




# The Ribbiting News Communique

## *Presidents Message*



Seems like just yesterday that I was typing up last month's "Leap To Success Message" ... and here I am again. No wonder "my year" as your Department President is going so fast. Wow!

As the Auxiliary year winds down, the 'Calendar of Activities' on Page 59 in the Unit Guide looks like this for the next few months: April – Children & Youth, May – Poppy, and June – Juniors. As we

all know, just because we have to do year-end reports, working the programs goes on and on – to get us started on reports for next year. It never ends & that's great! ☺

Let's see ... last month we reflected on the "L" in "Leap To Success". Shall we go on with the other letters?!

**E = Energize:** In my travels, I have seen a lot of energized members. ☺ It's wonderful to see Unit members pulling together to make things happen. Sometimes it means putting aside personal differences, putting a smile on your face, and doing whatever needs to get done because in the end someone has been helped. The end result is what we all have to think about. I've seen some great American Legion Families out there ... working together to get things accomplished. I've also seen some American Legion Families out there that will not work together – usually because of personality differences. Bottom line: Let's all get energized ... work together ... get the jobs done. We have the great mission of serving our veterans, our military and their families, serving our communities, and helping our children. Let's get energized and do it.

**A = Applications:** The Auxiliary's theme usually includes something about membership ... so the 'A' in LEAP was 'A' for Applications. Everyone should carry with them an application for all parts of The American Legion Family. Do you? You never know when you'll run into someone you want to sign up. The Department of Florida is doing well ... but we have to keep it going if we are going to reach 100%. I know we can do it. Every membership counts. Personally contact those who haven't renewed. If you need help, get a few members together and call those who haven't paid. If you need help from me and/

or the Membership Committee, let us know. Together we can Leap to at least 100%. ☺

**A = Apply:** Let's do a little more with the 'A' ... let's use the word Apply. We need to apply what we've heard, learned and read about. Workshop was well attended ... Schools of Instruction were held in every District ... many ABC Schools have been held around the state ... District meetings have been held where Units report on their activities ... there's tons of information on American Legion Family websites. Let's use our knowledge and our talents to improve our programs, our great organization, and ourselves. ☺

**My recent travels:** Mid-February found me hopping around the 12<sup>th</sup> District with District President Ann. We went from Palm Bay to Fort Pierce to Barefoot Bay to Melbourne and to Eau Gallie the 1<sup>st</sup> day! Then Saturday was a great bus trip to the West Palm Beach VAMC where we visited with many of our heroes and gave them gifts. I also got to see PDP Linda McKeon while there. Please keep her in your prayers. The bus stopped at 318 Port St. Lucie for a yummy dinner ... then we stopped back at 163 Eau Gallie for their Mardi Gras party where of course I got the baby in the King Cake and was crowned Queen ... ☺ ... think it was a "set up!" Before leaving the District on Sunday, had a delicious breakfast at 117 Palm Bay ... and then visited the Veterans Transition Center in Melbourne. Phew! Great time again. Thanks everyone!

Then came the Washington D.C. Conference. Chuck and I both attended from February 25<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> ("Leap Day!!!"). I attended workshops on Sunday as well as the official opening session. Monday was busy with many guest speakers and presentations, and the joint session with The American Legion to prepare us for meeting with our legislators. That evening I had the honor of accompanying Chuck to the 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Reception Honoring the Foreign Relations Commission held in the Diplomatic Reception Rooms of the U.S. Department of State. What an impressive place that is! Tuesday, the 28<sup>th</sup>, started with the Commander's Call – joint session with The American Legion regarding legislation. Then a very nice luncheon was held in the Rayburn Building where Florida's legislators came and we had



the opportunity to speak with them about veterans' concerns. Those who didn't come to the luncheon got a special visit by some of us. Way to go team! Note: It's impossible for me to highlight what happened. To read all about the Conference, go to the Auxiliary's National Website, [www.alaforveterans.org](http://www.alaforveterans.org) - click on the Member Resources tab - then on Conventions & Meetings - then on Washington D.C. Conference. Lots of good information there ... check it out.

The last day in D.C., the 29<sup>th</sup>, I went on the bus trip to Arlington National Cemetery and the National Cathedral. It was great to see the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and National President Kris laying a wreath there. (The bad part is it rained all the time we were there ... but enduring the rain is nothing compared to what our heroes have been through.) The tour of the National Cathedral was wonderful. Great day in the rain!

Early March found me leaping around the 4<sup>th</sup> District with District President Alice. No grass grew under the tires of the ALA Equinox as we went to Bellevue for brunch, then had a great escort by Riders Chapter 284 up to Ocala where we toured The Ritz (old hotel being fixed over for homeless veterans ... by the way, they can use the Auxiliary's help!), then had a great dinner at 16 Gainesville. The next day was the District meeting in 155 Crystal River and then Jim Ramos' Northern Area Ball - where I was honored to be joined by my handsome prince Chuck and my brother Donald and sister-in-law Randy. Again ... what fun! ☺

The next day, Chuck and I drove across the state to 285 Edgewater and enjoyed the festivities at the 17<sup>th</sup> District Picnic being held at 285's new location. Great time was had by all ... and yes, I did end up on the stage singing with Rhonda. Thanks - it was great fun taking part in a fundraiser for our homeless veterans.

Think I had a few days at home before Chuck and I headed off to the 13<sup>th</sup> District on March 9<sup>th</sup> where District President Donna

and Past SAL Commander Mike met us in LaBelle for the 1<sup>st</sup> evening of fun. Had a great fish dinner at 130 with members from several Units and Posts - yummy! Yes, it was karaoke night and I did sing for PDP Heenan and a few others who wouldn't leave until I sang. How's that for pressure?! ☺ Saturday found the ALA vehicle filled with 4 proud members (me, Chuck, Donna, Mike) riding in the Shrimp Festival Parade in Fort Myers Beach. Wow, folks in that area really love a parade! That evening found us at 303 Bonita Springs enjoying a great steak & prime rib dinner with more wonderful American Legion Family members. Thanks Kay and everyone! Sunday was a nice breakfast buffet at 336 North Fort Myers before Chuck and I headed home.

