



Cruisin' News COMMUNIQUE

February 2014 Vol. IV Issue 7

President Day





Captain's Log

A hoy Shipmates! I am still reminiscing of the fantastic Unity Cruise with some of those wonderful Auxiliary members, taking in the beautiful sea of cool blues and greens, how relaxing.

I had a wonderful time at the Sock Hop sponsored by Eau Galle Unit 163 in 12th District and the best fried chicken dinner the night before the cruise.

Now back to work, from cruising on the Freedom of the Seas to cruising on the USS Auxiliary and making a Port call to the 2nd District with President Theresa Briggs, visiting with Units in Tallahassee and Quincy, enjoying good food and great conversations. Visited the Tallahassee Veterans Village where previously homeless veterans resides and the Veterans Clinic that Past District and Western Area President Pleasant Fisher is the Deputy, She and some of the Members of Quincy Unit 217 provides coffee and doughnuts each Tuesday for the Veterans. A great lunch was enjoyed at Tallahassee Post 13 with some members from

Crawfordville Unit 114 in attendance. What a fantastic dinner with Quincy Unit 217 and Havana Unit 84. How special is it to have the Mayor welcome you to the City of Quincy, and will be sending me the Key to the City (an oversight).

I will attend the 31st Annual Valentine's Day Luncheon for Lady Veterans sponsored by Hudson 335 in New Port Richey. Then on to Orlando for business with Finance Committee, continuing Port calls to Districts 8 and 13. Will tell you all about it next month We are looking real good with Membership let's keep up the good work!! Remember UNITY is the key for all our successes in promoting our Program.

The next excursion will be the "UNITY CRUISE", looking forward to deserving R&R, and bonding with my fellow Shipmates on the Freedom of the Seas. Until Next time, Keep on Cruising aboard the USS Auxiliary, and continue Uniting! Each Deck is sooo much fun and informative.

Captain Bailey





FROM THE SECRETARY

Girls State . . . we still have available openings for the 2014 session in Girls State. If your Unit has the money and you would like additional slots or you have not requested a slot please do so right away. We need you to complete a registration form and mail \$350 per spot requested.

All completed applications are due back to Department Headquarters by March 10th. Do not mail them to the Girls State Chairman or Director. Failure to return them on time could result in the loss of your spot.

Membership . . . When submitting name and address changes or reporting a deceased member, do not do so using a recap sheet. You must use a data form. When the girls are in the payment sections marking a member paid they have no way to change a name or address. You can email these to membership@alafl.org giving the old information, ID # and new information if you prefer, but no changes will be made from a recap form.

When emailing membership@alafl.org, please put your unit # and subject matter in the subject line.

When using credits remember they must be used for the year they were earned. If a credit is issued for back dues it can only be used for back dues and a credit issued for current dues can only be used for current dues.

PUFL checks with list of names have been sent to all Units. Please deposit these checks as soon as possible. Sorry for the delay in processing these to you but cutting 219 checks and cutting all the strips of names was very time consuming.

Incorporation renewals . . . are due between January 1 and May 1, 2014. Go to Sunbiz.org to renew your corporation. If you need Department to do it for you give us a call and we will be happy to do it and invoice you.

990 E-postcard . . . By now all Units should have 2013 taxes filed and a report on file at Department. If you need assistance with this contact us.

Unit Information Forms . . . are being mailed to all Units by 1st class mail. This form reports the amount of Unit dues for the 2015 membership year. You are required to return this form even if there is no change to your unit's dues.

If the amount listed on this form does not match the Unit's Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules on file at Department it will not be accepted with that amount.

Unit Elections . . . Officers' List for 2015 are being mailed 1st class mail. Elections cannot be held before April 14, 2014 or after May 29, 2014. Results from the election must be report to Department using the form provided the Unit no later than 10 days prior to Department Convention or by June 3rd.

Make sure 2013 dues are paid for the member elected or if a new member, make sure the application has been processed before her election. Every year we have to invalidate an election because a unit elects either a member that isn't in good standing or someone that isn't even a member yet. Don't let this happen to your Unit!

Any member in "Good Standing" is eligible for office. No condition can be placed on their election. For example; attending so many meetings . . . or being a member for a given period of time. Placing conditions like these in your unit's Standing Rules are illegal and not binding. Rulings from the National Judge Advocate are on file at Department regarding these issues if anyone cares to see copies.

Convention . . . Dates for Convention are June 12 – 15, 2014 at the Renaissance Orlando, SeaWorld. Reservations can be made by calling either 800-327-6677 or 407-351-5555. Be sure to mention the American Legion when making your reservations.

Pre-con meeting will be on Thursday the 12th with General Session beginning on the 13th and concluding on the 14th. Our annual Joint Memorial Service, Installation and Post Executive Meeting will be held on June 15th. Details will be bulletined out once they are complete.

I look forward to seeing everyone there for my final convention!

Unit Guide Change . . . Page 2 1st Vice President: Please change to Ruth Proctor, 209 Mark Twain Lane, Rotonda West FL. Telephone number 941-698-5059.

Robin Briere
Secretary-Treasurer

2014-2015 Endorsements Received by Department

National Executive Committeewoman	Gerrie Bailey, Unit 193 Pennsacola
National Executive Committeewoman Alt.	Erna Schwabe, Unit 120 Holly Hill
Department President	Erna Schwabe, Unit 120 Holly Hill
Department 1st Vice President	Pearl McIntyre, Unit 162 Deerfield Beach
Department 2nd Vice President	Kellie Becarft, Unit 275 Dunedin
Department 3rd Vice President	Michele DeGennaro, Unit 335 Hudson Trevia Kay "TK" Wildrick, Unit 183 Fern Park
Department Chaplain	Lois Stachelrodt, Unit 19 Orlando
Department Historian	Gail Dupuis, Unit 36 Ft Lauderdale
6th District President	Marie Eatman, Unit 80 St Cloud
12th District President	Robin Burk, Unit 318 Port St Lucie
13th District President	Jacqueline Moody, Unit 323 Lehigh Acres
16th District President	Dee Bell, Unit 305 St Pete Beach
17th District President	Autumn (Chicki) Agens, Unit 120 Holly Hill Eleanor Amato, Unit 285 Edgewater

