

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

American Legion Willow Glen Post 318



1504 Minnesota Ave, San Jose, 95125
669-333-0700

Quick Calendar

11 Nov – Veteran’s Day at Oak Hill

25-27 Nov – Tree Trimming in the Enchanted Forest

27 Nov – 7pm General Member Meeting at the Post

29 Nov – 8 Dec – Weekend Trees for Troops

14 Dec – Wreaths Across America

WELCOME

Hello and welcome to our newly renovated newsletter. Here’s what you’ll find inside:

Officer’s Columns

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If you would like to receive this newsletter by email, please contact membership@alcapost318.org or call the post at 669-333-0700.

Officer's Columns

Commander's Notes

Legionnaires, fall is here and the weather is changing towards winter, time to turn back the clocks and change the batteries in Smoke Detectors. We at Post 318 are busy with post activities such as a forthcoming Awards Dinner to be announced. Legionnaire Carter and Past Post Commander Parks are doing a bang-up job with our rentals, no complaints received. Job well done, keep it up.

Post 318 held a Flag Lowering Ceremony at Oak Hill Memorial Cemetery in San Jose. This activity was well received by those in attendance. We are looking towards Veteran's Day this year when we will Raise The Flag along the Avenue of Flags at Oak Hill.

As of now, we are getting ready for Halloween when we will hand out glow sticks to children. The sticks are for safety at night while trick or treating. This is a Post 318 tradition annually performed by members.

We are working on using Zoom for post meetings. At this time we have some kinks to work out, so bear with us. You will be notified when it is in operation. Please check your membership card to be sure it is up to date.

Thanks for taking time to read this

Dennis Foggie
Commander

Chaplain's Chat

My sisters and brothers, I pray that this note finds you in good health and spirits.

As you may or may not know our American Legion National Commander has declared that we join him for the good of the Legion, our communities, and our country to make "**BE THE ONE**" our battle cry in the forthcoming year. "**One**" as it relates to active duty and veteran suicides.

Do you realize that an estimated 30,177 (equal to the population of Laguna Hills, California) veterans and active-duty service members killed themselves over the past 20 years? During that same period, 7,057 (population of Sausalito) of our brothers and sisters were killed in combat.

The officers of Post 318 are going to dedicate ourselves in service to you, our post veterans, and our community by creating and activating a "Buddy Check Program." I am going to personally chair

this activity and will be looking for your help and support. My hope is that we have a Post 318's "Hey Buddy" phone-tree up and running by Christmas. Our tree will only have a few branches; but will grow like wildflowers with your help and prayers.

Today, we are not looking at branches or even leaves, we're still planning; but, when we put this sapling into the ground, we will need your assistance in making it grow.

I pray God will continue to bless you and keep you in the palm of his hand.

Please – do not hesitate to contact me if I can help you in any way.

Stay Blessed,

Jere Bernardoni
Chaplain Post 318
California American Legion

408.460.7269

Chaplain@alcapost.318.org
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Adjutant's Administration

Comrades of Post 318 and friends,

I want to first take the opportunity to thank our Post 318 Second Vice Commander, Dianne "Danni" Carter, for being Editor of our finally developed communication bulletin to finally touch bases with all of you.

For the majority of those we are reaching out to via this bulletin, we really appreciate your dedication for your continued membership in the American Legion here at Post 318. Although many of you may not be able to join us in person at our monthly meetings, or participate in some of our community programs, our Post in-house members programs, or celebration of veterans recognition days, you are a value to all veterans by remaining a member.

Congress looks to one thing when it must address legislation pertaining to benefits and care of veterans and active duty personnel; how many of the population will be affected and what is the cost.

The American Legion acts as an advocate for legislation, and for its's voice to be heard, Congress looks at numbers; you know the squeaky wheel gets heard. And your membership adds a level of volume to the voice of veterans advocates. By your membership your voice is heard in Congress.

We would like to hear your voice and see you at the Post too. Hence our efforts to reach you more directly so you know what Post 318 is doing. That is why we are working toward setting up Zoom meetings along with face-to-face.

One more thing to help us bond with you is to send us an Email address so as to reach you more easily. It will not be abused. We intend to communicate only Post 318 related memos.

This should do for a start. We look forward to hearing from you (Email address) so we can reach you more directly (and less expensively than USPS) and be able to Zoom you as soon as we establish it. Perhaps also, you may be able to eventually join with us at events once we get information out to you.

Take care, best wishes to you all for health and happiness. We salute you all.

Gene Fanucchi
Adjutant, Post 318

669-333-0700 ext 2
info@alcapost318.org

Finance's Figures

On June 27th my wife Dee (a delegate to convention) and I attended several Department Committee meetings, a prelude to the 105th American Legion Department Convention in Visalia, California. I went to one on Americanism and one on Finance and she went to one on Women Veterans. The one on Americanism was a discussion on the elements of Americanism like Boys & Girls State, Oratorical, Scouting, flag protocol, honor guard and the 4 pillars in our preamble. We also had to review a resolution that would be brought to the convention floor for a vote if deemed worthy. In Dee's meeting there was no department leader, so the ladies talked about their service time and what they are doing now and a resolve to get more recognition for the woman veteran.

