



The Kaleidoscope

VOLUME VII

8

MAR 2018

FEATURED

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Treva Kay Wildrick

CHILDREN & YOUTH

Wanda Brandt

GIRLS STATE

Marge Reed

CONSTITUTION & BYLAWS

Patricia Devine

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.

Also Including...

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*"Catching Rays, Creating
a Brighter Future!"*

Want to submit an article and/or
photos to *The Kaleidoscope*?

alafl.org/submit
secretary@alafl.org

President's Message

TREVA KAY WILDRICK



Did You Know?? Not only is March Women's History Month, but it's also American Red Cross Month and Fire Prevention Month. Other popular holidays are Read Across America (March 2, which is Dr. Seuss' birthday), Daylights Saving Day (March 11), Pi Day (March 14), St. Patrick's Day (March 17) and of course March-Madness College Basketball and Daytona Beach Bike Week. There are two birthstones for March: Aquamarine and Bloodstone - both represent courage. The Daffodil is the "birth flower" of March - symbolizing rebirth and new beginnings. Thanks GOOGLE!

We had the privilege of National Commander Denise Rohan visiting Florida the end of January. The "3-Amigos" attended the dinner hosted by Lady Lake Post 347 for her and she was also the guest of honor at the Southern Area Ball hosted by Post 321 Cooper City, which we attended as well. She is from the Department of Wisconsin (just like our National President, Diane Duscheck). Her theme is Family First and she travels with her aide (and husband), Mike Rohan. Have you seen the 2017-2018 Purple National Membership shirts? Commander Rohan explained: if you take the dress colors of all the Armed Service organizations, mix them together, you will get Purple. She has visited sites in Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico affected by Hurricanes. She was on her way next to Mexico to view areas devastated by mudslides and then to California for their areas devastated by forest fires. She also shared jokingly that National tracks the Commander's weight at the beginning of the term and then at the end. They have not asked her to weigh-in. However, she encouraged her National team to take note of her outfit at the Officers Installation in Reno and promised everyone that she would be wearing the same ... pair of earrings at the National Convention in Minnesota. What a great visit with a National Leader!!

We had a lovely day in District 17 with President Toni Ellsworth. We met at Post 267 Ormond Beach where Unit President Carol and Treasurer Pat were wrapping up the paperwork and tallying the proceeds from the weekend's activities. Thanks Bunches for the coffee - definitely soothed my throat! Next stop was Holly Hill 120 where the ladies were busy in the kitchen preparing for Lunch - thanks President Jan for ALL you do! We went to Post 361 South Daytona and had a chance to relax and visit with President Linda and several Unit members - they have remodeled the back patio and it looks fantastic! Our last visit for the day was Post 270 in Port Orange

with Unit President Patsy. They were in the middle of BINGO but tolerated our brief interruption and Commander Steve's presentation.

That week, Bernie and I caught and shared the horrible Flu and Chest Cough that has been going around - NO Fun!! We managed to defeat it and prepared to visit Districts 8 and 13. "Legion Family One" (Jake) was all set-up on Friday, February 2 at Toby's RV Resort in Arcadia. On Saturday we loaded up Tonka and Browser to attend the Wags for Warriors Dog Fun Day hosted by Unit 238 Safety Harbor. Adorned with their Red, White and Blue scarves they had a great time meeting other members and their dogs. I was so proud of them - with all the excitement, they maintained their best behavior. They even participated in the 'opening' red-carpet stroll!! This was a very successful Inaugural event sponsored by the Unit and I look forward to next year!!

We started our 8th District visitation on Super Bowl Sunday at Post 69 Avon Park. We were greeted by the Air Force JROTC Honor Guard. Each participant had a different braid which signifies their level and they explained their responsibilities thereof. Such a privilege to meet and visit with them - I kept thinking these young adults will be our future great leaders. Inside, several members were busy preparing for the evening festivities for the BIG game - we would be back to participate. 8th District President Barb Field and Vice Commander Pat Stiles carpooled in Madam President Vehicle for the scheduled stops for the day. Although Post 2 Wauchula does not have an Auxiliary, they had a female Legionnaire we visited with. The Post has an airplane in the yard - great photo opportunity!! We also visited the World War I Memorial and Park to which they maintain the up-keep.

Next we were off to Lake Placid Post 25. What a large home post!! It is also the home Unit for Doris Rash and they have a wall honoring her year as Department President 2002-2003. Monthly, you will find President Patty along with other Unit members making heavy-duty ditty bags and stuffing them with personal items and treats. They are donated to the Highlands County Veterans Service, who in turn hand out to Homeless Veterans or to those Veterans in need or suffering from PTSD. What a wonderful way to show our Veterans we

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still care. After a lunch / snack of fresh baked Pizza, we were back on the road to Post 74 Sebring with Unit President Charlotte. They were playing Bar BINGO and had a giant table filled with snacks for the upcoming Super Bowl. I visited each member briefly as they were playing and while I was talking with one of the Veterans, his number was called - I was just as excited as he called BINGO!! We had to run along returning to Post 69 Avon Park before the game started. President Terry and her team did an outstanding job with Raffles and 50/50. The Hall had a beautiful buffet with an array of multiple delectable treats to tempt our taste buds. It was heart-warming to see everyone standing and saluting for the National Anthem - Thank You!!

The 2nd day started in Arcadia visiting Post K-11 and meeting President Jackie. The Post home was flooded by the Peace River from Hurricane Irma. They have just completed the new walls and finishing the flooring. The room arranging for their meeting space is being planned and the new chairs and tables were scheduled for delivery. The bar-b-que in the back is intact so keep an eye out for their grand opening soon! We had some time before heading to Post 254 Northport for dinner - home of PDC Joe Magee. What a great turn-out of members! It was a great pleasure to meet President Karen and briefly visit - she too was suffering from the Flu... Our dinner was superb followed by a choice of dessert. We gathered all the Unit members for a photo - complete with a Mr TK zing!

Day 3 found me traveling to Tallahassee for a Girls State meeting. However, District President Barb was able to re-arrange my scheduled Unit visits later in the week - Thank You Bunches!!

What a Wooooonnderful Wednesday we had! We started in Sarasota Post 30 - looks small from the front but it is much larger as you go through. I loved the display of wooden models of the tank and heavy construction equipment along the walls. We met a Korean War Veteran, Don Murphy, who was also very active in the 40 & 8 as well as a past 8th District Commander. The bartender had just recently moved to Florida and is eligible to join the Auxiliary. She has 3 sons - so we gave her applications for them as well. Next we were off to Post 312 Oneco - they have a locomotive in the back parking lot!! We met a few unit members and then some others that joined us for lunch. Our 3rd stop was Post 266 Sarasota. They also suffered big tree damage from Hurricane Irma. But they are ready for their annual Clam Bake on 2/24! President Rhonda was a delight to visit with and shared several activities the Unit has accomplished.

We took a side trip to "The Kiss" - The Unconditional Surrender Statue in town at the marina. Our timing was

perfect as a Navy Nurse was also visiting (with her family from PA). I presented her one of my President Pins, thanking her for her service. She was so thrilled, stating she would wear it to church every Sunday! Turns out, her son was a Masonite Minister in PA. She explained to me she had to leave the next day and it was sleeting up there! Commander Steve is also from PA and after a few minutes, he learned their families were from the same area and very probable that his Mom went to school with her! Commander Steve asked if she received kisses at the time of the surrender - she informed him she was NOT the female in the statue, but she DID get LOTS of Kisses during that time. We returned to Post 266 for Lasagna Dinner and visited with several members from the Legion Family. The Sons were having their monthly meeting that evening, so Commander Bernie had a chance to answer their questions as well...

Thursday started at Bradenton Post 24 with a special presentation for Vets2Success from Founder President, Chef Bryan Jacobs. He and his brother survived multiple tours to Iraq, PTSD, alcoholism, homelessness and a plethora of different jobs. They developed Vets-2-Chefs to assist Veterans to reintegrate to civilian life. Unfortunately, Bryan's younger brother committed suicide before the first graduating class was completed. Bryan is expanding the program to Vets-2-Bakers and Vets-2-Brewers getting Veterans back on their feet. Some have gone on to college or other professional occupations. For more information, the website is www.vets2success.org.

We then had a lovely lunch with members from Unit 24 and President Judy. They gave me a tour of the Post along with the building where they hold their meetings. Yes, I saw PDP Shirley Frasier's portrait on the wall of Past Unit Presidents. I enjoyed visiting with the members and their stories of different activities and events held. From there, President Barb took me to Venice Unit 159, home Unit to PDP Ruby Bell. They have a display with a portrait of Ruby Bell as Nat'l Vice President, another of Past Presidents and President Judy Lemm's award for Auxiliary Member of the Year from Sarasota County Veterans Commission. They also have a display for the upcoming 100 year Anniversary Serving Veterans, Military and their Families. Very nicely done - Congratulations!!

