

Be with him at every mail call



VOLUME IX • ISSUE 1 • AUGUST 2019
DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT ANN KING-SMITH



FEATURED

Department President
Education
Constitution & Bylaws



V-MAIL IS PRIVATE, RELIABLE, PATRIOTIC

THIS MONTH'S FEATURED



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Ann King-Smith



- 3 **EDUCATION**
Linda Dixon



- 3 **CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS**
Catherine McMullin

Also Including...

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.

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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.



Want to submit an article and/or photos to **MAIL CALL?**

alaf1.org/submit
secretary@alaf1.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ANN KING-SMITH



Thank you to each and every one of our 37,352 Florida American Legion Auxiliary members for allowing me the opportunity to serve as your Department President for our 2019-2020 Centennial Year. I look very forward to visiting each District during the year and learning how our Florida Units are working our mission.

My theme for this year is "Florida American Legion Auxiliary Strong." For 100 years, strong women have accomplished great things in both our country and our organization. It was 100 years ago that women were finally allowed the right to vote and we haven't stopped looking forward since. My goal is to strengthen our organization here in Florida and engage our members to move forward and be ready for the next 100 years.

Our President's Project for this year is Honor Flight. Honor Flight's Mission is to transport America's Veterans to Washington, DC to visit those memorials dedicated to honor the service and sacrifices of themselves and their friends. Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for all their sacrifices. Here in Florida we have 9 Honor Flight Hubs: Central Florida Honor Flight, Collier Lee Honor Flight, South Florida Honor Flight, Southwest Honor Flight, Southeast Honor Flight, Space Coast Honor Flight, Tallahassee Honor Flight, The Villages Honor Flight and West Central Florida Honor Flight. Donating and volunteering for a program that covers so many areas of our state and honors our veterans, is something we can all do.

Our membership theme for this year will be "Rev 'Um Up for Membership." Department Membership Terry Gallagher has given each District a Harley motorcycle to cruise around on while looking for members. This theme will encourage us to have fun, while working hard to reach our membership

goals. If your Unit reaches the number of paid members as you had at close of books this year PLUS 2 new members, you've made your goal. But, don't stop there. I know Florida can "lead the way" into the next 100 years by renewing, retaining and rejoining members.

This year has already been busy and exciting for me. Installation on June 30th in Orlando got this year off to a perfect start, thanks to my installing officer, PDP Peggy Hearlson. She spent much time, effort and planning in preparation for my special day and it showed. I am so thankful that my family was able to join me for this day and that my 5 grandchildren were my escorts.

On July 4th, I was honored to be in the Melbourne 4th of July Parade. As you know, take great pride in being a member Unit 163 in Melbourne. The City of Melbourne decided to cease funding for all parades, but the American Legion Family at Post 163 was not going to allow Independence Day and Veteran's Day to happen without a parade. Under the guidance of Rose Yearly, a dual member of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary, we got to work and raised money to fund the parade. Now, the Family is working to fund the Veteran's Day Parade and it will happen! I believe that we need to keep our small-town traditions alive for future generations to experience, so Downtown Melbourne in our hometown parade was the place for me to be.

In June, I spent a few wonderful days at Florida Girl's State in Tallahassee. I was amazed at how smoothly everything flowed, under the amazing guidance of Director Jackie Booth and her staff. Administering the Girl's State Oath to an auditorium full of excited, enthusiastic girls is

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something I will never forget. Please consider volunteering for this event next year. You will not be disappointed, and you will go home with a younger heart and memories of a lifetime.

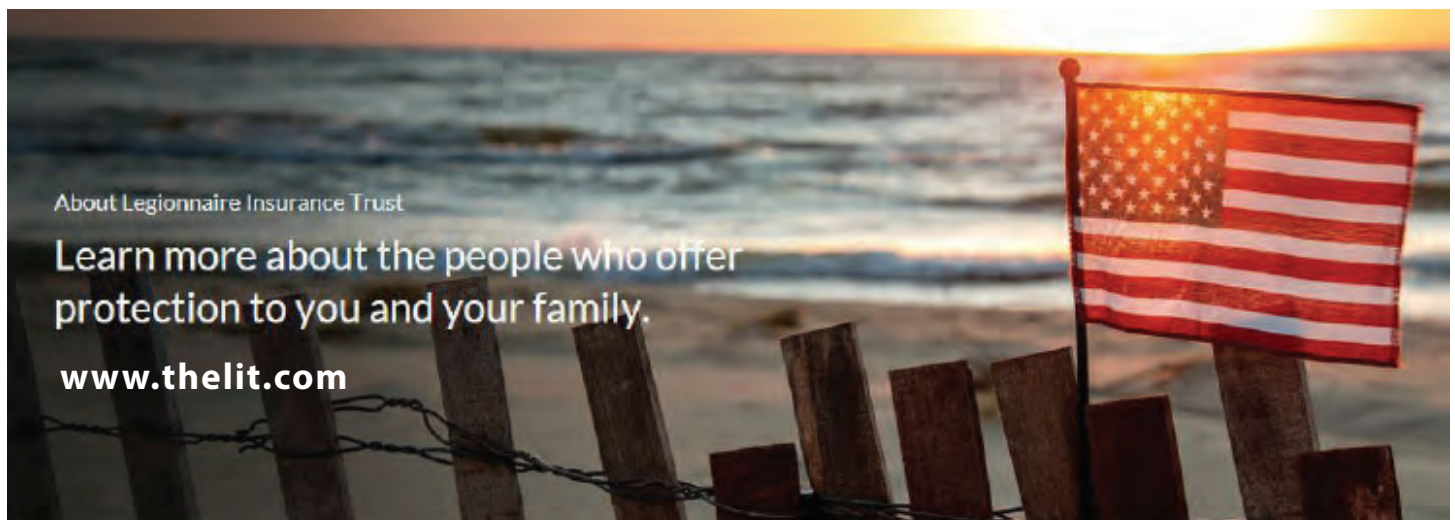
I have already participated in several Unit installations and events. I had the great honor of installing officers at Unit 163 in Melbourne, where I am proud to be a member. I also attended the installations at Unit 191 in Melbourne, where I had the honor of presenting my President's Pin to Mrs. Margree McNeil. At 97 years young, Mrs. McNeil can recall many details about her year as District 12 President in 1973-74. I also had the honor of installing President Rebecca Bastin at Unit 80 in St. Cloud and President Lois Stachelrodt at Orlando Unit 19. It's always a pleasure to visit both Units.

