



The Shining Beacon

November 2014 Vol.V Issue 4

**Post 6 Renamed to
Honor Fallen Hero**

From the Units

The Poppy Issue



In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.
We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn,
saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.
Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.*

by Col. John McCrae

For more information of the American Legion Auxiliary's Poppy Program visit www.ALAFL.org



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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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FROM THE



Erna Schwabe

I hope you are enjoying our beautiful fall weather and enjoying good health. As I travel to different Districts I am so proud of what I hear about the American Legion Family supporting Veterans, Communities and our Children Programs.

I thank all Department Officers for attending Schools of Instruction. We have nothing but good reports and Auxiliary members are eager to "Pass it On". We are very proud of our District Presidents as they are willing to share information and keep "lighting the way for Veterans". Now is the time to promote our programs with the Holiday's approaching. Start planning for Nursing Home parties for the Veterans, children's parties at your home Post and this is the time to help the less fortunate. As Veterans Day approaches please take the time to "thank a veteran" and reflect upon the sacrifices they made to give us our freedoms.

I attended the Stand Down at Post 111 in Tampa. What a great turn out of volunteers from the American Legion family and other VSO. The Veterans were so appreciative of the help they received. Table and tables full of donated items for the Veterans. The Legion post teamed up with the VA to make this possible for the Veterans. The Veterans were served a light breakfast upon arrival and hot dogs and hamburgers before they departed. I thank all the organizations that participated and the help they gave to the Veterans. Many stand downs are being held throughout our great state and I applaud all auxiliary members for your participation.

The 12th District picnic at Wickham Park had a huge turnout of American Legion Family members. This picnic was to raise funds for Girls State/Boy State Transportation. I thank the members of this District for their compassion to Art and I after the break in of the Department vehicle. Please be aware of your surroundings and before leaving your car check to make sure everything looks normal. If not please drive away. Onto the fifth



THE PRESIDENT



district Picnic with Commander Tom Gora and President Annie Anderson. It was a beautiful day and able to catch up with a lot of members to chat. The District had a lot of fun raising money for the Cancer Society. I was so proud of the Junior Auxiliary Members as they painted fingernails pink in this honor. Even NECA Art supported the pink nails. Hats off to the Junior Auxiliary members of unit 137!

On October 5th we attended the Re-Dedication of Deland Post 6. The new name for the Post is: Adam D. Quinn Post 6 Deland. The post is now named after Sergeant Adam D. Quinn who is the hometown hero from Deland. Sergeant Quinn was killed on October 6, 2007 fighting the War on Terrorism. Thank you to the Department Auxiliary Officers (Lois, Gail, TK, Kelli, and Pearl) for attending. There were about 400 people in attendance. Thank you to the Legion Rider Chapters for the escort to the cemetery for the celebration of life for Sergeant Quinn. (There are pictures of me riding on the bike with Rider Bernie Wildrick). Thank you Adam D. Quinn Post 6 for your hospitality and a very rewarding afternoon.

I will be heading into the 2nd District for my visitation and will report later on my visit.

If you would like me to attend any events in your District please send me an e-mail and if my schedule is open, I would be happy to attend. Also go to our website and click on Department Officers and under my picture is my schedule. Sometimes my schedule has to be adjusted but will have that posted also.

I will be in Dunedin Home Post 275 attending the COTA Charity Golf Tournament. All proceeds will go to our COTA program. Please stop by the Golf Course (if you are in the area) and meet T.J. Guerrero and his lemonade stand. I thank the units that are making donations to COTA. You are helping "Make a Miracle" for a child in need.

Looking forward to seeing you at Fall Conference in Orlando, November 7-9! You do not need to register for the Conference. Bring as many members as you would like. The Call to Conference has been mailed and if you did not get a copy please go to alafl.org and it is posted.

"Lighting the way for Veterans".

President Erna



LIGHTHOUSE TRIVIA



TRIVIA QUESTION #3:

Where is the oldest established lighthouse located?

The answer to Trivia #1:
Ponce de Leon inlet.

The winner:
Sally Poholik



From The Secretary Kimberly Sullivan



(source: alaforveterans.org)

From the battlefields of World War I, weary soldiers brought home the memory of a barren landscape transformed by wild poppies, red as the blood that had soaked the soil. By that miracle of nature, the spirit of their lost comrades lived on.

The poppy became a symbol of the sacrifice of lives in war and represented the hope that none had died in vain. The American Legion Auxiliary poppy has continued to bloom for the casualties of four wars, its petals of paper bound together for veterans by veterans, reminding America each year that the men and women who have served and died for their country deserve to be remembered.

The poppy, as a memorial flower to the war dead, can be traced to a single individual, Moina Michael. She was so moved by Lt. Col. McCrae's poem, "In Flanders Fields," that she wrote a response:

"... the blood of heroes never dies
But lends a luster to the red
Of the flower that blooms above the dead
In Flanders' Fields."

The P

On impulse, she bought a bouquet of poppies – all that New York City's Wanamaker's Department Store had – and handed them to businessmen meeting at the New York YMCA where she worked. She asked them to wear the poppy as a tribute to the fallen. That was November 1918. World War I was over, but America's sons would rest forever "in Flanders' Fields." Later she would spearhead a campaign that would result in the adoption of the poppy as the national symbol of sacrifice.

Thank you to those Florida Units who have scheduled Poppy distributions in November 2014:

Unit 8	Unit 11	Unit 14	Unit 17
Unit 25	Unit 37	Unit 38	Unit 40
Unit 45	Unit 54	Unit 55	Unit 62
Unit 63	Unit 65	Unit 77	Unit 107
Unit 112	Unit 119	Unit 120	Unit 129
Unit 131	Unit 135	Unit 136	Unit 142
Unit 149	Unit 154	Unit 162	Unit 183
Unit 242	Unit 250	Unit 252	Unit 273
Unit 275	Unit 285	Unit 286	Unit 291
Unit 303	Unit 305	Unit 323	Unit 399

Fall Conference

We look forward to seeing you all at Fall Conference! The schedule, hotel information, and banquet ticket form are all on our website.

