



# THE MESSENGER

Newsletter of The American Legion Post 318 and  
The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 318  
Volume CXXXII, Issue 2, November-December 2013  
1504 Minnesota Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125-4445  
(408) 926-9946 / [www.alcsapost318](http://www.alcsapost318)

## **From the Commander:**

By: William Staehle

The summer is over and the summer events at your Post were all a great success. Our 4 BBQ dinners were well attended and everyone who attended had a great time. We were pleased to lead the Willow Glen Founder's Day Parade as it returns to the area as an annual event. The Auxiliary sponsored car show got great attendance and reviews. Also their 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday Pancake Breakfast has been catching on as the word gets around. If you can, please try to attend the breakfast on December 1<sup>st</sup>. where we will be joining the Auxiliary as sponsors and also hosting a Toys for Tots collection drive. Breakfast starts about 9:30 AM every 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month. More information will be forthcoming about the toy drive soon. Please visit our web site for details [www.alcapost318.org](http://www.alcapost318.org) As we move farther into fall and winter we will be planning more fun things for our members and guests. Please be sure to check the website often for upcoming events and activities. Also, please plan to attend our regular meetings every 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month except June and December. Dinner is at 6:00 PM and the meeting starts at 7:00 PM. In another exciting change, we now have Internet access with a high speed Wi-Fi access point in the Post. If you are not receiving the newsletter by mail and wish to do so please leave a message at 408-926-9946.

## **From the 1st Vice Commander:**

By: Peter LaFond

No Report Submitted

## **From the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander:**

By: John Parks

No report submitted

## **From the Adjutant:**

By: Gene Fanucchi

Conventions are over, budgets are set, programs have been identified, nationally and at local Posts,

and the voice of the American Legion is being heard from the halls in Washington DC to our local city halls. Now to be successful in that total spectrum what is needed is membership involvement; members such as each of us here at Willow Glen Post 318. We have been here in Willow Glen since 1931 and have a fair sized membership. We even have a recent group of new members that have become active and innovative in leadership roles and Post activities, and they want to learn more of the organization that they joined. Recently we held a dinner/ movie night program, free, just to give members an opportunity to come and socialize. And more new events are being planned to offer members an opportunity to socialize and have a bit of fun. That is one side of your Post. And you should try to take advantage of this change. While on that subject, our communications ability, or lack thereof, is a concern. We are in the Silicon Valley, we are in a period of high cost "hardcopy" communication mediums, and telephone "trees" are not effective. So, your leadership team would like to try a better, more effective, more modern manner of communicating activities and accomplishments of the Post, or sharing information pertaining the health and well being of veterans of today and tomorrow. We would like to have feedback to know if members are computer "savvy" by asking that those capable of doing so send an "E-mail to the Post Adjutant to instruct the Post to send our *Messenger* to them via the internet instead of via the US Post Office. This will save money for the Post when doing mail outs, and allow for comments and questions to be exchanged in near real time. The *Messenger* will continue to be mailed via USPS to those without computer access, but the more we can reach on-line, the better for all. Do your best to

give us your “E” address. It will not be abused, nor shared outside the Post leadership. Help us help you and the American Legion here in our community.

**From the Finance Officer:**

By: Jim McMann

No Report Submitted

**From the Chaplain:**

By: Norman Tevis

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

**From the Service Officer:**

By: Jim McMann

No Report Submitted

**From the House Committee:**

By: William Staehle

No Report Submitted

**From the Editor:**

Communication is important to all of us and with that we are always looking for articles related to Veteran issues for our newsletter. If you're a budding Journalist or a seasoned Pro please submit your article in "Word" format. to be published in the Messenger. Next deadline December 15, 2013 If you wish to receive the "Messenger" by mail, please telephone the post at (408) 926-9946.

**From the Webmaster**

By: William Staehle

If you haven't been on our [www.alcapost318.org](http://www.alcapost318.org) web site recently you may not have noticed its new, more modern appearance. In addition, some of the functions, such as the “Photo Gallery” and “Events Calendar” have been improved.

I am striving to keep the site up to date with events and current information. If you find any errors, have updated information, or want something posted to the site please email that information to me at [webmaster@alcapost318.org](mailto:webmaster@alcapost318.org). Also, be sure to use the site “Forms” page to submit your Americanism Committee Report activity on a regular basis.

**Unit 318 Looking Ahead, Moving Forward**

By: Patricia McLeod

Our Unit, established in 1930, continues to exist today because of your membership and support. We are asking each member to bring in one new member this year. With your own renewal and one new member, our 2014 membership goal can be reached. Mail your membership dues today, \$20.00 (checks or money order made payable to ALA U318) *PO BOX 5205, San Jose CA 95150.*

Thank you to the 70% of our members who have already renewed. **We need Red White and Blue Christmas ornaments** for the Christmas in the

Park tree, Bring ornaments with you to help decorate the tree during Thanksgiving weekend or you can drop them off at the hall.

