



The American Legion Twin Cities Post 313, Inc.
Larkspur & Corte Madera, California
www.americanlegion313.org



Monthly Times

OUR MISSION: TO HONOR, SERVE AND SUPPORT OUR ARMED FORCES, VETERANS AND THEIR FAMILIES, WHILE PROMOTING PATRIOTISM IN THE COMMUNITY

Volume 84 Issue 5

"Still Serving America"

May 1, 2012

From the Commander . . .

Election for 2012 – 2013 at Post 313. The officers you elected for the year 2012 – 2013 are: Gene Plocki, Commander, First Vice Commander: Bob Means; Third Vice-Commander: Tad Craig; Members at Large: Jack Dennis, John Farley, and Cecil Green.

Congratulations to the new slate of officers. I deeply appreciate your vote of confidence in re-electing me to serve you in this coming year. Thank you very much. I see many wonderful ideas abounding to make this Post the best, and I know that this will be one of our most productive years.

The Fourth of July. In only two more months, our pancake breakfast event will be here. The Boy Scouts are busy completing the detailed plans which will make this year outstanding. Our Post is taking charge of the gin stand – a most pleasant duty. If you would like to help, please contact Bob Means, First Vice-Commander.

American Legion Hall Promotion. Our hall rentals are filling up nicely. We want everyone to promote the hall and bar to members' families and friends. Our renters really like our facility. It's the best place in town. Everyone has a birthday; consider renting the hall for your celebration. With the special member rate, it's the lowest price for the most easily hosted party; it's certainly less stressful and less expensive than having such an event at home. Please contact Gene Plocki for details (924-6283).

Veterans' Home Loans. All veterans, active duty personnel, reservists, National Guard members, or surviving spouses of veterans who died as a result of their service, who are interested in private home loans are encouraged to contact Costco Mortgage Services to learn about Veterans Administration-backed loans from private lenders. Many benefits apply to these vets that are not available to the general public. Visit www.costco.com and search "Mortgages."

Thank you from Afghanistan. American Legion Post members and American Legion Auxiliary alike will be very interested in reading Second Lieutenant Doudell's gracious thank you note acknowledging the very thoughtful and well received contributions Auxiliary members make to our active personnel overseas. We, too, greatly appreciate your work, Auxiliary members.

Hi, All!

I just wanted to drop a quick thank you to everyone at the American Legion. Your support has been amazing! Each of my Marines has been very touched by your kindness and patriotism. Your care packages have done more than just keep our tummies full but put a smile on each of my Marine's faces. Thank you!

*Semper Fi!
Second Lieutenant Christine Doudell
Third 13N, 3D Marines
FE T. Unit 44075
FPO AP 96607-4075*

Focus: Post 313 Members. I would like to feature different members in the newsletter each month and this month I would like you to get to know Pat Williams.

Pat has been a member of Post 313 for several years now, transferring in from Post 179 in San Anselmo. He served in the Navy in Vietnam from Jan. 1967 to Aug. 1968, where he was a coxswain on a river boat that was an old LCU from WW II. Its first combat was landing on Omaha Beach on D-Day! His next tour, he served as a firefighter in Danang until he returned home and attended College of Marin. The Larkspur Fire Department took Pat under their wing, and let him live in the fire house while studying fire science. He worked part time for Eubanks Florist before going to work in the summer of 1969 as the fire lookout on Mt. Tamalpais for the Marin County Fire Department. From there he went to work for San Anselmo Fire Department and had a 31 yr. career there, retiring as a captain.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 1)

Pat currently works as an innkeeper at the West Point Inn on Mt. Tamalpais. He lives up there a week at a time, for one week a month. The inn was built in 1904 as part of the Mt. Tamalpais & Muir Woods Railway and is on the National Historic Registry. Information on the inn can be found at www.westpointinn.org.

He also volunteers as a docent for Mt. Tamalpais State Park at the Gravity Car Barn, and as a fire lookout on Mt. Tamalpais and Mt. Barnaby. Pat lives on Lakeside Drive in Corte Madera with his wife, Colleen, and his father, Francis. His father recently joined Post 313, and is a retired Army artillery Colonel. Pat has two children and two grandsons that keep him busy going to little league games and basketball games.

Message from Outgoing First Vice Commander Cecil Green. As I ride into the sunset, let me leave you with a motto, "*Be Involved.*" There are many ways to be involved: you can help with events, attend a meeting, assist on a committee, chair a committee, make donations to major projects or become an officer. Time is a precious commodity and a donation of your time is greatly appreciated and a wonderful way to be involved.