Over & Short

Remember this year, you may request your refund from Over & Short membership any time during the year. As of October 14, 2014, the following Units have overages that you may request a check from

Poppy Story



headquarters, or keep the credit on file for your next membership recap:

Unit 1	Unit 24	Unit 25	Unit 27
Unit 69	Unit 77	Unit 110	Unit 112
Unit 137	Unit 152	Unit 158	Unit 188
Unit 191	Unit 199	Unit 200	Unit 267
Unit 268	Unit 273	Unit 285	Unit 318
Unit 394	Unit 401		

To request your check, just give me a call, or send an email. If we don't hear from you, we will leave the credit on file for future membership payments.

Lighting the way for veterans,

Kimberly Sullivan

Chaplain's Co





As the lights begin to shine for our Veterans throughout the State of Florida, let us Pray that the members who have gone home, are able to comfort those Veterans who are in heaven. They will all be in our hearts and minds and we will never forget them. As we continue to light the way for the Veterans here, let us hope that our lights are helping to build the Bridges for them to walk across or to be able to go Full Speed Ahead on their journeys.

God Bless every one.

District 2

Unit 82 Sexton, Barbara

District 4

Unit 155 Walker, Joan

District 5

Unit 137 Windsor, Courtney

Unit 233 Rolph, Norma J.

District 6

Unit 35 Rabbito, Mary K.

Unit 286 Cardarelli, Mary

Unit 347 Gessner, Joyce
Hanley, Patricia
Lucier, Judith

District 8

Unit 24 Newcomer, B.Mae
Rodgers, Gwen

Unit 159 Nowell, Lee E.

Unit 266 Nevis, Linda

Unit 309 Hupp, Merrie C.

District 9

Unit 157 Anderson, Kathy
Senko, Beatrice

District 11

Unit 62 Stahurski, Joan

Unit 271 Jarvis, Barbara

Unit 367 Stanley, Louise

District 12

Unit 38 Lamirande, Denise

Unit 200 Polanski, Renee

District 13

Unit 103 Barrett, Sharon

Unit 110 Fitting, Fawn G.

Unit 303 Goveia, Margaret

District 15

Unit 139 Clark, Donna
Parker, Mabel
Patrick, Donna

District 16

Unit 119 Striegel, Mary

Unit 273 Martell, Marie
Sipes, Ruth E.

District 17

Unit 120 Faeola, Beth
Miller, Dubbie
Sanders, B. Darlene
Unit 285 Doneburgh, Agnes

Meet the Po



Pamela Presley, Army veteran has been making poppies for 8 years. She is happy to be helping the Auxiliary with this great program. She is going to school and the extra income is very helpful.



Bart Boberg (L), Navy veteran, has been making poppies for 7 years, states he "appreciates the Auxiliary and would do anything for us". Scott Enloe (R), Army veteran has been with the Poppy Program 11 years. "The mental and physical therapy I get from doing the poppies is so important" They both appreciate the extra income to help them get through the month.



ppy Makers



Tom Green (L), Navy veteran and Duncan Smith (R) Air Force veteran both appreciate the extra money they use for necessities. They are proud to be part of a program that honors veterans who gave their all.



Michael Baker, Army veteran, says he was injured in training and making the poppies is very therapeutic for him.





FROM THE THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY



Post 6 Newly Named to Honor Fallen War Hero

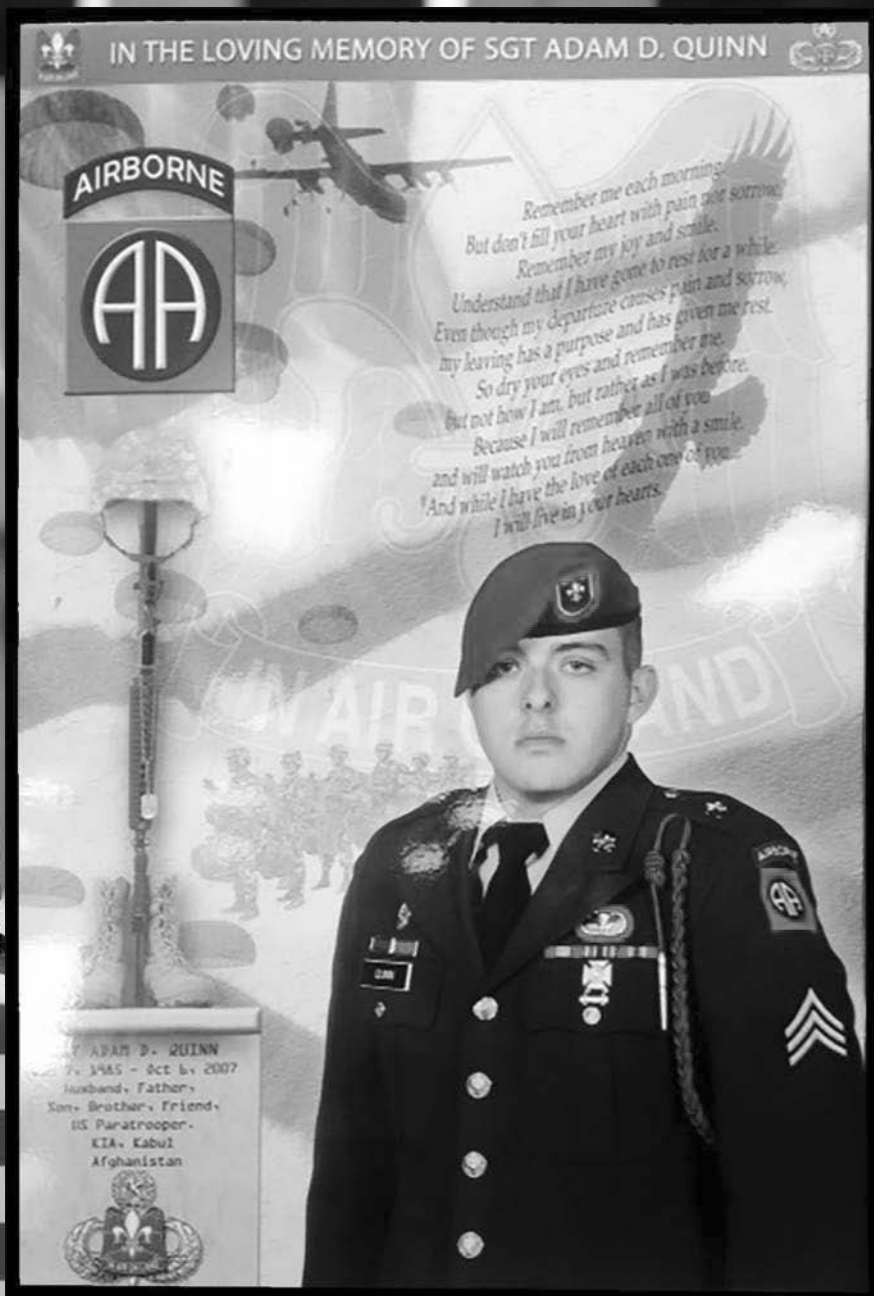


Department Officers and Chairmen attending the Re-dedication ceremony at Post 6 Deland. Pictured left to right: Lois Stachelrodt, Dept. President Erna Schwabe, Sandie Burgess, TK Wildrick, Kelli Becraft, Pearl McIntyre, Edie Porter.



