Cearlock**

**Advisors**

Mike Wood  
Frank Campo  
Greg C. Hall

## Special Observances—April 2023

**Month of the Military Child—An opportunity to recognize military children and youth for their heroism, character, courage, sacrifices and continued resilience.**



**April 18—23—Police Officers Who Gave Their Lives in the Line of Duty Week**

**April 1—U.S. Air Force Academy Day**

**April 1—1945—The Battle of Okinawa** was the last major battle of World War II, and one of the bloodiest. On April 1, 1945—Easter Sunday—the Navy's Fifth Fleet and more than 180,000 U.S. Army and Marine Corps troops descended on the Pacific island of Okinawa for a final push towards Japan.

**April 5 - Gold Star Spouses Day**—A day set aside to recognize the sacrifices of Gold Star spouses.

**April 6 —Army Day**—It is an annual celebration to honor the brave souls who risk their lives to protect our borders and our national interests everywhere on the globe. A military job is tough, life is on the line, and there will always be an air of uncertainty.

**April 9— - Easter Sunday**

**April 9—National Former Prisoner of War Recognition Day**—April 9th honors the courageous men and women who have endured brutal treatment at the hands of their captors. As a result, they've also suffered separation from family and displayed incredible endurance and faith during their captivity.

**April 9—1942—Bataan Death March**—the largest number of U.S. Forces were captured by Japanese troops in the Bataan Peninsula in the Philippines. After battling through extreme conditions and prolonged battles, the captured troops were forced to march 65 miles to the prison camp. Without medical attention, food or water thousands died. The mistreatment continued for those who survived the brutal journey. In the compounds, deep in the unfamiliar jungle, the hardships, brutality, and suffering lasted more than two years for those who could survive.

**April 11—1991—Desert Storm Cease-fire (Persian Gulf War)**

**April 12—1861—Civil War Began**

**April 14 - Air Force Reserve Birthday**

**April 15 - Purple Up! Day**—During the Month of the Military Child, Purple Up! Day recognizes some of the military's most unsung heroes – their children. The day encourages everyone to wear purple representing all branches of the military and showing unity with each other.



**April 17—Patriot's Day**—Commemorating—Patriots' Day commemorates the battles of Lexington and Concord, which were fought near Boston in 1775. Patriots' Day is annually held on the third Monday of April. It should not be confused with Patriot Day, held on September 11 to mark the anniversary of terrorist attacks in the USA in 2001.

**April 23 - Army Reserve Birthday**

**April 25—1898—Spanish-American War Began**

**April 29—Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare** - 29 April is the UN Day of Remembrance for all Victims of Chemical Warfare. The day was established in 2005. The date is significant as it commemorates the day in which the 1997 Chemical Weapons Convention entered into force. The aim behind the annual day is to pay tribute to the victims and to 'reaffirm the commitment of the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) to the elimination of the threat of chemical weapons, thereby promoting the goals of peace, security, and multilateralism.'

**April 30 - National Military Brats Day**—A day set aside to honor the children of military personnel •

## PR Editorial — Your Forty and Eight Courage

Lots of ways to define courage and there are many types of it. Chances are you've heard the word 'courage' numerous times in your life, and you've probably also called someone courageous at one point or another. There is often confusion between bravery and courage. Bravery vs courage are different concepts – Bravery is action, and courage is endurance.

According to Merriam-Webster, it is the "mental or moral strength to venture, persevere, and withstand danger, fear, or difficulty." It's also a willingness to confront risk and uncertainty and involves perseverance and determination. Courage, in a broad sense, may also include being bold, unafraid and strong.



"Courage is the first of human qualities because it's the quality which guarantees the others." - Aristotle

If you look deeper into the definition you will discover many different types of courage—physical, emotional, social and moral courage, and even spiritual. We as veterans have shown and displayed courage by serving our country and our communities. And of course, the courage to stand up in front of our peers and take an oath of obligation to La Societe. Perhaps take that first step into leadership. Some may say, well, that is not really courageous, I don't agree. It's called intellectual courage—very important.

Intellectual courage is an essential quality for leaders because it enables them to lead with confidence and conviction. I call it Forty and Eight courage. It does not take courage to pay your dues or attend promenades as we all promised to do. We join, step up in front of others and raise our hand and hopefully have the conviction to stay the course.

