

# *The Liberty Bell*

XIII ISSUE 03

OCTOBER 2023



DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT DEE BELL

#RINGYOURBELL

# This Month's Edition



## 3 PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *Dee Bell*

## ALSO INCLUDING...

- 4 Chaplain
- 3 Secretary
- 4 Children & Youth
- 6 Membership
- 7 National Security
- 8 Public Relations
- 9 Districts & Units
- 20 Membership Reports

## 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.

## Upcoming Events OCTOBER 2023

- 01-31 National Disability / Employment Month
- 01-31 Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- 01-31 ALR Merry-Go-Round
- 07 District 15: ABC School
- 08 District 5: Meeting
- 13 U.S. Navy Birthday
- 14 District 1: ABC School
- 14 District 5: ABC School
- 14 Help Save Post 335
- 16 Boss's Day
- 17 District 12: Installation (Post 466)
- 21 North Port Wiffleball Golf
- 25 Day of the Deployed
- 27 President Dee Bell Visits District 12
- 27 Navy Day
- 28 District 11: Meeting
- 31 Halloween



# #ringyourbell

Want to submit an article  
and/or photos to *The Liberty Bell* ? [alaf1.org/submit](https://alaf1.org/submit)  
[alaf1news@alaf1.org](mailto:alaf1news@alaf1.org)

# President's Message

Dee Bell



Hi Florida Bells,  
Hurricane Idalia has past, but the aftermath is still effecting Florida residents and members. The winds, rain, flooding affected Legion family members and friends in the 16th, 15th, 3rd, 4th, and 5th Districts. The hardest hit being Perry and Madison

in the big bend area of Florida. The National and Department Auxiliary Emergency Fund Disaster Relief Fund can assist those effected by a natural disaster such as fire, flood, hurricane, tornado etc. If you need assistance, please don't hesitate to apply at [www.alafl.org](http://www.alafl.org) and [www.legion-aux.org](http://www.legion-aux.org) We continue to keep these members in our thoughts and prayers.

Your Unit is in full swing planning events, fundraisers, and service projects. They will support, assist, promote, and raise awareness to the needs of our veterans, military families, communities and our children. Your Unit needs and wants your input and your involvement. Help ring those Bells and celebrate your SERVICE and how your unit can Be The One.

American Legion Auxiliary Fall Conference is November 17-19. This is your opportunity learn, ask questions, know who and where to go for help, meet our National President Lisa Williams and have some fun. Our National Executive Committeeman, Jane Hardacre will update you on National Convention happenings. Chairmanship and Officer Breakouts will be Friday morning and afternoon. District Presidents will be ringing their Bells with presentation boards focusing on how units incorporated "Be The One" into their programs. Please send pictures and articles to your District President for these boards. General Session will be on Saturday. Join us as we celebrate auxiliary presidents, and legion and sons commanders at all levels on Saturday night. Presidents & Commanders Dinner is a Murder Mystery Night, Death of a Ganster with an Italian Buffet.

Thank You to the 5th District American Legion Riders, American Legion Family Post 283 and 5th District President for the honor and privilege to participate in the POW/MIA 7 Bridges Ride. This was my first Legion Riders ride and first time on a bike, AWESOME Yvette Moore The ceremony at the National POW/MIA Museum was inspiring. Visiting the National Cemetery with Julie, Sue, Latoya and Karen where the 5th District family has sponsored a memorial, and seeing and hearing the bell tower was a real treat.

**Bells IN SERVICE**

## Secretary

MARY KELLY PERKINS



Happy Fall to All!

As per Standing Rules Article VIII, Sec 5 (page 71 of Unit Guide) all endorsements for elected offices of the Department of Florida are to be sent via certified return receipt requested to our Department of Florida Headquarters, 1912A Lee Rd.,

Orlando, FL 32810. And must be received ten (10) days prior to the Fall Conference. Please do not mail certified copies to the Department Secretary's home address.

Unit Constitution and Bylaws:

At the direction of President Dee, all revised Constitution and Bylaws, Standing Rules are to be emailed to the Department Secretary ([secretary@alafl.org](mailto:secretary@alafl.org)) until a chairman has been ratified. Please be sure to add the revised date changes were made. As you all know, the Department cannot make changes to Units C&B, we can only recommend them so if you have questions please do not hesitate to ask.

Thank you to all the Units who have followed the procedure for Emblem Usage. At present time we are getting approvals from National within 3 to

*Continued on Page 4 >>*

5 days of them receiving the request. If a Unit is going to use the words American Legion Auxiliary, the new Wordmark branding or Emblem on any clothing, jewelry etc. you must have permission from Department and National. Letterheads, Business Cards, or other types of stationery do not require permission.

If your Unit is changing officers and/or chairman that form needs to be emailed to Patsy, our membership coordinator ([membership@alafl.org](mailto:membership@alafl.org)).

Don't forget to check out our Auxiliary Store to see the great merchandise that is available.

## Chaplain

RUTH BURGESS



My dear Sisters and Brothers in God:

*"... I will see you again and your heart shall rejoice, and your joy no man taketh from you".*  
John 16:22 NIV

### Our dearly departed Sisters, by district:

Sherry Hamel, District 1  
Nancy Yetter, District 1  
Nancy Buenger, District 5  
Mary Lominac, District 6  
Norma Woodall, District 6  
Myrtle C Casey, District 6  
Janice Stahlheber, District 6  
Lucy McCann, District 6  
Marie Madore, District 7  
Pamela Wentling, District 8  
Ethel De Marco, District 8  
Sandra Disberry, District 8  
Frances B Davis, District 8  
Vivian D Cummings, District 8  
Norma Hurley, District 9

Mary W Fetter, District 9  
Peggy Bieselin, District 11  
Sandra Brewsaugh, District 12  
Joanne Olender, District 12  
Deidra Coleman, District 12  
Mary Maycott, District 13  
Joyce Raveilstein, District 13  
Carol Ann Walch, District 14  
Linda Decasper, District 15  
Jean Young, District 16  
Janet Gossett, District 16  
Carrie Farnum, District 16  
Judy Webster, District 16  
Jenine Ice, District 16

## Children & Youth

LINDA KNOBLACH-HARKNESS



As I'm getting my bearings as Children and Youth Chairman, I'm learning so much. Thank you all for your help and guidance. Let me start by saying thank you for your enthusiasm for Camp Boggy Creek and making quilts, afghans, and Boggy Bears. Because of your generosity, I will

not be able to accept ANY at the Fall Conference. PLEASE DO NOT BRING THEM. I would hate to tell you that I can't take them. My hope is that as members are making their way to visit Camp Boggy Creek, they will check with units on their travel route to see if units have items to be delivered. Thank you for your understanding.

