



THE MESSENGER

*Newsletter of The American Legion Post 318 and
The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 318
Volume CXXX, Issue 2 March-April 2011
1504 Minnesota Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125-4445
(408) 926-9946*

From the Commander:

By Walt Carbaugh

No report submitted.

Membership:

By Randy Richmond

No report submitted.

Activities:

By Raquel Kubinski

No report submitted.

Health and Welfare:

By Norman Tevis

Post Member and Active Duty Solider SSgt Mark McLeod has been reported injured somewhere in northern Afghanistan. We do not know the extent of his injuries. Please keep him in your prayers.

As always, should you hear of one of our brothers or sisters sick, injured, or worse, please contact me at (408) 266-5080.

The Adjutant's Corner

By Gene Funucchi

We are in our second month of the calendar year 2011 already, but you all already know how fast time passes. Our best wishes for this new year. This is a new membership year, as some of you were reminded a few weeks ago, when renewal notices were sent out to those of you whom our National Headquarters computer did not have flagged as having sent in your 2011 dues. And some of those were justified, but there were a few of you whose renewal reminders did not apply, since you were in fact paid for 2011 year. For those of you who had paid prior to receiving a January renewal notice, the error will correct itself, since there was apparently a flow of correspondence (your payment notice from our Post, to Department, to National HQ. arriving but not being placed on the computer files.) that will catch up. Unless you are contacted by Post 318, you can be confident your renewal has been filed.

The mailing labels on this Messenger Mailing may also, note *may*, be in error this month, since we have not had time to update all of you that have sent in your dues during the past few weeks. This too will be corrected soon as we improve upon our own communications and file upkeep.

The point is, you all are faithful members of a great organization whose mission is to support our active duty warriors and veterans, widows and children of fallen warriors, and our community.

This year Post 318 will be sending one student to a Youth Environmental Conference in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Forestry and two students to Boys State, a nationwide program, which is a one week civics "workshop" for junior grade level students. Several presidents have been Boys State alumni (Bill Clinton, most recently). There will be an awards recognition dinner for a law enforcement officer, and a firefighter in April, a program we have resurrected in recent years (Post 318 was chartered by members of the Willow Glen Volunteer Fire Department).

This month we celebrate a milestone: Willow Glen Post 318's (80th) eightieth birthday. Say: "Happy Birthday!"

Except for this week, the weather will be improving, so we hope to see some of you at our monthly meeting on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 7:30 PM. You can share a few minutes amongst friends, and will better understand our function and purpose as Legionnaires. Mark the day and time on your calendar.

Take note of the Post calendar, also, and note that we will have a special dinner in April to honor our law enforcement and Fire fighter. It will be a completely social evening. Come and honor these warriors of our community.

Lastly, I owe some of you your membership cards, and with some rather involved commitments for the Legion and related organizations serving our veterans in the community and in the hospital, I will get my commitment to you addressed.

Take care, and if you have questions about your veterans entitlements, or about the American Legion, contact one of the officers listed herein, and we will give or find an answer for you.

Casino Day is February 21, Presidents Day at the Menlo Park VA Facility. Post 318 will be helping out and providing some of the prizes for the hospitalized veterans. This is an annual event put on by the 13th District. All the Posts pitch in to make this day fun and enjoyable for our hospitalized veterans. Younger vets, in larger numbers, are recovering at VA Health Care Facilities, and our help and participation is so greatly needed. Please join us for the day. Sign-in is at 9:30 am and Lunch will be prepared by our own "chefs". Your help is truly needed. Spend a little time helping our hospitalized vets, you'll have fun and, the vets will have fun. We all win!

Auxiliary Unit 318

By Patricia McLeod

Dear Sisters, the year is going by so quickly! Girls State interviews are coming up. Both girls selected last year have volunteered to be a part of this year's interview teams. Yahoo!

District 13 Auxiliary Meeting, hosted by Unit 318, will be at our Post on March 6, 10:00 am. Everyone is invited to attend. D13 President Jacobs changed the meeting date due to the Big Game.

Membership: Please join me congratulating

- E. Hughes 53 yrs
- E. Waterman 44 yrs
- C. Hain 37 yrs
- C. Holland 33 yrs

Membership notices have been sent out in the last weeks, the notice was incorrect. Dues are still the same great rate of \$15.00 per year.

SO-COOL TIES FOR THE TROOPS: This event is being hosted by U318's Sewing Circle. This group project requires no sewing skills. They tell me that it's "sew" easy, anyone can join in! May 1, 2011, at the Post, @ 1:30pm. Please RSVP.

Fund Raiser: Plan on attending our upcoming Chocolate Tasting Gala, on Saturday, March 26, at 7:00pm. Select purveyors of delectable chocolate treats will offer their wares for tasting at the Post. In addition to chocolate tastings, chocolate gift items,

sure to please any Spring shopper or Easter bunny, will be on sale. Drawings will be held for many exciting chocolate-themed gifts, special door prizes, and a silent auction. Tickets are \$5 for 3 tastings, \$10 for 8 tasting, and \$20 for 20 tastings and are available in advance.