I've been home for 2 days ... so guess it's time to hit the road again. Leave in the morning to head down to the 7<sup>th</sup> District where I'll meet District President Nancy and we'll start our journey around the District. At the end of the week, I'll head to National SAL Commander Jim Roberts' homecoming - where I'll also have the pleasure of seeing National President Kris Nelson.

**Year End Reports:** Here's another reminder. Unit Chairmen must get reports to District Chairmen by April 15<sup>th</sup>. District Chairmen must get reports to Department Chairmen by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Department Chairmen then get that information to me by May 15<sup>th</sup> so I can immediately consolidate everything into the Department Year-End Report to National. Please report everything that you've done ... even the little things add up to a lot when it's consolidated on a statewide basis. Thanks everyone!

Diane Rousseau  
Department President



THE HOMECOMING OF DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT  
DIANE ROUSSEAU  
Saturday, April 21, 2012

**IS COMPLETELY FULL**

Thank you, to everyone who is participating...  
See you there!





Good day Auxiliary members; Pray you have had a good month I have been busy and enjoying staying busy as the Auxiliary Chaplain.

In Ecclesiastes 5:19 God said: "Every man should eat and drink and enjoy the good of all his labor, it is the gift of God." So work hard and enjoy the benefits of your labor.



Deceased list is long this month. I did receive a long list from one of the District Chaplains because the Unit Chaplains in this District did not process the "Purple" form. A thanks to all District Chaplains that encourage the Unit Chaplains to process the deceased notices.

District #1					Clark, Ruth
Unit 240	Conkel, Marie				Shinneman, Julie
District #2			Unit 331		Tunson, Erma
Unit 13	Gunderson, Jacqueline		District #7		
	Wolf, Arlene		Unit 7		Holmes, Linda
District # 3 (CORRECTION-Listed under Dist.2 last mo.)			District #8		
Unit # 131	Reams, Patricia		Unit 11		Beeles, Elnora
Unit # 383	Rich, Joan		District #9		
District #4			Unit 310		Martin, Theresa
Unit 155	Thomas, Mary Lou				Placke, Norma G.
Unit 210	Vance, Lois Virginia		District # 11		
Unit 225	Fair, Thayre R. (Charter Member)		Unit 47		Lodder, Della
District #5			District #13		
Unit 250	Ross, Hazel		Unit 303		Miller, Catherine R.
District #6			District #14		
Unit 19	Gallagher, Pauline		Unit 14		Reed, Advienne
	Tice, Maie Kay		District #15		
	Woken, Jane		Unit 138		Emerson, Patricia F.
Unit 53	Douglas, Mary		Unit 139		Schumann, Katherine A.
	Ekern, Maxine				Winchell, Gracie F.
	Hudson, Barbarza		Unit 152		Cox, Marvis E.
	Kirn, Marget M.		Unit 186		Daly, Karen
	Piatt, Bobbie J.				Muzzy, Winifred J.
	Schaefer, Mary L.		Unit 334		Rudisill, Nancy
	Tedesco, Marcelne		District # 16		
Unit 63	Butchel, Gertrude		Unit 273		Faustino, Loretta
	Topping, Muriel				Hallden, Alice R.
Unit 80	Connelly, Edna				Ostrander, Carolyn
	Venable, Mary				Sheasby, Barbara
	Worthy, Nancy				Stephens, Mildred E.
Unit 219	McNutt, Janet		District # 17		
Unit 242	Brown, Angela		Unit 120		Brown, Doris
Unit 286	Arnold, Dorothy				

These ladies have ceased their labors and are now at rest, but for we who remain, Psalms 128:2 said; "For thou shalt eat the labor of thine hands; happy shalt thou be, and it shall be well with thee"

Marion Vick  
Department Chaplain





# From the Secretary's Pad...



**Girls State . . .** The deadline for numbered applications has come and gone and Department is still missing many applications. If your Unit has not returned its numbered application to Department you are at risk of losing your slot. Contact our office ASAP and make arrangements to get that application in immediately.

If your Unit is having a problem filling your spot, contact either your District GS Chairman or Headquarters and we will help find an alternate in your area to fill it.

Do not mail paper copies of the applications to Department. We will only accept the original cardstock application mailed to the Unit.

**IRS Update . . .** All Units should have 2010 990Ns filed. Copies of this report being accepted by the IRS must be on file at Department. If your Unit has not filed or is having trouble filing, it is the Unit's responsibility to contact the IRS at 877-829-5500. You must identify yourself as an officer of the Unit for someone to speak with you. **WE CANNOT DO THIS FOR YOU!!!** The IRS will not speak to me regarding problems in your Unit. I do not belong there and am not an officer of your Unit.

Instructions on how to correct your name and fiscal year were in last month's communiqué.

**Corporation Renewals . . .** We must remind Units that you must renew your corporation through Sunbiz.org by May 1<sup>st</sup> or face a penalty. If you do not have the ability to renew online contact Department and we will be happy to do it for you and invoice the Unit. The cost to renew is \$61.25.

**Membership . . .** no member can transfer at this time without 2012 dues paid. If their 2012 dues are not paid they must pay the old Unit before they transfer.

A transfer is not a new member. Remember, if they have an ID # they go with renewals not new members.