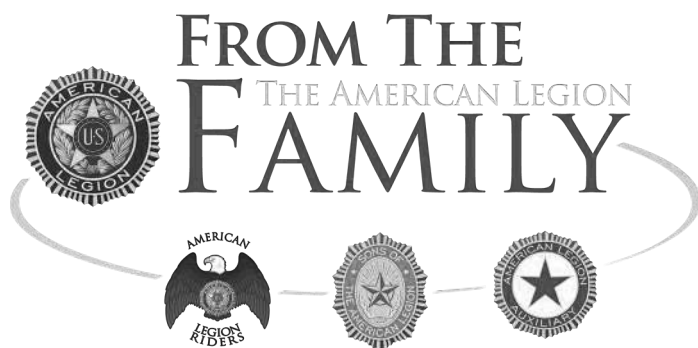
Department President Erna Schwabe hitching a ride with SAL Bernie Wildrick in Deland for the Post re-dedication of the newly named Adam D. Quinn Post 6 Deland, Florida held on October 5, 2014

In a Post re-dedication ceremony on October 5, 2014 Post 6 was renamed to Adam D. Quinn : Post 6



FORT BRAGG, N.C. — An 82nd Airborne Division Paratrooper died of wounds sustained when a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated near the vehicle he was in, near Kabul, Afghanistan, Saturday.

Cpl.. Adam D. Quinn, 22, of Orange City, Fla., was an automation specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 82nd Abn. Div.



[Continued]

Legion Family Members:

Mark your calendars! The 3rd Annual Florida In State Legacy Ride is in the planning stages. The Legacy Ride will start on 23 March 2015 at Post 57 in Lake City and finish on 28 March 2015 at Post 155 in Crystal River. As many of you know the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund was started in the aftermath of 9/11 to provide help to the children whose parents have given the ultimate sacrifice to our country. Since 2009 the American Legion Riders have ridden thousands of miles annually raising donations for the Legacy Scholarship Fund. This year Riders from across the country raised over One Million Dollars for the fund which included over \$40,000.00 raised in the State of Florida. With that being said, the In State ride will take riders up north and then into the Western Area stopping at Post in Districts 1, 2, 3, and 4. The final stops are still being worked with the individual Posts to make sure all the stops are coordinated. Additionally Riders from the Southern, Southwestern, Eastern and Central Areas are planning rides from their Areas to meet us at the finish of the ride in Crystal River. More information will be presented at Fall Conference.

Mike (Goat) Kirchoff
In State Legacy Ride Chairman



Hello everyone, been a very busy couple of months since convention ended. Been to quite a few installations and visits throughout the state. Had meet and greets at Holly Hill Post 120 and Miami Post 31. I attended the Legion Area Training class held at Sanford Post 52. At Lehigh Acres Post 323 I ended up with pink nails. Back to Post 120 for their Special Olympics Picnic for Volusia County where they did a tremendous job raising in excess of \$4,700.00 and all the Olympians were dancing to the DJ after eating. What I like seeing at the Posts is the Family working together no matter who is putting on the function. I am seeing more of the family than in prior years so keep it up.

At the past National Convention, SAL National Commander Joe Gladden asked the whole Detachment of Florida to rise and introduced us as The Six Million Dollar Detachment. Our donation to Child Welfare put the total donations over the Six Million dollar mark for the Sons!

Hope to see all of you at Conference. Until then, keep doing the great work that you do.

Detachment Commander
Kirk Miller
Keep the Light Shinning





American Legion Post 267 Ormond Beach, Florida held a POW/MIA Ceremony on September 20th. NECA SCHWABE, Post Commander Willie Branch, 17th District Commander Mike Wolohan and ALA Department President Erna SCHWABE were in attendance



Post 137 Jacksonville, Florida. NECA Art Schwabe supporting cancer awareness in the 5th District.



Prayers for Gerrie Bailey



Please keep NEC Gerrie Bailey in your prayers. She is re-cooperating from a recent surgery in the hospital with fluid on her lung. Her hospital stay and recovery are expected to be a few months.

If you wish send GET WELL wishes, send them to her home address at:

3331 Summit Blvd. #154,
Pensacola, Fl. 32503



FROM THE UNITS

American Legion Auxiliary of Florida

UNIT 392 - Panama City

Unit 392, Panama City, had a very busy September! Erna Schwabe began her 1st District Visit on the 4th with 1st District President Linda Knoblach-Harkness for an afternoon reception, then 4 members travelled to Destin for School of Instruction on September 6th. We held a Blood Drive on Patriot's Day September 11th with a very happy blood mobile. Several Auxiliary members (Legion Riders) rode in the Warrior's Beach Retreat escort on the 18th, then attended the Air Force Birthday celebration sponsored by the Unit that evening. On September 19th the Auxiliary held a POW/MIA missing man table ceremony with the entire Post 392 family participating. On the 26th we held a Chicken Fried Steak Dinner that will help our programs as well as the American Legion Legacy Scholarship Fund. On the 25th several members attended a Stand Down at the 1st Baptist Church and then members furnished desserts for the 'Soldier's Undergoing Disabled Scuba' group that we hosted on the 27th at Post 392.