We returned to Post 24 for Taco Dinner night where the house was packed!!! President Barb was kind enough to go around and introduce the members and then others came to us at the table. All in All a Terrrrific Day!!

I was very excited for Red-Shirt Friday as the Legion Family was scheduled for a tour of Southeastern Guide Dogs. We were very fortunate with our guide and speakers. They explained the difference between guide working dog and service working dog. We toured the kennel and had a chance to play with a puppy in training and watch feeding time for the younger pups. Too

cute!!

They are also expanding their facility for Warriors and Wheelchair assistance training. The grounds had several 'dogs of art' from a "Superheroes on Parade" community fundraiser. Lastly, we were able to meet and greet Prince, the Ambassador Dog, a beautiful / handsome Golden Retriever complete with Red, White and Blue bandana and sooo photo ready. Yes, as we met the trainers, they were asked if American Legion/ Auxiliary/ Sons eligible and given an application...

Next, we were off to Post 309 North Manatee for Lunch meeting and visiting with several members. President Barb gave me the tour and we noticed a photo with Judy Mitchell, a member I hadn't seen in many years... Our next stop was Post 325 Ellenton where President Theresa had several Unit officers and members there to greet us. And surprise, sitting at the next table was Judy!! The Unit presented me with a donation check for K9s for Warriors - Thank You!! The very talented President Theresa painted on canvas the logo for K9s for Warriors and presented that to me as well. It will be cherished. Naturally, we gathered all the members for a photo opportunity.

That night we traveled to Post 113 Rotunda West for their infamous Fried Fish Dinner. Before dinner, we toured the Veterans Memorial Park where we read about the individual American Conflicts from the Revolutionary War to the current War in Afghanistan. There are plans to add an Amphitheater and garden. We caught up with PDP Ruth Proctor along with District Commander Jerry Faught as well as several other members. Our dinner was delicious but the conversations were priceless. Thank You again to all 8th District members and District President Barb Field for a faaahhhbulous visit all week!!

Saturday found us packing "Jake" and heading to District 13 and Post 103 Punta Gorda. Commander Bruce took us around the property to get just the right spot. Both Tonka and Browser approved as there was lots of space for them to run around. We got changed and off to the Southwestern Area Ball that evening at Post 110 Port Charlotte. The Hall was beautifully decorated and the event was very well attended - so much fun to visit with everyone! Our entertainment "Bouncer Ray" did an outstanding job as well as we danced the night away...

District President Jeanne Nadeau started our 13th District visits in Sanibel Post 123 with a Paradise Cheeseburger for lunch. Unit President Brandy was a delight and shared many stories of the events the members have done. Thank You ladies for my gifts - I can't wait to try some of the recipes on Bernie... Next, we headed to the Wall in Port Charlotte - always awe-inspiring. The dinner and Unit 110 meeting was very well planned. They also had a Purple Heart recipient, John, as a guest with his gorgeous Golden, Amy, from Paws for Assistance. With

permission, we made new friends and got lots of kisses. The Unit has been very busy with their Fund-Raising and presented a check to K9s for Warriors with a promise for more. You gals are paw - some!! But they were not finished; I also received a solar Bird Bath in beautiful greens and blues. When I showed Bernie, we both got very excited and have the perfect spot for it in our side yard - Thank You again!! Commander Bernie was invited to a Sons meeting at Squadron 90 Cape Coral that night so we didn't stay for BINGO.

Tuesday found us having lunch at Bonita Springs 303. What a lovely gathering of members and officers. President Jan is very bubbly and made us feel right at home. This Unit is also very busy with activities; they presented a check to K9s for Warriors from an idea to recycle the umbrella decorations from Installation and use them to collect money - very creative! One of their Unit members handmade a stained glass Kaleidoscope as my gift - waaayyy cool!! Next, we visited Tice 351 and President Jeanne gave me the tour of the Post home. We met President Judy and some of the members; we spoke about their on-going Backpacks for Kids project - supporting those in need from Domestic violence and every 2nd Saturday they are serving lunch for homeless veterans. They are planning their Christmas in July and collection of school supplies. Keep up the good work ladies!! Then, we were off to Unit 38 Fort Myers for Pizza dinner and a meeting. We were met there by two members from Unit 192 Fort Myers. The time flew by and before we knew, it was time for the Unit meeting. I was thrilled to see PDP Mary Heenan at the meeting. Unit President Vanessa did a fabulous job leading and keeping the flow of the meeting and let out the little birdy of President Jeanne's birthday on Thursday...

Valentine's Day began at Unit 274 Ft Myers Beach with a luncheon and Fashion Show. They had over 180 in attendance!! We had front row seating - so we didn't miss a thing!! They did a nice job with the Raffles and we bought some items from the Vendors - after all, proceeds were for our Veterans. Anthony's hosted the Fashions - founded in 1895 they are working on their 4th generation and have locations from the Keys to Lady Lake!! The volunteer models did wonderful in showing off the outfits, too. I visited with some of the members afterwards and many were planning to attend the upcoming ABC School. President Jeanne and I visited the Shell Factory and enjoyed some local live music. Then we were off to Unit 90 Cape Coral for a special Valentine's Dinner joined by the Legion Family. Thank You President Frieda for the beautiful roses! The unit members are very busy working with the local school with the Poppy program and have 6 upcoming events with the students. Fantastic!!

Our female fur baby, Tonka, (we have nicknamed her

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the Goat) got into something and had terrible intestinal distress. She had a great appetite but the 'end results' were not so pretty. Commander Bernie adjusted his visitations to keep an eye on her. It took 3-days but she seems to be all better. In the meantime, we celebrated President Jeanne's birthday with lunch at Unit 136 St James City. President Claudine greeted us along with Officers and several members. The homemade Italian Wedding soup was delicious and the BLT wraps were enormous!! I took half home to save room for Key Lime pie... We talked about their activities and the upcoming "Golf Tournament" - shooting over the pond for a chance at a hole in one. They have quite a few golfers testing their skills. The back patio is a great vantage point. The ladies presented me with a check to K9s for Warriors - Thank You Bunches for your Generosity!! Next, President Jeanne had us off to a Mystery Boat ride - a beautiful tour of Ft Myers via the bay. Although the water was a little rough, we could see Sanibel Island and were entertained by several frisky Dolphins. It was such a pretty afternoon, it was tough to leave but we didn't want to be late for dinner at Lehigh Acres 323. I was looking forward to this visit as I had heard my twin would be there. What a gem to meet - totally incredible the number of similarities between Brenda (BB) and me. Our day ended with Minion Birthday cake - umm umm good! Happy Birthday Jeanne and may you have many more!

Red-Shirt Friday started bright and early to visit the VA Clinic in Cape Coral. We were joined by 2nd Vice President Ann King-Smith, Sandy Eck the VA Rep and Diann Dircz the District VA Chairman. We had a grand tour by Earl Boldware and met several veterans and clinic department staff along the way. The highlight was taking an application from a female veteran (Army) which we will process through Unit 303 Bonita Springs, closest to her home. Laura Rutizer is also connected to the Honor Flight program, a charm to visit with and loves to help our veterans. From there, we meet with members from Unit 299 Moore Haven. As President Jeanne is always looking for adventure, we did Not turn towards the home post, but literally, met them on the side of the road for delicious smoked Bar-B-Que. We had a choice of Chicken or Pork with all the fixin's, dessert and fresh brewed Ice Tea - perfect!! The Unit and Post members cook up a storm twice a year, post flyers and raise funds for their veteran programs. With a full tummy, we took the drive to Jacobson State Nursing Home for Veterans in Punta Gorda. We had a lovely tour guide, Pamela, and she was very friendly with the veterans we saw along the way. What a beautiful facility and Wow! they have lots of activities - I even helped a veteran by placing a piece of a jigsaw puzzle. I really liked looking at the artwork and photos along the walls; Pamela explained several Veterans share their stories when they see them. President Jeanne had lots of items collected from the Units to be donated / delivered - everything was greatly

appreciated!! We said our farewells and headed over to Post 103 Punta Gorda for the much anticipated Prime Rib dinner for the Legion Family. Word got out because the place was packed!! President Joanne was totally gracious, introduced several members and presented me a check to K9s for Warriors. When dinner was over, I helped with some of the clean-up of their laminated order tickets. What a clever idea - saves trees and facilitates order taking. I will definitely be sharing that idea...!!..