We had a great first Zoom Meeting with Jaqualine

Continued on Page 5 >>

Boykin from the Camp and we learned why we support this camp. I posted the overview in the files section on the Facebook page for you to read.

This month we will have Penny Samon from United Through Reading join our meeting. Here is a little excerpt from their website...

United Through Reading strengthens military families' literacy, emotional bonds, and well-being through the power of reading together at every age, no matter the distance. Deployments and frequent separations are a reality for military families. In fact, every year, more than 100,000 military parents deploy leaving nearly 250,000 children at home. That's millions of bedtime stories missed each year by military children. United Through Reading knows that hearing a parent's voice and seeing their face is a truly unique experience that cannot be replaced. That's why their "story time video recordings" can be watched on-demand with their own copy of the book, whenever the child misses their service member. Being read to by a parent helps military children feel like their parents are closer to home, reducing stress and anxiety levels and making it easier to cope while their parents are away.

UTR's "story time video recordings" also have many developmental benefits for military children. The shared read aloud experience expands their literacy, vocabulary, and imagination. Through these story time video recordings, service members are also able to maintain close emotional bonds with their families at home, reducing feelings of separation or loneliness and helping them reintegrate to home life when they return.

United Through Reading's **free program** is available to all branches of the military, regardless of duty status,

including Veterans. Sounds like a great program for our military Children as well as for the grandchildren of our Veterans here in Florida.

Additionally, I wanted to give you a brief introduction to our National Children and Youth Chairman Coral May Grout. Her membership is through the service of my late father (Charles E. Children and Youth Linda Knoblach-Harkness Grout) and grandfather (Stanislas Laplante). She is a retired Superintendent of Schools and retired consultant for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. She earned her doctorate in Education Planning, Research and Administration from UMASS-Amherst and holds degrees from Mount Holyoke College (A.B.) and Boston College (M.Ed.). She has been fortunate to serve as Department President (3 times), National Historian, NEC (2 years), National Secretary (2 years), and has held National Chairmanships for Education (twice), Legislative, Constitution & Bylaws, Public Relations, Americanism, Juniors, Leadership, Community Service, and Public Relations.

Her favorite pastimes are taking care of her two cats, Missy Meow (14) and Chloe (7); traveling anywhere and everywhere; golf; and walking. Her happy place is sitting along the ocean. I know you are looking forward to working with Coral May as much as I am. I'm excited to see your Children and Youth activities posted on our Facebook page and in the Liberty Bell. We should be getting some good ones from Trunk or Treats from around the Department of Florida.

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to contact me.



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# Membership

LISA HOYLAND



Our Phone Bells aka District Membership Chairman have been very busy presenting membership during the School of Instruction classes across the state. Thank you for your passion, knowledge, and excitement that you bring to our Clappers aka members. Clappers it takes all of us to reach our goals. My challenge to our clappers this year is to **JUST ASK!** Ask a family member, a friend or co-worker and see if they are eligible to join our great organization. Our members make this organization what it is and in-turn that makes potential members want to join us to work our mission. Let Ring Bells Loud across our state!

## ALAMIS

What is ALAMIS and how can it help the unit? ALAMIS is the American Legion Auxiliary Management Information System. It is used by units, districts/divisions, and departments to manage members, units, departments, and leadership information. Each unit is allowed to designate up to two users for login access.

### ALAMIS User Tiers

District Access (\$10.00 Each) - Only District Membership Chairman or District President can have District Access.

Unit View Access (\$10.00 Each) View Only – make no changes.

Unit Write Access (15.00 Each) - Update records and enter New Membership Applications.

Unit Full Access (\$20.00 Each) – Allows Unit to process their own membership: Must attend training and Unit MUST have debit/credit card. This saves the unit on postage, checks and will enable the Unit to renew and remit dues online making the process much quicker and efficient.

You will need to complete the ALAMIS User Request that can be located under the Forms and Resources

section on the Department website at [www.alafl.org](http://www.alafl.org); once submitted, Department will contact National, the user(s) will then receive an email once setup and the unit will receive an invoice from Department.

### How can this help your Unit?

You can add new members and receive a membership ID number instantly. You can make updates, perform searches, view a member's continuous year of membership, view many reports, and export the information to perform mailings, create labels or email communication. Some of the reports that are available include membership roster, unit paid dues roster, unit unpaid dues roster, unit dues paid online and more.

We are doing great with our membership renewals so far! As of September 13. We are at 19.64% of our goal with 7,687 paid members. That is 867 up compared to this time last year! National sent out on September 15th paper renewal reminders via USPS so hopefully this will help in keeping the Southern Division in first place. Our next Department Goal is Christmas Bells with a target of 75% by December 1st.

Don't forget the "Take Action Liberty Bell" Department Membership award is fast approaching and will be awarded to the Unit President and Membership Chairman in each membership grouping with the highest percentage in membership received by the Department and processed the week prior to the Department Fall Conference.

