

The Liberty Bell

XIII ISSUE 04

NOVEMBER 2023



DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT DEE BELL

#RINGYOURBELL

This Month's Edition



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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.



Upcoming Events NOVEMBER 2023

- 04 Charity Golf Tournament, Unit 193
- 04 Christmas Bizarre, Unit 99
- 04 District 8: ABC Class
- 04 Female Veterans Appreciation Luncheon, Unit 14
- 04 Victory for Veterans, Unit 325
- 05 Daylight Saving Time Ends
- 07 Election Day
- 10 American Legion Auxiliary Birthday (1919)
- 10 US Marine Corps Birthday
- 10 Dept Headquarters Closed
- 11 Veterans Day
- 11 Armistice / Remembrance Day
- 12 District 5: Meeting
- 15 Bill of Rights Day
- 15 Liberty Bell Articles Due
- 16 Dept Headquarters Closed
- 17-19 Dept Fall Conference
- 23 Thanksgiving Day
- 23-24 Dept Headquarters Closed
- 28 #GivingTuesday

#ringyourbell

Want to submit an article
and/or photos to *The Liberty Bell* ? alaf1.org/submit
alaf1news@alaf1.org

President's Message

Dee Bell



Hello Clappers,

Welcome to Fall: crisp air, manatees look for warm water, holiday shopping begins, festive family meals, and our northern members, friends and guests start returning. Some are returning for the first time in 3 years. Ring your Bells celebrate and embrace them and their time and talents.

This is a very dark time for Jewish families and so many Floridians and Americans who love and stand with Israel. Continue to pray with the Jewish community, our Jewish members, friends and their families for strength and faith in the face of loss and suffering

ALA Mission Training will be held in the Southern Division February 3rd in Nashville, Tennessee. This unique learning opportunity is a chance to enjoy a day of smile and laughter while focusing on the ALA mission. They are fun, interactive and a break from the normal routine while serving our mission. This is also an amazing opportunity for our Junior members to learn about the ALA and gain leadership skills while having fun. They will interact with others singing songs, playing games and making crafts and learn about our programs. Therapy dogs and their handlers will talk about how canines assist veterans.

For members of the American Legion Auxiliary, everyday is Veterans Day. As ALA members ring their bell, we serve the mission and honor the service of the American hero through which we have our eligibility and all veterans. Special reverence and meaning is given on November 11 as we say "Thank You for your Service." **Are you an ALA member and a Vietnam Veteran?** Our Auxiliary magazine would love to hear from you. Email them at ALAMagazine2ALAforVeterans.org

than 2 million wreaths will be placed on veterans graves in local, national cemeteries and veterans' memorials. Wreath sponsorships must be received by November 28 to be guaranteed for delivery and placement on December 16. **Important note: Poppy funds may not be used for the purchase of wreaths!!** Check out the WAA website to learn about how they Remember the Fallen, Honor our military and teach our children and youth the value of freedom.

Fall Conference is November 17-19, 2023. Officer and Program Breakouts will be held on Friday beginning at 9:30 a.m. and continuing after lunch. **Don't miss: "Who you gonna call"** with Jane Hardacre, Michele DeGennaro and Mary Kelly Perkins. District Presidents will have the opportunity to present their boards to National President Lisa detailing how the Units incorporated "Bells in Service" and "Be the One" into their programs. Meet our National President Lisa Williamson on Friday evening. **Time Change General Session on Saturday will begin at 9 a.m.**

My official visits have begun. Thank you to District 4 President Janet Woods and the fabulous Units in the 4th District, you will always and forever be my first. Two Honor Guards of Bells, WOW. Delicious meals, great fellowship, luau, making Patriot Pillows and preparing lab robes for delivery, and honoring Gold Star families rounded out the weekend. It's as clear as a bell, District 14 President Nancy Casquarelli was amazing as we traveled from the Miami-Dade Military Museum, Units and restaurants, AutoZone & Pep Boys (bad battery and alternator) and Marathon for the "Think Pink Cancer Stinks" 1.8 mile walk. Due to the car problems I missed Homestead, I am so sorry. But, **I'll Be Back!!** 13th District President Jan Farrington and Units were wonderful and rang their bells loud and proud. A good time was had by all as we had Auxiliary Chick Chats, great food, inspiring members, and let's not forget Tutus for TaTas and Walk for Vets.

Bells IN SERVICE

December 16 is Wreaths Across America Day. More

The Liberty Bell

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Chaplain

RUTH BURGESS



My dear Sisters and Brothers in God:

*"Grace unto you, and peace, from God our Father..
2 Thessalonians 1:2 KJV*

Our dearly departed Sisters, by district:

Nancy Vetter, District 1
Renee R Jones, District 4
Patricia Avinger, District 5
Margaret Brock, District 6
Marian Ellis, District 6
Mary Lominac, District 6
Mrytle C Casey, District 6
Carol Mather, District 8
Linda Tyler, District 8
Pamela Wentling, District 8
Norma Hurley, District 9

Mary E Corrao, District 11
Elizabeth Terry, District 12
Deidia Coleman, District 12
Jacqueline Mitchell, District 12
Karen Livesay, District 13
Jacqueline R Chirmbar, District 13
Linda Dempster, District 15
Jean Young, District 16
Angie Roberts, District 17
Beth Foster, District 17

Historian

DARA OLIVER



Bells can symbolize beginnings and endings; a Call to Order, Healing or Divinity. Bells have played important roles in our American History, such as the ships bell on the Mayflower, The Liberty Bell, school bells or the ring at boxing events. There are bells on motorcycles, hand bell

choirs, bells on Fire trucks, Church Bells ring at weddings and how-a-bout: "need more Cowbell?" It is all how it's written and perceived. If your history is written well, then people aren't left to guess or assume what has happened.

