

# *The Liberty Bell*

XIII ISSUE 05

DECEMBER 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.



# #ringyourbell

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

[alaf.org/submit](https://alaf.org/submit)

## Upcoming Events DECEMBER 2023

- 30-03 Dept President visits District 16
- 01 U.S. Civil Air Patrol Birthday
- 01 Unit 14: Jingle & Mingle
- 01 Purse Auction Fundraiser (Leading Candidate)
- 02 District 15: Meeting
- 02 District 9: ABC School, Unit 222
- 02 District 8: Meeting
- 03 Dept President's Jingle Bell Rock Dinner
- 07 Pearl Harbor Day (1941)
- 07-15 Hanukkah
- 09 District 12: Meeting
- 09 District 6: Quarterly Meeting
- 10 District 5: Meeting
- 13 U.S. National Guard Birthday
- 15 Bill of Rights Day
- 15 Liberty Bell Articles Due
- 16 Wreaths Across America
- 20 Panama "Operation Just Cause" (1989)
- 20 U.S. Space Force Birthday
- 21 First Day of Winter
- 25 Christmas Day
- 22-01 Department Headquarters Closed
- 26 Boxing Day
- 26 Kwanzaa
- 31 New Year's Eve

# President's Message

Dee Bell



Dear Valued Members,

Why does your membership count? Whether from a small town or a big city, Florida members join together to support our mission. With our common goal in mind, (our veterans, military and their families) we develop new friendships

and renew old ones. We mentor and enhance leadership skills while working our programs. We honor our veteran family members and advocate for all those who have fought for our freedoms.

ALA Southern Division Mission Training is in Nashville, Tennessee on February 3, 2024. This is a wonderful learning opportunity for new and seasoned members. Members will renew their passion, gain creative ideas and learn new mission related activities to incorporate into your Unit programs.

Thank you very much to everyone who attended Fall Conference. It was a pleasure and honor to have our National President Lisa Williamson visit the "Sunshine State." With the help of the Units, the District Presidents boards demonstrated how the Units are Being the One. Supporting our veterans and raising awareness about veteran suicide and destigmatizing asking for help. The Belle of the Ball Lisa Hoyland and the 16 District had their "Bells On" for a fabulous membership parade. Keep Ringing in those renewals. Thank you to the Auxiliary podium presenters and guests for the incredible information given to elevate our volunteering in our communities. Thank You to our dedicated Department Officers, our amazing office staff and volunteers, and to my mentors, advisors and friends Michele DeGennaro, Mary Kelly Perkins and Jane Hardacre for the support, development and production of an amazing weekend.

The holidays are a tough time for anyone, especially those veterans struggling with mental instability, homelessness, loneliness, addiction, health problems, P.T.S.D., or unemployment.

How You can Be the One?

**Some suggestions To our Veterans:** Talk with fellow veterans about how they or you are feeling. Ask for help when you think you need it. Know that there are people who can help. You family, friends and the American Legion Family cares.

**Some suggestions To our non-veterans:** Ask veteran family or friends how they are doing. Listen when a veteran needs to talk. Reach out for help when a veteran is struggling.

**For help call 988, veteran suicide hotline, counselors are available 24/7.**

Thank You to 12th District President Char Kinlen for a wonderful visit. Meeting the members from 318 Pt. St. Lucie, 358 White City, 40 Fort Pierce and 126 Jensen Beach and having lunch and round table discussion was great. The WWII veterans enjoyed talking and receiving their blankets. The ladies from small but mighty Barefoot Bay 336 made delicious homemade cookies and punch. The Commander prepared a fabulous New Orleans style jambalaya for the many 117 Palm Bay Auxiliary members in attendance. So nice to meet new friends and see old ones. Celebrating and honoring our First Responders, Units 348 Cape Canaveral and 344 Merritt Island stuffed goodie bags which we delivered to a local fire station after a wonderful lunch. After hearing about how Unit 1 Titusville is active in their community we went to a local nursing home a distributed goodie bags for Halloween. Members know how to have fun at Unit 22 Titusville with members dressed to the nines for a Halloween party. Thank you to the Sons 189 and Auxiliary of Unit 189 Sebastian for a eye-opening breakfast joined by Unit 39 Vero Beach. So nice to visit Melbourne Unit 81 for the first time, continue decorating your mission tree. Thank You to the members from 394 Palm Bay and the members that joined us to visit the Liberty Bell Museum. If you have not experienced the museum, you are missing out on a wonderful military education. Find out how you can become a member of the Ding Dong Club. I am!!

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### New ALA Academy course being offered.

Understanding the difference between National Security and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. Led by Pam Ray VA&R chairman and Anne Rehbein National Security Chairman. This 30 minute informative webinar will be held December 7 and will examine the differences and similarities between the two programs.

I wish everyone a Happy Holiday and a Blessed Season with your friends and family. Let's make 2024 a great New Year.

Thank You for your SERVICE!