### *Districts Don't Forget Your Membership Challenges!*

### Congratulations!

(as of the 9/8/23 Friday Report)

Units at 100%

Unit 418 at 170% and Unit 287 at 100%

### Membership Grouping

Membership Group 1, Unit 418, Spring Hill at 170%. Group 2 Unit 241, Snead with 59.72%. Group 3 Unit 277, Boca Raton with 51.35%. Group 4 Unit 54, Fernandina Beach with 45.18%. Group 5, Unit 336 N. Ft

*Continued on Page 7 >>*

Myers with 34.77%, Group 6, Unit 62 Stuart at 43.25. As we work membership drives, please take pictures and share – and wear your ALA branding!

Please like us on the Membership Facebook page at ALAFL Membership and log into the Department of Florida website at [www.alafl.org](http://www.alafl.org) under Quick Links every Friday for the membership report.

**Keep Ringing in Membership.**

## National Security

DAWN DAVIS



To begin with, I am so very excited and honored to be your National Security Chairman for the year. I thank each and every one of you who continue to work the mission to BE THE ONE to support the emotional and social needs of active, reserve, and transitioning military

servicemembers and their families along with Law Enforcement, Fire, and First Responders. You are so very appreciated, and I have been extremely impressed and awed with the work I have seen across the Department.

There are a multitude of ways for you to support Department President Dee Bell's theme of "Bells in Service." The National Security Program will "salute with bells" as we share our voice and actions of support. However, this program is huge, so where should you start? Begin with the Program Engagement Plan at [alafl.org](http://alafl.org) to see a full list of ideas of how you can BE THE ONE to help. My number one piece of advice for the "where do I even start?" question is to look at the calendar and see what special days there are to be recognized each month. It's a simple way to begin your plan for your unit.

For example, September was a busy month for National Security as there were a lot of important dates (with numerous activities to support the mission).

### September dates:

- National Suicide Prevention Month
- National Service Dog Month
- Sept. 2 V-J Day (Victory over Japan)
- Sept. 11 Patriot Day
- Sept. 18 (USAF) Birthday
- Sept. 15 (3rd Friday in September) National POW/ MIA Recognition Day

- Sept. 24 (last Sunday in September) National Gold Star Mother's Day

I really enjoyed seeing everyone post pictures of events and projects that occurred last month. However, no matter what is done, big or small, it is always appreciated. How were you able to BE THE ONE in September? Did you...post on Social Media (with your hashtags, of course)... send in a newsletter article to the Liberty Bell?...count your hours? Every moment counts!! Please make sure and show us what you did (and will do) to ring the bells with both your Unit and Legion Family.

Besides important dates, there are other ways to work the mission. Here are few activities/organizations that are a great way for you to start:

- Support active-duty military families by working with an installation Family Readiness Group (FRG). Contact the Family Readiness Center on your nearby military installation for more information.
- Greet servicemembers and families as they deploy and/or return from a deployment.
- Thank a hero: Bring cards, gift baskets, food, or letters of appreciation to our heroes (fire stations, military installations, etc). Or invite them for a meal at your Unit/Post. Don't forget Active Duty that are away from home and may not have anywhere to go on a holiday.
- Troop Care Boxes and care packages for our service dogs—they are heroes too!
- Celebrate various military dates & holidays by posting on Social Media or writing thank you cards
- Sign-up for Operation Homefront or collect items for the USO

Another way to show your support is to create your Flat Bell (check [alafl.org/national-security](http://alafl.org/national-security)). I'm super

*Continued on Page 8 >>*

excited for this fun Chairman Project as it highlights our Legion Family as we work our mission together throughout Florida. Please start posting pictures of your flat bells to showcase the great journey they go on this year (#salutewithbells, #thankahero, #LegionFamily, #BeTheOne).

Additionally, take the time to learn from one another. Each month, I host a National Security Zoom meeting (third Monday at 6pmCST/7pmEST). During this time, we exchange ideas and educate others on ways to support this program. Also, there is a featured event and/or guest that is an expert in a particular part of our program. He/She is there to help guide us and answer

questions we may have. The focus for many of the zoom meetings this year will be on supporting the emotional and social needs of active, reserve, and transitioning military servicemembers and their families, and the guests will be there to show us what we can do to work that mission.

Finally, remember that I am here to support you. If you need something or have a question, please let me know. Please Be The One and keep ringing those bells for our active, reserve, and transitioning military servicemembers and their families along with Law Enforcement, Fire, and First Responders. I look forward to working with you this year.

## Public Relations

VIRNA LUKE



Greetings Bellwethers and Bells in Service, I know the Florida delegates to National Convention, had a fantastic time from listening to the National Chairmen reports and special speakers, to camaraderie shared. If you were not able to attend, you can view the entire playlist on YouTube @

AmericanLegionAux, click the tab playlists, and you will see 2023 National Convention (7 videos).

Speaking of National, from [www.legion-aux.org](http://www.legion-aux.org): 2023-2024 ALA National President Lisa Williamson will be going above and beyond in her role as national president, by not only helping to raise awareness about the Be the One initiative, but also to raise funds for the American Legion Auxiliary's greatest need — Spirit of Youth (SOY) Scholarships. Beginning in fiscal year 2024, the ALA will increase the number of SOY scholarships by 49, bringing the total number of scholarships awarded to 67. This will bring the total amount awarded to \$100,000, the most the Auxiliary has ever awarded for SOY scholarships.

Our Southern Division Public Relations Chairman is Charlotte Purdy from Arkansas. I have uploaded her newsletter to the Files tab on our Facebook page ALAFL Public Relations. Take time to read, learn, and get inspired "We are the cheerleaders and mentors. We need to stay in

touch with our members via social media, text messages, bulletins, and phone calls." – Purdy. Also check out the Events tab, do you see your event on the list? Make sure to create an event on your unit page (make it public) and share it to ALAFL Public Relations.

Keep your social media pages positive and active with information shared from Department and National leadership. Read The Liberty Bell and Auxiliary magazine to stay up to date. You will find articles that you can share in your unit and district meetings. On a personal note, 5th District Leadership Chairman Robbin Walker, read the "ALA Mentoring is a Necessity" article from Auxiliary magazine, August issue, page 38, in our recent district meeting, and everyone enjoyed it. "I am a big fan of The Voice, I was impressed from the time they auditioned to the final performances. These artists had been mentored along the way by incredible music artists. This is the same thing we do as ALA mentors. We should see a better final performance than when the ALA member began their leadership journey in the ALA."