Our annual Department Boot Camp was held July 11-14 in Orlando. Beginning Friday morning, our dedicated Department Chairmen began preparing their Program Action Plans for the 2019-2020 Auxiliary year. I can honestly say that I have never had the opportunity to work with such focused and dedicated women. Be ready for an exciting year of working our ALA Programs, as prepared by these ladies. Assisting me this weekend were great mentors, Kelli Becraft Copolla, Treva Kay Wildrick, Shirley Frasier, Kathee Coughlin and Linda Teasley and Pat Donahue. As always, Department Secretary Patty MacDonald kept us all in line and rolling along and President's Personal Page, Pat Clark, kept our

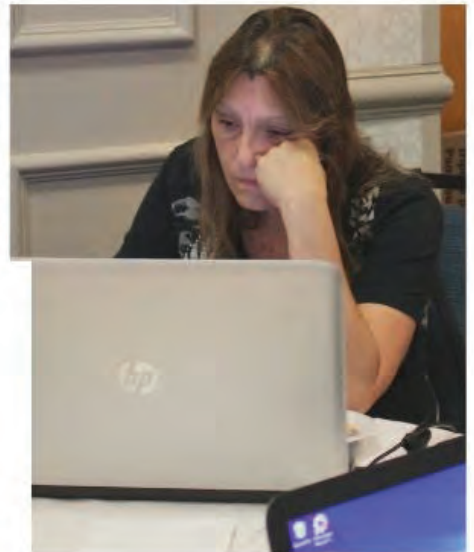
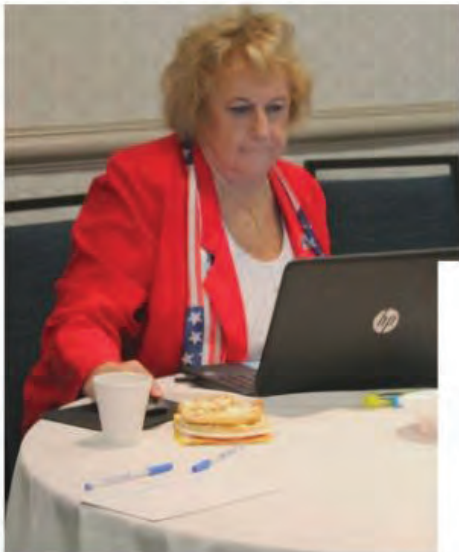
tummies full of great food, On Saturday afternoon, we were joined by our District Presidents and once again, I was in awe at the excitement these ladies have when talking about this year. They were able to meet our Department Officers and Chairman and ask questions. I am thrilled at the Department Leaders we have for this year. I know, working together, we will accomplish amazing things for our veterans, active-duty military, their families, our children and our communities.

I look forward to our upcoming Department Workshop, which will be held August 9th-11th. Everyone is encouraged to attend. We are trying some new things that we think will make this learning opportunity better and more productive for you. I look forward to meeting all of you. Working together as a TEAM, we will ensure that our 100th year is one for the records because we are....

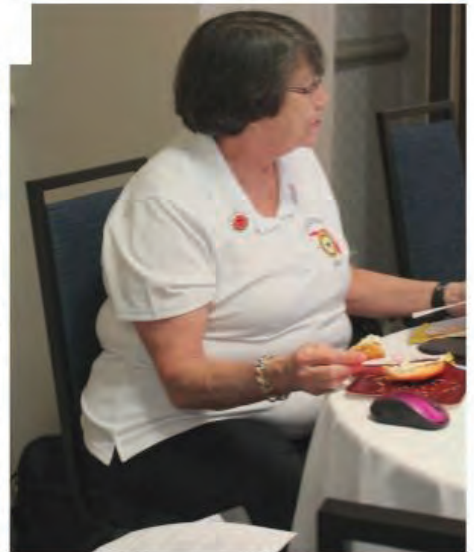
FLORIDA AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY STRONG!



