



The Family Tree

January 2016 Vol. V, Issue 6

President's Message

From the C&Y Chairman

From the Units

Membership Report

The Family Tree

Mission Statement

In the spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion and to honor the sacrifice of those who serve by enhancing the lives of our veterans, military, and their families, both at home and abroad. For God and Country, we advocate for veterans, educate our citizens, mentor youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

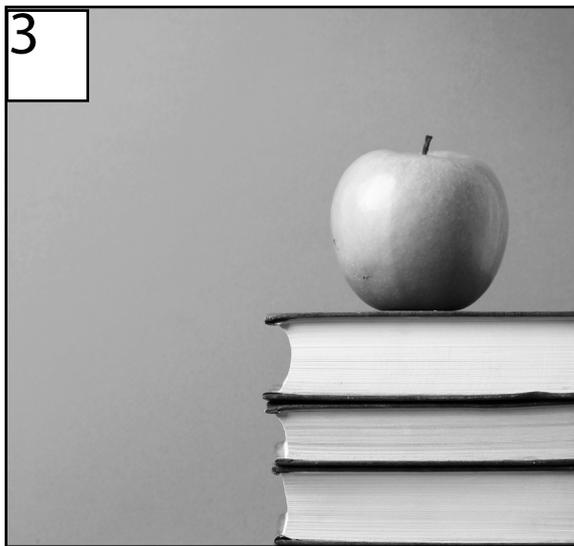
Vision Statement

The vision of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion while becoming the premier service organization and foundation of every community providing support for our veterans, our military, and their families by shaping a positive future in an atmosphere of fellowship, patriotism, peace and security.

The Family Tree

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“From the Service of One, Comes the Support of Many!”



[This month]

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Unit 285 (seen in photo above) kicks off the holidays at the District 17 Christmas Party.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



PEARL MCINTYRE

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After the fall conference was over, I was off on my visitations to the Districts again. First stop was the 13th District with District President Jackie Moody. What a job she did setting up the visits to the Units in her District. We visited the Veterans Village in Punta Gorda with Commander Jim, Dennis & Diane and other Legionnaires and Auxiliary members. We were there when the members of Punta Gorda gave a car to a woman who is in a transition house. We visited 10 out of 15 Units. I visited Units Ft. Myers 38, Cape Coral 90, Punta Gorda 103, Port Charlotte 110, Sanibel 123, St. James City 136, Bonita Springs 303, Lehigh Acres 323, N. Ft. Myers 336 and Fort Myers 351. That was a lot of traveling from Unit to Unit. The hospitality

shown by the Units is hard to describe, from lunch and snacks to the dinners we were served and the gifts I received. Thank you ladies for a fun-filled weekend.

It was nice meeting you and talking with you about the programs you have done and what you are planning, especially what you do for the Veterans.

From there it was off to Seminole Post 252 for their Thanksgiving Dinner for the Veterans at Bay Pines Hospital. What an awesome job this Post does on this special day for our veterans. We were there a day early to help with the prep work for the dinner. From peeling potatoes, making the dressing, roasting the turkeys and everything else it takes to put the dinner on, the members



President Pearl (center right) joins Dept. Commander Jim Ramos in presenting Unit 197 its Certificate of Appreciation for its donation to the Fisher House.

of Post 252 worked as a family in every way. I was very proud to be invited to spend the day with them and help serve 100+ veterans Thanksgiving Dinner. Thank you Raymond Kruse, Post 252 Commander, John &

Dee Bell for the hospitality shown to me and my husband Bill. District 16 Commander and President John & Dee showed us the Veterans Museum with Commander Jim and took us to the home-

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less camp called Pinellas Hope.

After a few days off, it was on the road again to visit the 5th District. It was a long ride, but even longer when we arrived. I did not realize how far apart the Units are. Annie Anderson was a great tour guide taking us from one Unit to the other.