Visit the Media Templates page on the ALA National page to plan out your year of service, [www.legion-aux.org/Member/Resources/Media-Templates](http://www.legion-aux.org/Member/Resources/Media-Templates).

The American Legion Family has new brand marks, for guidelines and files, visit [www.legion.org/brand](http://www.legion.org/brand).

Continued on Page9 >>



As a reminder, when sharing pictures to social media or writing an article, include...Who? What? Where? When?

## Districts and Units

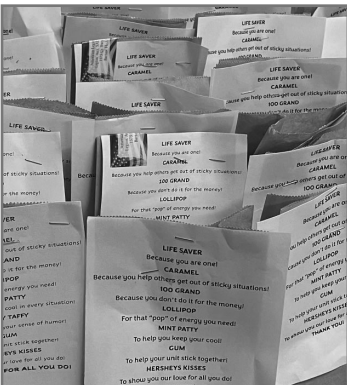
### UNIT 1

Unit 1 - In September American legion unit 1 from Titusville delivered supplies to our four partners in education schools to start off the school year. President Catherine McMullen, historian/public relations Mary Pistel and volunteer Dennis Mc Mullen are pictured with the four schools . Hope all the students have a great year. *Submitted by: Mary Pistel*



### UNIT 3

Unit 3 - Auxiliary members, joined by other post families hosted a "First responders appreciation lunch" on Monday (Labor Day) Sept 4. Offering a hot, free meal to all 1st responders. Served 50+ meals along with "treat bags" of candy. It was a great Post Family Event! *Submitted by: Dianne Tucker*



# Districts and Units

## UNIT 62

Unit 62 - On August 3 members of Auxiliary unit 62 packed 93 backpacks and donated them to children in need in Martin County School Dist.

*Submitted by: Jamie Schoonover*



Unit 62 - Auxiliary Unit 62 donated funds to Fish Tails Swim School in Stuart to purchase children's books "Froggy Learns To Swim". Auxiliary Member and Swim Instructor Jamie Schoonover along with the Director of the Swim School is visiting libraries in Martin County and reading this book during circle time with the children's Librarian to help spread the knowledge of water safety. Books are being donated to each Library's children's library. *Submitted by: Jamie Schoonover*



Unit 62 - At our monthly meeting in August, 30 members along with former dist present and current Girls State dist committee chair Fran Carolton, joined dist president Sandy Swafford to hear the experience of unit 62 girls state delegates. Nicole Ward and Kaitlyn Marcoullier. Both girls gave excellent reports and were both presented Scholarships by Unit Girls State Committee Chair Sally Greck. *Submitted by: Jamie Schoonover*



## UNIT 77

Unit 77 - Inverness delivering supplies to The Bridge Veterans House. *Submitted by: Janet Woods*



Unit 77 - On September 11, Unit 77 Inverness brought lunch to Inverness Fire Station #8 in appreciation of their service. *Submitted by: Janet Woods*



## UNIT 104

Unit 104 - While on vacation (cruise) our 23-24 Secretary Cheryl Brockmeier noticed the Bahamian workers putting up American flags around the pool area. She also notices that they were hanging them wrong and went to find someone to get it corrected, great job Cheryl!!

*Submitted by: Pat Cannon*



## UNIT 115

Unit 115 - Palm Coast Brenda presented a monetary gift to a veteran in need. *Submitted by: Eleanor Amato*



## UNIT 138

Unit 138 - On Saturday, August 5, 2023, the American Legion Post 138 family gathered to recognize and celebrate local Veteran, Ramon Juan, who had served in the U.S. Army during WWII and recently turned 103 years old. Born in Puerto Rico in 1920, Mr. Juan was one of nine children, with five of the six brothers having served in the U.S. military during both WWII and Korean War. Assigned to the 65th Infantry in August 1945 in the waning days of WWII, he remained in Puerto Rico for his tour of duty achieving the occupational series of Rifleman. In speaking with him during the event, he conveyed that a highlight of his tour was being a part of the protection detail for General Eisenhower during his stop in Puerto Rico. During the ceremony, Tammy Zell, Unit 138 Vice President, introduced Mr. Juan and provided a brief synopsis of his service, the service of his brothers, and the famed history of the 65th Infantry. She also presented him with a U.S. Flag to be flown on his flagpole at his home in South Tampa. Following that, Post Commander Andrew Davis presented Mr. Juan with a U.S. Flag that had previously been flown over US Central Command on MacDill Air Force Base, along with a hand-crafted

wooden flag case and a certificate of appreciation for his dedication and service to this country. The ceremony was attended by a number of Mr. Juan's extended family, along with members of the Legionnaires, Auxiliary, and Sons of the American Legion being represented. Refreshments were served afterward, giving everyone a chance to personally meet him and shake his hand. In speaking with Mr. Juan after the ceremony, one attendee had asked him "what was in his water" that he attributed to his longevity. His reply was quite simply, "Hope".!

*Submitted by: Tammy Zell*



# Districts and Units

## UNIT 138

Unit 138 - Bouncing back from the near pass of Hurricane Idalia, on Saturday, September 2, 2023, the Post 138 home was festooned in tropical décor and able to proceed with the annual Luau. As one of the biggest fundraisers for the Auxiliary each year, the members took over the kitchen and the raffle tables keeping the food and fun flowing throughout the day. With tropical tunes on the deck during the day and a Beatles tribute band in the evening, the Hawaiian shirt clad crowd enjoyed the warm tropical atmosphere well into the evening, witnessing a beautiful, water-side sunset.

