

**Community Service
Veterans Affairs &
Rehabilitation
Stand Down**



The Shining Beacon
December 2014 Vol. V Issue 5

Happy Holidays



*From
American Legion
Auxiliary
Department of
Florida*

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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"**

The Shining Beacon

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FROM THE



Erna Schwabe

rebuilt and the light has never gone out again. It has weathered many storms and its age is showing. Our 2nd lighthouse was the Crooked River Lighthouse. It was established in 1895 to replace the one on Dog Island that was destroyed by a hurricane in 1873. Electricity came to the lighthouse in 1933 and became automated in 1976. It became de-commissioned in 1995 and is no longer an active light. We then visited Post 82 in Lanark Village. We had a wonderful conversation with PPC Tom Larsen who shared the history of the village. This is one of the areas that trained the young soldiers who were being sent to Normandy. Thank you Commander for your hospitality while visiting the Post. Our next stop was the beautiful setting of Cape St. George Lighthouse on St. George Island. Built in 1853 and due to erosion it collapsed in 2005. The light was put out during the Civil War and re-lit on August 1, 1865. Every step on the Island had a story to tell. We visited the wonderful city of Apalachicola which is a fishing community. IT WAS ALSO OKTEOBERFEST DAY! Off to the Hewitt House for pj's and rest.

Monday we were off to visit Unit 13 in Tallahassee. We all enjoyed a wonderful luncheon at Longhorn Steakhouse with 18 ALA members to meet me. I was so honored to meet a WWII and also Korean War Veteran who joined us along with his wife, a very valuable Auxiliary Member. His wife has been crocheting lab robes for the veterans and she is legally blind. Last year she made 64 lap robes for our Veterans. The Veterans so enjoy the gifts they asked for red, white and blue lap robes. No surprise but she is doing their wishes. We then drove to the site of the new VA Outpatient Clinic that is under construction. In the evening we joined PDP Kathee Coughlin, Quincy Unit 217 Auxiliary, and Commander Jim Brennan and Pat for a wonderful dinner at the West End Grill. The Units shared their stories of how they are promoting our American Legion Family programs. These wonderful Auxiliary members are definitely "lighting the way for Veterans". After all

BRRRRRR! What a great weather change even though it won't last. Good bye allergies for awhile. But as it has been said: "change is good"!

I hope everyone had a safe Halloween and enjoyed all the "kiddies" that came knocking on your door. The month of October has been very busy for the Units and Districts as they begin preparing for the Holidays and ways to help the less fortunate. Stand downs are still being held in the areas, coat drives planned for the homeless, soup kitchens being worked and Food Pantries are being stocked. Our Auxiliary members are so generous with their giving and caring for Veterans. I thank you.

On October 11th I started my visit in the 2nd District. My first stop was at the home of District President Nell Hewitt and husband Rog. What a great time and discussions we had. Sunday morning we were off on a sightseeing tour of the lighthouses in the District. Our first stop was the St. Marks Lighthouse. This lighthouse was established in 1831. It is the 2nd oldest lighthouse in Florida and is the only lighthouse with wooden stairs. The flame only went out once, during the Civil War, when the wooden stairs were burnt by the Union. It was

THE PRESIDENT



Auxiliary members are definitely “lighting the way for Veterans”. After a great day we stopped at AL Family Post 13 and viewed the beautiful monument that is being re-furbished by an Eagle Scout. This monument is a mile marker that was given to each Capital City in our Great Country by the French Government. The city of Tallahassee had this beautiful marker sitting in a basement and donated it to Post 13. Auxiliary members from Quincy Unit 217 volunteer at the VA Clinic every Tuesday serving coffee and doughnuts.

One of the Veterans said he looks forward to the visit by the Auxiliary. He said when he enters the doors they are there always smiling. Unit 217 you make such a difference in the lives of our Veterans. By now it is REST, REST, REST, pajama time.



Tuesday we were off to have lunch with Unit 100 Marianna and Unit 241 Sneads. Our first stop was the VA Clinic in Marianna. Here again the American Legion Family has stepped up the plate to make sure the Veterans are taken care of. These ladies had so much fun telling what their Units have done and how they promote our programs. It was the day of the rain. We left the VA and headed to out to meet with Marianna

Unit 100 and Sneads Unit 241 for a beautiful luncheon. But the rain slowed our progress and we stopped and thanked the Lord for his graciousness in keeping out great Country green and striving. The family Unity of these Units is unbelievable. We have an Auxiliary (Lucille Arnold) member from Sneads who is 100 years young and attended the luncheon with her daughters. As to repeat myself again, these two Auxiliary Units are “lighting the way for Veterans”. It definitely was a full day and looking forward to going back to the “Hewitt Pad” for a good nights rest.

Wednesday morning I had the pleasure of having breakfast with President Nell and our Girls State Director Theresa Briggs. Theresa is like the energizer bunny! She is so looking forward to our upcoming Girls State session. After breakfast we headed to the VA Clinic in Tallahassee to me with Doctor Skojac, the Director of the Clinic. Upon entering the doors we came across the wonderful Auxiliary Volunteers from Unit 217 Quincy. The rain had delayed them a day so there they were. They were surprised to see us! Doctor Skojac gave us the history and a wonderful tour of the facility. We were asked to sign a steel beam that would be used in the construction of the new Clinic.

My visit came to an end and I headed back to my home sweet home for a few days. Then my next stop was to Dunedin Post 275 for the COTA Golf Tournament. Thank you to Lyn Felice and her wonderful helpers for promoting this tournament. There were so many wonderful people sharing in this fundraiser for COTA. I would like to thank everyone that contributed in “Caring for COTA Kids” project.

