



COMMANDER'S CORNER

As one officer plainly observed at our recent Executive Committee Meeting, “the first quarter is over!” The pronouncement held elements of some relief and largely satisfaction. Clearly, the numbers were good; membership, activities, communications--if these was our only measures, the numbers were significant. Instead of being about the numbers, however, the essential good was about the people. The people with whom we connected with, the people with whom we worked with, the people whom we impacted, the people whom we served--the veterans, scouts, students, families, citizens, the community leaders, and each other. It seemed an endless field of interactive players and participants working toward common and uncommon goals for 12 weeks and then it was over. Yet, like all first quarters, it was just the beginning.

As we move into fall, quarter two, it's the right time to smarten our pace and lengthen our stride. As we prepare not only for some of our favorite activities, like the Boys State and Girls State recognition, the Veteran's Day museum, the Oratorical Contest, and Wreaths Across America, we'll also gear up for holiday planning and reserve time with family and friends. Let us never forget that it really is about the people--past, present, and future—and finding, sharing, and celebrating the good within.

This fall, more than ever, we want to consider all the things we can do to add value. Our Museum Exhibit, Military Women in Space, is a perfect opportunity to get involved and contribute. There are also several post positions open such as Chaplain, Crab Feed Committee Chair, and Photographer in the post. In the next 12 weeks, you'll have opportunity to practice your serve and focus on the people whom we serve and make a difference. After all, a quality life depends on it, and so does the quality of our projects and programs. I am ever amazed at the diversity and talent of the veterans that I have the privilege to work with, both in our post and also with other veterans and Veteran Service Organizations (VSOs) in the San Ramon Valley. The Veterans Stories video project has spotlighted some of these veterans, and I encourage you to watch the videos and to get to know the veterans who walk through the doors and gather regularly in our beloved building.



Commander Lee receives Space Force pen from 2nd Vice Commander Scharlach

Michelle Lee

The American Legion | Mt. Diablo Post 246

Meets Monthly | 400 Hartz Ave, Danville, CA 94526

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THE SALVO

OCTOBER 2022

AMERICAN LEGION MT DIABLO POST 246 – CONTINUING TO SERVE

MEETINGS

We are planning an evening dinner in November. Please, remember to confirm attendance at our regular meeting luncheon and dinner events by leaving a message at **(925) 272-8480** or sending your email confirmation to

commanderpost246@gmail.com at least 3 days in advance.

Regular Meetings are first Wednesday of the Month from 12:00 to 2:30 PM in the Second Floor Meeting Room, Veterans Memorial Building (VMB), except where noted.

UPCOMING MEETINGS AND EVENTS

***** Every Saturday 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM Coffee at the Vets Hall**

2 October, Sunday Special meeting with 2022 Girls State and Boys State Delegates, 1:00 PM VMBSRV Community Hall (No regular meeting on 05 October 2022)

15 October, Saturday Executive Committee meeting, 8:30 AM

16 October, Sunday, Culture in the Community, Central Park, San Ramon, 10 AM-2 PM (Volunteers Needed)

2 November, Wednesday Regular evening meeting – Renee Morgan, 6:00 PM To Be Confirmed

11 November, Friday, Veterans Day Ceremony, time TBD

11-13 November, Friday-Sunday, Veterans Display Museum, 9 AM-3 PM

11 November, Friday Mt Diablo Beacon Lighting for Veterans Day, 5:00 PM

19 November, Saturday Executive Committee meeting, 8:30 AM

7 December, Wednesday Regular meeting – Scott Perkins, 12:00 PM

7 December, Wednesday Mount Diablo Beacon Lighting for Pearl Harbor Day, 4:45 PM

10 December, Saturday Executive Committee meeting, 8:30 AM

10 December, Saturday Army-Navy Game Potluck, 10:30 AM

17 December, Saturday Wreaths Across America, Alamo Cemetery, 10:00 AM

28 January, Post 246 Crab Feed VMBSRV, Community Hall (Volunteers Needed)

OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(Third Saturday of the Month from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM in the Second Floor Meeting Room)

15 October 2022

19 November 2022

10 December 2022 (Changed due to expected conflict with Wreaths Across America at Alamo Cemetery on 17 December 2022)



21 January 2022

DISTRICT 9 MEETINGS

District 9 holds its regular meeting at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday of odd numbered months. The next meeting is November 16, 2022 at the El Cerrito Post 340. Please let Michelle Lee or Mark Heinemann know if you would like to attend.