Upcoming Events: Nov 3<sup>rd</sup> Blanket Drive for homeless and low income veterans Nov 11<sup>th</sup> Veterans Parade, join our detachment, Malyne Hazard, Captain, 408.722.2361 for info. Bring a picture of your veteran 8x11 or larger Tree Decorating: one at Christmas in the Park and one at the hall, both on Thanksgiving weekend, exact dates and times TBA. Dec 1<sup>st</sup> Toys for Tots Drive Jan 5<sup>th</sup> Coat Drive for the homeless Volunteers are always needed for our monthly fundraiser Breakfast, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Month and stay for the membership meeting held later that same afternoon @ 1pm. This year's theme is **H.O.O.P.S Honoring Our Opportunity to Provide Services.** Take Care

**Veterans get boost from Brown:**

By: *U-T San Diego* Staff writer Mark Walker

SACRAMENTO — Gov. Jerry Brown signed a package of measures aimed at helping veterans, from taking a step toward providing more affordable rental housing to college tuition tax breaks to offering admission deals to state parks on certain days. “After veterans serve our country, it’s our duty to serve them,” Brown said in a statement after signing the measures in a morning ceremony at Veterans Village in San Diego. However, later the governor revealed he had vetoed two measures related to veterans. The most far reaching bill signed by Brown will ask voters in June to allow the state to use \$600 million in preapproved bond money to provide rental housing and related services for veterans instead of restricting the funds to loans for buying single-family homes and farms. A ballot measure is needed to redirect a share of the money because voters had originally approved the bonds. The California Department of Veterans Affairs would still have about \$530 million for traditional home buying assistance programs. “This is California’s opportunity to lead the nation and demonstrate what other states can do to provide housing to homeless vets and their families,” said Assemblyman John Pérez, D-Los Angeles, who carried Assembly Bill 639 to put the issue before voters. Brown and Pérez noted that the state’s existing bond authority for veterans’ housing has ballooned because of a lack of demand, yet thousands of other former members of the military are homeless or struggling to pay the rent. The money would be used to mostly work with nonprofit housing agencies. Assemblywoman Toni

Atkins, D-San Diego, a co-author, said: “No one should return home from serving our country in uniform only to end up sleeping on the streets. Yet, 20 percent of San Diego’s homeless population is veterans. This bill will help veterans successfully transition back into civilian life and to live with the dignity that we owe them for their sacrifices on behalf of us all.”

Other measures signed into law include:

- Senate Bill 272 carried by Sen. Steve Knight, R-Palmdale, exempts veterans from paying out-of-state-tuition for one year as long as they had been residents previously.
- AB 150 by Assemblywoman Kristin Olsen, R-Modesto, allows state parks to provide free or reduced passes to those on active duty and veterans on Memorial Day and Veteran’s Day.
- AB 151 carried by Olsen clarifies that local governments can provide reduced cost benefits to veterans, such as waiving building fees.
- AB 143 by Assemblyman Chris Holden, D-Pasadena, exempts active duty military from paying sales tax on items purchased out of state and before their report date in California.
- AB 244 carried by Assemblywoman Susan Bonilla, D-Concord, directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to sponsor a special license plate to help fund programs for veterans.

Brown vetoed:

- AB 704 by former Assemblyman Robert Blumenfield, D-Los Angeles, would have required the Emergency Medical Services Authority to adopt regulations so military experience would count toward certifications as an emergency medical technician and paramedic. Brown said in his veto message that he will direct the authority to do it administratively to avoid the burden of adopting formal regulations. (Blumenfield was elected to the Los Angeles City Council).
- SB 723 by Sen. Lou Correa, D-Santa Ana, would have required the state to issue a report on what others states are doing to ensure that military experience and education counts toward license requirements. Instead, Brown directed all of the licensing and professional boards to conduct reviews “to make sure military experience is counted where appropriate.

### **Veterans Eligible to Take State Promotional Exams!**

As a result of legislation signed by Governor Schwarzenegger (AB 3065, Chapter 590, Statutes of

2008) that went into effect 1 January 2009 Veterans are eligible to take promotional civil service exams, even though they are currently not a civil service employee. This law allows veterans who meet the minimum qualifications for promotional job openings to be admitted to state interviews and exams. For further information please contact the State Personnel Board or the Human Resources Office of the Department or Agency to which you will be applying.

### **Veterans Day Reminder:**

Monday, November 11th

7:00 am Oak Hill Flag Raising & Breakfast

11:00 am Veterans Day Parade Downtown San Jose.