*Submitted by: Tammy Zell*



Unit 138 - On September 11, Unit 138 members Patty Delgado and Tammy Zell, joined other District 15 Legion members and Bayshore Patriots in waving flags and conducting a ceremony of remembrance for those lost on that tragic day in 2001 when terrorists attacked the World Trade Center, Pentagon and Flight

93 over Shanksville, PA. This traditional event occurs each year along Tampa's Bayshore Boulevard where the Bayshore Patriots, originally established by Post 5 Commander, Bill Hamblin, have been holding weekly flag waving gatherings for motorists traveling to and from MacDill AFB for the past twenty-two years.

*Submitted by: Tammy Zell*

## UNIT 259

Unit 259 - Unit 259 Debarry invited past district presidents to their Past President Parley Luncheon recently. Picture left to right Past District President Toni Ellsworth District President Eleanor Amato and Past District President Linda Slider. *Submitted by: Eleanor Amato*

Unit 138 - New Unit 138 member Danielle Redd, who is a breast cancer survivor, approached the Unit about an innovative opportunity to provide breast cancer screening to the local community. That opportunity was the Mammogram Bus! On Saturday, August 10th, the bus pulled into the Post 138 parking lot and



provided on-the-spot screenings to over 40 people, most of which received their results that very same day. Along with that unique health outreach, inside the post there were tables set up with volunteers from various organizations providing a wide variety of health information and swag. One of the highlight fundraisers was the t-shirt sale in which the shirts were emblazoned with "Save the Motor Boating". In spite of the serious topic, Unit 138 members, along with other members of the Post family made the day fun and inviting for the local community. Unit 138 has already made plans to have the Mammogram Bus return again in the Spring of 2024. *Submitted by: Tammy Zell*





## UNIT 139

Unit 139 - 4 members of unit 139 helped feed 80 or do homeless individuals at Hyde Park United Church's Open Arms Ministry . Submitted by: Rita Smith



## UNIT 148

Unit 148 - Alafia Unit #148 delivers Thank You Baskets to 2 Fire Station; the Sherriff's Department and to the 911 Operators. We also waved flags at our post that morning too. Submitted by: Julia Arndt



## UNIT 240

Unit 240 - Who would of thought that a plastic bag could serve such a wonderful purpose. Well, Phyllis Easley, a member of ALA Unit 240 in Pensacola turned plastic bags into many thing to ensure the homeless population had something to lay on, sit, and use as a blanket, and so much more. Submitted by: Pamela Pannasch



## UNIT 267

Unit 267 - ALA Unit 267 at their Installation. Submitted by: Eleanor Amato



# Districts and Units

## UNIT 241

Unit 241 - The American Legion Post 241 and Auxiliary Unit 241 of Snead hosted a Fellowship Dinner on Monday, July 31st at the Legion Building. Guest were:

Sonny Decker, Legion Western Area Commander.

Doyle Combs, Jr., Legion District 2 Commander. Carol Dunaway, Jackson Co. Supervisor of Elections, guest speaker who was very informative on 2024 Election and office operation. District 2 Auxiliary President Muriel Kweyama who installed Unit 241 Officers. Sneads Town Council Members Anthony Money and Donovan Weeks.

Unit 241 presented an Auxiliary car magnet to President Muriel in honor of her birthday.

Kaye Brown Unit 241 President wishes to thank everyone who attended. Special thanks to Auxiliary members assisting with food preparation (Ann Shepard, Faye Walden, Joyce McDaniel, Margaret Zeigler, Deborah Mann, Michael Mann). *Submitted by: Kaye Brown*



Unit 241 - Left to right: Donny Decker, Kaye Brown, Muriel Kweyama Doyle Combs Jr., Milton



Unit 241 - Left to right: Kaye Brown, Pre. Muriel Kwyema, Margaret Zeigler, Debra Mann, Faye Walden, Michael Mann, Ann Shepard



Unit 241 - Pictured left to right: Kaye Brown, Carol Dunaway

## UNIT 270

Unit 270 - Port Orange Unit 270 were installed *Submitted by: Eleanor Amato*



## UNIT 291

Unit 291 - American Legion Auxiliary Unit 291 of Steinhatchee showed their support of Doctors Memorial Hospitals sexual assault program. On Sept 13, 2023 the Unit purchased clothing in various sizes (shirts,

pants, undergarments, ect) so that victims of sexual assault can leave the hospital with dignity after their clothes are taken for testing. Pictured from left to right is Ashley Biddy Director of Nursing, Samantha Land RN, Jennifer Bray RN, Karen Tidwell Auxiliary Member, and Lauren Faison-Clark Interim CEO. *Submitted by: Karen Tidwell*



## UNIT 283

Unit 283 - On August 26, 2023 Auxiliary Unit 283 went to the Honor Flight Orientation for the 22 Veterans who were going on the flight to Washington DC. The reason for us attending was to present each veteran with a lap blanket for their flight. Not knowing if the veteran may get cold on the flight or the weather in DC might be.

Unit 283 stepped up and delivered the lap blankets after a request was made for them. The blankets were crocheted and sewn by 2 of our unit members. VA&R Chair Sue Reynolds and co-chair Carmen Roden delivered and passed out the blankets to the veterans who are very deserving. What a moving ceremony from the very beginning until the ending.

There were many volunteers who arrived at the Jacksonville Airport to see the veterans and their guardian off to DC at 5:00 A.M. There were also volunteers who were at the airport when the plane arrived back in Jacksonville around 10:30 P.M. What a full day these deserving veterans had and their guardians who assisted them. Another Honor Flight will be arranged in the Spring and Auxiliary Unit 283 hopes to be able to attend the orientation and once again deliver to those veterans a lap blanket. It was our HONOR to meet and hand them the blankets. We Don't Know Them All But We Owe Them All for their service to our country. *Submitted by: Sue Reynolds*

Unit 283 - A "Ceremony for Disposal of Unserviceable Flags" was held at American Legion Post 283 this Labor Day morning, September 4, 2023, in accordance with guidelines established in 1937. The ceremony has been an integral part of the American Legion ritual since that date. There were a total of 4 large bags of flags that were ceremonially disposed of and quite a few members attended to help but to learn the proper way to retire a worn, torn flag. . *Submitted by: Carmen Roden*



