

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
Department of Florida End of Year Report  
2015-2016  
District 2

As I end by presidency I would like to reflect on the Units, their leaders and members. Thank you for being dedicated in your work to make the lives of our veterans better. The work sometimes seems overwhelming, but you are the troopers that makes it happen.

District 2 started installations right away after convention with Unit 100, Marianna taking the lead. All other Units held installation with Quincy, Unit 217 bring up the rear.

School of Instructions was hosted by Unit 241, Sneads on September 19th. Attendance was awesome with commanders from various post attending. Not only did they attend, they also participated by asking questions and was very interested in the Auxiliaries' involvement in the community.

I'm happy to report this is the second year District 2 has had the pleasure of sharing our School of Instructions with our post comrades.

District 2 hosted an "ABC" school in January with great success. Our instructor Diane Rousseau kept it active by member participation. Discussion of many topics of the Auxiliaries kept the attendees on their feet and opening the world of knowledge. We had many members whom had never been to this kind of training. We had a record turn-out as the district had not held an ABC school in several years.

Constitution Conference was held on 7th of May in Marianna, Unit 100 for elections of District President and Officers, Delegate and Alternate to National Convention and the reporting of each units' activities for the year.

District 2 held their Girl State Orientation on May 21st. hosted by Unit 13, Tallahassee. We're excited for the Girls who will be attending Girl State for this remarkable once in a life time experience.

I was honored to attend District 1 School of Instructions held at the Naval Aviation Museum in Pensacola. What an awesome experience staying on an assimilated aircraft carrier, learning to map and fly planes, experiencing the automation and technology coming to the future just blew my mind.

On a sad note, Unit 172, Telogia will be turning in their Unit charter at convention due to the death of the President, Ms. Helen Wood. Their membership is small, no member will step up to fill the duties to ensure the success of the unit. Telogia is a unit in a very rural area without resources for job opportunities as their young move away for the betterment of themselves and their families.

Unit 13, Tallahassee held the annual July 4th picnic at the Legion serving hamburgers, hot dogs and all the trimmings. August brings the collections of school supplies for distribution to the children of veterans via the VA Clinic. Pack-backs were filled for the elementary, middle and high school students. Unit 13 celebrates Labor Day and Memorial Day with a dance at the Legion called "Our Red, White and Blue Dance". This is a fund raiser as the Auxiliary puts "FUN" in fund raising. They continue working for our veterans by keeping a food pantry at the VA clinic stocked (for emergencies), stocking food and other supplies for Vet Village housing. Working the stand down to help place homeless veterans which includes all services a veteran might need or assistance in any way. Unit 13 members are present at the National Cemetery for all burials and sadly to say, at time the veteran has not family member nor friends in the area. The Members of Unit 13 makes sure a veteran is not buried without representation.

Unit 82, Lanark Village not only meet their membership goal but exceeded marking their membership at 106%. Congratulations Lanark!!!!!! Lanark Village is a busy unit as they administer a food deliveries every week from farm share and distribute at the local post. Christmas is always an exciting time as they "shop till they drop" buying items for the nursing homes and local shut-in's. Lanark holds a fund raiser for cancer patients annually called "Tonya's Hope". This

bring a lot of money in for cancer patients in the area. Camp Gordon Johnston is located in Carrabelle, this is where soldiers were trained for amphibious landing for World War II combat. Lanark holds a huge celebration on the date honoring the special occasion of those sacrifices made by soldiers, some giving their lives. They honor veterans at Post 82 with dinner and all the trimming the night before, then on Saturday they have a parade. This is a week-end long event. You should plan to go!!!

Unit 84, Havana has reach their membership goal of 100%. They collected school supplies, box tops, label for education and participated in 10 for \$10.00 in Education Members collected bread and other food items from a local merchant to take to veterans in need reported a value of \$30,000. Go Havana! Unit 84 were present at Bike fest along with the Legion and Riders. One member helped at the Stand Down in Tallahassee and several members are available for services at the local National Cemetery. Unit members helped with the Oratorical contest at the Post, District and Western Area Level. One contestant went to Department's oratorical contest where she came in second place.

Unit 100, Marianna stays busy visiting the veterans in the nursing home serving baked goods weekly. They have a school for disadvantage students called "Hope School" where they honor the graduates each year with a pizza party, certificates and gift cards. Marianna honors Americanism by taking coloring book and other small Americanize books to the local schools. For Fall Conference they contributed a extra large basket to the buddy basket program. They distribute Poppies in the month of May.

Unit 217, Quincy hosts a "Love Breakfast" in February each year, it appears the town of Quincy turns out for this delicious breakfast. Unit members travel to Tallahassee weekly to serve coffee and donuts to the veterans during their visit to the VA Clinic. Veterans Day was celebrated on the steps of the Court House with dinner served at Post assisted by the Auxiliary. In October Unit 217 went to the elementary schools to demonstrate Halloween safety before the big night. In December Quincy hosted a Christmas Ball for the entire legion family. In May Unit 217 distributes Poppies.

Unit 241, Sneads start out in May with "Flag Education" for the 4th grades of both local schools. This includes 132 students. In September Sneads participation in "10 for Education", then in January came back and gave 6-cases of paper to each of the two local elementary schools. In April and May they do "Teacher Appreciation Day" by serving lunch to 200 teachers and staff in 4 schools. In October Sneads host a "Halloween Party" where they had a record number of visitors, 675 and they only count the ones that actually come inside. In December they delivered 45 fruit baskets to the elderly and all before joining 2-towns celebrating with Christmas Parades. In February 1495 Valentines were sent and given out. Sneads receives their funds mainly thru "Bingo". Their presence in the community is very strong. I would like to commend them for their generosity of giving to the tune of \$8,302.00 this past year. For communication they mailed out 186 newsletters.

It has been a pleasure to serve District Two as District President for the past two years. As I visited each Unit's meeting, attended many of their events I felt humble to be a part of the great organization of the American Legion Auxiliary. Thank you for allowing me this privilege.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nell Hewitt, President  
District 2