COMMUNITY

BSA TROOP 888 COURT OF HONOR

Don't ever think that the American Legion does not have an impact on a boy in Scouting. After the award ceremony, Kealan Payne, Son of the former Troop 888 Scoutmaster Mr. Ronnie Payne, approached me. He stated that when he was 14 years of age and had just joined the Boy Scouts, when he attended a Court of Honor and saw me shake the hands of those Scouts receiving their Eagle certificates. He pledged to himself that one day he would shake my hand and receive his Eagle certificate from me.



On August 30th, I had the pleasure of shaking his hand. Because of Kaelan's love of flying, he went to school and received his pilot's license. Now 18, he recently enlisted in the United States Air Force. As a side note, Kaelan's family had moved to Texas but flew back to California with his Dad just to receive his Eagle Award.
- Alan Scharlach, Post Scouting Representative

LPC Veterans First Celebrates Hispanic Heritage 9/29

You are invited to a panel conversation with Las Positas College Veterans First program on Thursday, 9/29, 1-2 pm in room 1620 Cafeteria. First 50 registered receive lunch. Register [here](#).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY 9/30

Join other veterans in volunteering to help in the Snack Shack at the San Ramon High School Homecoming Football Game in Danville on Friday, September 30th, 6:30-9 pm. Volunteers will pop popcorn, serve food, and BBQ. Please sign up with John Reese at vnvdv@outlook.com.

LOCAL VETERANS STORIES

Over 20 Veterans Stories Videos have been completed at our VMBSRV. These 3-min videos detail the service and sacrifice of local veterans. Add



your narrative to the video collection, for posterity. Please contact alankalin@yahoo.com if you're interested in participating in this fun, historical project. This project is supported by VFW Post 75

2.2 VETERANS VIRTUAL CHALLENGE, 10/1-22

Las Positas College Veterans First is sponsoring a "fun and fitness" challenge to raise awareness about mental health and veteran suicide prevention. This is the 5th annual event which is run virtually and is open to veterans, friends, family, and anyone interested in supporting student veterans. Make it a family or friends affair and join the "Heart Guards" team as a shared experience. For more details and to register, see the link below. Or contact Michelle Lee at commanderpost246@gmail.com. <https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/Livermore/22for22WalkforVets>

CONCORD VET CENTER (CVC) HOSTS VIETNAM VETERAN BBQ

CVC will be holding their annual Vietnam Veteran BBQ! Come enjoy free food and camaraderie! Saturday, October 22nd, 10am – 2pm, Concord Community Park, 3501 Cowell Rd Concord, CA 94518
Please RSVP with our front desk before: Friday, October 15th

Military Veterans

Meet the VA Palo Alto Mobile Medical Team!

- Review and claim earned health care benefits
- Register with the VA Palo Alto for services
- Receive care or referral from medical staff
- Receive information about other VA resources.



Please bring:

- Veteran Form DD-214 (Proof of Service Document)
- List of current medications.

Monday, October 24, 2022

10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Drop-in -- no appointments needed.

Pleasanton Public Library

400 Old Bernal Ave., Pleasanton

925-931-3400

information@pleasantonlibrary.zendesk.com

VA MOBILE MEDICAL OUTREACH TEAM AT PLEASANTON LIBRARY 10/24, 10-1 p.m.

Veterans uncertain of their benefits eligibility are encouraged to visit as requirements have changed, and VA health care may complement current medical coverage. Bring DD214 or obtain records in advance at <https://www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records/>.

POST OPERATIONS

MEMBERSHIP

Last year we achieved 100%. 158/158 and we are on track to do the same in our 2022-23 year. It takes less than 5 minutes to renew. 1) go to www.legion.org and click on the



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RENEW button, fill out the form, and you are done; or, 2) send the Post a check for \$45 to P.O. Box 133, Danville, CA 94526, and we'll process it for you.