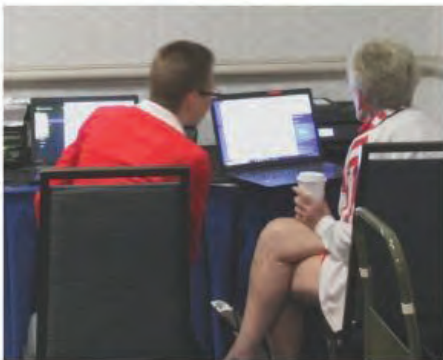
PRESIDENT'S PHOTO GALLERY



AMERICAN LEGION
AUXILIARY
DEPARTMENT OF
FLORIDA BOOT CAMP
JULY 11-14, 2019



PRESIDENT'S PHOTO GALLERY



District 1 Past District President Pat on a Softtail Harley with Unit 402 ladies backing her at there Installation. These ladies are ready to "Rev 'Um Up for Membership."



Honoring Veterans Who Made Possible the Freedoms We Enjoy Today!

Florida Hubs:

- Central Florida
- Collier Lee
- South Florida
- Southeast Florida
- Southwest Florida
- Space Coast
- Tallahassee
- Villages
- West Central Florida

More information at: www.honorflight.org



EDUCATION

LINDA DIXON

Happy August American Legion Auxiliary members. Boot camp is over, Workshop is scheduled and The Dog Days of Summer will soon begin. But in addition to summer soon winding down, we are gearing up to start our Program Action Plans. To put in place all of the great things that are going to happen this year. 2019-2020 will bring us American Legion Auxiliary Strong, Florida Strong and Strong in entering our 100th year as the largest and in my opinion greatest Women's Patriotic organization in the world.

In the Program Action Plan for Education, we will learn how to get information out to schools in our community to inform teachers, principals, guidance counselors, the community, parents and the children themselves of the great education tools and scholarships that are available through the American Legion Auxiliary.

Be the Superhero! When I think of Superheroes...I think of you...and our sisters who are out there

*A book is
a dream
that you
hold in
your hands*
- Neil Gaiman

THE AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT OF FLORIDA



supporting our Veterans, their children and families. We may not wear capes, we may not fly, we may not carry a sword. BUT....we carry something powerful. We carry knowledge. We can advocate for children, we can help to feed their desire for higher learning. But we must educate our communities as to what is available through the American Legion Auxiliary. The Education Program promotes quality education for children and adults through classroom activity, literacy programs, scholarship promotion and support of education beyond high school, with a special emphasis on children of veterans and service members.

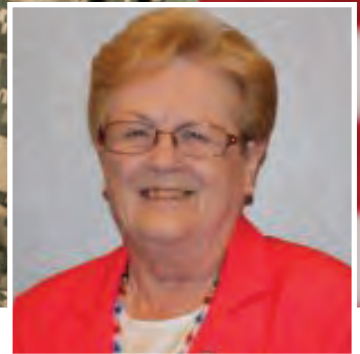
Support and promote Give 10 to Education. Promote Teacher Appreciation Week. Promote American Education Week.

Assist and support veterans pursuing higher education and vocational education.

Have fun....promote our American Legion Auxiliary. Be American Legion Auxiliary Strong! I look forward to hearing of the great success stories that you will be creating.

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

CATHERINE MCMULLIN



What an honor it is to be your Department of Florida Constitution and Bylaws Chairman for 2019-2020! I look forward to working along with you on these very important governing materials.

The year 2019 is an important year for us. Not only are we celebrating our 100th Anniversary as the largest women's patriotic organization, but we see potential major changes down the road, changes for the better. Please stay tuned for future articles on any and all important changes which may come along.

Remember to review your governing documents frequently and refer to them whenever there is a question about how something should be handled. The Constitution and Bylaws should be reviewed at least once a year but your Standing Rules more often. Be sure to bring a copy of all of them to each meeting for reference and provide a copy to each

member. When a new member joins, give them a copy, especially if you will not hold an initiation ceremony for several months.

If you make any changes to your Standing Rules, please be specific, do not leave room for incorrect interpretation. Make sure the signature pages contains the signatures of the Unit President and either the C&BL Chairman or Secretary (or all 3) and date it. Be sure to provide a space or line for the Department approval. Send two copies of the changed Standing Rules along with one copy of your already approved C&BL to me with a letter or a note "Changes to Standing Rules only". They will be reviewed and approved or returned for corrections.

Please see the Program Action Plan at www.alafl.org > Programs>Constitution & Bylaws for additional information.

DISTRICT PRESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

Hello All. We started a great year off at Convention. I would like to say THANK YOU to all the District 1 Auxiliary members for electing me as a first time District President. It is truly an honor. I am looking forward to working with all the Units, District Chairman and the other Department Board Members. I have completed four installations so far. I would like to give a BIG shout out to Past District President Pat Carpenter for helping with installations that I could not attend due to being at BOOT CAMP. Let's "Rev Up" our membership on our Soft Tail. And starting working on Department President Ann King Smith Honor Flight. I would love it if we could raise \$10,000.00 in our District for this awesome project. Let have a FUN year !!