On Sunday, October 26th found me at the West Palm Beach VA Clinic celebrating Halloween with the Veterans. WOW! Linda Grevera sure knows how to throw a party. Thank you Linda for making this day so special. Also thank you to Pearl, Kelli, Gail, and Robin

FROM THE PRESIDENT *[Continued]*

Burk for being at the party. This was truly an American Legion Family day as there were volunteers from the 12th district and the 17th district and the Legion Riders made it a complete circle. Thank you Kelli for donating activity books for the Veterans and the Tequesta Unit for making wheel chair bags that were stuffed full of items for the Veterans.



I had the honor of signing the Charter Application for our newly formed Unit 357 in Clermont. Thank you Barbara LiButti for your hospitality.

On a sad note, our Past Department President Gerrie Bailey passed away and we attended the service in Pensacola. Thank you to all who attended as our "Gerrie" will always be our shining light.

November 1st found me attending the ABC School at Unit 17 New Smyrna Beach. This class was led by Shirley Fraser and it certainly was a good class. 25 Auxiliary members took time out of their busy schedules to attend and we thank you for that. Everyone was eager to learn and wanted more to take back to their Units. I love the enthusiasm shown by all. How many of you got out to "VOTE"? It is a great right we all have and we should be proud of that fact. With

the holiday season approaching take time to reflect on all of the wonderful opportunities we were given. I thank all of you for your dedication to our American Legion Auxiliary programs. Each of you contribute in a different way but it does not go unnoticed. Thank you to our Department Office Staff for keeping up with all of our requests and making us feel so comfortable. Without you as our "lighthouse" where would our ship be"?

WISHING YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

President Erna

"The greatest act of kindness is worth more than the grandest intentions"
OSCAR WILD

LIGHTHOUSE TRIVIA



Trivia Question #4

What lighthouse was built on Florida's Big Bend in 1828?

The answer to Trivia #2:
Cedar Key Lighthouse

The winner:
Cathie McMullen - Unit 1 Titusville



Announcements

Girls State

The correct dates for Girls State are July 9 – 17, 2015. The brochure you received is correct, please disregard any other information. You have received your Girls State packet in the mail and your sheet to send in with your money was missing. Look for another mailing. Please remember that you send in separate checks, one for your quota delegates and a separate check for your over-quota requests. All over-quota monies not used, the check will be returned to your unit.

If you are interested in becoming a counselor at Girls State, please go to our Department Web-site and download the application, fill it out, and mail it to Department – www.girlsstate.alafl.org. These will be the most wonderful 10 days you will stay away from home.

If you have any questions, please contact me by email or phone 386 755-3814 or 386 397-6966. Email is girlsstate@alafl.org Thank you.

Irma Wehrli,
Girls State Dept. Chairman

Book Your Room Now for State Convention

2015 State Convention. June 25 - 28 Hotel Renaissance at SeaWorld

Calendar

EVENT	DATE/TIME	LOCATION
Department Head Quarters closed	Dec 24 - Jan 2	
Girls State Unit Application Deadline	Feb 1, 2015	
Constitutional Conferences		
• District 14	May 1 at 9am	Palmetto Bay
• District 6	May 16 at 9am	Post 80, St. Cloud
• District 17	June 7 at 3:30pm	Post 6, Deland
• District 5	June 7 at 8am	Post 137
Convention	June 25-28	Renaissance at SeaWorld
Girls State	July 9-17	FSU, Tallahassee



Lois Stachelrodt
Department of Florida Chaplain

Chaplain

Let us remember our Veterans this month by paying tribute to them either by Prayer, marching in a Parade and by holding Memorial Services in their honor. So as you see a Veteran, say Hello and Thank them for their service. I also want to pay tribute to Gerrie Bailey, PDP/NEC who passed away recently, but will never be forgotten. She takes with her the respect of this Department and will be cruising around us in her Ship. We love you Gerrie and will miss you!

God Bless every one.

District 1

- Unit 75** Adams, Katie
- Unit 121** Smith, Louise
- Unit 193** Bailey, Geraldine PDP
- Unit 356** Lynch, Teresa B.
- Unit 375** Emanuel, Belinda G.

District 2

- Unit 13** Cormier, Dolores
- Unit 82** Cizauskas, Carolyn A.

District 3

- Unit 57** Brown, Caroline M.
Henry, Thelma H.
Russell, Charlis
- Unit 383** Brooks, Shirley

District 4

- Unit 155** Rubright, Betty
White, Sandra
- Unit 314** Jackson, Luree

District 5

- Unit 88** Lake, Ruby
Thomas, Barbara
- Unit 129** Branning, Martha J.
Fosdick, Lula A.
Scoggins, Joann E.
- Unit 137** Ford, Virginia B.
- Unit 194** Young, Geraldine M.
- Unit 283** Foster, Midge

District 11

- Unit 20** Seyler, Eleanor
- Unit 62** Ellinwood, Joyce M.
Wachter, Irene T.
- Unit 64** Godwin, Iva P.
- Unit 141** Busch, Helen M.

District 12

- Unit 39** Witherspoon, Beatrice W.
- Unit 40** O'Quinn, Marjorie
- Unit 117** Blence, Nancy M.
- Unit 163** Gorski, Barbara
Seamon, Penelope
Schultz, Carol
- Unit 200** Wyatt, Patsy J.
- Unit 318** Louzon, Dorothy J.
- Unit 348** Hibner, Cynda

District 13

- Unit 103** Doyle, Monika K.
- Unit 110** Hale, Marianne
Mallin-Burns, Florence F.
- Unit 130** Carling, Shirley
- Unit 274** Russell, Ann M.
- Unit 323** Butler, Carole J.