Saturday was the District ABC School for 13th District, hosted by Unit 336 in North Fort Myers. It takes a few loops of 'legal U-turns' to find them tucked in the back, but perseverance prevailed! Our Department Leadership Chairman Robin Burke was there and assisted with the school. I was being monitored by Barbara Field to 'pass' my certification as Instructor. What an honor to have PDP Mary Heenan and PDP Linda Teasley there along with 39 attendees, 7 of which were 'newbees'. We had a great ABC School; filled with information, shared answers from a bag full of questions and filled the room with lots of laughter. All the members learned something new and many would return to another School when held. As we closed our meeting for the delicious lunch, President Jeanne again surprised me with a very large basket filled with gifts. I was overwhelmed by the kindness and the thoughtfulness each one represented. Thank You All for an Outstanding Day!! Minion Hugs and Kisses President Jeanne for a memorable visit throughout District 13!!

Just a little reminder, it's almost time for our Year-End Reporting. I know you have been very busy with events and activities these past months; let's report all those great deeds!! Don't be shy; tell us how you caught the Florida Sunshine Rays and Created Brighter Futures for our Veterans, Military and Families, our Communities and Youth. Let's show and tell Department and National our "Why" we belong to this wonderful organization of women, the American Legion Auxiliary.

Life is about using the whole box of crayons - how did you use yours?

For God and Country,
TK
Treva Kay Wildrick
Department President

Year-End Reporting

This year, we have several Year-End Reports that will be due.

Each of our Auxiliary Programs will have year-end reports. **Unit reports are due to their District Chairmen on or before April 1st.** We encourage you to add separate sheets with short stories "in your own words" of the special events and / or successes of events your Units had throughout this year. These short stories don't have to be pages long, just a few paragraphs describing the event idea, planning for the event, activities of the 'day' and the successful outcome thereof. Photos are welcomed. This is your time for Show and Tell to our District Chairmen for the program, accordingly. In turn, copies of your short stories will be included in their reports to Department.

District Chairmen reports will be due on or before April 15th to the Department Chairmen.

District reports will be consolidated from the Unit reports received from each of the Units within their District. Please Note: if a report has not been received, the Chairman should reach out to the Unit for the information. The District Chairman's report should include the events described in the short stories received. Copies of the short stories received will be forwarded to the Department Chairmen. In turn, copies of the short stories will be forwarded to Department President and National Southern Division Chairmen when the Department Chairmen submit their reports.

Impact Reporting

National is requesting Impact Reports from Units / Districts and Departments. These reports are available on the National and Department website. Unit members can report their activities to their Unit Presidents. Unit Presidents will consolidate the information on the Unit Impact Report. **The Unit Presidents will submit the Unit Impact Report to their District President by April 1st.**

District Presidents will consolidate the Unit Impact Reports onto the District Impact Report. Please Note: if a Unit Impact Report has not been received, the District President should reach out to the Unit for the information. **The District Presidents will submit the District Impact Report to the Department President by April 15th.**



Cmdr Rohan at 347



Tonka and Browser



TK w/ Cmdr Rohan at 347



Ormond Beach Unit 267



South Daytona Unit 361



Holly Hill Unit 120



Wags for Warriors Unit 238



Avon Park 69 w/ Air Force JROTC



Avon Park 69 w/ Air Force JROTC



Wauchula WWI Memorial



Lake Placid 25



Northport 254



Korean Veteran Don Murphy



The Kiss



Sarasota 30



The Kiss



K9s for Warriors Painting



Unit 24 Bradenton



Lake Placid 25



Southeastern Guide Dogs



Ellenton Unit 325



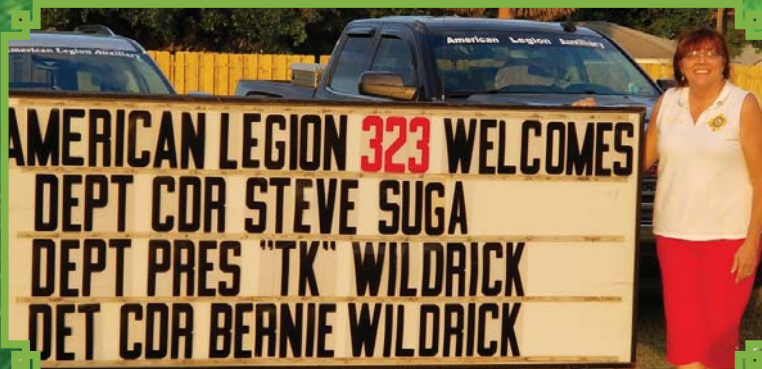
Rotunda West Unit 117



Sanibel 123



Unit 38 Fort Myers



Lehigh Acres 323



Jeanne Minion B-Day Cake



VA Clinic



District 13 Visit



Punta Gorda Unit 103



Punta Gorda Unit 103



Unit 136 St James City



TK's "Twin" BB



District 13 visit

Children & Youth

WANDA BRANDT

Children & Youth

Knowledge is power. A core element of the Auxiliary's mission, caring for our children and youth, is sharply focused on educating adults about the needs of our young people. We believe that the more people know and understand about the needs of the children in their communities, the more interest they will have in learning how they can help meet those needs.

In the American Legion Auxiliary, we do more than talk about it. The Auxiliary provides significant cash assistance and direct service and supports legislation that affects children at the local, state, and national levels. And while all children are important, the Auxiliary particularly focuses on helping the children of our veterans and active military.

Ways to help our Children:

Our Military Children: "Kids of Deployed are Heroes 2" (KDH2) Military children whose father or mother are deployed.

Star-Spangled Kids: Educate children and youth on the history of the United States from the aspect of patriotism, Americanism and the US Constitution.

The Youth Hero Award: Recognizes someone less than 18 years of age who performs a heroic act of physical bravery.

The Good Deed Award: Youths 18 years of age or younger who have contributed in a special way to society through community service.

Support G.I. Josh - Identify military children who may have a parent or sibling deploying.

G.I. Josh, a plush dog, and the accompanying storybook will help the child through separation and deployment of their loved one.

Beads of Courage is a program designed to support and strengthen children and families coping with serious illness. **(I challenge each Unit to at least purchase 5sets**

of Beads of courage \$75.00).

Protect, care for and support all C&Y in the community:

Support the Children & Youth programs of the American Legion Auxiliary and The American Legion:

- ◇ National Family and Support Network
- ◇ Homeless veterans' children
- ◇ American Legion Child Welfare Foundation
- ◇ Play It Safe
- ◇ Klinger, a Story of Honor and Hope
- ◇ Missing Children
- ◇ Nominate a child for the Youth Hero Award
- ◇ Support Beads of Courage
- ◇ Halloween a Fun and Safe Night
- ◇ Drugs & Suicide Warnings
- ◇ Support for Special Olympics

"Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children."

Tatanka Lotanka

Juniors

Engaging the next generation to become members of the American Legion Auxiliary is the most important purpose of the Junior Activities program.

"If we don't connect with our juniors and get them involved, our organization will become like the extinct dinosaur, archaeologists look for."

Purpose: "Inspires active participation in members under the age of 18 so they will become engaging, productive members. It builds a strong future for the ALA by engaging productive members to carry on its mission for life."

Junior members are the lifeblood of the future of our organization.

- They are the potential and upcoming Unit, District and Department Presidents and the Chairmen of



- our programs.
- They are the leaders for the American Legion Auxiliary for tomorrow.
 - If a Unit does not have a Junior Unit, please encourage units to start one. There is no limit to the size of the Junior Unit.
 - Junior members are ages from birth to seventeen. Upon her eighteenth paying her membership dues, she automatically becomes a senior member.

*"If your Unit does not have a Juniors Program, please start one. If I can be of any assistance, please let me know. As I always say, **"These Girls are our future"**.*

Children & Youth have 2 special projects this year to raise money: Please support each of them if you can:

April 7th C&Y Picnic at Post 117, Palm Bay, FL

May 4th C&Y Golf Tournament @ Harbor Hills Country Club, 6538 Lake Griffin Rd. Lady Lake, FL 32159 and Post 347 in Lady Lake

Reporting: Traveling around the state, some of you are telling me and showing me pictures of the great things you are doing and have done for C&Y programs, please report this on the year-end reporting. **You need to brag on yourselves, please report everything you have done.**

Each Unit Children & Youth Chairman is required to **submit a year-end narrative report, to their District Children & Youth Chairman by April 1, 2018.**

District Children & Youth Chairman is required to submit a year-end narrative report, as well as **all individual unit narratives to Department Chairman and Southern Division by April 15, 2018.**

SUDOKU

NOVICE

The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once.

9			1		3	2	6	4
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	1	2			9		8	
					1	8		
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		7	5					
	9		4			6	1	
		4						9
6	7	1	9		8			3

Girls State

MARGE REED

ALA 2018 Girls State Important Information: To all Unit and District Girls State Chairman

Unit Girls State Chairman: Preparing your Delegates and Alternates:

When interviews are completed please be sure Delegates and Alternates have registered to the On-line Department "LIVE" Program by March 15, 2018.

You are requested by the Director to discuss the dress code with the delegates as often as possible. Shorts are to be mid-thigh length. If shorts are too short, the delegate will be asked to change.

