



The Shining Beacon

January 2015 Vol. V Issue 6

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The American Legion



The American Legion Auxiliary



The Sons of The American Legion

The American Legion Department of Florida “FAMILY”

Announce a

Statewide Blood Drive January 30th and 31st

SAVE THE DATE



***More information go to floridalegion.org
and click on the Blood Donor Symbol***

For additional information contact John Dollinger, The Florida American Legion Blood Donor Chairperson,

Email at BloodDonor@legionmail.org

Participants:



***The Florida American Legion continuing to serve
our Veterans and our Communities***

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The Shining Beacon

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.

**"Lighting the Way
For Veterans"**

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www.alafl.org



FROM THE



Erna Schwabe

and celebrate our freedoms with wearing our Red, White and Blue. Then off to the 7th District to meet up with District President Pam and her husband Barney at Lakeland Unit 4. At AL Family Post 71, Lake Worth a job fair was being held by a local orange grove company. Madam President Linda was very busy attending to the needs of the guests. I was informed that 6 Veterans were hired that day. A very good discussion with President Linda as to how the Unit is growing. While we were at the Post a very nice group of members of local organizations came in and donated toiletries, socks and many blankets for the Veterans and the less fortunate. This AL Family is very involved in Community Projects and it shows the Community gives back. We then were off to Zephyrhills Unit 118 to meet up with the Unit President. This unit is off to a slow start with membership but things will turn around and they will get going. Thank you to AL Family of Lakeland Post 4 for the generosity shown to Art and me. We had delicious wings and many stories of what the Family does for the Community was shared. Friday night found us at Unit 72 in Mulberry. The Home Post was celebrating the 30th Anniversary of the Squadron being in the Home Post. We had a wonderful dinner and met wonderful ladies who do exciting things for the Unit. Congratulations to Squadron 72. My visitation came to an end and had to depart for a funeral for District Commander Tom Zborsky in Safety Harbor. Thank you to the entire District 7 American Family for a great time in your District.

My next adventure was to the "Mighty 16th District" with District President Dee Bell. We met up at Safety Harbor Unit 238 where members were serving a delicious breakfast brunch. All the proceeds from the brunch is being given to a military family who is on active duty. Auxiliary members of unit 238 you rock! After the brunch the memorial was held for Commander Tom Z. Thank you to the American Legion Family for showing your patriotism. We had time to

I hope everyone had a very MERRY CHRISTMAS and that everyone is healthy and safe.

Since our last Shining Beacon my travels have taken me many wonderful places and meeting such very enthused Auxiliary members. Elections were on everyone's mind and we wanted to help get people to the polls. Auxiliary members drove Veterans and neighbors to the polls and took them back to the home Post for coffee and doughnuts.

Fall Conference was a success because all of you made it enjoyable. Thank you to everyone who helped behind the scenes,(the one that got stuck under the stage we appreciate you), the Office Staff, the PDP's for having fun with us and of course the wonderful presenters. We did "Light the Way for Veterans", our communities and our Children. It was great seeing so many of you attend the Conference. If there is anything we can do to make it better please do not hesitate to call Kimberly at the office. We are open to any new ideas.

From Fall Conference I traveled to James A. Haley Veterans Hospital to participate in the Veteran's Day Parade. What a great day to share with the Veterans

THE PRESIDENT



spare so we decided to drop in on Unit 275 as they were holding their “meat raffle” with proceeds going to the nursing scholarship. It was a great time for me as I won again! Monday we were off and running as we visited with Unit 119 Largo. The Auxiliary members hosted a wonderful luncheon and much conversation. I was presented with a CD starting from my installation through my recent visit. It was a pleasure to be with the American Legion Family and felt a part of them. We visited Pinellas Hope, a project sponsored by the Catholic Church. It is a shelter for Homeless and Homeless Veterans. There are 280 tent sites for the Homeless. An apartment is furnished to the Veterans who go through the process of finding a job and trying to better themselves. Another building is being built to provide for another 80 Veterans. We visited Unit 125



Department Membership Chairman Jane Hardacre, Department President Erna Schwabe and 5th District President Annie Anderson at the Pearl Harbor celebration in Mayport.

for a beautiful luncheon and good conversation. These Units do so much for the communities and the children. We visited Thurgood Middle Fundamental School where the AL Family held an Americanism and civic class for 66 students. The folding of the flag and the meaning of the 13 folds intrigued the students. Then we visited

with Unit members at Unit 305 and had a chance to visit with Department National Security Chairman, Debbie Sviderskas. The finale of my visit was the Presidents Dinner hosted by Unit 273 and Unit 158. I thank the American Legion Family for pulling out the stops for a great evening.

On November 25th I was off to Post 252 Seminole. The Post invited me to attend the Thanksgiving Celebration for 300 Veterans from Bay Pines. We started prepping food on Wednesday peeling 200 pounds of potatoes and a total of 35 turkeys were baked and fried. It was a great day greeting the Veterans as they entered the dining hall. It was a total American Legion Family project that makes Post 252 “Light the way for Veterans”. Thank you Commander Kruse, Chef Julie and all the rest of the angels that made a great day for our Veterans. My next stop was Dunedin Post 275 for the Cub Scout breakfast. Post 275 Dunedin and Post 238 Safety Harbor sponsor the Cub Scouts so they can attend camps and enjoy their programs. These young men served the breakfast and enjoyed doing so. Thank you to the 16th District for a great time while visiting.

