



COMMANDER'S CORNER

Please welcome new members Leonard Badal, William Glesener, Denny Stogner, and Chris Taddeo who all served in the Army and Sanford Severin who served in the Air Force. Leonard served during GWOT at Fort Bragg, NC and is interested in military history. William served in Vietnam. Denny served in Vietnam and at Fort Lewis, WA. He enjoys woodworking. He is a VMB docent and member of VNVDV. Chris served during GWOT and is a Senior Army Instructor for Junior ROTC at Mount Diablo High School. He is commander of the MOWW SFBA Chapter, a member of VFW Post 75, and a VMB trustee. Sanford served in WWII.

At a recent Parks RFTA Community Relations Working Group meeting the Garrison Command Staff announced:

- + 2024 Army Ball on June 15, 2024 (Details to follow.)
- + Change of Command on July 3, 2024. LTC Marisol Chalas, current Garrison Commander, has increased veteran and community engagement during her tour of duty at Parks RFTA. She has made a difference!
- + Commissary Enhancement Project to initiate bi-weekly deliveries from the Moffett Field Commissary in March 2024. Post 246 members who qualify for commissary benefits can use this service. (Details to follow.)

Mark Heinemann

POST 246 HOSTING MARCH 2024 DISTRICT 9 MEETING

Our Post is hosting the next general/dinner meeting of District 9 at the VMBSRV Community Hall, 115 East Prospect Avenue, Danville. Our members are responsible for setup and takedown/cleanup for the meeting. This is a great opportunity to learn more about activities of the eight posts in District 9 and Department of California initiatives. Please plan to attend and assist as hosts.

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 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 and engage to make our Post more engaging and relevant to our members!

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

Learn more at our social meeting at 9:00 AM on Saturday, March 2; VMB second floor meeting room.



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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 **3 days in advance** to: commanderpost246@gmail.com. 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 (March - Saturday morning social meeting; 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

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: Scott Perkins, US Navy Veteran

01 May, Noon, General Membership Meeting at VMBSRV, Speaker: Chris

McEvoy, Danville Police Department / To Be Confirmed

05 June, 6:00 PM, General Membership Meeting at VMBSRV, Speaker: Josh Zembly, CCC Veterans Service Office

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

For 2024:

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

POST 246 TRANSITION TEAM

Post 246 members continue to meet to develop a strategy to attract new and younger members to join and to take a more active role in the Post. The team will meet again before before the next General Membership Meeting at 8:00 AM on Saturday, March 2. Interested? Join us!

COMMUNITY

VMBSRV CORNED BEEF AND CABBAGE DINNER & FUNDRAISER

Veterans Memorial Building will host their fundraising Corn-beef and Cabbage dinner on Saturday, March 16th, 2024. All funds collected will



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support the operations of the Veterans Memorial Building. Each ticket is \$60 per person. The dinner will include corn beef, cabbage, roasted potatoes, bread, appetizers, and dessert. Of course, beer and wine are available for purchase. Please purchase tickets from Alan Scharlach, our second vice commander and a VMB trustee. Contact Alan at 925-858-4199 or cab1ho@sbcglobal.net. Include the number of tickets you request, names in your party attending, your phone number and email address. Once funds are received, tickets will be mailed or delivered. Doors will open at 5 PM at the Veterans Memorial Building Community Hall at 115 East Prospect Avenue, Danville, California.

monthly meeting. Mike Yura gave a short talk on the history of the American Legion and the long relationship between the Legion and Scouting. Alan spoke on the responsibilities of a charter organization and his own experience in Scouting. Both Mike and Alan also talked about their service in the military.



See
Attached
Flyer!

Troop 2021 is a very busy and active Troop serving Middle and High Schoolers in the San Ramon area. This troop was formed in the post COVID period to give our young girls a channel to explore the astounding adventures that the BSA affords.

SCOUT TROOP 2021 OF THE BSA

In January 2024, Post 246 became the charter organization for Troop 2021 of the BSA Scouts located in San Ramon. On January 25, Alan Scharlach and Mike Yura spoke to the troop at their

Troop 2021 believes that the Scouting program should...

- *Emphasize outdoor experiences and community service*
- *Provide opportunities for leadership and developmental growth*



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- *Teach respect for and an appreciation of our natural environment*
- *Promote a life that exemplifies the ideals of Scouting, the Scout Oath, and the Scout Law.*

Troop 2021 scouts are given both personal and group responsibility to run large parts of their program, giving them invaluable leadership experience and basic "Scoutcraft" skills.

In three short years, Troop 2021 has grown from 9 to 37! The scouts have turned into avid and adventurous scouters from the shy, reluctant preteens they were when they first started. The troop now has a scout on the verge of wrapping up her Eagle Project and a few scouts lined up on Star and Life ranks. The Assistant Scoutmaster pool has doubled from three to six; each ASM brings their own expertise and talent to the table. From one patrol, we now count five robust patrols.