New shoes are not recommended. They always result in blisters. We walk an average of 6 miles a day. Heels of any height are not permitted.

Please remind all the delegates and alternates that they MUST attend an ALA Girls State Orientation with a parent or guardian. If they do not complete an Orientation, they are not eligible to attend ALA FL Girl State.

During this time you need to keep in close contact with your delegates, alternates and parents.

Please keep reminding delegates and alternates that they must attend a Girls State Orientation.

Be prepared to receive additional or up-dated material from your District ALA FL Girls State Chairman.

District Girls State Chairman: Orientation:

There are Orientations in every District, if your delegate or alternate cannot attend your district, please help them find another orientation to attend. Make sure that they have attended in the other district.

Sign-in sheets (to be emailed to the District Girls State Chairman by Department Chairman, Marge Reed) please ask delegates, alternate and parents to print clearly the information requested. As reminder each delegate or alternate must have a parent or guardian there for the entire orientation session. Sign-in sheets are to be

emailed or faxed to Department immediately. Do not snail mail. If sign-in sheets are not sent to department, Delegates from the district will not be cleared to attend ALA Girls State.

After May 25th, if you must replace your delegate with a regular registered alternate, please notify ALA FL Girls State Director, Theresa Briggs by email fgsdirector@alafl.org or call (850) 566-1616. If you have a girl drop out, please get it in writing.

Buses: Please contact Director, Theresa Briggs, at (850)566-1616 before calling an Alternate at the bus stop prior to departure.





ALA FL Girls State 2018 Orientation Schedule

District 1- Sharon Lavoie
Date: April 28, 2018
Post 235
105 Hollywood Blvd NW
Fort Walton Beach, FL 32548
Time: 10:00 AM (Central)
Registration
Instructor: Tina Kirchoff

District 2 – Marjorie McNeill
April 28, 2018
Post 13
229 Lake Ella Drive
Tallahassee, FL 32303
Time: 10:30 AM
Instructor: Theresa Briggs

District 3 - Irma Wehrli
April 21, 2018
Post 57
2602 SW Main Blvd
Lake City, FL 32025
Time: 10:00 AM
Instructor: Irma Wehrli

District 4 - Marjorie Amenta
April 22, 2018
Post 284
5515 109th St
Belleville, FL 34420
Time: 2:00 PM
Instructor: Sylvia Fiddler

District 5 – Liz Hill
April 15, 2018
Post 316
1127 Atlantic Blvd
Atlantic Beach, FL 32224
Time: 2:00 PM
Instructor: Sylvia Fiddler

District 6 – Peggy Hearlson
(has two)
April 29, 2018
Post 347,
699 W Lady Lake Blvd
Lady Lake, FL 32159
Time: 1 PM
Helper: Paula Fox
Instructor: Peggy Hearlson

District 6 (Continued)
May 12, 2018
Post 286 Pine Castle
529 Fairlane Ave,
Orlando, FL 32809
Time: Registration 12 noon
Orientation 1:00 PM
Instructor: TK Wildrick

District 7 – Faye Kirkland
March 18, 2018
Post 72
1500 N Church Ave
Mulberry, FL 33860
Time: 1:00 PM
Instructor: Marge Reed

District 8 –Jeannie Moloney
April 14, 2018
No Vel Post 159
Venice, FL 34292
Time: 10:00 AM
Instructor: Jeannie Moloney

District 9- Trivel McKire
April 15, 2018
Post 162
820 SE 8th Ave
Deerfield Beach, FL 33441
Time 2:30PM
Instructor: Shawn George

District 11- Fran Carlton
April 22, 2018
Post 268
1690 Avenue H
Riviera Beach, FL 3340
Registration: 12-1:00 PM
Orientation: 1-3:00 PM
Instructor: Shawn Gerge

District 12 – Charlene Kinlen
April 28, 2018
Post 394
396 Cogan Dr SE
Palm Bay, FL 32909
Time: 10-12 Noon
Instructor: Paula Fox

District 13 – Tina Hanson
April 21, 2018
Post 38
1857 Jackson St
Fort Myers, FL 33901
Time: 10.00 AM
Instructor: Jeannie Moloney

District 14 – The Keys & Mainland
Stacy Cusano
April 21, 2018
Post 133
16401 SW 90th Ave
Palmetto Bay, FL 33157
Time: 10:00 AM
Instructor: Irene Lathrop

District 15 – Connie Brings
May 6, 2018
Post 5
3810 West Kennedy Blvd
Tampa, FL 33609
Time 1:00 PM
Instructor: Raquel Tucker

District 16 – Marge Reed
April 29, 2018
Post 7
1760 Turner St
Clearwater, FL 33756
Time 1:00 PM
Instructor: Jackie Booth

District 17 – Sue Pierce
April 28, 2018
Post 17
619 W Canal St
New Smyrna Beach, FL 32168
Time: 1:00 PM
Instructor: Terry Cromer

2/19/18 rev



The American Legion, Department of Florida
would like you to join us for the

Annual Children & Youth Picnic

Saturday, April 7, 2018

12:00 PM until 6:00 PM

Live Entertainment **BY D.J. Doc Holiday!**

Activities

Carnival Games
Safety Finger Printing
Bounce House
Vendors
Chinese Auction
50/50 Raffle
Dunk Tank

Food

Cotton Candy
Candy Apples
BBQ Chicken
Hot Dogs
Hamburgers



Poker Run

Registration starts at 8 AM
Kick stands up at 9 AM
\$10 per Rider
\$10 per Passenger

Cars are Welcome!!
\$10 per Car
\$10 per Passenger
Includes food

Fun Carnival Atmosphere for All Ages!!

Picnic Hosted **BY Post 117**

189 Veterans Drive, Palm Bay, FL 32909

For More Information Contact:

Bruce Carl – brucel1955@yahoo.com; (352) 942-7948

Gene Baker – erbaker1957@gmail.com; (321) 693-5178

Or visit www.floridalegion.org

Admission:
\$10 per Person
(Children
under 12 years
old are free!)

American Legion
Central Area Family Sunset Celebration Ball
(Change of Venue)

Hosted by *Central Area Commander*
Jay Allen

2017-2018



**Honoring Active Military and Veterans along
with the American Legion Family**

Dress: Dressy/Casual (Shorts & Sandals—no Flip Flops)

Date: 10th of March 2018

Place: American Legion Post 252
11433 Park Blvd N, Seminole, FL 33772

Time: 5:30 p.m. is registration , 6:30 p.m. reception

7:00 p.m. dinner with dancing afterwards

Recommended dinner donations will be \$30.00 each or two for \$50.00
(Limit of 150 tickets).

Hotels will be available
Sent out Separately before the 27th of February

Please see www.alafl.org for registration form.

Constitution & Bylaws

PATRICIA DEVINE



There are Units, that are still either long overdue for updating/updated during the 2014-2016 years that are incorrect or Units Constitution, Bylaws and Standing Rules that were returned for corrections that have not been returned.

District Presidents and/or District Constitution & Bylaws Chairmen -**PLEASE!!!** - Contact the Units in question to see if there are problems or need help. Refer to the Constitution & Bylaws sample template that is currently on line.

When submitting revised C&BL, send **2 original**, signed copies in entirety, to Department Chairman's home address by regular mail. Do Not send to Department Headquarters. These are your formal documents. Please do not send a partial C&BL. Have someone proof read them. (i.e.-Page 2 - Unit Officers - last line - *Secretary may be elected or appointed". Make a choice - if

secretary is elected - delete this line and if secretary is appointed - do not list under Sec. 1 - The Unit shall elect... - etc. List at bottom that Secretary is appointed. Cannot be both)

The yearly Unit Dues Information form that is sent the first of the year denotes the dues for the Unit for the upcoming year. This amount **MUST** match the Unit's Constitution & Bylaws on file at Headquarters. If you have not revised your Constitution & Bylaws by the time you receive this Newsletter, and need to change your dues, we have extended the deadline. You still have approximately one month to make any changes. Changes **must** be in by April 1, 2018.

Do not hesitate to contact me if help is needed or if there are any questions. Let's see if we can't get all Constitution and Bylaws 100% current. - Pat Devine - Cbylaws@alafl.org

SUDOKU

INTERMEDIATE

The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once.

			4			6		
9							4	5
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		3			7			

Chaplain

LOIS STACHELRODT



As we approach March, may our Springtime begin. Let the Flowers bloom and may the Irish come out in all of us for St. Patrick's Day. May your Troubles Be Less and your Blessings be more and Nothing But Happiness com through your door. May our friends and family in heaven know that they are still with us and we love them more and more each day!