December 2nd found me in St. Augustine at the Clyde Lassen VA Nursing Home helping to decorate 12 Christmas trees for the Veterans to enjoy. It truly was a special day as a Veteran said he had not decorated a tree in years. He decorated the tree from his wheel chair. It was an awesome sight. Four members from the neighboring 17th District, the Auxiliary members from the 5th District came together for this special occasion. December 3rd found me in New Smyrna Beach for the 17th District VA Christmas Shopping Day for Veterans from the VA Wellness Center. Thank you Unit 17 for hosting our special guests. We had 23 Veterans present and 20 Auxiliary Volunteers and the Northern Area Squadron Commander Joe Eckenrode was present. It was a great day and what a delight to give something back to this wonderful group of Veterans. December

FROM THE PRESIDENT [Continued]

4th started my fantastic visit in the 5th District with District President Annie Anderson. I met President Annie and District Education Chairman Molly Main at Unit 316 in Atlantic Beach. Thank you to Liz Hill for preparing wonderful chicken salad croissants and chicken noodle soup for us. After the luncheon we visited the 5 Star Center for Veterans where Miss Suzy was excited about telling the history of the Center. The Center was expecting a delivery of food from the North Florida Food Exchange. They delivered 12,000 pounds of food. Many volunteers signed up to help box the food for Veterans and people that need help during the Holidays. Our next stop was Unit 137 where we met up with Unit President Barbara and several members. Hospitality was outstanding. Off to visit with Unit 197 members. We had a wonderful round table discussion about our Auxiliary programs. This AL Family is concentrating on rebuilding the Post as the American Legion Family. Hats off to you! Thank you for the beautiful cake presented to Commander Conti and me. Our next stop was Unit 88 in Jacksonville. It was such a joy to talk with the Unit members and hear what programs they are working on. The Unit presented me with a cookbook they had printed. Can't wait to start cooking from it! Friday morning bright and early we were at the Jacksonville VA Outpatient Clinic to catch up with our never stopping, always on the go, smiley Cheryl LaBarge and Sylvia Curnutte. These two ladies are an asset to the OPC. The Veterans enjoy coming for coffee and the table full of goodies these two ladies share. This



President Erna and NECA Art Schwabe spent time with "Stanaclause" in Venice

new clinic is beautiful and the Veterans say they get treated very nicely by everyone. We then visited with Unit 9 and then off to the National Cemetery for a tour with Cliff Shields. This cemetery is so well kept and respected. We had a fantastic visit and luncheon at AL Post 54 Family. As I toured the Post President Lenora explained the projects they are currently working on. As our troops are being deployed to Iraq it was noted the blankets on the cots were too small. The call went out and she had 90 plus blankets being shipped out. These members are planning on giving 20 families a Christmas they will remember. This Unit has a volunteer who ships packages to the troops and since last year to date she has shipped over 804 packages to our troops. This AL Family is helping with the postage to ship these packages. "Lighting the way for Veterans" Post 54 Family! We were off and running to visit our friends at Unit 283. I had a chance to talk with the new membership chairman and was very happy to be in the Post as she signed up new member number 25! A Silver Brigade hurrah! The home Post was so beautifully decorated and present was the lighthouse from the AEF raffle held at Fall Conference. In the back hall was a Christmas tree decorated for the Children. President Robbin and the members are shining. Thank you for making me so proud of all you do for our Auxiliary. Friday evening found us at Post 316 Atlantic Beach enjoying a wonderful steak dinner cooked by President Liz and her staff. We enjoyed good friendship and an evening of music. I had my lucky shoes on and won the 50/50 raffle which I donated to COTA. On Saturday we were scheduled to visit Unit 37 and Unit 194 in St. Augustine, but do to the fog we had to pass on it. We later visited the Clyde Lassen VA Nursing Home where the two units caught up to us. Unit 37 and 194 were delivering gifts and cookies to the Veterans. It was rewarding watching the Junior Auxiliary members be a part of this day. Our next stop was Unit 202 in Keystone Heights. As we turned into the parking lot what a site greeted me. In front of the Post home was a replica of the Sanibel Lighthouse made by Unit member Toni. I had the honor of presenting continuous membership pins to member Betty with 30 years and Charter member George who has 42 years with the Auxiliary. We were served a delicious lunch and enjoyed much conversation. Then off to Unit 250 Middleburg where



Department President Erna SCHWABE visits with Sylvia Curnette and Cheryl LaBarge at the Jacksonville VA Clinic on Dec. 5th

we had a tour of the facility and listened to members discuss what great things the Unit and AL Family are accomplishing. In the hall is a beautiful Christmas tree dedicated to all deceased members for the year. Thank you Chaplain Pat Lucas for your dedication and thoughtfulness! It was very exciting to answer questions for the Auxiliary members. This unit is making a difference for our programs. Thank you! Our evening concluded after a wonderful President's Dinner at Post 129 with dancing and a lot of fun company. We were joined by Jane Hardacre, Department Membership Chairman and her wonderful husband Bob. This President even twirled around the dance floor with Auxiliary members. We had so much fun just chatting and laughing about all the things of days past. Sunday was a beautiful day (after the fog lifted) to participate in the Pearl Harbor Celebration at Mayport NS. It was an honor to converse with a Pearl Harbor Survivor. After the Ceremony we were invited back to the fleet reserve for a very nice luncheon. We ended the afternoon with the 5th District Meeting. This was a very informative meeting and the Unit President's and District Chairman gave their reports. Wow, what awesome work is being done in the 5th District! My hat is off to all of you and thank you for your continued work and putting our Auxiliary first. Thank you District President Annie Anderson, Molly Main (for being my personal aide), Toni Conti Past 4th District President (for being my personal photographer) District Commander Tom Gora, Vice Commander Emory Austin and the entire 5th District

for making me feel so welcome and at home. I love your open door policy and I will be back to visit and catch up on things we did not have time to do.