District 14

- Unit 67** Baile, Carla L.
Garcia, Virginia
- Unit 374** Stroud, Pat

lain's Corner



It is with deep regret that we report the passing of Past Department President, Geraldine "Gerrie" Bailey, of Pensacola FL on Friday, October 24, 2014. Gerrie is survived by her husband, Past District Vice Commander, Benny Bailey, and eight children, Benny, Robert, Sherry, Dennis, Jimmy, William, Karen and Reuben. Please keep Benny and his family in your thoughts and prayers in this time of grief.



Department President Erna Schwabb and past Department Commander Art Scwabb.



Members in the 15th District prepare food items donated or purchased with monies donated.

Homeless Veterans' Stand Down District 15

Ladies! Ladies! So many Auxiliary members came to lend a hand at the Homeless Veterans' Stand Down held in Tampa on September 26th. In classic Auxiliary style, women from across the District came together to donate time, talent and treasure to those who'd served this Nation with pride. Department of Florida President, Erna Schwabe even dropped in to check out the festivities. Members from the 15th District participated in what could only be called an AWESOME Veterans' Stand down hosted at Seminole Post 111 in cooperation with the James A. Haley VA Hospital, Florida Department of Motor Vehicles, Liberty Manor for Veterans and many other social service organizations.

The ground work and planning for this event began weeks in advance of the Stand down. Approximately 300 veterans were served through the combined efforts of 15th District's Auxiliary units, Sons of the American squadron members and many community support organizations present at the Stand down. Ladies, you ALL ROCK!! A huge Thank You goes out to everyone who donated items for distribution, staffed the booths and supported this effort. And a special Thank You goes out to Mary McColgan for her perseverance and CAN DO attitude throughout this event.



HOW TO PLAN A ONE-DAY HOMELESS VETERAN HEALTH FAIR

There are over 100,000 homeless veterans on the street on any given night, according to the Department of Veterans Affairs. Stand downs were started in 1988 by two Vietnam veterans. Named after a military term for a combat unit's time to rest and recover while at war, today it is a grassroots effort to offer the same services to homeless veterans. The philosophy of a stand down is to give homeless veterans a hand up, not a handout. Stand downs can include food, shelter, clothing, health screenings, benefits counseling and job counseling/referral services. These events are usually organized by self-appointed community coalitions; however, any group(s) can hold a stand down.

How Long is a Stand Down?

Stand down events range from one to three days. The traditional stand down lasts three days, provides shelter and food throughout the event and may also provide services such as haircuts, health care screenings, vision and dental care, VA benefits counseling, substance abuse counseling, legal services, etc.

The two-day version, sometimes called a resource fair, provides many of the same features. There are two different one-day events: the health fair concentrates on the health and wellness section of a stand down, while the job fair concentrates on job placement and counseling. Both one-day events offer information about VA benefits and government programs such as food stamps and Social Security. For more information, visit www.nchv.org/page.cfm?id=122.

Which Type of Stand Down Should We Plan?

Consider planning a one-day health fair. Since homelessness ages an individual approximately 20 years beyond their actual age, services provided at these events usually include health care screening (HIV/AIDS, TB, Hepatitis C, etc.); health care services; eye care services or referrals; dental care services or referrals; VA benefits counseling or referrals; governmental benefits counseling or referrals (Social Security, food stamps, local health and human services); substance abuse counseling/recovery groups; mental health counseling or referrals; or housing services (referrals to programs). Additional services can include foot care, shoes and socks.

Planning a One-Day Homeless Veterans Health Fair

1. Visit www.va.gov/homeless to see if there is a stand down already planned for your area. If so, consider volunteering at this event.
2. Approach the Homeless Outreach office at the VA Medical Center in your area and tell them that your unit is trying to plan a stand down. Ask for the approximate number of homeless veterans in your area.
3. Determine when and where you would like to host the event. Consider your climate when deciding to have the event. If you are planning to host it outside, find a large, open space that is cost-effective to rent. Secure the proper permits.
4. Contact other homeless centers and food banks in your area to spread the word about the upcoming stand down to other homeless or at-risk veterans in the community.
5. After seeing what services the VA Medical Center can provide, contact the following, as needed, to provide as many free services as possible:
 - o Health care screening and services:
 - Local chapter of the American Medical Association
 - Community Outreach Programs department of a large local hospital

- Local health departments
 - o Eye Care
 - This is probably the most difficult service to find. Not everyone is eligible for vision benefits at the VAMC. Call ophthalmologists in your area to see if anyone is willing to donate their time.
 - o Dental Care
 - Contact the local community college—many have dental programs with students who will volunteer. In addition, dental students have to practice on a certain amount of patients in order to graduate.
 - o Social Security and food stamps
 - Contact the respective local offices.
 - o The VA should offer information on VA benefits. They will probably be able to offer information on substance abuse and housing services. For veterans to be admitted to veteranonly transitional housing, the referral often comes from the VA. For further assistance, contact local Vet Centers and the state Veterans Administration office.
 - o Invite your American Legion post or department Service Officers to provide benefits and other useful information, like how a veteran can obtain a copy of their DD-214.
6. Download the most current Stand Down Information Form from www.nchv.org/standdown.cfm To be listed in their database of stand down events, follow the directions to submit the form to National Coalition for Homeless Veterans.
 7. Prepare to serve lunch to the veterans. Ask a restaurant or caterer to donate food. One option is to bring out a large grill and serve hamburgers.
 8. Get Legion Family members to volunteer at the event; they should have nametags and wear Legion Family attire, if available. It is recommended that Legionnaires volunteer at the event, as veterans often enjoy spending time with other veterans. Additional volunteers can include local JROTC units.