What made the visit even more special was that the State Commander, Jim Ramos was doing his visit also, so we visited a lot of the Posts/Units together. We visited the Clyde E. Lassen Veterans Nursing Home. We attended a Christmas Party at the Clara White Mis-

sion for the homeless and their children. We also toured the Jacksonville VA Outpatient Clinic. The District held a membership rally at the NEX to promote the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary. What a great job they did. We also attended a Pearl Harbor Ceremony at the Fleet Reserve (the base was closed so we could not go on board the ship). Annie drove us around to visit 13 of the 17 Units in her District. We went to Units Jacksonville 9, St. Augustine 37, Fernandina Beach 54, Jacksonville 88, Jacksonville 137, Jacksonville 197,

Keystone Heights 202, Ponte Verda Beach 233, Middleburg 250, Jacksonville 283, Atlantic Beach 316, and Hillard 401. The hospitality again was awesome, meeting the members and talking with them was a great way to spend my visit. The Lunches and Dinners were delicious. You ladies are fantastic with what you do. A special visit was to Post 37, in St Augustine, It is a historical building and under renovation to restore the building. What a beautiful Post it will be when it is completed.

The Holidays are over and now, it I time to think

about our programs – Membership, Girl State, etc. Don't forget about my special project, "The Fisher House". Please do whatever you can to help them, whether it is through donations of money or the items they need to help the Veterans and their families that stay there. Every little bit helps.

If you make donations directly to a Fisher House, please let Department know so that we have a record of all donations at the end of the year.

For God and Country,

—President Pearl

Because we ♥ our heroes.

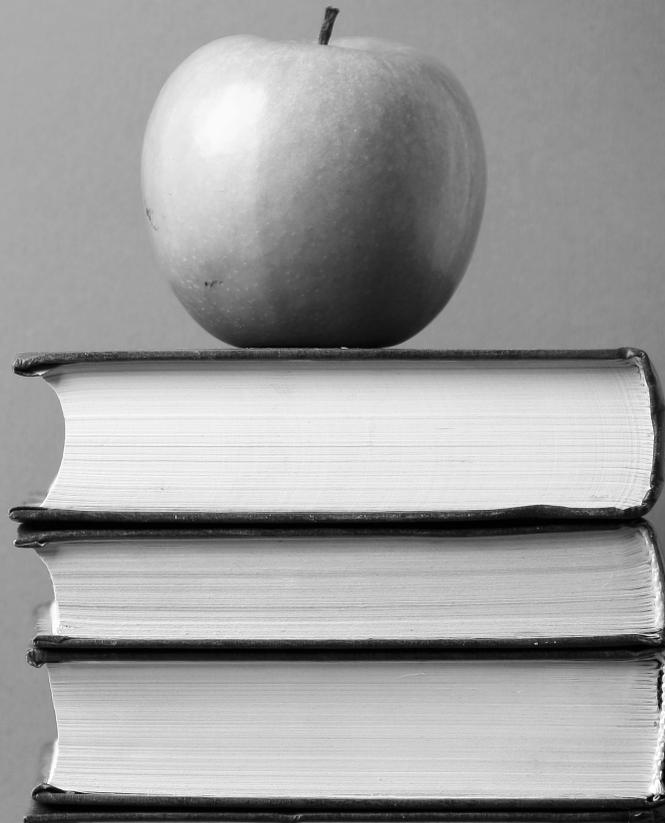
For 25 years, the Fisher House program has provided a "home away from home" for families of patients receiving medical care at major military and VA medical centers. These homes provide free temporary lodging so military and veterans' families can be close to their loved one during a medical crisis and focus on what's important — the healing process. Because of your support, Fisher House Foundation is able to support the heart of our program, the operation of more than 60 existing homes. Additionally, our Hero Miles program assists with travel needs, and our scholarship program offers educational opportunities to military children and spouses. With your help, we can continue meeting the needs of the military community today and long into the future.

Show your love by making a donation to Fisher House. To learn more, please visit www.fisherhouse.org or call (888) 294-8560.



Education

The Education Chairman provides important information about the Dept. Education Chairman Award.



ELEANOR AMATO

education@alaf.org

Hope your holidays were Merry and not too stressful! We all know how that can be. I would like to remind you to check on the Education Plan of Action, in particular Department Education Chairman Award.

UNIT AWARD:
Awarded to the **UNIT** which raises the most funds for Department Scholarships in each membership grouping. Type of Award: Student Opportunity Award. Guidelines - **Funds must be received by Department by March 1, 2016** and accompanied with a contribution remittance form. Remember this is a Unit award. You can donate to Department Scholarship or Memorial Scholarship or both. We are starting to move up in contributions but the

Memorial Scholarship is still short. For all you do, thank you. You are what makes this organization great.