My New Years wish for all of you is to be healthy and safe. Remember to say kind words to each other and continue to make a difference in someone's life. I thank you for supporting our COTA Charity and being a "Miracle Maker" for a Florida Child by sending your donations to Department. I wish continued success to everyone in your in 2015 year.

HAPPY NEW YEAR TO EVERYONE.

President Erna

LIGHTHOUSE TRIVIA



Trivia Question #5

What lighthouse was moved to Ameila Island in 1839??

The answer to Trivia #3:

St. Augustine Lighthouse established in 1737

The winner:

No Winner

From The Secretary



Kimberly Sullivan



Happy New Year everyone! Although it was nice to have a holiday break, I'm excited to be back in the office!

Girls State. Remember registration closes on February 1st, so get your requests in soon. We are holding a few requests because they asked for more spots than their current membership allows. Each week I review these, and as Units hit their membership numbers, the forms go out. Remember the Girls' applications are now online! Following the regular registration, after February 1st, we will begin to fill over quota requests.

Constitutional Conference. Thank you to Districts 5, 6, 12, 14 and 17 for sharing your conference dates and locations. All other Districts please complete the form and send them to me no later than February 1.

Corporate Renewals. Corporate renewals are due beginning January 1 through May 2015. As soon as you file your renewal with the state, you must mail a copy of your report to Department for the Unit records.

2016 Dues. In the next few weeks, each Unit will receive the form to report the correct dues amount for 2016 along with verifying the Unit's mailing address.

General Membership. Please do not staple your checks to recaps. Removing the staple sometimes damages

the check and makes it difficult to go through the bank scanner.

State Convention. Don't forget to make your reservations as soon as possible. I've heard that there are only limited rooms available. The American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida will host their Annual 97th Department Convention at the Renaissance Orlando at SeaWorld.

The address of the Renaissance is 6677 Sea Harbor Drive, Orlando, 32821.

Call 1-800-327-6677 or local at 407-351-5555 to make your reservations in advance and be sure to mention the Auxiliary!

Kimberly Sullivan



Calendar

EVENT	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
WWII Veterans Luncheon	Jan 3 at 11am	Post 7 Clearwater
National President's Florida visit	Jan 15-18	
SW Area Ball	Jan 24, 2015	Post 103 Punta Gorda
Girls State Unit Application Deadline	Feb 1, 2015	
Southern Area Ball	Feb 7, 2015	Post 142 Pompano Beach
Town & Country 2nd Annual Golf Tourn.	Feb 21 at 8am	Silver Dollar Golf Course
Central Area Family Hawaii Ball	Feb 28 at 4pm	Post 8
Constitutional Conferences		
• District 14	May 1 at 9am	Palmetto Bay
• District 6	May 16 at 9am	Post 80, St. Cloud
• District 17	June 7 at 3:30pm	Post 6, Deland
• District 5	June 7 at 8am	Post 137
Convention	June 25-28	Renaissance at SeaWorld
Girls State	July 9-17	FSU, Tallahassee

**Central Area Family
1st Hawaii Ball**

**Location:
American Legion Post 8**

February 28, 2015



Lois Stachelrodt
Department of Florida Chaplain

Chap

As the Christmas Season begins, may we never forget those who have sacrificed their lives for the freedoms that we enjoy. The Veterans and their families are forever engraved in our hearts and minds and we pray that the Lord will wrap his loving arms around all of them forever. May we all cherish our Memories of those who have decided to journey home and remember that they are never very far from us. May everyone have a Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukah!



Clain's Corner

District 1

Unit 303 Brazile, Annie

District 3

Unit 57 Alford, Catherine

District 4

Unit 284 Lightfoot, Margaret
Walter, June

District 5

Unit 129 Blalock, Ethel
Britt, Maydell
Cunniff, Catherine
Keer, Dorothy
Rosenberger, Pamela
Sanders, Marilyn
Taylor, Marie

District 6

Unit 10 Derus, Mary
Ludwig, Florence
Stevens, Catherine
Yates, Lucille

District 8

Unit 24 Hubbard, Fran
Unit 25 Sweda, Gypsy
Unit 30 Richardson, Shirley

District 9

Unit 142 Bean, Catherine L

District 12

Unit 81 Smith, Leeona
Unit 117 Tillotson, Donna
Unit 163 Cart, V. Lucille
Farlett, Bette
Unit 348 Strickland, Layne

District 13

Unit 38 Fruauff, Charlotte
Unit 110 Ballaro, Patricia
Frank, Barbara
Unit 130 Brown, Janice (Dolly)
Unit 135 Rabbito, Mary
Unit 192 McClain, Angela
Unit 303 Cross, Marjorie L.
Fernald, Donna
Keefer, Shirley

District 14

Unit 154 Alby, Marianne

District 15

Unit 26 Carton, Helen
Unit 148 Calvert, Edith K.
Kunerth, Lucinda
Smith, Dolores
Unit 186 Barth, Angie
Gleek, Madaline
Hubbard, Edna

District 16

Unit 79 Ecklund, Dorothy
Unit 125 Berretta, Olivia
Porcelli, Elizabeth
Unit 158 Tate, Louise
Unit 273 Ozias-Newman, Norma
Unit 335 DeFluiter, Mishael
Whitmore, Marion

District 17

Unit 285 Mae, Linda

PLANNING A POWERFUL POW/MIA REMEMBRANCE SERVICE

LET US NEVER FORGET

Today, there are still more than 83,000 American troops missing in action, according to the Department of Defense Prisoner of War-Missing Personnel Office. That includes some 73,681 from World War II; 7,947 from the Korean War; 126 during the Cold War; 1,657 from the Vietnam War; and six from Iraq and other conflicts. The American Legion Family is dedicated to ensuring that America's POW/MIAs be honored and recognized, not just memorialized. Legion efforts focus on the need to account as fully as possible for those still missing, alive or dead. An important way all Legion Family members create awareness and remembrance for this initiative is through conducting POW/MIA remembrance services at unit meetings and public events. Strong, united support by all Legion Family members is crucial to bringing all of our heroes home.