Forty and Eight courage has ties to our military service—to support and defend the Constitution of the United States and fight for our country—like we are obligated to "fight" for the principals of the Forty and Eight. Forty and Eight courage causes us to pull ourselves out of our comfort zones for the causes and programs we believe in. Forty and Eight courage can be demonstrated by sometimes going against the status-quo, not being afraid to bring up new ideas and being innovative. Advocacy for La Societe and our programs, ideals and beliefs demonstrates courage for the benefit of others.

And perhaps most important is Forty and Eight courage in leadership... Not being afraid to ask questions about anything, unafraid to seek help and input from others, being assertive, not afraid to say yes or no when necessary, not afraid to think outside the box and be inventive. Sometimes courage is just saying what needs to be said!

To first have Forty and Eight courage you have to claim it! Everyday, you have to decide that you are going to be a courageous leader, willing to climb over obstacles, to do what is difficult—no matter what.

Courage is not to be confused with wearing our chapeau—that's pride. Courage is not to be confused with meeting goals or membership—that's motivation. Courage is not paying your dues or attending promenades—that's commitment.

Forty and Eight courage is a compelling sense of felt responsibility, enabled by the ability to do something difficult even when there's risk or fear of failure. •

"Courage is being scared to death ... and saddling up anyway." —John Wayne

"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen." —Winston Churchill

"Real courage is when you know you're licked before you begin, but you begin anyway and see it through no matter what." —Harper Lee

"One man with courage is a majority." —Thomas Jefferson

"Neither a wise man nor a brave man lies down on the tracks of history to wait for the train of the future to run over him." —Dwight D. Eisenhower

## Public Relations and V.A.V.S.

If we don't understand something, it's hard to figure out how to support it, promote it and use our service as a way to promote ourselves in our community.

VA.V.S. is another program that does not have a pin, but then V.A.V.S. goes beyond the boundaries of just La Societe. The American Legion, VFW all have V.A.V.S. programs and workers. What's more important than supporting our veterans in our veterans community such as homes, hospitals and clinics?—nothing.

But from the point of public relations—how do we relate to V.A.V.S.?

Well, think of it as a journey from military service to public service promoting or creating public awareness of our service to fellow veterans. Of course we do it also through support of our many other programs, but V.A.V.S. does have a target group? Veterans in need.

So when we talk about public or community relations we usually refer to press or media releases, public speaking, news articles and mentions in newsletters .

I suspect that in the V.A.V.S. area we go about our business quietly and without drum or fan-fair. Totally understandable—we don't do it for publicity or pats on the back.

In regards to public relations—let's first look at it internally. I get many newsletters submitted to me. I see a lot on Americanism, nurses training, etc., but not a lot on V.A.V.S. I have seen some postings in Grand newsletters by some Directeurs. Directeur Ron Rolfes, Jr. sends out VA, medical and V.A.V.S. updates on a regular basis. These need wide dissemination either by email or inclusion in your newsletters.

Not every Locale or Grand has a V.A.V.S. representative but many do volunteering that needs to be acknowledged. My Locale Cabane volunteers at our local VA Canteen serving coffee, fruit and other items to veterans visiting the facility and looking to take a break, seeking friendship and someone to chat with. We highlighted this in our newsletter and will get those volunteer hours on our V.A.V.S. report.

Our Locale does twice a month bingo at our local Texas State Veterans Home. Not a specific V.A.V.S. activity but eligible for counting volunteer hours. All these things worthy of recognition, both internally and externally via PR.



By ensuring we “get the word out” on our volunteering we peak interest in our fellow Voyageurs and gain community support for our efforts helping and assisting fellow veterans in need.

I really can't say anything more on press releases, we've covered them pretty well—but there may be something special in our volunteering or a special event that needs recognition—consider a press release or submit an article to your local/community newspaper.

Myself and fellow voyageurs from my Locale, routinely visit the Kiwanis, Rotary Club, Daughters of the American Revolution and other community groups talking about La Societe, our programs and volunteering—perfect format for discussing V.A.V.S. efforts.

Go here for helpful information:

[The Forty and Eight - VAVS](#) (Ctrl-Click)

Please check this out:

[Microsoft Word - Reps and Deps duties and responsibilities.docx \(sqspcdn.com\)](#) (Ctrl-Click)

It does take time and effort and I feel a special person to be a V.A.V.S. Representative. Also special people to do the volunteering—so at least annually we should give some kind of special recognition to those going that extra step. Recognition is public relations!

