



# THE SALVO      JANUARY 2024

AMERICAN LEGION MT DIABLO POST 246

VETERANS STRENGTHENING AMERICA

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## **COMMANDER'S CORNER**

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! I hope that you enjoyed your year-end holiday celebrations with friends and family. Please welcome Janine Hollenbeck as our new editor of The Salvo.

Looking forward to 2024, our one and only Crab Feed Dinner & Fundraiser takes place at 5:00 PM on Saturday, January 27, 2024. All hands are needed for set up at 10:00 AM. Get involved and come help make these many activities a success; give the Post a call at (925) 272-8480 or email [commanderpost246@gmail.com](mailto:commanderpost246@gmail.com) to find out how you can help.

Our Transition Team is continuing to develop and execute plans for our Post as we hand over leadership to post-Vietnam era members. They will also look at our past activities and consider possible changes to make activities more relevant and interesting for our younger members, current and future. We decided to meet on the first Saturday in March in place of our regular lunch meeting to test if Saturday morning meetings work better for more members to attend.

Looking back on 2023, our social get together on December 6 with members and their spouses / significant others was a fun event. We will consider a social get together in August when we normally do not meet due to summer travel of many members. A fun time was had by all (at least for our fellow Army veterans) at the Army-Navy game watch party on December 9. Our Post received a donation from Bay Area Navy Nurse Corp which is merging with its affiliate in southern California. Our joint veterans service organizations under the umbrella of the Veterans Memorial Building of San Ramon Valley (VMBSRV) will feel the loss of BANNC in many ways. Thank you to our members who attended Wreaths Across America at Alamo Cemetery on December 16. The turnout of our fellow citizens, Boy and Cub Scouts, members of other veteran service organizations, and our elected officials (past and present) was great.

The National and Department of California goal was 80% membership renewal for 2024 by 11 January 2024. As of 31 December 2023, our post is at about 83% (137 members with 2024 dues paid) of our membership goal of 166 as agreed with District 9. Regardless, we are targeting 166 paid-up members as quickly as we can achieve it. If you have not done so, please renew your membership with your dues of \$50 online at <https://www.legion.org/> or by mail to PO Box 133, Danville, CA at your earliest convenience to support our programs for veterans, youth, military, and community. Thank you for your continuing support.

Mark Heinemann

The American Legion | Mt. Diablo Post 246

Meets Monthly | 400 Hartz Ave, Danville, CA 94526

Mailing: P.O. Box 133, Danville, CA 94526 | 925.272-8480

<https://www.americanlegionpost246.org>

Email: [CommanderPost246@gmail.com](mailto:CommanderPost246@gmail.com)



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## MEETINGS

Please always RSVP for the general meeting luncheon and dinner events by leaving a message at **(925) 272-8480** or sending your email confirmation to [commanderpost246@gmail.com](mailto:commanderpost246@gmail.com) **3 days** in advance. Please bring cash for meeting meals.

### GENERAL MEETINGS

First Wednesdays  
– Odd Months from 12:00-2:00 p.m.  
– Even Months from 6:00-7:30 p.m.  
Second Floor Meeting Room, Veterans Memorial Building of San Ramon Valley (VMBSRV), except where noted (August – No Meeting; October – First Sunday at 1:00 p.m.).

### UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Every Saturday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, All Vets Coffee at the VMBSRV, 400 Hartz Ave, Danville

03 January, Noon, General Membership Meeting at VMBSRV, Speaker – Tim Sammons (US Navy, Retired), "PT Boats of the Tonkin Gulf"

27 January, 5:00 PM, 2024 Crab Feed, VMBSRV Community Hall

07 February, 6:00 PM, General Membership Meeting at VMBSRV, Speaker – Mike Fedderson, USMC League, on Vets Roll (<https://www.vetsroll.org/> )

02 March, 9:00 AM, General Membership Meeting at VMBSRV,

Coffee and doughnuts (Special Day and Time)

03 April, 6:00 PM, General Membership Meeting at VMBSRV, Speaker to Be Announced

01 May, Noon, General Membership Meeting at VMBSRV, Speaker – To Be Announced

05 June, 6:00 PM, General Membership Meeting at VMBSRV, Speaker to Be Announced

### OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the Month from 8:30-10:00 a.m. except 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in December, VMBSRV Second Floor Meeting Room).

For 2024:

20 January	July-No Mtg
17 February	17 August
16 March	21 September
20 April	19 October
18 May	16 November
15 June	14 December

### DISTRICT 9 MEETING

District 9 will hold its next general meeting at 7:00 PM, Thursday 18 January 2024 at the Concord VMB, 2290 Willow Pass Road, Concord. All members are welcome and encouraged to attend. Bring \$20 in cash/check for dinner.