Unit 283 - District 5 ~ 3rd Annual Seven Bridges POW/ MIA Remembrance Ride & Ceremony Sept 16, 2023. The event kicked off with a meet & greet steak dinner at Post 283 Friday night. On Saturday, the 100 mile ride included the 7 major bridges that cross the St Johns River. It ended at the National POW/MIA Memorial at Cecil Airport with a memorial service to remember the service and sacrifices of our POW/MIA's. President Dee Bell was among the 300 participants who paid tribute to our Heroes. While President Dee was in the area she was able to visit the Jacksonville National Cemetery and learn about the history of the Bell Tower. *Submitted by: Julie Kay*



## UNIT 296

Unit 296 - Unit 296 Destin working the education program. They delivered headphones and pencils to Destin Elementary students. *Submitted by: Pamela Pannasch*



# Districts and Units

## UNIT 285

Unit 285 - Unit 285 President BettyJo Martin and District President Eleanor Amato delivered back packs and paper goods and served lunch to the Army National Guard.

*Submitted by: Eleanor Amato*



Unit 285 - Unit 285 Edgewater stuffed donated backpacks with school supplies donated through Operation Homefront and delivered to military kidd.

*Submitted by: Eleanor Amato*



## UNIT 286

Unit 286 - On July 29th Pine Castle Unit 286 hosted a back to school party. There were 110 children registered. Each child received a backpack filled with supplies, an American Flag, poppy coloring book, Legion coloring book, and a comic book about the American flag. The backpacks all had a poppy and a membership application attached to them. The Post 286 Honor Guard came and explained the 13 folds of the American flag.

*Submitted by: Robin Shellhammer*



Unit 286 - On August 5th unit 286 members hosted a baby shower that will benefit over 100 veterans at the Orlando VA Medical Centers. The members played games and had snacks. There was even a retired Lake Nona VA recreational therapist and the VA rep that handles the baby showers in attendance. *Submitted by: Robin Shellhammer*



## UNIT 354

Unit 354 - Newly formed Ralph J.Green American Legion Auxiliary Unit#354 in Ocala, Florida collected 27 blankets for the "Bears and Blankets" charity. The blankets are paired with stuffed animals and presented to the Marion County Sheriff's office in December. The items are given out to children the officer's encounter in stressful situations. *Submitted by: Janet Woods*





## UNIT 372

Unit 372 - Supporting Our Troops: American Legion Auxiliary Unit 372's Donation Drive

Recognizing the importance of standing by those who protect our nation, the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 372 embarked on a heartwarming mission to support our troops overseas through a dedicated donation drive.

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 372, a community organization known for its commitment to veterans, active-duty military personnel, and their families, has taken the initiative to uplift the spirits of those serving far from home. With unwavering determination, they have undertaken a noble cause by collecting donations to send a powerful message of gratitude and solidarity to the troops abroad. Through the dedication of its members and the overwhelming support from the local community, the Auxiliary Unit has accumulated a remarkable donation valued at \$800. The items collected through this initiative will directly translate into practical support for overseas troops.

The impact of this effort is not only seen in the intention behind it, but also in the tangible results achieved. Currently, in Mandarin, the American Legion Post 372 is working on building a permanent home that will allow for these acts of giving and service to thrive and bring aid to more veterans and their families in need.

*Submitted by: Caitlin Bailey*



## UNIT 382

Unit 382 - Great School of Instruction hosted by Unit 382 in Navarre today. Everyone did a great job presenting their boards and explaining their committees. Everyone walked away with more knowledge and new ideas to take back to their Units. District 1 rocks!

*Submitted by: Pamela Pannasch*



## UNIT 392

Unit 392 - On September 13, 2023, ALA Unit 392, Panama City and ALA Unit 402, Panama City Beach presented 33 bags of toys to the Bay County Sheriff's Office for patrol personnel to carry in their vehicles. These toys will be used to help calm children in stressful situations.

*Submitted by: Pamela Pannasch*





# DEATH OF A GANGSTER

JOIN US FOR A NIGHT OF  
MYSTERY, MAYHEM, AND MURDER!

**DATE:** Saturday,  
11/18/2023

**TIME:** Cocktail hour: 6pm  
Dinner & show: 7pm

**LOCATION:** Caribe Royale Orlando  
Palms 2

**ADDRESS:** 8101 World Center Drive  
Orlando, FL

**RSVP:** by 10/31/2023



OCTOBER 14, 2023

2PM

# BOOBIE *bash*

*honoring our*  
**PINK WARRIORS**

JOIN US FOR AN AFTERNOON OF FUN HONORING  
OUR WARRIORS WITH A POTLUCK, GAMES,  
RAFFLES AND A MEN'S WET TSHIRT CONTEST

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 183**

2706 WELLS AVENUE  
FERN PARK FL 32730

OPEN TO EVERYONE  
SHOW US YOUR PINK!



# Membership Reports

SEPTEMBER 29, 2023

## DISTRICT 1

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0075	Crestview	213	0	31	31	14.55%
0193	Pensacola	78	9	11	20	25.64%
0221	Niceville	127	0	40	40	31.50%
0235	Ft Walton Beach	131	1	40	41	31.30%
0240	Pensacola	254	3	69	72	28.35%
0296	Destin	74	0	22	22	29.73%
0340	Pensacola	338	6	116	122	36.09%
0356	Lynn Haven	136	0	29	29	21.32%
0375	Southport	55	2	19	21	38.18%
0378	Gulf Breeze	44	0	23	23	52.27%
0382	Navarre	171	2	49	51	29.82%
0392	Panama City	175	0	46	46	26.29%
0402	Panama City Beach	41	1	19	20	48.78%
TOTALS		1837	24	514	538	29.29%