Over the years, the troop has enjoyed many memorable outings and campouts. Campout adventures include river rafting, snow tubing, and the widely popular week-long summer camps. One of the troop's favorite campouts is their annual trip to Monterey, where they go kayaking down Elkhorn Slough and get "dippin" dots afterwards. The troop has always had a close bond and this is one of the campouts going back to the beginning of the troop.

In this troop, everyone respects each other, and ensures everyone feels included. The Troop strives to foster the magic of a special bond of sisterhood and hopes to share that bond with young girls who join the troop. Troop 2021 is excited to begin 2024 with a fresh change in leadership and new scouting adventures it brings. Troop 2021 looks forward to the wonderful memories they are going to make!





Cub Scout Pack 995 Blue and Gold Celebration



Last Thursday, I had the privilege of attending Cub Scout, Pack 995, Blue and Gold Celebration and Bridging Ceremony. The Blue and Gold Celebration marks the anniversary of the founding of the Boy Scouts of America. It is typically a time for celebration, awards, and "Bridging" Cub Scouts into Boy Scout Troops. Awards were presented, including the Arrow of Light which recognizes the highest achievement in Cub Scouting. Two female and eight male Cub Scouts received this award and "Bridged" into a new Boy Scout Troop. This event also marked the transition to a new Committee Chair and Cubmaster for the pack. The ceremony concluded with a full dinner including cupcakes displayed like an Arrow of Light. -- Alan Scharlach; chartered, organizational representative for Scouting



Girls State 2024

Interviews are complete with selection announcements planned by March 1. We received 17 student applications for 5 Delegate slots. We also selected 1st and 2nd Alternate positions (5 each). An orientation is tentatively scheduled for April 28 in the afternoon in Antioch. Girls State program dates are June 25-30, 2024 at CSU Sacramento.

DONATION IN THE MEMORY OF TOM ERICKSON

Carol Doty, David and Bette Sue Schack, and Early Ford V-8 Club of America / Golden Gate Chapter donated to Post 246 in the memory of Tom Erickson. Tom served in the US Army during World War II and as a long-term member of The American Legion. He passed to Post Everlasting in January 2024.



BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENT

Michelle Lee represented Post 246 at a special event in honor of Black History Month at Camp Parks (PRFTA) which featured a guest speaker from the Oakland Chapter of the Buffalo Soldiers and long-time PRFTA employee, Ms. Charquilla McGaffeny. Ms. McGaffeny gave a powerful talk about the achievements and impacts, including the courage and bravery, of African American veterans in the armed forces. Booker T. Washington said, "Success always leaves footprints," and it is notable that the success of the US Military is memorialized by the footprints of our black comrades-in-arms throughout American history. Chaplain Wilkerson offered a stirring prayer speaking of the quality of love which makes us indivisible in spirit as a nation. The program was well attended by service members and military family. Thanks to all for their Service!

VETERANS HONOR VETERANS

Veterans from SRV VMB, Dennis Giacobelli and Michael "Slatts" Slattengren, and Post 246 members Michelle Lee and Mary O'Donnell, visited the Brookdale Senior Living Facility to honor the veterans there and present to them donated patriotic pillow cases. Korean War and Vietnam Era veterans attended and represented the Army, Navy, and Air Force. It was fascinating hearing their stories about communications on the Midway, piloting an A-3, serving as a Navy nurse, and more. One veteran recalled playing American Legion Baseball as a youth. It was great to hear the impact of The American Legion first-hand on youth and veterans through the decades.

SAN RAMON STATE OF THE CITY

Mike Yura and Alan Scharlach represented Post 246 at the San Ramon Chamber of Commerce State of the City address on February 28, 2024. The meeting included mayors from adjoining cities, fire chiefs and police chiefs, council members, civic leaders, and representatives from corporations located in San Ramon. The address focused on San Ramon as one of the safest cities in California and the nation. Pictured are Mike and Alan with our own fellow American Legion Post 246 member and San Ramon City Council Member Mark Armstrong.





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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

"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>

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

Become more active in learning about the American Legion! Take "Basic Training" at this link:

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

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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

- 1) going to 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 which was approved by Post 246 membership.

As of 28 February 2024, we have 161 members on our roster and 147 (91.3%) have renewed their membership

FLAG & EMBLEM STORE

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

POST 246 CLOTHING

Post 246 tee shirts and sweatshirts are now available with a unique Post 246 design. Please contact Alan Scharlach if you are interested.



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OFFICERS & COMMITTEES

Post Officers for 2023-2024:

Commander: Mark Heinemann
1st V. Cmdr.: **OPEN**
2nd V. Cmdr.: Alan Scharlach
3rd 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

East Bay & Delta Standdowns Rep:
Mark Heinemann
Veterans Outreach: Mark Heinemann
Program Dir: Michelle Lee
District 9 Executive Committee: Mark
Heinemann
Salvo Editor: Janine Hollenbeck
Asst. Editors: Mark Heinemann, Eric
Ardell, Bob Landy, Michelle Lee, Alan
Scharlach
Post Webmaster: Rusty Orvik and Sons