District 13 President Visitation, April 17 meeting and the celebration of our 80th Anniversary.

Donations: Remember, because the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 318 is a 501(c) non-profit organization, please make your tax deductible gift donations to support our programs and projects. Our tax ID 94-6083104.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our next meeting on February 27, 2011. To those of you who can't make our meetings, you are in our thoughts and prayers. I would like to share with you an old family favorite. "May your blessings outnumber the shamrocks that grow, and may trouble avoid you wherever you go."

MyLegion.org:

American Legion National has started a site for you to access. You can make changes to your information and contact others. The Post will have information posted on it for you as well as a calendar of upcoming events. In case you have not guessed it, you can access it by going to the internet and typing in "MyLegion.org". If you have any questions please feel free to contact the editor at (408) 926-9946.

Newsletter Update:

The cost of the printed newsletter is going up with every issue. We are looking into distributing online for those with email. We will continue to mail it to those without. We will be sending out a request form to each member giving the choice of email, you will have to provide your email address, or to continue to receive it by regular postal mail
***Under no circumstances will our email list be used/sold/distributed*

The good and bad of VA's budget plan:

by: The American Legion - February 15, 2011
For 2012, American Legion National Commander Jimmie L. Foster was pleased with areas of the fiscal plan. But other areas still need work. After seeing the Obama administration's VA budget recommendations, commander Foster said, "There is much to like in this budget. The administration actually exceeded our expectations in total medical care by \$4.3 billion. The \$54 billion that the administration wants to spend in VA medical care alone would help preserve, and, indeed, improve,

the best health-care system available anywhere.” Overall, the \$132 billion budget marks a 4 percent increase over the administration’s 2011 budget, which still has not been approved by Congress. Federal spending is currently being funded by continuing resolution, meaning that the Obama administration’s request for VA actually is a 10 percent increase over 2010 levels. “Now for the bad,” Foster said. “There are some very important construction projects that VA needs in order to serve the 6 million veterans who are expected to use their facilities next year. We find the cuts in major and minor construction for these facilities to be unacceptable. During my congressional testimony last fall, I submitted recommendations of \$1.2 billion for major construction and \$800 million for minor construction. The administration budget includes only \$590 million and \$550 million in those respective areas – well short of what is needed.” Foster called on Congress to immediately approve the \$208 million allotted to fund the veterans’ caregivers program, which has experienced delays in its implementation. “This program was signed into law last May and the program was supposed to be implemented last month,” Foster said. “We understand that it takes time to publish regulations and complete training, but these caregivers are depending on the stipends and benefits that this program is supposed to provide. We need it up and running now.” The discretionary portion of the VA budget is divided among nine major categories, areas which will require thorough review by The American Legion. “Whether it’s providing the best treatment for traumatic brain injury or helping VA Secretary (Eric) Shinseki fulfill his promise to end veterans homelessness, there are many complex areas of this budget that I have directed my staff to study in the coming days,” said Peter Gaytan, executive director of the Legion’s Washington office. “We will report our findings to our members and on our website. We look forward to working with the administration and Congress to make sure that we serve our veterans in a manner worthy of a grateful nation. We are all partners in this endeavor.”

House Committee:

By Garry McLeod

The floor has been completed and is the best I have ever seen it. We are looking into upgrading the electrical from 60 amps to a realistic 200 amps. The bathrooms, bar and kitchen remodel is still in the

works and looking better. As we get more details we will let you know.

Webmaster:

By: William Staehle

Please look at our new web site at "http://www.alcapost318.org/". We have entered the calendar of events and will be adding more information in the future. If you have anything to contribute please feel free to contact me through the web site.

Reminders:

General Meeting is March 23, Pre-dining with your mates at 6:30 pm, meeting at 7:30 pm.

Public Safety Dinner is April 9, The dinner is free to all Post 318 members and their guests (membership has it's privilege), doors open at 5pm, Please RSVP to (408) 506-9643.

General Meeting is April 27, Pre-dining with your mates at 6:30 pm, meeting at 7:30 pm.

General Meeting is May 25, Pre-dining with your mates at 6:30 pm, meeting at 7:30 pm.

Memorial Services are at Oak Hill, High Noon, Flag set out at 0700, Breakfast to follow.

2010/2011 Staff

Post 0318

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Randy Richmond (408) 892-5290

2nd Vice Commander:

Raquel Kubinski (408) 420-2220

Sgt at Arms:

Billy Martin (408) 266-7027

Adjutant:

Gene Fanucchi (408) 506-9643

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Always open to contributions

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Deadline for submissions for the next issue of the Messenger is April 15, 2011. Please submit in Word format.