Especially when that recognition is acknowledged and publicized!. •

## Great Speeches— On Law Enforcement—Attorney General William Barr

Attorney General William P. Barr Delivers Remarks at the International Association of Chiefs of Police Officer Safety and Wellness Symposium - ~ Miami Florida, February 27, 2020. Key points of the speech follow...

..."This Conference is dedicated to examining challenges to officer safety and wellness. Our shared objective is overcoming these challenges so that our more than 900,000 men and women in blue are best positioned to carry out their charge: serving and protecting the American people. I want you all to know that there is no higher priority for the Department of Justice than the safety and security of the American people. To meet that charge, we must have your back.

There is no tougher job in America than serving as a law enforcement officer. This was true in the past, and it is even truer today. As you know better than anyone, the trials our country's law enforcement officers encounter on a daily basis are complex, difficult, and wide-ranging.

Some of the challenges confronting officers have been around for a long time, while others are relatively new. Policing is dangerous. The reality is that being a police officer is more difficult today than it has ever been before.

One reason is the emergence of a deeply troubling attitude towards police in some parts of society. Far from respecting the men and women who put their lives on the line to protect us, it has become common in some quarters to scapegoat and disrespect police officers and disparage the vital role you play in society. This undoubtedly makes your already difficult job of protecting the public even harder.

At the same time that our police officers must face these verbal and physical attacks, we have asked them to combat the fallout from a vast range of social pathologies, including mental illness, broken homes, homelessness, and drug abuse.

An officer is estimated to witness about 188 "critical incidents" over the course of his or her career, inflicting serious trauma.

It is a lot to ask men and women to protect the public from dangerous criminals at the same time that they do the jobs of social workers, psychologists, and psychiatrists.



Officers are seeing the worst side of society. What they are seeing today is worse than ever. And they are seeing it more often.

Requiring law enforcement to do more with less exacerbates the problem, adding to the stress individual officers are already feeling.

...Our men and women who wear the badge are some of our country's strongest and bravest people. And like the rest of us, there are times in their lives when they need support. Military veterans and police are strong, brave, yet reluctant to come forward and seek help and support. Everyone goes through difficulties.

*We have a moral obligation to do all we can to support the men and women who keep us safe. Fortunately, there has been growing recognition of that obligation. Citizens have stepped up and made a difference.*

We should be showing our police officers the same gratitude we show our soldiers. Soldiers protect our people by fighting our enemies abroad, while the police protect our people by guarding them here at home. Foreign wars usually come to an end, but the battle that law enforcement fights never comes to an end. There is never a final victory, it is constant. That takes a special kind of courage and a special kind of sacrifice.

While policing is demanding, it is also uniquely rewarding. It is one of our country's highest callings, and we are blessed that there are men and women of character willing to serve selflessly so that their fellow citizens can live securely. We owe our officers the support and services they need to work their way through problems." •

## Newsletter Filler, Trivia or Just for Fun

# TRIVIA

Do you ever wonder who first thought of Crash Test Dummies? Early crash tests were originally done using unoccupied cars, cadavers, and animals, most notably pigs. Crash test dummies were first developed in the 1940s for the U.S. Air Force to use in the testing of aircraft ejection seats. The very first dummy was made by the Sierra Engineering Company and Alderson Research Laboratories and aptly named Sierra Sam. But it wasn't until 1968 that Alderson debuted the first crash test dummy created specifically for automotive testing, known as the VIP (short for "Vehicular Impact Personnel").



Anxious for Spring? The term "spring fever" refers to a both psychological and physiological symptoms associated with the arrival of spring, including restlessness, daydreaming, and increased sexual appetite. While the exact cause is unclear, scientists believe that increased light, more exercise, and more bare skin influence hormone levels.

Even after the Allies arrived, many concentration camp prisoners were beyond help. In Bergen-Belsen, for example, 13,000 prisoners died after liberation. Nearly 2,500 of the 33,000 survivors of Dachau died within six weeks of liberation.

Most historians agree that WWII began when Germany invaded Poland on September 1, 1939. Others say it started when Japan invaded Manchuria on September 18, 1931. And some scholars suggest WWII is actually a continuation of WWI, with a break in between.