Chaplain's Corner

February is special in many ways. We always remember the Four Chaplains and the courage that they have instilled upon us. We need to pass this strength to the youth of today and help them understand what it truly means to have Faith. February also means love in ways that only you can help in expressing to our loved ones. Let us not forget that February is remembering and honoring the Presidents of the United States of America

Heavenly Father, we ask that you protect our members who have come home to you and help their family and friends heal as they go through the grieving process. Protect the men and women of the armed forces and bring them home soon. Protect the homeless and help them to find the assistance they need to get their lives back on track. All this we ask in thy name, Amen

Your Spiritual Leader – Lois Stachelrodt

Deceased List for February 2014

District 1

Unit 235 Bain, Margaret
Unit 356 Bugg, Ila

District 4

Unit 210 Strickling, Venus
Unit 225 Ackley, Sandra
Alvarez, Janice
Thayer, Fair

District 5

Unit 54 Hicks, Sue
Unit 129 Branning, Martha (Judy)
Fosdick, Lula A.
Hood, Doris
Rosenthal, Barbara
Tondreault, Marjorie
Unit 233 Woodbury, Margaret
Unit 283 Pert, Linda

District 6

Unit 19 Heath, Ann
Wright, Dora
Unit 242 Reading, Lisa
Scharfetter, Julia

District 7

Unit 72 Feldman, Janet

District 8

Unit 24 Rio, Charlotte, A.

District 11

Unit 258 Middleton, Linda

District 12

Unit 318 Louzon, Dot
Perfetti, Eileen
Unit 359 Reese, Marjorie

District 13

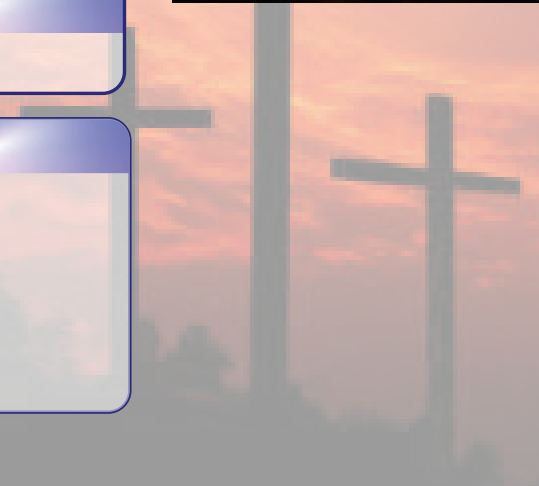
Unit 303 Austin, Barbara J.
Stevens, Elizabeth K.

District 15

Unit 139 Parker, Mabel

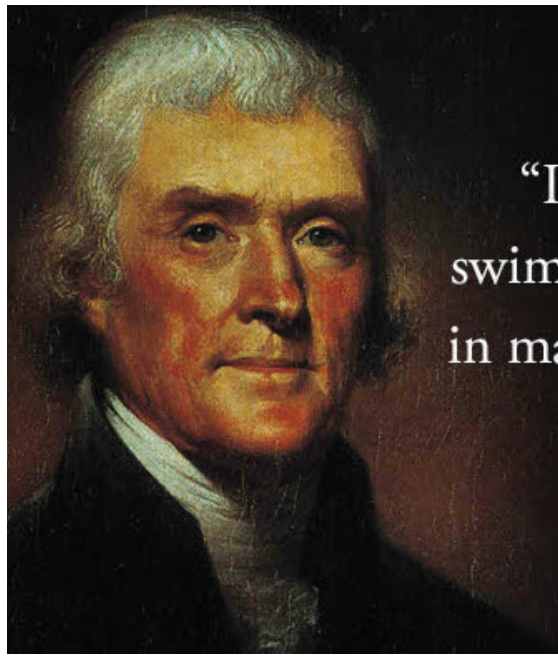
District 16

Unit 7 Blaney, Rita
Washefcky, Shirley
Wilhite, Edna
Unit 273 Kirk, Joyce
Leissa, Phyllis M.



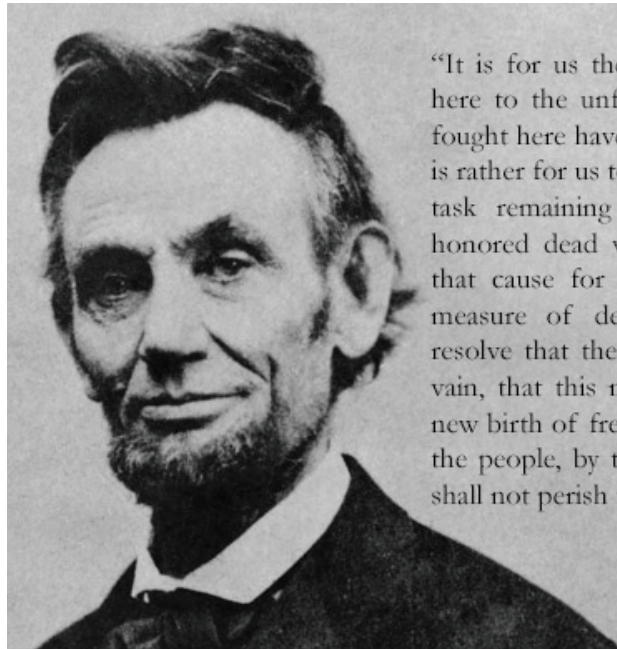
President's Day 2014

Inspirational Presidential Quotes



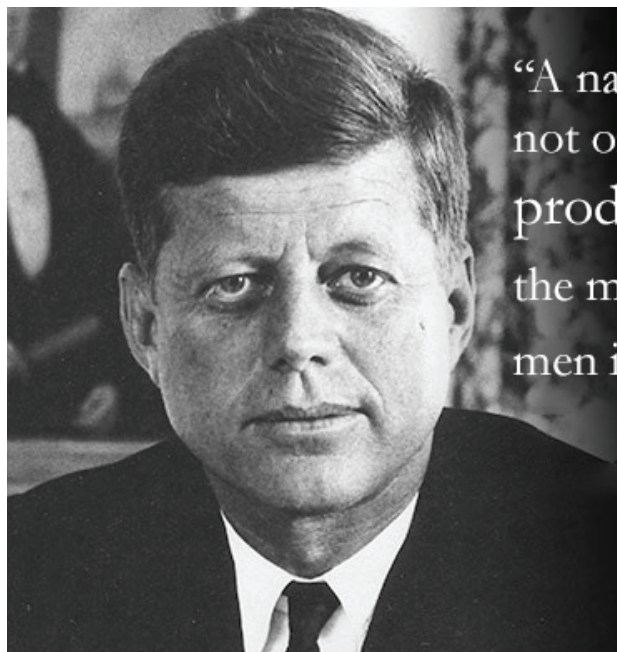
“In matters of style,
swim with the current;
in matters of principle,
stand like a rock.”

