

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

American Legion Willow Glen Post 318



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

Quick Calendar

- 23 April General Post Meeting
- 26 May Memorial Day Avenue of Flags at Oak Hill Cemetery Veterans Section
- 28 May General Post Meeting
Election of Post Officers
- There is no June General Post Meeting for Convention
- 21 July Charity Poker Tournament
- 23 July General Post Meeting
New Member Initiation at Meeting

WELCOME

Hello and welcome to our 2025 quarter 1 newsletter. Here's what you'll find inside:

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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

Since the last time that I communicated with you, Legionnaires of Post 318 put on a BBQ which was well received by all in attendance. The chief cooked a very good meal. No complaints were received.

On a bright and sunny Sunday in January, Post 318 Legionnaires held a Flag Lowering Ceremony at Oakhill Memorial Park in San Jose. This event will be held on a quarterly schedule.

Remember this is a new Legion year. Check your Membership cards to make sure it is up to date for 2025.

Dennis Foggie
Commander

Chaplain's Chat

When I look back on my military career, I see all the things that were done by our team. We were all individuals, different personalities, and temperaments, working together toward a common goal. We depended upon each other to "get the job done."

Post 318 is a team; we are working for the betterment of our community, our state, and our nation. In our current economic and political state, teamwork is necessary to assist any of our sisters and brothers having difficulties.

Sometimes all that is needed is a quiet phone conversation, going for coffee, a walk in the park, or simply a nonjudgemental listener. We do not have all the answers, but we have strength in our organization to try to find answers or provide help. **You will not be alone; your Post 318 Leadership Team is ready to help.**

I have looked at a "forced" buddy-check system - not good. It's time for us to do what is best for our Legion Post 318 and our fellow Veterans.

So, let's go this way - if you would like to take part in a weekly check-in with one of your Legion brothers or sisters, please send me the following information about you (include the best dates/times to meet/talk):

Name
Phone
Email

Using this information, I will set up Check-In Teams. All that needs to be done after this is to reach out and contact another Post 318 vet.

I am looking forward to hearing from you.

Remain Blessed,
Chaplain Jere

Chaplain@alcapost.318.org
jerep.bernardoni@gmail.com
408.460.7269

Adjutant's Administration

Greetings

Somehow it is April 2025, meaning it is near time to begin wrapping up the 2024-2025 Legion administrative year (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025)

We thank those of you who have renewed your membership for 2025, 117 out of a goal for the Post of 150, since each member adds volume to the voice of the American Legion when it goes before Congress, the Veterans Administration, and numerous other agencies to advocate for active duty, retired, and all others who served our Country in military service. That is the primary reason the American Legion exists.

Numbers of members is what allows the Legion to be heard when "fighting" for veterans, especially when there is inflation and need for budget tightening at the National level. Our older members know that veteran benefits, and active duty military readiness suffers when the financial belt needs tightening.

Hence, we are working to get our membership reactivated. Hence, we have started issuing a quarterly communications to let you know a bit more about your Legion Post and the Legion overall in our community of Santa Clara county.

Our early editions are a bit "black and white", and not as exciting as could be, but we're trying, and that's why we need some of you to step up and join us more directly.

The "Doughboys" of WWI founded the American Legion in 1919. Because of the founders' foresightedness, we today still benefit from "The Veterans Bill of Rights", the second most significant document of the United States. Their legacy must continue for our warriors of today and tomorrow. And that legacy depends on veterans of today, mainly American Legionnaires like ourselves.

Help us, help all veterans, mark your calendar and join us at our April meeting in person or via Zoom, April 23, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

And if you have not renewed, do so now and be part of us as we evolve to be more active in our community, and make the American Legion a more visible contributor as we promote veterans, and our children and youth programs in our schools.

Look forward to hearing from you.

Gene Fanucchi
Adjutant, Post 318

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

Finance's Figures

My first exposure to accounting came in a bookkeeping class in my senior year of high school. The work was easy, and I liked the process. The brother of one of my classmates was a CPA and I talked to him about that profession. I decided afterwards to look at that profession when I was in college. My college career was delayed because I chose to go into the Marines right after high school graduation.

While in service I got sidetracked into the data processing field. While working in that field I was able to get back to going to college part time. At the time I thought my next step in my career was in management. So, the college courses were tailored towards that end.

I did get some college courses in accounting. I received an AA degree in business from Oakland City College. I transferred to Golden Gate University where I received a BA in business management.

Just after graduating an opportunity came up to transfer to a subsidiary company of my then current employer. I was a liaison person in data processing working between our subsidiary and our corporate office in our accounting department.

After two years the subsidiary brought data processing in house, and I was absorbed into the accounting department where I started doing accounting tasks.

Evaluating my career at this point I was too far along to pursue a CPA certificate so instead I decided to go back to school for a master's in accounting. After 10 years I got my degree.

I ended up spending 32 years in various accounting/management positions. I had a good time and learned a lot.