Recently Departed Members

DISTRICT 1

Cleo Bird, Unit 340
Bessie Lowrimore, Unit 340
Betty Brown, Unit 375
Beverly A. Reed, Unit 375

DISTRICT 4

Linda Hadley, Unit 155
Helga Squires, Unit 155
Ollie Craven, Unit 230
Julie Martin, Unit 237

DISTRICT 5

Caroline Whelpley, Unit 129
Katherine Murray, Unit 250
Mary Cawvey, Unit 316
Clementina Futch, Unit 316

DISTRICT 6

Berneda Morith, Unit 21
Robin Spangler, Unit 53
Patricia Cross-Goodson, Unit 80
John Paul, Unit 347

DISTRICT 7

Mary Cook, Unit 34
Patricia Soula, Unit 71
Dorothy Wolf, Unit 71

DISTRICT 8

Nancy Galida, Unit 69
Janet E. Wells, Unit 113

DISTRICT 9

Sheila Botrie, Unit 157
Ehtel M. Reece, Unit 157
Francis Cornell, Unit 180
Michelle Puyear, Unit 180
Sharon Bodenhofer, Unit 274

DISTRICT 11

Joy Riemersma, Unit 47

DISTRICT 12

Joan Dresser, Unit 1
Linda Howard, Unit 126
Shirley K. Garriel, Unit 163
Rosa Spicer, Unit 163

DISTRICT 13

Denise Funk, Unit 103
Debra Antle, Unit 136
Barbara A. Bauer, Unit 303
Anita L. Coyne, Unit 303
Marjie Owens, Unit 323
Arlene Reis, Unit 323
Alice Scott, Unit 323
Eula Slanker, Unit 323

DISTRICT 16

Oma Faye Adkins, Unit 273
Joan McCarthy, Unit 273
Muriel McCarthy, Unit 273
Lavonna Macmichael, Unit 335

DISTRICT 17

Ruth Clark, Unit 115
LaVaughn Boyle, Unit 255
Claudia Porter, Unit 361

Americanism

JANE HARDACRE



Americanism

In 1919, The American Legion was founded on four pillars: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. Each of these pillars encompasses a variety of programs that benefit our nation's veterans, its service members, their families, the youth of America and ordinary citizens.

Thank you for working so hard this year making sure that our youth, and citizens know just how patriotic we are and that we STAND behind our veterans and for our flag! There is still time, so get to those schools and promote our Americanism Program and the American Essay Contest. After all, this year's theme is **"What Can I Personally Do to Promote Americanism In My School or Community?"** I am looking forward to receiving many entries. All the information for this contest is on the Department website and/or with your Program Action Plan.

AMERICANISM ESSAY CONTEST

This year's theme is **"What Can I Personally Do to Promote Americanism In My School or Community?"**

One award in each of the five classes will be presented for each Division. Winners will receive \$50 and a \$50 honorarium in the student's name to the National President's Scholarship. (Cover sheet is on the Department website and/or with your Program Action Plan) Department winners in each five classes will receive a certificate and medal.

1. All essays must be sent to me by April 1st, 2018.
2. All essays must have the completed cover sheet attached. (Cover sheet is on the Department website and/or with your Program Action Plan)
3. Please note which essays were selected as your winners.

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

Mother's Day - Second Sunday in May

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

I know that all Units have said the Pledge of Allegiance, wore Patriotic clothing, decorated for Patriotic Holidays, attended parades etc. We should have 100% reporting from the state of Florida because we want to.....

Tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter!!

YEAR-END REPORTING

1. Your Year-End Reporting form (found on the Department website and/or with your Program Action Plan) must be sent to your District Americanism Chairman by April 1, 2018.
2. District Year-End Reporting form must be sent to myself by April 15, 2018.
3. Please include pictures with your report.
4. Narratives are encouraged! Please use the Narrative Cover Sheet. (Narrative cover sheet is on the Department website and/or with your Program Action Plan)
5. Please include pictures with your Narrative.

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

1. Doris E. Hahn Trophy: "Best All Around Award for Americanism Activities". All entries must be submitted to me, Department Chairman, by June 6, 2018. Please carefully read the rules for this award so you don't lose out! The complete guidelines can be found in your Unit Guide for 2017-2018.
2. Certificate of Participation: Certificate of participation will be presented to all Units that turn in a Narrative Report to me, Department Chairman by April 15, 2018.

I want to thank you all for Taking Pride in America! Your hard-work and dedication to our organization has not gone unnoticed. Please call, or email me, if you have any questions regarding your Unit's reporting or the awards.

Legislative

DEE BELL



OUR FLORIDA LEGIONNAIRES "STORM THE HILL"

The American Legion Washington Conference was held February 25-28 2018. Our Department Legion leadership met with our elected officials and discussed the current legislative issues and priorities vital to our American Legion and military families. One of these initiatives is Senate House bill 2131 VA Newborn Emergency Treatment Act. Check out www.legion.org for other legislative bills currently on the agenda. Thank You to our Legionnaires for their efforts on behalf of our veterans, our military and their families and our country.

In the past, our American Legion Auxiliary Leadership Conference coincided with this meeting. Our National organization, voted at the 2017 National Convention to discontinue this educational experience.

S. 2131 VA Newborn Emergency Treatment Act

To amend Section 1786 of title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish medically necessary transportation for newborn children of certain women veterans, and for other purposes.

Title 38 U.S.C. 1786 currently authorizes the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish post-delivery care services,

including routine care services, that a newborn child of a women veteran who is receiving maternity care furnished by the Department at a facility of the Department; or another facility pursuant to a Department contract for services relating to such a delivery.

Since VA healthcare facilities do not offer a full-range of newborn care, women veterans are referred to community hospitals for post newborn and routine services at VA expense. The only exception is the VA is not authorized to pay for medically necessary transportation for newborn children of certain veterans. This bill would provide the VA Secretary the authority to furnish medically necessary transportation for newborn children, which the American Legion supports and believes is the right thing to do.

Through Resolution No. 147, The American Legion works to ensure that the needs of the current and future women veteran populations are met; and that the VA provides full comprehensive health services for women veterans Department-wide, including, but not limited to, increasing treatment areas and diagnostic capabilities for female veteran health issues, improved coordination of maternity care, and increase the availability of female therapists/female group therapy to better enable treatment of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder from combat MST (Military Sexual Trauma.)

The American Legion supports S. 2131



Visit Your Local Tag Office and get yours today!

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

floridalegion.org

Past President's Parlay

JULIA FLINT GRIFFITH



Purpose:

◊ To follow our President's credo, "Catching Rays, Creating a Brighter Future!", by seeking out Active Duty Servicewomen to recognize their service and submitting an Award Entry form for your selection for SALUTE TO SERVICEWOMEN AWARD

I remain available to help with any money raisers and it would be my pleasure to visit or present at any function for Past President's Parlay.

◊ To submit award entry forms for Unit Member of the Year.



◊ To encourage applications for Nurses Scholarships

◊ To help Servicewoman in need by providing the means to help establish a new career after discharge

Julia Flint Griffith

Past Presidents Parlay 2017-2018

Note*--the above referenced forms can be found on the National website, <https://www.alaforveterans.org>

SUDOKU

CHALLENGING

The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once.

8		3		1		2	4	
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		9	6					1
		2	7	9			6	
5				6				3
	8			3	4	1		
2					1	6		
						3		
	6	8		7		5		9

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation

ANN KING-SMITH



On Saturday, January 20th, I was honored and humbled to attend the 2nd Annual District 12 Welcome Home Vietnam Veteran's Luncheon at Post 189 in Sebastian. Dorothy Walsh, 12th District VA& R Chairman, did an excellent job of organizing and presenting this event for a second year. The love and respect she has for our veterans was apparent from the beginning to end of this tribute luncheon.

In attendance were Medal of Honor recipient Melvin Morris and Rob Medina, from United States Congressman Bill Posey's office, Past Department Commander and retired Navy Chief Jay Conti, Jr., along with several local political dignitaries. More than 120 guests, mostly veterans, were in attendance for an amazing ceremony and presentation. Unit 189 Auxiliary members were gracious and hard - working hosts, serving up friendly smiles, hospitality and some delicious pulled pork and salad.

Auxiliary Department Chaplain Lois Stachelrodt opened the event with a special prayer. Past District 12 President, Karen Northcutt, performed a very moving and memorable POW-MIA missing man table ceremony. During the ceremony, a male and female from each

branch of service placed a cover and the POW-MIA chair cover.

Sixty- five Vietnam Era veterans were "pinned" with Vietnam War commemorative pins by Medal of Honor recipient Morris and Rob Medina. The Daughters of the American Revolution presented a certificate to each veteran, honoring their service.

Past Commander Conti lead a ceremony at the end that saluted the Vietnam veterans and special honor was given to veterans in attendance that received the Purple Heart. We were all blessed, as these veterans shared the stories behind their injuries.

This day was one that will be long remembered through the years, by both the veterans and guests. The shared stories, the memories and the tears will long live on in our hearts. If any Unit or District could honor our Vietnam Era veterans, I would highly recommend such a ceremony. I'm sure Dorothy Walsh would be happy to assist in any way possible to help you prepare.