*Bells* IN SERVICE

## Chaplain RUTH BURGESS



My dear Sisters and Brothers in God:

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

**Dear Departed Sisters of the Auxiliary, may you rest in peace, in God's hands...**

Joyce Mears, District 1 - Unit 382  
Linda Carlton, District 4 - Unit 155  
Marjorie McGarva, District 4 - Unit 236  
Sally Bedford, District 5 - Unit 129  
Judy Morris, District 5 - Unit 202  
Angela Kees, District 5 - Unit 233  
Carole Cseplo, District 6 - Unit 347  
Mary F Hildebrant, District 6 - Unit 19  
Melissa Wills, District 6 - Unit 347  
Roberta L Ryan, District 6 - Unit 219  
Doris Reed, District 6 - Unit 347  
Yvonne Hojdacki, District 6 - Unit 347  
Ruth Hart, District 8 - Unit 113  
Mary Underwood, District 8 - Unit 309  
Kimberlyn Thomas, District 8 - Unit 309

Carolyn Koehnen, District 8 - Unit 24  
Barbara A Cochran, District 11 - Unit 64  
Donna Logan, District 11 - Unit 277  
Mary King, District 12 - Unit 348  
Sally Bourff, District 13 - Unit 336  
Diane Strain-Evans, District 14 - Unit 154  
Hattie Baez, District 15 - Unit 111  
Dona J Hathaway, District 15 - Unit 111  
Imogene Hernadez, District 15 - Unit 111  
Clare Krause, District 16 - Unit 79  
Gladys Hayens, District 16 - Unit 79  
Karen Tucker-Olson, District 16 - Unit 79  
Justine Motte, District 16 - Unit 104  
Marion Welsh, District 16 - Unit 173  
Barbara Wragg, District 17 - Unit 120



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**How to Write a History Narrative and What is Expected of the Unit or District Historian~**

The later question, is easier to answer. As your Unit or District Historian, it is your responsibility to log what your group has done for this year. A written or pictorial history is Not Only the activities of the President, but also what your group has been doing throughout the entire year. Your history should start at the beginning of your year, (when your President was installed) and include events, fundraisers, holidays, special anniversary or dates important to your home post or Unit and outstanding committee work. Don't forget to include a record of when and what media was used and don't only include your successes but also your failures too. You are telling the story of your Unit or District, so be honest and make it so people will want to read it, no matter how long it is. An important thing to remember is utilize others to help you write it or combine it. It is not the Historians responsibility to attend every function or event – the history is not just "Your Project." Use your resources; have other members tell you what occurred, have them take photos and if possible post on social media who, what, where, when, how and was it publicized? You can utilize other Unit or District members, Officers, other Chairman and also include your

President to find out what was special to them.

Writing a Narrative should be easy to read, so try to be a good story teller. Remember that some Histories are archived and saved for future readings. What do you want your Unit or District to be remembered by? What great things did your group do for our Veterans, Military & Families, the Community or Children & Youth? What are important things that you want future Auxiliary members to know about your group? These are all valuable things to include in your narrative.

If you want to submit for a History Award you can follow the specifics that are located in the PEP (Programs Engagement Plan) found at [alafl.org](http://alafl.org) under Historian. Each page is specific to the guidelines following the Nation Organization's rules, such as Page 1 - Title Page, Page 2 - Dedication, Pg. 3 - Prayer, etc... I am happy to assist you in writing or submitting either a Written History or compiling a Pictorial History (scrapbook.)

It is also important for us, as Senior members, to encourage our Juniors to submit a history. It gives the Junior an important and worthwhile task to complete and what an opportunity for us to mentor our younger members. We have an obligation to our youths to encourage them to continue our organization into the future ~ so allow them to Write our History!

## *Education*

TERRY GALLAGHER

November is a great month for Education. November 11th Veterans Day is a great way to get our children and youth excited about our military. Get your Veterans in to the schools and let them talk to the classes about what it means to be a Veteran. Have them teach flag etiquette and how to fold the American flag. describing what each fold means. Have them help in a flag retirement ceremony. Show them the proper way to respect the flag.

Also, November 13-17th is American Education week.

Go to [alaforveterans.org](http://alaforveterans.org) and go to the education program. There you can print off thank you cards and send them out. Or have your junior members deliver them. This is a great time to recognize schools, employees, and educators in your communities.

It's never too late to teach our future on what Military life is or what it means. Reaching out to the schools and boys and girls clubs are a great way to reach out to the families in our communities. Bring our

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organization to the front focus with support and understanding. It can only bring us closer with the community.

November is the month of thankfulness, so let's start by thanking those in our communities who do so much for our Veterans, children and youth, and Military Families.

## Leadership

EILEEN WILSON



Hi, I hope everyone had the opportunity to attend Fall Conference, had a stuffed Thanksgiving with lots to be thankful for and are looking forward to more holiday celebrations and a brand new year. We are now half way through the year with still a lot to

look forward to.

Have you found that special unit member that shines with a passion for a single program or project? Consider submitting their name for Unit Member of the Year award. Remember that they can NOT have served in a position above that as Unit President. The details for submitting this award can be found on the Department website under programs/leadership.

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, so start your collection today. These completions should be reported to your Unit Leadership chair for end of year reporting. Start your

E-learning today.

ABC Schools are continuing to pop up, so be sure to attend and learn something new and share your experience. Remember you can attend any any of these available classes. Here is a list of the upcoming District ABC Schools (please check the Department Calendar for details and exact locations and times):

<u>District</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
2	TBD	
3	TBD	
4	2/10/24	Unit 230, Hawthorne
4	3/9/24	Unit 155, Crystal River
6	1/20/24	Unit 219, Fruitland Park
7	1/6/24	Unit 8, Winter Haven
9	12/2/24	Unit 222, Oakland Park
13	1/20/24	Unit 192, Fort Myers
14	TBD	
16	1/20/24	Unit 252, Seminole
17	TBD	

### And don't forget #ringyourbell

*"Positions are temporary. Ranks and titles are limited. But the way you treat people will always be remembered"*

## Membership

LISA HOYLAND



Can you believe that the Holidays are here! This is a great time to call a unit member or maybe a unit member that is the nursing home or homebound to see how they are doing. Have you started Holiday shopping? Are you looking for a Special Gift for someone who already has

everything? Or maybe you know someone who really wants to renew their membership but cannot afford it? Gift them a membership, pay their dues for the next year! I'm sure they would appreciate it.

