



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 86 Issue 1

"Still Serving America"

January 1, 2014

UPCOMING EVENTS

First Annual Billiards Tournament Post 313 vs Post 179

January 30
6 pm
Log Cabin

ONGOING EVENTS

Coffee & Pastries
 Mondays & Thursdays
 9 - 10 am (Club Room)

Post 313 Breakfasts
 Second Wednesday
 8:30 - 10 am (Club Room)

General Membership Meetings
 First Monday **
 Veterans Bar
 6 pm - Pizza & Beverages
 7 pm - Business Meeting

** Note: January 6 meeting is cancelled.
 First 2014 meeting is February 3.

Executive Board Meetings
 Last Thursday
 9:30 am - 12 noon

Commander Bob Means

2013. . . what a year!

My Service Cap (or whatever you might call it) is off to our officers and volunteers and all supporters.

We've done some transitioning and with progressive input your Post is moving forward. Our goal is to do the greatest good possible for veterans and all other worthy causes we support.

This year I asked for and received generous financial support. Several members responded and their contributions were put to good use. Whether your donation was used for our Post 313 Building Fund or added to a specific charity, we honored your wishes. With improvements made to the facility, we are more and more popular as a rental venue for all kinds of special occasion events. One of my goals has been to become a better partner with our community and the City of Larkspur. Twin Cities American Legion Post 313 has a unique and historic Hall and Bar, full theater lighting, updated sound system and is well known for superior acoustics for musical productions.

We will be gearing up for Boys (and hopefully) Girls State programs very soon. If interested in helping out, please contact Jackie Tribolet or Tom Beck - or in a pinch, give me a call. Cecil Green is heading up our Nominating Committee for 2014 election of officers. If you wish to come on board or have a candidate to suggest, give Cecil a call at 415-898-9901. We're always looking for more personal involvement from members.

Since taking over command eight months ago the Post has had some fine members step down from office. They have been instrumental in our success over many years. I wish to once again thank Cecil Green and Jack Dennis for setting the good example as Members-at-Large and what it means to serve. Thanks also to Past Commander Gene Plocki for his help in making my transition easier. Tad Craig has found it necessary to step down as Third Vice but is still helping out as his schedule allows. Jackie T has been of ever increasing help as has our Auxiliary. A hearty well done to the above and those men and women who have stepped up to fill the void.

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January 2014

2	9 am	10 am	Coffee
6	9 am	10 am	Coffee
6			General Membership Meeting Cancelled
8	8:30 am	10 am	Post Breakfast (Club Room)
9	9 am	10 am	Coffee
13	9 am	10 am	Coffee
14	12 noon	2 pm	Auxiliary Unit Mtg (Club Room)
16	9 am	10 am	Coffee
20	9 am	10 am	Coffee Martin Luther King's Birthday
23	9 am	10 am	Coffee
27	9 am	10 am	Coffee
30	9 am	10 am	Coffee
30	9:30 am	12 noon	Executive Committee Meeting (Club Room)

February 2014

3	9 am	10 am	Coffee
3			General Membership Meeting (Vets Bar) Time TBA
6	9 am	10 am	Coffee
10	9 am	10 am	Coffee
11	12 noon	2 pm	Auxiliary Unit Mtg (Club Room)
12	8:30 am	10 am	Post Breakfast (Club Room)
13	9 am	10 am	Coffee
17	9 am	10 am	Coffee Washington's Birthday
20	9 am	10 am	Coffee
24	9 am	10 am	Coffee
27	9 am	10 am	Coffee
27	9:30 am	12 noon	Executive Committee Meeting (Club Room)

For calendar updates, see the club room bulletin board & the post website: <http://americanlegion313.org>

For Veteran's Services, see <http://www.co.marin.ca.us/depts/HH/main/ag/veterans.cfm>



Post 313 Breakfast

Wednesday, January 8
8:30—10 am in Club Room
\$5.00 (All you can eat!)

Includes fruit juice, scrambled eggs with cheese, pancakes, bacon, sausage and coffee.

Reservation: signup in Club Room , call Bill Brennen (415-927-0393) or leave message at the Post (415-924-6283).

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So, your staff is taking a breather for a bit but soon we will be formulating plans for 2014. Please be sure to forward your comments to us via email, U.S. mail, phone, carrier pigeon, phone taps - whatever works for you. We like to hear from you and, good, bad or other, your input counts.

Wishing all of you a Happy and Prosperous New Year.
Over, under and out, Bob

Help with a Project for 2014 - Bob Means

We have three dais', podiums - whatever one might call them. Each is in need of repair. I'd like to reach out to our membership and ask someone to step up and refinish one of these pieces. It's a less than stellar statement for the Post when we use one of these relics for functions. What is needed is primarily refinishing of surfaces. Enhancements at your discretion.