UNIT 80

On Friday, September 19th, Unit 80 held it's annual POW / MIA Remembrance Ceremony. While Past Commander Daryl Bass read the symbolism of each of the articles on the POW / MIA table, Legion Officers (Jerry Bennett, Jimmy Palmisano, and Gary Brunelle) and S.A.L. Commander, George Campbell, placed each of those articles onto the POW / MIA table display at the front of the Post. At the conclusion of the ceremony, "Taps" was played on the trumpet by Mike Turco.



UNIT 13 - Tallahassee

World War II Veteran Participates in Classroom

In October, Unit 13 had the opportunity to participate in a "Veterans in the Classroom" event. Ms. Rebecca Bonfanti is an outstanding Advanced Placement History teacher at Lawton Chiles High School in Tallahassee. She is a passionate educator, and Unit 13 is very happy to help find local veterans who can come and speak about their war experiences whenever she asks. Recently Becky planned a "World War II" party for her students and hoped to surprise them by having a WWII veteran attend. Unit 13 was able to connect her with Bryce Thornton and his wife Helen, an Auxiliary member, who graciously joined the class and spent time talking to them and answering questions. Becky reported, "The kids dressed up in WWII-era clothes and made recipes, too. We had Jello and Spam, ration packets, and even beef jerky." She described it as a "Powerful, amazing tale from WW2 Vet, Bryce Thornton," and that Bryce "moved them to tears" as he shared some of his experiences in Germany.

We are deeply grateful to Ms. Bonfanti for putting our students and veterans together so creatively, and for her students' warm welcome to the Thorntons. And many thanks also to PFC Bryce Thornton for sharing his WWII experience with the class. Outstanding!!

Submitted by Joan Taylor
District 2
Unit 13, Tallahassee



School of Instruction

School of Instructions is officially completed in District 2, what a relief!!! Of-course it started off on the wrong foot when my darling husband took my car for a 5 minute trip that turned into a 25 minute trip as I was about to leave for a 50 mile drive over to Sneads. At that point, it "NO I" was falling apart, what a way to start an new adventure holding an event for the first time, hoping and praying you don't make a fool of yourself or forget a very important part of the program. Cool, calm and collective was out the door. By the time the program started the heart was beating faster than lightening.

I have to say, after a rocky start it was a success, the participation was awesome and yes I did relax and enjoyed our School of Instructions for 2014-2015. Thank you to all the Units and Chairman for the their presentations. A Special thank you to Department Membership Chairman Jane Hardacre for her attendance and her gracious input answering questions, making suggestions and leading us in our membership song "The Lighthouse", you were incredible.

I did forget the closing remarks so here it is:

*"Thank you for being here today, by
supporting the veterans and myself as
your District President for 2014-2015.
I pledge to you, I'll do everything
to help promote your Programs,
Units and Posts."*

District Commander Jackson and several Legionnaires were in attendance as National President Nancy's theme this year is "Faith, Family and Freedom" what better way to start the year off than with "Family".

Thank you Unit 241 for your hospitality and hosting the School of Instructions.

Nell Hewitt, 2 District President

Have you heard?



Kelli Becraft

The 2014-2015 year begins the member approved merge of Field Service and Home Service. All hours will be combined under the heading of "Service to Veterans." This change was voted in at the 2013 National Convention held in Houston – with the effective date of the change going into effect with the 2014-2015 year.

The Department ABC Instructors will be going over and highlighting on what hours you CAN & CANNOT report on. Below is just a quick guide on hours that you can and cannot report on. Please report your hours to your Unit President Or VA & R Chairman and they will report it to the District VA & R Chairman who will report them to me. We want to make sure we are counting all the time we spend assisting our veterans. Did you know that the estimated value of volunteer time for 2013 is \$22.55 per hour? In Florida it is a little lower at \$21.24. Think of all that you do, wow that adds up to be a lot.

- providing transportation for veterans
- recording veteran histories
- assisting with veteran job fair
- helping homeless veterans and their families
- Stand Downs
- Cooking/Cleaning for the veteran
- Time spent renovating a veterans grave
- Shopping for the veteran
- Special events & holidays

You may not count travel time, you may not count time for a veterans that lives with you, you may not count time if you are being compensated. You may not count time for the stuff you are doing at your Post unless it is for an event involving veterans and you are not being compensated (free meal, drinking alcohol). If you are in the Honor Guard or Patriot Guard, you may count those hours escorting a veteran.

Now let's do it right. If you are going to assist a veterans make sure you keep your commitment. If you say you are going to do something than do it, be on time, be courteous, be polite, and most importantly be loyal. If a veteran tells you something keep it confidential unless the veterans may harm themselves than seek immediate help. Wear you Auxiliary shirt and badge with a smile and show your happiness. Be careful not to become too close to the veteran, do not give your personal information out. Remember, these are just some guidelines.

IF you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at veteransaffairs@alaf1.org or my cell phone 727-560-2201.

Kelli Becraft

National Poppy Program



History:

In 1921, the poppy became the official flower of The American Legion Family in memory of the soldiers who fought on the battlefields of Belgium during World War I.

Red crepe paper poppies are handmade by disabled or hospitalized veterans. Supplies to make poppies are provided free of charge by American Legion Auxiliary departments to their area VA hospitals. Veterans are paid a small stipend for their assembly work.

Poppies are not sold by volunteers—they are “distributed” for donations. The person acquiring the poppy is asked to make as generous a donation as they can. The suggested minimum is \$1. Since 2007, the average donation has stagnated around 45 cents. Given increased costs and our veterans’ needs, we need to encourage increased donation amounts.

Ideas to Increase Donations:

- Produce a factsheet to hand out stating how the money raised by the unit has helped veterans. Consider other promotion tools such as flyers, posters or buttons.
- Contact local schools to translate the factsheet into other languages commonly used in your area.
- Work with your unit’s Public Relations chairman to approach local officials and media personalities to ask them to wear a poppy. Express to them the significance of the poppy and ask them to make a proclamation or endorsement about the Auxiliary poppy and Auxiliary Poppy Day.
- Work with your Public Relations chairman to help prepare a news release announcing Poppy Day and submit it to local media. Be sure to include a Poppy Program Media Fact Sheet.
- A Poppy Day proclamation, news release template and news release sample are available through National Headquarters or online at www.ALAforVeterans.org.
- Promote the Poppy Poster Contest in local schools. Students who participate, along with their parents, will in turn spread the word about the program. The unit can use some of these posters as advertisement in local stores by hanging a color copy a week prior to the event to keep the poppy significance fresh in customers’ minds.
- Be aware of where and when other Auxiliary units in your area will be distributing poppies to insure areas are not being missed.
- Invite local servicemembers (active duty, Reserve or National Guardsmen) to help in your distribution, and ask them to wear their fatigues.
- Partner with local ROTC programs and military schools to help distribute poppies. These students often need community service hours in order to graduate, and the Auxiliary Poppy Program is an excellent way for them to volunteer.
- Engage ALA Girls State alumnae as poppy distribution volunteers.