A few reminders from Headquarters about submitting the Member Recap Forms:

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- Keep your Recap Sheets for 7 years.
- NEVER throw away applications.
- DO NOT use staples or tape.
- The names on the recap sheet should be in alphabetical order.
- Write legibly or type into the recap sheet.
- Use the appropriate size envelope.
- DO NOT use the back of the form – use another recap sheet.
- DO NOT use the same transmittal number on all the recap sheet.

Following these guidelines will help them process our membership faster!

Congratulations to the Units with the highest membership in their grouping the week before fall conference are (Friday Report dated 11/10/23):

- Group 1 10-50 members  
Fort Lauderdale Unit 220 96.43%,
- Group 2 51-100 members  
Sneads Unit 241 94.64%,
- Group 3 101-200 members  
Steinhatchee Unit 291 71.33%,

- Group 4 201-400 members  
Stuart Unit 69 68.44%,
- Group 5 401-600 members  
Avon Park Unit 69 54.17%,
- Group 6 601+ members  
Seminole Unit 252 61.80%.

LET'S **CELEBRATE OUR MEMBERS** and share the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary with our members.

### **Mission Statement:**

In the Spirit of Service, Not Self, the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary is to support The American Legion Auxiliary 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 our youth, and promote patriotism, good citizenship, peace and security.

**Congratulations** to all the Units in Florida for working so hard to renew, rejoin and recruiting our CLAPPER members!! Keep Ringing Bells in Florida. Wishing all our members and their families many wonderful memories and blessings this holiday season.

## *Past Presidents Parley*

WANDA BRANDT



Welcome to all and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

**What is a Parley:** A Parley as defined by Webster's Dictionary has several meanings but for us it is "to beat a drum, or sound a trumpet, as a signal for holding a

conference with others. To speak with another; to confer on some point of mutual concern; to discuss orally; hence, specifically, to confer orally.... Do you have a "Parley" at your Unit, if not I would recommend starting one.

As a Past President you are encouraged to mentor those within your Unit, District, and Department to be the best they can be. We are or have been the leaders of our Units, we know the qualities it takes to be a leader, to work with those that have that special something, let's not let them down.

The purpose of the Past Presidents Parley (PPP) committee is to utilize the experience and knowledge of past Auxiliary leaders for training and encouragement of future Auxiliary leaders. Through the Past Presidents Parley committee, women who have served as Unit, Department, and National presidents have an

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opportunity and an obligation to continue in active service to the Auxiliary, helping ensure strong future leadership for the organization.

I hope by now you have a mentor someone who motivate and supports you, or you are sharing your knowledge and mentoring someone up and coming and needs some help.

I am here to help, to offer advice, to encourage, to be here when you need it. Please do not hesitate to reach out.

**MERRY  
CHRISTMAS**

## Public Relations

VIRNA LUKE



Merry Christmas to all! I hope you had a fantastic time at Conference and had a blessed Thanksgiving. I wanted to highlight what we went over at the Public Relations breakout sessions. The following was shared by Pamela Bates National Public Relations Chairman on the

ALA Public Relations page, make sure to join, the page is private.

*Spread the word about the American Legion Auxiliary: A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families.*

- Maintain a social media account(s) for departments, divisions, and units.
- Build relationships with local media.
- Send press releases and letters to the editor to local media.
- Contact your local government for proclamations.
- Have an elevator speech.
- Familiarize yourself with the PR Toolkit.
- Take the ALA Academy courses ([legion-aux.org/ALA-Academy](https://legion-aux.org/ALA-Academy)) related to PR: ALA Branding and Why it Matters to Me!
- Using Social Media to Your Unit's Advantage

Encourage ALA members to be visible in their communities through valuable, distinct branding.

- Wear branded clothing, pins, etc., at events.
- Have visible branding at booths, tables, etc.
- Have American Legion Family brochures available at events (order through your ALA department office).

Now, from me (Virna), speaking of maintaining your social media account(s), I personally recommend that you post on your account, if not daily, at least three times a week. This will keep your members engaged and attract new members, when they see all that is happening, the difference your unit is making, and the opportunities to also participate with a call to action. Remember you already have Friday covered, with your R.E.D shirt Fridays (Remember Everyone Deployed). Share messages from Department and National American Legion Family pages. Every 1st day of the month, is Be The One day, share the message of the program. Be the one to save one veteran. Go to <https://www.legion.org/betheone> for resources and more info. December 16, Wreaths Across America (WAA) Day, this is a great topic of discussion for your social media. Did you know that each year a theme is selected, for 2023 "Serve & Succeed", at National Convention 2023 in Charlotte, a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the ALA and WAA. Join their social media page ([facebook.com/WAAHQ](https://facebook.com/WAAHQ)), and they also have a fantastic radio station, listen to live interviews here [wreathsasscrossamerica.org/Newsroom/WreathsAcrossAmericaRadio](https://wreathsasscrossamerica.org/Newsroom/WreathsAcrossAmericaRadio), on the go with iHeart Radio app, Audacy app, or Tune In app). If you miss an interview, it is in the cloud ([soundcloud.com/wreathsasscrossamericaradio](https://soundcloud.com/wreathsasscrossamericaradio)). And when you just do not

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know what to share? Share a positive message, ask your members questions to get to know each other better. For example, when did they join, what is their WHY?, What ALA program they enjoy the most, pineapples on pizza or not? Etc.

To help you, create a social media team, do not try to do this alone. And you should not be the only admin on your social media account(s). You should have 3-4 admins on your account(s), and you can have as many moderators. Sadly, we will lose members to death, illness, moving, or life change. If that happens, and that person is the only admin, you will lose access to all your history.