Most people believe that History: is a collection of facts or information about the past. In reality, History is an account of what people recorded (documents, cultural artifacts or oral traditions) **at that time!** Something that I found interesting recently, was that you, (as a Historian) have an opportunity to write your History not **Re-Write** someone else's.

the story of your Unit or District, be honest and very detailed. Start with your President being sworn in, include: theme's, special projects, and the specifics of events that are being attended. It does not have to be about the travels of the President, the history can include any events that the Unit or District participates in. Write it in the 3rd person and if you are submitting it for an award make sure to follow the guidelines located in the History PEP (Programs Engagement Plan) for specific rules.

Also, remember submitting one event at a time, falls under Public Relations. P.R. includes Social Media, Newspapers, TV etc... so you can advertise, publicize and inform the public or other Auxiliary Units, what you are planning, doing or highlight an event. A history, is all those individual events put together, compiling the entire year together at the end of your term.

To get you enthused and excited about writing a history – You can submit a History Project with just **one member** and tell **their** story. Maybe select a Past

Remember that people are relying on you to tell

Continued on Page 5 >>

President or a Female Veteran. Dig deep into your Unit and find out their Auxiliary Experiences, why did they join? Who is their eligible member, tell specifics about what they did and why? How many years have they been a member and what is their favorite memory while being a member?

Or ... take it one step further - Here's another way to find out about History - Do you know who your Legion was named after? Do you know their specifics? What year did your Legion start and when was the building constructed? Who are your Charter members? Did the

Legion move or need to be rebuilt, because of a fire or natural disaster? Finding out the details might be very fulfilling and fun, and once it's written down – **History has been made!**

Let's all Celebrate at the **Festival of the Bells at Fall Conference November 17 – 19, 2023**. We will discuss, "How to write a Narrative and what is expected of the Unit/District Chairman." The two (2) Historian Break-out sessions are scheduled 11:15 am – 12:15 pm in Boniare-6 and again from 1 – 2 pm in Curacao-1. Please bring a pen & paper to write notes and any questions you may have regarding writing your History or submitting a report or book for award.

Auxiliary Emergency Fund

TRACY WENTZ



I want to first start off by saying it's an Honor to serve as your Auxiliary Emergency Fund (AEF) Department Chairman. The auxiliary emergency fund is here to help. We have two ways we can help. First is for a temporary hardship. There are criteria that need to be met. Does your unit

have a fund set up for membership emergencies that can help? In the case of a temporary hardship, we ask was your unit able to assist first. Then we proceed to the next step of the correct application. Once that application is filled out, that application along with proper documentation is sent to the financial board. Aef does Not pay out we help paying the vendor, example pay the electric, security deposit.

In the case of a Natural Disaster, for example Hurricane, Tornado, flooding we have two grants available to apply for. We have National, and Department. This fund was used immensely last year during Hurricane Ian. Great News from National they have increased the limit from 2,400.00 to 3,000.00 due to costs of inflation. In this case you can submit your applications with proper documentation. These funds are awarded to the applicant to cover emergency expenses. You can find the applications at www.legion-aux.org.

You can also find useful resources at www.alafl.org, go to programs and look under the Auxiliary Emergency

Fund Tab.

Our Department Madam Present Dee Bells special project is for The Auxiliary Disaster Relief Fund, that fund stays in the state of Florida. I look forward to seeing what the units are doing to help raise money for Madam's special project. Here is what some of the units are doing to help raise money.

South Lake Memorial Unit 55 in Clermont had a cake auction on 9/30/23 and raised over \$700 in about an hour.

Unit 24 in Bradenton Florida.....we have a container decorated in poppies sitting on the desk in the office for donations. We also have it on the Sgt At Arms table during meetings. We recently passed it at karaoke and generated \$183 that night AND we're partnering with our Post family in January by having a craft bazaar. All proceeds are going to AEF disaster recovery.

Unit 117 in Palm Bay hosts a show me the money every Tuesday afternoon. For two of those days, players could get a free card with a donation to AEF Disaster Relief. Each month at our GM meetings we have a 50/50 drawing and a donation basket collecting donations and both are for AEF.

Unit 136 Held a Bakeless Bake Letter to all Auxiliary members in our unit and has raised 5,430.00.

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District 15 will be using all proceeds from our Legions' Got Talent event!

Some ways you can raise funds

- 50/50
- Bake Sales
- Canisters Be the One to Give One
- Special Events

If you're having an event and would like me to be present, please feel free to email me at emergencyfund@alafll.org, I would love to attend if scheduling permits.

We never know when units will be affected. Hurricane Idalia affected some of our Northern Florida counties. We have units that we're raising funds that needed to

be used to help their members that needed help and were displaced.

You are all in our thoughts and prayers and we are here to help. It's important to also know if affected by a disaster you have 6 months from the date of the event to submit your application with proper documentation. Don't forget if you are sending donations to the AEF disaster relief fund to include your donation remittance forms, so your unit can get credit.

Just a friendly reminder that Friday November 17 through Sunday November 19 we have Fall Conference. We will have a class tentatively scheduled for Friday November 17, at 10:00 am and 1:00 pm, to go over the application process and to answer any questions you may have. I look forward to seeing you all there. #Helpisaringaway

Americanism

TAMMY ZELL



This month I would like to share information with you regarding three facets of our Americanism program: the Americanism Essay Contest, Star-Spangled Kids Program and the Spirit of Youth Scholarship Program. These are key activities within the Americanism Program

Engagement Plan that Unit Chairmen should be incorporating into their plans each and every year. As I spoke of at Workshop, and for those who were able to attend, these are the foundational ways for planting the seeds of patriotism within the youth in our communities.