I have been very excited to hear that many Units have already started making plans for their 2014-2015 Americanism Essay Contest. I know that each and every Unit can work closely with area teachers to assure a successful Essay Contest for your Unit.

Please remember that the theme for this year's contest was entered incorrectly in the Unit Guide. The correct theme, WHAT DOES FREEDOM MEAN TO ME AND MY FAMILY, is in your Americanism Plan of Action.

Here are a few tips to help your Unit with a successful Americanism Essay Contest.

- Contact schools and other organizations such as the Young Marines, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts about the essay contest.
- Offer incentives for essay winners.
- Encourage Junior members to participate in the essay contest.
- Create information packets explaining contest rules, deadline dates, theme and award opportunities.
- Contact essay winners' parents and ask if they would bring their child to your next Auxiliary meeting to read their essays. Provide refreshments afterward.
- Work with school administration to identify guidance counselors, history teachers, etc., whose students would be interested in participating.
- Arrange for a day with the schools (preferably during a student assembly) to present the essay winners with their prizes. Provide a cash award and/or savings bond.
- Be sure to include this information on your unit report to your district, department and national chairman.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions about this year's Americanism Program. I am always available to help in any way possible.

Ann King-Smith
Americanism Chairman 2014-2015

Calendar

EVENT	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
Fall Conference	Nov 7-9	Hilton Walt Disney World
Girls State Unit Application Deadline	Feb 1, 2015	
Constitutional Conferences		
• 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 9-15	FSU, Tallahassee

Who Will Help You?

Today's travel can involve unexpected financial risks. But you're *GUARANTEED* help in case there's a medical emergency away from home.

The **Legionnaire Emergency Assistance Plus (EA+) Program** offers you and your family *security* you need while traveling. *EA+ delivers high-value benefits to protect you* such as:

- ☞ Emergency Medical Assistance
- ☞ Medical Evacuation & Transportation Home
- ☞ Travel Assistance For You & Your Companion



From Your
American Legion
Department

To learn more about the benefits and services provided to you by Your American Legion Department, visit us online today at **www.theLIT.com/emergency-assistance-plus** or call **1-888-310-1547**.

This information is only an overview of the plan's features. Terms & Conditions apply.

**American Legion Auxiliary
National Headquarters**

Blanket Fidelity Bond

The National Organization writes a Fidelity Bond, which covers ALL Unit members and employees of the American Legion Auxiliary. Each Department is billed annually for its proportionate share of the bond premium.

Limits of coverage are:

- On all officers, members and employees of Units - \$10,000.
- A deductible of \$250 is in effect on all claims.

The bond covers loss through larceny, embezzlement, theft, forgery, misappropriation, willful misapplication or any other act of fraud or dishonesty caused by any member/employee of the American Legion Auxiliary if that person's manifest intent is to cause the Auxiliary to sustain a loss and to enrich herself or another person.

The coverage does not apply to any member/employee for which the insured has knowledge that he/she has committed any fraudulent or dishonest act in the service of the insured or otherwise.

SPECIAL NOTE: The bond does NOT cover loss, mysterious disappearance or burglary.

As soon as a loss is discovered, an audit should be conducted establishing proof of loss, which must be submitted within four months of discovery.

All claims should be reported to the Department Secretary who will forward the information to the National Treasurer. Notification to the National Treasurer should be in writing and include the name, address and phone number of the person in the Unit and/or Department the bonding company should contact. (See attached sample notification)

To help prevent losses and provide more reliable financial data, the following are recommended Financial Controls:

1. Bylaws should provide for a regular (monthly or quarterly) Financial Report from the Treasurer.
2. Bylaws should provide for an annual Audit and specify how such audit is to be made.
3. Receipts should be issued for all money received.
4. Involve a second person in cash receipts processing.
5. Make certain that your cash receipts log matches the cash receipts entry in the ledger and the actual bank deposit.
6. Countersignatures should be required on all checks.
7. All bills should be paid with a check.
8. Blank checks should never be pre-signed.
9. Someone independent of check processing should open and review bank statements.
10. Someone independent of check processing should review bank reconciliations on a monthly basis.
11. Someone independent of check processing should review the vendor list – check to see if any vendor addresses match each other and/or employee addresses.
12. Someone independent of the request for wire transfers should verify all wire transfers

Blanket Fidelity (Dishonesty) Bond Claims Process

As soon as a loss is discovered, an audit should be conducted establishing “proof of loss.” Units are strongly encouraged to contact local law enforcement authorities upon discovery of a loss.

Notice of a potential claim should be given, in writing, at the earliest practical time after discovery.

It should first be reported to the Department Secretary. The Department Secretary should forward the information to the National Treasurer -- again, in writing.

At the very least, the notification should include the name, address and phone number of the contact person in the Unit or Department making the claim. A sample notification is attached.

To expedite processing, the notification should include all relevant information about the loss (see sample notification):

- the name of the person or person suspected of being involved in the fraudulent or dishonest acts
- the date or dates of each and every fraudulent or dishonest act
- a brief outline of the events, including whether or not the incident had been reported to the police
- a detailed statement of the items of loss caused by the dishonest acts
- a copy of all statements and other evidence to support the claim

Once the National Treasurer receives the written notification, it is forwarded to the insurance agency who then forwards the notification to the bonding company.

When the bonding company receives the notification, an investigator is assigned to the case. The investigator will normally contact the Unit or Department making the claim within one week of receiving the notification. At that time, the bonding company will provide the Proof of Loss form and advise what else might be needed to comply with the policy provisions.