**Honorary Life Members . . .** Units are required to pay the per-capita of all Honorary Life Members on the first recap each year. Just because the member no longer attends meetings, or you do not know her is reason to stop paying their dues. The Unit made a binding contract with the member by awarding them with a Life time Membership and that commitment lasts a LIFETIME! Unless the member dies, you must pay her dues each year unless she transfers to another Unit. **If we find un-paid honorary life members in your Unit, we will pay their dues and invoice the Unit!**

**Outstanding Quota Invoices . . .** the following Units still have outstanding invoices for Department Annual Quotas or Bonding fees. Units are required by Department's Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules to pay these Quotas each year. Please remit Unit checks to Department to clear these outstanding invoices off the books.

Another invoice has been sent to the Unit's address of record. Please remit ASAP.

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**District 1**  
Southport 375

**District 4**  
Williston 236

**District 7**  
Lake Wales 213  
Fernandina Bch 174

**District 12**  
Port St Lucie 318  
Ft Pierce 358

**District 17**  
Bunnell 115  
Deltona 255

**District 2**  
Graceville 42  
Chattahoochee 51

**District 5**  
Fernandina Bch 174  
St Augustine 194

**District 9**  
Dania 209  
Deerfield Beach 287

**District 14**  
Miami 29  
Key West 168  
Miami 346

**Lanark Village 82**  
Blountstown 272

**District 6**  
Clermont 55

**District 11**  
Palm Bch 12  
West Palm Bch 199

**District 15**  
Tampa 167  
West Tampa 248



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Many Units have received invoices for poppy postage that are due as well.

**Updates to the Unit Guide . . .** Pg 4 – All Children's Hospital has a new Rep. Lynnsey Cox has agreed to finish the year, replacing Mary Ann Kearns who resigned earlier in the year. Lynnsey's contact telephone # is 727-278-4953.

Pg 6 – Tampa VA has a new Deputy. Anne Sankowski is replacing Elaine Eddy. Anne's contact information is: 4406 Summer Oak Dr, Tampa 33618-5357. Telephone # is 813-205-9138 and email is [tsankows@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:tsankows@tampabay.rr.com).

Pg 6 – West Palm Beach has a new Representative. Linda Makel has agreed to fill the vacancy due to Linda McKeon's illness and the Department Executive Committee has ratified her appointment. Her contact information is: 1850 Homewood Blvd #303, Delray Beach 33445. Telephone # is 561-479-6649 and email contact is [lindamakel@yahoo.com](mailto:lindamakel@yahoo.com).

**Get Well and "Thinking of You" wishes are needed for the following.**

Past Department President, Linda Teasley's husband Charles is recovering from back surgery. Home address is: 97 Hardee St, LaBelle FL 33935.

Past Department President, Jean Mahoney 120 South Blvd. #1A Boynton Beach, FL 33435

Past Department President, Ruth Proctor's husband Bob (Dept NEC) is hospitalized and being treated for pneumonia. Due to a recent fall, Bob also is recovering from several broken bones. Home address is: 209 Mark Twain Lane, Rotonda West FL 33947.

Past Department President, Jan Croft, is reportedly doing well following her recent surgery. Her new address is 1854 A Hendersonville Rd PMB #3, Asheville NC 28803.

Robin Briere  
Secretary-Treasurer



# CHILDREN

AND

# YOUTH



Last month I traveled to the panhandle and visited the Northview Community Center in Pensacola. This organization originated in 1942 as the Crippled Children's Association to serve polio victims. Since then, the organization has been serving mentally and physically challenged people. Services include habilitation training, medical monitoring, physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and behavioral training. In 1980, the established Crippled Children's Home was relocated to the Northview Community site.

There are also five Emerald Coast Workshops, which offer work skills training and community inclusion. The workshop was the first part of the tour where Administrator Ruthie Andrews, who has been with the organization for 34 years, greeted us.

Ruthie introduced us to the staff, which most have been working there for more than 10 years. We also got to meet the clients. Some have been at Northview their entire life. Michelle came to them when she was a week old; she was not expected to live past 6 weeks. With the grace of God and excellent care Michelle is now 29 years old.

Each month there is an area at the workshop that is decorated representing a different country. When I was there the spotlight was on Africa. If anyone has any foreign items they would like to donate they would be greatly appreciated. Next month the country will be Holland. Wooden shoes anyone?

Northview Community Center is also feeling the effects of government cutting and needs our assistance. I've talked of the need of towel bibs; they could also use bath towels, washcloths, Twin sheets, pillowcases and socks. They prefer everything being white because of the use of bleach. Cleaning supplies, Shampoo and Body wash (No Bar Soap) would also be appreciated.

Thank you Gerrie Bailey and Bonnie Armstrong for the wonderful day.

Lois McFall  
Children & Youth Chairman





*Veterans Memorial Unit 347  
Proudly Endorses Peggy Hearlson  
For Department President*



On September 7, 2011 Veterans Memorial Unit 347, Lady Lake, unanimously endorsed Peggy Hearlson for the high office of Department President 2012-2013.

Peggy's eligibility for the American Legion Auxiliary is through the service of her husband, Phil Hearlson, a Viet Nam Combat Veteran and a member of Veterans Memorial Post 347.

In Peggy's thirteen years of service to the American Legion Auxiliary she has served in many capacities. On the Unit level she has served in many chairmanships, Unit Secretary, Unit Vice President and Unit President. On the District level she has served as Community Service Chairman, Girls State Chairman, and two years as District President. She is currently serving as District VA&R Chairman.

In 2007-2008 Peggy served as Department of Florida Children & Youth Chairman. She attended the first American Legion Family Children & Youth Conference held in Indianapolis. Peggy was invited by the National Guard to attend training for Operation Military Kids held in Kansas City. That year she won the National Southern Division Award for the best Department Children & Youth Report. In 2008-2009 she served as Department Community Service Chairman and liaison for Operation Military Kids for the Florida Legion Family. In 2009-2010 she served as the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida Historian. Peggy served as Department VA&R Chairman and Department 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President in 2010-2011. At National Convention in 2011 she was awarded the National Southern Division Award for the best overall Department VA&R program. Peggy is currently serving Department of Florida as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.