GET READY: PLANNING AND PREPARATION

Preparations for an event this solemn and sacred should not be left to chance or until the last minute, as every detail in this ceremony is important and symbolic.

The best way to prepare for a successful POW/MIA remembrance ceremony is to do your homework.

In a remembrance service, the script is traditionally read by just one person — an American Legion Auxiliary member (usually the chaplain) or a Legionnaire, and the table is set before the meeting begins. The entire remembrance service, once presented, typically lasts 15 minutes.

SET: GATHER SYMBOLIC ITEMS

A ceremony is appropriate at a more formal event and involves a longer script and up to five participants who prepare the table as the script is read. In a remembrance service, the script is traditionally read by just one person, and the table is set before the meeting begins.

The typical items required for a remembrance service:

- small table covered with a white tablecloth
- plate, fork, knife, spoon, and napkin set up on the table
- glass (inverted)
- chair placed at plate setting
- vase with a single rose in it and a red ribbon tied onto the vase
- slice of lemon on the plate and salt sprinkled onto the plate
- white candle in a holder, lit at the beginning of the ceremony
- POW/MIA flag draped over another chair in front of table
- American flag on the table



More table settings and symbolic items are used in a remembrance ceremony, as this ritual typically honors all five branches of the armed forces.

For more information about POW/MIA Remembrance Service and understanding the symbols go to www.alafl.org.

Source: American Legion Auxiliary National Headquarters www.alaforveterans.org.



**Town & Country Memorial
Unit 152
American Legion Auxiliary
2nd Annual Golf Tournament**



**To Benefit Children's Organ Transplant Association
"COTA"**



When: Saturday February 21, 2015

Where: Silver Dollar Golf Course

Time: 8:00 am Shotgun Start

2 Person Scramble

Registration At 7:00 am



**\$50.00 Includes Green Fees, Cart, Door Prize Ticket &
Lunch at Post 152 After Golf,**

Auxiliary Contact: Mary Kehoe 325-428-1649

Legion Contact: Bob Lair 813-470-0823



Department President Schwabe and Department Commander Jay Conti with a Pearl Harbor survivor on the USS Taylor remembering December 7.



Jay Conti and Erna Schwabe pose with this beautiful Sanibel Lighthouse that was built by Toni of Unit 202.



Enjoying friends at Post 202 in Keystone Heights on December 6.



Department President and Commander visit Clyde Lassen VA Nursing Home on December tour with Unit Members from Units 37 and 194.



Department President Schwabe with active duty military at the 5 Star Center for Veterans. 12,000 pounds of food was delivered to the Center to provide food for those less fortunate.

A THE AMERICAN LEGION MILY



Department President Erna Schwabe along with ALA members from the 5th and 17th Districts decorated trees at the Clyde Lassen VA Nursing Home on December 2nd



President Schwabe at Post 71



Department President Erna Schwabe and 7th District President Jo Snyder enjoying the celebration of Squadron 72 Mulberry's 30th anniversary.



Department President Erna Schwabe and 19 ALA members treated 23 Veterans to a Christmas Shopping Day at AL Post 17 New Smyrna Beach on December 3.



Department President Schwabe thanking Post 252 Post Commander Ray Kruse for a job well done in serving Thanksgiving dinner to the Bay Pines Veterans

FROM THE UNITS

American Legion Auxiliary of Florida

UNIT 286 - Pine Castle

As members of the American Legion Auxiliary, we are grateful for our United States veterans. For generations, men and women in this country have been willing to risk their lives to defend our nation. It is these individuals- American's veterans- who we honor. On Nov. 10 at 10 am, 14 members of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 286 Pine Castle, FL visited and honored 19 Veterans at the Terra Vista Rehabilitation And Medical Center, Orlando, FL. These Veterans are not forgotten. we gave each of the veterans a full Honor Guard salute, Certificate of appreciation and gifts bags to thank them for their service.

We submitted another grant application to one of the local Rotary Clubs to help support our Auxiliary programs. Wish us luck that our application will be approved for 2015. The grant we received for 2014 allowed us to expand our Reading Rockets and Halloween coloring book projects to Aloma Elementary in addition to Cheney and Eastbrook.

Our School Supply Drive is coming to a close for our January distribution. We will be stuffing backpacks that will be delivered to our three elementary schools when schools start again in January during our

December meeting so if you have not yet brought your school supplies donation, please remember to support Children and Youth efforts and bring your donation to the December meetings.



President Schwabe with 30 year member Betty and 42 year member George. Miss George is a charter member and is still caring for the Unit at 90 plus years of age.



Madam president Schwabe enjoying fun times with Unit 275 President Lyn Felice.

UNIT 125 - Gulfport



Unit 125 -Lisa Russell, Erna Schwabe and Liz Close

Unit 125 was honored by a visit to our Post by Department President Erna Schwabe along with her husband, Art, and District President, Dee Bell and her husband John. A visit was arranged by Lisa Russell, Education chairman and President of Thurgood Marshall Middle School during Education Week to the school with lunch following at the Post. The color guard and Shirley Dibucci, Unit Treasurer, brought an Americanism program to the students teaching them about the folding of the American flag along with information about government and city programs. The question and answer period was terrific. When asked how many kids had a relative either who served or is serving in the military at this time, more than half the room raised their hands. The warm clothing drive by the Junior Auxiliary just concluded. There were many activities held in December - Christmas trees have been delivered to the needy families in the neighborhood by the Legion Family. Auxiliary Christmas Party was great, Children's Christmas Party with a special visit everyone had fun, Auxiliary bake sale, Christmas Light Tour and New Years Eve Spectacular along with our scheduled activities - Steakums, Bingo, live entertainment by the Southern Knight band, and the Friday and Saturday dinners went on successfully..