At this point in the year, you should already be in contact with a teacher, school, or even school district if possible, so that Americanism projects can be incorporated into lesson plans. This year, our National President, Lisa Williamson, has selected the Americanism Essay Contest theme "What does Freedom mean to me". As you publicize this to the schools or other community organizations, be considerate of the instructor's time by providing thorough information.

You should distribute the required coversheet – partially pre-filled with your Unit's contact information along with providing a clear timeline of when the essays are due back to you, when and how notifications to the winners will be done, what will be awarded for National and Department winners (and the Unit if possible!), along with a brief explanation of what the ALA and the Americanism program are all about and how we support our communities, educators, and children & youth through a wide variety of programming beyond the Essay Contest. If you cannot make direct contact with a teacher or school and your Unit is willing to locally sponsor the contest, you can also promote it through your Unit's web and/or Facebook page and then have members share it from there on their own pages. Be sure to provide an email address where the essays can be sent!

As you are reading this, we are quickly approaching Veteran's Day. This is an advantageous time in which we should be reaching out to our schools, community centers, libraries, and other local organizations to promote Star-Spangled Kids. This is the ALA's initiative to educate our youth about U.S. history, Americanism,

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and the U.S. Constitution. Check with local schools and organizations to see if there is a Veteran's Day program already being held and if so, see if you can attend! Be prepared with fun facts about the constitution and flag to share with the children that are also there. Give them a small flag if they can recite the Pledge of Allegiance! Team up with your Unit Education chairman and bring a Veteran or Servicemember to a school to speak to the children about what Veteran's Day means to them. If you are presenting to a small group of children, bring along pocket copies of the U.S. Constitution, patriotic coloring book pages, or other red, white and blue swag to get the children excited about patriotism. There are many more ideas in the Americanism Program Engagement Plan available on the Department website at www.alafl.org. By your involvement with these youth and the excitement and enthusiasm that you display, you will create a memorable moment that the children will carry as a positive reinforcement of patriotism throughout their lives.

Another way to make a patriotic impact on our youth is to contribute to and promote the Spirit of Youth Scholarship Fund. This is a fantastic way to show appreciation and support to our own Junior members as they wrap up their senior year in high school and work to pursue higher education! There are specific membership requirements for this scholarship to keep in mind, such as having held a Junior membership for the past three consecutive years, as well as being a current member during the scholarship period, so be sure to consult the P.E.P. and the ALA National website for details. This year, National Headquarters will be awarding a \$1000 scholarship to a Junior member in each Department. From those recipients, five winners – one from each division – will be awarded a \$5000

scholarship! Be sure to start promoting this opportunity to your Juniors now, as the deadline for applications to be submitted to the local ALA Unit president is on or before March 1st!

Please keep in mind, this scholarship, as well as other types awarded through the ALA are not possible without OUR support. While working your Americanism, Children & Youth, Education, or any other program, consider ways to raise funds to donate to the Spirit of Youth Scholarship fund. Our Juniors are a key component to continuing the American Legion Auxiliary into the future, and what a better way to support that than to ease the financial load while they pursue their higher education goals.

As we continue through the rest of the 2023-24 programming year, please don't forget to provide your support to the American Legion programs such as the Oratorical Contest, Junior Shooting Sports, and Legion Baseball. These programs should already be well into the planning process so be sure to contact your Post, District or Department right away to see how you can help these programs achieve another year of success. There is still so much to do this year and the days keep rolling by. There is no time like the present to renew your commitment to the American Legion Family programs, get involved and "Promote Overwhelming Patriotism". Your efforts in planting the seeds of patriotism in our youth and communities now will be well worth it in the future!

#ringyourbell #popamericanism #alaflamericanism



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Leadership

EILEEN WILSON



Hi, I hope you had a Spooktacular Halloween. I hope everyone has learned at least 1 new thing, as we enter our 5th month of our 2023-2024 Auxiliary year. Schools of Instruction have been completed and even some District ABC Schools. Here is a

list of the upcoming District ABC Schools (please make sure that the details are posted in the Department calendars):

- 2 TBD
- 3 TBD
- 4 2/10/24 Unit 230, Hawthorne 4 3/09/24 Unit 155, Crystal River 6 TBD
- 7 1/06/24 Unit 8, Winter Haven 8 11/4/23 Unit 25, Lake Placid 9 12/2/24 waiting confirmation 13 TBD
- 14 TBD
- 16 1/20/24 Unit 252, Seminole 17 TBD
- So far Districts 1, 5, 11, 12 and 15 have held ABC Schools, which have been well attended and well received.

Do not forget to make your reservations and attend Fall Conference Nov 17-19th, being held at the Royal Caribe

Hotel, in Orlando. Be sure to take this opportunity to attend the available classes being offered. You can click the link on the Department website (ALAFL.ORG) for the tentative agenda. If you are interested in becoming an ABC school instructor, and willing to attend an ABC school orientation, then please stop by the Leadership class and sign – up.

Have you looked through the long list of available on-line training classes offered on our National Auxiliary website? Many of these classes offer certificates of completion. Start your collection today.