Here is a PR message from Membership Chairman, Lisa Hoyland:

*Public Relations is what connects our organization to our communities. Getting our programming into the newspaper, local television and radio, and social media is how we tell our story to those that don't know the mission of the American Legion Auxiliary and it keeps our seasoned members informed of the activities of the unit. Pictures of your members working the programs*

*of the ALA will tell a story that 1000 words can't. When you tell the story of your unit, potential members will see something that they want to be a part of. Post pictures of your scholarship recipients in the spring. Share a photo of your members visiting with the veterans in the nursing homes. Advertise your quarter auction to raise money for your Girls State program. Ask the radio station to join you at the Blood Mobile that you are hosting. Allow your community to discover a member experience that they would like to join. If you use your public relations tools, every program is an opportunity to recruit new members!*

Me again, I will say this until I am purple, when you have a flyer made, create an event page on Facebook (FB). If your unit has elected to keep their unit FB as private and you want to promote an event to the public, do not hesitate to contact me and I will create it for you on ALAFL Public Relations. I hope you know that I'm available to help you with anything related to PR, social media apps, creating flyers, media releases, and content creation, send an email to [publicrelations@alafl.org](mailto:publicrelations@alafl.org), or find me on FB and PM.

I will close out, with a great blog to read is ([legion-aux.org/Blog/Make-the-most-of-these-free-services-to-promote-yo](http://legion-aux.org/Blog/Make-the-most-of-these-free-services-to-promote-yo))



Join us to celebrate

# *Bells in* **SERVICE**

♥ Sat. February 17, 2024 ♥

*honoring President Dee Bell*

American Legion Paradise Post 79 5329 Legion Place New Port Richey  
Cocktails 6 p.m. Dinner 7 p.m. Entertainment 7:30 p.m

## *Menu*

*Chicken Marsala served with salad, baked potato,,  
green beans almonidine, rolls & dessert*

**Musical entertainment by Larry Grier**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ \$35 p.p. # tickets \_\_\_\_\_

R.S.V.P. by Feb. 3, 2024 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 79  
P.O. Box 1184 New Port Richey, Fl 34652  
Questions Sue Craft 609-923-1468

Hotel Accomdations Comfort Inn 727-261-9700  
6206 U.S. Hwy. 19 New Port Richey  
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before 1/31/2024

# Districts and Units

## DISTRICT 5

District 5 - On November 10, 2023 Fifth District Juniors and Young SAL members went to the nursing home and delivered Veterans Day cards and pictures they colored.

The children took turns going into the Veterans room with the nurse to hand deliver the cards and talk to the veterans. They delivered over 100 Veterans Day cards and quite a few pictures. The children were very interested when the Veterans told them about their service and what they did and where they served. The Veterans, staff and children were treated to patriotic music from a school band that was there also. The smile from the Veterans when the children talked to them and gave them the cards was so heartwarming. Especially the Veterans, who were unable to leave their room,. As we were leaving Veterans who were in the lobby ask the children to come back and visit them again.

*Submitted by: Suella Reynolds*



## UNIT 1

Unit 1 - Titusville Unit 1 members, Mary Pistel, Kelly Flowers, Donna Shearer, Jo Anderson, Helen James and junior Ashton Sterriker prepared Halloween gift bags and delivered them to veterans in Vista Manor Nursing Home with Dept. President Dee Bell and District 12 President Char Kinlen. A special Thank You to James Reed, SAL Squadron 1 Commander for his help. *Submitted by: Mary Pistel*



# Districts and Units

## UNIT 5

Unit 5 - The USS Tampa Unit 5 has been busy for Military family month. We again worked hard a fundraising so that we can purchase 100 Thanksgiving Turkeys for the young E1 families at MacDill AFB here in Tampa. We partnered with our liaison with the Joint Communications Support Element (JCSE) to identify struggling families and make their Thanksgiving Holiday a little brighter.

But we did not stop there, we gathered to support the Past Commander and Past Presidents Banquet to raise money at an amazing fun night for Boys and Girls state transportation. We had a great time bidding on the many surprise packages and enjoyed a delicious dinner.

We then packed up Troop boxes to get to our Military members who are deployed overseas. We filled several boxes with snacks, games, toiletries and comfort items to ensure they knew we appreciate their sacrifices.

Several of us will be heading out to conference to learn more, fellowship with our Florida members and continue to learn how we can continue to serve the mission. *Submitted by: Susan Nicely*



## UNIT 16

Unit 16 - Unit 16 hosted our 11th annual Blessing Buckets. Homeless Veterans received a 5 gallon bucket with essential items such as soap, shampoo, blanket, shower curtain just to name a few items. They also got a warm meal and a haircut. *Submitted by: Kristy Jordan*





Unit 16 - Unit 16 participated in a local elementary school's Trunk or Treat at the end of October. *Submitted by: Kristy Jordan*



### UNIT 125

Unit 125 - November 11 American Legion Family participating in City of Gulfport Veterans Day Parade. Bayway Country Store donated Porterhouse Steak to the oldest veteran at Post #125 for Veterans Day. *Submitted by: Liz Close*



### UNIT 138

Unit 138 - November 11 American Legion Family participating in City of Gulfport Veterans Day Parade. Bayway Country Store donated Porterhouse Steak to the oldest veteran at Post #125 for Veterans Day. *Submitted by: Tammy Zell*