For God and Country,
Kim Edens
District 1 President



TREASURER

BRANDI SEEBER



Welcome to a new year. There are a few items that are now being implemented through Department Headquarters. All of these changes are in an attempt to make the process easier and to save Department money.

ACH forms (Direct Deposit form): All ACH forms need to be submitted to Department Headquarters in order to receive any reimbursement. This form is available by emailing treasurer@alafl.org. All Units must have this form to Department Headquarters no later than August 15, 2019 in order to receive your MCR reimbursement.

Reimbursements: All requests for reimbursement must be submitted to Department Headquarters within 30 days from the last day of the event. Payment for reimbursements will be every 2 weeks, after the 30-day deadline. This deadline is necessary for everyone to get a timely reimbursement. All reimbursements will be sent through direct deposit. All reimbursement payments will have a memo included that you will be able to see online or on your bank statement. If any issues arise with your payment, email treasurer@alafl.org.

MCR Reimbursement: Reimbursements for MCR will be processed by the end of August.

Quotas: Quota invoices will be sent out by the end of July

Statements: All invoices are due within 30 days from date of receipt. Statements will be sent out for all outstanding invoices greater than 30 days.

Poppy Proceeds Reconciliation: The updated form is available on your flash drive and on the website. There is now an area for you to document when you placed your poppy order with Department.

I would like to thank everyone who has welcomed me into the family. I look forward to working with each and every one of you in the future. If you have any question please do not hesitate to contact me at 407-293-7411 or treasurer@alafl.org.



**Visit Your Local Tag Office
and get yours today!**

Proceeds benefit Veterans and their families
in the State of Florida.

floridalegion.org

CHAPLAIN

LOIS STACHELRODT



As a new year begins, I would like to say Thank you to the entire Department of Florida for electing me to the position of Chaplain for another year. I am humbled and honored to all of you. As your Chaplain please feel free to contact me if you need assistance. God Bless all of You.

Below are the members who have gone forward to join our Lord in his kingdom, may be keep them warm and safe if his loving arms.

Recently Departed Members

DISTRICT 1

Nancy Mobley, Unit 75
Kathleen Belanger, Unit 340
Sandy Donning, Unit 340

DISTRICT 4

Phoebe F. Emmons, Unit 77
Lucy Hummel, Unit 77
Esther M. Herbst, Unit 155
Nita Bartley, Unit 237
Zethna A. George, Unit 284

DISTRICT 5

Jeniver Holton, Unit 129
Mary Lu Jones, Unit 129
Linda Phaklides, Unit 129
Bettie Hoerner, Unit 137

DISTRICT 6

Shirley A. Schwebs, Unit 10

DISTRICT 7

Sherron Waring, Unit 72

DISTRICT 8

Betty Jones, Unit 24
Esther Soehner, Unit 69

DISTRICT 11

Diane Nolf, Unit 271

DISTRICT 12

Marie Wolfe, Unit 1
Maybelle Buscemi, Unit 117
Jinelle Craig, Unit 117
Les Lloyd, Unit 117
Patraha Garriel, Unit 163
Ann Hodge, Unit 200
Peggy Keicher, Unit 273
Barbara Stinson, Unit 359

DISTRICT 13

Ellen Holsinger, Unit 110
JoAnn Ryan, Unit 110
Marva B Savanick, Unit 110
Anny Sayles, Unit 135
Peggy Binney, Unit 136
Debra Dillon, Unit 136
Kathleen Kessler, Unit 136
Jean Turner, Unit 136
Carolyn S. Pirucki, Unit 303
Susan Card, Unit 336

DISTRICT 14

Dottie Zammass, Unit 31

DISTRICT 15

Anne Pinkham, Unit 139
Bethann Geiger, Unit 186

DISTRICT 16

Mary Jen Bonfili, Unit 14
Betty Bailairge, Unit 119
Glenda S. Cook, Unit 119
Anne R. Ferrone, Unit 125
Henrietta M. Herr, Unit 125
Elizabeth (Liz) Prodrick, Unit 125
Susan A. Vankirk, Unit 173
Marlene J. Wegescheide, Unit 173
Joyce Riede, Unit 275
Evelyn Guertin, Unit 305

DISTRICT 4

Phoebe F. Emmons, Unit 77
Lucy Hummel, Unit 77
Esther M. Herbst, Unit 155
Nita Bartley, Unit 237
Zethna A. George, Unit 284

DISTRICT 17

Nancy W. Roberts, Unit 127



Celebrating Honor Flights for World War II Veterans
The co-founder of The Honor Flight Network, Air Force Captain Earl Morse, was personally recognized Thursday, July 4, 2019, by President Donald Trump for his dedication to U.S. military veterans.

While working at a VA hospital in Ohio, Captain Morse realized that many World War II veterans could not afford to visit their memorial on the National Mall. Morse established Honor Flight in 2005 with small business owner Jeff Miller. Six small planes flew 12 veterans to D.C. for the first Honor Flight in May 2005. Miller, simultaneously, formed HonorAir in North Carolina and began flying scores of veterans to D.C. on chartered jets. Morse and Miller combined forces in 2007 to create the Honor Flight Network. The Honor Flight network has now flown over 225,000 World War II heroes to visit America's monument and has hubs throughout the United States.

