



THE MESSENGER

*Newsletter of The American Legion Post 318 and
The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 318
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1504 Minnesota Avenue, San Jose, CA 95125-4445
(408) 926-9946 / www.alcspost318*

From the Commander:

By: William Staehle

I hope everyone had a wonderful Holiday season. By the time you read this we will have participated in our annual Presidents' Day event at the Menlo Park VA Hospital. If you were unable to attend please consider joining us next time. It is a great opportunity to bring some fun to those fellow veterans who are less fortunate than most of us. All of the volunteers find it to be a very rewarding experience. Progress is being made on the establishment of a Ham Radio station at the Post for both hobby and emergency communication use. We hope to be in operation by mid-summer. If you have any interest in this great hobby please feel free to contact me for information about getting involved and licensed. For those of you who are already licensed Hams please visit our web site for information on the CALARS (California American Legion Amateur Radio Service) and TALARC (The American Legion Amateur Radio Club) nets. Our "Game Night" every 2nd Friday of the month at the Post is gaining more interest and everyone who attends has been having a great time. Our informal Game Night and also the Movie Night on the 4th Friday are great opportunities to get together without any formal activities or meetings. Everyone is welcome to come and enjoy an evening of socializing and friendly games. Snacks are provided and the doors open at 5:00 PM but later arrival is OK too. Please try to join us and bring your friends and family along with any games you might like to play. Please refer to the web site calendar for information on the movie night feature film. As we move farther into the new year we are 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 4th Wednesday of the month except June and December. Dinner is at 6:00 PM and the meeting starts at 7:00 PM.

From the 1st Vice Commander:

By: Peter LaFond

No report submitted

From the 2nd Vice Commander:

By: John Parks

Willow Glen Post 318 Movie night was held on the fourth Friday, January 24th. The movie was Mr. Roberts starring Henry Fonda, Jack Lemon, William Powell and James Cagney. It's a comedy about the trials and tribulations of life aboard a US Navel cargo ship. Attendance was small but considering we had almost no advertisement we did pretty well. The next Movie Night will be on Friday, February 28th. The movie will be Closed Circuit. A high-profile terrorism case unexpectedly binds together two ex-lovers on the defense team - testing the limits of their loyalties and placing their lives in jeopardy. Released in late 2013, the movie has gotten pretty good reviews. Light snacks and refreshments will be available but feel free to bring your favorite movie food. The doors open at 6:30 and the Movie starts at 7:00 PM. We are doing a few of these as a test. If you are interested please make an effort to attend. It will help insure that Post 318 has two fun events a month. The other being Game Nigh on the 2nd Friday of the month

From the Adjutant:

By: Gene Fanucchi

We want to thank those of you who submitted your membership dues for 2014. We give special kudos to those of you who have had the patience to put up with renewal notice reminders after you already sent in your dues, we have submitted your renewal to National Headquarters where the notices are sent from. Your Post leadership team has added activities to the Post event list which if you can,

come and participate in: second Friday evening from five o'clock until nine o'clock we have a game night whereby members can come and participate in several types of games from poker, U-No, dominoes, Squabble, to who knows what someone brings; the third Friday we have a movie night at six o'clock; and of course on the fourth Wednesday we have our general membership meeting: dinner at six o'clock and meeting at seven o'clock.

Members and Auxiliary members are welcome and the cost is zero. The general membership meal will not cost a member anything. Again, to help reduce overhead cost, members are encouraged to provide their "E" mail address to the Post so USPS mailings can be reduced (approximately \$.56 now). And having your "E" address we can communicate more rapidly with you as necessary. There is of course our web site, www.AlcaPost318.org available for Post information. Herein you will see information for one of our major Post events taking place in March. Please read and place on your calendar. Then RSVP your desire to attend.

If you have questions regarding our events you may contact John Parks, Vice Commander, at (408) 309-8709, or Gene Fanucchi, Adjutant, at gbf22sj@aol.com.

From the Finance Officer:

By: Jim McMann

We have completed the mid-year budget review which was then accepted by the membership at the January 2014 general meeting. I have paid the last 2014 property tax payment for the post so we are in good shape in this the beginning of 2104. There are no more large bills we have to worry about for a while. I have created the savings accounts at the bank for the Emergency and Building Funds so it will be easy to see the status of these accounts. Additionally we are depositing money into these accounts every month as our current savings plan. Expense report forms can be downloaded from the website. Please process your expenses as quickly as possible so we can get a better feel for our expenses and program costs.

