



# THE SALVO AUGUST 2022

AMERICAN LEGION MT DIABLO POST 246 – *CONTINUING TO SERVE*

## **COMMANDER'S CORNER**

With July in our rearview mirror, it seemed to have been a great time to take a mid-year breath, enjoy the last days of summer break and vacations, and gear up to make the most of 2022 American Legion year and year to come. Our horizon looks good.



Our outgoing Commander, Mark Heinemann, left the Post in excellent shape with a growing membership, level finances, and a model of leadership that will be tough to top. With the strong executive team that is continuing and the help of newcomers joining the table, I am confident we'll have a successful year ahead. We welcomed Mike Yura and Michelle Haines to the Executive Committee; both bring talents and enthusiasm to action.

*Mark Heinemann receives plaque*

I am eager to continue the momentum of our membership numbers rising and ensure that our current members are purposefully engaged and supported. Our national Buddy Call program has renewed our heritage commitment to care for each other and never leave a buddy behind.

In the coming year, my priorities are to continue serving veterans and their families, strengthen our support for children & youth, promote goodwill, patriotism, and Americanism; remember the fallen, and educate the public on the veterans' experiences and sacrifices. Community collaboration is a hallmark of our Post, and new opportunities are always welcome.



*Youth from our sponsored Scouts and Boys/Girls State Programs ride with Post in the Kiwanis Parade July 4th*

Last, we look forward to more outreach to active and reserve military units in the area, encouraging student veterans, and welcoming new members to our Post. Many veterans are looking for ways to continue their service. Our Post is proud to lead at the forefront in the San Ramon Valley and surrounding areas. Enjoy the August break and see you soon! - Michelle Lee

The American Legion | Mt. Diablo Post 246

Meets Monthly 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday at Noon | 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



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## MEETINGS

Our Program Director position is now open; please contact Michelle Lee if interested. The Program Director coordinates inviting monthly speakers.

We are planning evening dinners in September and November. Please remember to confirm attendance at our regular meeting luncheons and events by leaving a message at **(925) 272-8480** or sending your email confirmation to [commanderpost246@gmail.com](mailto:commanderpost246@gmail.com)

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**

August, No Regular Meeting in August

20 August, Saturday Executive Committee meeting, 8:30 AM

7 September, Wednesday Regular evening meeting – Candace Anderson, 6:00 PM, Black Bear Diner, Danville

17 September, Saturday Executive Committee meeting, 8:30 AM

2 October, Sunday Special meeting with 2022 Girls State and Boys State Delegates, 1:00 PM VMB Community

Hall (No regular meeting on 05 October 2022)

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

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

11 November, Friday, Veterans Day Ceremony, time TBD

11-13 November, Friday-Sunday, Veterans Display Museum, 9:00 AM-3:00 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



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## **OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

(Third Saturday of the Month from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM in the Second Floor Meeting Room)  
20 August 2022  
17 September 2022  
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)

## **DISTRICT 9**

District 9 holds its regular meeting at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday of odd numbered months at the Veterans Memorial Building, 930 Ward Street, Martinez. The next meeting is September 20, 2022. Please let Michelle Lee or Mark Heinemann know if you would like to attend this meeting. The meeting provides an opportunity to learn about activities of other Posts in Contra Costa County and about initiatives of the Department of California. Additionally, on Saturday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 p.m. the Department Membership Team will present a "My Legion" training for all District 9 members, especially for those who process membership. RSVP to David Jackson, [certpm@aol.com](mailto:certpm@aol.com)

## **FLAG & EMBLEM STORE**

Alan Scharlach is serving as our "Supply Officer" and will order items for post members. Go to <https://emblem.legion.org/> to do your shopping; then email Alan (cab1ho@sbcglobal.net) with the item number, quantity, color, and other details needed to purchase the item you want. If you call Alan (858-4199), please leave a detailed message, including your call back number.

## **UNIFORM ITEMS AVAILABLE FROM POST 246 INVENTORY**

Contact Eric Ardell or Mark Heinemann if you would like to purchase Legion uniform items (no shipping or taxes required) from Post 246 inventory





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*Fourth of July Camaraderie*

## COMMUNITY

### OPERATION DRESS CODE

Post 246 supported Operation Dress Code. The one-day event provided the opportunity to empower women veterans through a free boutique experience and helped them transition into the civilian workforce. The event featured free professional clothing, personal shoppers, career experts, life coaches' workshops, and professional headshots.



*Operation Dress Code at Marriott in Walnut Creek*

The next Operation Dress Code event is scheduled for November 2022 in San Diego.

### YOU'RE INVITED! FAREWELL RECEPTION FOR TODD STEFFAN



Veterans Supervisor Todd Steffan is leaving Los Positas College Veterans First Program, where he honorably served 18 years. You are invited to attend his farewell reception on Friday, 12 August 2022, 12:00–1:30 PM at the Veterans Resource Center, Building 1310.



## COMMUNITY cont.

Our Post is fortunate to have worked with Todd in support of many student veterans. We look forward to doing so in his new role at Diablo Valley College. RSVP requested -- confirm your attendance here: <http://tsteffanfarewellevent.eventbrite.com/>

### LOCAL VETERANS STORIES

You're invited to a presentation of the Local Veterans Stories (25min video) in the Veterans Lounge on Saturday, 13 August 2022, at 10:00 AM. Lee Halverson and Alan Kalin created Local Veterans Stories to remember the service and sacrifice of local veterans who have walked through the doors of the Veterans Memorial Building in Danville. This project is supported by Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 75. It is open to ALL Veterans who wish to participate.