– Thomas Jefferson



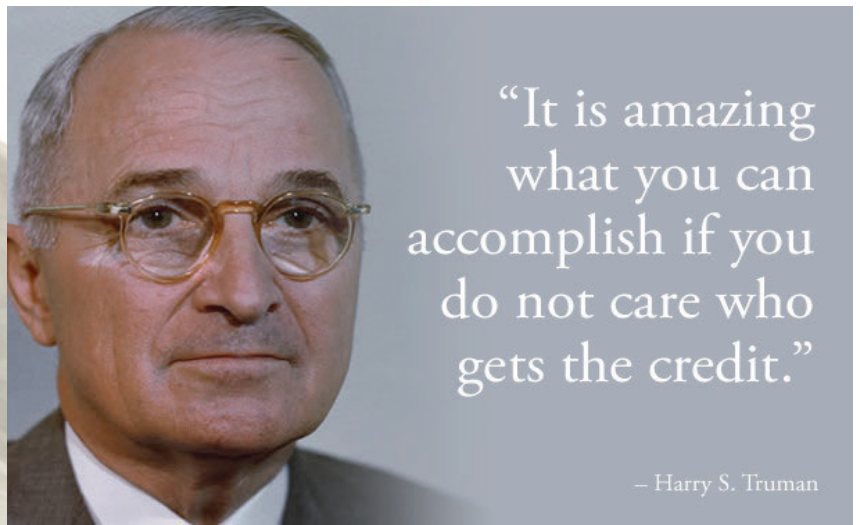
“It is for us the living rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us—that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion—that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom, and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.”

– Abraham Lincoln



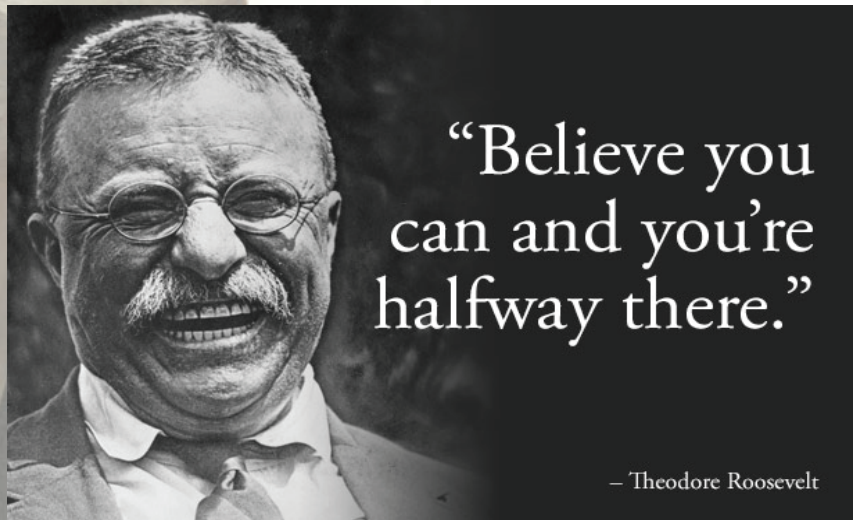
“A nation reveals itself
not only by the men it
produces, but also by
the men it honors, the
men it remembers.”

– John F. Kennedy



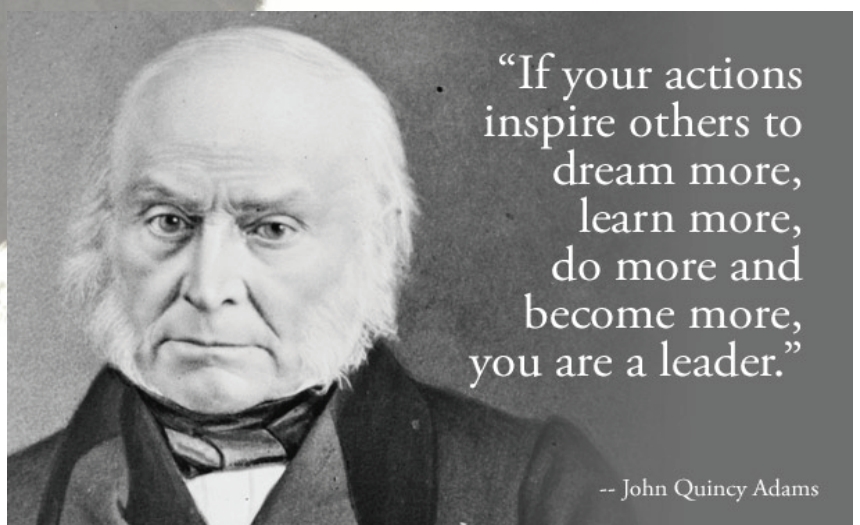
“It is amazing
what you can
accomplish if you
do not care who
gets the credit.”

– Harry S. Truman



“Believe you
can and you’re
halfway there.”

– Theodore Roosevelt



“If your actions
inspire others to
dream more,
learn more,
do more and
become more,
you are a leader.”

-- John Quincy Adams

Remembering

The men who helped
shape our nation.



Gainesville Fisher House Foundation

Serving veterans, military and their families in North Florida and South Georgia

P. O. Box 358296
Gainesville, Florida 32635

GFisherhouse@gmail.com
www.GainesvilleFisherHouse.org

Dear Gainesville Fisher House Supporters,

The time is almost here for the Gainesville Fisher House to officially be open! We have created a registry for the house on **myregistry.com** and would love if you could check it out. The name of the list is **"Gainesville Fisher House."** Some of the items include major necessities like blow up beds that will be used for families staying, and other little things that can make veterans feel at home. This appeal is urgent because we expect the house to open by mid May and we would like to have it fully stocked and prepared by the time it's opened and veterans can start using the house.