Resources:

National Stand Down Program Guide:

www.nchv.org/guides.cfm and click on “National Stand Down Program Design

FROM THE THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY




Kathy Castor, 14th District Florida Congresswoman with Department President Erna Schwabe and Brigadier General Peter Gallagher at the James A. Haley Veteran's Day Parade.



Unit 80 Juniors Yard Sale in support the American Legion.



6th District ABC School



6th District ABC School

NEWS from the James A Haley VA Hospital in Tampa

November is a busy time in the hospital,

Veterans Day is our biggest day in November. November 11 this year starts with our annual Veterans Day parade. The parade starts just outside the hospital in one of the large employee parking lots, winds around one street and thru the hospital grounds, stopping in the front of the hospital. Volunteer groups man and ride in the parade, on various vehicles, the local Corvette club normally shows up and I will be riding atop one of these cars again this year, dressed in my red, white and blue with Poppy Corsage. Some of us ride and some walk. It is a nice sized parade and people from the surrounding neighborhood line the streets. When the parade stops and hamburgers, hot dogs, beans and salad are provided for all. It is a good crowd, some vets participate, enjoy lunch and some view from windows.

On Make A Difference Day, approximately 52 low income veterans living in nursing homes from around town, give us a list of things they would need and like, any group can sponsor a veteran on this day. Last year a group from the Florida Bar took over most of the lists and sponsored this event. The ALA has taken one or two veterans in the past, as do various posts who can afford to take it on. This event falls on parade week.

The hospitals' Adoptive Sports Recreational Therapy Program budget has been slashed. These funds provide travel and participation for disabled or recovering vets to meet to meet in various cities for competition in sports, camaraderie, etc. I have heard very positive stories about these games. They are similar to the yearly National Wheelchair Games. Recreational Therapy will be needing funding from its volunteer groups within the hospital now and for the foreseeable future. The costs are high, \$10,000 sponsors one veteran for a one week event.

Many of the clinics have made the move to the Poly Trauma in the previous weeks. We have offices empty. The AL, ALA, VFW and DAV share a tiny office here on the second floor, and are praying for a move to a bigger office as it has become very difficult to work in an office of this size.

Those are a few of the upcoming events.

Anne Sankowski
ALA Representative

Legislative News

I hope everyone exercised their right and duty to vote in the recent election last month. Men and women have fought and died, protested and been jailed for us to have that right. We must not be complacent, make your voice heard. I was sent this article recently and wanted to share it with you. What a great benefit for the widows and widowers of our fallen service men and women.

Please continue to urge your congressman to take care of our men and women in uniform and their families.

For the Love of God and Country,
Nancy Anderson
legislative@alaf1.org

Surviving spouses soon to get tuition benefit

By Travis J. Tritten
Stars and Stripes
October 21, 2014

WASHINGTON — An overhaul of the troubled Department of Veterans Affairs means new education benefits will kick in next month for the spouses of service members who died since 9/11 in the line of duty, according to the department. Surviving spouses will be eligible Nov. 3 for the Fry Scholarship — named Marine Gunnery Sgt. John David Fry, who was killed in Iraq in 2006 — which includes payment of tuition and fees, a housing allowance and a stipend for books and school supplies. The benefit has previously only been available to children of fallen troops.

The expansion of education benefits was tucked into a massive \$16.3 billion law passed over the summer and designed to fix the VA health care system following a nationwide scandal over wait times and records manipulation.

“For the spouses of those who gave their lives to defend this country, this educational benefit will provide significant help in allowing them to move forward,” Sen. Bernie Sanders, I-Vt., who added the measure into the VA law, said in a statement released Tuesday.

The scholarship makes up to 36 months of education assistance available through the Post-9/11 GI Bill for the surviving spouses of troops who died after Sept. 10, 2001.

The VA said it will mail out notifications to those who are eligible with an explanation of benefits

and how to apply. It will begin accepting mailed applications next month.

Some spouses may also be eligible for the Dependents Educational Assistance program and must choose between the two programs by Jan. 1. More information is available through the VA call center at 888-442-4551 (888-GIBILL-1) or at www.benefits.va.gov/gibill/

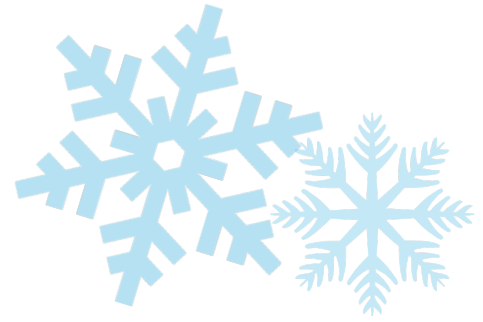
From our Southern Division Legislative program Chair, Linda Smiley. Now would be a good time to contact your Senator or Congressman and ask them to support the following Legislative Priorities.

American Flag: The American Legion remains committed to protecting Old Glory and continues to support legislation that safeguards our nation's flag from physical desecration. (Support H.J.Res.47/ S.J. RES.17)

End Veteran Homelessness: The American Legion strongly supports the Administration's goal of eliminating veterans' homelessness by 2015 and calls on Congress to pledge whatever resources are necessary to accomplish this goal, to include medical, rehabilitative and employment assistance to homeless veterans and their families. (Support S.1387/H.R.3743)

Disabled Veterans Tax/Widows Tax: VA disability compensation should not be offset from military retired pay regardless of the VA rating percentage, nor should VA survivor benefits (DIC) be offset from military Survivor Benefit Plan (SBP) annuities. The American Legion supports legislation that would completely repeal these unjust offsets NOW.