Department Secretary

PATTY MACDONALD

Becky and I had the pleasure of being invited to the Fisher House dedication in Orlando on February 14, 2018, which we were pleased to attend on behalf of Department. The Master of Ceremony was Mr. Greg Warmoth news anchor from WFTV Channel 9 Orlando. The ceremony opened with a welcome from Mr. Cory P. Price, Acting Director, Orlando VA Medical Center. Next was the Presentation of Colors by The Navy Operational Support Center, Orlando and the National Anthem was sung by Ms. Julie Rattley, Case Manager, Transition and Care Management, North Florida/South Georgia Veterans Health System. What a beautiful voice Ms. Rattley had. Chaplain Marvin W. Luckie, Orlando VA Medical Center gave the Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance was presented by Mr. Charles and Mr. Donald Tubbs, Form Fisher House Guests.

We had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Greg Smith, President, Friends of Fisher House Orlando and his wife the night before at a meet and greet for the top donors to the Fisher House. He was a wonderful man to get to know and his wife was very lovely. Mr. Smith opened the remarks and had us all laughing at his sense of humor.

Next was Coach Lou Holtz, former college football couch, Honorary Chairman, Friends of Fisher House Orlando, who had a wonderful quote that I am sure is going to make a lasting impression on many. "If you didn't show up would anyone miss you and why? If you didn't go home, would anyone miss you and why? If the Veterans didn't show up we couldn't have our freedom" He received a standing ovation when he was done.

Mr. Randy Reeves, United State Air Force and Navy

Veteran, and current Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Memorial Affairs, spoke next and left us with his feelings on heroes. "In my heart there are two type of heroes, the Veterans, and the care givers of Veterans."

Mr. Melvin Morris, Medal of Honor Recipient, presented Fisher House with the Congressional Medal of Honor Plaque to be displayed.

The ceremonial passing of the Fisher House key from Mr. Dave Coker and Mrs. Lynne Pace, Fisher House Trustee to the new Fisher House Orlando Manager, Ms. Teresa Turner occurred. Then, the ribbon cutting ceremony took place, which we were invited to participate in as one of the top donors, and Lake Nona Middle School Band played music.

We were able to tour the inside of Fisher House and see the beautiful, hard work they put into making sure the families of the Veterans felt at home. Becky and I took a lot of pictures to share with the members of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida to show you how your hard work and dedication to donating money to Fisher House pays off in the lives of these Veterans and families.

Thank you to each and every one of you for all your hard work. Without you, the Fisher House of Orlando would not exist today for the families of the Veterans who served our country to give us our freedom.

Becky and I were honored to represent each of you and we're humbled to be a part of this great organization.





From the Units



PDP present at the dedication were Irma Wehrli, Shirley Fraser, and Erna Schawabe.



Past Department President Shirley Fraser delivered accolades at Past Department President O.T. Ballroom dedication.



Auxiliary 103 Delivers Valentines To Vets Village
Punta Gorda's American Legion Auxiliary Unit 103 Veterans Administration & Rehabilitation Committee delivered 24 Valentines gift bags to our Veterans living at Veterans Village in Punta Gorda on February 13, 2018. The bags donated by Publix and decorated by children from Sally Jones Elementary were filled various food and personal care items. Our women veterans also received jewelry in their bags. Committee members pictured left to right with the decorated bags are Anne Grace and Linda Bridegroom



American Legion Unit 285 Edgewater packed their vehicle with shoes to deliver to local schools so they can distribute to students in need. Pictured from left to right Post 285 Judge Advocate Joe Robinson, Auxiliary Secretary Jean Johnson, Auxiliary President Dora Lee Dawson and Membership Chairman Linda Robinson. For information about becoming a member or how to donate to our many programs please contact Dora Lee Dawson at 386-210-4926.



Assistant Principal at Indian River Elementary School Jennifer Holcolm, ALA membership chairman Linda Robinson, ALA President Dora Lee Dawson, ALA Secretary Jean Johnson, ALA National Legislative Committee Member Eleanor Amato, Post 285 Judge Advocate Joe Robinson, IRES Principal Carrie Crkvenac.



Edgewater Public School Counselor June Weaver, Principal Rebecca Porter, ALA Secretary Jean Johnson, ALA National Legislative Committee Member Eleanor Amato, ALA President Dora Lee Dawson, ALA Membership Chairman Linda Robinson, American Legion Post 285 Judge Advocate Joe Robinson, Assistant Principal Michele Brown.



District 17 Meetings are not just business! President Toni Ellsworth (shown 2nd from right) always designs our gatherings with important information, great food and lots of laughs and fun. President Ellsworth is shown with her District 17 Presidents and Officers who wore their favorite hat inspired by Department President, TK's theme "Mary Poppins".



Ormond Beach Unit 267, under the excellent leadership of President Carol Stauffer, support many outstanding community events such as the annual Cancer Bridge Walk. Our contingent arrived very early to join thousands of other groups as we walked, together, from downtown Daytona Beach, over the Halifax River Bridge to the Convention Center beach-side and return. We waved, talked and laughed all together during this important event. Later, Post 267 and Unit 267 joined together for a funny and amazing, "Save the TaTas" fundraiser for the Cancer Society. It was a memorable event and lots of fun!

Unit 267 Bridge Walk for Cancer participants are left to right: Lauren Morris, Historian; Carol Stauffer, President; Barb Moorcraft and in rear, June and Jim Sherman



District 17 President, Toni Ellsworth, poses in her award-winning "Grease" costume at the Fall Conference, Orlando. Toni won the award for best costume at the Conference Dinner. Eat your heart out Olivia Newton-John!



This plaque proudly hangs in the new John Hopkins childrens Hospital in St Petersburg

From the Units



Paradise Unit 79 hosted Breakfast with Santa in conjunction with the AL Riders for 65 children from the Pasco County Foster and Adoption Agency on December 16, 2017



Unit 199 Miami proudly displaying their accomplishments serving the Community, Children and our Veterans.



Post 164: we were honored with the visit of the National Commander, Denise Rohan. Our Post had a recognition ceremony of the Past Commanders of Post 164. Our Auxiliary helped with the dinner and photographs and welcomed the National Commander.





Unit 273: Honor the American Gold Star Mothers

The National Security Committee of the American Legion Auxiliary, Unit 273, Madeira Beach, conducted a 2-day event to benefit the Tampa Bay Chapter of The American Gold Star Mothers. The event was held at the American Legion Post located at 600 American Legion Drive, Madeira Beach, on Sunday, January 14 and 28, 2018, from noon to 5 p.m. each day. The event was called "Hugs For Mom", a reference made not only to the recipients but in honor of a past event chaired by ALA Auxiliary Past-President Cathy Larkin-Richards who passed away just months after the first "Hugs" campaign.

The American Gold Star Mothers is a national, non-profit Veterans' Service Organization of women who have lost a child while in military service, died as a result of that service, or are missing in action. "Our Gold Star Moms do so much to promote patriotism and respect for our nation", said Rhonda Brailey-Maurer, Unit 273 National Security Chairman and event co-organizer, pictured below with AGSM Chapter President, Yolanda Mercado at the event on January 28. Rhonda and Co-chairman Wendy Donnelly began the event in April, 2017, by calling out to the 7500+ members of Post 273 to ask for their help by donating "Patriotic Household" items. The campaign continued until the event in January with over 60 donated items for purchase via silent auction and raffles. "100% of the \$3100 raised went directly to the AGSM, said Donnelly. "It makes so much sense for our all-female American Legion Auxiliary to promote the American Gold Star Mothers." She estimated over 300 attendees, 20 volunteers and 12 members of the AGSM in attendance over the two-day event, along with a special appearance by "The Bomber Girls" on January 14.

Pictured: AGSM Tampa Bay President Yolanda Mercado (left) with Event Co-Chairman Rhonda Brailey-Maurer at Post 273 with her display of the 50 fallen heroes represented by the members of the chapter.

Unit 273: Brailey-Maurer stated that the display of generosity by the large number of donations was really impressive. Lou Miosi, a representative of the Coast Guard Air Station Clearwater, Supply Department, presented his creations of wall art canvas to the Post 273 Officers on January 9 at a luncheon sponsored by the post.

Pictured From Left, Post 273 1st Vice President Mike Haygood, Auxiliary President Janice Hill, SKI Matt Brandon, Post 273 Commander Jim White, and SKC Mandi McKinsey. Photo by Coast Guard Auxiliary Rep. Joe Perez



Unit 273: Jan Proper, photographer/artist with the Pinellas Park Art Society contacted the event organizers in December and made an impressive donation of personal collectibles along with over a dozen pieces of original artwork/photography representing herself and many members of the Art Society. "The Pinellas Park Art Society's contributions really made the show", commented Patricia Penna, Navy veteran and event volunteer pictured below. Among the other contributors was the gift shop "Sign of The Dolphin", Local Artists Sandy Black and Barrie West, and crafter/auxiliary member Pam Koewing-Rasmussen.