# Districts and Units

## UNIT 138

Unit 138 - The Veteran's Day weekend was extremely busy for Unit 138 with multiple events to honor and remember those who've served. On that Friday, three of the Auxiliary members, Darla, Patty and Tammy, passed out poppies, coloring books and candy to the patrons of a local Publix supermarket during the mid-day rush. On Saturday morning, during the monthly "Second Saturday Brunch", all Veterans received a free pancake breakfast. Later that evening, the annual "Light Up the Post" took place, in which paper bag luminaries that had been decorated with the names of Veteran family and friends were lined up, alternating with US flags, along the walkway leading towards the deck. As the sun set on the bay, the glowing display shone brightly in recognition and with appreciation for all our Veterans. *Submitted by:*

*Tammy Zell*



Unit 138 - Unit 138 teamed up with Operation Homefront on Sunday, 12 November, to distribute Thanksgiving shopping bags filled with all the trimming to fifteen active-duty military families from the surrounding area. Each family was also provided a \$25 Publix gift card that could be put towards a turkey, ham or whatever dinner needs the family may have. One family called to report that they wouldn't be able to pick up their bag during the scheduled time due to giving birth earlier that morning! Arrangements were able to be coordinated for the following day where a member was able to meet up the newly expanded family on MacDill AFB and deliver the bag of food and gift card so that they, too, could still have a bountiful Thanksgiving meal. *Submitted by: Tammy Zell*



Unit 138 - On Saturday, October 28, Unit 138 held its annual Children & Youth Trunk or Treat. Along with a dozen trunks to visit, with over 200 children from the surrounding community enjoying face painting, games, and a haunted bat trail through the mangroves, everyone had a great time as the full moon rose above. Teen volunteers from Robinson HS performed the "scare duties" on the bat trail while receiving their community service hours that are part of their graduation requirements. The trunks competed in a decorating contest with the 'steampunk trunk' winning the \$25 gift card prize. *Submitted by: Tammy Zell*



## UNIT 139

Unit 139 - The Veteran's Day weekend was extremely busy for Unit 138 with multiple events to honor and remember those who've served. On that Friday, three of the Auxiliary members, Darla, Patty and Tammy, passed out poppies, coloring books and candy to the patrons of a local Publix supermarket during the mid-day rush. On Saturday morning, during the monthly "Second Saturday Brunch", all Veterans received a free pancake breakfast. Later that evening, the annual "Light Up the Post" took place, in which paper bag luminaries that had been decorated with the names of Veteran family and friends were lined up, alternating with US flags, along the walkway leading towards the deck. As the sun set on the bay, the glowing display shone brightly in recognition and with appreciation for all our Veterans. *Submitted by: Rita Smith*



## UNIT 148

Unit 148 - Our Post Family participated in the Field of Honor Ceremony and Ground Breaking Ceremony for Gold Star Family Monument at Veterans Memorial Park. Post 148 was well represented. Thank you all! Thank you for your support! *Submitted by: Julia Arndt*



Unit 148 - Unit 148 were, "betheone", for Veterans Day. Flags were placed on all military graves at Serenity Meadows. Thank you to all the volunteers (13) who participated. They "rang the bells" loud and proud. *Submitted by: Julia Arndt*



# Districts and Units

## UNIT 186

Unit 186 - District 15 – Unit 186 had a busy October and November. We held our annual yard sale on October 20, 2023, where we offered everything you could possibly need and things you didn't know you needed. The event was a success, and at the end of the day, all leftover items were transported to various charitable thrift stores. October 21, 2023, our member Linda Murphy, chaired a successful Craft Bazaar in the Post Pavilion. The Auxiliary benefited from the sale of vendor tables. October 28, 2023 was our annual All Family Halloween Party. Each family provides a gift card prize for most original, funniest and scariest costume. We had a great turnout and fun was had by all. At our November 9, 2023 meeting we held our Initiation Ceremony, where we welcomed five new members to our ranks. Our big November event was our Veterans Day Ceremony and activities. Following the Ceremony, our Girls State Chair, Eileen Wilson, presented two of our three 2023 Girls State attendees with their Certificates and a gift, and the girls talked about their experience and what attending Girls State meant to them. Everyone enjoyed the picnic sponsored by the Legion. Hot dogs and hamburgers were prepared by the Legion Baseball Team, and Auxiliary members laid out the sides and served the food. This year we had 24 baskets in our Auxiliary Basket Auction, with proceeds benefitting VA&R. Our C&Y Little Red Wagon Raffle, which started in September, 2023, was drawn and the lucky winner was a female Marine veteran. The proceeds of the C&Y wagon raffle benefit our Christmas Angel Tree and Family Food Giveaway. Our volunteers were out in full force, distributing poppies and collecting donations. All of our events were extremely successful. On November 22, 2023, the Auxiliary will decorate the Post for Christmas, put up the Christmas Tree and hang all the angels, ready for our members and guests to start shopping for these special children. This year we are providing gifts to children in need from Spring Hill Elementary School, holiday dinner baskets for their families, and gifts for our Hernando County HUD/VASH children. It's a lot of work, but one of our most enjoyable and worthwhile projects of the holiday season. Happy Holidays! *Submitted by: Lynda Anderson*



## UNIT 240

Unit 240 - Unit 240 in Pensacola had their trunk or treat event and it was a great success. *Submitted by: Pamela Pannasch*





## UNIT 271

Unit 271 - Holly Koester, retired Army Captain, paralyzed during Operation Desert Storm, has been racing in marathons since 1995. She joined the 50 States Marathon Club in 2005 and finished racing in all fifty (50) states in 2008. Holly has raced in more than 175 races and is still going. She has won many medals at the National veterans' wheelchair games and was inducted into the Ohio Veterans Hall of Fame. The Air Force and Marine Corps marathons are her two favorites because she gets to be with her "brothers and sisters in the military" in those races.

