



THE MESSENGER

*Newsletter of The American Legion Post 318 and
The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 318
Volume CXXX, Issue 3 August September 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 William Staehle

The American Legion has recently formed an Amateur Radio Club. Legion members that are licensed "hams" are invited to join the club by emailing your name, address, Legion ID, and call sign to k9tal@legion.org. Membership is free. More information about the club can be found on the www.legion.org web site by searching for "ham radio". There are currently over 700,000 licensed Amateur Radio operators in the United States and the numbers are growing. Amateur Radio provides an exciting hobby for many in addition to providing community services and essential communications during disasters and emergency situations. The director of Homeland Security recently cited Amateur Radio as "the last line of defense" during emergencies. The MARS system is still very active in cooperation with all military branches and available for licensed hams to participate. The introduction of the Internet has resulted in many new innovations in Amateur Radio. It is now possible to communicate with people all over the world using a simple VHF or UHF hand held transceiver as the result of linked radio repeaters. Some of these "walkie-talkie" units can be purchased new for as little as \$100. Other exciting Amateur Radio modes include satellite communication, digital voice and data communications, and even communication with the International Space Station. The FCC no longer requires Morse Code proficiency for any class of license so it is easier than ever to pass the license tests. Legion members interested in becoming a ham should feel free to email Bill Staehle at ag6em@arrl.net for more information about becoming a license Amateur radio operator.

Health and Welfare:

By Norman Tevis

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

American Legion Post 89 (San Jose) decided to turn in their Charter. The membership has asked to join Post 318. This was approved and we would like to extend a hearty welcome to our newest members. Post 318 will be hosting the District 13 meeting at our hall on August 19th. We would like to get as many of our members to attend to show our support. The meeting starts at 7 pm. Auxiliary Unit 318 is hosting a \$5 pre-dinner starting at 5:30 pm. (Jumbo Hot Dogs, Salads, Chili, Chips and Fruit). Membership for the 2011/2012 year has started off very well. Those that have submitted their renewal will be getting your 2012 membership card soon

Auxiliary Unit 318

By Patricia McLeod

Dear Sisters,

I want to thank all of the officers for supporting the Auxiliary and I know it's going to be a great year. I look forward to working with all of you in the coming year. There are several committee chairman positions still open. Remember, everyone had to be the "new girl" once upon a time!

Membership: Important Notice Regarding Continuous Years on Membership Cards, from National ALA Headquarters; We want to alert you to a difference in the number representing a member's continuous years of membership that were printed on the 2012 ALA membership cards. This number will now represent the years of Paid membership as recorded in the ALAMIS membership database. In the past, the Legion's system added an additional year.

We discovered that during the time The American Legion managed the Auxiliary's membership data, continuous years were inflated by 1 year before printing the next year's membership cards. The rationale was that during the upcoming year printed on the membership card, the member would presumably pay the next year's dues. In the ALAMIS, a member's record reflects the number of years for which that member has ACTUALLY paid dues, as of the date the data is pulled.

The ALAMIS cannot recognize more years of service for a member than the actual number of paid dues years recorded in the system.

Membership notices sent out were incorrect. Dues are the same great rate of \$15.00 per year.

On July 4th, D13 held the annual Carnival at Menlo Park VA Hosp. I would like to thank everyone who came out and helped make the day a huge success.

On August 19, the Aux 318 will be hosting a fundraising dinner at the D13 meeting @ Post home @ 5pm. Please donate a salad so can serve a nice variety. A special thank you to Amanda McLeod, 1st Vice, who is instrumental in helping put this fundraiser together.

Ladies, we are off to a busy year. I look forward to seeing everyone at our various functions throughout the year. To those of you who can't make our functions/meetings, you are in our thoughts and prayers.

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.

Spirit of 45

Keeping the "Spirit of 45" Alive again will be held at History Park San Jose (formally the City of San Jose's Historical Museum), 1650 Senter Rd., San Jose. The event runs the weekend of August 13th from Noon to 5 pm each day..The admission is \$5 with a \$6 parking fee (Contact the Post for two for one admission flyers). Live Big Bands, Vintage Clothing Flea Market & Fashion Show, Swing Contest, Car Show WW2 Reenactment Groups, Historical Military Vehicles, Dedication of "The Kiss" Statue, WW2 Fly Over and Dinner Dance Saturday Night

Flag Lowering at Oak Hill

By: Billy Martin

Oak Hill Cemetery in conjunction with the United Veterans Council of Santa Clara County (UVC) performs a flag lowering/taps ceremony the fourth Sunday of each month. The service is to honor veterans who have passed each month. The veteran did not have to be interned at Oak Hill to be so Honored. The service is performed by members of Veteran Service Organizations which make up the UVC. Post 318 will be participating on September 25. If you would like to join us at 1pm (Ceremony starts 1:30) in front of the main office at Oak Hill Cemetery, 300 Curtner Ave, San Jose 95125 Uniform will be grey slacks, white shirt, a Legion tie, blue blazer and your cap. We will provide white gloves. We have been participating for a while and I can tell you the families of the Veteran really appreciate it.