We'd like to thank you for becoming a part of something meaningful, something truly rewarding. As a contributor to the North Florida/South Georgia Fisher House, you will be helping our heroes at a time when they need it most.

The Fisher House, built by generous public donations, offers service members and their families a comfortable living environment during treatment for traumatic war-related medical crises. In most cases, these men and women are being treated far from home; their stays are lengthy due to the severity of their injuries or illnesses.

The Gainesville Fisher House will provide a refuge to veterans, military members and their families in 50 counties in the North Florida and South Georgia service regions. It will also serve those from around the country who may come for specialty services. The facility will feature:

- a "home away from home" with 20 all-accessible suites, communal kitchen, laundry facilities, living area, study area, outdoor garden and playground areas
- the potential to provide 10,000 guest nights each year

A simple spoken gratitude is no longer enough. Give thanks by getting involved with the Gainesville Fisher House Foundation, where "a family's love is good medicine."

Please consider our foundation on an annual basis. For more information about our organization, visit our website or contact us directly. We are so appreciative that you have become a part of our effort.

Sincerely,

Patricia Fabiani

Patricia Fabiani, Executive Director
Gainesville Fisher House Foundation
Tax ID #26-3806088

Help the North Florida South Georgia Fisher House

Partner with us for Success

YOU AND YOUR ORGANIZATION CAN ASSIST
THE NORTH FLORIDA /SOUTH GEORGIA FISHER
HOUSE IN MANY WAYS!



The Gainesville Fisher House Foundation is here to support the needs of the North Florida/South Georgia Fisher House.

A home away from home for veterans, military and their families during serious medical treatment.

"A family's love is good medicine"

The NF/SG Fisher house is located on the grounds of the Malcom Randall VA Medical Center in Gainesville, Florida.

We're asking you to become a part of something special, something truly rewarding, helping those who have sacrificed for our freedom.

- Operation Endowment
- Planned Giving
- Event Sponsorship
- UF Leadership Campaign 96875
- UF Charities Campaign 96875
- Combined Federal Campaign 3037
- Walk of Courage-Dedicated Brick and Pavers
- Golf and Gala April 6th
- Fallen Hero 5k April
- Communal Meals
- Volunteer
- Just give!

Please contact us for further information
or donation



GainesvilleFisherHouse.org

P.O. Box 358296
Gainesville, FL 32635

(352) 575-0710 google voice
gfisherhouse@gmail.com

Girls State 2014 Orientation Schedule

District	Date	Time	Location	Chairman	Staff Member
1	5/10	10:00 AM	Post 296 311 Main St, Destin	Emerlena Maxile 850-319-2685	Tina Kirchoff 850-774-4800
2	5/31	2:00 PM (cst)	Tallahassee Post 13 229 Lake Ella Dr	Theresa Briggs 850-386-6085	Theresa Briggs 850-386-6085
3	5/10	10:00 AM	Lake City Post 57 2602 SW Main	Irma Wehrli 386-755-3814	Theresa Briggs 850-386-6085
4	5/18	2:00 PM	Crystal River Post 155 6585 W Gulf to Lake Hwy	Dianne Kaufmann 352-527-3590	Sylvia Fidler 386-344-4215
5	5/17	1:00 PM	Jacksonville Post 283 9459 Ft Caro;ine Rd	Pat Cornell 904-264-6146	Sylvia Fidler 386-344-4215
6	5/31	10:00 AM	Orlando Post 286 529 Fairlane Ave	Robin Briere 407-267-7260	Robin Briere 407-267-7260
6	5/25	1:00 PM	Lady Lake Post 347 699 W Lady Lake Blvd	Robin Briere 407-267-7260	Peggy Hearlson 352-875-4454
7	5/18	1:00 PM	Winter Haven 8 300 Ave "M" NW	Nancy Anderson 863-409-0771	Nancy Anderson 863-409-0771
8	5/17	10:00 AM	Bradenton 24 2000 75th St	Jeanne Maloney 941-426-4764	TBA
9	5/31	2:00 PM	Ft Lauderdale Post 222 4250 NE 5th Ave	Gail Dupuis 954-583-7574	Nancy Anderson 863-409-0771
11	5/18	1:00 PM	Riviera Beach 268 1690 Ave H West	Fran Carlton 561-967-1815	TBA
12	5/3	10:00 AM	Palm Bay Post 117 189 Veterans Dr Se	Barbara Simpson 321-684-1805	Sylvia Fidler 386-344-4215
13	5/24	10:00 AM	N Ft Myers Post 336 5770 Bayshore Rd	Sandy Eck 239-543-2011	Linda Teasley 863-675-2086
14	5/18	2:00 PM	Palmetto Bay Post 133 16401 SW 90 th St	Beverly Evans 305-233-9715	TBA
15	5/4	1:00 PM	Tampa Post 5 3810 W Kennedy Blvd	Mary Kehoe 352-428-1649	Jackie Booth 727-457-8100
16	4/27	11:00 AM	Clearwater 7 1760 Turner St	Doris Clark 727-934-1140	Jackie Booth 727-457-8100
17	4/26	Noon	New Smyrna Post 17 619 W Canal St	Chris Remington 386-426-6985	Diane Rousseau 352-360-0016

Attendance is mandatory for all Delegates and Alternates. There is no exception!

AMERICANISM

AHOY!! HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!! I just wanted to share BIG HUGS and SMILES to All of You – I didn't want to miss anyone...

So, as you know, February is the 'official' AMERICANISM month – how did you do?? Not to worry, Americanism is EVERY Month, EVERY Day. After all, it is in our DNA for heaven's sake!! We are ALL Red, White and 'Ocean' Blue – I just want to hear YOU shout about it...

"Nothing is Impossible – the word itself says
'I'm Possible'."

- Audrey Hepburn.

Are you working the Essay Contest?? I have had the privilege of working with some of our scholastic youth and BRAVO – they are totally awesome!!! Just give them a chance – I have again asked Ryan to add the Essay Contest Cover page to our Dept Website: www.ALAFL.org. PLEASE make sure you follow the Word Requirement and

have the entries submitted before April 1st (No Fooling...) If you need it Post Haste – please send me a memo and it will be in your 'Inbox' ASAP...