From the Service Officer:

By: Jim McMann

If you are covered by private insurance and not enrolled in the VA Healthcare System, please consider enrolling even if you have no intention of using the services. VA benefits may come in handy in case of a serious illness or when you need medical equipment where current private insurance deductibles might be prohibiting you from receiving

the care you need. The benefit parameters are quite different from commercial insurance companies. There are benefit advisors available at the local San Jose clinic and the Palo Alto VA Hospital. Don't wait until you need it, it could take some time to set up. If you are having trouble paying the high cost of some medications, there are programs in place to help you. Most pharmaceutical companies have an assistance program. Medicare also offers their Low Income Subsidy or LIS program. See section 7 of the 2013 Medicare & You guide or call 1-800-MEDICARE to see if you qualify. There are also programs inside California that offer everything from discount cards to Medicaid assistance. As the Willow Glen Post 318 Service Officer I am at your disposal to help in any way I can with your medical or pension claims. If you need some help considering other options please feel free to contact me using the information above.

From the House Committee:

By: William Staehle

On Sunday, Feb 2, 2014 both Post 318 and Auxiliary Unit 318 participated in what turned out to be a very fun time (Terrible game) we had our first annual Super Bowl Party and Pot Luck. An off-the-air antenna and tuner for use during the game was purchased and temporarily installed by one of our members. The HD signal looked great on the new post projector. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and we're all looking forward to the next televised sporting event at the post. At the next Board Meeting, we will discuss purchasing the equipment and permanently installing it for use on other events. Please suggest other televised events that you might like to see aired at the post.

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 April 15, 2014.

From the Webmaster:

By: William Staehle

If you haven't been on our 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. 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

Again thank you to everyone for your support of the Holiday Events and Fundraisers. January was kind of there what with the Super Bowl. February however, has been busy, with lots to report. The Princess Project Prom Dress collection went very well, short notice and all. We were hoping our members would donate some gently used Prom Dresses. Members stepped up and did an outstanding job when not only did they donate the dresses, new with tags still on, they included the coordinating shoes, jewelry and accessories. It was so over the top! Everyone was overjoyed Thank you again. Everyone can be very proud of our members who attended the Four Chaplains Ceremony. They presented and posted our Colors at the very moving ceremony. All who attended reported it was very a poignant service. Tissues will be provided next year at this annual event. 2nd Vice President, Angel and I attended the District 13 meeting where we received the good news; Unit 318 has won the 2nd place award in the Department (State) contest for our activities and membership. Second place out of 300 units statewide is a remarkable achievement. Congratulations to all of you, you made it happen, all I did was fill out the paper work, it's your achievement. Outstanding job everyone! Unit and Post members attended our very own unique "Unplugged Game Night", no computers, no TV, no Xboxes, no electronics devices, just old fashioned fun, talking face 2 face. While the fellowship was with us, Alliances were broken, Family ties were strained and new courses forever changed. Who knew Uno could be so much fun. A Special thank you to Cindy Hernandez who kept us all in check. We really had a great evening. Friday, March 14th is the next one. The every next evening, March 15, 2014; our Post will honor the Law Enforcement Officer of the Year. The awards will be presented after dinner. (Free for members and their guests). Mark your calendars for this Award Night @ our Post home. Big Congratulations goes out to Lauran Richmond, Past Unit 318 President, who has achieved 25 years of continuous membership. To continue our theme Blast from the Past; We have An Old Fashioned SOCK HOP on Saturday, March 8th, doors open @ 7pm. You can compete for prizes

