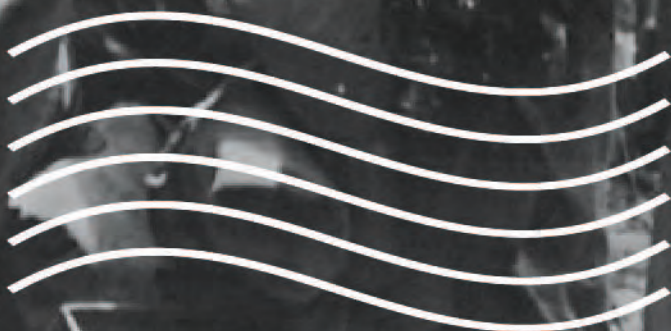


## FEATURED

Department President  
Veterans Rehab & Rehabilitation  
Children & Youth  
Public Relations



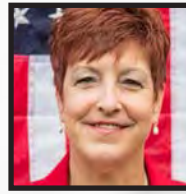
VOLUME IX • ISSUE 2 • SEPTEMBER 2019  
DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT ANN KING-SMITH



# THIS MONTH'S FEATURED



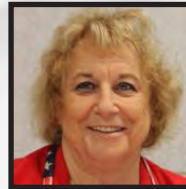
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## Mission Statement

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.



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

[alaf1.org/submit](http://alaf1.org/submit)  
[secretary@alaf1.org](mailto:secretary@alaf1.org)

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ANN KING-SMITH

As your Department President, one of my goals for the upcoming year is for us all is working to "accentuate the positive and eliminate the negative." I hope that everyone that attended Department Workshop in Orlando felt the positive energy that our wonderful Department Officers and Chairmen worked so hard to portray. As I have often said, it's a pleasure to work with such a talented and caring group of ladies and I am humbled to be a part of this year of working and learning. It was a pleasure to meet all the members that attended their first ever Workshop and even more of a pleasure to see friends that I haven't seen in a while. I hope each of you took something new back to your District or Unit. Please go to our Department Website ([www.alafl.org](http://www.alafl.org)) and take the short survey about your Workshop experience. Your candid, honest and confidential input will be of great assistance to our First Vice-President, Wanda Brandt, as she plans Workshop next year.

Being at the front of the room during Workshop gave me the opportunity to look back at each of you and feel the pride of being a member of the American Legion Auxiliary. I realized that we are a family and in many ways, we're like a comfortable quilt that's been stitched with love and handed down for generations. By being members of the American Legion Auxiliary, our lives are pieced together, stitched with memories

and bound by love for our veterans, our military families, our children and our communities. And, yes.....we are bound together by our love for each other. In July, I traveled to North Miami Beach to remember the life of Alma Zellar, who was our Past Department President for 1993-1994. Although I had met Alma, I learned so much about what a wonderful person she was as Fran Carlton, Past Department President 1985-1986, spoke of their many years of friendship and their deep dedication to the American Legion Auxiliary. Three Past Department Presidents were in attendance to pay tribute to Alma's amazing life of service. Jean Mahoney, Past Department President from 1972-1973, shared stories about the Alaskan cruise that she and Alma took together. What a great time that must have been. Past Department President 1996-1997 Pat Donohue attended and reminisced about her year as Alma's Department Historian. Both employees and volunteers, including Department Historian Gail Dupuis, from the Miami VAMC were there to honor Alma and her many hours and years of service to our veterans in their facility. I am so proud to have the honor to serve with Alma's granddaughter, Stacy Cusano, who is serving as District 14 President this year. I know that Stacy will carry on Alma's legacy for many years to come.



*Continued on Page 4 >>*

I attended a Celebration of Life for Tommy Pechacek , WWII Marine veteran and POW-MIA from Post 163 in Melbourne. Tommy was wounded during the December 1941 bombing of Wake Island — then captured and imprisoned in China, Korea and Japan. Finally, 76 years later, he finally received his Purple Heart. Tommy was a passionate supporter of many Auxiliary Programs, particularly Florida Girls State. After traveling with Space Coast Honor Flight to Washington, D.C. , Tommy became an avid supporter and advocate for the Honor Flight Program. Much of the passion that I have for Honor Flight came from this great American Hero.

Just before traveling to Department Workshop in Orlando, I had the honor to throw out the first ball for the American Legion Southern Divisional Championship game in Tampa. Thursday, August 8th, was Auxiliary Day so that was my big day to pitch. Upon arrival, I met District 15 President, Mary McColgan and immediately expressed my fear of throwing a bad pitch. She and Rosemary Hamblin calmed my fears and I am proud to say that I threw the ball right into the catcher's mitt. I think you would have all been proud. While on the field, American Legion Baseball Chairman, Andy Burkett, assured me that I had done great, Andy signed the ball for me, which made me smile.