After I retired, I was looking for something to keep me busy. About 15 years ago I was finally able to Join the American Legion. At the time they needed a finance officer. Barring good USMC advice to never volunteer I offered my services. I have been the finance officer ever since. I do enjoy it and hope to pass this work on to the next finance officer.

Rick Harbrecht
Finance Officer

Judge Advocate's Judgement

Post 318 held our yearly Law and Order dinner and award ceremony as part of our community . Here is some information on our recipient:

Detective Jose Alvarez has been a valued member of the Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office for the past 12 years. He is currently assigned to the Sheriff's Transit Patrol Division, where he provides investigative services to the Sheriff's Office VTA law enforcement contract.

Detective Alvarez is often tasked with handling time-consuming and sensitive investigations to include violent crimes on the transit system, assaults on VTA operators, and workplace violence incidents at VTA. His diligence and commitment to the community have led to positive outcomes for crime victims to include suspect identification/arrests and successful prosecutions.

Detective Alvarez dedicates time to learning and understanding new legislation and changes within CA laws. His on-going public safety efforts have resulted in numerous GVRO's (Gun Violence Restraining Orders) for persons who have committed crimes on the VTA system. He has authored and coordinated several search and arrest warrant operations resulting in physical arrests and the seizure of evidentiary items used during the commission of these crimes.

The VTA transit system is part of our nation's critical infrastructure, whose assets are considered so vital to the United States that their incapacitation or destruction would have a deliberating effect on national economic security. VTA has experienced an increase in copper theft related incidents over the last year. Suspect identification and apprehension are extremely difficult in these types of cases as copper theft crimes are often committed in low light areas, away from main transit centers, and outside the presence of security cameras. Through extensive follow-up and investigation techniques, Detective Alvarez was recently able to identify and arrest a copper theft suspect who was responsible for over 10k in copper theft losses on the VTA system. This was the first successful identification and apprehension for a copper theft suspect on the VTA system.

Detective Alvarez was recently recognized as the Transit Patrol Deputy of the Year, an award he received as a result of receiving the most votes from his peers – other deputies assigned to the Sheriff's Transit Patrol division.

Detective Alvarez is a dedicated member of the Sheriff's Office. He is a highly motivated individual with a calm demeanor. He consistently displays a positive attitude and demonstrates a team-collaborator type of approach to his work. He values public safety and strives to maintain a safe environment for VTA ridership and employees.

The Santa Clara County Sheriff's Office is proud to recommend Detective Jose Alvarez as a recipient for the American Legion Law Enforcement Community Service Award.

Ed Siarot
Judge Advocate

Membership Musings

Zoom Meetings

We have started our Zoom access to our monthly General Meeting. This is done especially for our members who have limited mobility and cannot join us in person. Our first Zoom meeting was in January and we will continue to tweak it to make it better each month. An email goes out with the connection information each month. If you would like to be on the mailing list, please send an email to membership@alcapost318.org. We would love to see your shining face, your avatar (picture), or your blank square with your name. And let us know how we can make it better for you.

Social Media

Do you love to post online? Do you like organizing your Facebook page, or Instagram account, or other socials? Do you like to write? We would be grateful if you would help us by sharing your skills to enhance our quarterly newsletter and our online presence to our membership. We are open to creative talent to better share our existence and our mission, and to bring our members closer. Would you like to learn how to manage our social accounts and have your efforts make a difference to others? We're looking for a Post 318 Legionnaire who has time on their hands who would like to manage our social media accounts. Don't worry if you don't know how. If you are willing to learn, I'm willing to teach you. Please contact me at membership@alcapost318.org.

Rentals

Last newsletter we let you know about the rise in prices. What we didn't say was that by being a member of the American Legion for at least a year, you get a discount! And if you've been a

member of our post for a while, you get an even bigger discount. Renting again within 6 months also gives a discount. That's a lot of discounts! No, they don't stack, but we will give you the best one you are eligible for.

We also have more good news: We finally take credit cards, Apple Pay, Venmo, and PayPal! By teaming up with PayPal, we can process more forms of payment. We do need to pass along the processing fee to the renter. Just like at a gas station when you get a "discount" when you pay by cash, the discount is not paying the card processing fee. So far, many renters find the 2.5% is worth the convenience.

So, if you want to rent a hall, consider your Legion home for your upcoming event. Call us at 669-333-0700 or email rentals@alcapost318.org.

Danni Carter
2nd Vice Commander

Events

Significant Dates

- 23 April General Post Meeting
- 26 May Memorial Day Avenue of Flags at Oak Hill Cemetery Veterans Section
- 28 May General Post Meeting
Post Elections
- There is no June General Post Meeting
- 21 July Charity Poker Tournament at Excite Ballpark
Hosted by Operation: Care and Comfort
www.occ-usa.org/charity-poker
- 23 July General Post Meeting
New Member Initiation at Meeting

Post Elections

Elections of Post Officers will be held on 28 May at the General Meeting. Positions include: Commander, Vice Commanders (1st, 2nd, 3rd), Sergeant at Arms, and Board Members.