for the best costume, in couples or singles categories, hula hoop, air guitar and more. All while enjoying corn dogs, nachos and root beer floats as we collect socks for our veterans. Advanced Tickets on Sale now! Bring at least 2 pair of socks (per person) for a vet and receive a discount \$11 single (stag) \$10 when you have 2 pair of socks \$18 couple (drag) \$15 when you bring at least 4 pair of socks Next event on the list will be on Saturday, May 17th our first "Hope You Like It Hot, Chili and Hot Chicks Chili Cook Off! August 16th has the 2nd Annual CAR SHOW, join us as we get in gear! It's going to be a busy year. Volunteers and support of all types are needed and always welcome. We appreciate your time, talent and treasure. And just in case we are interested and not too busy for a bit more fun, the folks from the Rose, White and Blue Parade were wondering if we would like to present a float or other moving entry in the annual July 4th event. Some of the ideas floating around so far are; a flotilla of Rolling Brass Beds and/or Fainting Couches, while wearing period costumes as the ultimate period piece Members wearing period bathing costumes, march while rolling metal barrel hoops with sticks (ha, this not as easy as it looks, practice with a hula hoop, and see what I mean!). Drill team maneuvers while pushing vintage prams or pulling little red Flyer wagons with floral displays. My personal favorite, our members wearing costumes from the different eras; 1800's 40's, 50's, Rosie the Riveter, etc. riding a float while waving to the onlookers. I say, "Let someone else do the driving!" While we have some time to think about this one, we do need a chairman for it and maybe, just maybe a few more suggestions of how to make this a fun successful event for everyone. Whatever we do remember to bring your cameras! We have the team spirit as we come together to provide for our veterans and their families. We still have lots to do before the end of the year. In April, we will hold our initiation ceremony and will have a Leadership Workshop for members who would like to take the National Correspondence Course. May is Poppy Month in addition to the Chili Cook Off! June is the Convention, right here in Silicon Valley. Our unit usually provides a gift basket for the raffle. Monthly meetings on the 1st Sunday of the Month @ 1pm @ our Post home 1504 Minnesota Ave, San Jose

U.S. Flag Drop-off Box



The United States Postal Service donated a retired mailbox to Willow Glen Post 318 to be used as a drop off box for US flags needing to be retired. Pan American Collision Center, donated the basic paint job and their sister company Commercial Graphics Installations, donated the custom graphics. Both businesses are located on Burke Street in San Jose. Across from COSTCO off Senter Road. We all should appreciate and support local businesses, like these, that are willing to support the American Legion programs. The drop box has been installed on the front porch for seven day / 24 hour access.

Membership Eligibility and the IRS:

The American Legion has been working with the IRS regarding Verification of Statutory Membership Requirements of Veterans Organizations and a new memorandum revising guidelines for tax-exempt veteran's (501-C-19) organizations. Compliance with the requirements is mandatory to remain qualified as a IRS 501-C-19 organization. The change being enacted allows for the following documents to be produced by potential members as proof of qualification: *DD Form 214, Certificate of Release, or Discharge from Active Duty.* Post recruiters must ensure that a copy of one of these documents is made available by the potential new or transferring candidates. The IRS wants to see documentation of service dates.

Game Night at the Post:

All members of both Post and Unit 318 are invited to the "Game Night" on the second Friday of the Month. Doors open at 5:00 pm and runs till 9:00 pm. Come join us and relax, enjoy the company of your comrades. If you desire you can play cards, board games or any game you may want to bring. Lite snacks are available. Reminder if you want to bring a guest be sure to sign them in so we comply with Federal law.

Importance of Participation:

Individuals belong to the American Legion for a particular reason. Some, because they want to be affiliated with their brothers and sisters who

sacrificed a part of their life in the closest of terms (near equivalent to marriage); they want to add to the head count of the organization, because numbers appears to be the only element elected officials see when considering legislation pertaining to active military, medical care, and retirement benefits of veterans; members want to say to themselves that they are part of the greatest veterans organization in the world. These are all valid reasons for joining. But there are other elements many may not realize. The American Legion is a grass roots organization. Success is based upon the actions and involvement of local Posts, not National Headquarters. Think back when you were in the service, especially during times of major conflict. Strategic decisions, general directives, and the mission of units were given by the fellows with the stars on their sleeves and shoulders in the rear "green zones". The success or failure of those decision, directives, mission plans was placed on the shoulders of the men/women up front. The American Legion is no different. The National leadership, in Indianapolis, gives us our mission, as stated in our Preamble; it speaks for us in Congress and states across the Nation. The leadership is our voice; our membership numbers are what gives that voice the volume to be heard. That is one reason why membership growth is important. But accomplishment of the Legion mission is dependent upon the active involvement of a Post membership in its community. It is the community we live in that benefits from our Legion mission. If we are not known in our community, then we have failed our mission as a Legion Post. Community is veterans; community is children and youth; community our purpose. We need Legionnaires to keep in touch with their Post so that the Post can fulfill its mission. You are each a part of the success of your Post, and if you can take some time to contribute, beyond just being a member, the more proud you will feel for your role as a Legionnaire. Come down and meet your leadership at Post 318. You will not regret the visit.