Next stop was Department Workshop in Orlando. I had a million things zooming through my mind while driving on I-4. I know understand why so many of you spend so much time stuck in traffic on that highway. Thanks to everyone that attended

Workshop. As many of you know, this will be our last year at the Wyndham Lake Buena Vista. I apologize for long lines and even longer waits for food service. Please know that your concerns were recognized, and things will prove to be better next year.

I am so proud of the presentations by our Department Officers and Chairmen. Please know that much time and effort was put into making this a pleasant and interesting learning experience for each of you. Granted, we do have to work on our singing abilities and dancing, but I know we will have mastered it to perfection by Fall Conference. Speaking of Fall Conference..... be prepared for amazing !!! Watch for updates and make your reservations today !!!

In closing, I am dedicating this President's Message to Past Department President Erna Schwabe. As many of you know, Erna has been dealing with health issues during the year. She and her husband, Past Department Commander and NECA, Art Schwabe have made the decision to move to Wisconsin where they can be near family during this time. I know that we all will carry Erna and Art in our hearts and remember them in our thoughts and prayers as they travel to Wisconsin. I have been talking with Erna and know that her heart is with the American Legion Auxiliary members here in Florida. You may continue to send cards and cheerful greetings to Erna, as her Florida mail will be forwarded to her in Wisconsin. Her address is : 35 Sea Gull Drive, Ormond Beach, FL 32176.

**ERNA...WE ALL SALUTE YOU FOR BEING FLORIDA  
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY STRONG!!!**

# PRESIDENT'S PHOTO GALLERY



# PRESIDENT'S PHOTO GALLERY



# VETERANS AFFAIRS & REHABILITATION

JANE HARDACRE



September is National Suicide Prevention Month. The US Department of Veteran Affairs last report dated June 2019 stated that twenty (20) veterans commit suicide each day. One contributing factor is PTSD. PTSD (posttraumatic stress disorder) is a mental health problem that some people develop after experiencing or witnessing a life-threatening event, like combat, a natural disaster, a car accident, or sexual assault.

**"A returning veteran can experience profound loneliness, surrounded by people who do not understand who they have become, and expect them to be who they used to be. While many veterans copy with this and eventually grow into a new life, when this loneliness is combined with mental illnesses such as PTSD and Gulf War Syndrome, their own mind can become a torture chamber from which death may be considered a welcome release."**

*~ National Center for PTSD*

Other factors can include drug and/or alcohol abuse, depression, other mental illnesses. Military Sexual Trauma is another factor. Keep in mind that Military Sexual Trauma (MST) does not only happen to female veterans.

## **SUICIDE WARNING SIGNS**

- Hopelessness; feeling like there's no way out
- Anxiety, agitation, sleeplessness, or mood swings

- Feeling like there is no reason to live
- Rage or anger
- Engaging in risky activities without thinking
- Increasing alcohol or drug misuse
- Withdrawing from family and friends

## **The presence of the following signs requires immediate attention:**

- Thinking about hurting or killing yourself
- Looking for ways to kill yourself
- Talking about death, dying, or suicide
- Self-destructive behavior, such as drug abuse, carelessly handling weapons, etc.

How can we help? We need to be aware of the warning signs and be open to talking about them and suicide. Included on the following page, is a handout from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs on how to **SUPPORT VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE**. Please print it out for distribution to your members, veteran caregivers, and military spouses. It can be located on the Department website [www.alafl.org](http://www.alafl.org) under Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation program.

Another resource is the Veterans Crisis Line @ **1-800-273-8255** and **PRESS 1**. If you know a Veteran who is showing any signs of suicide, please call!

**"This will remain the land of the free so long as it is the home of the brave." -- Elmer Davis**



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

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

[floridalegion.org](http://floridalegion.org)

# CHILDREN & YOUTH

DEE BELL



## OPEN YOUR HEART

Hi Ladies,

Welcome to a new year in the American Legion Auxiliary. My name is Dee Bell and I am honored to serve as your Children & Youth Chairman. This year we will be celebrating 100 years of service to our veterans, military families, communities and our children & youth. Our four pillars, VA & R, National Security, Americanism and Children & Youth have built the basis for who we are, what we do, why we do it.

The Children & Youth program outlines how your Unit can OPEN YOUR HEART and continue our legacy of honoring, recognizing and supporting children throughout Florida. The Program Action Plan emphasizes four categories of children. They are

military kids, veteran's children, acute and chronically ill children and youth in your communities.

