



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

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February 1, 2011

From the Commander - Gene Plocki

INITIATION. On January 10, we had the honor of welcoming and installing twelve new members to our Post. The improvements to our newly renovated hall made the occasion very comfortable, especially with the contribution of our new heater. We salute our new members and invite them to become active in some of the many activities our Post carries out. And, as ever, we invite our long-time members to increase their involvement to help make this Post the best.

QUILTERS. - In January, Academy DeTurk put on a children's version of *Quilters*, the play which tells of the lives of early American settlers. Augmented by the contributions of two DeTurk graduates, now performing professionally, the *Quilters* cast easily made the audience forget that these were children. This is a true ensemble company, and their chorus work is extraordinary. They gave a great gift to all who saw them; their hard work brought wonderful enjoyment to all in the audience.

The play has been extended with encore performances this weekend, Jan 27 at 7 pm, Jan 28 at 7:30 pm, Jan 29 & 30 at 5 pm. Seating is limited on Jan 27 and reservations are strongly suggested: 415-456-1085.

LUNCHEON. Our January 19 luncheon was another sell-out, and all who came had a great time. The food was excellent with a price that can't be beat: \$7.00. Our honored guest was Herbert Swasey, a veteran who exhibited his personal experience about the "World War II A-Bomb Launch Site for Japan." Many members lingered on to talk with Herbert and share their own World War II stories. We thank you, Herbert, for joining us.



LITTLE THINGS COUNT. We are as ever deeply grateful to the regular staff who work daily at planning, discussing ways of improving our practices and activities, and generally taking care of the day in, day out business of this Post. It is important to note too that in addition to the work of the officers, the contributions of many other Larkspur post members contribute immeasurably to the smooth running of all we undertake. Whether it is ten minutes or ten hours a month, all of the work adds up. In the past month, for example, many situations arose needing attention, and I want to extend my thanks to all those who helped:

- Bob Gonzalez and Dan McGonagle crawled into a very muddy space under the hall to wire the audio system.
- Randy Stokes and Mike Kopf cleared the parking lot of mud, which flowed from the creek during a rain storm.
- John Farley helped with finances when Will was sick. Each week, he also takes care of placing the re-cycling and garbage receptacles where the sanitary district can empty them, and then later puts them back.
- Responding to a last minute request, Bill McKown immediately ran out to buy paint needed for the hall.
- Frank Ortiz sandbagged the creek outside our clubroom to prevent flooding.
- As an example of all members taking stewardship for our Post, Jim Reilly alerted me to a creek-dredging situation, which could have had an impact on the Post property.
- Ritchie Guetter arranges and sets the tables for our luncheons; he later returns the tables to

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their original positions. He also cleans the cups and saucers after our coffees.

Louise Allander clears the tables after our lunches.

Bill Brennen met with one of our renters, carried out the initial inspection with them, and followed through with the after-the-event inspection.

FOUR CHAPLAINS DAY INTER-FAITH SERVICE. At one time we held the Four Chaplains Ceremony at our Post and drew a very good crowd. Now, though, the American Legion is consolidating the ceremony and will hold the event in San Francisco at the Main Post Chapel at the Presidio, Building 130, Fisher Loop, on February 1 at 2:00 p.m. For further information, see me.

MEMBERSHIP. We have a total of 177 members. With 39 Paid-up-for-Life, 7 Honorary Life Members and 110 paid members, that leaves 21 members still outstanding for their 2011 dues. Please check your records or call Marilyn in the office any Mon or Thurs between 12:30 - 3:30 pm.

HALL UPDATE - Bob Gonzalez. For those who have not yet had the opportunity to see the latest improvements to the Hall, let me fill you in. Our tenant, the DeTurk Academy, produces stage plays using school age actors who attend after school Academy acting classes. In order to raise funds for improvements expressly intended to aid stage productions, Scott DeTurk organized a fundraiser last November. The funds were used for new curtains hanging across the North wall. They greatly enhance the appearance of the Hall with a more elegant and finished look.

Funds were also used for new audio equipment. Specifically, tiny microphones were suspended from the overhead above removable stage units in front of the curtain. These so-called choir mics pick up voices on stage without the need for hand-held mics or mic stands. Also, a new 16 channel cable was installed in the crawl space under the Hall floor to carry audio signals from the stage to



Post 313

Valentine

Dinner

Thursday, Feb. 10

Activities begin at

5:00 p.m.

Dinner at 6:00 p.m.

\$23 per person

MENU

Choice of Roast Beef
or Oven Broiled Salmon
Vegetables
Dessert
Coffee

Table Wine \$5 per Bottle

RESERVE NOW

Send check and menu choice
by Monday, February 7
to Twin Cities Post 313,
Attn. Valentine
500 Magnolia Ave
Larkspur, CA 94939

the opposite end where a new audio control board will be installed.

The next planned improvement is in the stage lighting area. Our current lighting equipment is very old and is failing. Rental revenue from an upcoming stage production will be invested in a new twenty-four channel lighting controller with modern power handling equipment. This digital lighting system is state-of-the-art and can accommodate the most elaborate production.

Also planned for immediate purchase is a large pull-down movie screen in the HDTV format. The screen will be approximately 8 ft. wide by 5 ft. tall. People who rent the Hall often wish to show a video or other presentation requiring a screen. We will be able to accommodate these people and charge an additional fee as well.

As you can see, when all these improvements are in place, you will have a first-class, all purpose facility. It will be a real improvement for our members and the community. I'm certain that when the word gets out, our Hall will become a center of activity we can all be proud of.

Auxiliary News - Pauline Angleman

Due to an error at National Headquarters, members will receive two "*Dues are Due*" notices. Be sure all is taken care of as I want to see many smiling faces at our **February 8** meeting.

A reminder to all: Barbara is still doing her part to Support Our Troops but the donations she receives are few.

Enjoy this beautiful weather but do not put away your umbrellas and boots!

	<p>Lou La Gatta Broker/Owner CRB</p>
	<p>☎ 415.608.4842 ☎ 866.843.9476 ✉ lou@marinrealtygroup.com</p> <p>DRE #01124649</p>