New Year's New Beginnings Pot Luck at the Post

On 4 Jan, we had our New Year, New Beginnings Pot Luck as noted in the Commander's notes. It was a nice beginning to the year and we hope to have more events coming up. But...

We Want Your Input

What type of events would you like to or be able to join in? Are you interested in another pot luck, getting together for a concert, a museum tour, a walk (or roll) through a park, a fellow Legionnaire phone call or visit, or something completely different? This is YOUR post, too, and you matter to us. Contact us at 669-333-0700 or membership@alcapost318.org with your ideas.

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. If interested, please contact Danni Carter at the post 669-333-0700 or at membership@alcapost318.org.

Other Veteran Events

Free Taxi Rides for Veterans

The Silicon Valley Chapter of the Military Officers Association of America (SVC MOAA), in partnership with the County of Santa Clara's Office of Veterans Services and Checker Cab of Silicon Valley, is proud to offer free transportation assistance for veterans in Santa Clara County.

Get free rides to:

- Medical Appointments
- Job Interviews and Employment Services
- School and Educational Activities
- Other Essential Services

Eligibility:

Must be a veteran residing in Santa Clara County

How to schedule a ride:

Contact the County of Santa Clara's Office of Veterans Services at **408-918-4980**

Golf with Veterans

We are often given the opportunity for a free golf lesson and driving practice with a PGA instructor. The deadlines from when the post receives the message and the sign up is short, so if you are

interested in golf, please send an email to info@alcapost318.org so we can forward you the information promptly. For more information, you can call Danni Carter at 669-333-0700 ext. 3.

Horses for Warriors

DreamPower Horsemanship in Gilroy has announced that all military veterans and service members from all branches and all eras are invited to Horses for Warriors Thursdays 1 – 2:30 pm and Saturdays 12-2 pm. HERd group Fridays 1-3 pm (twice a month) is for women veterans only. Groups are FREE. Call or email to sign up for more information.

- Phone: **408-686-0535**
- Address: 7460 Crews Road, Gilroy CA 95020
- Email: dphgilroy@gmail.com
- www.dreampowerhorsemanship.com
- Instagram: [dreampower_horsemanship](https://www.instagram.com/dreampower_horsemanship)
- Facebook: DreamPower Horsemanship

Legion Learning

What is the American Legion all about?

Well, the Legion has several core principles, called the Four Pillars. They are Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children and Youth. These pillars guide the programs that we participate in and the advocacy that we put our efforts behind. I'd like to go over each of them briefly here, and in future newsletters, look at each one in depth.

Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation focuses on the needs of veterans. It includes healthcare, benefits, job opportunities, and more recently even the transition back to civilian life. Advocating for veterans in Congress is the primary reason the Legion was created, and what we do better than any other veteran organization.

National Security is what all members were part of when we served, and we still support a strong national defense now that our time in service is over. This includes advocating for a well-funded and well-equipped military, issues related to homeland security, and quality of life for service members and their families.

Americanism means something more to service members than to those who haven't served. We understand that it isn't about who is voted into office, but it is upholding the Constitution, being a responsible citizen, caring for our flag, and educating the public about American history and values.

Children and Youth focuses on the upcoming generation and programs that support their physical, moral, mental, and social development and well-being. Remember, these are the people who will carry the torch when we are gone.

Legionnaire Contribution

This new section is for your contributions. Send yours to membership@alcapost318.org

A Ride of a Lifetime!

By Dan Burford

I was in my second year at San Jose State College in the Airforce ROTC program as an AERO major. As I was walking on campus, the head of the ROTC program, Col. Wetzel stopped me and asked if I wanted to take a jet ride, since the outstanding cadet of the department had opted out. I was thrilled that he had asked me! He told me to be in uniform at the Travis Airforce Base at a specified time. I showed up, but unfortunately, the flight was cancelled. The Col. Said that we would try again another time. The second attempt went through, and after what seemed like hours of training in how to put on a parachute, how to use it, and how to get out of the two-seated plane in case of an emergency, I was pushed into the seat behind the pilot's seat, so when smoke billowed back to my area, I became very nervous. The pilot, Lt. Evans, said that he was just taking a smoke break, but I had almost pulled the cockpit ejection lever! I had flown model airplanes, and knew about controls, so the pilot Lt. Evans assumed that I knew how to fly. The plane was a Jet Trainer, T-33, but the controls were very sensitive. I was told to only use the trim tabs until I got the hang of it. The pilot said that I could do anything I wanted to, so, over we went. I then pushed the stick forward to level us off while we were upside down! Lt. Evans said that I had 30 seconds to get the jet right side up, or we would flame out. I went back to wing overs, loops and dives, etc. Finally, we headed out towards the ocean, and the view was spectacular! The flight was amazing, but our time was up. On the return, I was instructed as to how to approach the runway, when to put my gear down, what angle to set the flaps, and what speed to fly. The pilot said for me to land the plane! But, no way was I going to try to set it down, so the pilot did it for me. He made the comment that the jet was a little different from what I had flown before. I believe I shocked him when I said that I had never flown a plane before! What a ride that was, and my only regret was that I didn't actually set it down!

Last Words

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