It's important to remember that the burden of proof is on the Unit or Department making the claim and that the bonding company must receive the completed Proof of Loss form within four months of the discovery. If time is running short, the notice may be faxed to the National Treasurer; include a request in your fax if you also want the National Treasurer to fax the notice to the insurance agency. However, the notification must also be mailed to the National Treasurer so that it can be forwarded to the bonding company.

Filing a bond claim is nothing more than filing an insurance claim and does not replace any independent legal action necessary on the part of your Unit or Department. It is your responsibility to report illegal activity to the authorities deemed appropriate. You may also refer to your Unit Handbook for information on discipline of a Unit member.

A Community Service Message

from National Chairman, Carol Grout

What better way to give back to our communities than by volunteering for a day of Service. Our first day of service was held on 9/11 National Day of Service, were you probably noticed many people within your communities doing good deeds to benefit their towns and cities. This message is to remind you that there are still many service opportunities available to you, Including:

- Make a Difference Day (October 25, 2104)
- Veterans Day (November 11, 2014)
- National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day (December 7, 2014)
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service (January 19, 2015)
- National Volunteer Week (April 12-18, 2015)

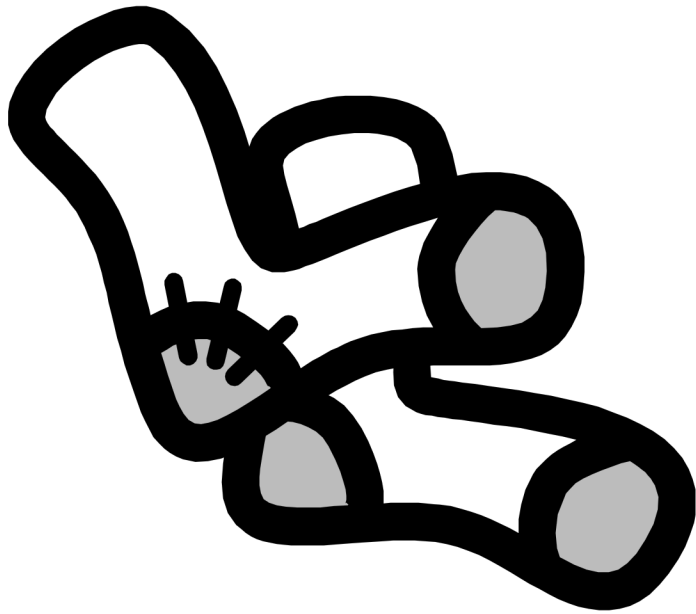
For whatever Day(s) of Service you select, be sure to keep the following in mind:

- (1) Wear your American Legion Auxiliary items (t-shirt), golf shirt, pin, hat, vest, or whatever you have that identifies you as a proud American Legion Auxiliary member).
- (2) Make sure you take pictures of what you are doing
- (3) Send copies of your pictures and news releases of your activity to your Unit, District and Department Community Service chairman.
- (4) Submit your activity for a "Share What You've Been Doing" Award. Specifies are in the National Plan of Action or get with your Department Chairman
- (5) Keep records of your activities so that your mid-year and year-end reports will be easier to complete.

Doing a Day of Service can be accomplished in several ways. You/Your Unit can decide what you'd like to do and set up a committee to plan the project. Or, you can spend your Day(s) of Service helping other organizations, as well. Just remember that your local Unit or Department always needs to be recognized. Remember to wear your Auxiliary items and document what you have done through press releases, photographs and narratives to your Chairman.

If you have any members who can't get out but still want to be involved, there's always something that can be done. Some examples are: (a) prepare foods to distribute to the homeless, or (b) sit at a homeless shelter or VA Medical Center and just keep the veterans company.

The choices available to you for service on Days of Service are hundred-fold. So, pick one or more and get started. Once you do, you'll feel a sense of pride and accomplishment for what you have done.



*Don't forget to bring your **SOCK IT TO ME FOR THE VETERANS** calendars and money to fall conference. This is an exciting way for **ALL American Legion Family Members** to participate and help our veterans.*

Fall Conference Nov 7-9 at Hilton Orlando Lake Buena Vista

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



**Children's Organ
Transplant Association®**

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.

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.

Leadership



Lighthouse Beacons shining "Beams of Knowledge"



Diane Rousseau

ABC SCHOOLS: I'm happy to report that by the time you read this issue of 'The Shining Beacon' at least six (6) Districts will have taken advantage of the knowledge of your ABC Instructors and held ABC Schools in their Districts.

Remember, if you missed one that took place in your District or if your District doesn't plan on having one, feel free to go to another District's School. FYI, those planned as of now are:

November 1st:

12th District: at Post 189, Sebastian – 9 a.m. registration, 9:30 a.m. School

16th District: at Post 335, Hudson – 9 a.m. registration, 10 a.m. School

17th District: at Post 17, New Smyrna Beach – 9 a.m. registration, 9:30 a.m. School

January 17th:

15th District: at Post 139, Tampa – 9 a.m. registration, 10 a.m. School

January 25th:

11th District: at Post 271, Jupiter – 9:30 a.m. registration, 10 a.m. School

AND if you decide to go to another District's School – just in case something changes and sometimes it does – I suggest that you check with the District President to confirm the schedule of a School before you travel to another District.

'HAVE YOU HEARD' that due to changes made by National to the VA&R Plan of Action, ABC Instructors will now be including information on "Service To Our Veterans" at all ABC Schools and that Field Service Orientations are no longer required?! It's true! President Erna and 2nd Vice President & VA&R Chairman Kelli have asked that this be included in the ABC Schools ... so your great ABC Instructors are making it happen!

Look for information coming from Kelli Becraft for more details on this change to the VA&R Program. The important things to remember are: 1st and foremost, HELP our heroes whenever possible ... and 2nd, REPORT the time you give to our veterans!