The Chinese were not the first "balloon" technology... During WWII, the Japanese launched 9,000 "wind ship weapons" of paper and rubberized-silk balloons that carried incendiary and anti-personnel bombs to the U.S. More than 1,000 balloons hit their targets and they reached as far east as Michigan. The only deaths resulting from a balloon bomb were six Americans (including five children and a pregnant woman) on a picnic in Oregon.

In 1941, a private earned \$21 a month. In 1942, a private earned \$50 a month.



The first basketball hoops were peach baskets with the bottom intact. Officials had to get the ball out after each basket. The first string nets were used in the early 1900s. Leather soccer balls were first used.

Older people lack the ability to hear sounds at high frequencies; most people over the age of 65 cannot hear any sounds with frequencies over 10,000 cycles per second. A healthy young adult can hear frequencies of up to 20,000 cycles per second.

"Pound Cake" is so named because the original pound cake contained one pound each of butter, sugar, eggs, and flour. In the days when many people could not read, this simple recipe was easy to remember.

In 1918, over 100 waiters were arrested for poisoning bad tippers in Chicago.

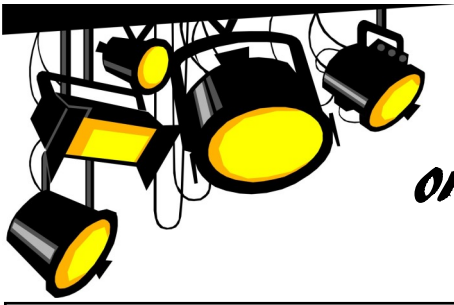
Wedding rings are often placed on the third finger of the left hand because ancient Egyptians believed the vein in that hand (which the Romans called the 'vein of love') ran directly to the heart.

Ambergris (whale vomit) has been added to cigarettes for flavor.

Although it is much colder on Mars than on Earth, the similar tilt of Earth's and Mars' axes means they have similar seasons. Like Earth's, Mars' north and south polar caps shrink in the summer and grow in the winter. In addition, a day on Mars is 24 hours 37 minutes - nearly the same as Earth's. No other planet shares such similar characteristics with Earth.

Due to its high value, most gold discovered throughout history is still in circulation. However, it is thought that 80% of the world's gold is still in the ground. The word "gold" comes from the Old English word "geolu," meaning yellow. Gold is an out-of-this-world kind of element. Scientists have discovered that several precious metals, including gold, were delivered via impacting meteorites. •





## *Spotlight on Public Relations*



### **Volunteering is Great Public Relations**

“Volunteering can provide a healthy boost to your self-confidence, self-esteem, and life satisfaction. You are doing good for others and the community, which provides a natural sense of accomplishment. Your role as a volunteer can also give you a sense of pride and identity.—*Quote from the web.*”

Volunteering and charity endeavors are at the core of who we are and what we do in La Societe. Specifically V.A.V.S. but in so many other areas and ways. Just go down the list of our programs and Trusts established to help our nurses and youth are just examples.

When we consider recruitment of new members, our dedication to charity and our programs should be at the core of expressing ourselves.

Of course, for many of us, there is a competition for our time. We sometimes have to pick and choose what area(s) we can dedicate ourselves to—but the key is to volunteer somewhere. And that might be in a leadership position, volunteering your knowledge and expertise in a program area or within the locale.

So how can volunteering benefit us?

Volunteering connects you to your fellow voyageurs and Dames and makes you a better Voyageur Militaire. Volunteering together is important. Volunteering allows you to connect to your community and fellow veterans.

One of the best ways to strengthen existing relationships is to commit to shared volunteerism together. Volunteering also strengthens your ties to the community and broadens your support network, exposing you to people with common interests—perhaps creating an opportunity for new members.

Volunteering can provide a healthy boost to your self-confidence, self-esteem, and life satisfaction. You are doing good for others and the community, which provides a natural sense of accomplishment. Your role as a volunteer can also give you a sense of pride and identity. And the better you feel about yourself, the more likely you are to have a positive view of your life and future goals.

Whether due to a lack of transportation, time constraints, a disability or other reasons, many people prefer to volunteer via phone or computer. There are many projects where you can help. Buddy checks, renewal efforts, newsletters, emailing or managing a website are all easily done from home.