And finally, I would like to offer the members a chance to take the Senior leadership course. It can be done either at your District or Unit meeting or hold a special event. It would take about 1 and ½ hours to complete (as a group) and you will receive personal acknowledgement from National (if you pass). Please contact me if interested or sign the sign-up sheet in the leadership class at Fall Conference. And don't forget #ringyourbell

"Work for a cause, Not for applause

Live to express, Not to Impress

Don't strive to make your presence noticed, Just make your absence felt" American Legion Auxiliary

Membership

LISA HOYLAND



Hello Clappers!

We are on a roll! The Department of Florida is over 40% as of 10/11/23 national report.

Congratulations to the Units that have reached their 100%

Membership Goal! Unit 418 Spring Hill - 260%, Unit 287 Deerfield Beach- 105.88%, Unit 100 Marianna – 100%, Unit 255,

Deltona – 100%! We also have over 50 Units that

have reached the 50% Membership Goal. There are a few units behind them that just need 1 member each to meet these goals!

Our next membership goal is December Bells.

Department goal of 75% by December 1. Let's Keep Ringing those Bells for Membership so that we can meet this department goal.

Our next Department Award

This award is fast approaching and will be awarded at this month's Fall Conference. A special gift will be given to the Unit President and Unit Membership

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chairman in each membership grouping with the highest percentage received by Department and processed the week prior to Department Fall Conference.

Update on District Challenges (as of 10/13/23 Friday report)

District 11 Bicycle Bells (56.26) is in the lead over District 1 Biker Bells (42.51), District 2 School Bells (46.20) is in the lead over District 14 Hand Bells (26.19), District 7 Crystal Bells (45.05) is in the lead over District 3 Dinner Bells (32.83), District 4 Church Bells (49.22) is in the lead over District 9 Door Bells (41.30), District 8 Desk Bells (44.53) is in the lead over District 5 Ship Bells (40.74), District 6 Wedding Bells (52.36) is in the lead over District 12 Patriotic Bells (46.60) District 13 Brass Bells (40.07) is in the lead over District 16 Jingle Bells (35.29), District 15 Cow

Bells (47.37) is in the lead over District 17 Garden Bells (42.68).

As we move into the Holiday season, I hope everyone has a wonderful Thanksgiving. I want to personally say "Thank You" to each of our members for your membership in our great organization.

This is also a great time to renew a friend or family member's membership. Gift Membership. Not only would you be renewing and giving them another year of membership, but this would be a gift that can really be appreciated and has many benefits. Find member benefits online at www.legion-aux.org (go to Resources > Member Benefits).

Please remember to.... **"Just Ask"** as we all can reach one new potential member this year!

Public Relations

VIRNA LUKE



Greetings Bellwethers and Bells in Service, welcome to November, we have a lot this month including Fall Conference, I look forward to seeing you all, take advantage of the classes available, split your tribe, so you can share with each other. To view the Call To Conference go to alafl.org/fall-conference.

I hope you have your tickets for the 2023 Fall Conference Dinner, Murder Mystery, interactive game! If not? Tickets available online alaflstore.org and while you're there check out all the NEW items!

I enjoy reading the ALA Blog online legion-aux.org/Blog, there is always something new to learn, inspire, share, and use when planning your events related to Auxiliary Programs. There was a great article published on September 27 "Ideas to get your community involved in Veterans Day events." Another recent article is "Volunteer and honor those who served during Wreaths Across America Day," "if you were not aware, at 102nd American Legion Auxiliary National Convention (Aug. 29, 2023), the ALA and Wreaths Across America signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), check these great articles out!

Charlotte Purdy (Southern Division Public Relations Chairman) shared some great information in her newsletter, visit (like and follow) Facebook Page **ALAFL Public Relations** and check the "Files" tab. Here's a tip "Think about this, as you are bagging up food to pass out, and place fliers on the boxes. You can put information about your calendar, how you helped veterans and their families this month, and put the family membership applications in each box." - Purdy

Talking about flyers and sharing, create those event pages, (make it public) and send your friends invites, share it on ALAFL Public Relations, swip swap events pages, community social media pages, send it to your local paper, there are even radio stations that have events tabs on their website, free to use.

Visit the Media Templates page on the ALA National page to plan out your year of service, legion-aux.org/Member/Resources/Media-Templates. The American Legion Family has new brand marks, for guidelines and files, visit legion.org/brand. From Mary Kelly Perkins (Department Secretary) Thank you to all the Units who have followed the procedure for Emblem Usage. At the present time we

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are getting approvals from National within 3 to 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.

Reminder, when sharing pictures to social media or writing an article, include...Who? What? Where? When? Why? How? Tell them your story. If the platform allows tag @alauxflorida, @alaforveterans, and #RingYourBell #BellsInService

Veterans Affairs

ROBIN BURK



With Veterans Day approaching, what better time is there to start or enhance our efforts in helping our Veterans and their families!

In my last communique, I stressed focusing our attention not only to patients and residents of our VA hospitals and nursing homes,

but also to provide services to Veterans at local nursing homes and assisted care facilities. Now, I would like to stress how we can help those close to home, our Veteran neighbors!

Every neighborhood has Veterans and spouses of Veterans. I'm not merely speaking about the elderly. We have young Veterans who can surely benefit from our attention as well.

First, do you know of any Veterans in your immediate area? If you do, I encourage you to establish or reestablish a casual connection with them. Introduce yourself, particularly, to the new Veterans. How do you do this? Start by scouting out who flies the flag at their home. Do they decorate their homes on patriotic holidays? Veterans and their families usually do this. If there is a local Veterans club in your neighborhood, ask if you can attend their monthly meeting and explain your goal as an ALA member.