National Security



Debbie Sviderskas
Department of National Security

The Military Spouse eMentor Program has created a dynamic information sharing, learning and support community for military spouses everywhere. This cutting-edge, online program allows them to receive personalized job search / career guidance, advice, support and inspiration from more experienced spouses, career mentors and veteran-friendly employers.

The MilSpouse eMentor Program is a partnership of ACADEMYWOMEN and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's HIRING OUR HEROES Initiative. It is open to all spouses or widow(er)s of military members and veterans. Divorced spouses are also welcome. Representatives of military spouse-friendly firms and other career professionals may participate as career mentors.

How It Works:

Mentors and Protégés start by completing an online profile. From there, protégés can search for and select a mentor. When the mentor accepts the protégé's invitation, the relationship begins. The pair work together to establish goals, develop an action plan, and measure progress. They communicate primarily online, but may decide to talk on the phone or even meet in person.

Success Story:

As Anna's two children entered high school, she knew it was time to get refocused on her own career. Like many military spouses her resume showed a sizeable 12-year employment gap which she thought could turn away potential employers. Through MilSpouse eMentor Anna connected with 2 wonderful mentors who showed her how to fill the gap on her resume with 10 years of significant volunteer work. They also helped her figure out the type of career she might be best suited for and find most rewarding. Soon Anna had successfully landed a job with an employer she loves working for. In Anna's words, "I could have had just a job, but with MilSpouse eMentor I found a career!"

<http://ementorprogram.org>



FROM THE UNITS

American Legion
Auxiliary of Florida



UNIT 347 - Lady Lake

Unit 347 in Lady Lake has been very busy with many projects. We are continuing making Mats for the Homeless Veterans with plastic bags. So far we have over 25 delivered to the forest. Starting the 2nd Mondays of the month beginning in October our V A & R Chairman has started the SUDS program and with her committee will provide Detergent, Coins and Dryer Sheets for the homeless Vets using a facility in Leesburg. Our Education, Children and Youth and Americanism Chairs are working together with the homeless children living in the forest as well as those families on Title 1. We are providing food, clothing, and school supplies to 3 schools in the area. Food is also being delivered to Food Pantries in the area. Our Beacon Light is Shining with all that we do for our Vets and their families as well as those families in the Community. For God and Country....

Carol Pirone-Udell
President Unit 347



The American Legion Auxiliary **Unit 235** recently held a reception for Olga "OT" Terrell honoring her 65 years of membership and dedication to the American Legion family. OT was presented with a memory book and numerous stories from family and friends.



Our light has been shining brightly for our Veterans and community. **Unit 79** has been working very hard to serve our veterans for the Pasco Stand Down that was held October 24-26th with over 200 veterans in attendance.



UNIT 125



Donations were made to Project Rebuild during September to help rebuild a home in our community for a disabled teenage boy who couldn't get into his room, bathroom or anywhere else around his home. Reconstruction costs being so high we were asked for help and reconstruction has now begun thanks to the generous support of people playing Sunday Steakums by the post.

Volunteers packed 53 Buddy bags that were donated to HEP. Our Legion Family donated to the Superhero Run/Walk/Jog event held at Freedom Lake. Three more veterans will be able to go on the honor flight this year due to the generous support. This event was organized by Alan Landers, an 8 year old boy who through his race sent 8 veterans to Washington DC on an honor flight last year and will send more than that this year. Penny Auction, similar to a rummage sale was a great success thanks to all those who volunteered many hours in setting up for this auction and all the people who bought food, chips and tickets for the event. Juniors are holding a warm clothing drive for Pinellas Hope collecting blankets, sweaters, coats and jackets for men, women and children. We planning a short presentation explaining the POW/MIA table at the Veterans Day regular November 11 meeting. A visit by Department President Erna Schwabe along with District President, Dee Bell, is planned for November. T

Liz Close
President Unit 125



UNIT 7 - Clearwater

Unit 7 is lighting the way for our homeless veterans and the children, we started by delivering school supplies to local schools and at later date the unit will be taking goodies, patriotic rulers, & pledge of Allegiance comic books to the classes for the holidays. We will be joining the Legion Family to help 5 families for Thanksgiving this year. We sent a donation to the Gulf Coast Girl Scout Council for their project this year which is buying and sending packages to the troops oversea.

Sue Craft - 16th District Secretary

UNIT 112

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

Our School Supply Drive is coming to a close for our January distribution. We will be stuffing backpacks that will be delivered to our three elementary schools when schools start again in January during our December meeting so if you have not yet brought your school supplies donation, please remember to support Children and Youth efforts and bring your donation to the December meetings.



President Erna and District President Nell Hewitt with Auxiliary members from **Unit 13** Tallahassee.

Community Service



***“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is:
“What are you doing for others?”***

Martin Luther King Jr.

Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service is January 19, 2015. What are you and your Unit doing to participate in community service activities on this Day of Service? I encourage you to get involved by using this day as a day of service to our veterans, service members and their families.

The Community Service page on the American Legion Auxiliary national website has great support tools. You will find information to help plan an activity on helping a veteran at home, making buddy baskets, supporting hiring events. Check these out at: www.ALforVeterans.org. Create your own project for this Day of Service, I know all of us have special groups or projects we work with and this would be the day to plan a function (beautification projects, home improvements, delivering meals, helping out at a nursing home for our veterans).