### **Short History of Toys for Tots:**

Toys for Tots began as a Los Angeles charitable effort in 1947. William Hendricks was inspired by his wife Diane when she tried to donate a homemade Raggedy Ann doll to a needy child but could find no organization to do so. At her suggestion he gathered a group of local Marine reservists, including Lieutenant Colonel John Hampton, who coordinated and collected some 5,000 toys for local children that year from collection bins placed outside of Warner Bros. movie theaters. Their efforts were so successful that, in 1948, Toys for Tots was launched as a national campaign. Hendricks used his position as director of Public Relations for Warner Brothers Studio to enlist celebrity support, as well as have Walt Disney Studios design the red toy train logo. Until 1979, Marine reservists (frequently in their dress blue uniforms) and volunteers would collect and refurbish used toys. In 1980, only new toys were accepted, as reservists were no longer able to dedicate drill hours to refurbish toys, as well as legal concerns and the mixed message of giving hand-me-downs as a message of hope. In 1991, the Secretary of Defense authorized the creation and affiliation with the non-profit charity foundation. In 1995, the Secretary of Defense approved Toys for Tots as an official mission of the Marine Corps Reserve. Noting in 1996 that many communities did not have a Marine reservist presence, the commander of Marine Forces Reserve authorized Marine Corps League detachments and other local organizations to fill the gaps in toy collection and distribution. In 2009, the program received support from Michelle Obama, who placed the first collection box at the White House. As of

2009, the Toys for Tots Program and Foundation have collected and distributed almost five hundred million toys. In December 2011, First Lady Michelle Obama took part in a Toys for Tots activity at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling.

### **How Can I Help Toys for Tots:**

This year You can help by participating with your Post at the Post and Auxiliary 318 Breakfast and Toys for Tots Drive on Sunday December 1st, 2013. To Volunteer to help contact the Commander at (408) 997-6924 or send an email to commander@alcapost318.org. If you are unable to assist on Sunday you can provide a toy. The Post is an official drop off point for Toys for Tots. Just bring the new toy to the post and drop into the Specially marked box on the porch in front.

## **Calendar of Events**

### **November 2013:**

Nov. 3rd, Unit 318 Pancake Breakfast, 8:30 am -noon, @ the Post.

Nov. 3rd, Aux. Unit 318 General Meeting, 1:00 pm 3:00 pm, @ the Post.

Nov. 8th, Post and Aux Unit 318 Game Night, 5 pm @ the Post

Nov. 11th, Veterans Day Flag Raising, 7:00 am, @ Oak Hill Memorial (Breakfast to follow).

Nov. 11th, Veterans Day Parade, 11:00 am, @ Downtown San Jose.

Nov 15th, House meeting, 6pm, Executive meeting, 7pm @ the Post.

Nov. 17th, Operation Care and Comfort Packaging, 10:00 am -2:00 pm, @ the Post.

Nov. 27th, Dinner at 6p, Post 318 General Meeting 7pm @ the Post.

### **December 2013:**

Dec. 1st, Unit and Post 318 Pancake Breakfast and Toys for Tots Toy Drive, 8:30 am -noon, @ the Post.

Dec. 1st, Aux. Unit 318 General Meeting, 1:00 pm 3:00 pm, @ the Post.

Dec. 20th, House meeting, 6pm, Executive meeting, 7pm @ the Post.

Dec. 25th, Merry Christmas, No Post Meeting.

### **January 2014:**

Jan. 5th, Unit 318 Pancake Breakfast and Coat Drive, 8:30 am -noon, @ the Post.

Jan. 5th, Aux. Unit 318 General Meeting, 1:00 pm 3:00 pm, @ the Post.

Jan. 12th, Operation Care and Comfort Packaging, 10:00 am -2:00 pm, @ the Post.

Jan 17th, House meeting, 6pm, Executive meeting, 7pm @ the Post.

Jan.. 22nd, Dinner at 6p, Post 318 General Meeting 7:00 pm @ the Post.

#### 2013/2014 Staff

##### **Post 0318**

##### **Commander:**

William (Bill) Staehle (408) 997-6924

##### **1st Vice Commander:**

Peter LaFond (408) 858-8072

##### **2nd Vice Commander:**

John Parks (408) 309-8709

##### **Sgt at Arms:**

Tom Ruffo (408) 268-5312

##### **Adjutant:**

Gene Fanucchi (408) 506-9643

##### **Chaplain:**

Norman Tevis (408) 266-5080

##### **Treasure:**

Jim McMann (408) 221-8844

##### **Webmaster:**

William Staehle (408) 997-6924

staehle@sbcglobal.net

##### **Auxiliary Unit 318**

##### **President:**

Patricia McLeod (408) 926-9946

##### **Vice President:**

Annetta Robertson (408) 244-9624

##### **Secretary:**

Malyne Hazard

##### **Treasure:**

Alyne Hazard

Newsletter Editor: Garry D. McLeod  
Always open to contributions  
email: Post318@aol.com