When you knock on your neighbor's door, you might want to make sure that they know you are not selling anything, but rather offering to help them. Introduce yourself as an American Legion Auxiliary member.

Mention our mission statement - to help Veterans and

their families. Ask if they would like to sit on the front porch and "talk a spell" (get acquainted). Then, offer what you can do to help them. Be sure to offer help before "doing". Get their OK first.

Here is a brief list of things that take little time and effort:

- Bring in their mail and /or newspaper to the stoop
- Bring in the trash barrel and recycle bins.
- Rake the yard.
- Wash the car.
- Offer a ride to the store, especially if you are already going there. Make it an outing: Stop for ice cream cones on the way home!
- Return library books.
- Decorate for the holidays. Make it fun with cookies and hot chocolate! Don't forget to take them down after the holiday.
- If they do not have a flag, offer to provide one.
- Your Unit may be able to provide the flag. Ask your Americanism Chairman to get involved here. Ask the Riders to stop by and put up the hanger!

Many of the elderly and disabled have limited mobility. They may not drive anymore due to vision issues.

Here are some chores that could help with their limitations:

- Help them write a letter or send a card to a loved one or friend.
- Put items away on the top shelves that they can no longer reach – this reduces clutter!
- Iron some shirts.

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- Change the sheets.
- Throw a load of wash in.
- Drop off a casserole – ask about dietary restrictions and abide by them.

Here is a small task that will provide some lasting help: Prepare a list of resources with phone numbers for needed services around the house:

- Cable provider
- Electrician
- Plumber
- Phone Company
- Someone to put up hurricane shutters
- Power washer

- Garbage collection service
- Homeowners Association contact
- Gardener

Type the list on heavy paper, so it will last. It can be taped to the fridge. Please use large type.

I know it is difficult for some of us to meet new folks or reach out. But believe me, the rewards of doing so far out-weigh the effort. You will be making a Veteran and/or their spouse feel recognized, that they matter, and you will feel the reward!

Thanks, members, for all you do for our Veterans and their families!

Districts and Units

DISTRICT 4

District 4 - District 4 was honored to host President Dee for her district visit Sept 22-24, 2023. Units joined together to ring their bells and welcome her to the 4th District! A huge thanks to all the units! Submitted by: Janet Woods



Districts and Units

DISTRICT 17

District 17 - ALA Unit 285 Edgewater had a fog parade in conjunction with the Edgewater Animal Shelter to raise funds for the upkeep of the animals. Cathy and Dee manned the raffle tables. Auxiliary members Mary Ann with her previous entered the parade. Cmdr Kevin with his side kick also paraded around the Legion. *Submitted by: Eleanor Amato*



UNIT 62

Unit 62 - On September 16 Southeast Florida Honor Flight took their third flight of the year. Auxiliary member Jamie Schoonover was Guardian to a Vietnam Air Force Veteran. It was a beautiful another beautiful event that made lifelong friendships and memories.

Submitted by: Jamie Schoonover

Unit 62 - Dist 11 Unit 62 At their monthly meeting 45 members of the auxiliary met and discussed many topics on how they can help their community during the upcoming holidays.

Monies will be donated to make Thanksgiving baskets that will include an entire dinner including Turkey. Plans were finalized for Wreaths Across America and NancyAnn Taylor modeled her "PJs" that she will wear in the bed races. *Submitted by: Jamie Schoonover*



UNIT 138

Unit 138 - During the POW/MIA Day ceremony on September 15, Unit 138 announced their new endeavor to support the Never Forget Our Veterans Foundation in their efforts to find the remains of not only POW/MIAs in general, but specifically of Post 138's namesake, Hugh Gilbert "Buddy" Strickland, who's remains were never recovered after WWII. The Unit has committed to raise awareness and funds through various future events that will be donated to NFOVF for an upcoming trip to Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, where they have mapped the coordinates provided by the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA), which had been recorded at the time of his death during a battle on the island in 1942, as well as other efforts to identify remains discovered during this and future trips. *Submitted by: Tammy Zell*



BRING BUDDY HOME





ALA Unit 138 has begun working with Never Forget Our Veterans Foundation in an effort to bring home the remains of our Post namesake, Hugh Gilbert "Buddy" Strickland, who was killed at Guadalcanal in WWII and never able to be brought home.

Please consider donating to this effort as we work to not only put a spotlight on Buddy's plight, but to also honor all those who gave the ultimate sacrifice and never made it home.

Watch for events and activities over the coming months that we welcome everyone to come and support.

#ringyourbell #bringbuddyhome #alaunit138

BRING BUDDY HOME





AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 138

Using the camera on your cellphone, simply aim at the code above and then click on the website that will appear on your screen.

All donations will be dedicated ALA Unit 138's efforts to bring Hugh Gilbert "Buddy" Strickland home.

#ringyourbell #bringbuddyhome #alaunit138

UNIT 271

Unit 271 - As a way of continuing support of our local veterans, Rood-Williams Unit 271 Tequesta, Florida recently made a large donation to Semper FI Service Dogs. Semper FI is a non-fit organization that trains service dogs for veterans with disabilities, including PTSD issues. Their moto is "No Vet Left Behind". Semper FI owner and trainer Ryan Onda and Vice President & Veteran Liaison Johnathon Musgrave, together with Amanda Onda, brought two service dogs in training to our monthly meeting and explained the process pairing dogs with the right veterans, as well as explaining some of the specialized training the dogs receive for various needs. Photo: Ryan and Amanda Onda and Vice President Johnathon Musgrave with Unit President Sharon Hammer. *Submitted by: Alice Odaffer*



Districts and Units

UNIT 283

Unit 283 - Gold Star Mother and Family Brunch

On Sunday, September 24, 2023 a Gold Star Mother and family Brunch was held at the VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena in Jacksonville Florida. The brunch was held in the Duval room at the arena and had over 120 in attendance. The event was co-chaired by Auxiliary Unit 283 and First Coast Blue Star Mothers Florida Chapter 15.