Welcome to Mark Armstrong, a new member to our post!

ORATORICAL CONTEST

The Oratorical contest marketing is in full swing. This year's contest will be as exciting as ever. We're proud to sponsor this contest where young people can gain knowledge, appreciation, and understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights, and privileges of American citizenship and the U.S. Constitution. Students who attend high schools in the San Ramon Valley can notify the Post of their intent to participate by 12/31/2022 to commanderpost246@gmail.com Post Level Speeches will take place in early January.

<https://calegion.org/oratorical-contests-commission/>
<https://www.legion.org/oratorical>

VMB LIBRARY AND HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE (LHCC)

Interested in expanding your horizons? Please advise Eric Ardell if you are interested in joining the Library & Historical Collections Committee (LHCC).

OTHER VMB NEWS

Eric Ardell has been elected to the position of President of the Board of

Trustees and Mike Slattengren is the new Vice President.

AMERICAN LEGION BASIC TRAINING COURSE

Learn about the American Legion in this self-paced online course; go to: <https://www.legion.org/membership/254637/basic-training-your-home>

POST 246 NEEDS YOUR HELP!



Col Mark Shusterman hugs daughter Tasha at swearing in ceremony

We are looking for a post photographer to take pictures at our post activities. No experience needed.



Our post has an upcoming opening for a Chaplain in December. Training and orientation come with this opportunity. Scheduling is flexible. This is an important position with much impact.



Event Coordinator for our Crab Feed is needed. *"Make new friends and keep the old...one is silver and the other is gold."* Make new friends as the Event Coordinator for our Crab Feed. Training and helpers included.

Contact Mark Heinemann if interested in any of the positions above.



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KEEP YOUR VA MEDICAL RECORDS UPDATED

If you received vaccines or treatments outside of V.A., please help keep your medical records updated. How can you do that? Three ways: 1) Bring your COVID-19 vaccination card to any V.A. NorCal location and present it to one of the V.A. clerks. Or 2) Take a picture of your COVID-19 vaccination card. Send a copy of the card to your care team in a Secure Message on the [My HealthVet website](#).

FLAG & EMBLEM STORE

Alan Scharlach is serving as our "Supply Officer" and will order items for post members. See what's available at <https://emblem.legion.org/>, then Email or call Alan, 925-858-4199, leave a detailed message including the item number, quantity, color, size, and your call back number. Some uniform items are available from Post 246 inventory (no shipping or taxes required).

POST OFFICERS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Post Officers for 2022-2023:

Commander: Michelle Lee
1st V. Cmdr: Mark Heinemann
2nd V. Cmdr: Alan Scharlach
3rd V. Cmdr: Eric Ardell

Adjutant: Bob Landy
Finance: Phil Connolly
Chaplain: Jon Heinson
Historian: Gerald Lindahl
Judge Advocate: Mary O'Donnell
Service Officer: Leroy Vares
Past Commander: Mark Heinemann

Executive Committee:

Neil Giles Gary Soto
Michelle Haines Mike Yura

Appointed Officers & Committee Chairpersons

Asst. Adjutant: Michelle Haines
Asst. Finance: Raoul Miranda
Asst Sgt-at-Arms: Raoul Miranda
Supply Officer: Alan Scharlach
Boys State: Eric Ardell
Girls State: Michelle Lee
Oratorical: Neil Giles

Scouting Rep: Alan Scharlach
Asst. Scouting Rep: Mike Yura
VMB Ops Committee: Bob Landy
Museum Committee: OPEN/TBA
Protocol Officer: Floyd Cox
Board of Trustees: Ron Lowe / Eric Ardell / Alan Scharlach
East Bay Standdown Rep: Mark Heinemann
Veterans Outreach: Mark Heinemann
Program Dir: OPEN/TBA
Salvo Editor: Michelle Lee,
Asst. Editors: Mark Heinemann, Eric Ardell, Bob Landy, Alan Scharlach, Adriana Santos
Post Webmaster: Rusty Orvik and Sons