Diane Rousseau
Department Leadership Chairman
Email: leadership@alaf1.org

Membership



Jane Hardacre

Renewals have been mailed out from National and our numbers are climbing up the lighthouse! Keep on shining, we can do it. I have been asking for feedback from the Units as to how they are successful in getting renewals. Keep sending in your suggestions, we can all learn from new and exciting ideas. Here are a few more SHINING examples:

- Unit 1, Titusville, sent out letters to the Unit 400 members in their area asking them to attend a meeting at the Unit. While attending a Chamber of Commerce function, wearing their Auxiliary shirts, they were approached by a woman. She introduced herself and thanked them for the letter. She stated that she thinks it is time for her to change and join Unit 1!
- Unit 348, Cape Canaveral, voted in August to lower dues by \$2.00 for Early Bird renewals. They offered a free meal in return and sent out postcards to each member advertising the chance. In addition, a letter went out explaining how important their dues are and how it helped our veterans.
- District 5 held a renewal drive at their District picnic. Thank you gifts were given to the members who renewed on the spot. They received 3 Renewals and 1 New Member!
- Irma Wehrli, Northern Area Membership, drove to Department with membership! You are AWESOME!!

I want to thank each and every one of you for your dedication and hard work. Membership is every one's job and we will succeed in strengthening this wonderful organization! Keep up the good work, our veterans NEED us!!

Keep sending me ideas, questions and invitations to your membership drives. Together, we can do this. We are going to push President Erna to the top of Florida's lighthouse.

For God and Country,
Jane Hardacre



District 1

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0075	Crestview	183	46	25.14%
0078	Milton	38	18	47.37%
0121	Jay	15	0	0.00%
0193	Pensacola	112	50	44.64%
0221	Niceville	64	27	42.19%
0235	Ft Walton Bch	188	90	47.87%
0240	Pensacola	265	33	12.45%
0296	Destin	65	13	20.00%
0340	Pensacola	310	31	10.00%
0356	Lynn Haven	186	38	20.43%
0375	Southport	93	13	13.98%
0378	Gulf Breeze	11	0	0.00%
0382	Navarre	142	23	16.20%
0392	Panama City	177	44	24.86%
Total		1849	426	23.04%

District 2

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0013	Tallahassee	91	56	61.54%
0082	Lanark	95	39	41.05%
0084	Havana	30	5	16.67%
0100	Marianna	66	20	30.30%
0114	Crawfordville	32	0	0.00%
0172	Telogia	16	0	0.00%
0217	Quincy	57	28	49.12%
0241	Sneads	71	49	69.01%
0272	Blountstown	14	0	0.00%
Total		472	197	41.74%

District 3

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0049	Monticello	24	0	0.00%
0057	Lake City	297	139	46.80%
0107	Live Oak	40	19	47.50%
0131	Greenville	36	0	0.00%
0215	Jasper	47	0	0.00%
0224	Madison	43	1	2.33%
0291	Steinhatchee	165	51	30.91%
0383	Old Town	147	57	38.78%
Total		799	267	33.42%

District 4

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0016	Gainesville	71	25	35.21%
0027	Ocala	35	29	82.86%
0056	Starke	18	9	50.00%
0058	Dunnellon	48	16	33.33%
0077	Inverness	54	17	31.48%
0091	Trenton	18	5	27.78%
0149	Newberry	26	2	7.69%
0155	Crystal River	314	134	42.68%
0210	Ocala	17	6	35.29%
0225	Floral City	19	2	10.53%
0230	Hawthorne	47	0	0.00%
0236	Bronson	18	3	16.67%
0237	Beverly Hills	104	50	48.08%
0284	Bellevue	162	23	14.20%
0314	Starke	18	8	44.44%
Total		969	329	33.95%

District 5

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0009	Jacksonville	34	7	20.59%
0037	Saint Augustine	109	32	29.36%
0054	Fernandina Beach	239	112	46.86%
0088	Jacksonville	137	50	36.50%
0129	Jacksonville Beach	299	90	30.10%
0137	Jacksonville	590	253	42.88%
0174	Jacksonville	15	0	0.00%
0194	St Augustine	34	12	35.29%
0197	Jacksonville	37	12	32.43%
0202	Keystone Heights	80	32	40.00%
0233	Ponte Vedra Beach	161	69	42.86%
0244	Jacksonville	53	35	66.04%
0250	Middleburg	331	130	39.27%
0283	Jacksonville	319	139	43.57%
0316	Atlantic Beach	417	98	23.50%
0373	Orange Park	30	20	66.67%
0401	Hilliard	33	7	21.21%
Total		2918	1098	37.63%

District 6

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0010	Kissimmee	270	79	29.26%
0019	Orlando	172	85	49.42%
0021	Umatilla	27	6	22.22%
0035	Mount Dora	91	22	24.18%
0041	Eustis	19	12	63.16%
0052	Leesburg	35	1	2.86%
0053	Sanford	160	37	23.13%
0055	Clermont	160	58	36.25%
0063	Winter Garden	18	1	5.56%
0076	Tavares	17	1	5.88%
0080	Saint Cloud	322	159	49.38%
0101	Bushnell	139	44	31.65%
0109	Ocoee	40	1	2.50%
0112	Winter Park	22	12	54.55%
0183	Fern Park	159	60	37.74%
0219	Fruitland Park	244	133	54.51%
0242	Orlando	174	89	51.15%
0286	Orlando	302	137	45.36%
0330	Leesburg	58	31	53.45%
0331	Orlando	12	0	0.00%
0347	Lady Lake	1265	562	44.43%
Total		3706	1530	41.28%

District 7

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0003	Bartow	80	43	53.75%
0004	Lakeland	118	42	35.59%
0008	Winter Haven	632	10	1.58%
0034	Haines City	75	16	21.33%
0071	Lake Wales	60	53	88.33%
0072	Mulberry	172	22	12.79%
0118	Zephyrhills	36	2	5.56%
0201	Florence Villa	41	33	80.49%
0339	Nalcrest	43	6	13.95%
Total		1257	227	18.06%

District 8

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0011	Arcadia	20	6	29.26%
0024	Bradenton	468	188	49.42%
0025	Lake Placid	389	149	22.22%
0030	Sarasota	76	23	24.18%
0069	Avon Park	372	143	63.16%
0074	Sebring	105	0	2.86%
0113	Rotonda West	421	176	23.13%
0159	Venice	760	330	36.25%
0254	North Port	91	14	5.56%
0266	Sarasota	106	58	5.88%
0309	Palmetto	235	134	49.38%
0312	Oneco	235	39	31.65%
0325	Ellenton	63	35	2.50%
Total		3341	1295	54.55%