Upon entering the venue, the families walked through a flag line that had members of the American Legion riders, Patriot Guard Riders as well as Rolling Thunder motorcycle riders. They held flags and saluted the families showing their respect.

There were 30 Gold Star families in attendance and of those families, 20 Mothers, and 3 Gold Star Children, received a Gold Star Banner that they had not gotten in the past. Each Mother in attendance was given a beautiful wrist corsage before being escorted to their seats by Women Army Corp Volunteers. All 5 of these military veterans are also members of Auxiliary Unit 283, Auxiliary unit 9 and or an American Legion Post.

Before the ceremony started, 5th District President, Julie Kay, and 5th District Junior, Mea Kay, did the POW/MIA ceremony. After which the Baldwin Middle High School ROTC presented the colors, and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The opening prayer was given by Former 5th District President Nancy Chandler.

Welcoming words were given by Auxiliary Unit 283 President, Kam Sons, as well as First Coast Blue Star Mothers President, Junnie Watson. Rich Possert, the Emcee is also a veteran and a member of the DAV and VFW. Mr. Possert introduced honored guests in attendance; he also spoke of a Gold Star Family member of his own and in his younger days did not know the whole reason behind it. He did not really learn until he joined the military himself and lost friends

The City of Jacksonville Veterans Affairs chairman, Harrison Conyers read the Gold Star Mothers and family proclamation, and spoke about his respect for the Blue and Gold Star Families.

Florida House of Representatives, Congressman, Aaron

Bean was unable to attend and sent his aide to deliver and read the speech he had given in front of the house about Gold Star Families and the Gold Star Mothers and Family day. A copy of the speech was given to each Gold Star Family that requested it.

As each Mother was called to the front to receive their banner, the name of their child was read also. As Presidents Kam Sons and Junnie Watson handed each banner to the Mothers, they had their picture taken holding the banner. Rich Possert Saluted as each child's name was read.

Two News channels came to cover the event, interviewing the Mothers who gave their permission. Each family brought a photo and a small write up about their child for the table of honor so a name, face and a small bio would let us learn a little more about each child. News4Jax and First Coast News had the interviews and videos up on their websites that day and they spoke about the event and showed video on the Sunday evening news as well as he Monday morning news cast.

After the closing prayer, and the blessing of the meal by Nancy Chandler, those in attendance were treated to a wonderful brunch. Everyone walked around and met and spoke to those in attendance.

I would like to personally thank everyone who attended and helped with putting this event together. Auxiliary Unit 283, Legion Post 283, First Coast Blue Star Mothers, 5th District current and past Presidents, Women Army Corp, Navy Wives club, Army Survivor Outreach Keith Hamm, and Lori Culberson, Navy and Marine Survivor Outreach, Kenneth Moreland, Baldwin Middle High ROTC, Congressman Aaron Bean, Harrison Conyers, VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena as well as their great staff for the beautiful room décor and the food.

Submitted by: Sue Reynolds





UNIT 291

Unit 291 - On October 7, 2023 the American Legion Auxiliary set up at the Steinhatchee Deadman Bay Marina and sold tickets for their grill, booze basket and bar-b-que basket. President Jane Feber was able to get the grill donated and donations from members filled the baskets. A total of \$1,600.00 was raised. From left to right is Jane Feber, President, Marci Cantrell and Karen Tidwell *Submitted by: Karen Tidwell*





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Membership Reports

OCTOBER 27, 2023

DISTRICT 1

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0075	Crestview	213	0	80	80	37.56%
0193	Pensacola	78	10	27	37	47.44%
0221	Niceville	127	0	69	69	54.33%
0235	Ft Walton Beach	131	1	74	75	57.25%
0240	Pensacola	254	4	129	133	52.36%
0296	Destin	74	0	54	54	72.97%
0340	Pensacola	338	7	201	208	61.54%
0356	Lynn Haven	136	0	59	59	43.38%
0375	Southport	55	2	20	22	40.00%
0378	Gulf Breeze	44	0	39	39	88.64%
0382	Navarre	171	2	89	91	53.22%
0392	Panama City	175	0	86	86	49.14%
0402	Panama City Beach	41	1	30	31	75.61%
TOTALS		1837	27	967	994	54.11%

DISTRICT 3

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0049	Monticello	28	0	20	20	71.43%
0057	Lake City	223	2	102	104	46.64%
0107	Live Oak	55	1	32	33	60.00%
0215	Jasper	35	2	17	19	54.29%
0224	Madison	50	0	28	28	56.00%
0291	Steinhatchee	200	2	83	85	42.50%
0383	Old Town	134	1	43	44	32.84%
TOTALS		725	8	325	333	45.93%

DISTRICT 2

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0013	Tallahassee	78	2	47	49	62.82%
0082	Lanark	67	1	37	38	56.72%
0084	Havana	30	4	6	10	33.33%
0100	Marianna	32	4	29	33	103.13%
0217	Quincy	50	2	20	22	44.00%
0241	Sneads	72	13	35	48	66.67%
TOTALS		329	26	174	200	60.79%