Peggy has attended Department Workshops, Fall Conferences, Department and National Conventions and the American Legion Auxiliary Awareness Assembly held in Washington DC. She has served on Florida Girls State Staff for three years. Peggy is a dedicated member of the American Legion Auxiliary. Her background and commitment to our organization has prepared her to serve as Department President for the Department of Florida.



*Girls State 2012 Orientation Schedule*

District	Date	Time	Location	Chairman	Staff Member
1	5/12	1:00 PM	Am Leg Post 221 444 John Simms Pky Niceville 32578	Emerlena Maxile 850-319-2685	Tina Kirchoff 850-774-4800
2	5/6	2:00 PM (Est)	Am Leg Post 13 229 Lake Ella Dr Tallahassee 32302	Theresa Matthews-Briggs 850-850-566-1616	Sylvia Fidler 386-344-4215
3	5/19	10:00 AM	Am Leg Post 57 2602 SW Main Blvd Lake City 32025	Irma Wehrli 386-755-3814	Lauren Callahan 407-625-3241
4	5/20	2:00 PM	Am Leg Post 16 4701 NW 6 <sup>th</sup> St Gainesville 32609	Dot Whittle 352-373-3329	Sylvia Fidler 386-344-4215
5	5/20	1:00 PM	Am Leg Post 129 1151 S 4 <sup>th</sup> St Jacksonville Bch 32250	Pat Cornell 904-246-6146	Krista Lang 407-301-0117
6	5/12	9:00 AM	Am Leg Post 286 529 Fairlane Ave Orlando 32809	Robin Briere 407-267-7260	Robin Briere 407-267-7260
7	5/6	2:00 PM	Am Leg Post 8 300 Ave "M" NW Winter Haven 33881	Nancy Anderson 863-678-1912	Mary Ellen Tidwell 863-585-7698
8	5/12	9:00 AM	Am Leg Post 159 1770 E Venice Ave Venice 34292	Jeanne Maloney 941-426-4764	Jackie Booth 727-457-8100
9	5/19	1:00 PM	Am Leg Post 142 171 SW 2 <sup>nd</sup> Ave Pompano Bch 33060	Trivel McKire 954-946-3969	Robin Briere 407-267-7260
11	5/6	1:00 PM	Am Leg Post 268 1609 Ave H Riviera Bch 33404	Fran Carlton 561-967-1815	Becky Miller 561-315-3292
12	5/20	10:00AM	Am Leg Post 163 1795 N Harbor City Blvd Melbourne 32935	Barbara Simpson 321-684-1805	Lauren Callahan 407-625-3241
13	5/5	10:00 AM	Am Leg Post 103 2101 Taylor Rd Punta Gorda 33950	Maureen Sebris 239-369-8822	Linda Teasley 863-843-0035
14	5/20	9:00 AM	Am Leg Post 133 16401 SW 90 <sup>th</sup> Ave Palmetto Bay 33171	Pat Trippe 786-385-9329	Becky Miller 561-315-3292
15	5/6	1:00 PM	Am Leg Post 5 3810 W Kennedy Blvd Tampa 33609	Mary Kelly-Perkins 352-428-1649	Jackie Ihnenfeld 407-468-1452
16	4/15	11:00 AM	Am Leg Post 252 11433 Park Blvd Seminole 33772	Doris Clark 727-934-1140	Jackie Booth 727-457-8100
	5/6	11:00 AM	Am Leg Post 79 5329 Legion Pl New Pt Richey 34652		Jackie Booth 727-457-8100
17	5/20	2:00 PM	Am Leg Post 270 119 Howes St Port Orange 32127	Kathy Green 386-299-2653	Robin Briere 407-267-7260

Attendance is mandatory for all delegates and alternates. They may attend any orientation in the Department.

No Unit may replace a delegate for not attending their District Orientation! Replacements can only be made if the delegate withdraws from the program.



*HANNITON WATTS UNIT 193  
PROUDLY PRESENTS GERRIE BAILEY CANDIDATE FOR  
1<sup>st</sup> VICE PRESIDENT DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA 2012 - 2013*



On October 22, 2011 at a regular meeting, Gerrie Bailey was endorsed unanimously by Unit 193 as a Candidate for the office of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida for the year of 2012-2013.

Gerrie's eligibility is first through her Brother, Raymond Long USAF retired, and her Husband Benny Bailey, USAF, retired and Past Western Area Commander. She is the proud Mother of two, Stepmother of five, Grandmother of three, and GG of two. Gerrie, Daughter Karen, Granddaughter Monique, and GG Daughter Shurell, are all members of Unit 193.

As a 33 year member of Unit 193, Gerrie has faithfully served in elected, appointed, and volunteer positions at the unit, district and department levels, and is summarized as follows:

Presently serving as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President and Children & Youth Chairman – 2011-2012

Gerrie, successfully served as Coordinator for the Ride 2 Recovery Gulf States Challenge held March 4-10 from New Orleans to Tallahassee, communicating with The American Legion Families of the First District to provide Volunteers for lunches, dinners at the Post

Homes, and getting the communities involved to support the ride, starting in Pensacola to Panama City.

Department 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Chairman -2010-2011

Unit Chaplain & Girl State Chairman – 2010-2011

Unit President (13<sup>th</sup> year) / Department Children & Youth Committee – 2009-2010

Department Chairman Past Presidents Parley - 2008-2009

Department Chairman Community Service – 2007-2008

Department Education Chairman – 2006-2007 – 2005-2006

First District President – 2004-2005

Representative of Department of Florida to NorthView Community Center – 2003-Present

Gerrie has attended National and Department Conventions, Conferences and Workshops

Volunteer at the USO located at the Pensacola Airport 2006-Present

Gerrie's loyalty, respect, dedication and commitment to the American Legion Auxiliary confirm that she is willing and qualified to assume the duties of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President.