The American Legion Family will continue to work together for the betterment of children in Florida. We are currently planning the Children & Youth Picnic to be held on April 4th in Titusville at Post 1.

The Auxiliary has been asked to provide volunteers and raffle baskets. Please, no perishables and bring baskets to Fall Conference. The Children & Youth Golf Tournament will be held on April 25th, the place is yet to be determined. We will need Auxiliary volunteers, hole sponsors, raffle prizes and baskets.

All proceeds from both events will go towards Children & Youth charities.



The poster features a background of stylized red and pink poppies. On the left is the Honor Flight Network logo, which includes a blue shield with a white star and the text 'Honor Flight NETWORK'. The main title 'FALL CONFERENCE' is in blue, and 'Poppy Contest' is in large, red, cursive font. Below this, a white box with a red border contains the text: 'Design a Poppy Wall or Table Decoration', 'Not to exceed 12"x12"x12"', and 'Bring to Fall Conference'. To the right of this box is a red-bordered square containing a white heart with a red outline of Florida inside it, and the text 'Florida' above and 'American Legion Auxiliary Strong!' below. At the bottom, a white box with a blue border contains the text: 'All entries will be displayed for raffle; all proceeds will be donated to Honor Flight. Judging will be based on number of raffle tickets deposited for each item.'

**Honor Flight NETWORK**

**FALL CONFERENCE**  
**Poppy Contest**

**Design a Poppy Wall or Table Decoration**  
**Not to exceed 12"x12"x12"**  
**Bring to Fall Conference**

**Florida**  
**American Legion Auxiliary Strong!**

**All entries will be displayed for raffle; all proceeds will be donated to Honor Flight.**  
**Judging will be based on number of raffle tickets deposited for each item.**

# PUBLIC RELATIONS

ELEANOR AMATO



The American Legion Auxiliary emblem is the main identifier of our organization.

For 100 years of history, our emblem has remained unchanged and has become well known within our organization. So, why not let our communities know who we are.

The Centennial Strategic Plan Goal 5 stresses to build brand loyalty. What better way than wearing our emblem, displaying it on banners or flags in the community when attending a parade, stand down or other outreach events. Templates are available online at [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org) under member resources.

McDonald's has a strong brand- we know their colors, we get the picture with the Golden Arches, we know their mascot and what he looks like. We know this because of intentional and effective branding. Just like McDonald's we must effectively deliver our brand promise throughout the communities.

Branding is essential to the survival of an organization. The American Legion Auxiliary units are spread out throughout the United States and territories and we need to develop a strong and cohesive brand.

By becoming visible within our communities is a link

to the veteran community. We must get involved in community service projects so that we can bring awareness of our mission to support veterans, service members, their families and the community. What better way to become visible in our community than by wearing our American Legion Auxiliary apparel or pin while volunteering in the community? Our brand promise tells people who we are, what we do, and why we matter. While wearing our brand, we build community awareness of the ALA and its mission. ALA members serve as brand advocates through involvement in community activities.

Respect our emblem – for it is the brand and trade name under which our organization promotes itself to its members and the public throughout our community. The Community Service program promotes the American Legion Auxiliary's visibility through commitment to community, state and nation.

Remember that our brand is our identity, our reputation, our promise. It is how the public recognizes us. The American Legion Auxiliary's brand promise is to effectively deliver our mission. Be sure to read the Branding Guide found in the member resource link at [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org). It is a how to guide for branding the American Legion Auxiliary. Through the Community Service program we can let our nation know who we are, what we do and why we matter.



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

# 2019 Fall Conference

## PRESIDENT & COMMANDER'S BANQUET

Saturday, November 2, 2019



FEATURING

# Gracie and Lacy



**Advanced Tickets—\$35.00**

**Tickets Day of Show—\$40.00**

**Cocktail Hour— 6:00 p.m.**

**Dinner—7:00 P.M.**

**Prize will be Awarded for best vintage (WWII era) costume**

**No Vintage ? Business Attire is Fine.**

---

YES !!! I want to attend the 2019 President & Commander's Banquet on Saturday,  
November 2nd at Department Fall Conference,

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# Tickets \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35.00 per ticket = Total Due \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail check payable to: ALA Department of Florida  
(Please Enclose Form) P.O. Box 547917 Orlando 32854

\*\*\* For more information and menu, please visit [www.wlafl.org](http://www.wlafl.org)

\*\*\* Learn more about our entertainment, visit [www.gracieandlacy.com](http://www.gracieandlacy.com)