## DISTRICT 3

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0049	Monticello	28	0	14	14	50.00%
0057	Lake City	223	0	38	38	17.04%
0107	Live Oak	55	1	17	18	32.73%
0215	Jasper	35	0	0	0	0.00%
0224	Madison	50	0	14	14	28.00%
0291	Steinhatchee	200	2	32	34	17.00%
0383	Old Town	134	1	39	40	29.85%
TOTALS		725	4	154	158	21.79%

## DISTRICT 2

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0013	Tallahassee	78	2	28	30	38.46%
0082	Lanark	67	0	10	10	14.93%
0084	Havana	30	4	6	10	33.33%
0100	Marianna	32	4	28	32	100.00%
0217	Quincy	50	2	16	18	36.00%
0241	Sneads	72	13	30	43	59.72%
TOTALS		329	25	118	143	43.47%

## DISTRICT 4

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0016	Gainesville	26	0	14	14	53.85%
0027	Ocala	20	0	10	10	50.00%
0058	Dunnellon	29	0	8	8	27.59%
0077	Inverness	68	0	29	29	42.65%
0149	Newberry	31	3	12	15	48.39%
0155	Crystal River	344	2	142	144	41.86%
0166	Homosassa Springs	146	2	74	76	52.05%
0230	Hawthorne	32	2	24	26	81.25%
0236	Bronson	47	0	14	14	29.79%
0237	Beverly Hills	202	0	35	35	17.33%
0284	Bellevue	77	2	36	38	49.35%
0284	Bellevue	77	2	17	19	24.68%
TOTALS		1022	11	398	409	40.02%

DISTRICT 5						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0009	Jacksonville	68	2	10	12	17.65%
0054	Fernandina Beach	166	2	84	86	51.81%
0088	Jacksonville	77	1	16	17	22.08%
0129	Jacksonville Beach	359	4	121	125	34.82%
0137	Jacksonville	424	5	75	80	18.87%
0194	St Augustine	69	3	15	18	26.09%
0197	Jacksonville	44	0	1	1	2.27%
0202	Keystone Heights	73	0	32	32	43.84%
0233	Ponte Vedra Beach	176	18	36	54	30.68%
0244	Jacksonville	33	1	8	9	27.27%
0250	Middleburg	310	20	62	82	26.45%
0283	Jacksonville	460	5	118	123	26.74%
0316	Atlantic Beach	370	0	6	6	1.62%
0372	Mandarin	29	0	17	17	58.62%
0373	Orange Park	32	0	10	10	31.25%
0401	Hilliard	49	0	0	0	0.00%
TOTALS		2739	61	611	672	24.53%

DISTRICT 7						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0003	Bartow	78	0	5	5	6.41%
0004	Lakeland	63	0	14	14	22.22%
0008	Winter Haven	601	7	260	267	44.43%
0015	Dade City	22	0	3	3	13.64%
0034	Haines City	78	0	2	2	2.56%
0071	Lake Wales	48	0	11	11	22.92%
0072	Mulberry	166	0	6	6	3.61%
0201	Florence Villa	25	0	0	0	0.00%
TOTALS		1081	7	301	308	28.49%

DISTRICT 6						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0010	Kissimmee	206	0	43	43	20.87%
0018	Wildwood	21	0	11	11	52.38%
0019	Orlando	109	2	32	34	31.19%
0035	Mount Dora	147	0	40	40	27.21%
0041	Eustis	14	0	1	1	7.14%
0055	Clermont	215	0	58	58	26.98%
0063	Winter Garden	35	0	4	4	11.43%
0080	Saint Cloud	264	15	79	94	35.61%
0101	Bushnell	112	0	23	23	20.54%
0109	Ocoee	13	0	0	0	0.00%
0112	Winter Park	26	2	17	19	73.08%
0183	Fern Park	121	0	29	29	23.97%
0219	Fruitland Park	206	0	62	62	30.10%
0239	Groveland	11	0	5	5	45.45%
0242	Orlando	109	0	17	17	15.60%
0286	Orlando	171	3	52	55	32.16%
0330	Leesburg	69	2	21	23	33.33%
0331	Orlando	14	0	12	12	85.71%
0347	Lady Lake	2563	5	970	975	38.04%
0412	Orlando	14	0	1	1	7.14%
TOTALS		4440	29	1477	1506	33.92%

DISTRICT 8						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0011	Arcadia	36	0	0	0	0.00%
0024	Bradenton	333	0	89	89	26.73%
0025	Lake Placid	395	0	97	97	24.56%
0030	Sarasota	82	3	22	25	30.49%
0069	Avon Park	720	2	214	216	30.00%
0074	Sebring	132	0	41	41	31.06%
0113	Rotonda West	308	0	50	50	16.23%
0159	Venice	711	0	131	131	18.42%
0254	North Port	119	0	37	37	31.09%
0266	Fruitville	159	2	47	49	30.82%
0309	Palmetto	177	0	73	73	41.24%
0312	Oneco	199	0	15	15	7.54%
0325	Ellenton	200	0	40	40	20.00%
TOTALS		3571	7	856	863	24.17%

## DISTRICT 9

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0036	Ft Lauderdale	0	0	3	3	#DIV/0!
0092	Hollywood	98	0	20	20	20.41%
0142	Pompano Beach	186	7	44	51	27.42%
0157	Margate	171	0	35	35	20.47%
0162	Deerfield Beach	172	13	24	37	21.51%
0180	Fort Lauderdale	112	0	29	29	25.89%
0209	Dania Beach	18	0	8	8	44.44%
0220	Ft Lauderdale	28	7	16	23	82.14%
0222	Fort Lauderdale	32	0	3	3	9.38%
0287	Deerfield Beach	17	0	18	18	105.88%
0304	Dania	52	0	16	16	30.77%
0310	Hallandale	25	1	7	8	32.00%
0321	Cooper City	230	2	62	64	27.83%
0365	Sunrise	14	2	4	6	42.86%
Total		1155	32	289	321	27.79%