## COMMUNITY



### **BSA Troop 888 Eagle Court of Honor**

Post Commander Mark Heinemann and I enjoyed the privilege of attending Boy Scout Troop 888's special Eagle Court of Honor on December 3, 2023. This event honored fourteen (14) Scouts who had earned the rank of Eagle, the highest rank in Scouting. It is quite an achievement to have so many Scouts from one Troop earn the rank of Eagle. The Event befitted this achievement with appropriate decorative table clothes, plates, center pieces and sheet cakes. Oh, did I mention Dinner was included? Delicious!

Special Guest speakers at the event included Rear Admiral Robert Hennegan (US Navy retired) now working for Meta in the tech industry, where he is applying his organizational and inspirational leadership skills.

Additionally, Dr. Katharine Schmidtke, a former British Girl Guide (the equivalent of Girl Scouting in the UK) who earned the highest rank of Gold Award also spoke. She is a Stanford University Ph.D. in laser physics and non-linear optics working in the photonics industry.

The last Guest Speaker (and of course the most important one) was yours truly. I spoke on how my years in the Boy Scouts and achieving my Eagle rank affected my life. Naturally, I felt like the closing act for two headliners. Regardless, living my life by the Scout Motto "Be Prepared" and the Scout Law had a lasting effect on my education, business, and personal life.

During the Ceremony, on behalf of American Legion Mt. Diablo Post 246, Commander Heinemann assisted in presenting Certificates of Appreciation to the Eagle Scouts on achieving this highest rank.

-Alan Scharlach



### **POST 246 HOLIDAY CELEBRATION**

Post 246 members and their spouses celebrated at a holiday get together dinner / social event on the evening of December 6 in lieu of a regular Post 246 meeting. Event highlights included a White Elephant Gift Game and a "Do you know your fellow members and spouses?" game.

Post 246 members and spouses included (standing) Bob and Nancy Landy, Susan Yura, Steve McCreery, Kelly and Mindy McHugh, Michelle Lee, Mary and Eric Ardell, Corrienne and Mark Heinemann, Claes Elfring, Mike Yura, Bob Sada, Dennis and Pamela Stogner, John Farmer, Jonette Fuentes, (kneeling) Ed Ott, and Alan Scharlach.



### **POST 246 ARMY-NAVY WATCH PARTY AND DONATION**

On December 9, members of Post 246 came together to watch the Army-Navy football game at the VMB. At a special half-time ceremony, Lorrie Sammons on behalf of the Bay Area Navy Nurse Corp (BANNC) presented Post 246 with a 2024 Crab Feed donation of \$1,000.

Michelle Lee, Mark Heinemann, Lorrie Sammons, Eric Ardell, Alan Scharlach, and Neil Giles represented Post 246. Dennis Giacobelli represented the VMB Operations Committee which also received a donation from BANNC.

Unfortunately, BANNC has merged with its SoCal Navy Nurse Corp affiliate. Please join me in thanking Lorrie and other BANNC members for the donation and the vote of confidence in Post 246 to use this donation for the good of veterans and youth in our community.



### WREATHS ACROSS MERICA

Post 246 members Eric Ardell, Phil Connolly - who spoke on the history of Wreaths Across America at the event, Mark Heinemann, Mary O'Donnell, Bob Sada, and Alan Scharlach attended Wreaths Across America at Alamo Cemetery on December 16.

Participants who laid wreaths at 250 veterans' graves were guided by the Eagle Project of Scout Troop 888 Eagle Scout Sidharth Anand who developed and executed the project to identify and mark veterans' graves at Alamo Cemetery. Eric Ardell organized the Color Guard which included Mary O'Donnell with the USCG flag (sixth from the right) and Mark Heinemann with the US Merchant Marine flag (eighth from the right).



Scouts and other participants at Wreaths Across America at Alamo Cemetery.



Color Guard at Wreaths Across America at Alamo Cemetery.



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## **CRAB FEED 2024**

Ticket sales at \$65 per ticket are continuing. Contact Bob Sada ([sadartdent@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sadartdent@sbcglobal.net)) or attend our lunch meeting on January 3 to buy tickets.

## **CORNED BEEF & CABBAGE DINNER**

Coming March 16, join Post 246 members for the annual fundraiser for the Veterans Memorial Building! Featured are a traditional Corned Beef & Cabbage Dinner with a Silent Auction, Live Auction, and a Raffle.

## **BUDDY CHECKS**

Buddy Checks are continuing. Please help the Post call members to check on how they are. Please let Eric Ardell and Mark Heinemann know if you can help: [commanderpost246@gmail.com](mailto:commanderpost246@gmail.com)

## **"BE THE ONE"**

"Be The One" is a nationwide effort of The American Legion to raise awareness of veterans in crisis. You can help end the stigma and "Be the One" to save one veteran. Learn how to help a veteran in crisis:

<https://www.legion.org/betheone>

## **POST 246 TRANSITION TEAM**

Post 246 members who served after the Vietnam War era met in September, October, and December to identify leaders for the 2024-2025 leadership term and activities to attract new and younger members to join Post

246. The team will meet again in mid-February.

## **ORATORICAL CONTEST**

The American Legion Oratorical Contest (<https://www.legion.org/oratorical>) develops deeper knowledge and understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship and the U.S. Constitution among high school students. The program presents participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, and the history of our nation's laws.