## VETERANS AFFAIRS AND REHABILITATION

I am sure all are working for our veterans, now it is time to report all that hard work. Refer to your Plan of Action for the Unit & District Year-End-Report. Units your report to District Chairman NLT April 15, 2012. REMINDER that the Charlotte Lane Trophy listed for Department Awards is no longer awarded. However, I encourage you to submit a narrative for the Unit VA&R Program Award.

**RIDE TO RECOVERY: GULF COAST CHALLENGE** was held March 4-10 starting in New Orleans to Tallahassee. I had the honor of coordinating this area for our Department R2R Chairman Mary Kelly-Perkins. The Panhandle is a little too far a distance for travel to get all organized. The riders arrived in Pensacola on Wed. March 7 around 11:30 AM. The headwind slowed them down putting them a little behind schedule. Arriving in Florida they were cheered on from Post 240 that stood along the way, HWY 98 (Barrancas Ave) with flags. Thousands of children lined the route(blogged by a r2r participant) The Riders passed through the Warrington Elementary School and was greeted by hundreds of screaming, flag waving children and Staff, the School also held a fundraiser by putting a box in the main office for people to make donations. The money was presented by the Principal at a ceremony with the riders. When the riders arrived at Post 33 for lunch, they were greeted by The Patriot Honor Motorcycle Guards, lining the street holding the American Flags, what a beautiful sight! District One Legion Family, Post and Auxiliary Members of Post 193; 340 and Post 33 prepared sandwiches, fruit, snacks, hot foods,

water, sodas provided by the USO for the very tired appreciative Warriors.

After a short rest, the Riders were given a big send off as they continued on to their next destination; Fort Walton Beach, they were cheered on as they passed through Gulf Breeze and Navarre by Posts, Auxiliary & SAL of 378 and 382 with community supporters also. Arriving in FWB for dinner spearheaded by Unit President Pat & Post Commander Larry Carpenter, supported and funded by Post 296. The riders were bused to Destin Post 296, and served a great spaghetti dinner with all the trimmings. The next day; on to Panama City, after a great send off from Fort Walton, District One President Jane Hardacre spearheaded plans for that dinner supported and funded by Post 356 American Legion Family (Post, Auxiliary, Riders).

All expressed the wonderful feeling of supporting and being a part of our Wounded Warriors recovery process. As blogged by Sara of ride 2 recovery to Nancy Brown-Park National VA&R Chairman "The best community support of any R2R Challenge is traditionally the Texas Challenge, but at least for today,(day 4) The Gulf Coast was every bit as supportive and showed their love and patriotism for the healing heroes.

Hats off for District One!!!

Gerrie Bailey, Chairman

[VeteransAffairs@alafl.org](mailto:VeteransAffairs@alafl.org)

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY  
DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA**2012 CONSTITUTION CONFERENCE SCHEDULE**

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
1	May 19, 2012	9:00 AM Reg. 10:00 AM Mtg.	American Legion Post #235 105 Hollywood Blvd NW Ft Walton Beach 32548
2	April 28, 2012	9:00 AM CST 9:30 AM Mtg.	American Legion Post #241 2101 Legion Rd Sneads 32460
3	May 12, 2012	9:00 AM Reg. 10:00 Mtg.	American Legion Post #57 2602 SW Main Blvd Lake City 32025
4	April 28, 2012	9:00 AM Reg. 10:00 AM Mtg.	American Legion Post #284 5515 SE 109 <sup>th</sup> St Bellevue 34421
5	May 6, 2012	8:30 AM.Reg 9:00 AM Mtg	American Legion Post #129 1151 South 4 <sup>th</sup> St Jacksonville Beach 32250
6	May 19, 2012	9:00 AM Reg. 9:30AM Mtg.	American Legion Post #53 2874 S Sanford Ave Sanford 32773-5297
7	May 12, 2012	9:30 AM Reg. 10:00 AM Mtg.	American Legion Post #8 300 Ave "M" NW Winter Haven 33881
8	May 19, 2012	12:00 Noon. Reg. 1:00 PM Mtg.	American Legion Post #159 1770 E Venice Ave Venice 34292
9	May 6, 2012	8:30 AM Reg. 9:00 AM Mtg.	American Legion Post #180 1280 SW 44 <sup>th</sup> Terr Ft Lauderdale 33317
11	May 19, 2012	9:00 AM Reg. 10:00 AM Mtg.	American Legion Post #64 501 SE 2 <sup>nd</sup> St Okeechobee 34974



2012 CONSTITUTION CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

<u>DISTRICT</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>PLACE</u>
12	May 12, 2012	9:00 AM Reg. 10:00 AM Mtg.	American Legion Post 81 2909 S Harbor City Blvd Melbourne 32901
13	May 19, 2012	8:00 AM Reg 9:00 AM Mtg	American Legion Post #103 2110 Taylor Rd Punta Gorda 33950
14	April 28, 2012	9:00 AM Reg 10:00 Mtg	American Legion Post #133 16401 SW 90 <sup>th</sup> Ave Palmetto Bay 33157
15	May 19, 2012	9:00 AM Reg. 10:00 AM Mtg.	American Legion Post #111 6918 N Florida Ave Tampa 33604
16	No information received		
17	May 6, 2012	12:00 Noon Reg. 1:00 PM Mtg.	American Legion Post #285 4491 So US Highway 1 Edgewater 32141

**Legislative Initiatives**

Please continue to write your congressmen on veterans' legislative issues. Keep a

record on the senators and representative you wrote, and the bills for your year-end report.

Here are some of the legislative issues that the American Legion wants us to support:

- **S.2179 Military and Veterans Educational Reform Act of 2012** - would require that education programs accepting GI Bill payments or military tuition assistance become "Title IV" eligible. This means the schools would have to be accredited by the Department of Education.
- **HR 2433 - The Veteran Opportunity to Work Act** was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs
- **HR 2070 – World War II Memorial Prayer Act of 2012**, Install a suitable plaque or an inscription with the words that President Franklin D. Roosevelt prayed with the

nation on June 6, 1944, the morning of D-Day. "*Let Our Hearts Be Stout*," was delivered to the nation to offer solace and support on D-Day. It has been passed in the House and referred to the Senate.