## DISTRICT 11

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0020	Belle Glade	40	2	19	21	52.50%
0047	Lake Worth	75	0	37	37	49.33%
0062	Stuart	548	3	282	285	52.01%
0064	Okeechobee	116	0	8	8	6.90%
0065	Delray Beach	58	6	26	32	55.17%
0141	West Palm Beach	73	2	21	23	31.51%
0164	Boynton Beach	150	2	27	29	19.33%
0199	W Palm Beach	38	0	21	21	55.26%
0268	Riviera Beach	85	2	34	36	42.35%
0271	Tequesta	158	4	77	81	51.27%
0277	Boca Raton	111	0	60	60	54.05%
0288	Boynton Beach	22	0	0	0	0.00%
0367	Royal Palm Beach	28	2	9	11	39.29%
TOTALS		1502	23	621	644	42.88%

## DISTRICT 12

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0001	Titusville	277	7	82	89	32.13%
0022	Cocoa	106	0	41	41	38.68%
0039	Vero Beach	207	0	25	25	12.08%
0040	Fort Pierce	185	3	73	76	41.08%
0081	Melbourne	172	2	81	83	48.26%
0117	Palm Bay	514	2	210	212	41.25%
0126	Jensen Beach	195	0	9	9	4.62%
0163	Eau Gallie	220	5	110	115	52.27%
0189	Sebastian	159	0	84	84	52.83%
0191	Melbourne	81	0	6	6	7.41%
0200	Satellite Beach	171	9	43	52	30.41%
0318	Port St Lucie	1154	1	391	392	33.97%
0344	Merritt Island	47	0	13	13	27.66%
0348	Cape Canaveral	211	0	74	74	35.07%
0358	White City	69	0	11	11	15.94%
0359	Port St John	358	1	121	122	34.08%
0366	Barefoot Bay	69	3	13	16	23.19%
0394	Palm Bay	208	0	96	96	46.15%
0394	Palm Bay	208	0	45	45	21.63%
TOTALS		4403	33	1483	1516	34.43%

## DISTRICT 13

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0038	Fort Myers	37	0	11	11	29.73%
0090	Cape Coral	287	5	83	88	30.66%
0103	Punta Gorda	649	1	229	230	35.44%
0110	Port Charlotte	635	0	113	113	17.80%
0123	Sanibel	41	0	5	5	12.20%
0130	Labelle	152	0	8	8	5.26%
0135	Naples	367	0	76	76	20.71%
0136	Saint James City	516	0	81	81	15.70%
0192	Fort Myers	21	0	11	11	52.38%
0274	Fort Myers Beach	544	0	46	46	8.46%
0303	Bonita Springs	425	8	140	148	34.82%
0323	Lehigh Acres	409	9	117	126	30.81%
0336	N Ft Myers	440	0	199	199	45.23%
0351	Fort Myers	104	1	17	18	17.31%
0415	Punta Gorda	10	0	0	0	0.00%
TOTALS		4637	24	1136	1160	25.02%

DISTRICT 14						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0028	Key West	57	0	7	7	12.28%
0031	South Miami	171	2	49	51	29.82%
0043	Homestead	57	0	4	4	7.02%
0067	North Miami	42	0	2	2	4.76%
0098	Coral Gables	16	0	5	5	31.25%
0133	Miami	63	3	8	11	17.46%
0154	Marathon	146	1	22	23	15.75%
0168	Key West	23	0	2	2	8.70%
0333	Key Largo	78	0	9	9	11.54%
0346	Miami	19	0	6	6	31.58%
0374	Key Biscayne	42	0	13	13	30.95%
TOTALS		714	6	127	133	18.63%

DISTRICT 16						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0007	Clearwater	249	0	29	29	11.65%
0014	St Petersburg	117	1	56	57	48.72%
0046	Tarpon Springs	10	0	0	0	0.00%
0079	New Port Richey	458	4	76	80	17.47%
0104	Pinellas Park	255	5	103	108	42.35%
0119	Largo	360	3	85	88	24.44%
0125	St Petersburg	297	1	56	57	19.19%
0158	Treasure Island	256	0	33	33	12.89%
0173	Holiday	259	1	56	57	22.01%
0238	Safety Harbor	314	3	95	98	31.21%
0252	Seminole	1065	0	184	184	17.28%
0273	Madeira Beach	3428	0	736	736	21.47%
0275	Dunedin	981	0	232	232	23.65%
0305	St Pete Beach	150	0	18	18	12.00%
0335	Hudson	96	3	16	19	19.79%
TOTALS		8295	21	1775	1796	21.65%

DISTRICT 15						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0005	Tampa	38	0	3	3	7.89%
0099	Brooksville	21	1	12	13	61.90%
0108	Land O' Lakes	10	0	4	4	40.00%
0111	Tampa	54	0	15	15	27.78%
0138	Tampa	483	3	211	214	44.31%
0139	Tampa	58	0	16	16	27.59%
0147	Odessa	44	0	13	13	29.55%
0148	Riverview	209	1	54	55	26.32%
0152	Tampa	250	4	54	58	23.20%
0167	Tampa	16	0	0	0	0.00%
0186	Brooksville	369	0	67	67	18.16%
0248	West Tampa	15	1	10	11	73.33%
0418	Spring Hill	10	1	18	19	190.00%
TOTALS		1577	11	477	488	30.94%

DISTRICT 17						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0006	Deland	104	0	21	21	20.19%
0017	New Smyrna Beach	212	0	30	30	14.15%
0045	Palatka	31	0	10	10	32.26%
0115	Palm Coast	40	0	11	11	27.50%
0120	Holly Hill	216	1	64	65	30.09%
0127	Lake Helen	24	0	0	0	0.00%
0255	Deltona	25	4	11	15	60.00%
0259	Debary	28	4	13	17	60.71%
0267	Ormond Beach	229	0	62	62	27.07%
0270	Port Orange	175	0	48	48	27.43%
0285	Edgewater	125	1	51	52	41.60%
0361	S Daytona	226	0	44	44	19.47%
TOTALS		1435	10	365	375	26.13%





**#RINGYOURBELL**

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Department of Florida

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