On September 10, 2015 the first all-female honor flight flew to the nation's capital with 140 female veterans. September 10 recognized by the Honor Flight Columbus organization. Retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Wilma L. Vaught—one of the most decorated women in U.S. military history and the first woman to deploy with an Air Force bomber wing—was among the first to greet the group. As the pioneers of their times, these women blazed a path that until then was only traveled for men.

The Department of Florida American Legion Auxiliary under President Ann King-Smith is dedicated this year to locate WWII and Korean veterans and raise funds to send many Veterans to Washington DC this year from Florida's nine Honor Flight Network hubs.

The Honor Flights only fly when enough private donations are received. Learn more at honorflight.org.



Air Force Captain Earl Morse,
Founder of Honor Flight



Air Force Brig. Gen.
Wilma L. Vaught

JUNIOR ACTIVITIES

DARA OLIVER

The Department of Florida American Legion Auxiliary Juniors are off to a great start. Please make sure members under 18-years-old are registered as Junior Auxiliary Members in good standing. (Dues must be current) We have activities and fun projects for them planned all year!

President Ann King-Smith asked our Junior Officers to attend Department Convention in June. Although the Junior Activities Committee has not been active for several years, we restarted it during the Centennial "100th year Celebration." The girls were installed at Convention on Sunday, by 2018-2019 Children and Youth Chair, Jane Hardacre.

The Juniors voted on their own Slate of Officers at their Fall Conference Meeting. The following 2019-2020 Honorary Department Officers were installed;

HD Junior President: Delaney Enya Oliver
HD Jr. Vice President: Sydney Brotchi
HD Jr. Secretary: Kayti Taylor
HD Jr. Treasurer: Jasmine Harris
HD Jr. Chaplain: Addie Hawk
HD Jr. Sergeant at Arms: Julianne Aspen and
HD Jr. Historian: Savanna Staelens (absent from photo)
All Juniors, 8 to 17 years-old, can attend and participate in the activities at the Department Workshop, August 9 - 11, 2019. Department Workshop will be held at The Wyndham Garden Disney Springs Resort, 1850B

Hotel Plaza Blvd, Lake Buena Vista, FL. Contact Junior Activities Chairman, Dara Oliver, at Juniors@alaf1.org to request a registration packet. The registration packet includes; Authorization Forms, Code of Conduct, and the weekend activities Itinerary. Please RSVP as Dara needs to know how many girls will be attending to plan for the correct number of adult supervisors. All Juniors will be located in the foyer area of our Senior meeting room (they will have their own area.) They will be having their own meeting, assist with the Junior Activities Presentation, and help collect donations for honor flight, as well as work on crafts for upcoming programs.

This years President's Special Project is Honor Flight. If anyone is interested in donating **non-perishable individually wrapped snacks** they will be put in a Ziploc quart sized bag for our Honor Flight Veterans. Feel free to bring them to Workshop. We will take ANY donations, including the bags that are not out of date. Remember to include: Snacks that are sugar-free, nut-free or gluten-free and we will keep them separate for our Veterans with special dietary needs. **CHALLENGE:** We will have a competition for the Unit that donates the most at Workshop and they will be presented, a certificate.

LIKE us on Facebook - **American Legion Auxiliary Florida Juniors**. You can ask us questions, find information, and see our photos!

Don't forget to Hashtag on Instagram, Twitter, and Facebook any activity your Juniors are doing. If you let me know in advance what you're planning, we will do our best to attend and possibly help you out.

#ALAFJuniors #FLALAJuniors100 or #FLALAStrong100



American Legion Auxiliary
JUNIORS
Department of Florida

MEET YOUR DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

ELEANOR AMATO - PUBLIC RELATIONS



National Security Chairman - Rhonda Brailey-Maurer is a California native that when asked if she wanted to go to college after high school (1971), she said no way she wanted to travel and see the USA. Shortly after high school, her husband to be and her became long

distance furniture movers/truck drivers, -what better way to see the USA and meet the real people that make up America, and get paid to do so.

In 1990 she moved to New Hampshire and worked in the banking field for corporate security/investigation. The most interesting part of her job was to go out to the bank branches to do training for robberies, and other bank related crimes.

She became a widow in 1994 at the age of 42, since then her now significant other, Dana, also a widower have shared 10 children, 17 grandchildren, and believe it or not at last count, 10 great grandchildren. Their time together is spent on or in the water fishing or boating.

Her favorite pastime/hobby is doing Ancestry/family tree stuff. She thinks of herself as an investigator of secrets. She found her brother that had been put up for adoption at birth, and since then has helped him find his biological other parent and siblings, that was a blessing.

Her service to the American Legion Auxiliary came shortly after the death of her Army veteran Dad in 2012, she came home from his funeral and told Dana oh my God, we have to go buy a flag, she remembered that was something her Dad did every day, and the flag went out at dawn and came in at dusk.

After that everything just fell into place. Her first year and half was spent with unit mentors, and then she took on chairmanships for the unit and district in the National Security program. She is an ADHD adult, and the only way she learns is by actually doing the programs to understand them completely and to be able to share her experiences with others. In January 2018 through the USO Central Florida Tampa, she was honored with the President's Volunteer Service Award Certificate and pin with a letter from President Trump congratulating me.