Many volunteering opportunities provide extensive training, especially at our VA facilities. Volunteering can also help you build upon skills you already have and use them to benefit the greater community. Are you good at public speaking, well versed in La Societe programs and history? Great opportunities to shine!

Bear in mind that the most valuable skills you can bring to any volunteer effort are compassion, an open mind, a willingness to do whatever is needed, and a positive attitude.

Doing volunteer work you find meaningful and interesting can be a relaxing, energizing escape from your day-to-day routine of work, school, or family commitments. Volunteering also provides you with renewed creativity, motivation, and vision that can carry over into your journey as a Voyageur Militaire. •

# POSTER OF THE MONTH



**You're braver than you believe,  
and stronger than you seem,  
and smarter than you think!**

**~A.A. Milne/ Christopher Robin**

## Email Fatigue?

Let's say your Locale or Grand does not have a newsletter—and your main method of communication is via email. That's assuming you have a good email distribution list and send out important information regularly. Now consider not only those emails, but responses that have to be addressed or answered.

I've talked to many who for one reason or another are avoiding a newsletter—no one to do it, too time consuming, costly, etc.

First look at what information are you routinely sending out? Calendar info, updates on events or promenades? Messages from leadership or Directeurs?

Consider condensing all of this into a one page (or more) quick, simple and easy newsletter which can also be easily added to a social media account and then sent out via email. Contact me for help, assistance and advice and we will get you started. Also go check out the PR manual—a great place to begin.



<b>APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP TO THE BLUE CHEVALIERS</b>				<b>INITIAL MEMBERSHIP</b>		
<b>NAME:</b>				40ET8 MEMBER	LA FEMMES MEMBER	NON MEMBER SUPPORTER
<b>ADDRESS:</b>	<b>STREET:</b>	<b>CITY:</b>	<b>ST:</b>	<b>ZIP:</b>		
<b>PHONE:</b>		<b>EMAIL:</b>				

**New members: \$15.00   Renewals: \$2.00   PUFL: \$65.00 for new members \$50.00 members**

**Checks payable to P.A.L.S. - Remit to:**  
**Renslar R. Keagle, 8714 Marble Drive, El Paso, TX 79904**

**SEE ABOVE! Note change: Until further notice, remit renewals, new memberships, orders above.**

<b>P.A.L.S. APPLICATION—RENEWAL or NEW MEMBER</b>	
Full Name _____	
Address: _____	
City _____ State _____ Zip _____	New Member <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal <input type="checkbox"/>
Email _____	<b>PUFL \$100.00</b> <input type="checkbox"/>
Voiture Locale _____	
Dues: Mail only \$17.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Checks made out to P.A.L.S.</b> <b>Remit to:</b> Renslar R. Keagle 8714 Marble Drive El Paso, TX 79904-1710 rennykeagle@gmail.com
Mail and Digital \$17.00 <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Digital only \$10.00</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	
<b>PUFL down payment (minimum \$25)</b> <input type="checkbox"/>	



## More Unremembered—Flight Nurses



On September 24, 1944, a C-47 made a forced landing on a Bellona Island in the Pacific. **Flight nurse Lt. Mary Louise Hawkins** performed an emergency tracheotomy on a patient using improvised equipment, including an inflation tube from a “Mae West” life vest. All her patients survived. She received the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Flight nurses training at the US Army Air Force School of Air Evacuation at Bowman Field, Kentucky. These nurses would be flight nurses once they graduated. The first class graduated on February 18, 1943, 80 years ago.

Training ranged from six to nine weeks depending on how badly flight nurses were needed. After a long debate, it was decided that, due to the cold temperatures in flight, the nurses would be allowed to wear pants instead of the traditional white nurses' skirt.

The role of the flight nurse was revolutionary. Flight nurses flew without a doctor. They were officers and in command when it came to patient care. They were trained to administer oxygen and start IV's. These skills are basic for today's nurses, but in 1943 only doctors and medics provided this level of care. By the end of the war nurses had even performed emergency tracheotomies while in flight.

Flight nurses often loaded their patients onto planes while under enemy fire. Several medical flights were shot down, but the nurses always saved their patients after the crash landings.

The Navy followed suit with their own flight nurse training program in 1944. Of the roughly 500 flight nurses who served during the war, 16 lost their lives in service to their country.



Flight nurse surveying her patients on a med flight from Manilla, 1945. Her surgical tech is seated at the desk.