DISTRICT 4

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0016	Gainesville	26	0	18	18	69.23%
0027	Ocala	20	1	12	13	65.00%
0058	Dunnellon	29	0	14	14	48.28%
0077	Inverness	68	1	50	51	75.00%
0149	Newberry	31	3	20	23	74.19%
0155	Crystal River	344	3	210	213	61.92%
0166	Homosassa Springs	146	2	110	112	76.71%
0230	Hawthorne	32	2	28	30	93.75%
0236	Bronson	47	0	16	16	34.04%
0237	Beverly Hills	202	0	89	89	44.06%
0284	Bellevue	77	2	40	42	54.55%
TOTALS		1022	14	619	633	61.94%

DISTRICT 5						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0009	Jacksonville	68	2	29	31	45.59%
0054	Fernandina Beach	166	2	126	128	77.11%
0088	Jacksonville	77	1	33	34	44.16%
0129	Jacksonville Beach	359	9	222	231	64.35%
0137	Jacksonville	424	12	223	235	55.42%
0194	St Augustine	69	3	21	24	34.78%
0197	Jacksonville	44	0	2	2	4.55%
0202	Keystone Heights	73	0	44	44	60.27%
0233	Ponte Vedra Beach	176	18	73	91	51.70%
0244	Jacksonville	33	1	8	9	27.27%
0250	Middleburg	310	20	133	153	49.35%
0283	Jacksonville	460	6	225	231	50.22%
0316	Atlantic Beach	370	36	104	140	37.84%
0372	Mandarin	29	0	28	28	96.55%
0373	Orange Park	32	0	10	10	31.25%
0401	Hilliard	49	0	5	5	10.20%
TOTALS		2739	110	1286	1396	50.97%

DISTRICT 7						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0003	Bartow	78	0	31	31	39.74%
0004	Lakeland	63	0	27	27	42.86%
0008	Winter Haven	601	14	407	421	70.05%
0015	Dade City	22	0	13	13	59.09%
0034	Haines City	78	0	23	23	29.49%
0071	Lake Wales	48	0	17	17	35.42%
0072	Mulberry	166	0	11	11	6.63%
0201	Florence Villa	25	0	0	0	0.00%
TOTALS		1081	14	529	543	50.23%

DISTRICT 6						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0010	Kissimmee	206	0	100	100	48.54%
0018	Wildwood	21	0	11	11	52.38%
0019	Orlando	109	2	46	48	44.04%
0035	Mount Dora	147	0	66	66	44.90%
0041	Eustis	14	0	1	1	7.14%
0055	Clermont	215	1	115	116	53.95%
0063	Winter Garden	35	0	8	8	22.86%
0080	Saint Cloud	264	15	129	144	54.55%
0101	Bushnell	112	0	30	30	26.79%
0109	Ocoee	13	0	0	0	0.00%
0112	Winter Park	26	2	19	21	80.77%
0183	Fern Park	121	0	59	59	48.76%
0219	Fruitland Park	206	1	135	136	66.02%
0239	Groveland	11	0	6	6	54.55%
0242	Orlando	109	8	44	52	47.71%
0286	Orlando	171	5	90	95	55.56%
0330	Leesburg	69	2	33	35	50.72%
0331	Orlando	14	0	12	12	85.71%
0347	Lady Lake	2563	9	1725	1734	67.66%
0412	Orlando	14	0	1	1	7.14%
TOTALS		4440	45	2630	2675	60.25%

DISTRICT 8						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0011	Arcadia	36	0	1	1	2.78%
0024	Bradenton	333	0	191	191	57.36%
0025	Lake Placid	395	0	284	284	71.90%
0030	Sarasota	82	4	41	45	54.88%
0069	Avon Park	720	3	455	458	63.61%
0074	Sebring	132	0	65	65	49.24%
0113	Rotonda West	308	0	164	164	53.25%
0159	Venice	711	0	336	336	47.26%
0254	North Port	119	0	73	73	61.34%
0266	Fruitville	159	2	88	90	56.60%
0309	Palmetto	177	0	120	120	67.80%
0312	Oneco	199	0	21	21	10.55%
0325	Ellenton	200	0	94	94	47.00%
TOTALS		3571	9	1933	1942	54.38%

DISTRICT 9

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0092	Hollywood	98	0	42	42	42.86%
0142	Pompano Beach	186	7	98	105	56.45%
0157	Margate	171	0	80	80	46.78%
0162	Deerfield Beach	172	13	65	78	45.35%
0180	Fort Lauderdale	112	0	42	42	37.50%
0209	Dania Beach	18	0	8	8	44.44%
0220	Ft Lauderdale	28	7	16	23	82.14%
0222	Fort Lauderdale	32	0	19	19	59.38%
0287	Deerfield Beach	17	0	18	18	105.88%
0304	Dania	52	0	30	30	57.69%
0310	Hallandale	25	1	17	18	72.00%
0321	Cooper City	230	2	130	132	57.39%
0365	Sunrise	14	2	8	10	71.43%
Total		1155	34	580	614	53.16%

DISTRICT 11

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0020	Belle Glade	40	2	30	32	80.00%
0047	Lake Worth	75	1	61	62	82.67%
0062	Stuart	548	5	433	438	79.93%
0064	Okeechobee	116	0	13	13	11.21%
0065	Delray Beach	58	7	39	46	79.31%
0141	West Palm Beach	73	2	34	36	49.32%
0164	Boynton Beach	150	5	84	89	59.33%
0199	W Palm Beach	38	0	21	21	55.26%
0268	Riviera Beach	85	3	46	49	57.65%
0271	Tequesta	158	8	129	137	86.71%
0277	Boca Raton	111	0	77	77	69.37%
0288	Boynton Beach	22	0	0	0	0.00%
0367	Royal Palm Beach	28	2	18	20	71.43%
TOTALS		1502	35	985	1020	67.91%