Public Safety Dinner:

The 1930 Willow Glen Fire Department had several World war I Veterans in their ranks. They organized and applied for a Charter for an American Legion Post. At the 1931 Department Convention the Charter was approved for Post 318. As you can see Public Safety has long roots at our Post. We have been honoring those roots for many years with our Public Safety Dinners. The recipient must be a

member of one of the three Public Safety Agencies (Law Enforcement, Fire Fighting or Medical Services). This year we will be honoring a Deputy with the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Department. The Dinner will be held on Saturday, March 15, 2014, at our Hall. The doors will open at 5 pm. Dinner to be served at 6 pm. In keeping with the past practice of offering these dinners free to our members we ask that if you plan to attend to please RSVP for you and any guests by Sunday, March 9th. This way we may more accurately order the amount of food that will be needed for the dinner

From the Chaplain:

By: Norman Tevis



The 34th annual Four Chaplains Memorial Service was held at the Saint Francis Cabrini Church on February 1, 2014. It was a beautiful service that went off without a hitch thanks to the experienced management of Adjutant, Gene Fanucchi and the team of volunteers. This annual event hosted by Post 318 for District thirteen is a favorite of many organizations. It honors the four WWII Army chaplains who while on a torpedoed and sinking US troop transport did their best to assist evacuating the ship while living their faith by their selfless sacrifice. At the end, all four gave their own life preservers to other soldiers and went down with the ship. It's a moving story and well worth remembering. It was nice to see so many organizational colors and U.S. Flags surrounding the stage. Should you hear of one of our brothers or sisters sick, injured, or worse, please contact me at (408) 266-5080.

MICHAEL SCHLENKHOFF REST IN PEACE

Past Post Commander Michael Schlenkhoff transferred to Post Everlasting on February 2, 2014 at El Camino Hospital, in Mt. View. Mike served in Vietnam during that major conflict. He was awarded his flight wings from the US Army for fixed wing aircraft; he was a Captain at the age of

twenty-five. Mike earned a nickname of "Shotgun 25" during his Vietnam tour as a forward observer including as spotter for aircraft spraying the infamous Agent Orange. He was highly distinguished and decorated by the time of his honorable discharge from service. Mike continued serving and supporting other veterans after his departure from military service. He joined Post 318 and went through the chairs to eventually become Commander. Mike's years after the military were not easy. He suffered a stroke soon after his separation and was forced into a wheelchair existence. That did not deter him from serving his community however. Our condolences to his sisters (three) and brother. We salute you Mike...rest well.

Newsletter Editor: Garry D. McLeod

Always open to contributions

email: Post318@aol.com

2013/2014 Staff

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Malyne Hazard (408) 722-2361

Treasure:

Alyne Hazard

Chaplain:

Beje Schwartz (408)

Calendar of Events

March 2014:

Mar. 2nd, Unit 318 Pancake Breakfast, 8:30 am - 11:30 am, @ the Post.

Mar. 2nd, Aux. Unit 318 General Meeting, 1:00 pm 3:00 pm, @ the Post.

Mar. 14th, Post Game Night. 5:00 pm -9:00 pm, @ the Post.

Mar 15th, Law and Order Dinner, Doors open at 5:00 pm, @ the post

Mar, 21st, House meeting, 6pm, Executive meeting, 7pm @ the Post.

Mar. 26th, Dinner at 6p, Post 318 General Meeting 7:00 pm @ the Post.

April 2014:

Apr. 6th, Unit 318 Pancake Breakfast, 8:30 am - 11:30 am, @ the Post.

Apr. 6th, Aux. Unit 318 General Meeting, 1:00 pm 3:00 pm, @ the Post.

Apr. 11th, Post Game Night. 5:00 pm -9:00 pm, @ the Post.

Apr 16th, Veterans Business Meeting, Noon to 1 pm, @ the Post.

Apr. 18th, House meeting, 6pm, Executive meeting, 7pm @ the Post.

Apr. 23rd, Dinner at 6p, Post 318 General Meeting 7:00 pm @ the Post.

Apr. 25th, Post Movie Night, Doors open at 6 pm, @ the Post.

Apr. 29th, American Legion Dist. 13 meeting, 7 pm, @ the Post.

May 2014:

May 4th, Unit 318 Pancake Breakfast, 8:30 am - 11:30 am, @ the Post.

May 4th, Aux. Unit 318 General Meeting, 1:00 pm 3:00 pm, @ the Post.

May 9th, Post Game Night. 5:00 pm -9:00 pm, @ the Post.

May 10th, Aux 318 Chili Cook off, Event start at xxx, @ the Post.

May 16th, House meeting, 6pm, Executive meeting, 7pm @ the Post.

May 21st, Veterans Business Meeting, Noon to 1 pm, @ the Post.

May 28th, Dinner at 6 pm, Post 318 General Meeting 7:00 pm @ the Post.

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