I am **Dee Bell, Children & Youth Chairman and Third Vice President.** I am 58 years old, 2/1/61 birth date.

I grew up in Maryland, moved to Pennsylvania when I was 20, met my husband and married in

1984 and have been married for 35 years in September. Had one daughter in 1986. Moved to Florida in 2000. I am a 21 year member of the Auxiliary. I have one grandson.



Linda Dixon was born and raised in a small town north of Syracuse, New York, and moved to Florida with her husband, Hal, in 1987. Linda's 25 years of experience in the health care field, includes working in skilled nursing, home health, assisted living, and independent living;

undoubtedly Linda's true passion lies in working with seniors. Linda is currently employed with Home Instead Senior Care of Volusia County, where she is able to provide seniors and their families with solutions that

allow for dignity and respect throughout the aging process.

Linda is a member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit #361 in South Daytona and serves as President. She enjoys the many opportunities that are available to assist Veterans and their families, the dedication of Auxiliary members and the vision the American Legion has as they enter the next 100 years of service.

In her spare time Linda enjoys playing golf, walking on the beach, and enjoying time with her family. Linda is the **Education Chairman** for the Department of Florida.



Charlotte Bass is a retired Elementary School Teacher and has 3 children and 7 grandchildren.

She is a member of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 80 and has been an Auxiliary member for 11 years. She joined under her

husband a Viet Nam Era Navy Veteran. He has been a Legion Member for 34 years.

On the Unit level, she has held several committee chairmanships including Education, Children and Youth, Leadership, Past Presidents Parley, and Legislative. She was a Unit President for 3 years, 1st Vice 4 years, and Membership Chairman for 3 years. I am still serving as Unit 80's 1st vice and Membership Chairman, and

several committees. As Education Chairman for the Unit, she won the National's Most Outstanding Veteran's in the Classroom Award.

On the District level, she served as Children and Youth/Juniors Chairman, District Sgt.-at-Arms, and District President for 2 years. As District President I won District President of the Year. I am currently the District Secretary this will be my 4th year. I am also currently District Membership. She is the VAR Rep for the Lake Nona and Lake Baldwin VA Hospital.

On the Department level I have served as Poppy Chairman, two years as Education Chairman and last year The Department of Florida won the National Southern Division Outstanding Education Program Award. I am looking forward to being your Department **Girls State Chairman** this year.



My name is **Terry Gallagher** and it is my honor and pleasure to have been chosen to be the **Membership Chairman** for The Department of Florida this Year 2019-2020. I am here to serve our Department President Ann King-Smith, her officers and Staff. I am also here to serve and

help each and every one of our great members, units, and districts in the Department of Florida. I am eligible through my father, Edward Gallagher JR., who served in the Korean War as the radio specialist on the front line. I am also eligible through my grandfather who served in WW II and my brother who served in Desert Storm.

I am originally from the State of Maryland, where my parents joined me as an infant. They took me and my 6 sister and 1 brother to our home Post 29, in Denton Maryland every time they went at least 3 times a week. As soon as I could reach the top of the tables, my mother had me help cleaning and serving. Every function the Auxiliary, Post, or Sons of the American Legion had, I was there volunteering. My stepfather was a Post Commander many times, as well as Past Department of Maryland Commander. He held many positions at the Post, District, and State Level. He was a big inspiration to me and helped me along my way in learning about The American Legion and what it means

to serve our Veterans, Community, and families in need. I moved to Florida 11 years ago. I immediately found my new home Post 69, in Avon Park, Florida. These folks took me in right away and I transferred into Unit 69. I became the Unit's Treasurer and have held that position for 11 years. I also have been the Children and Youth Chairman for the Unit 11 years, and for District 8 for 5 years. I also helped Charter the American Legion Riders Chapter 69, 6 years ago, and have been the Treasurer 6 years. I have been District 8 Riders Chairman and The South Western Area Riders Chairman for 5 years. I have had the pleasure of being Unit 69 Membership Chairman for the past year. There is nothing in The American Legion Auxiliary that I do not enjoy. It has been my pleasure to work with a lot of great ladies that had a wealth of knowledge that they have passed on to me. I only wish that I can be as a great mentor as all of the wonderful ladies of Unit 69 have been to me. Many District and Department past and future officers have also taken me under their wings and guided my future in The American Legion Auxiliary as well. I would not be who I am without all these great leaders leading the way for me.

I only hope I can make the Department of Florida Officers, Staff, and every member in the State of Florida proud, this Year, as we "REV UM UP" with membership. "REV UM UP" with membership.

MEET YOUR DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

ELEANOR AMATO - PUBLIC RELATIONS

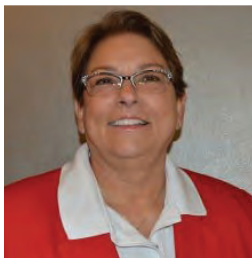


Ruth Sovern joined the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 347 in 2005 with eligibility through her late husband, a Marine and Vietnam Veteran. She became Unit 1st Vice President/Membership Chairman 2006-2008 ; Unit President 2008 - 2011, 2018-2019 (4 years); Unit Membership Chairman 2013-2018 (5

years); Unit Poppy Chairman (7 years). Other Unit Chairs held: Past President Parley, National Security, and VA&R.