Thank you to those who submitted a mid-year report. I am looking forward to the end of the year reports. Please submit a narrative along with the end of the year forms. This is where you brag about your units/districts. It is hard to write my report from just the forms. National likes to hear stories and we get ideas for our units from your reports.

To write a **narrative essay**, you'll need to tell a story in such a way that the audience learns a lesson or gains insight.

Tips for writing effective narrative essays:

- **Tell a story** about a moment or event that

means a lot -it will make it easier for you to tell the story in an interesting way!

- **Get right to the action!** Avoid long introductions and lengthy descriptions--especially at the beginning of your narrative.
- **Make sure your story has a point!** Describe what you learned from this experience.
- **Use all five of your senses** to describe the setting, characters, and the plot of your story. Don't be afraid to tell the story in your own voice. Nobody wants to read a story that sounds like a textbook!

Many units participate in "Give 10 to Education". How does the Give 10

to Education program help our children in our schools?

What is this program? It is a way that the American Legion Auxiliary can help schools in their areas. Assisting schools with this program will help build relationships which could lead to participation in other American Legion Auxiliary programs such as the Americanism Essay and Poppy Poster contests. Units can enlist their communities help by putting out containers where donations containers where donations to the schools can be collected.

What are we donating? It can be many things – just as long as there are 10 of them.

- School items can be

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donated. Classroom flags, pencils, boxes of crayons, boxes of Kleenex, hand sanitizers and the list is endless.

- Items for children such as 10 pairs of socks, underwear, mittens, hats. There are children coming to school who are in need of these items. Units can contact the schools that will receive the donations to see what is needed.

- Time can be donated – 10 minutes of reading time with a student, 10 minutes of time on the playground. All of those 10 minutes add up quickly.
- Money can be donated. Units can donate to the American Legion Auxiliary scholarships.
- Perhaps the local school has a scholarship fund. Ten donations of \$10 adds up

- quickly.
- Units can assign members to contact specific schools to assess their needs. Brainstorm ideas at a meeting to support these needs. Involve the community by soliciting donations. Advertise, advertise, and advertise. Inform local news media to request publicity when donations are given to your unit. Ten for ten is a great

project. However, contact the clinic in your schools to see what they need. Remember when a student leaves her classroom she is not participating in education. Therefore, there are items that the clinic needs to get her back to learning.

START YOUR REPORTS NOW! And as always, thank you for all you do.

—Eleanor Amato, Dept. Education Chairman

Facing the Giants in Your Life*

The Seven R's:

1. Recall past victories
2. Reaffirm the reason for the conflict
3. Reject discouragement
4. Recognize the true nature of the battle
5. Respond with a positive confession of faith
6. Rely on God
7. Reckon the victory



*submitted by Dept. Chaplain Lois Stachelrodt

In Your Honor*

Unselfishly, you left your fathers and your mothers,
 You left behind your sisters and your brothers.
 Leaving your beloved children and wives,
 You put on hold, your dreams-your lives.
 On foreign soil, you found yourself planted
 To fight for those whose freedom you granted.
 Without your sacrifice, their cause would be lost
 But you carried onward, no matter the cost.

Many horrors you had endured and seen.
 Many faces had haunted your dreams;
 You cheered as your enemies littered the ground;
 You cried as your brothers fell all around.

When it was over, you all came back home,
 Some were left with memories to face all alone;
 Some found themselves in the company of friends
 As their crosses cast shadows across the land.

Those who survived were forever scarred
 Emotionally, physically, permanently marred.
 Those who did not now sleep eternally
 'Neath the ground they had given their lives to keep free.

With a hand upon my heart, I feel The pride and respect; my
 reverence is revealed

In the tears that now stream down my upturned face
 As our flag waves above you, in her glory and grace.

Freedom was the gift that you unselfishly gave
 Pain and death was the price that you ultimately paid.

Every day, I give my utmost admiration
 To those who had fought to defend our nation.