**Saturday, November 2, 2019**

## **PRESIDENT & COMMANDERS BANQUET**

**“Celebrating 100 Years of Strong Women”**

**FEATURING**

**Gracie and Lacy**



## **BUFFET MENU**

**-Soup of the Day**

**-Chopped Romaine Hearts, Parmesan Cheese and Herb Croutons**

**-Pan Seared All Natural Chicken Breast, Chef's Roasted Mushrooms  
in Saltimbocca Sauce**

**-Roasted Market Fish Piccata, Lemon and Capers**

**-Cheese Tortellini, Blistered Tomato, Spinach and Pesto Cream**

**-Broccolini with Olive Oil and Lemon**

**-Roma Pesto Focaccia**

**-Chocolate Cream Cannoli**

**- Warm Apple Crisp**

**TICKETS: \$35.00 In Advance**

**\$40.00 Day of Banquet**

**Attire: Vintage Attire/Costumes - 1919—1950 Era—Prize for Best Costume**

**Or Business Attire Acceptable**

**Please visit [www.alafl.org](http://www.alafl.org) for additional information**

# CHAPLAIN

LOIS STACHELRODT



As we proceed to honor our Veterans and their families, may we always remember our Angels who have left us to be with our Lord. Those Angels will always be watching over our organization and our Veterans. Their legacies will continue as if they are still here with us. Let us honor our Veterans by supporting the Honor Flights. **We are American Legion Auxiliary Strong.**

## Recently Departed Members

### DISTRICT 1

Debbie Rolland, Unit 340

### DISTRICT 4

Barbara Cox, Unit 166

Sandra L. Peterson, Unit 166

### DISTRICT 6

Diane Hulme, Unit 80

Catherine Sincerbox, Unit 80

Shirley Davis, Unit 347

### DISTRICT 12

Patricia Costello, Unit 39

Shirley Manor, Unit 39

### DISTRICT 13

Nancy E. Glenn, Unit 135

Elloise S. Suchy, Unit 303

Jeanette Dengler, Unit 323

### DISTRICT 16

Mary Long, Unit 119

Joyce McCurdy, Unit 273

## Honor Flight

*By Debbie Sviderskas*

Hey! Have you heard?  
Time is of the essence, Because we're losing their presence.  
Please raise donations now  
Before we can no longer honor or allow  
Our veterans to join the honor flight.  
To visit Washington D C for their delight.  
We honor them by taking them to see  
The memorials dedicated to their service,  
And their friends, for free.  
Veterans from WWII, Korean, or Vietnam Wars  
Along with those who are terminally ill,  
To be honored for their steel will.  
They can reflect on the years gone by,  
One more tour with honor to fly!



## SUPPORT VETERANS IN YOUR LIFE

We can all play a role in preventing suicide: Your actions could help save a life. Here are simple ways to support a Veteran or Servicemember in your life or your community who may be going through a difficult time:

### Learn About Resources

- **Call the [Veterans Crisis Line](https://www.veteranscrisisline.net):** If a Veteran you know is immediately at risk for suicide, call **1-800-273-8255** and **Press 1**, chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat), or text to **838255** for free, 24/7 confidential support.
- **Share a self-check quiz:** Help a Veteran assess whether mental health treatment would be beneficial by sharing the link to [www.VetSelfCheck.org](https://www.VetSelfCheck.org).
- **Help a Veteran facing homelessness:** Connect a Veteran with support by contacting the National Call Center for Homeless Veterans at **1-877-424-3838**.
- **Support a Veteran experiencing a substance use disorder:** If you are concerned a Veteran you know may be misusing alcohol, opioids, or other drugs, encourage them to take a confidential assessment and learn about effective treatments at [www.mentalhealth.va.gov/substanceabuse.asp](https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/substanceabuse.asp).
- **Find local resources:** Locate mental health treatment and services near you at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/ResourceLocator](https://VeteransCrisisLine.net/ResourceLocator).

### Spread the Word in Your Community

- **Share videos of real Veterans:** Visit [MakeTheConnection.net](https://MakeTheConnection.net) to watch and share videos of Veterans and their loved ones sharing their stories of overcoming mental health challenges.
- **Download and share materials:** Visit [VeteransCrisisLine.net/SpreadTheWord](https://VeteransCrisisLine.net/SpreadTheWord) to get flyers, social media content, newsletter articles, and more to share with your networks and in your community.
- **Host a suicide prevention training:** Contact your local Suicide Prevention Coordinator to schedule a training for your organization and obtain mental health information and materials at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/ResourceLocator](https://VeteransCrisisLine.net/ResourceLocator).
- **Organize community events:** Bring together local mental health experts and clinicians to share information and educate your community about VA mental health resources. Download our community outreach toolkit at [www.va.gov/nace/docs/myVAoutreachToolkitPreventingVeteranSuicidelsEveryonesBusiness.pdf](https://www.va.gov/nace/docs/myVAoutreachToolkitPreventingVeteranSuicidelsEveryonesBusiness.pdf).
- **Volunteer together:** Staying involved in the community can help Veterans feel less alone. Contact VA Voluntary Service to find opportunities in your area at [www.volunteer.va.gov](https://www.volunteer.va.gov).