Holly just recently completed the 2-day, 150 mile "Bike MS Buckey Breakaway (formerly Pedal to the Point) race wherein she rode from Berea to Sandusky, Ohio to show awareness for multiple sclerosis. Holly's training is extensive and exhausting, but she is strong, dedicated and would never think of quitting. Her training consists of riding 22-25 miles per day, at least 3 days per week, which she finishes in 2 hours, 10 minutes.

Holly's twin sister Joy (retired Army Colonel) and KC (retired marine) have been training with Holly since the beginning of Holly's racing career. KC is an Auxiliary member of Rood-Williams Unit 271 Tequesta, Florida, and loves helping Holly with her training. Both Joy and KC run beside Holly in many of her races. This is a family of veterans who have not only served their country but continue to dedicate themselves to helping others.

Holly is now training for the Appalachian series which will be held March 22-28, 2024. The Appalachian marathon consists of racing in seven (7) marathons in seven (7) states in seven (7) days. Holly is a remarkable woman and inspires many. At the end of each race each day, Holly's service dog Flare will be waiting for her, along with family and friends, at the finish line. *Submitted by: Alice Odaffer*



## UNIT 273

Unit 273 - American Legion Auxiliary Unit 273 held the Auxiliary 101 Class on Saturday, November 4, 2023, at Legion Post 273. The members attending are pictured below. The class is a synopsis of Auxiliary information, rules and events.

*Submitted by: Zoe Roseman*



# Districts and Units

## UNIT 283

Unit 283 - On November 9, 2023, three members of Auxiliary Unit 283 were privileged To be part of the community groups who donated items requested by the sailors. They also helped pack over 300 boxes to send to the sailors who are on the USS Carney who will not be home for the Holidays.

Carmen, Betty and Lori took 28 boxes of Swiss Miss Hot Chocolate mix donated by our unit for the packing. They along with members of the community, the packing was held at the VFW. The pictures show many who came to help that are veterans, knowing how it feels to be away from home and family during the Holidays. As always, our community came together to support our military. *Submitted by: Suella Reynolds*



Unit 283 - On October 28, 2023 Auxiliary Unit 283 held a Trunk or Treat Party for the children. The trunks, trucks, jeeps and the post were decorated really well. A jeep had an octopus coming out of the sides and top, a truck bed had head stones, fake rats and cages, another car was decorated as a super hero and others were decorated in scary Halloween style. The outside of the Post where the cars were parked and the Fire truck was placed had bats and spooky ghosts hanging out of a tree. A Huge spider web with a gigantic spider on it was near the door the children walked thru. The children were each given a trick or treat bag at the beginning of the cars that had safety information inside as well as the American Legion Halloween Safety Coloring book, crayons as well as a treat bag. Inside they were treated to hot dogs, chips, and drinks, as well as homemade peanut butter fudge by our own baker, Bruce. There were numerous games and we had 38 children attend. *Submitted by: Suella Reynolds*



Unit 283 - Auxiliary Unit 283 members purchased colorful sheets as requested for the children at Camp Boggy Creek. Along with the sheets, afghans, blankets and crocheted caps were sent for the children. The crocheted and sewn blankets were made and donated by auxiliary members. *Submitted by: Suella Reynolds*



## UNIT 318

Unit 318 - ALA Unit 318 has been seeking ways to bring awareness to the "Be the One" campaign. Our Legion members have always looked forward to our bake sales, with lots of home-made goodies for them to enjoy. So our Auxiliary decided to make the October bake sale a "Be the One" Awareness Event. In addition to the usual goodies, our Legion members were able to purchase "Be the One" logo merchandise and receive information about the Legion's "Be the One" project. This event was a great success, raising both awareness and funding for the program. We're looking forward to cooking up additional events; meanwhile, we encourage everyone to "Be the One" for a Veteran. They have done so much for us, let's take a moment to reach out for them. *Submitted by: Melaney McHaie*



## UNIT 402

Unit 402 - Unit 402 Panama City Beach working on getting their Halloween bags together for their children and youth program. *Submitted by: Melaney McHaie*



# Membership Reports

NOVEMBER 22, 2024

## DISTRICT 1

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0075	Crestview	213	0	103	103	48.36%
0193	Pensacola	78	11	33	44	56.41%
0221	Niceville	127	2	85	87	68.50%
0235	Ft Walton Beach	131	1	86	87	66.41%
0240	Pensacola	254	4	149	153	60.24%
0296	Destin	74	0	58	58	78.38%
0340	Pensacola	338	7	237	244	72.19%
0356	Lynn Haven	136	0	77	77	56.62%
0375	Southport	55	2	23	25	45.45%
0378	Gulf Breeze	44	0	46	46	104.55%
0382	Navarre	171	2	99	101	59.06%
0392	Panama City	175	1	109	110	62.86%
0402	Panama City Beach	41	1	34	35	85.37%
TOTALS		1837	31	1149	1180	64.24%

## DISTRICT 2

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0013	Tallahassee	78	2	51	53	67.95%
0082	Lanark	67	1	37	38	56.72%
0084	Havana	30	9	9	18	60.00%
0100	Marianna	32	4	29	33	103.13%
0217	Quincy	50	2	21	23	46.00%
0241	Sneads	72	13	36	49	68.06%
TOTALS		329	31	183	214	65.05%

## DISTRICT 3

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0049	Monticello	28	0	22	22	78.57%
0057	Lake City	223	2	123	125	56.05%
0107	Live Oak	55	1	34	35	63.64%
0215	Jasper	35	2	18	20	57.14%
0224	Madison	50	0	35	35	70.00%
0291	Steinhatchee	200	2	84	86	43.00%
0383	Old Town	134	2	100	102	76.12%
TOTALS		725	9	416	425	58.62%