Andy Anderson

UNIT 323 - Lehigh Acres

As part of the annual celebration of Veteran's Day, Unit 323 President Vickie Leventhal, District 13 Commander Andy Burkett and District 13 President Jackie Moody participated in a parade of cars and motorcycles, including Chapter 323 of the American Legion Riders, hosted by the City of Fort Myers and co-sponsored by Ft Myers American Legion Post 38.

Upon returning to the Post home, Unit President Leventhal took part in an additional processional which led to a local elementary school, the Veteran's Academy in Lehigh Acres. The processional was quite a sight, including many of the ALR bikes displaying the Stars and Stripes, the ALR standard and flags from each branch of our armed forces.



Veterans Day 2014.

Each year, this school puts on a wonderful display of thanks to all Veterans for their service and this year was no exception. The children participated in skits, concerts, flag displays all with a theme of thanks and showing a true understanding of the meaning of our Veterans' willingness to sacrifice for our freedoms. Handshakes and hugs were freely given by the students and welcomed by our entire American Legion Family, especially those who served in our military. While at the school, President Leventhal and the entire Post entourage distributed poppies, Veteran's coloring books and US Flags to the children. All were well received.

[Continued]

From The UNITS [Continued]

Back at the Post home, our annual display – affectionately referred to as Lehigh’s Flanders Field - was overwhelming. Each year, our members and leadership create a miniature tribute to honor all Veterans. The display includes decorating the front yard of the Post home with poppies, silhouette cutouts, Crosses and a Star of David to commemorate the sacrifice of our brave WWI veterans who gave all to keep us free. This year, as has been our recent tradition, we took additional poppy donations if members or their friends and families wished to tag a poppy with the name of a loved one; many did so, which helped to further beautify and add meaning to our Flanders Field display.

Of course, these events were in addition to our regular poppy offerings at local retail stores. This year, we staffed poppy tables at a local Winn Dixie and a small privately owned market. The owner of Jack’s Market was enthusiastic in his support and was a tremendous help in obtaining donations for this worthy cause.

Our Veteran’s day celebration ended at the Post home with a back yard cookout for our local homeless veterans who were not only served a hot meal and treated with respect, but were presented ‘freedom bracelets’ by our Unit President as a show of thanks for their service.



Our flags are dearly cared for.



Honoring our local homeless Veterans.



Poppy display at Winn- Dixie.

Emergency Fund

As promised here is the information about the Basket Raffle. With all of your help we are truly shining a light for our sisters. In order of the tickets sold:

16 - 1158	17 - 382	1 - 234
9 - 816	13 - 305	7 - 216
6 - 766	11 - 268	3 - 213
5 - 639	2 - 256	15 - 176

Total of tickets sold was 5429, for a total of \$2,703.00 raised for AEF. Congratulations District 16 you should be very proud. Thank you everyone for everything you did and continue to do to help the program.

Hope you all have a wonderful Holiday Season.

Yours in Service,
Robin Combs
Department AEF Chairman

GIVING HOPE

You can give hope to a COTA family.
Raise funds to give hope to a family in your area.
Make a gift to make a miracle for a child.
Plan an activity to raise funds and awareness.

Become a Miracle Maker today.
Go to www.cota.org to learn more about COTA and how you can help.

MAKING MIRACLES

Join Legion Posts, SAL Squadrons, Auxiliary Units and Rider Chapters across the country as they raise funds for COTA to help a family in their area.



**Children's Organ
Transplant Association.**

www.cota.org
800.366.2682 doug@cota.org

Please support Department of Florida American Legion Auxiliary President Erna Schwabe's *Caring for COTA Kids* project. All funds raised will stay within the Sunshine State to help COTA families in need.



Girls Just Want to Have Fun!

The 2014 session of Florida Girls State was held in June. Tallahassee was home-away-from-home for 300 delegates plus about 40 staff members. Just days after the program finished, planning began for 2015.

In September, Nancy Anderson, Irma Wehrli and I attended the National Leadership Conference. By 4:30 on Friday afternoon, our heads were spinning with everything we were learning. Nancy and I were still talking about the Conference on the ride to the airport.

Personally, I learned so much! It was comforting to know other states have similar issues even though our programs are very different. Florida is the only program that spends three days at the state Capitol. Everyone at the conference was so willing to share information, and the 2015 session will include tips learned.

2014 Fall Conference included two Girls State workshops. We discussed staff duties and accepted applications. Attendees learned about the day-to-day schedule of the session. Some of the actual costs of the 2014 session were shared: housing was \$42,000.00, and food \$50,000.00. Delegates to Girls State do not leave the dorm without the troopers, and FL Girls State is very fortunate that the FL Dept. of Highway Safety supplies five female troopers for the session at no charge.

Theresa Briggs
Girls State, Director

Education

This is the time of year for giving – so why not have another school supply drive? Children and teachers alike need supplies all year long, not just at the beginning of the school year. Also start thinking about scholarships. There are numerous scholarships available. Units should be getting the word out to the local schools, and if possible put info in the local papers. Continue working on getting “Veterans in the Classroom”. Did you participate in American Education Week?