For students of the San Ramon Valley Unified School District, Private School and Home Schoolers who live in San Ramon, Danville, or Alamo, they should notify Post 246 that they want to participate via e-mail to [commanderpost246@gmail.com](mailto:commanderpost246@gmail.com) or postal mail not later than **December 31, 2022**. We will notify participants in early January about logistical details with expectation that participants will perform their prepared oration and extemporaneous responses not later than **January 25, 2023**.

## **VETERANS VOICES**

Contra Costa County Veterans Voices airs at 7:00 PM, second Mondays on Comcast Channel 27, ATT/Uverse Channel 99, Wave Channel 32.



## POST OPERATIONS

### AMERICAN LEGION BASIC TRAINING

Are you new or want to become more active in learning about the American Legion? Consider taking "Basic Training" at this link:

<https://www.legion.org/alei>

Quote of the month, "I also found a training page with a bright red tab that said "take basic training"... I took it, completed it, and wish I had taken it when I first joined!" John Farmer

If you want pre-read materials, contact [commanderpost246@gmail.com](mailto:commanderpost246@gmail.com)

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The 2024 membership year started on July 1. Please renew by

- 1) going to [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) and clicking on the RENEW button, filling out the form, and you are done; or,
- 2) sending Post 246 a check for \$50 to P.O. Box 133, Danville, CA 94526
- 3) Please note that National Convention delegates approved raising 2025 dues by \$5.00. Post 246 will increase its 2025 dues to \$55 if approved by Post 246 membership.

### FLAG & EMBLEM STORE

Want AL wear or supplies? Contact Alan Scharlach. See what is available [here](#), then call 925-858-4199 or send an email [cab1ho@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cab1ho@sbcglobal.net) Include the item number, quantity, color, and size; etc. and your telephone number. Send or give him a check for your items.

## POST OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

### Post Officers for 2023-2024:

Commander: Mark Heinemann

1<sup>st</sup> V. Cmdr.: **OPEN**

2<sup>nd</sup> V. Cmdr.: Alan Scharlach

3<sup>rd</sup> V. Cmdr.: Michelle Lee

Adjutant: Bob Landy

Finance: Phil Connolly

Chaplain: Mary O'Donnell

Historian: **OPEN**

Judge Advocate: Mary O'Donnell

Service Officer: **OPEN**

Sgt. At Arms: Floyd Cox

Past Commander: Michelle Lee

### Executive Committee Members:

Eric Ardell, Neil Giles, Louis Giorgi, Mary O'Donnell, Mike Yura

### Appointed Officers & Committee Chairpersons

Asst. Adjutant: **OPEN**

Asst. Finance: Raoul Miranda

Asst Sgt-at-Arms: Raoul Miranda

Supply Officer: Alan Scharlach

Boys & Girls State: Eric Ardell

Girls State: Michelle Lee

High School Oratorical: Neil Giles

Scouting Rep: Alan Scharlach

VMB Board of Trustees: Eric Ardell / Alan Scharlach

VMB Ops Committee: Alan Scharlach

VMB Museum Committee: Bob Sada

Protocol Officer: Floyd Cox

IT Coordinator: John Farmer

Asst. IT Coordinator: Neil Giles



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East Bay & Delta Standdowns Rep:  
Mark Heinemann  
Veterans Outreach: Mark Heinemann  
Program Dir: Michelle Lee  
Salvo Editor: Janine Hollenbeck  
Asst. Editors: Eric Ardell, Mark  
Heinemann, Bob Landy, Michelle Lee,  
Alan Scharlach  
Post Webmaster: Rusty Orvik and Sons

### **SPECIAL MESSAGE FOR 2024:**

Are you interested in becoming more active in our American Legion Post 246?

WE NEED YOU! Many leadership position-holders are doing several jobs and, while these members are very dedicated, we need wider participation of members to fill positions to develop innovative ideas and energize our Post!

This is your post, so check out your leadership!

<https://www.americanlegionpost246.org/leadership>

**SAVE THE DATE**  
SATURDAY MARCH 16, 2024

Fundraiser for the  
Veterans Memorial  
Building

**Corned Beef &  
Cabbage Dinner**

Good Food,  
Good people,  
Good time

Silent Auction,  
Live Auction,  
Raffle

All funds collected go directly  
to the VMB Operating Committee  
to pay for the operating expenses &  
activities produced by the Veterans

**VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING**  
Saturday March 16, 2024  
Doors open at 5:00 PM  
Veterans Memorial Building  
400 Hartz Ave Danville, CA