Another great resource would be the Martin Luther King, Jr. website at <http://mlkday.gov>. This site will provide you with toolkits to help promote your activity, information on advertising you activity and recruiting volunteers. If you prefer to volunteer in local projects this site also has many links for you to volunteer in. If you do volunteer with another group don't forget your auxiliary pin, name tag, your red volunteer shirt or anything that identifies you as an American Legion Auxiliary volunteer

Don't forget to do a write-up for your Post newsletter, post it on Facebook, send it to headquarters to have it posted on our department website and don't forget to provide your local newspaper with an article about the day's activity and invite the public to come out and help. Did I just hear you say, I'm not good at writing an article? Well just e-mail me as I have a Media Release from National that you could use/alter to fit your project.

Please don't forget that I need to do a Mid-Year narrative for National so please send me what you have done, Units - what type of community service projects have you worked on or will be doing. I will need this by December 1, 2014 and it can be very simple one liners or a paragraph. I want National see Florida SHINE as we Light the Way for our Veterans.

Sherry Wingard
Community Service Chairman
communityservice@alafll.org



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

Girls STATE

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The correct dates for Girls State are July 9 – 17, 2015. The brochure you received is correct, please disregard any other information. You have received your Girls State packet in the mail and your sheet to send in with your money was missing. Look for another mailing. Please remember that you send in separate checks, one for your quota delegates and a separate check for your over-quota requests. All over-quota monies not used, the check will be returned to your unit.

If you are interested in becoming a counselor at Girls State, please go to our Department Web-site and download the application, fill it out, and mail it to Department – www.girlsstate.alafl.org. These will be the most wonderful 10 days you will stay away from home.

If you have any questions, please contact me by email or phone 386 755-3814 or 386 397-6966. Email is girlsstate@alafl.org Thank you.

Irma Wehrli,
Girls State Dept. Chairman



Apply for a unit
award to send a girl
to Girls State!

Complete the Cindy
Burroughs
Application!!

Leadership

Lighthouse Beacons shining "Beams of Knowledge"

Just a few thoughts on what Leadership Is that bears repeating:

- The act of making a difference
- The ability to achieve results through people
- Who you are when no one is looking
- Knowing what you're best at, what brings a light to your eyes, and what you most love to do – and then doing it
- Honor the greatness and uniqueness in others
- Experiencing life not by looking in from the rim but front and center
- Making adversity your ally
- Knowing that from time to time you have to look backward to see forward
- Knowing when to come up for air
- Knowing that the gap between what can be imagined and what can be accomplished has never been smaller
- Learning faster that the world is changing
- Constantly discovering and applying new strengths, talents and passions
- Valuing even the smallest moments of inspiration from yourself and your Unit members

Sheila Venner, PDP
District 11 Leadership Chairman

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.

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*Over Four Decades of Partnership
for a Healthy America*



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call toll-free, 1-800-235-6943, or
visit our Web site at: www.theLIT.com*

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Message from Your NEC!

First, I would like to say that I feel privileged to be serving as your National Executive Committeewoman for the remainder of the year ... and thrilled to be doing it in honor of my very dear friend Gerrie Bailey.

Next, I would like all members to consider applying to serve your National organization. I was asked to relay to all that there is no requirement that you have served in specific levels before holding a position on a National committee. Also, there is no requirement that you donate to National to be considered to serve. Please keep this in mind ... and if you'd like to apply, here is wording from National's website:

Help lead the American Legion Auxiliary!
{Complete the national appointment application by Jan. 9, 2015}

“National Vice President Sharon Conatser is seeking applications from motivated members interested in being appointed to national committee leadership positions during the 2015-2016 administrative year. You need not have served at the department level before holding a position on a national committee.”

So if you are a motived member who would like to apply, go to National's website, www.alaforveterans.org and apply today! Applications must be submitted by January 9, 2015.

With the above being said, I would like to say a little more about the “donation to National” issue. 1. It is not necessary to donate ... and 2. It is always good to support the cause you are working for – that's why when you accept a National appointment, it's good to consider supporting National but it is not mandatory. It's as simple as that ... just like we all feel at Unit, District, and Department levels. I hope that makes sense!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Diane Rousseau
Email: Leadership@alafl.org

Membership



Jane Hardacre

Way to SHINE Florida! As of 11-4-14, we are 10th in the Nation for Renew/Rejoins. Give yourselves a hand. There is more to go but I know that "We Can Do It"! Here are the Districts in order of Membership starting with the highest.

District 6	54.71%	District 12	51.49%
District 15	54.60%	District 3	50.69%
District 9	53.68%	District 2	50.64%
District 16	53.43%	District 14	45.32%
District 4	52.94%	District 5	42.91%
District 13	52.84%	District 1	38.78%
District 11	52.36%	District 17	34.91%
District 8	51.84%	District 7	24.11%

Highest Units In Membership Grouping for Renew/Rejoins:

Group I	Unit 199	West Palm Beach	116.67%
Group II	Unit 71	Lake Wales	93.33%
Group II	Unit 62	Stuart	69.06%
Group IV	Unit 163	Eau Gallie	65.31%
Group V	Unit 323	Lehigh Acres	64.16%
Group VI	Unit 347	Lady Lake	69.57%

Keep the momentum going; you can shine even brighter for our veterans and their families. Do not hesitate to try something new so you can save a lost sister. You may be surprised how easy it is to solve their problems and retain your members.

Please contact your District Membership Chairman or myself for help. We are here to provide any assistance necessary to make our organization even stronger. Our wish is that you and your family have a safe and wonderful holiday season. Let us never forget those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for us so we can continue to be free.