On June 28th the district delegates met to caucus. The posts represented were 99,318,419,564,558,781 and one more. We talked about the committee meetings we attended. At 9am the convention commenced with opening American Legion protocol then welcoming of dignitaries, guests, department officers, American Legion Auxiliary president, Son of American Legion department commander and national commander. Next was the nomination of department officers. There was a break of 2hours for lunch and training sessions. Just a few of the

training classes were: American Legion Gaming (video games not gambling), My Legion, Tax exempt status, corporate responsibility, and National Legislative Division. The afternoon session had guest presentations, presentation of awards, department reports and the start of the presentation of resolutions which the convention needed to approve.

On June 29th our district caucused before the start of the convention. Each of the attendees talked about the training classes we attended. After the convention was called to order there were the department candidates' remarks followed by more reports from different activities. There was a reading and approval of the changes to the department by-laws. This was followed by a memorial service for those Legionnaires who have gone on to post everlasting. There was a break for lunch and training sessions. The training sessions were similar to the previous day with a couple new ones. In the afternoon there were more award presentations, and committee reports. There were also more resolutions to be presented and voted on. One lengthy report was the department budget for the coming year. It was recommended that the department per capita be raised \$5 in July of 25 and approved. There was a Commanders and Presidents banquet available that evening.

On June 30th our district met to caucus before the start of the convention. We talked about any training we may have go to. There were 3 department offices that had multiple candidates. We voted by post (each post had a number of eligible delegates that could vote) for the various candidates. There were some more presentations and business that had to happen before we got to vote. Just a note for a post to have its vote count they had to have at least 1 physical person on the floor during the vote. After the voting was done we left before the installation of new department officers and other ceremonies.

The American Legion Auxiliary and the Sons of the American Legion were meeting for their conventions at the same time.

Attending the convention provided some insight as to what was happening in the Legion in the state. The committee reports gives you a picture as to what transpires in these committees. The training sessions help you learn some different aspects of Legion activity and gives new knowledge to new members.

Membership Musings

Danni Carter, 2nd Vice

Zoom Meetings – In January, we will start broadcasting our meetings over zoom for our housebound members. The meeting details will be posted on the home page as we get closer to the meeting. Stay tuned!

Social Media - Immediately after taking the oath at Post 318, our Commander put me in charge of our computer systems, web site, email, and social media. While our computer systems have been well tended, our social media has been in poor shape since the previous administrators left with all the usernames and passwords. As you can see, after some hard work, we are making good progress and would like to invite you to stay up to date with our updated web site. We are also starting a Facebook Group for members to stay in touch.

Events - You don't know anyone to stay in touch with? Why not join us in some of our upcoming events? We are starting the New Year with a New Beginnings Pot Luck. But if that's too long to wait, you can help decorate our tree at Christmas in the Park's Enchanted Village. Check out [Upcoming Events](#) for more information.

Win a PUFL - Time to Renew your membership and you could win a Paid Up For Life membership according to <https://calegion.org/win-a-pufl-membership/>. You must have paid your dues by 11 Nov 2025 to be eligible. Check the link for more information.

Rentals

The rental prices of our Hall have recently been raised. The current weekend prices start at \$575 for 4 hours and add \$115 for each hour after to a maximum of \$1,150 for 9 or more hours. There is a \$250 fee for a security guard if serving alcohol after 5pm, and a refundable \$300 cleaning deposit. Members get a discount, so consider your Legion home for your upcoming event. Call us at 669-333-0700 ext 3 or email rentals@alcapost318.org.

Upcoming Events

Tree Trimming

We're bringing back an old tradition of decorating a tree in the Enchanted Forest at Christmas in the Park in downtown San Jose. The theme this year is **Green** and trimming will take place on 25-27 Nov. Contact Danni at 669-333-0700 ext 3 to join in getting into the holiday spirit.

Trees for Troops

Have you been overseas during the holidays with no access to your favorite traditions? We don't want our troops to miss out on trimming trees, either. So Trees for Troops was started to solicit donations from patrons at Christmas tree farms to send trees to our troops. The farms in our area will send the trees to Camp Pendleton to be distributed in time for the holiday. Our contribution is to man the booth and ask folks to donate for the trees. The days are 29,30 Nov, 1, 7,8 Dec. Contact Ralph Jacobs at 408-476-4030 to get on the schedule.

New Year's New Beginnings Pot Luck at the Post

Let's start the new year right by getting to know our fellow post members. Keep the festivities going on 4 Jan at 5 pm. Bring a dish (with the ingredient list for those who may be allergic to something) and your appetite. Families welcome. We will post more information on the website as we get it. Stay Tuned!

Moffett Field Museum Tour

Did you know that Moffet Field has a museum? It is a glimpse into the history of the Bay Area and its important role in technology, aviation, space flight, and national defense. The post has been offered a personal tour at a discounted rate of \$8 each for a group of at least 10 and is open to family members as well. We are considering taking them up on the offer in January. If interested, please contact Danni Carter at the post 669-333-0700 ext. 3 or at info@alcapost318.org.

Other Veteran Events

Wreaths Across America

Though not hosted by our post, Wreaths Across America is an event held at many cemeteries across the nation on 14 Dec. It will start at 11 am at Oak Hill Cemetery in San Jose and Gate of Heaven in Cupertino.

If you would like this Newsletter by email instead of hard copy mail, please email membership@alcapost318.org with your request.