### Start the Conversation

- **Learn to recognize the warning signs of suicide risk:** Visit [VeteransCrisisLine.net/SignsOfCrisis](https://VeteransCrisisLine.net/SignsOfCrisis).
- **Talk openly about suicide:** Let a Veteran know you're there, you care, and you're ready to listen. Learn more at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/StartTheConversation](https://VeteransCrisisLine.net/StartTheConversation).
- **Connect with Coaching into Care:** Help a Veteran's family member or friend learn constructive ways to talk with a Veteran about their concerns and treatment options. Call **1-888-823-7458**.
- **Learn about gun safety:** Visit [VeteransCrisisLine.net/GunSafetyVideo](https://VeteransCrisisLine.net/GunSafetyVideo) and share this [gun safety video](#) to raise awareness of simple actions that can save lives.

# NATIONAL SECURITY

RHONDA BRAILEY-MAURER



I am very honored and excited to be your National Security Chairman again this year, and what I learned from last year (which was a lot) I'll bring with me. I'm really looking forward to traveling around to visit some units, and to help in any way I can.

Can you believe that September is already upon us, and there are many special events that will be happening this Month. When you look at the events you realize that this is rather a sad month, but we stand strong and united.

**September 11th is Patriots day**, a day of prayer and remembering the victims of the terrorist attacks on our great country, what will your unit be doing? This would be the perfect time to thank our first responders for what they stood for then and what they stand for now.

**September 20th is the National POW/MIA Recognition Day**, not only do we need to honor those service members still missing, but we also need to be mindful of the little ones left behind. Our units could set-up the Military Childs table, the ceremony is inspired by the POW/MIA remembrance table ceremony. Our military answer the call to service every day as they defend freedom around the world. That service often comes at a great personal sacrifice, not only for the servicemember, but also for their children.

## ***The nontraditional place setting of the Military Child's Table Setting Ceremony includes:***

- » The potted flowering plant symbolizing that a military child may flower and flourish where they are planted
- » The hand spade recognizes that they may be transplanted to a new place in the world at a moment's notice.

- » The birthday hat and unlit candles, along with the baseball and glove, and ballet slippers represent special occasions that are missed.
- » The family photo depicting a child with his/her uniformed parent demonstrates our country's strength.
- » The final touch to the table setting is the American flag to remind us that families are united in their commitment to national service, at home or away.



The last Sunday of the month, September 29th is Gold Star Mother's Day, this is our opportunity to thank these mothers for their sacrifice, as there is no greater pain than losing a child. The only way to keep the memory of their child alive is

through them and their memories and stories, they have a story to tell and we need to hear it (tissues are required), Freedom is not Free. I know there are many units already in the planning stages to honor these amazing strong willed women this month. If you would like to find out more about them and their many chapters in Florida, you can go to their Facebook page at: American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. Florida-PR

Please share your pictures about any events you held this month in the next issues of Mail Call due by the 15th of the prior month.

# **HOMELESS FEMALE VETERANS NEED YOUR HELP!**

**PLEASE BRING ANY OF THE FOLLOWING ITEMS TO FALL  
CONFERENCE HELD ON NOVEMBER 1-3, 2019:**

**RENAISSANCE SEA WORLD  
6677 SEA HARBOR DR.  
ORLANDO, FL 32821**

<b>Tampons</b>	<b>Maxi Pads</b>
<b>Female deodorant</b>	<b>Female disposable razors</b>
<b>Female shaving cream</b>	<b>Female underwear</b>
<b>Female socks</b>	<b>Female T-shirts</b>
<b>Female shorts</b>	<b>Female shoes</b>
<b>Denture cleaner</b>	<b>Body wash</b>
<b>Bath soap</b>	<b>Shampoo</b>

**PLEASE MAKE SURE ALL DONATIONS ARE BRAND NEW!  
THANK YOU!**

# MEET YOUR DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN

## ELEANOR AMATO - PUBLIC RELATIONS



### **Linda Knoblach Harkness, Emergency Fund Chair**

Linda Knoblach Harkness is eligible to be a member of this elite organization through her husband Michael Harkness' service in the Navy. She has been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary since

2011. During that time she has been Unit Chaplain, Treasurer, President, and Secretary. She has held several chairmanships including Unit Poppy, Leadership, Education and Community Service.