In the 6th District she held: National Security, Past President Parley, Poppy (3 years), and Membership (2 years).

Ruth will be **Poppy Chairman** for the Department of Florida.



Denise Grinis has been a member of Unit 142, Pompano Beach since 2011. She is eligible for membership through her husband, Jamie Grinis. Denise has one daughter, Jessica (also a member of Unit 142), and one grandson, Preston (the youngest member of Squadron 142, Sons

she was a 911 call taker and dispatcher. When she met Jamie (online by the way), she was working as a corporate event planner.

She has served as President, First Vice/Membership at the Unit level and was District 9 President during the 2016-2017 administrative year.

Denise served as Department of Florida Community Service committee Chair the past year.

She will be serving as Department of **Florida Cavalcade of Memories**.



Lois Stachelrodt has been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary for 55 years. She joined under her father in 1964. As a junior she began holding offices and then graduated into the seniors and has held all offices right into County (District) level.

Memorial Unit 19 and has been an active member there holding many offices and chairmanships.

Lois has been our Department Chaplain for the last six years and enjoys her position. She is passionate about being Chaplain and has compassion for everyone in the Auxiliary, Legion, Sons of the American Legion and the Riders Chapters.

Lois will continue being the **Chaplain** for the Department of Florida.

of the American Legion.

She is retired from Broward Sheriff Fire Rescue where

When she moved to Florida she joined Orlando

More Department Chairmen bios to come in September issue.



Shop at **AmazonSmile** and Amazon will make a donation to:
American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Inc.
Make sure you choose us when you check out.

DISTRICT 2

NELL HEWITT

VROOM, VROOM, here we go! We begin with congratulating our Department President, Ann King-Smith, all Department Chairmen and District Presidents for their dedication to the American Legion Auxiliary with "In the Spirit of Service Not Self," for the benefit of our veterans and their families. Department Staff, thank you for a job well done!

If I may, I would like to brag on a small rural district which consists of only SIX Units having a representation of Five Units at our Department Convention in June. Yes, that is District 2 and what a grand way to start the new year.

The School of Instruction is scheduled for September 14th at Unit 241, Sneads Memorial; registration begins at 9:30 am with SOI beginning at 10:00 am. Continuing on the calendar is a class on "The In's and Out's of Reporting and How to Write a Narrative" scheduled for October 19th hosted by Havana, Unit 84. Again registration begins at 9:30 am with class beginning at 10:00 am. We hope this will help eliminate the stress of those awful, dreaded reports by better understanding the mechanics and making writing narratives as fun as storytelling; it's just a written report of the 4-W's; Who, What, When, Where.

Every Wednesday, Unit 82, Lanark Village distributes food to low-income families, a program that's called "Farm Share." Florida Farmers sponsor Farm Share to

provides nutritious food, which generally includes fresh vegetables, juices, eggs, milk, bread, chips, meats, etc. However, they never know what will be available until pick-up. Lanark Post and Auxiliary members travel to the Farm Share facility in Quincy twice a month, then twice a month, the big red Farm Share truck delivers the commodities to Lanark. Those commodities are divided into four equal shares; three shares go to the surrounding designated areas for distribution. Lanark keeps one-fourth for distribution at Post 82.

Unit 13, Tallahassee will be holding an Arts & Craft Fair on October 5th; all proceeds will go to the purchase of a "Bell Tower" for the Tallahassee National Cemetery. The "CARILLON" will have a catalog of over 700 songs to include all military service songs.

Unit 241, Sneads is in preparation for their annual Halloween Costume Party. These ladies serve between 400-500 children and adults during this annual event. Unit 84, Havana, host an annual Christmas Party for veterans and families, serving approximately 100 guests with all the trimmings.

The Unit projects go on and on; District 2 is ready to ride as we start our new journey down the path of helping veterans and their families. Our Motto, "If you hit a rock and fall over; pick yourself up and ride again." Watch-out FLORIDA, here we come!



UNIT 372

KATHY HELMLY



Mandarin Unit 372 has started an effort to raise funds for Honor Flight and our Unit and we are inviting you to help. Honor Flight is Department President Ann King-Smith's special project this year. Honor Flight Hubs all over Florida will be flying our WWII, Korean and Vietnam veterans to Washington, D.C., where they can view the monuments erected in honor of their service to our great country. This flight will be at no cost to the veterans.

Mandarin Unit 372 (District 5) was chartered in 2017 and like all newly chartered Units, experienced growing pains during their first year. In 2018, I was elected to fill the vacated office of Unit President. I was re-elected as President for the 2019-2020 Auxiliary year. We are a very small Unit and we don't have a Post home, which makes it difficult to offer an opportunity to raise funds for our veterans, children and communities.