Got time and or talent? Please get in touch with me.

First Vice Tom Beck

I hope everyone is having an enjoyable Holiday Season. The year 2013 is now drawing to an end. It would be an understatement to say we have had a good year. The Post has been transformed and we are seeing great results as our membership is stronger than it has been in many years and from the business end we are hitting the cover off the ball. We should be thankful for the success of our Post and looking forward to more good things in 2014. My door is always open.

Pool Shooters Needed

We are scheduled to have our 1st Annual Billiards Tournament against Post 179 at the Log Cabin in San Anselmo on **January 30th**. Although we have a complete team of five, we are looking for another ringer or two to step in. We're not going up to the Log Cabin to lose. If you think you can add to our chances please contact the Commander or 1st Vice. We need you!!!! Even if you don't shoot, come to the Log Cabin and cheer us on. Log Cabin opens at 6 PM and our team will be warming up.

Charitable Contributions for 2013

This year we gave generously to worthy groups. As a member, each of you have contributed the following:

\$16 Boy Scouts
\$10 Girl Scouts

\$22 Fisher House
\$11 Fort Miley (VA Volunteer Services)
\$6 Novato High School Air Force JROTC
\$3 House of Steel (Pre boot camp training for young men looking to go in the military)
\$2 Boys State

This comes to \$70 per member that was directed towards the above organizations and programs. \$70 may not seem like much, but when you multiply it by 184 members it is very significant. Charitable giving is a big part of our existence and we hope to give even more in 2014.

Auxiliary News - President Elena Bartley

There's another year behind us and one to look forward to. We would like to thank Pauline Angleman, our Poppy Chairman, for her fundraising efforts. She has done a remarkable job for so long. Also, she is our Education Chairman. As for education, we are happy to be able to participate in the Girls State Program with the help of our Post member Jackie Tribolet in 2014.

We will continue to observe Memorial Day & Veterans Day as well as sending boxes to the troops for our "support our troops" program. I am happy to let you know that we now have a Girl Scout contact. They have donated several boxes of Girl Scout "snacks" to be sent overseas to the troops. We can thank Tom Beck for putting us in contact with Sarah Jane & Eric. Our Auxiliary thanks you all for your support last year and expect 2014 will be even better!

Santa's Reflections on Freedom

*'Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone, in a
one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.
I had come down the chimney with presents to give and
to see just who in this home did live.
I looked all about a strange sight I did see, no tinsel, no
presents, not even a tree. No stocking by the
fire, just boots filled with sand, on the wall hung pictures
of far distant lands.*

*With medals and badges, awards of all kind a sober
thought came through my mind. For this house
was different, so dark and dreary, I knew I had found the
home of a soldier, once I could see clearly.
I heard stories about them; I had to see more so I
walked down the hall and pushed open the door.
And there he lay sleeping, silent, alone, curled up on the
floor in his one bedroom home.*

*His face so gentle, his room in such disorder, not how I
pictured a United States soldier. Was this the
hero of whom I'd just read? Curled up in his poncho, a
floor for his bed?*

*His head was clean shaven, his weathered face tan; I
soon understood this was more than a man.
For I realized the families that I saw that night owed
their lives to these men who were willing to fight.*

*Soon 'round the world, the children would play, and
grownups would celebrate on a bright Christmas
Day. They all enjoyed freedom each day of the year,
because of soldiers like this one lying here. I
couldn't help wonder how many lay alone on a cold
Christmas Eve in a land far from home.*

*Just the very thought brought a tear to my eye, I
dropped to my knees and started to cry.*

*The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice, "Santa
don't cry, this life is my choice; I fight for
freedom, I don't ask for more, my life is my God, my
country, my Corps."*

*With that he rolled over and drifted off to sleep, I
couldn't control it, I continued to weep.*

*I watched him for hours, so silent and still, I noticed he
shivered from the cold night's chill.*

*So I took off my jacket, the one made of red, and I
covered this Soldier from his toes to his head.
And I put on his T-shirt of gray and black, with an eagle
and an Army patch embroidered on back.*

*And although it barely fit me, I began to swell with
pride, and for a shining moment, I was United
States Army deep inside. I didn't want to leave him on
that cold dark night, this guardian of honor so
willing to fight.*

*Then the soldier rolled over, whispered with a voice so
clean and pure, "Carry on Santa, it's Christmas
Day, all is secure." One look at my watch, and I knew
he was right, Merry Christmas my friend, and to
all a good night!*

Lance Corporal James M. Schmidt