She has been District President for two years and those two years were the most amazing years. She stepped in when our District President resigned and finished her term in 2017. She had the honor of serving as Department Education Chairman, Poppy Chairman and Constitution and Bylaws Chairman. The opportunity to serve on the Unit Development and Revitalization Committee was afforded to her in the 2019 Auxiliary year. In December she took the Leadership Basic Course and passed with 91%. She also continue to utilize the America Legion Auxiliary Academy. Her desire is to continue to serve Veterans, the Military and their Families to the best of her ability through the American Legion Auxiliary.



**Lisa Hoyland, Legislative Chair** Lisa Hoyland, was raised in Gulfport and has been a member of the American Legion Auxiliary since 2013. She is a current member of the Cross Bayou Seminole Unit 252. She has served as the local unit Education and

Legislative Chairman, Second Vice President and is the unit 1st Vice President elect. She has served as the District 16 Education and Children & Youth chairman, District Secretary 2017-2019 and also served on the Department of Florida Education committee.

Lisa has also held various leadership positions to include: President at several schools in Pinellas County, Pinellas County PTA VP Leadership, VP Advocacy, Legislative Chairman and VP Education. She is a member of the State Family and Community Engagement Committee. She was instrumental with passing resolutions on children issues with the Florida PTA.

Lisa has four children, Monica, Andrea, Amber and Matthew and one grandson Emmanuel, all of whom are members of the American Legion family.



### **Dara Oliver, Junior Activities Chair**

Dara Oliver joined the American Legion Auxiliary in 1985 as a Junior Member to honor her Daddies Service in the US Navy, during Vietnam and hopefully increase her chances to be selected for ALA Girls State. Her

Dad; Dave, is still a Legion Member as well as being one of the oldest Legion Riders (still riding) in New York State at 79 years old. She is currently a member and 1st Vice President of the newest chartered Unit of Florida #344 as well as a Legion Rider of 1757 in Sackets Harbor, NY. She has served on all levels in the Auxiliary and volunteered for several years being the Registrar, Secretary, Senior Counselor and Vice Chair of ALA Empire Girls State

Program, then transferred to the Department of Florida and served as a Senior Counselor for Florida ALA Girls State last year. Her favorite ALA Committee is Junior Activities but she enjoys learning so much about the other programs and truly loves the work that we do, "it's a passion for her." She is currently serving on the ALA Girls Nation Committee, has a National Appointment for the Centennial year and had served as the Eastern Division Junior Activities Chair 2017-2018.

She's a beach girl at heart, loves to sing and adores her husband Kevin. They have raised their 2 children: Kavanagh & Delaney Enya in the American Legion Family and both of them had attended and completed Florida Boys and Girls State.



### **Cathie McMullin, Constitution & ByLaws Chair**

Cathie McMullin was born in Philadelphia, PA early 1947 to a recently discharged Navy veteran. He was one of those veterans who hardly ever spoke of his days in the service.

I married Joseph Loss in 1965, 3 days before he was inducted into the US Army. He served as an MP in Baumholder, Germany 1966-1967. In 2002, he passed away at the age of 56.

In 2004, I moved from PA to Titusville, FL. Moving alone as a widow was a challenge with no family or friends in the Titusville area. To make friends, I began substitute bowling at a local lanes and quickly met very nice people. One invited me to play bingo at American Legion Post 1 and I felt as though I belonged there when I first entered the building. I became an Auxiliary member early in 2005.

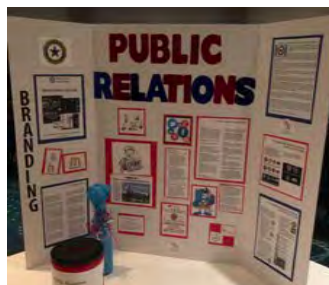
My climb up the ladder within the Auxiliary has been quite interesting and rewarding. I became Auxiliary president in 2008-2009 and again beginning with 2013 through 2017 serving 4 consecutive terms. While still serving as Unit president during the 2015-16 and 2016-

17 term, I first served as District Secretary to District President Maria Ayala and was then was elected as District President for 2016-17. During that time, I had a created a Treasurer's schedule which Dept. President Pearl McIntyre found interesting and she asked me to hold a breakout session during Fall Conference for incoming treasurers. It was very well received and I continued to hold the sessions during Dept. Conventions and Fall Conferences as requested by the then current Dept. President.