## DISTRICT 4

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0016	Gainesville	26	0	21	21	80.77%
0027	Ocala	20	1	12	13	65.00%
0058	Dunnellon	29	0	19	19	65.52%
0077	Inverness	68	1	57	58	85.29%
0149	Newberry	31	3	21	24	77.42%
0155	Crystal River	344	4	279	283	82.27%
0166	Homosassa Springs	146	2	120	122	83.56%
0230	Hawthorne	32	2	32	34	106.25%
0236	Bronson	47	0	24	24	51.06%
0237	Beverly Hills	202	0	104	104	51.49%
0284	Bellevue	77	2	44	46	59.74%
TOTALS		1022	15	745	760	74.36%

DISTRICT 5						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0009	Jacksonville	68	2	31	33	48.53%
0054	Fernandina Beach	166	2	157	159	95.78%
0088	Jacksonville	77	1	43	44	57.14%
0129	Jacksonville Beach	359	9	251	260	72.42%
0137	Jacksonville	424	14	255	269	63.44%
0194	St Augustine	69	3	24	27	39.13%
0197	Jacksonville	44	0	2	2	4.55%
0202	Keystone Heights	73	0	51	51	69.86%
0233	Ponte Vedra Beach	176	18	92	110	62.50%
0244	Jacksonville	33	1	8	9	27.27%
0250	Middleburg	310	20	143	163	52.58%
0283	Jacksonville	460	7	268	275	59.78%
0316	Atlantic Beach	370	36	145	181	48.92%
0372	Mandarin	29	0	30	30	103.45%
0373	Orange Park	32	0	15	15	46.88%
0401	Hilliard	49	0	5	5	10.20%
TOTALS		2739	113	1520	1633	59.62%

DISTRICT 7						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0003	Bartow	78	0	38	38	48.72%
0004	Lakeland	63	1	31	32	50.79%
0008	Winter Haven	601	15	470	485	80.70%
0015	Dade City	22	0	15	15	68.18%
0034	Haines City	78	0	49	49	62.82%
0071	Lake Wales	48	0	20	20	41.67%
0072	Mulberry	166	0	74	74	44.58%
0201	Florence Villa	25	0	0	0	0.00%
TOTALS		1081	16	697	713	65.96%

DISTRICT 6						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0010	Kissimmee	206	2	112	114	55.34%
0018	Wildwood	21	0	16	16	76.19%
0019	Orlando	109	2	56	58	53.21%
0035	Mount Dora	147	0	78	78	53.06%
0041	Eustis	14	0	2	2	14.29%
0055	Clermont	215	3	147	150	69.77%
0063	Winter Garden	35	0	8	8	22.86%
0080	Saint Cloud	264	16	161	177	67.05%
0101	Bushnell	112	0	60	60	53.57%
0109	Ocoee	13	0	0	0	0.00%
0112	Winter Park	26	2	22	24	92.31%
0183	Fern Park	121	0	60	60	49.59%
0219	Fruitland Park	206	1	150	151	73.30%
0239	Groveland	11	0	7	7	63.64%
0242	Orlando	109	8	60	68	62.39%
0286	Orlando	171	6	118	124	72.51%
0330	Leesburg	69	2	34	36	52.17%
0331	Orlando	14	0	12	12	85.71%
0347	Lady Lake	2563	9	2000	2009	78.38%
0412	Orlando	14	0	1	1	7.14%
TOTALS		4440	51	3104	3155	71.06%

DISTRICT 8						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0011	Arcadia	36	0	1	1	2.78%
0024	Bradenton	333	1	221	222	66.67%
0025	Lake Placid	395	0	329	329	83.29%
0030	Sarasota	82	4	47	51	62.20%
0069	Avon Park	720	13	500	513	71.25%
0074	Sebring	132	0	71	71	53.79%
0113	Rotonda West	308	0	233	233	75.65%
0159	Venice	711	2	427	429	60.34%
0254	North Port	119	0	94	94	78.99%
0266	Fruitville	159	2	107	109	68.55%
0309	Palmetto	177	0	136	136	76.84%
0312	Oneco	199	0	22	22	11.06%
0325	Ellenton	200	0	124	124	62.00%
TOTALS		3571	22	2312	2334	65.36%

## DISTRICT 9

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0092	Hollywood	98	0	51	51	52.04%
0142	Pompano Beach	186	7	112	119	63.98%
0157	Margate	171	0	95	95	55.56%
0162	Deerfield Beach	172	13	81	94	54.65%
0180	Fort Lauderdale	112	0	54	54	48.21%
0209	Dania Beach	18	0	8	8	44.44%
0220	Ft Lauderdale	28	7	16	23	82.14%
0222	Fort Lauderdale	32	0	31	31	96.88%
0287	Deerfield Beach	17	0	18	18	105.88%
0304	Dania	52	0	32	32	61.54%
0310	Hallandale	25	1	18	19	76.00%
0321	Cooper City	230	19	146	165	71.74%
0365	Sunrise	14	2	11	13	92.86%
Total		1155	51	688	739	63.98%