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*

Congressional leaders tell Obama West L.A. VA off limits

Santa Monica Daily Press by Kevin Herrera July 16, 2011
WASHINGTON, DC — Sens. Dianne Feinstein and Barbara Boxer joined Rep. Henry Waxman in firing off a letter to President Obama on Friday expressing their opposition to any plan to sell parts of the West Los Angeles VA property to help drawdown the national debt. The three Democrats from California told the president and ranking members of Congress that the Veterans Affairs property, home to the largest medical center in the VA system, should be preserved so that it can be used to help rehabilitate the nation's veterans and providing housing and therapeutic services for the over 8,000 homeless veterans in the L.A. area. Waxman spokeswoman Karen Lightfoot says there's no indication that negotiators are specifically considering the campus for sale, but that selling government property has been discussed in the past as a way of reaching a debt reduction deal. "Auctioning the West L.A. VA property to the highest bidder would bring in some short-term

revenue for our immediate needs, in the same way that building high-rises on the National Mall would raise money," the letter states. "But it would be a tremendous disservice to our veterans"

Under the terms of an 1887 land grant from former Sen. John P. Jones, a co-founder of Santa Monica, the federal government is required to maintain the property for veterans. Subsequent legislation passed by Congress in 1988, 1991 and 2007 affirmed that the property was to remain in the possession of the U.S. Veterans Administration for the benefit of service members, according to the letter.

The 387-acre campus is "the nerve center" of the VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, which serves 1.4 million veterans in Southern California and 530,000 veterans in the greater Los Angeles area, the letter states.

Even if the property could be sold, development would be limited by local zoning codes to institutional uses or be left as open space, bringing into question how much revenue the property could generate, the elected officials said in the letter.

"We will fight to hard to protect this critically important facility for our nation's veterans," the three wrote.

Calls to the White House for comment were not returned by press time.

A lawsuit filed in June by Santa Monica Councilmember Bobby Shriver, the ACLU and others on behalf of homeless veterans accused the federal government of misusing the property by leasing much of it to private entities instead of using it for veterans' permanent supportive housing.

The lawsuit accuses the Department of Veterans Affairs of breach of fiduciary duty and seeks an injunction forcing the department to use the property for the housing and care of wounded vets, among other demands.

"They are 100 percent correct," Shriver said of the letter writers. "I hope they will also urge the president to order immediate funding for and construction of supportive housing for homeless veterans with mental illness."

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

House Committee:

By Garry McLeod

We are looking into upgrading the electrical from 60 amps to a realistic 200 amps ((hopefully we can install A/C). The bathrooms, bar and kitchen remodel is still in the works and looking better. As we get more details we will let you know. We will

be scheduling work parties for hall up keep. I will let you know as soon as I get the details.

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:

Spirit of 45-August 13/14 from noon to 5 pm at History Park San Jose, 1650 Senter Rd., San Jose.

Italian American Festa- Aug 27/28 from noon to 9 pm/noon to 6 pm @ Guadalupe River Park.

A Taste of Tapestry Festival-Sept 3/4 from noon to 6 @ History Park San Jose, 1650 Senter Rd., San Jose.

2010/2011 Staff

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Deadline for submissions for the next issue of the Messenger is September 15, 2011.

Please submit in Word format.

Newsletter Editor: Garry D. McLeod

Always open to contributions

email: Post318@aol.com

August 2011:

Aug. 12, House meeting @ 6pm. Executive meetings, 7:30pm @ the Post.

Aug. 13/14, Spirit of "45" weekend @ History Park San Jose. Noon to 5 pm, \$5 admission, \$6 parking

Aug. 12/13, Care and Comfort Packing, @ Navy/Marine Reserve Center, 901 E Mission St., San Jose, am to pm. This is a secure facility bring photo ID.

Aug. 19, San Jose Vet Center 1st Annual Carnival, @ the Vet Center, 278 N. Second Street, San Jose, 11 am to 3 pm.

Aug. 19, District 13 Meeting. 7 pm @ the hall. \$5 Pre dinner at 5:30 pm.

Aug 21, Aux. District 13 Meeting @ post home 10am.

Aug. 21, Veteran Memorial clam bake benefit, @ Elks Lodge, 522 Alma Ave, San Jose, 5 pm. \$47 a person (\$20 to memorial)

Aug. 24, Post 318 General Meeting, 7:30 pm @ the Post. Pre-dinner at 6:30 pm.

Aug 25, San Jose Veteran Opportunity Expo (Job Fair), @ Parkside Hall, 180 park Ave. San Jose. 11 am to 3 pm.

Aug 27/28, Italian American Festa, noon to 9 pm/noon to 6 pm @ Guadalupe River Park.

Aug. 27/28, Italian Family Festa, @ Guadalupe River Park, San Jose, Sat Noon to 9 pm, Sun Noon to 6 pm.

Aug. 28, Aux.318 Gen. Meeting, 1:30 pm @ Post home

September 2011:

Sept 3/4, A Taste of Tapestry Festival @ History Park San Jose, 10 am to 6 pm.

Sept. 9, House meeting @ 6pm. Executive meetings, 7:30pm @ the Post.

Sept 10-12, South bay Stand Down for Homeless Veterans, @ Boulder Creek Scout Reservation. Details (650) 444-7550 or www.paloalto.va.gov/sbsd.asp

Sept. 11, Care and Comfort Packing, 10 am @ the Post.

Sept 11, 9/11 Remembrance/Candlelight Vigil @ Oak Hill Memorial Cemetery, 7:30 pm.

Sept 16, POW/MIA Recognition Dinner @ AL Post 564 2120 Walsh Ave, Santa Clara. (Air Force Sgt's Assoc), 5:30 pm, for cost and details contact (408) 379-9604

Sept 25, Aux. 318 Gen. Meeting, 1:30 pm @ Post home

Sept. 28, Post 318 General Meeting, 7:30 pm @ the Post. Pre-dinner at 6:30 pm.

Sept. 25, Flag Lowering, @ Oak Hill Memorial Cemetery, Show up at 1pm



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