Our National Southern Division Americanism Chairman, Diane Rousseau, sent an email with a quote from our National Commander Daniel Dellinger:

"February is Americanism Month, a time to rededicate ourselves to the honoring of patriotic values, including selfless volunteerism to support our nation's children and youth, respect for our flag and promotion of wholesome community service and activity. February will soon be over but our commitment to America's young people, and to patriotism, is everlasting. Please consider joining other Legion Family volunteers by helping with these programs."

Let's all help keep Americanism alive & well!! I absolutely WELCOME any memos from you about your Red, White and Ocean Blue Americanism activities you have done or are planning to do. You know me, I relish every opportunity to BRAG about YOU!!!

God Bless America ~



TK

Treva Kay Wildrick
Department Americanism Chairman



Homeless Veterans Initiative

I want to thank everyone who has been sending in information about what they're working on for our homeless heroes!! Together we can make a difference!

You too can see what other units, in Florida and throughout the country, are doing by checking out the FB page at:

<https://www.facebook.com/AlaDeptOfFlHomelessVeteransInitiative>. You can also post what your unit is doing and find out information about what the government is doing to help our homeless heroes as well as a lot of other information relating to this topic.

On March 1, 2014 I will be at American Legion Post 323 Lehigh Acres to work with this wonderful group to create outreach, awareness and work towards helping the homeless veteran population in that area. I'll be at the 4th District meeting on April 26th and am available to come to your unit or district meeting as well to talk about homelessness or help you act against homelessness – either way I'm here to help you get the job done!! Just send me an email and we can set up some time!!!

Outreach

Please keep in mind when doing outreach the purpose of outreach is to give a hand up – not a hand out and enable them to maintain their homeless status. When you reach out to a homeless veteran please be sure to refer them to the correct resources – your local VA Homeless Veteran Outreach office. Also, when developing an outreach program it's key to get your local Continuum of Care on board and involved – as they have the resources needed beyond the VA.

Here is the list of 2014 Continuum of Care Designated Lead Agencies (As updated by HUD 2014 Continuum of Care Registration Submissions) <http://www.dcf.state.fl.us/programs/homelessness/docs/leadagencies.pdf>

Holding a Stand Down

Many people have asked about holding a stand down. Check out this website for The National Coalition of Homeless Veterans: http://nchv.org/index.php/about/about/who_is_nchv/ you can sign up for free email newsletters which includes information about upcoming stand downs, government information, and stats on homelessness.

They are holding Educational Webinars on developing a stand down and how to apply for a grant to finance a stand down. You can find out more information on their website.

NCHV Stand Down Training Webinars in March
Webinar on Stand Down Development – March 3;
Webinar on Stand Down Financing – March 10

Webinar on Stand Down Development
March 3, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. EST

Starting with the first Stand Down in San Diego in 1988, Stand Down events have continued the mission of providing a “hand up, not hand out” to homeless veterans in local communities. Learn how to contribute to this mission by supporting a Stand Down in your community.

On March 3 at 2:00 p.m. EST, NCHV’s TA Center will host a webinar training on the Stand Down program, focusing on an introduction to Stand Down development and planning. This training will provide an introduction to Stand Downs, an overview of the different types and classifications of Stand Down events, and an outline of the major partners necessary for a successful event.

Participants will learn where to find more information on local events, about funding and donation resources, and about the various guidebooks and tools available to community partners. This training provides the foundation for the “Stand Down Financing” webinar on March 10.

HVRP grantees and their partners interested in learning more about development of a Stand Down are encouraged to participate in this training. Community partners wanting to support local Stand Down events and current Stand Down organizers expanding or improving existing events should participate.

TO REGISTER FOR “STAND DOWN DEVELOPMENT”
Send the following information to hvrp@nchv.org:

Name:
Organization:
E-mail Address:
Organization Address:

Webinar on Stand Down Financing
March 10, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. EDT

Stand Down events across the country create an access point for homeless veterans and their families seeking services. To be effective, Stand Down organizers leverage partners within the community to help match the needs of veterans to available resources. While Stand Downs vary widely in structure and services, all Stand Down events require budget planning and fundraising to support activities.

On March 10 at 2:00 p.m. EDT, the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans (NCHV) is hosting webinar training on the Stand Down program, focusing on financing and coordinated services. This training will outline the application process for DOL-VETS HVRP Stand Down grants, provide methods for engaging the VA Medical Center in your Stand Down, and describe the major partnerships necessary for a successful event.

Organizations participating in or planning their first Stand Down events are encouraged to participate in the NCHV TA Center training Webinar “Stand Down Development” on March 3. Participants in “Stand Down Financing” should include HVRP grantees and their partners, other Stand Down organizers, and community partners interested in filling in gaps between veteran needs and available services. State workforce agencies, state and local workforce investment boards, veterans service organizations (VSOs), local public agencies, and nonprofit organizations, including community- and faith-based organizations that anticipate applying for Stand Down funds, are encouraged to participate.

TO REGISTER FOR “STAND DOWN FINANCING”

Send the following information to hvrp2@nchv.org:

Name:

Organization:

E-mail Address:

Organization Address:

You will receive instructions for joining the training and a link to the training materials when you register. For additional questions, please contact Baylee Crone at bcrone@nchv.org or 202-546-1969.

Also NVHS still has four (4) \$5,000.00 grants available to be used by the end of June (nvhs.us/grants)

PTSD Awareness

Don't forget that June is PTSD Awareness Month – start working now to get your community leaders to sponsor a PTSD Awareness Month in your area. This is a very powerful message from one who knows: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nIW-Sv962SM>

For God & Country

Dorothy Walsh

Penne with Spring Vegetables

Original recipe makes 4 servings

- 1 pound fresh asparagus, trimmed and cut into 1/2 inch pieces
- 1 (8 ounce) package sugar snap peas, trimmed
- 1 (8 ounce) package dry penne pasta
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

1. Bring a large pot of lightly salted water to a boil. Add asparagus, and cook for 2 minutes. Add peas, and cook for 2 more minutes. Transfer to a large bowl; set aside. Add pasta to boiling water, and cook for 8 to 10 minutes or until al dente; drain.
2. Place pasta in the bowl with asparagus and peas. Toss with olive oil, Parmesan, salt and pepper.