Let’s make this Department “Shine” for Education this year. Remember to keep all your information for the Year-End Report.

Wishing everyone a very Happy Holiday Season. ,

Yours in Service,
Pat Devine
Education Chairman

2015 Southern Area Ball

Esteemed Legion Family Members,

Once again it is time to prepare for Southern Area Ball which will be held at:
American Legion Post 142, 171 American Legion Blvd., Pompano Beach on February 7th 2015

The tickets for the ball will be \$20.00 per person with a sit down dinner of Pork medallion with fresh mushroom sauce, steamed beans, roasted potatoes, salad and dessert. Cash bar will be from 6-7p.m. with dinner at 7p.m. Ticket sales will be limited to 100 and must RSVP NLT February 1st 2015. When we receive payment only then will you be reserved. So try to get them in ASAP.

This will be a Semi-Formal dinner and a coat and tie will be required. As you know the Area solicits ads for a program journal for the ball from the various posts and businesses to help defray the cost of the ball.

The prices for the ads are as follows:

Full Page.....\$40.00
1/2 Page.....\$25.00

Please enclose a copy of your ad from last year or a printed one of which you want in the journal and a check made out to The American Legion, Ninth District.

Cut-off date for all ads is February 1st 2015, so that the journal may be made ready for the printer in time for the ball.

Please mail all checks made payable to The American Legion 9th District, and mailed to:

2133 NW 208 Terrace
Pembroke Pines FL 33029-2320
Put in the remarks for the Southern Area Ball

The Southern Area hopes your post sees its way clear to support the ball journal, and looking forward to seeing you at the ball, as all the money I earn this year will go to Children and Youth programs. All ads should be emailed to joemotes@aol.com and rickjtkank@hotmail.com to ensure we both have a copy of it.

This year we have a great pleasure of having our Southeastern National Vice Commander attending our ball. Richard Neville from Clayton, North Carolina. So come by and greet him at the ball. He will be in the Southern Area from February 4th-8th 2015.

Hotel information as the cheapest I have found for the dates are LaQunita Inn 5727 N. Federal Hwy Ft. Lauderdale Fl 33308 954-491-2500. If you click on the government rate, it ranges from \$105.00-\$118.00 per night. There is a Hampton Inn on Cypress Creek road but the cheapest rates I have found was \$169.00 per night.

I remain, For God and Country,

William Rick Johnson
Southern Area Commander

Membership



Jane Hardacre

Happy New Year! I hope this finds you all in good health and happiness. The membership lighthouse is getting brighter each week. Keep up the good work. Now is the time to renew those members who waited until the end of the year! Here are a few suggestions:

- Form a committee to phone members who have not renewed
- When members come in to get a new door key, have the cards on hand so they can renew
- Mail out dues reminder cards, found on the Department website under the Membership program

Florida, we can do this! Shining our light can only strengthen our resolve to support our veterans and their families.

National forwarded a letter regarding Recruit 1 buttons that were given in October. The following members received one. Way to go ladies! Please refer to your Plan of Action for details regarding these pins.

Unit 120 – Autumn Agens
Unit 120 – Janet Gartrell
Unit 120 – Alice Perkins
Unit 120 – Shirley Rhodney
Unit 120 – Erna Schwabe

Unit 120 – Sandra Burgess
Unit 120 – Carolyn Wood
Unit 120 – Janie Rocke
Unit 120 – Kathy Yodis
Unit 142 – Bonnie Hatt

The 13th District was shining brightly on November 15th when the held a membership drive on November 15th @ Post 299 in Moore Haven. The Legion gained 5 new members and they received 10 members to start a Charter for the Auxiliary!

Shining by example, Department of Florida staff members Kimberly, Patty and Luthenia volunteered to call Unit members for renewals. Please thank them for their hard work.

We are here to help you in any way reach your goals. Please contact us for any assistance. I know we can reach our goals for Department President Erna Schwabe!

For God and Country,
Jane Hardacre



To the Units



I want to start out by thanking you for all of your hard work and dedication to this wonderful organization. Without our members, Florida would not be able to meet the needs of our veterans and their families.

Florida's membership goal of 38,775 is a lofty one but we can rise to the occasion!! Our light will be the brightest at National. We will light the way for our veterans for years to come. We need to keep looking out for lost sisters who have not renewed or rejoined. Utilize the survey on the Department website. Mail it out to your members who have not renewed in order for them to respond. This will let them know we care, and give them an opportunity to tell you what is happening in their lives. They may be hurting financially or just feeling left out.

Other helpful tools can be newsletter postings, social media, newspaper articles and an old fashioned phone call. Please call your District Membership Chairman or myself to share the work load. We are committed to your success.

You are all "One in a Million" and I want to help you SHINE. Please keep the light on for our veterans. They deserve that, and more, from us.

For God and Country,
Jane Hardacre
Membership Chairman
Department of Florida

PROJECT: VETRELIEF

SUPPORTED BY THE AMERICAN LEGION, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA



The Future of The American Legion is Here Today!

The American Legion, Department of Florida is proud to announce the launch of our newest initiative, PROJECT: VetRelief.

PROJECT: VetRelief (formerly Project: HOMEFRONT) ensures that our service members and their families have the backing necessary to live successful and thriving civilian lives. This is accomplished through three specific areas of service: assisting during times of immediate need, working to secure benefits earned with service, and providing encouragement through mentorship.

All services are provided to active duty military, our veterans, and their families at no cost, therefore we rely heavily on the generosity of leaders in our community - leaders just like you!

With you help, PROJECT: VetRelief will be able to engage more volunteers, conduct community outreach, implement new programs, and, most importantly, provide much needed emergency assistance and benefits support to more of our service members and their families across the state.