- **H.J. Res. 13** Amendment to the Constitution of the United States giving Congress power to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.
- **S.J. RES.19, 2011** A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States authorizing Congress to prohibit the physical desecration of the flag of the United States.

It is the right of the people to protect "Old Glory" with a constitutional amendment.

Kathy DeRouin  
Legislative Chairman



I want to send out a Big Thank You to all the Units that have sent in essays for the Americanism Essay contest. They just keep coming and I could not be prouder.

But Ladies, there is still time... so get to those schools and promote our Americanism Program and the American Essay Contest. Remember this year's theme is "How can I Show my Patriotism in my Community".

You can show Patriotism in your Communities by proudly displaying the American Flag on the dates listed below.

Mother's Day - Second Sunday in May  
 Peace Officers Memorial Day (half-staff) - May 15  
 Armed Forces Day - Third Saturday in May  
 Memorial Day (half-staff until noon) - Last Monday in May  
 Flag Day - June 14  
 Father's Day - Third Sunday in June)  
 Independence Day - July 4

May							June							July						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3					1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

One final note I have received several letters from our candidates that went to the Freedom Foundation, "American Leaders Youth Summit". Ladies you should all be very proud to have supported such a wonderful program for Future Leaders.

Here is one of those letters...

Michele  
 Michele DeGennaro  
 Department Chairman  
[americanism@alaf1.org](mailto:americanism@alaf1.org)

To All of The Members of the  
 American Legion Auxiliary,

There is no way that I  
 could properly thank you, not  
 only for the trip of experiencing  
 Valley Forge itself, but the  
 knowledge and leadership that  
 I have gained throughout  
 the trip. Never having been

to Pennsylvania, I gained a new  
 sense of culture, language, and  
 pride for being an American  
 citizen. Walking through buildings  
 where the history of our country  
 was written gave me a feeling  
 of hope that we are, and will  
 always be, a family of Americans.  
 My greatest thanks and regards.

*Kayla A. Maki*







**Membership Statistical**  
Membership Keyed as of 3/22/2012

DISTRICT 1					
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	CURRENT %	NEEDED 85%
75	CRESTVIEW	167	149	89.22%	-32
78	MILTON	51	47	92.16%	-11
121	JAY	19	17	89.47%	-4
193	PENSACOLA	135	88	65.19%	7
221	NICEVILLE	62	68	109.68%	-25
235	FT.WALTON BCH	208	167	80.29%	-21
240	PENSACOLA	308	232	75.32%	-16
296	DESTIN	70	68	97.14%	-19
340	PENSACOLA	287	282	98.26%	-81
356	LYNN HAVEN	251	201	80.08%	-25
375	SOUTHPORT	62	51	82.26%	-8
378	GULF BREEZE	18	24	133.33%	-11
382	NAVARRE	117	98	83.76%	-16
392	PANAMA CITY	74	94	127.03%	-42
District		1829	1586	86.71%	-580

DISTRICT 4					
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	CURRENT %	NEEDED 85%
16	GAINESVILLE	66	68	103.03%	-22
27	OCALA	33	27	81.82%	-4
56	STARKE	24	20	83.33%	-3
58	DUNNELLON	76	61	80.26%	-8
77	INVERNESS	50	49	98.00%	-14
91	TRENTON	27	14	51.85%	5
149	NEWBERRY	47	35	74.47%	-2
155	CRYSTAL RIVER	239	312	130.54%	-145
210	OCALA	18	17	94.44%	-4
225	FLORAL CITY	30	28	93.33%	-7
230	HAWTHORNE	50	41	82.00%	-6
236	WILLISTON	16	18	112.50%	-7
237	BEVERLY HILLS	60	69	115.00%	-27
284	BELLEVUE	204	184	90.20%	-41
314	STARKE	23	19	82.61%	-3
District		963	962	99.90%	30

DISTRICT 2					
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	CURRENT %	NEEDED 85%
13	TALLAHASSEE	91	81	89.01%	-17
42	GRACEVILLE	42	3	7.14%	26
51	CHATTAHOOCHEE	31	24	77.42%	-2
82	LANARK VILLAGE	51	70	137.25%	-34
84	HAVANA	29	22	75.86%	-2
100	MARIANNA	63	65	103.17%	-21
114	CRAWFORDVILLE	30	29	96.67%	-8
172	HOSFORD	20	18	90.00%	-4
217	QUINCY	48	39	81.25%	-5
241	SNEADS	64	66	103.13%	-21
272	BLOUNTSTOWN	16	11	68.75%	0
District		485	428	88.25%	-161

DISTRICT 5					
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	CURRENT %	NEEDED 85%
37	ST. AUGUSTINE	118	112	94.92%	-29
54	FERNANDINA BCH	232	228	98.28%	-66
88	JACKSONVILLE	98	109	111.22%	-40
129	JACKSONVILLE BCH	350	294	84.00%	-49
137	JACKSONVILLE	587	573	97.61%	-162
174	FERNANDINA BEACH	14	0	0.00%	10
194	ST. AUGUSTINE	36	26	72.22%	-1
197	JACKSONVILLE	55	39	70.91%	-1
202	KEYSTONE HGTS	100	94	94.00%	-24
233	PONTE VEDRA BCH	146	151	103.42%	-49
244	SO. JACKSONVILLE	47	56	119.15%	-23
250	MIDDLEBURG	346	295	85.26%	-53
283	JACKSONVILLE	286	237	82.87%	-37
316	ATLANTIC BCH	470	397	84.47%	-68
373	ORANGE PARK	19	22	115.79%	-9
District		2904	2633	90.67%	-1036