District 9

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0036	Ft Lauderdale	92	53	57.61%
0092	Hollywood	127	50	39.37%
0142	Pompano Beach	294	158	53.74%
0157	Margate	383	141	36.81%
0162	Deerfield Beach	306	100	32.68%
0180	Fort Lauderdale	109	69	63.30%
0209	Dania Beach	19	1	5.26%
0220	Ft Lauderdale	19	11	57.89%
0222	Fort Lauderdale	75	12	16.00%
0287	Deerfield Beach	29	14	48.28%
0304	Dania	203	106	52.22%
0310	Hallandale	37	10	27.03%
0321	Cooper City	112	83	74.11%
Total		1805	808	44.76%

District 11

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0020	Belle Glade	71	28	39.44%
0047	Lake Worth	138	69	50.00%
0062	Stuart	139	90	64.75%
0064	Okeechobee	133	50	37.59%
0065	Delray Beach	53	14	26.42%
0141	West Palm Beach	93	41	44.09%
0164	Boynton Beach	176	62	35.23%
0188	West Palm Beach	16	5	31.25%
0199	Riviera Beach	30	1	3.33%
0258	Greenacres	29	14	48.28%
0268	Lake Park	112	21	18.75%
0269	Lantana	11	2	18.18%
0271	Tequesta	192	100	52.08%
0277	Boca Raton	118	42	35.59%
0288	Boynton Beach	67	44	65.67%
0367	Royal Palm Beach	46	11	23.91%
0399	Palm City	16	7	43.75%
Total		1440	601	41.74%

District 12

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0001	Titusville	323	175	54.18%
0022	Cocoa	93	54	58.06%
0039	Vero Beach	190	72	37.89%
0040	Fort Pierce	197	67	34.01%
0081	Melbourne	143	61	42.66%
0117	Palm Bay	419	161	38.42%
0126	Jensen Beach	195	82	42.05%
0163	Melbourne	392	239	60.97%
0171	Fort Pierce	39	0	0.00%
0177	Cocoa	10	0	0.00%
0189	Sebastian	95	18	18.95%
0191	Melbourne	148	13	8.78%
0200	Satellite Beach	111	9	8.11%
0318	Port St Lucie	521	249	47.79%
0332	Merritt Island	29	6	20.69%
0348	Cape Canaveral	144	75	52.08%
0358	White City	51	12	23.53%
0359	Port St John	272	95	34.93%
0366	Roseland	88	0	0.00%
0394	Palm Bay	61	18	29.51%
Total		3521	1406	39.93%

District 13

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0038	Fort Myers	98	29	29.59%
0090	Cape Coral	195	51	26.15%
0103	Punta Gorda	339	149	43.95%
0110	Port Charlotte	565	236	41.77%
0123	Sanibel	97	30	30.93%
0130	Labelle	183	68	37.16%
0135	Naples	422	172	40.76%
0136	Saint James City	476	199	41.81%
0192	Fort Myers	26	10	38.46%
0274	Fort Myers Beach	596	252	42.28%
0303	Bonita Springs	407	176	43.24%
0323	Lehigh Acres	505	216	42.77%
0336	N Ft Myers	289	116	40.14%
0351	Fort Myers	87	46	52.87%
Total		4285	1750	40.84%

District 14

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0028	Key West	82	32	39.02%
0029	Miami	23	3	13.04%
0031	South Miami	153	83	54.25%
0043	Homestead	67	22	32.84%
0067	North Miami	75	24	32.00%
0098	Coral Gables	25	1	4.00%
0133	Miami	81	22	27.16%
0154	Marathon	167	25	14.97%
0168	Key West	27	0	0.00%
0333	Key Largo	86	30	34.88%
0346	Miami	26	1	3.85%
0374	Key Biscayne	75	32	42.67%
Total		887	275	31.00%

District 15

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0005	Tampa	45	29	64.44%
0026	Plant City	34	6	17.65%
0099	Brooksville	40	8	20.00%
0111	Tampa	49	9	18.37%
0138	Tampa	392	257	65.56%
0139	Tampa	183	96	52.46%
0147	Odessa	40	26	65.00%
0148	Riverview	249	50	20.08%
0152	Tampa	319	148	46.39%
0167	Tampa	33	9	27.27%
0186	Spring Hill	416	160	38.46%
0248	West Tampa	23	22	95.65%
0334	Tampa	41	25	60.98%
0389	Ruskin	26	5	19.23%
Total		1890	850	44.97%

District 16

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0007	Clearwater	392	163	41.58%
0014	St Petersburg	164	70	42.68%
0079	New Port Richey	340	145	42.65%
0104	Pinellas Park	245	99	40.41%
0119	Largo	383	140	36.55%
0125	Gulfport	392	171	43.62%
0158	Treasure Island	183	62	33.88%
0173	Holiday	277	114	41.16%
0238	Safety Harbor	294	48	16.33%
0252	Seminole	726	449	61.85%
0273	Seminole	2331	175	7.51%
0275	Dunedin	390	171	43.85%
0305	St Pete Beach	189	79	41.80%
0335	Hudson	235	96	40.85%
Total		6541	1982	30.30%

District 17

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0006	Deland	145	61	42.07%
0017	New Smyrna Beach	316	119	37.66%
0045	Palatka	32	9	28.13%
0115	Palm Coast	61	27	44.26%
0120	Holly Hill	266	159	59.77%
0127	Lake Helen	25	10	40.00%
0204	Daytona Beach	45	20	44.44%
0255	Deltona	34	0	0.00%
0259	Debary	35	0	0.00%
0267	Ormond Beach	134	89	66.42%
0270	Port Orange	162	33	20.37%
0285	Edgewater	221	84	38.01%
0293	Interlachen	80	31	38.75%
0361	S Daytona	188	82	43.62%
Total		1744	724	41.51%

Department

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0400	Orlando	432	132	30.56%
Total		432	132	30.56%
Dept Total		37856	13897	36.71%



American Legion
Auxiliary

Defending Liberty & Freedom
VETERANS DAY
Honoring All Who Served

*For more information on the American Legion Auxiliary's
Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Program,
visit www.ALAFL.org*

Pictured are Iowa American Legion members Gary Tift, Ida Grove Post 61; Marlin Tillman,
Shenandoah Post 88; Andy Henderson, Shenandoah Post 88; Richard Bullock,
Kellogg Post 355; and Ken Streck, Ida Grove Post 61.