To learn more information about PROJECT: VetRelief, visit our website:

www.ProjectVetRelief.org

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District 1

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0075	Crestview	183	100	54.64%
0078	Milton	38	23	60.53%
0121	Jay	15	0	0.00%
0193	Pensacola	112	70	62.50%
0221	Niceville	64	47	73.44%
0235	Ft Walton Bch	188	112	59.57%
0240	Pensacola	265	128	48.30%
0296	Destin	65	13	20.00%
0340	Pensacola	310	167	53.87%
0356	Lynn Haven	186	120	64.52%
0375	Southport	93	20	21.51%
0378	Gulf Breeze	11	0	0.00%
0382	Navarre	142	43	30.28%
0392	Panama City	177	97	54.80%
Total		1849	940	50.84%

District 4

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0016	Gainesville	71	50	70.42%
0027	Ocala	35	31	88.57%
0056	Starke	18	11	61.11%
0058	Dunnellon	48	40	83.33%
0077	Inverness	54	26	48.15%
0091	Trenton	18	8	44.44%
0149	Newberry	26	13	50.00%
0155	Crystal River	314	202	64.33%
0210	Ocala	17	10	58.82%
0225	Floral City	19	2	10.53%
0230	Hawthorne	47	38	80.85%
0236	Bronson	18	19	105.56%
0237	Beverly Hills	104	77	74.04%
0284	Bellevue	162	73	45.06%
0314	Starke	18	13	72.22%
Total		969	613	63.26%

District 2

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0013	Tallahassee	91	74	81.32%
0082	Lanark	95	63	66.32%
0084	Havana	30	15	50.00%
0100	Marianna	66	38	57.58%
0114	Crawfordville	32	2	6.25%
0172	Telogia	16	0	0.00%
0217	Quincy	57	45	78.95%
0241	Sneads	71	52	73.24%
0272	Blountstown	14	0	0.00%
Total		472	289	61.23%

District 5

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0009	Jacksonville	34	14	41.18%
0037	Saint Augustine	109	71	65.14%
0054	Fernandina Beach	239	139	58.16%
0088	Jacksonville	137	79	57.66%
0129	Jacksonville Beach	299	169	56.52%
0137	Jacksonville	590	339	57.46%
0174	Jacksonville	15	0	0.00%
0194	St Augustine	34	17	50.00%
0197	Jacksonville	37	25	67.57%
0202	Keystone Heights	80	45	56.25%
0233	Ponte Vedra Beach	161	113	70.19%
0244	Jacksonville	53	42	79.25%
0250	Middleburg	331	184	55.59%
0283	Jacksonville	319	216	67.71%
0316	Atlantic Beach	417	222	53.24%
0373	Orange Park	30	30	100.00%
0401	Hilliard	33	14	42.42%
Total		2918	1719	58.91%

District 3

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0049	Monticello	24	13	54.17%
0057	Lake City	297	190	63.97%
0107	Live Oak	40	26	65.00%
0131	Greenville	36	20	55.56%
0215	Jasper	47	26	55.32%
0224	Madison	43	11	25.58%
0291	Steinhatchee	165	103	62.42%
0383	Old Town	147	92	62.59%
Total		799	481	60.20%

District 6

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0010	Kissimmee	270	167	61.85%
0019	Orlando	172	109	63.37%
0021	Umatilla	27	9	33.33%
0035	Mount Dora	91	22	24.18%
0041	Eustis	19	13	68.42%
0052	Leesburg	35	28	80.00%
0053	Sanford	160	90	56.25%
0055	Clermont	160	105	65.63%
0063	Winter Garden	18	25	138.89%
0076	Tavares	17	11	64.71%
0080	Saint Cloud	322	193	59.94%
0101	Bushnell	139	93	66.91%
0109	Ocoee	40	1	2.50%
0112	Winter Park	22	19	86.36%
0183	Fern Park	159	97	61.01%
0219	Fruitland Park	244	170	69.67%
0242	Orlando	174	89	51.15%
0286	Orlando	302	204	67.55%
0330	Leesburg	58	49	84.48%
0331	Orlando	12	0	0.00%
0347	Lady Lake	1265	1032	81.58%
0357	Clearmont	0	17	#NUM!
Total		3706	2543	68.62%

District 7

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0003	Bartow	80	61	76.25%
0004	Lakeland	118	63	53.39%
0008	Winter Haven	632	24	3.80%
0034	Haines City	75	41	54.67%
0071	Lake Wales	60	65	108.33%
0072	Mulberry	172	81	47.09%
0118	Zephyrhills	36	2	5.56%
0201	Florence Villa	41	39	95.12%
0339	Nalcrest	43	14	32.56%
Total		1257	390	31.03%

District 8

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0011	Arcadia	20	11	55.00%
0024	Bradenton	468	273	58.33%
0025	Lake Placid	389	232	59.64%
0030	Sarasota	76	45	59.21%
0069	Avon Park	372	277	74.46%
0074	Sebring	105	51	48.57%
0113	Rotonda West	421	267	63.42%
0159	Venice	760	518	68.16%
0254	North Port	91	51	56.04%
0266	Sarasota	106	58	54.72%
0309	Palmetto	235	161	68.51%
0312	Oneco	235	104	44.26%
0325	Ellenton	63	46	73.02%
Total		3341	2094	62.68%