This is your Post 313 and you should all take an interest in how it is run. The best way to do this is to attend a meeting and take the opportunity to make suggestions on how to improve our Post and its operation. As the polar bear said when he sat on the block of ice, "now my tale is told".

Hello from Your New First Vice Commander Bob Means. I'm an Army Vietnam vet and served as Flight Engineer on CH47 Chinooks '67 - 68. In my new role as 1st vice I hope to host events that attract your involvement with the Post. And, I ask for your help. Please let me know the type of event that you would attend: cards, board games, watching sports (name your sport), dinners, productions such as *Cabaret* that recently played at the Post, and/or open houses designed for recruiting. All suggestions are welcome.

I hope some of you were able to attend *Cabaret* at our Veteran's Hall as it was a fun show. I appreciate the email feedback regarding this production.

I will be chairing our 4th of July Pancake Breakfast and our Fisher House Fundraiser and welcome your thoughts on ways to improve either of these annual events.

I would like to acknowledge both my predecessor Cecil Green and former 2nd vice Bill Brennen for their tireless

efforts on behalf of Post 313. These two officers and those still serving are what make 313 a successful Post.

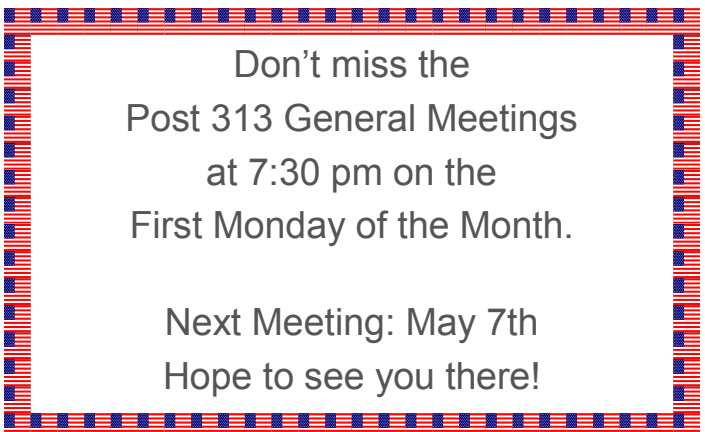
In closing, I will repeat myself. I encourage your input. If I missed some of your responses to the previous 313 email, accept my apologies; I'm just getting the hang of the Post communication methods. Please send your ideas for the betterment of Post 313 directly to me at 1stvicelegion313@gmail.com. My thanks to you all.

Post 313 Work Party. Members C.J. Carrillo, David Stainbrook and John Weir conducted an all day work party April 23. They removed debris and abandoned equipment that has collected under our buildings for years and cut down weeds around the property. Many thanks for your efforts.

Home Repair Scams. We are concerned that our membership may be approached by unscrupulous promoters of home repairs. If you are approached by someone who says, "I am working down the street and noticed that you have some missing shingles, or peeling paint or cracked concrete, or whatever. . ." please do not panic. Often calls like this may be a scam for unnecessary or unlicensed repairs. If you have questions, please call the Post as we have several members who could help you evaluate the offer.

Membership Update. We now have 172 members which puts us well over our District Five goal of 165. We recently received a Certificate of Appreciation from Fang A. Wong, National Commander, for Post 313's successful achievement of reaching 100% of our annual membership goal for 2012.

We welcome Heather Katherine Nelson, our most recent new member. Heather is a former surgical nurse, Army Captain and Corte Madera resident.



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Auxiliary News - President Pauline

Our Nominating Committee's slate of officers for 2012—2013 was approved and will be installed at our May 8 meeting by Commander Gene Plocki. New officers are as follows:

President	Elena Bartley
First VP	Donna Ford
Second VP	Maxine Cohen
Secretary	Yolanda Fugate
Treasurer	Merna McIntosh
Historian	Brenda McKown
Membership	Barbara Fugate
Chaplain	Margaret St. John

Remember that our next meeting is May 8; let's have a good turn-out for the occasion.

All reports have been completed as directed except the President's End-of-Year and Poppy Report. Poppy Days are May 13 - 19 and all volunteers need to mark their calendars accordingly.

We welcome our new members and hope they will attend our meetings. A special welcome to Elena Craig, our most recent addition; we look forward to meeting you in the near future.