Within the last year, I have assisted with ABC Instructors and am anxious for the opportunity to complete the requirements to become an ABC Instructor. I really enjoy helping the Units.

Currently, I serve as Unit Secretary for Titusville Unit 1 Constitution and Bylaws chairman, Leadership Chairman and AEF C chairman. I designed a pin to be sold as a fundraiser for the AEF program and it will be sold at Dept. Convention June 27-30, 2019.

I am truly excited to become Constitution and Bylaws Chairman for the 2019-20 centennial year of the American Legion Auxiliary with Ann King-Smith serving as Dept. President. It is going to be a funtabulous year!



# FLORIDA ALA HAPPENINGS



**Membership Workshop:** PR Chairman Amato telling members about public relations.



**Membership Workshop:** Stacy Cusano 35 year member and Margaret Ligeikis 53+ year member.



**Baseball:** Ann King Smith throwing out the first pitch for a game at the American Legion Southeast baseball tournaments Thursday August 8, 2019 Tampa Florida



**Unit 98**



**Unit 79**



**Membership Pajama Party**



**District 2:** District 2 Workshop Attendees, Nov. 9-11 in Orlando: (Kaye Brown, #241 President; Nell Hewitt, District President; Shirley Crawford, #217 President; Kathee Coughlin, #84 President DISTRICT "STRONG"



**District 5**



**District 5**



**District 5**



**District 5**



**District 5**

# FLORIDA ALA HAPPENINGS



**District 14:** Unit 154 President Dona Beckmann and Auxiliary Member Annette Braun, July 4th Parade in Marathon FL



**District 7**



**District 14:** Participating in Village of Palmetto Bay National Night Out. SAL member John Cusano with a Village of Palmetto Bay Officer. Unit 133 Children & Youth Chairman Michelle Ligeikis and Jr Member Lily Edwards. Gave out information about the Legion Family and displayed the draft map of the future veterans park.



**Unit 26**



**Unit 67**



**Unit 67**



**Unit 26**



District 15



District 15



District 15



District 15



District 15



District 15



District 15



District 15



District 15

# FLORIDA ALA HAPPENINGS

**Unit 5:** American Legion U.S.S. Tampa unit 5 had another beautiful event: The dedication of the placement of the Blue Star Mother Memorial Marker at American Legion USS Tampa Post 5, which is the only veteran's cemetery in Hillsborough County and the only privately-owned veteran's cemetery in the United States , The Marker is a reminder of the sacrifices made by our veterans who have served and those who continue to serve in our military to assure our continued freedom. Sponsored by the National, Florida Federation, District VIII and Tampa Federation of Garden Clubs. it was truly an honor to be a part of this historical event and a very beautiful ceremony.



Unit 5



Unit 5



Unit 5



Unit 5



Unit 5



Unit 5



Unit 5



Unit 5



Unit 5



**Unit 75:** We would like to thank Krystal Wilber and Mary Clark members of Auxiliary Unit 75 for all their hard work making and selling their lights. They raised \$3,300 for the American Legion Family to use for improvements to our Post 75, Hurricane Micheal relief efforts, and numerous other charities. Awesome job ladies!



**Unit 104:** L to R front row: President Carrie Pannitti, 1st Vice Kim McCown, 2nd Vice Paula Palmer, Exec Board Lynn Roberson L to R back row: Sgt at Arms Deanna Scarlett, Exec Board Becky Christians, Historian Lori Vacchio, Secretary Julianne Bondoni, Treasurer Terry Arnold

**Unit 104:** (L) Installing officer District 16 President Sue Craft with returning Auxiliary President Carrie Pannitti

**Unit 154:** On Monday 12 August, Marathon Memorial Unit 154 were joined by the Girls that attended Girl State in June 2019, all the girls attend Marathon Highschool, 4 were sponsored by Unit 154 and 1 was sponsored by Unit 98 Coral Gables. Sharing their Girls State experience with the Unit members, it was clear that the experience changed every one of them for the better and has given them the opportunity to pursue many new goals for the future, as they start their senior year.



# FLORIDA ALA HAPPENINGS



**Unit 154**



**Unit 154**



**Unit 154:** Unit 154 President Dona Beckmann and Auxiliary Member Annette Braun in the July 4th Parade in Marathon FL



**Unit 241:** Officer Installation held on July 25, 2019 at Post 241, conjunction with Post, by District President Nell Hewitt and Post Commander Roger Hewitt. Picture left to right: District President Hewitt at podium; Kaye Brown, President; Gayle Lanier, Vice President; Joyce McDaniel, Secretary; Faye Walden, Treasurer; Frances Cloud, Chaplain; Ann Shepard, Member-at-Large.