DISTRICT 3					
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	CURRENT %	NEEDED 85%
49	MONTICELLO	24	17	70.83%	0
57	LAKE CITY	229	216	94.32%	-56
107	LIVE OAK	31	40	129.03%	-18
131	GREENVILLE	42	39	92.86%	-10
215	JASPER	43	42	97.67%	-12
224	MADISON	37	32	86.49%	-6
291	STEINHATCHEE	138	142	102.90%	-45
322	LAKE CITY	18	17	94.44%	-4
383	OLD TOWN	134	141	105.22%	-47
District		696	686	98.56%	-303

**All membership, new & renewal  
received by March 21, 2012 has been  
keyed!**



DISTRICT 6					
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	CURRENT %	NEEDED 85%
10	KISSIMMEE	314	292	92.99%	-72
19	ORLANDO	253	206	81.42%	-29
21	UMATILLA	45	38	84.44%	-7
35	MOUNT DORA	132	72	54.55%	20
52	LEESBURG	16	21	131.25%	-10
53	SANFORD	238	206	86.55%	-39
55	CLERMONT	144	117	81.25%	-16
63	WINTER GARDEN	34	37	108.82%	-13
76	TAVARES	36	36	100.00%	-11
80	ST. CLOUD	257	233	90.66%	-53
101	BUSHNELL	134	134	100.00%	-40
109	OCOE	36	39	108.33%	-14
112	WINTER PARK	15	14	93.33%	-4
183	ALTAMONTE SPR	132	101	76.52%	-9
219	FRUITLAND PARK	262	262	100.00%	-79
242	ORLANDO	177	166	93.79%	-42
286	PINE CASTLE	332	315	94.88%	-83
330	LEESBURG	48	47	97.92%	-13
331	ORLANDO	71	73	102.82%	-23
347	LADY LAKE	706	769	108.92%	-275
District		3382	3178	93.97%	-1318

DISTRICT 7					
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	CURRENT %	NEEDED 85%
3	BARTOW	76	72	94.74%	-19
4	LAKELAND	111	100	90.09%	-22
8	WINTER HAVEN	691	642	92.91%	-158
34	HAINES CITY	89	76	85.39%	-14
72	MULBERRY	192	161	83.85%	-27
118	ZEPHYRHILLS	46	37	80.43%	-5
201	FLORENCE VILLA	46	46	100.00%	-14
213	MOULTRY-CRAFT		19		
339	CRESTHAVEN	72	57	79.17%	-7
District		1323	1210	91.46%	-482

DISTRICT 8					
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	CURRENT %	NEEDED 85%
11	ARCADIA	53	38	71.70%	-1
24	BRADENTON	483	414	85.71%	-76
25	LAKE PLACID	396	359	90.66%	-82
30	SARASOTA	58	40	68.97%	1
69	AVON PARK	279	237	84.95%	-42
74	SEBRING	86	85	98.84%	-25
113	ROTANDA WEST	419	376	89.74%	-83
159	VENICE	856	797	93.11%	-198
254	NORTH PORT	131	98	74.81%	-6
266	FRUITVILLE	172	125	72.67%	-5
309	PALMETTO	279	280	100.36%	-85
312	ONECO	254	263	103.54%	-85
325	ELLENTON		33		
District		3466	3107	89.64%	-1201

Checkout the Friday report on the  
Homepage!

DISTRICT 9					
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	CURRENT %	NEEDED 85%
36	FT. LAUDERDALE	104	95	91.35%	-22
92	HOLLYWOOD	166	138	83.13%	-22
142	POMPANO BEACH	341	308	90.32%	-69
157	MARGATE	353	332	94.05%	-85
162	DEERFIELD BEACH	362	310	85.64%	-57
180	PLANTATION	127	119	93.70%	-30
209	DANIA	41	33	80.49%	-4
222	FT. LAUDERDALE	92	77	83.70%	-13
287	DEERFIELD BEACH	35	14	40.00%	11
304	DANIA	272	254	93.38%	-64
310	HALLANDALE	52	39	75.00%	-3
321	COOPER CITY	181	168	92.82%	-41
District		2126	1887	88.76%	-718

DISTRICT 11					
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	CURRENT %	NEEDED 85%
12	PALM BEACH	42	10	23.81%	19
20	BELLE GLADE	66	59	89.39%	-13
47	LAKE WORTH	144	133	92.36%	-32
62	STUART	71	70	98.59%	-20
64	OKEECHOBEE	164	121	73.78%	-6
65	DELRAY BEACH	45	57	126.67%	-26
141	WEST PALM BCH	117	100	85.47%	-18
164	BOYNTON BEACH	177	174	98.31%	-50
188	DELRAY BEACH	32	16	50.00%	6
199	WEST PALM BCH	66	48	72.73%	-2
258	GREENACRES	29	23	79.31%	-3
268	RIVIERA BEACH	166	126	75.90%	-10
269	LANTANA	27	26	96.30%	-7
271	JUPITER	157	161	102.55%	-51
277	BOCA RATON	102	101	99.02%	-30
288	BOYNTON BEACH	80	74	92.50%	-18
367	ROYAL PALM BCH	53	52	98.11%	-15
District		1538	1351	87.84%	-430