Legislative News

Legislative News

Last week, Congressman Ted Yoho (3rd District FL) cosponsored H.R. 3996, The Military Shopping Benefits Act. This legislation prohibits the Department of Defense from closing or reducing the operations of exchanges or commissaries in the U.S. through 2016. Congressman Yoho states, "I cosponsored this bill because I've heard from many young servicemen and women who rely on these stores to help feed their families. The last thing our military men and women should have to worry about is putting food on the table. We need to cut wasteful programs at DoD, not ones that help military families feed themselves". Please contact your congressman and ask them to be a co-sponsor of this bill and to support this bill. Many of you may have personal stories to share.

A bill that is moving through the Florida Legislature has to do with State Universities waiving out-of state tuition costs for those in active military service and veterans. The GI educational benefits only pay for in-state tuition costs. Thus a service member stationed in Florida but with residency in another state has to pay the difference. Please contact your State legislative officials and ask them to support this initiative. SB 7020 known as the Florida GI Bill

"The Florida GI Bill expands education and employment opportunities for those in active military service and our veterans and makes strategic investments in Florida's military infrastructure," said Senate President Pro Tempore Garrett Richter (R-Naples). "This bill is a top priority for the Florida Senate during the 2014 Session. Together, with our House colleagues, we will show our thanks and gratitude to those who serve our county by making Florida the top 'Welcome Home' state for our military, our veterans and their families."

Senate Bill 7020 waives out-of-state tuition for honorably discharged veterans and funds scholarships, including online programs and book stipends, through the Education Dollars for Duty Program for members of the Florida National Guard who are not eligible for the federal GI Bill. The legislation creates a public-private partnership which would include: a marketing campaign to promote Florida as a permanent residence to military personnel and communicate to veterans looking to or currently calling Florida home about the resources and benefits the state has to offer; provide an entrepreneur mentoring program for veterans; and offer grants to businesses who train veterans for jobs. Finally, the legislation includes funding to finish the state's commitment to restore and renovate Florida National Guard armories through the Florida Armory Revitalization Program, as well as funding to continue base buffering efforts to preserve Florida's military missions and protect our military bases from encroachment. (www.senatordongaetzreports.com)

The COLA reductions passed earlier this year as part of the general budget have been reinstated thanks in large part to the hard work and many voices of the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary.

Keep calling, keep writing, and keep emailing. Together we can make a difference.
For God and Country,

Nancy Anderson



Membership

I can't say enough, you ladies "Rock" you are doing an AWESOME job in membership. I want to thank you for all your hard work and thank you for leaving the baggage behind for this cruise. As I was thinking about what a great job you ladies are doing in working to make Florida #1, I came across a little short story I would like to share with you and maybe it will be helpful to some members. So here is the story...

This philosophy is so well spoken.

One day a great philosopher came upon an acquaintance who ran up to him excitedly and said, "Socrates, do you know what I just heard about one of your students?"

"Wait a moment," Socrates replied. "Before you tell me I'd like you to take a little test. It's called the triple filter test."

"Triple Filter," the young man replied.

"That's right," Socrates continues. "Before you talk to me about one of my students let's take a moment to filter what you are going to say.

The first filter is Truth. Have you made absolutely sure that what you are about to tell me is true?"

"No" the man replied "actually I just heard it and.."

"All right," said Socrates, "So you don't really know if it's true or not. Now let's try the second filter, the filter of goodness. Is what you are about to tell me about my student something good?"

"No on the contrary" replied the man

"So," Socrates continues "you want to tell me something bad about him, even though you're not sure it is true?"

The man shrugged, a little embarrassed. Socrates continues. "You may still pass the test though because there is a third filter. The filter of Usefulness. Is what you want to tell me going to be useful to me or my student?"

"Not really" the man replied.

"Well," concluded Socrates "if what you want to tell me is neither True, nor Good, or even Useful, why tell me at all?"

The man was defeated and ashamed.

This is why Socrates was a great philosopher and held in such high esteem.

So all in all I guess leaving the baggage behind can be credited to Socrates back in BC time.

Some things make you hmmm... just to think. Ok, thinking about membership now, we are currently number 4th in the Southern Division and 14th Nationally. I know you all are as proud as I am to be a member and want us to be Number 1 in the Nation. I know I will be handing out many of Flip Flops during convention and I am excited to hand them out. Again, I want to thank all of you for a wonderful American Legion Auxiliary in the state of Florida.

February 20th Statistical
*All Membership through 2/19/2014 has been
keyed*

DISTRICT 1					
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	CURRENT %	NEEDED 100%
75	CRESTVIEW	176	159	90.34%	17
78	MILTON	47	33	70.21%	14
121	JAY	15	14	93.33%	1
193	PENSACOLA	134	100	74.63%	34
221	NICEVILLE	68	52	76.47%	16
235	FT.WALTON BCH	193	163	84.46%	30
240	PENSACOLA	284	228	80.28%	56
296	DESTIN	70	56	80.00%	14
340	PENSACOLA	289	246	85.12%	43
356	LYNN HAVEN	181	147	81.22%	34
375	SOUTHPORT	79	58	73.42%	21
378	GULF BREEZE	18	4	22.22%	14
382	NAVARRE	134	108	80.60%	26
392	PANAMA CITY	137	137	100.00%	0
District		1825	1505	82.47%	320

DISTRICT 4					
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	CURRENT %	NEEDED 100%
16	GAINESVILLE	67	63	94.03%	4
27	OCALA	36	28	77.78%	8
56	STARKE	19	13	68.42%	6
58	DUNNELLON	56	37	66.07%	19
77	INVERNESS	62	46	74.19%	16
91	TRENTON	21	13	61.90%	8
149	NEWBERRY	27	15	55.56%	12
155	CRYSTAL RIVER	328	275	83.84%	53
210	OCALA	18	10	55.56%	8
225	FLORAL CITY	22	18	81.82%	4
230	HAWTHORNE	39	31	79.49%	8
236	WILLISTON	14	12	85.71%	2
237	BEVERLY HILLS	98	88	89.80%	10
284	BELLEVUE	169	134	79.29%	35
314	STARKE	18	16	88.89%	2
District		994	799	80.38%	195