Patricia Penna Meticulously Setting up the Raffle Items

Unit 273: The National Security Committee of the American Legion Auxiliary is an active group of women of the Unit 273 Auxiliary who are dedicated to assisting not only the AGSM but also the USO - Central Florida Tampa, The local chapter of the Blue Star Mothers of Tampa Bay, (those with children in active service or who have been honorably discharged), and "Operation Homefront", a program that provides emergency financial and other assistance to the families of our service members and wounded heroes. Rhonda Brailey-Maurer has headed up this committee for the past 4 years and is dedicated to serving our active military service members and their families.

Unit 273 Auxiliary National Security Event Organizers (from left) Wendy Donnelly and Rhonda Brailey-Maurer pictured with two original prints courtesy of the Pinellas Park Art Society



LIT Products and Services Exclusively for Legion Families

The Legion families in this Department are very fortunate to be part of something that has been around over half a century - the Legionnaire Insurance Trust (LIT). The Department joined with the other forty-nine (49) Departments that make-up the LIT. The LIT is this Department's sponsored insurance program. Make no mistake, the broad range of insurance products and services found under the LIT umbrella are your products and services. These products and services are not available to just anyone - other veterans included - but only to members of this Department's Legion family.

The LIT's products and services are continually reviewed and updated (plus new programs added) so that you have access to the best selection possible. The oversight of the LIT is done by a Board of Directors - with one Trust Director from each participating Department. This helps make sure you are getting the best possible coverage from the Legionnaire Insurance Trust program.

Through the LIT, your Department sponsors a broad range of insurance products and services ranging from the "no-cost" AD&D to HOSPITAL HELP to CANCER CARE to Emergency Assistance + (EA+) to Medicare Supplement and more - so one or more will likely fill a need in your family's insurance portfolio.

The best way to buy insurance is to shop, compare, and then purchase the coverage from a source you trust. We invite you to compare this Department's endorsed products with any on the market. Then you can buy with the confidence of over fifty (50) years of continuous service to Legion families behind the LIT. Buying through the LIT also helps support your Department's programs and services.

To learn more about your Department's insurance products and services please call the LIT's administrator at (800) 235-6943 or check-out the programs at www.theLIT.com. Either way, there will be no hard-sell or obligation to buy when you do.

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PHILIPS
Lifeline



IT'S OFFICIAL THE AMERICAN LEGION FAMILY CRUISE

September 13-16TH 2018

CALL MAUREEN WILLIAMS PVP@ 1-800-819-3902 EXT 85931

MENTION AMERICAN LEGION GROUP CODE **1KNQ25**



Carnival Liberty - Nassau 09/13/2018

Date	Day	Port	Arrive / Depart	Info
09/13/2018	THU	PORT CANAVERAL (ORLANDO), FL	4:00 PM	
09/14/2018	FRI	NASSAU, THE BAHAMAS	10:00 AM	6:00 PM
09/15/2018	SAT	FUN DAY AT SEA		
09/16/2018	SUN	PORT CANAVERAL (ORLANDO), FL	8:00 AM	

Pricing for an interior cabin based on 2 guest in the cabin. Pricing starts at: \$229.00 per person cruise fare and \$83.50 per person taxes fees and port expenses.

Pricing for an ocean view cabin based on 2 guest in the cabin. Pricing starts at: \$259.00 per person cruise fare and \$83.50 per person taxes fees and port expenses.

Pricing for a balcony cabin based on 2 guest in the cabin. Pricing starts at: \$324.00 per person cruise fare and \$83.50 per person taxes fees and port expenses.

The deposit is \$100.00 per person and final payment is due 7/15/2018.

PLEASE NOTE THAT PRICING AND AVAILABILITY IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE

We have not done this in about eight years. Its time to do it again. This will be first come first serve, so make your reservations asap as cabin space might fill up quickly. Im trying to plan some events for us on ship and also in Nassau and as we get closer, will keep everyone informed. My wife works for Carnival, so we will be taken care of.

At least put your deposit down quickly and she will try to have us as close together as possible. Remember, this will be a FUN cruise and time to enjoy each other's company and to recharge for the year.

Everyone have a great time and will see you aboard.

William R Johnson, 2nd Vice Commander, The American Legion, Department of Florida

Membership Reports

FEBRUARY 21, 2018

DISTRICT 1

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0075	Crestview	148	0	90	90	60.81%
0078	Milton	24	0	20	20	83.33%
0193	Pensacola	97	18	70	88	90.72%
0221	Niceville	94	2	60	62	65.96%
0235	Ft Walton Beach	184	3	126	129	70.11%
0240	Pensacola	253	0	196	196	77.47%
0296	Destin	34	0	30	30	88.24%
0340	Pensacola	294	7	252	259	88.10%
0356	Lynn Haven	187	5	150	155	82.89%
0375	Southport	60	2	53	55	91.67%
0378	Gulf Breeze	29	1	12	13	44.83%
0382	Navarre	115	0	87	87	75.65%
0392	Panama City	161	3	130	133	82.61%
0402	Panama City Beach	30	1	34	35	116.67%
TOTALS		1710	42	1310	1352	79.06%

DISTRICT 3

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0049	Monticello	14	0	12	12	85.71%
0057	Lake City	233	3	186	189	81.12%
0107	Live Oak	54	2	38	40	74.07%
0131	Greenville	32	4	25	29	90.63%
0215	Jasper	42	3	15	18	42.86%
0224	Madison	32	0	19	19	59.38%
0291	Steinhatchee	142	3	124	127	89.44%
0383	Old Town	164	4	128	132	80.49%
TOTALS		713	19	547	566	79.38%

DISTRICT 2

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0013	Tallahassee	98	6	72	78	79.59%
0082	Lanark	91	2	65	67	73.63%
0084	Havana	30	10	13	23	76.67%
0100	Marianna	55	3	42	45	81.82%
0217	Quincy	54	8	42	50	92.59%
0241	Sneads	55	20	26	46	83.64%
TOTALS		383	49	260	309	80.68%

DISTRICT 4

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0016	Gainesville	80	0	42	42	52.50%
0027	Ocala	39	8	24	32	82.05%
0058	Dunnellon	46	2	41	43	93.48%
0077	Inverness	24	3	37	40	166.67%
0149	Newberry	20	0	10	10	50.00%
0155	Crystal River	288	2	261	263	91.32%
0166	Homosassa Springs	29	2	32	34	117.24%
0210	Ocala	13	0	6	6	46.15%
0230	Hawthorne	58	2	42	44	75.86%
0236	Bronson	52	0	47	47	90.38%
0237	Beverly Hills	145	1	127	128	88.28%
0284	Bellevue	95	1	74	75	78.95%
0314	Starke	12	0	11	11	91.67%
TOTALS		901	21	754	775	86.02%

DISTRICT 5

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0009	Jacksonville	30	1	23	24	80.00%
0037	Saint Augustine	72	3	52	55	76.39%
0054	Fernandina Beach	179	5	128	133	74.30%
0088	Jacksonville	108	2	75	77	71.30%
0129	Jacksonville Beach	333	12	263	275	82.58%
0137	Jacksonville	570	23	400	423	74.21%
0194	St Augustine	74	10	53	63	85.14%
0197	Jacksonville	73	11	38	49	67.12%
0202	Keystone Heights	78	2	37	39	50.00%
0233	Ponte Vedra Beach	216	35	109	144	66.67%
0244	Jacksonville	40	4	18	22	55.00%
0250	Middleburg	380	40	258	298	78.42%
0283	Jacksonville	416	15	301	316	75.96%
0316	Atlantic Beach	372	52	217	269	72.31%
0372	Mandarin	11	0	5	5	45.45%
0373	Orange Park	40	9	30	39	97.50%
0401	Hilliard	24	1	18	19	79.17%
TOTALS		3016	225	2025	2250	74.60%

DISTRICT 7

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0003	Bartow	85	2	73	75	88.24%
0004	Lakeland	71	2	62	64	90.14%
0008	Winter Haven	656	4	532	536	81.71%
0034	Haines City	74	0	58	58	78.38%
0071	Lake Wales	95	0	78	78	82.11%
0072	Mulberry	158	12	122	134	84.81%
0201	Florence Villa	38	5	29	34	89.47%
TOTALS		1177	25	954	979	83.18%