DISTRICT 12					
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	CURRENT %	NEEDED 85%
1	TITUSVILLE	288	275	95.49%	-73
22	COCOA	115	116	100.87%	-36
39	VERO BEACH	180	190	105.56%	-64
40	FORT PIERCE	246	223	90.65%	-51
81	MELBOURNE	138	138	100.00%	-41
117	PALM BAY	339	337	99.41%	-100
126	JENSEN BEACH	165	179	108.48%	-64
163	EAU GALLIE	379	353	93.14%	-88
171	FORT PIERCE	38	34	89.47%	-7
189	SEBASTIAN	100	94	94.00%	-24
191	MELBOURNE	155	149	96.13%	-41
200	SATELLITE BEACH	87	84	96.55%	-23
318	PORT ST LUCIE	347	323	93.08%	-80
332	KENNEDY SPACE CTR	34	30	88.24%	-6
348	CAPE CANAVERAL	206	190	92.23%	-46
355	W PORT ST LUCIE	110	96	87.27%	-19
358	FORT PIERCE	49	49	100.00%	-15
359	PORT ST JOHN	232	234	100.86%	-72
366	BAREFOOT BAY	80	75	93.75%	-19
394	PALM BAY	35	35	100.00%	-11
District		3323	3204	96.42%	-1376





DISTRICT 13					
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	CURRENT %	NEEDED 85%
38	FORT MYERS	120	102	85.00%	-18
90	CAPE CORAL	187	171	91.44%	-40
103	PUNTA GORDA	327	296	90.52%	-67
110	PORT CHARLOTTE	511	489	95.69%	-131
123	SANIBEL	93	70	75.27%	-5
130	LABELLE	177	198	111.86%	-74
135	NAPLES	445	379	85.17%	-68
136	PINE ISLAND	401	369	92.02%	-88
192	FORT MYERS	34	23	67.65%	1
274	FORT MYERS BCH	617	553	89.63%	-121
303	BONITA SPRINGS	371	358	96.50%	-98
323	LEHIGH ACRES	419	423	100.95%	-130
336	N. FORT MYERS	210	219	104.29%	-72
351	FT MYERS SHORES	102	96	94.12%	-25
388	BONITA SPRINGS	41	15	36.59%	14
District		4055	3761	92.75%	-1531

DISTRICT 16					
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	CURRENT %	NEEDED 85%
7	CLEARWATER	489	384	78.53%	-42
14	ST. PETERSBURG	159	136	85.53%	-25
79	NEW PORT RICHEY	327	295	90.21%	-66
104	PINELLAS PARK	286	286	100.00%	-86
119	LARGO	372	337	90.59%	-77
125	GULFPORT	345	382	110.72%	-141
158	TREASURE ISLAND	107	129	120.56%	-54
173	HOLIDAY	307	272	88.60%	-57
238	SAFETY HARBOR	266	234	87.97%	-48
252	CROSS BAYOU	535	532	99.44%	-158
273	MADEIRA BEACH	2078	2,031	97.74%	-576
275	DUNNEDIN	297	274	92.26%	-66
305	ST. PETE BEACH	165	140	84.85%	-25
335	HUDSON	213	211	99.06%	-62
District		5946	5643	94.90%	-2373

DISTRICT 14					
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	CURRENT %	NEEDED 85%
28	KEY WEST	82	74	90.24%	-17
29	MIAMI	28	10	35.71%	10
31	MIAMI	131	119	90.84%	-27
43	HOMESTEAD	67	54	80.60%	-7
67	NORTH MIAMI	107	84	78.50%	-9
98	CORAL GABLES	51	47	92.16%	-11
133	PERRINE	104	88	84.62%	-15
154	MARATHON	171	166	97.08%	-46
168	KEY WEST	29	43	148.28%	-23
333	KEY LARGO	97	60	61.86%	8
346	MIAMI	34	37	108.82%	-13
374	KEY BISCAVNE	72	71	98.61%	-21
District		973	853	87.67%	-318

DISTRICT 15					
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	CURRENT %	NEEDED 85%
5	TAMPA	41	41	100.00%	-12
26	PLANT CITY	39	36	92.31%	-9
99	BROOKSVILLE	45	41	91.11%	-10
111	TAMPA	72	57	79.17%	-7
138	PORT TAMPA CITY	305	289	94.75%	-76
139	TAMPA	185	165	89.19%	-36
147	ODESSA	60	36	60.00%	6
148	RIVERVIEW	203	211	103.94%	-69
152	TAMPA	329	295	89.67%	-65
167	TAMPA	31	11	35.48%	11
186	SPRING HILL	417	381	91.37%	-89
248	WEST TAMPA	26	23	88.46%	-5
334	TAMPA	60	50	83.33%	-8
389	RUSKIN	30	32	106.67%	-11
District		1843	1668	90.50%	-654

DISTRICT 17					
UNIT	NAME	GOAL	NOW	CURRENT %	NEEDED 85%
6	DELAND	120	110	91.67%	-26
17	NEW SMYRNA BCH	230	252	109.57%	-91
45	PALATKA	41	36	87.80%	-7
115	BUNNELL	101	91	90.10%	-20
120	HOLLY HILL	235	232	98.72%	-68
127	LAKE HELEN	25	25	100.00%	-8
204	DAYTONA BEACH	59	43	72.88%	-2
255	DELTONA	37	31	83.78%	-5
259	DEBARY,ORANGE CT	35	35	100.00%	-11
267	ORMOND BEACH	182	161	88.46%	-34
270	PORT ORANGE	162	155	95.68%	-42
285	EDGEWATER	309	293	94.82%	-77
293	INTERLACHEN	167	137	82.04%	-20
361	SOUTH DAYTONA	170	168	98.82%	-49
District		1873	1769	94.45%	-739

**All Membership received by 03/21/2012 has been keyed.**



**DISTRICT ORDER  
ALL MEMBERSHIP KEYED AS OF 3/22/2012**

District 4	99.90%
District 3	98.56%
District 12	96.42%
District 16	94.90%
District 17	94.45%
District 6	93.97%
District 13	92.75%
District 7	91.46%
District 5	90.67%
District 15	90.50%
District 8	89.64%
District 9	88.76%
District 2	88.25%
District 11	87.67%
District 14	87.67%
District 1	86.71%

The 2012 Department Membership Goal is 37,242.

As of 2/24/2012, **34,203** membership have been processed.

**We are currently at 91.84%**