DISTRICT 2					
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	CURRENT %	NEEDED 100%
13	TALLAHASSEE	101	81	80.20%	20
82	LANARK VILLAGE	77	69	89.61%	8
84	HAVANA	24	17	70.83%	7
100	MARIANNA	70	62	88.57%	8
114	CRAWFORDVILLE	30	29	96.67%	1
172	HOSFORD	16	15	93.75%	1
217	QUINCY	61	53	86.89%	8
241	SNEADS	75	67	89.33%	8
272	BLOUNTSTOWN	14	0	0.00%	14
District		468	393	83.97%	75

DISTRICT 5					
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	CURRENT %	NEEDED 100%
9	JACKSONVILLE	41	24	58.54%	17
37	ST. AUGUSTINE	123	79	64.23%	44
54	FERNANDINA BCH	249	187	75.10%	62
88	JACKSONVILLE	129	98	75.97%	31
129	JACKSONVILLE BCH	339	224	66.08%	115
137	JACKSONVILLE	576	495	85.94%	81
174	FERNANDINA BEACH	15	0	0.00%	15
194	ST. AUGUSTINE	18	26	144.44%	-8
197	JACKSONVILLE	36	24	66.67%	12
202	KEYSTONE HGTS	80	67	83.75%	13
233	PONTE VEDRA BCH	152	136	89.47%	16
244	SO. JACKSONVILLE	55	46	83.64%	9
250	MIDDLEBURG	376	281	74.73%	95
283	JACKSONVILLE	278	265	95.32%	13
316	ATLANTIC BCH	419	335	79.95%	84
373	ORANGE PARK	28	24	85.71%	4
District		2914	2311	79.31%	603

DISTRICT 3					
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	CURRENT %	NEEDED 100%
49	MONTICELLO	21	23	109.52%	-2
57	LAKE CITY	265	242	91.32%	23
107	LIVE OAK	37	38	102.70%	-1
131	GREENVILLE	37	22	59.46%	15
215	JASPER	47	33	70.21%	14
224	MADISON	28	29	103.57%	-1
291	STEINHATCHEE	168	148	88.10%	20
383	OLD TOWN	153	131	85.62%	22
District		756	666	88.10%	90

Happy President's Day!!!

	DISTRICT 6				
				CURRENT	NEEDED
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	%	100%
10	KISSIMMEE	310	225	72.58%	85
19	ORLANDO	194	146	75.26%	48
21	UMATILLA	41	20	48.78%	21
35	MOUNT DORA	113	72	63.72%	41
41	EUSTIS	9	18	200.00%	-9
52	LEESBURG	20	15	75.00%	5
53	SANFORD	207	141	68.12%	66
55	CLERMONT	150	137	91.33%	13
63	WINTER GARDEN	42	17	40.48%	25
76	TAVARES	23	16	69.57%	7
80	ST. CLOUD	298	246	82.55%	52
101	BUSHNELL	149	114	76.51%	35
109	OCOE	43	35	81.40%	8
112	WINTER PARK	21	18	85.71%	3
183	ALTAMONTE SPR	144	116	80.56%	28
219	FRUITLAND PARK	256	213	83.20%	43
242	ORLANDO	191	129	67.54%	62
286	PINE CASTLE	331	261	78.85%	70
330	LEESBURG	54	50	92.59%	4
331	ORLANDO	82	11	13.41%	71
347	LADY LAKE	1,057	1120	105.96%	-63
	District	3735	3120	83.53%	615

	DISTRICT 7				
				CURRENT	NEEDED
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	%	100%
3	BARTOW	79	73	92.41%	6
4	LAKELAND	121	101	83.47%	20
8	WINTER HAVEN	688	458	66.57%	230
34	HAINES CITY	78	59	75.64%	19
71	LAKE WALES	36	49	136.11%	-13
72	MULBERRY	162	147	90.74%	15
118	ZEPHYRHILLS	37	22	59.46%	15
201	FLORENCE VILLA	46	39	84.78%	7
213	MOULTRY-CRAFT	11	0	0.00%	11
339	CRESTHAVEN	48	41	85.42%	7
	District	1306	989	75.73%	317

	DISTRICT 8				
				CURRENT	NEEDED
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	%	100%
11	ARCADIA	33	19	57.58%	14
24	BRADENTON	422	411	97.39%	11
25	LAKE PLACID	381	328	86.09%	53
30	SARASOTA	62	66	106.45%	-4
69	AVON PARK	334	289	86.53%	45
74	SEBRING	97	90	92.78%	7
113	ROTANDA WEST	426	361	84.74%	65
159	VENICE	858	669	77.97%	189
254	NORTH PORT	106	76	71.70%	30
266	FRUITVILLE	125	101	80.80%	24
309	PALMETTO	254	202	79.53%	52
312	ONECO	256	208	81.25%	48
325	ELLENTON	58	52	89.66%	6
	District	3466	2,872	82.86%	594

	DISTRICT 9				
				CURRENT	NEEDED
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	%	100%
36	FT. LAUDERDALE	102	85	83.33%	17
92	HOLLYWOOD	124	112	90.32%	12
142	POMPANO BEACH	296	260	87.84%	36
157	MARGATE	344	255	74.13%	89
162	DEERFIELD BEACH	309	208	67.31%	101
180	PLANTATION	125	99	79.20%	26
209	DANIA	25	15	60.00%	10
222	FT. LAUDERDALE	92	61	66.30%	31
287	DEERFIELD BEACH	20	21	105.00%	-1
304	DANIA	229	187	81.66%	42
310	HALLANDALE	37	26	70.27%	11
321	COOPER CITY	168	75	44.64%	93
	District	1871	1404	75.04%	467

	DISTRICT 11				
				CURRENT	NEEDED
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	%	100%
20	BELLE GLADE	60	66	110.00%	-6
47	LAKE WORTH	142	120	84.51%	22
62	STUART	124	114	91.94%	10
64	OKEECHOBEE	131	97	74.05%	34
65	DELRAY BEACH	69	50	72.46%	19
141	WEST PALM BCH	93	82	88.17%	11
164	BOYNTON BEACH	189	126	66.67%	63
188	DELRAY BEACH	18	15	83.33%	3
199	WEST PALM BCH	51	28	54.90%	23
258	GREENACRES	28	28	100.00%	0
268	RIVIERA BEACH	144	106	73.61%	38
269	LANTANA	21	2	9.52%	19
271	JUPITER	185	169	91.35%	16
277	BOCA RATON	110	99	90.00%	11
288	BOYNTON BEACH	71	64	90.14%	7
367	ROYAL PALM BCH	47	43	91.49%	4
399	PALM CITY	19	11	57.89%	8
	District	1,502	1,220	81.23%	282