~ Author Unknown ~



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER



LOIS STACHELRODT

chaplain@alaf.org

As a new year arrives, may we always remember our Angels and the love that they spread to all of our hearts. The Lord Keeps you Safe. You, Lord, are the light that keeps me safe. I am not afraid of anyone. You protect me, and I have no fears. I ask only one thing Lord: Let me live in your house every day of my life to see how wonderful you are and to pray in your temple. In times of trouble, you will protect me. You will hide me in your tent and keep me safe on top of a mighty rock. Trust the Lord! Be brave and strong and trust the Lord.

—Psalms 27:1, 4-5, 14

—Lois Stachelrodt, Department Chaplain

District 4

Unit 58 Mahfuz, Frances
Unit 149 Sabo, Frances (Fran)

District 5

Unit 37 Uribe, Margaret L.
Unit 129 Cornell, Pat
Fellabaum, Johnnie
Lynn
Unit 137 Conner, Lisa A.
Renckley, Betty S.

District 8

Unit 69 Foley, Joan
Unit 159 Spencer, Elizabeth

District 11

Unit 65 Loomis, Virginia P.
Unit 277 Genesisio, Anna

District 12

Unit 126 McHugh, Nancy
Pochopin, Veronica (Vera)
Unit 163 Powshok, Joy

District 13

Unit 136 Deveney, Pearl R.

District 14

Unit 31 Delvalle, Trina
Lester, Ruth

District 15

Unit 139 Hertzog, Bertie
Potter, Doris
Quigley, Ruth
Vautin, Erna
Unit 334 Conroy, Deborah

District 16

Unit 273 Alchin, Donna
Unit 335 Cole, Ellie
Goodspeed,
Patricia
Ladu, Dorothy
Shaffer, Lois

District 17

Unit 45 Haven, Carol L.

Children & Youth



MICHELE DEGENNARO

childrenyouth@alaffl.org

I want to start out by thanking you for all of your hard work and dedication to the Children & Youth program. I only received a small amount of Units reporting but it was evident by your midyear reports just how much work each and every one of you is doing. Holiday Parties, adopting families, Good Deed and Youth Hero Awards and over \$10,000 already sent to Department in C&Y donations. Thank you!

It was also wonderful to hear how the Units from around the Department of Florida are welcoming our Junior members.

Unit 79 in New Port Richey had their Juniors and Junior ROTC helping at their 7th Annual Luminary Service. Congrat-

ulations to Unit 382 in Navarre! They just added a Juniors program and are looking forward to starting the patch program with them. Unit 80 in St Cloud had their juniors working hard, clipping coupons and passing out poppies. Great job encouraging, promoting and strengthening the future of this great organization for our children & youth and junior members!

For those that attended the C&Y Breakout session at Fall Conference, you heard me speak about Beads of Courage, a 501C nonprofit organization, designed to support and strengthen children and families coping with serious illnesses. As mentioned, Beads of Courage has been added to the

Children & Youth Program and I am so proud and excited by all the Units that have shown an interest. There are many ways we as an Auxiliary can help. Listed below are just a few ideas:

1. Making Bead Bags so the children have a place to store their beads
2. Carry a Bead Program
3. A monetary donation

So what I am suggesting is this: Ladies, if you like to sew, the Bead Bags are a wonderful way for the Unit to help. I just received another 1,000 labels and I will be happy to send you as many as you would like. They come in packs of 25. Just let me know how many you will need.

For the person that has

everything, the Carry a Bead program is a great gift idea. You can be part of the Team Carry a Bead for just \$20.00. Some of you may have seen me wearing my Carry a Beads at Fall conference.

Another idea is a monetary donation and thanks to Kimberly, Department now has a donation remittance sheet for Beads of Courage.

Thank you for All you do!

Wishing you a Happy and Healthy New Year!

For God & Country,

—**Michele DeGennaro,
Department 3rd Vice
President & Children
and Youth Chairman**



FROM THE SECRETARY



KIMBERLY SULLIVAN

secretary@alaff.org

Shaneece Dixon has moved into a Membership & Communications Clerk position. I am looking for an Admin Assistant, full time, with the following skills and knowledge:

1. Strong computer skills (including Excel, Word, PPT)
2. Strong organizational skills
3. Ability to prioritize work and tasks to meet goals
4. Knowledge of ALA programs (preference to a current member of the ALA)
5. Superior Customer Service Skills
6. Ability to quickly perform data entry with minimal errors
7. Must be available to work events, including Fall Conference and Convention on weekends.
8. Although there are special projects, must be ok with repetitive, non-challenging work (opening/sorting mail; filing; data entry; etc).