For God and Country,
Jane Hardacre



District 1

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0075	Crestview	183	79	43.17%
0078	Milton	38	19	50.00%
0121	Jay	15	0	0.00%
0193	Pensacola	112	65	58.04%
0221	Niceville	64	35	54.69%
0235	Ft Walton Bch	188	107	56.91%
0240	Pensacola	265	128	48.30%
0296	Destin	65	13	20.00%
0340	Pensacola	310	117	37.74%
0356	Lynn Haven	186	91	48.92%
0375	Southport	93	13	13.98%
0378	Gulf Breeze	11	0	0.00%
0382	Navarre	142	36	25.35%
0392	Panama City	177	79	44.63%
Total		1849	782	42.29%

District 4

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0016	Gainesville	71	45	63.38%
0027	Ocala	35	29	82.86%
0056	Starke	18	10	55.56%
0058	Dunnellon	48	32	66.67%
0077	Inverness	54	24	44.44%
0091	Trenton	18	8	44.44%
0149	Newberry	26	13	50.00%
0155	Crystal River	314	175	55.73%
0210	Ocala	17	10	58.82%
0225	Floral City	19	2	10.53%
0230	Hawthorne	47	38	80.85%
0236	Bronson	18	8	44.44%
0237	Beverly Hills	104	62	59.62%
0284	Bellevue	162	73	45.06%
0314	Starke	18	12	66.67%
Total		969	541	55.83%

District 2

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0013	Tallahassee	91	70	76.92%
0082	Lanark	95	51	53.68%
0084	Havana	30	13	43.33%
0100	Marianna	66	20	30.30%
0114	Crawfordville	32	2	6.25%
0172	Telogia	16	0	0.00%
0217	Quincy	57	45	78.95%
0241	Sneads	71	49	69.01%
0272	Blountstown	14	0	0.00%
Total		472	250	52.97%

District 5

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0009	Jacksonville	34	7	20.59%
0037	Saint Augustine	109	52	47.71%
0054	Fernandina Beach	239	129	53.97%
0088	Jacksonville	137	65	47.45%
0129	Jacksonville Beach	299	121	40.47%
0137	Jacksonville	590	325	55.08%
0174	Jacksonville	15	0	0.00%
0194	St Augustine	34	17	50.00%
0197	Jacksonville	37	20	54.05%
0202	Keystone Heights	80	37	46.25%
0233	Ponte Vedra Beach	161	88	54.66%
0244	Jacksonville	53	40	75.47%
0250	Middleburg	331	158	47.73%
0283	Jacksonville	319	188	58.93%
0316	Atlantic Beach	417	159	38.13%
0373	Orange Park	30	25	83.33%
0401	Hilliard	33	12	36.36%
Total		2918	1443	49.45%

District 3

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0049	Monticello	24	10	41.67%
0057	Lake City	297	176	59.26%
0107	Live Oak	40	26	65.00%
0131	Greenville	36	20	55.56%
0215	Jasper	47	26	55.32%
0224	Madison	43	11	25.58%
0291	Steinhatchee	165	89	53.94%
0383	Old Town	147	85	57.82%
Total		799	443	55.44%

District 6

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0010	Kissimmee	270	148	54.81%
0019	Orlando	172	99	57.56%
0021	Umatilla	27	6	22.22%
0035	Mount Dora	91	22	24.18%
0041	Eustis	19	13	68.42%
0052	Leesburg	35	28	80.00%
0053	Sanford	160	81	50.63%
0055	Clermont	160	85	53.13%
0063	Winter Garden	18	1	5.56%
0076	Tavares	17	1	5.88%
0080	Saint Cloud	322	180	55.90%
0101	Bushnell	139	79	56.83%
0109	Ocoee	40	1	2.50%
0112	Winter Park	22	18	81.82%
0183	Fern Park	159	92	57.86%
0219	Fruitland Park	244	158	64.75%
0242	Orlando	174	89	51.15%
0286	Orlando	302	174	57.62%
0330	Leesburg	58	38	65.52%
0331	Orlando	12	0	0.00%
0347	Lady Lake	1265	966	76.36%
0357	Clearmont	0	16	NA
Total		3706	2279	61.49%

District 7

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0003	Bartow	80	51	63.75%
0004	Lakeland	118	53	44.92%
0008	Winter Haven	632	10	1.58%
0034	Haines City	75	33	44.00%
0071	Lake Wales	60	64	106.67%
0072	Mulberry	172	72	41.86%
0118	Zephyrhills	36	2	5.56%
0201	Florence Villa	41	39	95.12%
0339	Nalcrest	43	14	32.56%
Total		1257	338	26.89%

District 8

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0011	Arcadia	20	6	30.00%
0024	Bradenton	468	268	57.26%
0025	Lake Placid	389	226	58.10%
0030	Sarasota	76	44	57.89%
0069	Avon Park	372	245	65.86%
0074	Sebring	105	51	48.57%
0113	Rotonda West	421	236	56.06%
0159	Venice	760	484	63.68%
0254	North Port	91	51	56.04%
0266	Sarasota	106	58	54.72%
0309	Palmetto	235	150	63.83%
0312	Oneco	235	104	44.26%
0325	Ellenton	63	46	73.02%
Total		3341	1969	58.93%

District 9

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0036	Ft Lauderdale	92	56	60.87%
0092	Hollywood	127	50	39.37%
0142	Pompano Beach	294	194	65.99%
0157	Margate	383	188	49.09%
0162	Deerfield Beach	306	190	62.09%
0180	Fort Lauderdale	109	70	64.22%
0209	Dania Beach	19	7	36.84%
0220	Ft Lauderdale	19	17	89.47%
0222	Fort Lauderdale	75	35	46.67%
0287	Deerfield Beach	29	14	48.28%
0304	Dania	203	124	61.08%
0310	Hallandale	37	17	45.95%
0321	Cooper City	112	83	74.11%
Total		1805	1045	57.89%