	DISTRICT 12				
				CURRENT	NEEDED
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	%	100%
1	TITUSVILLE	310	281	90.65%	29
22	COCOA	107	89	83.18%	18
39	VERO BEACH	197	168	85.28%	29
40	FORT PIERCE	235	158	67.23%	77
81	MELBOURNE	152	126	82.89%	26
117	PALM BAY	415	351	84.58%	64
126	JENSEN BEACH	206	175	84.95%	31
163	EAU GALLIE	353	331	93.77%	22
171	FORT PIERCE	40	13	32.50%	27
177	COCOA	12	0	0.00%	12
189	SEBASTIAN	103	65	63.11%	38
191	MELBOURNE	140	115	82.14%	25
200	SATELLITE BEACH	102	94	92.16%	8
318	PORT ST LUCIE	377	364	96.55%	13
332	KENNEDY SPACE CTR	32	23	71.88%	9
348	CAPE CANAVERAL	171	123	71.93%	48
358	FORT PIERCE	62	49	79.03%	13
359	PORT ST JOHN	257	211	82.10%	46
366	BAREFOOT BAY	89	77	86.52%	12
394	PALM BAY	50	48	96.00%	2
	District	3410	2,861	83.90%	549

DISTRICT 13					
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	CURRENT %	NEEDED 100%
38	FORT MYERS	93	85	91.40%	8
90	CAPE CORAL	179	88	49.16%	91
103	PUNTA GORDA	353	296	83.85%	57
110	PORT CHARLOTTE	528	481	91.10%	47
123	SANIBEL	103	61	59.22%	42
130	LABELLE	200	157	78.50%	43
135	NAPLES	408	371	90.93%	37
136	PINE ISLAND	444	427	96.17%	17
192	FORT MYERS	24	22	91.67%	2
274	FORT MYERS BCH	581	523	90.02%	58
303	BONITA SPRINGS	400	335	83.75%	65
323	LEHIGH ACRES	473	383	80.97%	90
336	N. FORT MYERS	273	251	91.94%	22
351	FT MYERS SHORES	105	76	72.38%	29
388	BONITA SPRINGS	11	0	0.00%	11
District		4175	3556	85.17%	619

DISTRICT 16					
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	CURRENT %	NEEDED 100%
7	CLEARWATER	432	333	77.08%	99
14	ST. PETERSBURG	155	130	83.87%	25
79	NEW PORT RICHEY	319	246	77.12%	73
104	PINELLAS PARK	265	219	82.64%	46
119	LARGO	380	333	87.63%	47
125	GULFPORT	406	348	85.71%	58
158	TREASURE ISLAND	146	137	93.84%	9
173	HOLIDAY	286	235	82.17%	51
238	SAFETY HARBOR	275	211	76.73%	64
252	CROSS BAYOU	572	630	110.14%	-58
273	MADEIRA BEACH	2,168	1888	87.08%	280
275	DUNNEDIN	344	325	94.48%	19
305	ST. PETE BEACH	177	131	74.01%	46
335	HUDSON	246	189	76.83%	57
District		6171	5355	86.78%	816

DISTRICT 14					
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	CURRENT %	NEEDED 100%
28	KEY WEST	83	72	86.75%	11
29	MIAMI	19	22	115.79%	-3
31	MIAMI	147	134	91.16%	13
43	HOMESTEAD	59	57	96.61%	2
67	NORTH MIAMI	100	67	67.00%	33
98	CORAL GABLES	42	24	57.14%	18
133	PERRINE	88	66	75.00%	22
154	MARATHON	173	144	83.24%	29
168	KEY WEST	33	18	54.55%	15
333	KEY LARGO	86	66	76.74%	20
346	MIAMI	32	24	75.00%	8
374	KEY BISCAYNE	71	68	95.77%	3
District		933	762	81.67%	171

DISTRICT 17					
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	CURRENT %	NEEDED 100%
6	DELAND	130	125	96.15%	5
17	NEW SMYRNA BCH	305	278	91.15%	27
45	PALATKA	39	29	74.36%	10
115	BUNNELL	62	13	20.97%	49
120	HOLLY HILL	243	243	100.00%	0
127	LAKE HELEN	28	21	75.00%	7
204	DAYTONA BEACH	41	33	80.49%	8
255	DELTONA	38	31	81.58%	7
259	DEBARY,ORANGE CT	33	27	81.82%	6
267	ORMOND BEACH	159	119	74.84%	40
270	PORT ORANGE	154	141	91.56%	13
285	EDGEWATER	274	181	66.06%	93
293	INTERLACHEN	118	70	59.32%	48
361	SOUTH DAYTONA	189	169	89.42%	20
District		1813	1480	81.63%	333

DISTRICT 15					
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	CURRENT %	NEEDED 100%
5	TAMPA	43	35	81.40%	8
26	PLANT CITY	38	28	73.68%	10
99	BROOKSVILLE	38	32	84.21%	6
111	TAMPA	56	46	82.14%	10
138	PORT TAMPA CITY	361	320	88.64%	41
139	TAMPA	162	162	100.00%	0
147	ODESSA	47	31	65.96%	16
148	RIVERVIEW	228	190	83.33%	38
152	TAMPA	311	276	88.75%	35
167	TAMPA	16	27	168.75%	-11
186	SPRING HILL	364	350	96.15%	14
248	WEST TAMPA	19	20	105.26%	-1
334	TAMPA	38	39	102.63%	-1
389	RUSKIN	26	17	65.38%	9
District		1747	1573	90.04%	174

Next Target Date is Apr 18, 2014 - 85%

Membership keyed as of 2/19/2014

<i>District</i>	<i>%</i>
15	90.04
3	88.10
16	86.78
13	85.17
2	83.97
12	83.90
6	83.53
8	82.86
1	82.47
14	81.67
17	81.63
11	81.23
4	80.38
5	79.31
7	75.73
9	75.04

*The 2014 Department Membership Goal is **37,464**
As of 2/19/2014 **31,109** have been processed
We are currently at **83.03%***