DISTRICT 6

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0010	Kissimmee	202	4	169	173	85.64%
0019	Orlando	130	3	86	89	68.46%
0021	Umatilla	15	0	8	8	53.33%
0035	Mount Dora	91	1	59	60	65.93%
0041	Eustis	20	0	13	13	65.00%
0052	Lake Panasoffkee	24	7	18	25	104.17%
0053	Sanford	93	3	69	72	77.42%
0055	Clermont	71	0	49	49	69.01%
0063	Winter Garden	25	0	21	21	84.00%
0080	Saint Cloud	296	26	215	241	81.42%
0101	Bushnell	125	0	84	84	67.20%
0109	Ocoee	12	0	4	4	33.33%
0112	Winter Park	22	3	19	22	100.00%
0183	Fern Park	181	15	123	138	76.24%
0219	Fruitland Park	207	3	166	169	81.64%
0242	Orlando	133	14	90	104	78.20%
0286	Orlando	231	12	176	188	81.39%
0330	Leesburg	76	10	61	71	93.42%
0331	Orlando	43	12	11	23	53.49%
0347	Lady Lake	1765	10	1642	1652	93.60%
0357	Clermont	23	2	15	17	73.91%
TOTALS		3785	125	3098	3223	85.15%

DISTRICT 8

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0011	Arcadia	41	9	22	31	75.61%
0024	Bradenton	364	18	271	289	79.40%
0025	Lake Placid	328	0	294	294	89.63%
0030	Sarasota	97	17	64	81	83.51%
0069	Avon Park	534	5	471	476	89.14%
0074	Sebring	47	0	8	8	17.02%
0113	Rotonda West	407	5	306	311	76.41%
0159	Venice	709	21	547	568	80.11%
0254	North Port	108	0	83	83	76.85%
0266	Fruitville	116	2	97	99	85.34%
0309	Palmetto	172	1	169	170	98.84%
0312	Oneco	240	3	185	188	78.33%
0325	Ellenton	129	0	101	101	78.29%
TOTALS		3292	81	2618	2699	81.99%

DISTRICT 9

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0036	Ft Lauderdale	48	0	32	32	66.67%
0092	Hollywood	125	2	112	114	91.20%
0142	Pompano Beach	271	52	178	230	84.87%
0157	Margate	286	21	210	231	80.77%
0162	Deerfield Beach	237	29	158	187	78.90%
0180	Fort Lauderdale	116	9	88	97	83.62%
0209	Dania Beach	11	0	15	15	136.36%
0220	Ft Lauderdale	30	11	14	25	83.33%
0222	Fort Lauderdale	77	2	51	53	68.83%
0287	Deerfield Beach	15	0	14	14	93.33%
0304	Dania	128	0	79	79	61.72%
0310	Hallandale	39	0	34	34	87.18%
0321	Cooper City	132	13	84	97	73.48%
0365	Sunrise	15	0	18	18	120.00%
TOTALS		1530	139	1087	1226	80.13%

DISTRICT 12

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0001	Titusville	314	20	266	286	91.08%
0022	Cocoa	89	3	78	81	91.01%
0039	Vero Beach	167	3	137	140	83.83%
0040	Fort Pierce	163	0	99	99	60.74%
0081	Melbourne	128	1	83	84	65.63%
0117	Palm Bay	468	14	362	376	80.34%
0126	Jensen Beach	228	4	197	201	88.16%
0163	Melbourne	309	9	255	264	85.44%
0171	Fort Pierce	0	0	10	10	Infinity
0189	Sebastian	121	0	99	99	81.82%
0191	Melbourne	109	18	55	73	66.97%
0200	Satellite Beach	128	0	103	103	80.47%
0318	Port St Lucie	701	3	587	590	84.17%
0348	Cape Canaveral	198	0	139	139	70.20%
0358	White City	40	0	36	36	90.00%
0359	Port St John	259	17	223	240	92.66%
0366	Barefoot Bay	73	21	47	68	93.15%
0394	Palm Bay	94	4	108	112	119.15%
0410	Viera	27	1	7	8	29.63%
TOTALS		3616	118	2891	3009	83.21%

DISTRICT 11

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0020	Belle Glade	65	6	50	56	86.15%
0047	Lake Worth	124	5	92	97	78.23%
0062	Stuart	178	2	290	292	164.04%
0064	Okeechobee	115	0	94	94	81.74%
0065	Delray Beach	57	4	38	42	73.68%
0141	West Palm Beach	81	5	75	80	98.77%
0164	Boynton Beach	138	7	103	110	79.71%
0188	Delray	15	2	10	12	80.00%
0199	W Palm Beach	50	0	41	41	82.00%
0268	Riviera Beach	80	0	19	19	23.75%
0271	Tequesta	200	9	160	169	84.50%
0277	Boca Raton	100	1	81	82	82.00%
0288	Boynton Beach	53	21	11	32	60.38%
0367	Royal Palm Beach	42	8	22	30	71.43%
0399	Palm City	18	2	5	7	38.89%
TOTALS		1316	72	1091	1163	88.37%

DISTRICT 13

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0038	Fort Myers	63	1	44	45	71.43%
0090	Cape Coral	204	2	192	194	95.10%
0103	Punta Gorda	394	4	333	337	85.53%
0110	Port Charlotte	589	7	459	466	79.12%
0123	Sanibel	82	2	62	64	78.05%
0130	Labelle	150	0	108	108	72.00%
0135	Naples	372	0	235	235	63.17%
0136	Saint James City	488	1	380	381	78.07%
0192	Fort Myers	22	4	12	16	72.73%
0274	Fort Myers Beach	633	3	556	559	88.31%
0299	Moore Haven	19	0	13	13	68.42%
0303	Bonita Springs	424	17	319	336	79.25%
0323	Lehigh Acres	486	36	361	397	81.69%
0336	N Ft Myers	361	5	287	292	80.89%
0351	Fort Myers	93	1	70	71	76.34%
TOTALS		4380	83	3431	3514	80.23%

DISTRICT 14						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0028	Key West	68	0	56	56	82.35%
0031	South Miami	167	1	156	157	94.01%
0043	Homestead	63	0	22	22	34.92%
0067	North Miami	48	6	51	57	118.75%
0098	Coral Gables	22	0	15	15	68.18%
0133	Miami	60	5	41	46	76.67%
0154	Marathon	180	1	178	179	99.44%
0168	Key West	3	0	3	3	100.00%
0333	Key Largo	79	0	63	63	79.75%
0346	Miami	4	0	4	4	100.00%
0374	Key Biscayne	60	0	48	48	80.00%
TOTALS		754	13	637	650	86.21%

DISTRICT 16						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0007	Clearwater	353	13	271	284	80.45%
0014	St Petersburg	145	5	91	96	66.21%
0079	New Port Richey	433	46	317	363	83.83%
0104	Pinellas Park	247	6	173	179	72.47%
0119	Largo	371	18	321	339	91.37%
0125	St Petersburg	362	8	324	332	91.71%
0158	Treasure Island	242	0	225	225	92.98%
0173	Holiday	262	17	205	222	84.73%
0238	Safety Harbor	281	14	238	252	89.68%
0252	Seminole	941	12	718	730	77.58%
0273	Madeira Beach	2790	4	2158	2162	77.49%
0275	Dunedin	582	14	549	563	96.74%
0305	St Pete Beach	107	0	74	74	69.16%
0335	Hudson	241	15	184	199	82.57%
TOTALS		7357	172	5848	6020	81.83%

DISTRICT 15						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0005	Tampa	45	2	32	34	75.56%
0026	Plant City	36	4	26	30	83.33%
0111	Tampa	44	1	37	38	86.36%
0138	Tampa	363	10	268	278	76.58%
0139	Tampa	135	0	93	93	68.89%
0147	Odessa	25	0	23	23	92.00%
0148	Riverview	194	3	97	100	51.55%
0152	Tampa	285	8	237	245	85.96%
0167	Tampa	31	3	12	15	48.39%
0186	Brooksville	371	1	328	329	88.68%
0246	Sun City Center	42	0	14	14	33.33%
0248	West Tampa	27	3	19	22	81.48%
0334	Tampa	29	1	29	30	103.45%
0389	Ruskin	18	4	15	19	105.56%
TOTALS		1645	40	1230	1270	77.20%

DISTRICT 17						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0006	Deland	141	0	93	93	65.96%
0017	New Smyrna Beach	246	2	121	123	50.00%
0045	Palatka	40	1	28	29	72.50%
0115	Palm Coast	40	2	34	36	90.00%
0120	Holly Hill	249	12	201	213	85.54%
0127	Lake Helen	26	7	17	24	92.31%
0204	Daytona Beach	25	11	10	21	84.00%
0255	Deltona	31	4	17	21	67.74%
0259	DeBary	29	4	19	23	79.31%
0267	Ormond Beach	164	6	147	153	93.29%
0270	Port Orange	171	0	144	144	84.21%
0285	Edgewater	145	5	108	113	77.93%
0293	Interlachen	41	3	30	33	80.49%
0361	S Daytona	153	11	135	146	95.42%
TOTALS		1501	68	1104	1172	78.08%



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