**Unit 273:** Pinellas County Purple Heart, Memorial Dedication Ceremony, Bay Pines, Wednesday, August 7, 2019. The Pinellas County Commission honored our local heroes with the unveiling of The Purple Heart Monument placed in Bay Pines Sundial Plaza. Dave Eggers gave the Purple Heart Day Proclamation .



**Unit 273:** Unit 273-Christine Massey & Stephena Vergara collected school supplies through Operation Homefronts "Back to School Brigade" Program, which they are also volunteers with.



**Unit 286:** C&Y Chairman Jennifer Summers (sitting on floor) with all the community children that came to the back to school party.



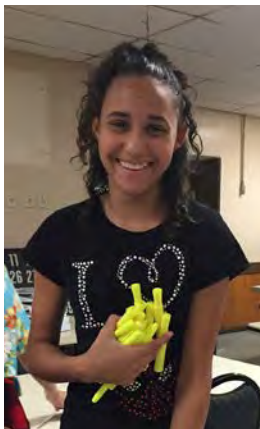
**Unit 283:** Jim J Gilleo Unit 283 and ALR Chapter 283, Jacksonville, packed 55 Backpacks with School Supplies for the Children in the Community and USO Children who Parents are deployed.



**Unit 286:** Children & Youth Chairman Jennifer Summers and junior Jordan Murdock leading the pledge of allegiance at the back to school party held on July 20th.



**Unit 286:**Unit 286 junior Analyssa Shellhammer with Lake Nona VA recreational therapist Jenny Danieli. She helped with delivery of items that were donated for the Domiciliary.



**Unit 286:** Rita Blankenhorn and junior Analyssa Shellhammer, Carole Parker, Margaret Askew, and Diane Brunson. Junior Analyssa Shellhammer, These are from the night our unit stuffed backpacks for back to school party.



**Unit 318:** Installation of Officers 2019-2020 Unit 318 Port St Lucie. District 12 President Karen Humann presided over our installation on July 20, 2019

# FLORIDA ALA HAPPENINGS



**Unit 372:** Kathy Helmly, Christie Easton, Janelle Hemsall



**Unit 372:** Commander Allan Painter with myself (Kathy Helmly) and Joy Reed



**Unit 372:** 5th District President Annie Anderson and myself



**Unit 347:** 6th District Installation Team that installed Lady Lakes Unit 347. Front roll: Mary Slidell, District 6th President Mary Lanoce. Back roll: Lois Glosch, Carol Pinon-Udell, Charlotte Bass and Paula Fox



**Unit 347:** Madam President Ann King-Smith with President - Rebecca Bastin, 1st Vice, Charlotte Bass, and 2nd Vice Paula Fox from Charles Swanson of St. Cloud Unit 80 on Saturday July 6, 2019.

# DISTRICT 12

KAREN HUMANN

Since District 12 is such a long District, I have found it difficult to gather all members together in one place at the same time. I heard about telephone conference calls many times and decided to investigate.

I found a free service, on the Internet, that everyone can use. Simply go to [www.freeconferencecall.com](http://www.freeconferencecall.com) and create an account. If you don't want to create an account, you can continue with Facebook. You will receive your own "toll free" telephone number and an access code to give to all the participants. You will also receive a special code for yourself to dial into. It's that simple.

The best part is that you can record the entire call and play it back whenever you would like. And you will receive an email with the number of participants and their telephone numbers.

For the past 2 months, I have been using this free system with the District 12 Unit Presidents. It has been a complete success!

I decided to hold the meetings on the second Sunday of each month at 7 PM.

My first call was with the outgoing Unit Presidents. The call was to be a "test run" to see how the conference call would go. Out of 20 Units, 14 members were on the call. First and foremost I wanted to thank everyone for all they did over the past year. We also discussed lessons learned, challenges each Unit was facing, and what I could do for each Unit in the future. Since I am running a contest for top Unit of the District, we discussed what their idea of a good prize might be.

My second call was with the new Unit Presidents. Again, there were 14 members on the call. After reviewing the requirements for the top Unit of the District, each President discussed upcoming events. We then discussed some District business and closed with questions. I followed up with an email recap of the call.

District Meetings, School of Instruction, ABC School, and all other face to face events are quite important, however, I have found that since communication is the key, these telephone conference calls certainly assist in bringing more communication to our District.

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**The American Legion Auxiliary  
Department of Florida**

PO Box 547917

Orlando, FL 32854-7917

407.293.7411 | 866.710.4192

[www.alafl.org](http://www.alafl.org)