DISTRICT 12

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0001	Titusville	277	8	126	134	48.38%
0022	Cocoa	106	0	56	56	52.83%
0039	Vero Beach	207	1	89	90	43.48%
0040	Fort Pierce	185	3	122	125	67.57%
0081	Melbourne	172	2	122	124	72.09%
0117	Palm Bay	514	8	322	330	64.20%
0126	Jensen Beach	195	0	13	13	6.67%
0163	Eau Gallie	220	6	149	155	70.45%
0189	Sebastian	159	0	122	122	76.73%
0191	Melbourne	81	0	10	10	12.35%
0200	Satellite Beach	171	9	65	74	43.27%
0318	Port St Lucie	1154	1	729	730	63.26%
0344	Merritt Island	47	1	16	17	36.17%
0348	Cape Canaveral	211	0	126	126	59.72%
0358	White City	69	0	30	30	43.48%
0359	Port St John	358	2	184	186	51.96%
0366	Barefoot Bay	69	4	36	40	57.97%
0394	Palm Bay	208	0	153	153	73.56%
0394	Palm Bay	208	0	45	45	21.63%
TOTALS		4403	45	2470	2515	57.12%

DISTRICT 13

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0038	Fort Myers	37	0	19	19	51.35%
0090	Cape Coral	287	5	202	207	72.13%
0103	Punta Gorda	649	1	429	430	66.26%
0110	Port Charlotte	635	3	297	300	47.24%
0123	Sanibel	41	0	11	11	26.83%
0130	Labelle	152	0	44	44	28.95%
0135	Naples	367	0	184	184	50.14%
0136	Saint James City	516	1	276	277	53.68%
0192	Fort Myers	21	0	13	13	61.90%
0274	Fort Myers Beach	544	0	127	127	23.35%
0303	Bonita Springs	425	10	261	271	63.76%
0323	Lehigh Acres	409	29	211	240	58.68%
0336	N Ft Myers	440	0	288	288	65.45%
0351	Fort Myers	104	1	40	41	39.42%
0415	Punta Gorda	10	0	15	15	150.00%
TOTALS		4637	50	2417	2467	53.20%

DISTRICT 14						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0028	Key West	57	0	19	19	33.33%
0031	South Miami	171	2	54	56	32.75%
0043	Homestead	57	0	4	4	7.02%
0067	North Miami	42	0	16	16	38.10%
0098	Coral Gables	16	0	5	5	31.25%
0133	Miami	63	3	28	31	49.21%
0154	Marathon	146	1	68	69	47.26%
0168	Key West	23	0	7	7	30.43%
0333	Key Largo	78	0	29	29	37.18%
0346	Miami	19	0	7	7	36.84%
0374	Key Biscayne	42	0	18	18	42.86%
TOTALS		714	6	255	261	36.55%

DISTRICT 16						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0007	Clearwater	249	0	107	107	42.97%
0014	St Petersburg	117	1	71	72	61.54%
0046	Tarpon Springs	10	0	3	3	30.00%
0079	New Port Richey	458	9	226	235	51.31%
0104	Pinellas Park	255	5	190	195	76.47%
0119	Largo	360	4	184	188	52.22%
0125	St Petersburg	297	23	144	167	56.23%
0158	Treasure Island	256	0	53	53	20.70%
0173	Holiday	259	1	164	165	63.71%
0238	Safety Harbor	314	5	206	211	67.20%
0252	Seminole	1065	3	611	614	57.65%
0273	Madeira Beach	3428	0	1519	1519	44.31%
0275	Dunedin	981	0	594	594	60.55%
0305	St Pete Beach	150	0	88	88	58.67%
0335	Hudson	96	5	44	49	51.04%
TOTALS		8295	56	4204	4260	51.36%

DISTRICT 15						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0005	Tampa	38	0	6	6	15.79%
0099	Brooksville	21	1	17	18	85.71%
0108	Land O' Lakes	10	0	13	13	130.00%
0111	Tampa	54	0	20	20	37.04%
0138	Tampa	483	9	372	381	78.88%
0139	Tampa	58	0	47	47	81.03%
0147	Odessa	44	0	14	14	31.82%
0148	Riverview	209	3	132	135	64.59%
0152	Tampa	250	7	145	152	60.80%
0167	Tampa	16	0	0	0	0.00%
0186	Brooksville	369	0	180	180	48.78%
0248	West Tampa	15	1	11	12	80.00%
0418	Spring Hill	10	1	26	27	270.00%
TOTALS		1577	22	983	1005	63.73%

DISTRICT 17						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0006	Deland	104	0	31	31	29.81%
0017	New Smyrna Beach	212	0	67	67	31.60%
0045	Palatka	31	0	17	17	54.84%
0115	Palm Coast	40	0	14	14	35.00%
0120	Holly Hill	216	1	122	123	56.94%
0127	Lake Helen	24	0	5	5	20.83%
0255	Deltona	25	7	18	25	100.00%
0259	Debary	28	6	16	22	78.57%
0267	Ormond Beach	229	0	120	120	52.40%
0270	Port Orange	175	0	132	132	75.43%
0285	Edgewater	125	1	90	91	72.80%
0361	S Daytona	226	0	122	122	53.98%
TOTALS		1435	15	754	769	53.59%



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