Calendar of Events	
Dept HQ Closed	Dec. 24 - Jan. 1
Girls State Unit Application Deadline	Feb. 1
District 6 Constitutional Conference	May 7
District 15 Constitutional Conference	May 15
District 13 Constitutional Conference	May 21
Convention	June 16-19
Girls State	June 30-July 8

The position will work from the Orlando HQ Office Monday - Friday from 8 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

If you are interested, please send your resume, cover letter and salary expectations to me at secretary@alaff.org.

—Kimberly Sullivan, Department Secretary-Treasurer | Executive Director of ALA Department of FL



FROM THE UNITS

UNIT 347



Unit 347's Community Service Chairman Susan Duncan (left) and its Children & Youth Chairman Donna McGlone (right) present a \$200 check to Tonya Porter (center) for the Boys and Girls Club.

—Photo courtesy of Ann Huxtable, U347 Historian

Lady Lake supports local Boys & Girls Club

Hello, from the American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 347 in Lady Lake, FL!

The Children & Youth Committee had a Red Ribbon Day at the Boys & Girls Club at Lady Lake's First Baptist Church.

The Children & Youth chairman, Donna McGlone, directed the program. She brought in a full-size superhero poster for the boys and girls to hang their names on. Before they could do that, the chairman talked to all the children.

Donna asked the children about Red Ribbon Week and what they learned. Some of their responses included: "Don't be a bully," "Say no to drugs, tobacco and liquors." One child said "Don't take any medications or prescriptions that are not your own."

They all took a pledge to not do any of those things, then wrote their names on the superhero.

Donna, along with our Community Service chairman, Susan Duncan, worked together with some of our Auxiliary members and two members from Post 347 at the local 'Not So Scary Halloween Party.'

Approximately 2,000 children attended the event. Our members gave out books, toys, candy and 300 cans of soup. They also supervised three games for the children.

Even the superhero poster was on duty to take pledges to prevent bullying. Altogether, 100 children took the pledge.

Susan and Donna teamed up again to present a check for \$200 to Tonya Porter of the Boys & Girls Club. The money sponsors four children for after-school programs. This includes homework help, outdoor education and monitoring onsite greenhouse vegetable growth and more.

Our unit is more than happy to donate their time to help the children and youth in the community.

—Ann Huxtable, U347 Historian



From left to right: SAL Commander Ray Durant; his wife, District 17 National Security Chairman, Zella Durant; Linda Robinson and her husband Joe, Commander of Post 285 relaxing after a prime rib dinner at District 17 Christmas party. This event also honored veterans who reside at Emory Bennett Nursing Home in Daytona Beach. All branches of service were represented.

—Photo courtesy of Eleanor Amato, Department Education Chairman

Membership Report *

**As of Thursday, Dec. 17, 2015*

For a full report, visit www.alafl.org/friday-report, or call Department at (407) 293-7411. We will post our final Friday Report for 2015 on Wednesday, Dec. 23, before our office closes for the Holiday Break.

DISTRICTS					
District	GOAL	Juniors	Seniors	TOTAL	Percent
District 1	1903	39	921	960	50.45%
District 2	462	52	275	327	70.78%
District 3	845	17	416	433	51.24%
District 4	1047	19	580	599	57.21%
District 5	3058	190	1721	1911	62.49%
District 6	4155	69	2201	2270	54.63%
District 7	1295	17	715	732	56.53%
District 8	3597	67	2050	2117	58.85%
District 9	1811	176	927	1103	60.91%
District 11	1531	94	710	804	52.51%
District 12	3945	100	2156	2256	57.19%
District 13	4795	100	2494	2594	54.10%
District 14	917	10	487	497	54.20%
District 15	1911	32	1005	1037	54.26%
District 16	7367	113	4125	4238	57.53%
District 17	1773	78	921	999	56.35%
Department (400)	302	2	155	157	51.99%
TOTAL	40,714	1,175	21,859	23,034	56.58%

HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

Our Department staff would like to wish all of our members a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