## DISTRICT 12

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0001	Titusville	277	8	142	150	54.15%
0022	Cocoa	106	0	74	74	69.81%
0039	Vero Beach	207	3	107	110	53.14%
0040	Fort Pierce	185	3	142	145	78.38%
0081	Melbourne	172	2	147	149	86.63%
0117	Palm Bay	514	8	374	382	74.32%
0126	Jensen Beach	195	0	16	16	8.21%
0163	Eau Gallie	220	8	181	189	85.91%
0189	Sebastian	159	0	132	132	83.02%
0191	Melbourne	81	8	18	26	32.10%
0200	Satellite Beach	171	9	77	86	50.29%
0318	Port St Lucie	1154	1	958	959	83.10%
0344	Merritt Island	47	1	17	18	38.30%
0348	Cape Canaveral	211	0	162	162	76.78%
0358	White City	69	0	43	43	62.32%
0359	Port St John	358	2	207	209	58.38%
0366	Barefoot Bay	69	4	37	41	59.42%
0394	Palm Bay	208	0	189	189	90.87%
0394	Palm Bay	208	0	45	45	21.63%
TOTALS		4403	57	3023	3080	69.95%

## DISTRICT 11

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0020	Belle Glade	40	2	35	37	92.50%
0047	Lake Worth	75	1	61	62	82.67%
0062	Stuart	548	6	508	514	93.80%
0064	Okeechobee	116	0	14	14	12.07%
0065	Delray Beach	58	7	43	50	86.21%
0141	West Palm Beach	73	2	35	37	50.68%
0164	Boynton Beach	150	9	94	103	68.67%
0199	W Palm Beach	38	0	21	21	55.26%
0268	Riviera Beach	85	3	49	52	61.18%
0271	Tequesta	158	8	141	149	94.30%
0277	Boca Raton	111	0	81	81	72.97%
0288	Boynton Beach	22	0	0	0	0.00%
0367	Royal Palm Beach	28	2	19	21	75.00%
TOTALS		1502	40	1101	1141	75.97%

## DISTRICT 13

UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0038	Fort Myers	37	0	26	26	70.27%
0090	Cape Coral	287	5	242	247	86.06%
0103	Punta Gorda	649	2	522	524	80.74%
0110	Port Charlotte	635	3	323	326	51.34%
0123	Sanibel	41	0	23	23	56.10%
0130	Labelle	152	0	48	48	31.58%
0135	Naples	367	0	235	235	64.03%
0136	Saint James City	516	1	282	283	54.84%
0192	Fort Myers	21	0	13	13	61.90%
0274	Fort Myers Beach	544	0	209	209	38.42%
0303	Bonita Springs	425	10	296	306	72.00%
0323	Lehigh Acres	409	30	239	269	65.77%
0336	N Ft Myers	440	0	329	329	74.77%
0351	Fort Myers	104	1	40	41	39.42%
0415	Punta Gorda	10	0	16	16	160.00%
TOTALS		4637	52	2843	2895	62.43%



DISTRICT 14						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0028	Key West	57	0	25	25	43.86%
0031	South Miami	171	2	89	91	53.22%
0043	Homestead	57	0	4	4	7.02%
0067	North Miami	42	0	18	18	42.86%
0098	Coral Gables	16	0	5	5	31.25%
0133	Miami	63	3	31	34	53.97%
0154	Marathon	146	1	82	83	56.85%
0168	Key West	23	0	13	13	56.52%
0333	Key Largo	78	0	41	41	52.56%
0346	Miami	19	0	7	7	36.84%
0374	Key Biscayne	42	0	23	23	54.76%
TOTALS		714	6	338	344	48.18%

DISTRICT 16						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0007	Clearwater	249	0	144	144	57.83%
0014	St Petersburg	117	1	89	90	76.92%
0046	Tarpon Springs	10	0	4	4	40.00%
0079	New Port Richey	458	10	264	274	59.83%
0104	Pinellas Park	255	5	201	206	80.78%
0119	Largo	360	4	204	208	57.78%
0125	St Petersburg	297	24	162	186	62.63%
0158	Treasure Island	256	0	162	162	63.28%
0173	Holiday	259	1	185	186	71.81%
0238	Safety Harbor	314	6	242	248	78.98%
0252	Seminole	1065	5	807	812	76.24%
0273	Madeira Beach	3428	0	2352	2352	68.61%
0275	Dunedin	981	0	721	721	73.50%
0305	St Pete Beach	150	0	111	111	74.00%
0335	Hudson	96	5	52	57	59.38%
TOTALS		8295	61	5700	5761	69.45%

DISTRICT 15						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0005	Tampa	38	1	13	14	36.84%
0099	Brooksville	21	1	18	19	90.48%
0108	Land O' Lakes	10	0	14	14	140.00%
0111	Tampa	54	0	33	33	61.11%
0138	Tampa	483	9	423	432	89.44%
0139	Tampa	58	0	75	75	129.31%
0147	Odessa	44	0	27	27	61.36%
0148	Riverview	209	3	150	153	73.21%
0152	Tampa	250	7	156	163	65.20%
0167	Tampa	16	1	6	7	43.75%
0186	Brooksville	369	0	219	219	59.35%
0248	West Tampa	15	1	11	12	80.00%
0418	Spring Hill	10	1	30	31	310.00%
TOTALS		1577	24	1175	1199	76.03%

DISTRICT 17						
UNIT	CITY	GOAL	JR	SR	TOTAL	PERCENT
0006	Deland	104	0	54	54	51.92%
0017	New Smyrna Beach	212	0	141	141	66.51%
0045	Palatka	31	0	25	25	80.65%
0115	Palm Coast	40	0	31	31	77.50%
0120	Holly Hill	216	1	142	143	66.20%
0127	Lake Helen	24	0	5	5	20.83%
0255	Deltona	25	7	18	25	100.00%
0259	Debary	28	6	19	25	89.29%
0267	Ormond Beach	229	0	145	145	63.32%
0270	Port Orange	175	2	140	142	81.14%
0285	Edgewater	125	1	107	108	86.40%
0361	S Daytona	226	0	146	146	64.60%
TOTALS		1435	17	973	990	68.99%



**#RINGYOURBELL**

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