District 11

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0020	Belle Glade	71	28	39.44%
0047	Lake Worth	138	85	61.59%
0062	Stuart	139	108	77.70%
0064	Okeechobee	133	84	63.16%
0065	Delray Beach	53	32	60.38%
0141	West Palm Beach	93	55	59.14%
0164	Boynton Beach	176	62	35.23%
0188	West Palm Beach	16	6	37.50%
0199	Riviera Beach	30	35	116.67%
0258	Greenacres	29	14	48.28%
0268	Lake Park	112	21	18.75%
0269	Lantana	11	2	18.18%
0271	Tequesta	192	121	63.02%
0277	Boca Raton	118	65	55.08%
0288	Boynton Beach	67	44	65.67%
0367	Royal Palm Beach	46	34	73.91%
0399	Palm City	16	14	87.50%
Total		1440	810	56.25%

District 12

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0001	Titusville	323	193	59.75%
0022	Cocoa	93	72	77.42%
0039	Vero Beach	190	116	61.05%
0040	Fort Pierce	197	95	48.22%
0081	Melbourne	143	79	55.24%
0117	Palm Bay	419	230	54.89%
0126	Jensen Beach	195	130	66.67%
0163	Melbourne	392	266	67.86%
0171	Fort Pierce	39	0	0.00%
0177	Cocoa	10	0	0.00%
0189	Sebastian	95	18	18.95%
0191	Melbourne	148	58	39.19%
0200	Satellite Beach	111	67	60.36%
0318	Port St Lucie	521	358	68.71%
0332	Merritt Island	29	6	20.69%
0348	Cape Canaveral	144	94	65.28%
0358	White City	51	25	49.02%
0359	Port St John	272	149	54.78%
0366	Roseland	88	48	54.55%
0394	Palm Bay	61	30	49.18%
Total		3521	2034	57.77%

District 13

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0038	Fort Myers	98	48	48.98%
0090	Cape Coral	195	91	46.67%
0103	Punta Gorda	339	176	51.92%
0110	Port Charlotte	565	324	57.35%
0123	Sanibel	97	30	30.93%
0130	Labelle	183	94	51.37%
0135	Naples	422	227	53.79%
0136	Saint James City	476	251	52.73%
0192	Fort Myers	26	14	53.85%
0274	Fort Myers Beach	596	379	63.59%
0303	Bonita Springs	407	262	64.37%
0323	Lehigh Acres	505	352	69.70%
0336	N Ft Myers	289	183	63.32%
0351	Fort Myers	87	46	52.87%
Total		4285	2477	57.81%

District 14

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0028	Key West	82	48	58.54%
0029	Miami	23	3	13.04%
0031	South Miami	153	100	65.36%
0043	Homestead	67	34	50.75%
0067	North Miami	75	37	49.33%
0098	Coral Gables	25	1	4.00%
0133	Miami	81	47	58.02%
0154	Marathon	167	86	51.50%
0168	Key West	27	14	51.85%
0333	Key Largo	86	42	48.84%
0346	Miami	26	1	3.85%
0374	Key Biscayne	75	33	44.00%
Total		887	446	50.28%

District 15

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0005	Tampa	45	31	68.89%
0026	Plant City	34	14	41.18%
0099	Brooksville	40	22	55.00%
0111	Tampa	49	27	55.10%
0138	Tampa	392	258	65.82%
0139	Tampa	183	105	57.38%
0147	Odessa	40	28	70.00%
0148	Riverview	249	129	51.81%
0152	Tampa	319	186	58.31%
0167	Tampa	33	26	78.79%
0186	Spring Hill	416	235	56.49%
0248	West Tampa	23	22	95.65%
0334	Tampa	41	25	60.98%
0389	Ruskin	26	5	19.23%
Total		1890	1113	58.89%

District 17

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0006	Deland	145	90	62.07%
0017	New Smyrna Beach	316	164	51.90%
0045	Palatka	32	13	40.63%
0115	Palm Coast	61	43	70.49%
0120	Holly Hill	266	185	69.55%
0127	Lake Helen	25	12	48.00%
0204	Daytona Beach	45	20	44.44%
0255	Deltona	34	0	0.00%
0259	Debary	35	27	77.14%
0267	Ormond Beach	134	102	76.12%
0270	Port Orange	162	93	57.41%
0285	Edgewater	221	105	47.51%
0293	Interlachen	80	31	38.75%
0361	S Daytona	188	105	55.85%
Total		1744	990	56.77%

District 16

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0007	Clearwater	392	223	56.89%
0014	St Petersburg	164	87	53.05%
0079	New Port Richey	340	206	60.59%
0104	Pinellas Park	245	122	49.80%
0119	Largo	383	216	56.40%
0125	Gulfport	392	231	58.93%
0158	Treasure Island	183	112	61.20%
0173	Holiday	277	164	59.21%
0238	Safety Harbor	294	149	50.68%
0252	Seminole	726	551	75.90%
0273	Seminole	2331	1327	56.93%
0275	Dunedin	390	226	57.95%
0305	St Pete Beach	189	101	53.44%
0335	Hudson	235	125	53.19%
Total		6541	3840	58.71%

Department

UNIT	CITY	OBJECTIVE	TOTAL	PERCENT
0400	Orlando	432	155	35.88%
Total		432	155	35.88%
Dept Total		37856	20971	55.40%