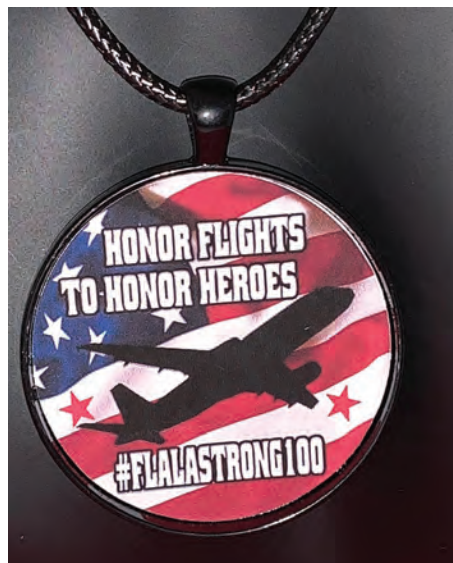
Our goal this year is to ensure that we can be a productive and contributing Unit that accomplishes more than holding meetings and dreaming of all the things we could do. Our Unit members are amazing ladies and, as President, I hear and feel their cries to

be able to do more. With this fundraiser, we will have funding to become stronger and assist more.

For a \$20 donation, you will receive both the American Legion Auxiliary Strong pendant and the Honor Flight pendant, or they can be ordered separately for \$12 each. If you would like to order, please email me at: kathyhellymly@aol.com

If received in time, I can bring your order to Department Workshop. Otherwise, I can mail your orders, but postage will be added/

Thank you for your support of Honor Flight and Unit 372.



FLORIDA ALA HAPPENINGS



Unit 119: Newly Elected Officers of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 119 Largo, FL (L to R) Carla Struble, Gina Schroeder, Sue Heisler, Kathy Caputo, Joan Thompson, Linda Bloomer, Mel Millican, Juanita Graham, Sondra Bober, Judy Smith, Jane Plourde, Selest Luccioni



Unit 158: Newly installed officers (L to R) Betty McCall, Elizabeth Damico, Sue Greon, Dottie Erwin, Linda Coppola, Olivia Schweinle, Dee Bell, President Liz Close, Treasure Island, Unit 158 Cheryl Brockmeier Sgt-at-Arms



Unit 173: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 173, Holdiay, FL 2019-2020 newly installed officers (L to R) Pearl Sandahl, Doris Clark, Joyce Bomia, Marlene Ungerleider, Jeanette Reichner, Maria Shuerger, Sharon Reed. Saturday, July 6, 2019.



Unit 252: Auxiliary Unit 252 Officers (L-R) President Kristin Gillespie, Lisa Hoyland, Monica Hoyland, Mary Ann Kearns, Ardith Beckwith, Evelyn Schwartz, Julie Willis, Sharon Stabler, Dana Metts, Marilyn "Hari" Moran, Kat Emonons Sunday, July 7, 2019

FLORIDA ALA HAPPENINGS



Unit 7: (L to R front row) Past President Susan Russel, Cindy DeLuca, Judy Thompson, Carol Squire, Mary "Lou" Lauster (L to R back row) Jean Vitelli, Terri Carlisle, Tammy DeLuca, Jill Marie



Unit 238: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 238 Safety Harbor newly elected officers (L to) Janet Devenney, Kellie Devenney, Marge Reed, Cheryl Adams, Ruth Burgess, Bernie Matheson, Renee Bornkamp, Dee Rutherford, Sally Chubb. Sue Craft District President in middle



Unit 14: Installation of American Legion Officers Unit 14 St. Petersburg, FL Saturday, July 20, 2019

Newly elected American Legion Auxiliary Unit 14 officers (L to R) Mary Ann Brockerson, Russann Cram, Stephanie Baker, Kerry Baker, Margaret Coulson, Letta Ramsey, Donna Tanner



Unit 125: Newly installed American Legion Auxiliary Officers Unit 125 St. Petersburg, FL (L to R) President Janet McNamara, 2nd Vice Debbie Sviderskas, Treasurer Valerie Schmidt, Chaplain Dee Howeth, Sgt at Arms Tami Flanagan, Asst. Sgt at Arms Donna Anderson



Girls Nation



Unit 5: Blue Star Memorial Service

Red Friday

MAIL CALL

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FLORIDA ALA HAPPENINGS



Department Convention



Unit 183: President Penny Kanbara, Secretary Jerry-Ann Henry, Debbie Dorton, 1st Vice - Patsy Sewell, 2nd Vice - Jennifer Bokanoski, Heidi Rosenzweig, Chaplain - Kerryn McCollum, Sergeant-At-Arms - Marilyn Hench Brittany Grieb, Treasurer - Treva Kay wildrick "aka TK"



Unit 139: Installation of officers



Unit 347: Lady Lakes Unit 347 Auxiliary Officers for 2019 - 2020 on July 28, 2019! Starting from the right President: Cathy Trout, Kathy, Sergeant-At-Arms: Betty Spencer, Members at Large: Lois Glosch, Mary Slidell, and Ruth Sovern



Unit 26: Installation of 15 District - Auxiliary officers for 2019-2020 of unit 26 American Legion Mcleod (Plant City Florida)



Post 191: Department President, Ann King-Smith, accepts the first Honor Flight donations from Joe McNeil, Post 191 in Melbourne.



Unit 186: Installation of officers



Post 163: Installation at JW Mathers Unit 163 in Melbourne. Back row – Lorraine Theroux, Pauline Nees, Ann King-Smith, Karen Humann, Gail Briscoe, Janice Vilgats, Christime Slater, Pat Clark, Front Row – Shirley Fashano, Dorothy Duke, Michelle Abbey



**The American Legion Auxiliary
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