Future generations will hear directly from local veterans through a series of three-minute video narratives to better understand and preserve the realities of military service.

1. What is your name, and where were you born?
2. What military branch were you in?

3. When and where did you serve?
4. What does the Veterans Memorial Building mean to you?

Please contact [alankalin@yahoo.com](mailto:alankalin@yahoo.com) if you're interested in participating in this historical project and sharing your Local Veteran Story. The last five video interviews will be held on Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> from 8:00–11:00 AM at the VMB

### CCC VETS SERVICE OFFICE



The virtual office is accessible from the County's Veterans Service Office website at [contracosta.ca.gov/vets](http://contracosta.ca.gov/vets).

In the virtual office, Veterans can receive assistance with filing for V.A. benefits from an accredited Veterans Service Representative.

The Contra Costa County Veterans Service Office (VSO) accepts meeting appointments at the Veterans Memorial Building, Room 208, 400 Hartz Avenue, Danville, CA. Veterans can schedule appointments every Wednesday from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM and 12:30 PM to 3:30 PM. Please call the VSO office at (925) 313-1481 to schedule an appointment.



## POST OPERATIONS

### **ORATORICAL CONTEST**

Now is the time to broadcast our constitutional speech contest. The Oratorical contest exists to develop more profound knowledge, appreciation, and understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights, and privileges of American citizenship and the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Students who attend high schools in the San Ramon Valley can notify the Post of their intent to participate by 12/31/2022 by email to [commanderpost246@gmail.com](mailto:commanderpost246@gmail.com). Post Level Speeches will take place in early January. Please help get the word out to schools, high school student groups, and other appropriate contacts. <https://calegion.org/oratorical-contests-commission/>  
<https://www.legion.org/oratorical>

### **VMB LIBRARY AND HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE (LHCC)**

Interested in military history?

Please advise Eric Ardell if you are interested in joining the LHCC as the representative of Post 246 or as Chair. Thank you to Ron Ferrell for serving on the LHCC on behalf of Post 246 and to Bob Sada for serving as our representative to the Library .



*Display at Veteran's Memorial WWII Exhibit*

### **MEMBERSHIP**

July is the start of a new American Legion Membership year. Please renew your membership for the year 2023. National reports that over 50% of our members have renewed their membership in the first month of our 2023 membership drive. You can renew your membership in two easy ways: 1) go to [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org) and click on the 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.

### **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>



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## INVESTMENT COMMITTEE

The Finance Committee is investigating investment opportunities through the Three Valleys Community Foundation.

## POST 246 NEEDS YOUR HELP!



*Past Commander Heinemann shares history with a young visitor*

*"A picture is worth a thousand words."*

We are looking for a post photographer to help capture pictures and videos of our post activities. Contact a Post Officer if interested.

## VETERANS CRISIS LINE HAS NEW NUMBER—DIAL 988, THEN PRESS 1

The VA administers the Veterans Crisis Line (VCL) through the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (Lifeline) national network. Veterans currently reach the VCL by calling the 10-digit Lifeline phone number, 800-273-8255, and then pressing 1 to be connected to responders trained to understand veterans' unique needs and challenges. The National Suicide

Hotline Designation Act, signed into law in 2020, authorized 988 as the new three-digit number for the Lifeline. All telephone service providers in the U.S. must activate 988 no later than 16 July 2022.



Once a Veteran's telephone service provider makes 988 available, Veterans can reach the VCL by dialing 988 and then dialing 1.

The VA has a variety of resources for mental health wellness. Check out a few options at the link. <https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov>

## KEEP YOUR VA MEDICAL RECORDS UPDATED

If you received a COVID-19 vaccine outside of V.A., please help keep your medical records updated. How can you do that?

1. Bring your COVID-19 vaccination card to any V.A. NorCal location and present it to one of the V.A. clerks.
2. Take a picture of your COVID-19 vaccination card. Send a copy of the card to your care team in a



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Secure Message on the [My HealthVet website](#).

3. Fax a copy of your COVID-19 vaccination card to 916-366-5376.

If you have questions, please call 1-800-382-8387.

COVID-19 booster vaccinations are available at the V.A. – Martinez Building AB6 Monday and Tuesday, 9 AM-12 PM and 1–3 PM.

## **HELMETS FOR HEROES**

Keep saving your pennies, nickels, dimes, and quarters for donation to Helmets for Heroes at a future meeting!! At our general meetings, look for the signature green helmet specially designed by a legionnaire.



The Helmets for Heroes campaign benefits the California American Legion Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (VA&R) Division, which for 80 years has provided critical services for hundreds of thousands of disabled

California veterans. Your donation to the Department of California American Legion Foundation (CALVAR) empowers the VA&R with the ability to continue this vital service to our deserving California veterans.

## *POST OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS*

### **Post Officers for 2022-2023:**

Commander: Michelle Lee  
 1<sup>st</sup> V. Cmdr: Mark Heinemann  
 2<sup>nd</sup> V. Cmdr: Alan Scharlach  
 3<sup>rd</sup> 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





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## **Appointed Officers & Committee Chairpersons Cont.**

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  
East Bay Standdown Rep: Mark  
Heinemann  
Veterans Outreach: Mark Heinemann  
Program Dir: OPEN/TBA

Newsletter Editors: Michelle Lee, Mark  
Heinemann, Eric Ardell, Bob Landy,  
Michelle Haines, Adriana Santos

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