District 9

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0036	Ft Lauderdale	92	57	61.96%
0092	Hollywood	127	78	61.42%
0142	Pompano Beach	294	202	68.71%
0157	Margate	383	188	49.09%
0162	Deerfield Beach	306	199	65.03%
0180	Fort Lauderdale	109	84	77.06%
0209	Dania Beach	19	8	42.11%
0220	Ft Lauderdale	19	17	89.47%
0222	Fort Lauderdale	75	47	62.67%
0287	Deerfield Beach	29	14	48.28%
0304	Dania	203	130	64.04%
0310	Hallandale	37	17	45.95%
0321	Cooper City	112	98	87.50%
Total		1805	1139	63.10%

District 11

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0020	Belle Glade	71	28	39.44%
0047	Lake Worth	138	97	70.29%
0062	Stuart	139	114	82.01%
0064	Okeechobee	133	98	73.68%
0065	Delray Beach	53	32	60.38%
0141	West Palm Beach	93	61	65.59%
0164	Boynton Beach	176	87	49.43%
0188	West Palm Beach	16	10	62.50%
0199	Riviera Beach	30	38	126.67%
0258	Greenacres	29	20	68.97%
0268	Lake Park	112	62	55.36%
0269	Lantana	11	2	18.18%
0271	Tequesta	192	151	78.65%
0277	Boca Raton	118	72	61.02%
0288	Boynton Beach	67	55	82.09%
0367	Royal Palm Beach	46	37	80.43%
0399	Palm City	16	14	87.50%
Total		1440	978	67.92%

District 12

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0001	Titusville	323	219	67.80%
0022	Cocoa	93	72	77.42%
0039	Vero Beach	190	129	67.89%
0040	Fort Pierce	197	95	48.22%
0081	Melbourne	143	93	65.03%
0117	Palm Bay	419	250	59.67%
0126	Jensen Beach	195	138	70.77%
0163	Melbourne	392	283	72.19%
0171	Fort Pierce	39	0	0.00%
0177	Cocoa	10	0	0.00%
0189	Sebastian	95	18	18.95%
0191	Melbourne	148	58	39.19%
0200	Satellite Beach	111	73	65.77%
0318	Port St Lucie	521	408	78.31%
0332	Merritt Island	29	6	20.69%
0348	Cape Canaveral	144	103	71.53%
0358	White City	51	25	49.02%
0359	Port St John	272	149	54.78%
0366	Roseland	88	63	71.59%
0394	Palm Bay	61	37	60.66%
Total		3521	2219	63.02%

District 13

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0038	Fort Myers	98	51	52.04%
0090	Cape Coral	195	91	46.67%
0103	Punta Gorda	339	217	64.01%
0110	Port Charlotte	565	358	63.36%
0123	Sanibel	97	36	37.11%
0130	Labelle	183	100	54.64%
0135	Naples	422	228	54.03%
0136	Saint James City	476	294	61.76%
0192	Fort Myers	26	17	65.38%
0274	Fort Myers Beach	596	394	66.11%
0303	Bonita Springs	407	277	68.06%
0323	Lehigh Acres	505	359	71.09%
0336	N Ft Myers	289	211	73.01%
0351	Fort Myers	87	46	52.87%
Total		4285	2679	62.52%

District 14

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0028	Key West	82	52	63.41%
0029	Miami	23	3	13.04%
0031	South Miami	153	112	73.20%
0043	Homestead	67	34	50.75%
0067	North Miami	75	39	52.00%
0098	Coral Gables	25	1	4.00%
0133	Miami	81	47	58.02%
0154	Marathon	167	95	56.89%
0168	Key West	27	14	51.85%
0333	Key Largo	86	49	56.98%
0346	Miami	26	18	69.23%
0374	Key Biscayne	75	40	53.33%
Total		887	504	56.82%

District 15

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0005	Tampa	45	34	75.56%
0026	Plant City	34	14	41.18%
0099	Brooksville	40	22	55.00%
0111	Tampa	49	32	65.31%
0138	Tampa	392	279	71.17%
0139	Tampa	183	117	63.93%
0147	Odessa	40	28	70.00%
0148	Riverview	249	140	56.22%
0152	Tampa	319	208	65.20%
0167	Tampa	33	26	78.79%
0186	Spring Hill	416	256	61.54%
0248	West Tampa	23	25	108.70%
0334	Tampa	41	28	68.29%
0389	Ruskin	26	7	26.92%
Total		1890	1216	64.34%

District 16

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0007	Clearwater	392	256	65.31%
0014	St Petersburg	164	102	62.20%
0079	New Port Richey	340	216	63.53%
0104	Pinellas Park	245	140	57.14%
0119	Largo	383	233	60.84%
0125	Gulfport	392	250	63.78%
0158	Treasure Island	183	112	61.20%
0173	Holiday	277	197	71.12%
0238	Safety Harbor	294	160	54.42%
0252	Seminole	726	566	77.96%
0273	Seminole	2331	1365	58.56%
0275	Dunedin	390	270	69.23%
0305	St Pete Beach	189	102	53.97%
0335	Hudson	235	131	55.74%
Total		6541	4100	62.68%

District 17

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0006	Deland	145	93	64.14%
0017	New Smyrna Beach	316	181	57.28%
0045	Palatka	32	14	43.75%
0115	Palm Coast	61	43	70.49%
0120	Holly Hill	266	189	71.05%
0127	Lake Helen	25	17	68.00%
0204	Daytona Beach	45	32	71.11%
0255	Deltona	34	18	52.94%
0259	Debary	35	27	77.14%
0267	Ormond Beach	134	109	81.34%
0270	Port Orange	162	93	57.41%
0285	Edgewater	221	116	52.49%
0293	Interlachen	80	31	38.75%
0361	S Daytona	188	105	55.85%
Total		1744	1068	61.24%

Department

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0400	Orlando	432	173	40.05%
Total		432	173	40.05%
Dept Total		37856	23145	61.14%



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